

June 2025 | Volume 46

THE LION ROCK



3,2,1...

GO!

INSIDE:

- ▶ F1 IN SCHOOLS
- ▶ WINNIE'S WORLD
- ▶ NEW STAFF 2025
- ...AND SO MUCH MORE!

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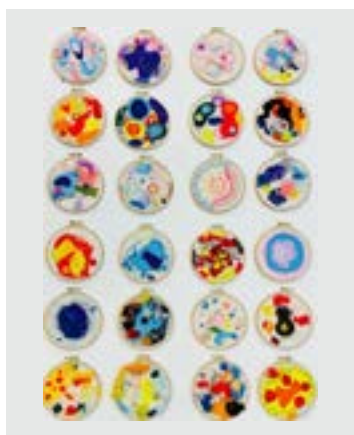
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ABOUT THE COVERS



Front Cover

F1 in School team members Marcus Mo, Elaine Lam, Daniel Cheung grace the cover of our 45th Issue of Lion Rock. Read more about them on p18!



Back Cover

Art Meets Science: Plant Cells Reimagined

Year 6 students created vibrant plant cell models using embroidery hoops, felt, and thread. These handcrafted designs transform microscopic structures into colorful, tactile artwork that makes science both beautiful and accessible while allowing students to combine scientific learning with creative expression.

THE LION Rock

JUNE 2025
VOLUME 46

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Photo Highlight!



Our 30th Anniversary Welcome Festival was a huge community hit! Students, parents and teachers watched a flash mob like no-other as everyone raised their hands and danced in sync with the music, **A-I-S-H-K!**



HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

Welcome to the Term 2 edition of The Lion Rock. Australian International School Hong Kong is a dynamic place, true to our mission of *connecting, striving and flourishing*. This year I have seen students flourishing through two new and exciting extracurricular activities. Ms Winnie Mo's new after-school activity invites students from Years 3-6 to develop their Chinese painting skills while deepening their knowledge of Chinese culture. The appreciation of intercultural understanding is something that Winnie believes can make the world more peaceful and happier.

Another new extracurricular activity is the launch of F1 in Schools or STEM Racing, Hong Kong and Macau. This global programme, requiring teams to develop a brand identity, build racing cars and race them. This initiative saw Secondary students commit hours of work to their F1 project, winning **Best Engineered Car** and a shortlisting for Best Brand Identity at the inter-school competition in May. The teams continue to strive for excellence and hope to compete at the world championships.

The news pages introduce upcoming projects. On a school-wide level, the Wellness Wing has been introduced (via Dhanara) to the AISHK community. This is the total redevelopment of the covered playground and tuck shop to create a space where students can advance their physical development through improved play spaces and a fitness centre. The redevelopment will also include areas for our students to connect with peers. The Wellness Wing is part of the school's aspirations to refurbish areas across the campus. Ways you can show your support for the Wellness Wing and other projects will be shared throughout the year.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of The Lion Rock.

Warm regards,

Mina Dunstan

HEAD OF SCHOOL



BOARD CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Welcome to Term 2 of The Lion Rock. The Australian International School Foundation Limited (AISFL) or the Board ensures that AISHK is steered in the right direction, ensuring the school's continued success now and in the years to come.

The Board's aspirations for the school espouse perfectly through the articles and stories in this issue of The Lion Rock. In this edition there is evidence of students developing critical thinking, cultural awareness and life skills such as financial literacy and emotional intelligence.

It is heartening to read about a campus that belongs to the students. A campus that will include large collaborative art projects and the

Wellness Wing, built upon the needs of the community. This will help to create a learning environment that will elevate our facilities to meet global standards and foster an international mindset.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable July break.

Warm regards,

Andrew Macintosh

AISFL BOARD CHAIRMAN

NEWS *at* SIX

A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING UP



1. New Science Syllabus

Science is a discipline in flux. Just like science itself, the teaching of science is constantly evolving.

At the end of the year the Secondary Science Department will have completed the implementation of the latest Biology, Chemistry and Physics programmes for the IB Diploma. Now they are preparing for the latest NSW Science Syllabus.

Student research projects, conducted in Years 7 to 10, will be adjusted to meet the requirements of new, Depth Studies. Moving forward, greater emphasis will be placed on the process of scientific investigation, including the addition of Data Science as an explicit topic of study.

A significant new addition to science studies will be the integration of Australian aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and scientific ways of knowing, being and doing.

The new curriculum will include different opportunities for our students to engage with practising scientists and experience science beyond the classroom. The science department is also examining ways to better support students and extend others, to ignite a passion for science in all. The annual celebration of science and its relationship with other academic disciplines will also continue during the AISHK Science Week, 25-29 August 2025.

2. Artist in residence

Francesco Lietti is a Hong Kong based artist: whose work has been displayed across the city from corporate offices to MTR stations. Much of his work focuses on cityscapes and the Hong Kong skyline. In Term 3 Lietti will be AISHK's Artist in Residence! He will be working with Year 4 and 5 students during their art lessons to create a major art installation but students from all years will be invited to take part in the project. Funded by the Parent Association, this project is an important celebration of creativity and collaboration in the school's 30th anniversary year.



3. AISA Games

The Australian International Schools Association (AISA), founded in 2012, continues to champion camaraderie and sportsmanship among students across Asia.

This year's AISA Games will take place from 26–29 November 2025 across venues in Hong Kong, including the Australian International School Hong Kong (AISHK). The 2025 Games will welcome approximately 350 student-athletes from five countries, competing in Basketball, Soccer, Netball, Touch Rugby, and Swimming.



4. Chinese Week, 2025

Week 9 sees a celebration of Chinese language and culture during Chinese Week. A wide range of activities have been planned for students including arts and crafts, a shopping spree, a Tai Chi experience, Chinese painting workshops and, of course, a Lion Dance performance! Students will also have the opportunity to wear Chinese traditional clothing on the last day of the Term.

5. The 360 Survey Parent, Staff and Student is Back in Term 3

In Term 3 2025, AISHK will be conducting a 360 School Survey, including parents, staff and students from Years 6-12. The online surveys are developed and tailored for each group, in partnership with provider MMG Education. The surveys cover key aspects of school life.

6. Introducing the Wellness Wing

Physical and mental wellbeing are deeply interconnected and crucial components of a successful educational experience. AISHK is embarking on the redevelopment of the ground floor, covered playground into a Wellness Wing. The Wellness Wing will be the first major refurbishment project to support AISHK's goal of reimagining learning spaces by 2030.

The Wellness Wing will include:

Covered Playground

Designed as a dynamic, flexible space supporting students' varied developmental needs and enabling creative learning, playing, and socializing.

Senior Recreation Area

A social hub for older students to connect and relax, supporting community events and outdoor lessons.

Human Movement Lab

Repurposed area for studying human movement, sports science, and physiology.



Skipping back through the last five years we catch up with five graduates to find out what they are doing now. And in Back in Ten we meet Jack Steadson who graduated ten years ago. /LR

BACK IN FIVE



1. 2019 | Pamala Murphy

Pamela works as a Ministerial Advisor wrangling policy - in the portfolio areas of Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth. She holds a double degree (Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Advanced Studies) and lives in a lively shared house with friends in Sydney.



2. 2020 | Ocean Harnett

Ocean is currently in the final stages of her Master's in Climate Econometrics at Vrije University, Amsterdam. She is working as a Data Science Assistant in Amsterdam. She has kept up her passion for touch rugby, competing in tournaments across Europe.



3. 2021 | Hannah Abrahamian

Hannah is a Juris Doctor Candidate at the University of Melbourne with a background in Games Design from RMIT University. She completed an exchange programme at the Parsons School of Design in New York City and is currently building her portfolio in event photography, specializing in E-Sports.



4. 2022 | Megan Griffiths

Megan recently completed her second year at university, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Digital Marketing Management at Cardiff Metropolitan University. She ran a half marathon this year to raise funds for Bowel Cancer Research UK in honor of her dad. She is now preparing to take on the Cardiff Half Marathon supporting the same cause.



5. 2023 | Daniel Chen

Daniel is pursuing a Bachelor of Music (Performance: Jazz and Improvisation) and Secondary Education double degree at Monash. He dedicates much of his time to writing essays, rehearsing performances, and collaborating with fellow musicians. During the break, when he's back in Hong Kong, he always makes time to support the AISHK Performing Arts Department.



BACK IN TEN

Jack Steadson, Class of 2015 is an emerging experiential 3D motion designer. Originally from Australia, raised in Hong Kong, and now living and working in Chicago, Steadson has undertaken an array of design projects in both an educational and professional environment. The Lion Rock catches-up with Steadson ten years after he graduated from AISHK to find out how he brings butterflies to Katy Perry. /LR

Tell me about a teacher who you remember and why.

Ms Chrissy Carini was a big influence on me. I was doing design - making shirts and clothes, exploring fashion, and getting items manufactured in China out of curiosity. She really encouraged me to dive deeper into design, especially in computer graphics.

Mr Keller, my homeroom tutor from Years 10 to 12, was also incredibly motivating. He treated me like an adult and helped me to up my game.

Tell me about your school days.

The social side of school was fun, learning was interesting too, though I struggled academically at first. Things changed once I found subjects that sparked my interest - it all became much more engaging.

What are some of your fondest memories from your time at AISHK?

On my first day at AISHK, I went straight into AYP (Award for Young People) camp. I didn't know anyone and suddenly I was on a five-day trip with a bunch of strangers. It was intense, but a great way to get to know people quickly.

Other highlights were skiing in Japan and the other trips. The school offered incredible opportunities, but what I enjoyed was the social side - especially spending time in the Year 12 common room.

Were there any moments during school when you realized you wanted to pursue a creative path professionally?

It didn't fully click until after school. I have always done creative things but I didn't see it as a viable career. Most people around me were aiming to become lawyers or

doctors, so I assumed I'd follow a more traditional, suit-and-tie path.

Things started to shift during my gap year. I took on some freelance graphic design work and had this realisation that I needed to take it seriously. I also spent three months at AISHK as a Design & Technology workshop assistant, managing the workshop and assisting students with project work. It was exciting and being in that teaching and learning environment really motivated me to pursue design.

Could you tell us a bit about what you do now?

I work in concert animation and motion graphics, creating visuals for large-scale stages, installations, and immersive experiences. Sometimes it's for live music, other times it's for interactive spaces where people can just sit and feel something.

One of my main roles is as a launch designer, working with real-time generative software. Think of it as a supercharged version of a Snapchat filter. We take live video feeds, remove backgrounds, and add effects in real time. For example, if someone like Katy Perry is on stage, we can process her live camera feed and project it with butterflies swirling around her. It's all happening live, which makes it feel like magic.

How did you get into this line of work?

I got into it almost by accident—initially through work, using the software in a professional setting. As the industry evolved, I got nerdy about it. I started spending a lot of my free time experimenting, learning how the software behaves, and figuring out how to create specific looks or effects. I fell in love with it. 3D motion design software, Notch is just in a league of its own.



Screenshots of the various projects that Steadson has done, exhibiting a variety of styles ranging from commercial graphics to personal experiments.



What challenges did you face early in your career?

The biggest challenge I faced was graduating right into the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. I had just moved to Boston and everything was in lockdown. The isolation hit hard.

About two months in, I called my dad and said, "I think I should just come home." He told me, "If you really want to, you can - but sleep on it. If you leave now, it will be much harder to get back to where you are."

That advice stuck with me. I was doing fine professionally, but emotionally, it was tough. Pushing through that low point was hard but I'm glad I stayed. Leaving would've been a mistake.

What's your favorite part of the creative process and what's the most challenging?

My favorite part of the process is exploration and ideation. We usually start with reference images, color palettes, and a general direction and then we [the project team] dive in. The exploration phase is where

the most exciting things happen. You're experimenting, trying new ideas, and seeing what sticks. It's a lot of work, and I've spent countless weekends learning or creating. But it's always gratifying, especially when people connect with the result. If they're happy, I'm happy.

What advice would you give to students who want to pursue a career in design?

It's not easy, but it's definitely worth it. You get out what you put in. If you're thinking about being a designer, you really must commit to it. Push yourself, build momentum, and just start somewhere.

Design often begins as a passion, and over time, it can grow into a career. But consistency is key. You must stay engaged and keep practicing—whether it's drawing or learning new tools. With design, if you don't use the skill, you can lose it. So, stay curious, stay active, and keep creating. /LR



Jack's various portraits from his senior days in AISHK (2014) to his professional career as an experiential designer.



The YES Club (Youth Experiencing Service) is a student-led initiative that is all about giving back. Founded in 2015, the YES Club was put on-hold during the pandemic, but it is back with a bang and it has a growing membership. The Lion Rock meets two of the club's leaders and finds out about their current projects.

Can you tell us about YES Club?

Sophie Tang: At meetings we have been planning the events we will be holding and how we can reestablish the YES Club. We want to have an impact in Hong Kong but we also want to develop skills such as leadership and collaboration.

What are some of your hands-on projects?

Aidan Chan: We have a few initiatives, lined up, and we've also done a few good things. We have a partnership with the, Life Commitment Charity Club, and together we have been delivering necessities to the elderly, but also we have raised some money to purchase goods. In small groups the YES Club has been delivering goods such as, bandages, socks, oil, even fruits, things that can improve lives, a little bit.



Aidan and Sophie

Yes!

WHEN 44 SAY

We don't just drop off the goods, we stay and have a chat with the elderly. We stay away from sensitive topics and ask them to talk about their day, what music they like or if they watch any sport. There is a lot of value in talking and listening to each other.

ST: Talking to the elderly also makes me appreciate the value of having a family around you.

What's next for the Club

AC: We are doing more home visits in August with the, Life Commitment Charity Club.

ST: But now we are planning things to help people experiencing homelessness with the charity, Hanuman. We [the YES Club] will be distributing goods in the evenings to the people who have nowhere to live.

Why did you choose that charity and project?

ST: One of the YES members, James Goh, has been doing weekly walks with a charity. He introduced it [the initiative] to the group.

AC: We thought it'd be a good idea to incorporate it into

YES so people have a better awareness of the homeless demographic that exist in Hong Kong.

YES Club projects seem to have a direct and real impact, how important is fundraising?

AC: We do have fundraising aspects to the club but this year we're more into activities where our students have experiences, giving up their time to do something!

ST: Yes, I think firstly we want to help the community and if there is a need for fundraising, of course we will do something but we try to stick to areas where we meet people, improve lives and understand the issues around us better.

The YES Club is student lead, how do you work collaboratively?

AC: If a student has an initiative they want to propose they can do it through a proposal system. A student's proposal should include information about the charity partner, an event rundown, times, the location and the purpose of the project. Then we can discuss it and decide what we can commit to and at what level.

ST: All Secondary students can join the club. Older students mentor and act as role models for the younger ones. We wanted it this way so the club keeps going, long after we have graduated.

It sounds like a big responsibility, have you changed since becoming YES Club leaders?

ST: I've stepped into more of a leadership role. I've always liked committing to service learning. The first time I went to one of the elderly home visits it felt quite cool knowing I was part of the planning and organising. Service projects have become a passion of mine.

AC: I think it's kind of the same for me. I've always been really drawn to service and have genuinely enjoyed it, but leadership is something new. Maybe it has uncovered a different side of me. There's a lot of logistics and behind-the-scenes work to manage. I've gained experience talking to different people, and I try to communicate what I have to say as effectively as possible. /LR



WHAT:

YES Club (Youth Experiencing Service) is a student-led initiative that is all about giving back and saying YES to projects that include hands-on work for under 18-year-olds.

WHO:

Chairperson: Aidan Chan
Vice Chair: Sophie Tang
Vice Chair: Valerie Dy
Plus 44 Secondary students

WHY:

The YES Club wants to have a positive impact in Hong Kong through service-learning projects.

HOW:

Club members can submit proposals to the group, detailing initiatives they want to lead on and charities they want to work with. The club then decides which to take forward.

The YES Club is accepting new members in Term 3, contact Aidan, Sophie, Valerie or, HSIE Secondary Teacher, Lisa Darby to find out more

Winnie's World

in 3 Easy Steps: Philosophy, Art & Language



Australian International School Hong Kong has been teaching Chinese for 30 years. In that time language teaching has changed with different theories and philosophies about the “best way” to learn a language. Specialist Teacher – Chinese, Winnie Mo, has a Doctoral, Masters, two bachelor degrees, a passion for philosophy and a love for impressionist painting. The Lion Rock finds out what teaching approach she uses in her classroom and in her new after school activity.

Mo believes in maintaining a balanced life, learning new concepts and skills along with a healthy lifestyle. Learning is her passion, and her doctoral studies lead to an interest in understanding the contrasts between Chinese and Western philosophy and her exploring the teachings of Socrates, Confucius, and Daoism. She is currently studying Buddhist philosophy, drawn to its insights into the “science of the mind”. Her teaching practice reflects the Chinese concept of “知行合一” (Unity of Knowledge and Action), emphasising the importance of integrating knowledge learning into daily life.

As well as studying philosophy Mo continues to develop her painting practice. She explains, “I like artists

who explore natural forms, light, and color. I particularly admire classic, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist styles, such as those of Monet, Van Gogh, and Gauguin. I’ve experimented with many different artistic techniques, and I paint portraits and subjects from my surroundings. Wherever I go, I sketch and try to capture something interesting. Recently, I’ve been painting a lot of flowers. There are so many beautiful flowers in Hong Kong, but their lives are so short that I feel compelled to preserve them through my art. I’ve been trying to combine techniques from both Chinese and Western painting to develop my own unique style.”

To create the perfect holistic balance Mo exercises daily, playing badminton, swimming,

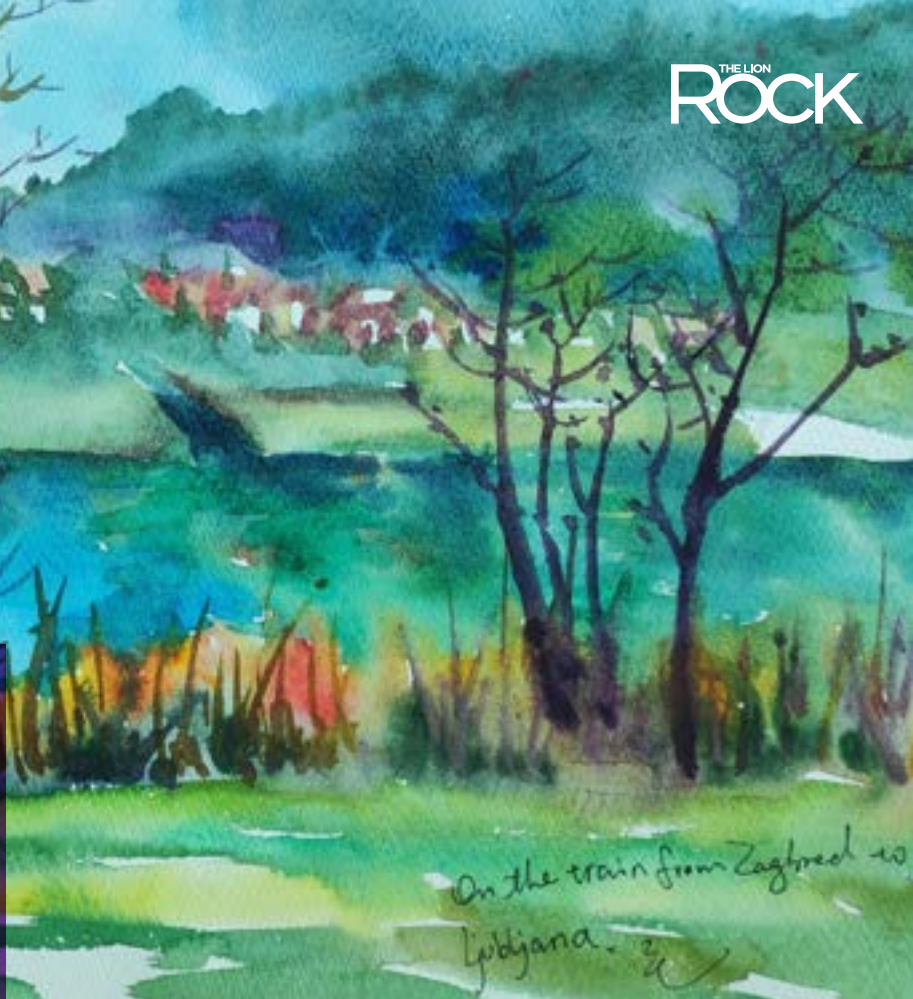
and practicing Tai Chi. She says, “Exercise makes me feel energetic and helps me stay positive in daily life.”

Mo earned her Doctor of Education in 2019. Prior to that, she completed a Master’s degree in ICT in Education, as well as two bachelor degrees in Fine Art and Education.

Her positivity and extensive knowledge is something that AISHK students have benefited from for the past 19 years. She shared, “I love teaching, I love kids, and I love the Hong Kong environment.”

“AISHK is a multicultural community,” she added. “I believe it’s very important for students, and for everyone, to understand other cultures as well as their own and to

"I believe it's very important for students, and for everyone, to understand other cultures as well as their own and to compare them. This helps foster acceptance of different beliefs and cultural practices."



compare them. This helps foster acceptance of different beliefs and cultural practices."

Mo's Doctoral research thesis titled: "Developing Students' Intercultural Competences Through Inquiry Based Learning" examines this very idea. She talks us through an example.

"I might ask my students to research how different cultures interact with different animals and understand why people's approaches differ, then language is developed along with their increased understanding.

Cows and dogs are good animals to research because they are treated quite differently across various cultures. The discussions are interesting to examine and they greatly support language acquisition."

Mo suggests that learning in this way could make the world more peaceful and happier.

Like many of us, Mo found learning a second language challenging. She shared, "I didn't have the chance to practice English with native speakers until I started university, so it took me a long time to feel confident

enough to have a conversation in English. A trip to Australia and full immersion helped. I still make mistakes, we all do, but it's best to try, because that's how we learn."

This year, Mo started an after-school art activity focused on Chinese painting and calligraphy for students in Years 3 to 6. Together, she and the students are developing their skills in traditional Chinese painting techniques. "I hope the students will be inspired and gain a deeper understanding of Chinese painting, and be able to compare it with Western styles," Mo shared.

Stephanie Xu, Year 5 "I joined a lot of ECA activities, but my favourite one is Chinese painting and calligraphy. I really enjoy painting, and I want to get better at it. I want to introduce Chinese painting and calligraphy to others, because I think they might enjoy it too, and it can help them get better at Chinese painting just like it helped me! "

Mo doesn't just teach the technical aspects of painting such as how to use Chinese paintbrushes and ink on special rice paper, she also brings objects to the classroom so students can examine their shape, colours, and how light interacts with them. She wants to help students sharpen their observational skills and understand how artists develop ideas for their work.

As someone who never stops studying, learning, and striving for growth, Mo also maintains her own website: **peaceofmao.com**. There, she showcases her incredible artwork, along with research papers and essays on philosophical studies.

Students from Year 3-6 can join **Chinese Painting and Calligraphy**.
[/LR](#)



Students from the Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Class

AISHK 30TH
ANNIVERSARY
BALL

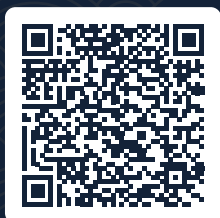
Pearl of the Orient



on

Saturday, 9th August 2025
6:00 p.m. until late

GRAND BALLROOM,
KERRY HOTEL, HUNG HOM



How many BOB books did you read and why do like reading?

I read all 20 books on the inter-schools Battle of the Books list. My favorite was *Hidden Truths* by Ellie Watts. Reading helps you in every way. It helps with spelling and writing but you can also step into another world and see what others are imagining.

Isaac Jaafar, Year 6
Battle of the Books team member

What was your favorite BOB book?

My favorite book on the Battle of the Books list was *A Spoonful of Time* by Flora Ahn. It's about a girl who, when sharing food with her grandmother, can time travel. It was really exciting and I wanted to read on and on. I like reading before school, I can get myself energized and I can think clearly. The Battle of the Books encouraged me to read books I didn't know about.

Cheryl Yip, Year 6
Battle of the Books team member



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

What do you think you have gotten better at since you started rehearsing for the show?

I've gotten better at my facial expressions during the song *Be Our Guest* and developed a vibrato while singing *Home*.

Siya Gunturu, Year 4
Cast member, playing Belle in scenes 5 and 7

What are you looking forward to about the show?

I'm looking forward to some of the funny lines in the show. I have a couple and other cast members have some as well."

Dash Custance, Year 5
Cast member, playing Maurice

Tell us about your recent trip to the Children's Gallery at the HK Science Museum?

"The bubbles were my favourite. Gus didn't need to help me, but when Gus helped it was easier."

Grace Bitossi, Reception

Did you work as a team at the Children's Gallery?

"We are one team, because we do it together we are part of the team."

Caleb Au, Reception



EXCURSION



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

What did you learn from being part of the Environmental Committee?

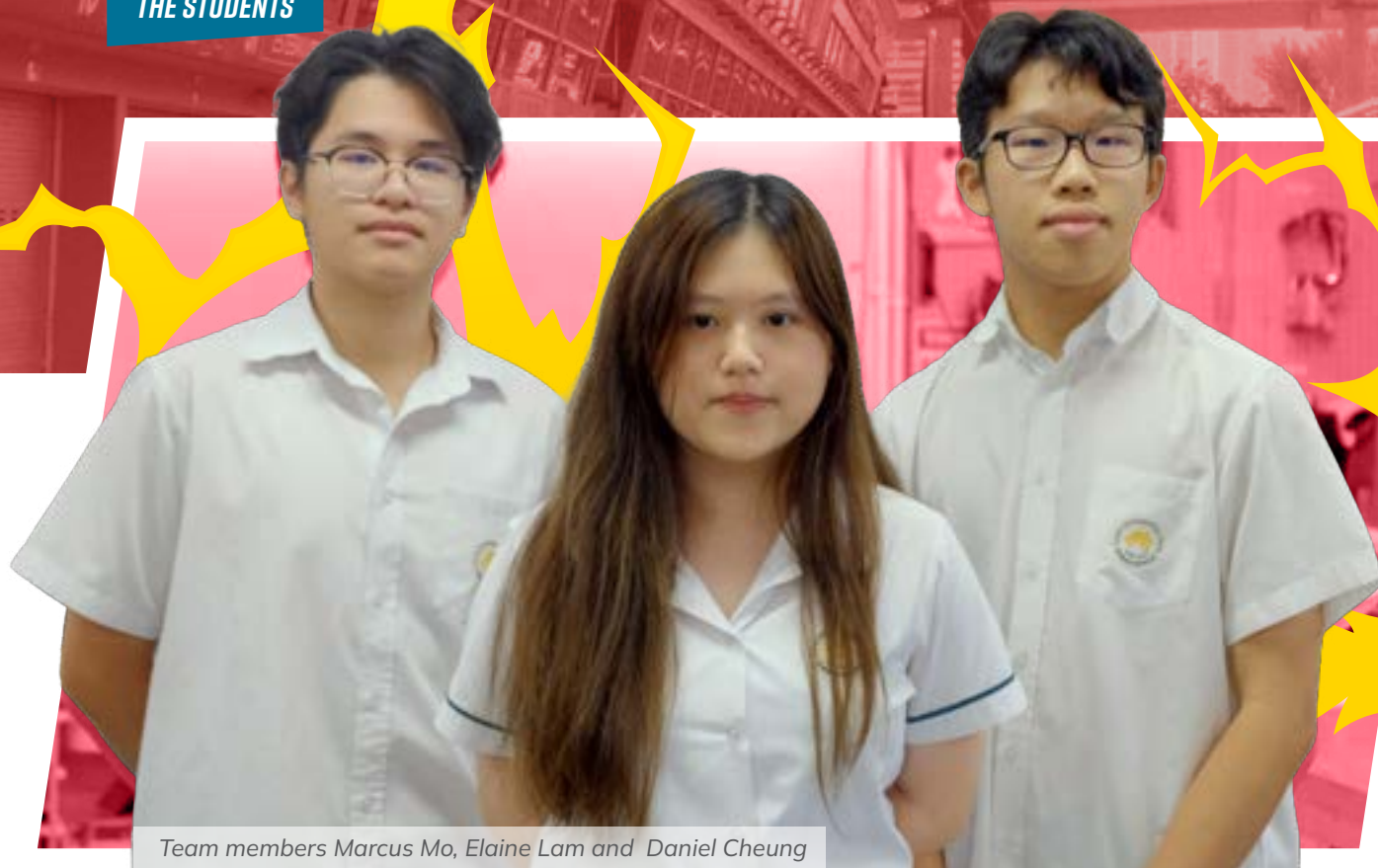
I learned that it's not up to one person to recycle. It's everybody's job to recycle. It keeps the school clean.

Claudia Pugsley, Year 3
Environmental Committee member

What differences have you noticed since your recycling project was introduced?

We've done this recycling bin project where we have three different recycling bins in the classrooms. So now everyone has the job of sorting rubbish properly into different bins. It's environmentally friendly.

Nicole Chow, Year 6
Environmental Committee member



Team members Marcus Mo, Elaine Lam and Daniel Cheung

#1 IN SCHOOLS:

TEAMS RACE TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Take some professional design software, a 3D printer, throw in some clever kids and corporate sponsorship. What do you get? A couple of racing cars, two marketing stacks and... two AISHK top performing teams!

F1 in Schools or STEM Racing Hong Kong & Macau, as it is known, is new to AISHK this year. The initiative has been adopted by schools globally, it challenges students to not just build and race model racing cars but collaborate as a Formula 1 team might. Students also have to consider the "enterprise" financing, marketing and sponsorship components of motor racing. Tom McTiernan, Creative Industries Teacher, who supported the student teams and the team members explains how in just three months they went from a blank page to winning teams!

McTiernan, "STEM Racing gives students an opportunity to apply their skills and make real-world connections. The process is end-to-end, from the

moment they open their laptops and start using industry standard design software, to making the car components, to seeing their cars race and enterprise development. The experience really enriches their learning and I think it speeds up their understanding."

"There are two parts to STEM Racing, the Engineering and the Enterprise elements so students can follow their passions and bring their interdisciplinary skills together."





"If a student does not have F1 experience, if they are not interested in the

actual sport, they can still join the group and apply their skills and interests in, marketing, graphic design, website design or as a sponsorship coordinator."

On Saturday, May 24th, AISHK entered two teams into the STEM Racing Hong Kong and Macau Inter Schools Development Class Competition, held at United Christian College. Team Overdrive was awarded 'Best Engineered Car' while Team Aetherion was nominated in the top 3 for 'Best Brand Identity'.

Elaine Lam Year 10, Project Manager, Aetherion, "STEM Racing brought together skills we [the students] already had and took them to the next level. One of the competition rules is that we have to raise \$4000 from sponsorship to enter the competition, that was our first challenge."

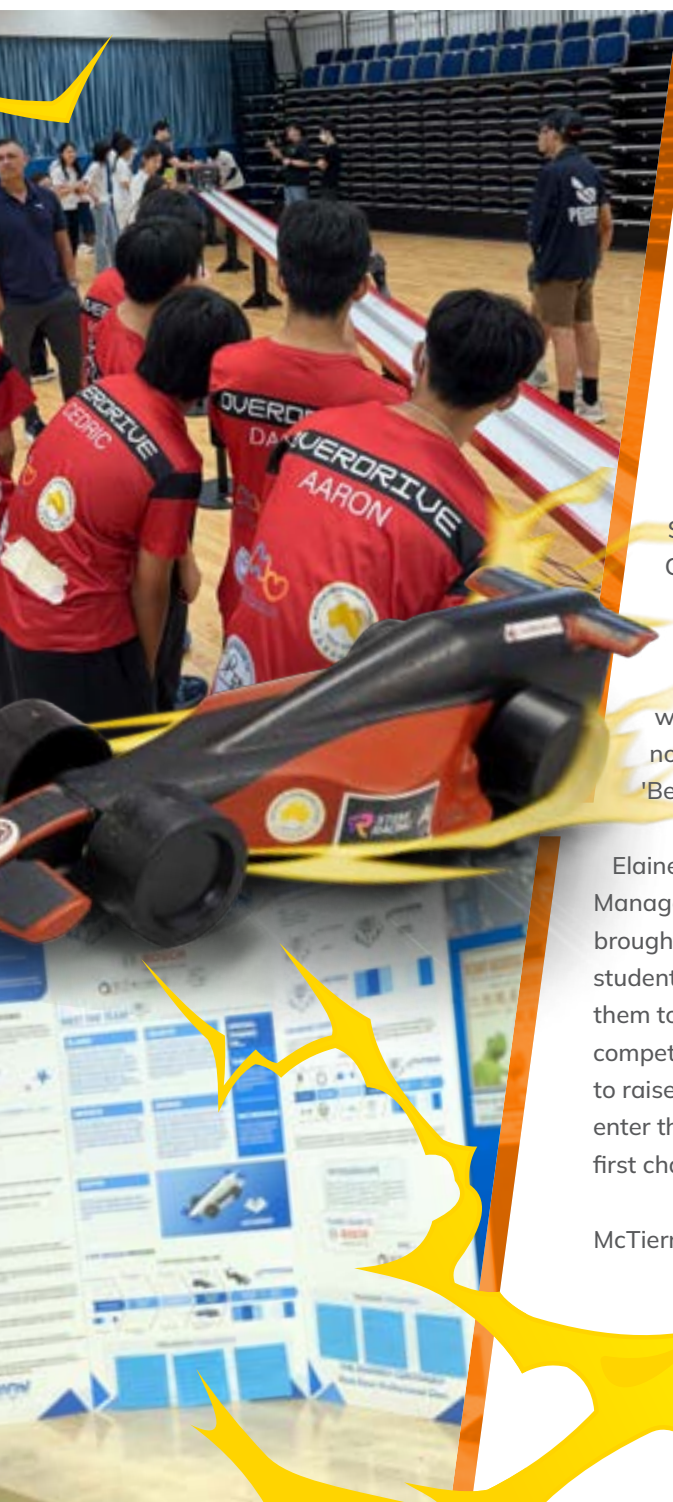
McTiernan, "The students did

a great job of writing emails, communicating appropriately with corporate sponsors and understanding their approval process. They were very organised!"

"In the run up to the competition I saw students challenge themselves and extend themselves further and further. That is why they did so well."

The teams (each with six members plus the workshop supporters) worked quickly to be competition ready. Each team has a project manager, who coordinates the communications across all the roles and makes sure everyone is on track. The team includes two engineers: a design engineer and a manufacturing engineer. The design engineer is responsible for anything developed using CAD software, running all of the simulations and making the changes.

The manufacturer is in charge of 3D printing and the CNC machining of all car parts and for the painting and finishing details of the car. The finance manager, keeps track of any sponsorship money and makes payments. The sponsorship and marketing manager, reaches out to all sponsors for funding. The graphic designer works across the whole project.





McTiernan and team leader Elaine Lam (Year 10)



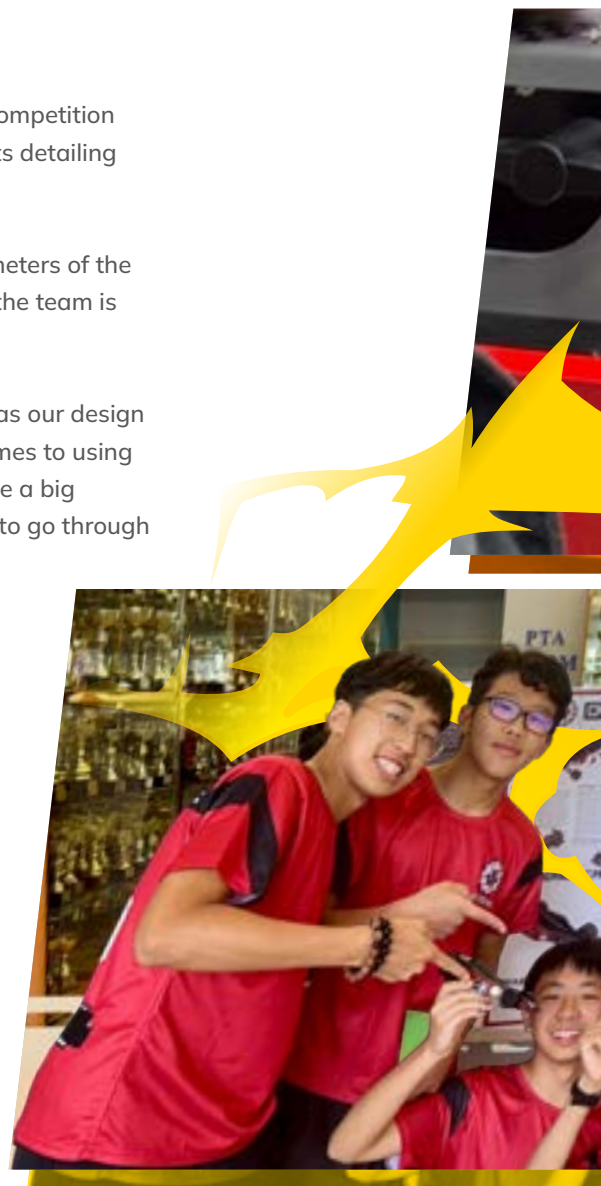
Once the roles have been assigned the teams have to work within the competition regulations. Both Enterprise and Engineering have 2 50-page documents detailing the many regulations and judging criteria.

"They [the regulations] are very specific; the cars have to be within millimeters of the regulation specifications. If a car part is outside of the regulations then the team is deducted points but it might mean the car is a little faster."

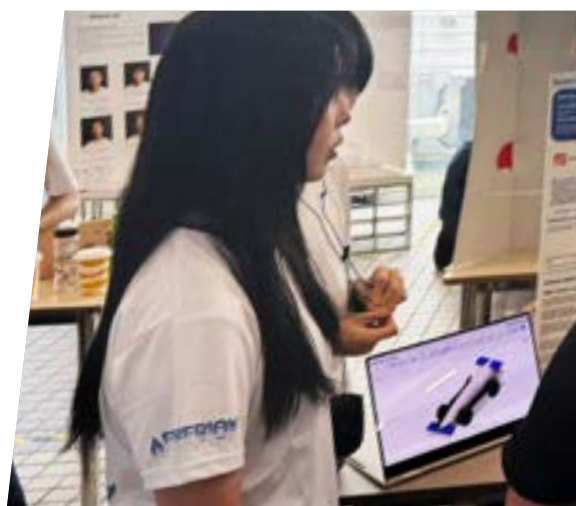
Daniel Cheung, Year 10, Team Engineer – Manufacturing, "Tyler Fung was our design engineer, together we created, tested and designed the car. When it comes to using the design software, the big constraint was sizing. There is actually quite a big difference from when designing on the screen to 3D printing so we had to go through a pretty big testing process to see if everything actually fit together."

McTiernan, "On race day all the cars have their own design and they all look totally different. While the wheels and axle are standard components provided to all teams, every team is responsible for designing and building the remaining parts of their car. These components are developed through multiple iterations using CNC milling machines and 3D printers. The cars undergo rigorous track testing and simulations, with students ensuring that each aspect of the design complies with strict competition regulations."

A week before the competition, the teams have to submit everything to the judges (who are mostly university lecturers or industry professionals).



"On race day I was a little bit anxious, a little bit nervous but I was also fairly confident our car would do well. I was proud of the team and all the engineering work that went into the car."





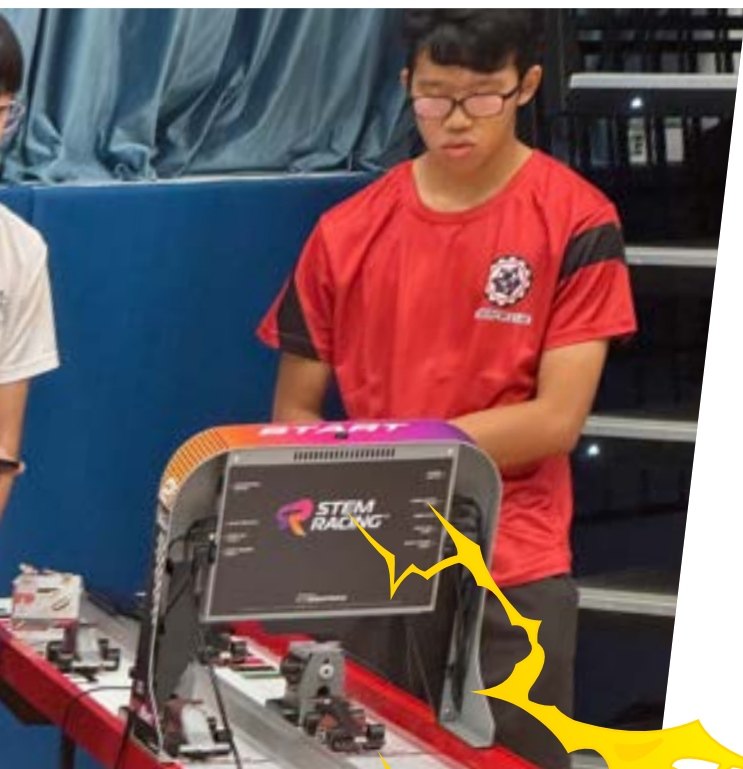
McTiernan, "The cars go through a regulation check in advance of the actual competition as do the Enterprise plans. The only thing that the teams take to the competition is their pit display showing the development and inspiration behind their brand identity."

"The whole team goes into a lecture theater to present Enterprise portfolios to the judges, explaining how they reached out for sponsorship, how much money was donated or the other ways they were supported by sponsors."

"They do the same for the design and engineering plans. They discuss the simulations they ran and the adaptations they made and where they took inspiration from."

Marcus Mo, Year 10, Project Manager, "On race day I was a little bit anxious, a little bit nervous but I was also fairly confident our car would do well. I was proud of the team and all the engineering work that went into the car. The engineers did a really good job, they spent hours on it."

McTiernan, "The cars are raced on a 50m track 4 times. Ultimately the car design determines the fastest car, however the reaction time of the "driver" can also help to determine the actual success of the race, as it is in F1."



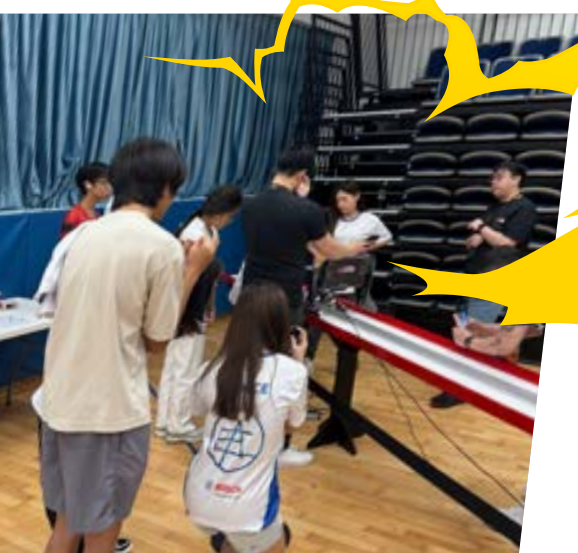
"Racing is just one part of the competition. There are 500 points teams can collect over the day. The team with the most points are the grand champions. The judges take into account everything, the pit display, brand identity and car branding the whole package."

"I can't wait to see what the teams will do next because they have done so much so quickly. With their blend of skills there is no telling what the students will achieve."

So what is it like track-side? What is the atmosphere like on race day?

McTiernan, "The morning is very busy, but in the afternoon it's more chilled and students can talk and share their experiences with other teams. By the end of the day, I'd say they were probably the most well-known team on the grid because they had no problems talking to other teams. Both teams did AISHK proud."

The teams will compete in the Professional Class Competition in December and they hope to qualify for the world championship next year. [/LR](#)



OUR COMPETING TEAMS

Team Aetherion

Elaine Lam, Bernice Wong, Joshua Ma, Celeste Hsien, Kady Lin and Walden Wong.

Team Overdrive

Marcus Mo, Daniel Cheung, Tyler Fung, Aaron Lee, Isaac S Wong and Cedric Chui



New Staff 2025

Meet the new and returning staff
joining AISHK this year.

Our amazing new staff have diverse backgrounds and skills. What they have in common is a passion for seeing young people grow and develop.



Jane Thomas
Head of Primary

Why did you become a teacher?

Originally, I come from a small, idyllic beach town called Narooma, located on the southeast coast of New South Wales. It was there that my love for education, curiosity about the environment, and deep passion for learning first developed. In my hometown, everyone knew everyone, and even now, when I return, familiar faces still greet me and ask, "how is life?" I hope to find similar comfort here in Hong Kong. I am passionate about the development

of young children and the importance of belonging to a strong community. I believe in the values of AISHK—educating the whole child through their mind, body, and spirit and I am excited to have already seen these values in action. I hold the belief that learning through investigation and play leads to deeper engagement and a stronger, long-lasting understanding. We all know that happy, engaged children learn best.

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK... I worked at Melbourne Grammar School for 20 years

What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

Since arriving in Hong Kong in January 2025, I've been immersed in a vibrant array of sights, sounds, and experiences. It's an incredible opportunity to join the AISHK community and the broader, diverse community of Hong Kong. The year began with a perfect introduction, showcasing our school's rich 30-year history alongside the festive Lunar New Year celebrations. What I have noticed whilst settling in at AISHK is the warmth and experience of the staff. We are very fortunate to have a staff who have such a wide variety of backgrounds and interests making for a

rich tapestry of learning experiences in the classroom. The caring nature of the staff is also evident in the relationships they build with the students both in the classrooms and across the wide array of co-curricular activities on offer. I am looking forward to seeing all that the school offers over the course of the school year in order to establish a strong foundation to grow from in the following years.



Emma Young
Deputy Head of Secondary

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK... Shelford Girls' Grammar, Melbourne Australia



Lisa Bonazza
Deputy Head of Primary

What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

Since joining AISHK, the biggest and best thing I have noticed is the strong sense of community. People are friendly, warm and welcoming. Meeting students, families, and staff has been wonderful and it has reinforced my commitment to our shared values and goals.

My career has taken me to Belgium, the UK, Thailand, and Mauritius in leadership roles, working with educators across Europe and Asia Pacific. While international education is familiar to me, I am thrilled to be here, learning, growing, and adventuring at AISHK!

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK... Barker College in Sydney, Australia



Shane Barr
Secondary
Maths Teacher

Why did you become a teacher?

I spent 15 years working all over Australia as a Mining Engineer/Mine Manager, mostly in underground mines. I wanted to take a break from mining, and was very keen to pursue a career in teaching. I returned to university to complete my degree, and after doing my first teacher practicum placement, I knew I had made the right decision, and have never looked back.

Arrived in HK:
December 2024

Before joining AISHK...
AIS, Singapore

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

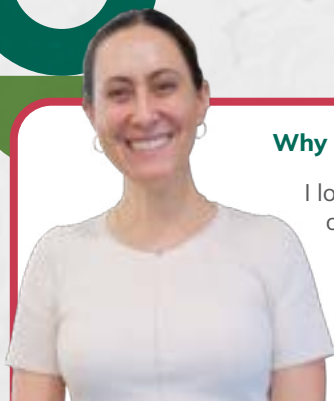
I love HK !!! The buzz, the pace, the opportunity to travel easily and the fact that you meet so many people from different walks of life. I love that it is such a safe city for my kids. I fell in love with HK many years ago and it's true what they say, HK is a very difficult place to leave !! Also my brother and his family live here so it's great to see my little nieces and be an aunty.

Arrived in HK:
December 2024

Before joining AISHK...
Perth, Australia



Lindsay Bennie
Secondary
English Teacher



Susan Buzan
Secondary
Science Teacher

Why did you become a teacher?

I love working with our young people and opening their minds to science. I started off with a degree in marine sciences from the University of British Columbia. After working with school groups at the Vancouver Aquarium I realised I was not cut out for lab work, and enjoyed sharing my experiences and seeing the excitement with the visiting students. From there I went on to study to be a teacher and still love sharing and seeing the excitement of my students.

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Onslow, Western Australia

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

My wife and I really enjoyed the warmth of the people and the community at AISHK. Settling into a new school and a new country can be a daunting time. However, the genuine and thoughtful interactions with our school community have made the transition very smooth and enjoyable.

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Cairns, North Queensland



Benjamin Brown
Primary PE Teacher

Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I love working with children and finding fun ways to engage them in learning. The students we teach are the next generation of world leaders. I hope I can give them the tools they need to make a positive difference. I had some amazing teachers growing up who inspired me, and hopefully I can pass on some of that inspiration to my students.



Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Cairns, North Queensland

Samantha Brown
Year 4 Classroom Teacher



What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

The friendliness of the staff and the sense of community are the things that have stood out to me the most as one of the many positive things making this a great place. It is fantastic to see students and families who value education, as well as educators whose passion sees them providing invaluable learning opportunities.

Vanessa Brown
Prep Classroom Teacher

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Sawtell, NSW, Australia

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

I love that it's such an international city. It's great for meeting people and making new friends. It's also so easy to travel around Asia and beyond.



Time in HK:
15 Years

Before joining AISHK...
Melbourne, Australia

Michelle Yan
Prep Classroom Teacher



Why did you become a teacher?

At the age of seven, I would help babysit and assist in Sunday school at church. I naturally enjoyed teaching and helping my younger peers. As I grew older, I realised that this was truly a passion of mine; I love teaching, and it will always be my dream job.

Arianna Chor
Prep Classroom Teacher

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Victoria, Australia



Patrina Donaldson
Secondary Maths Teacher

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

I have found the staff at AISHK really welcoming and fun. There are so many great opportunities to explore in and around Hong Kong. I like how I can enjoy the busyness and vibrancy of a big city yet also get out for a hike and into nature so easily.

Arrived in HK:

Moved in January, but previously lived in HK

Before joining AISHK...

New Zealand

Why did you become a teacher?

I always wanted to be an actress and thought teaching would be a steady job meanwhile. But when I did get a break and became a TV presenter, I missed teaching, so I returned to the job I love and have never looked back.

Time in HK: January 2025 (but lived in HK for 28 years on-and-off)

Before joining AISHK...
Melbourne, Australia



Jane Engelmann
Performing Arts Teacher



Gavin Guest
Secondary LEC Teacher

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

As a sportsman, the opportunities to participate are high. Upon moving to Hong Kong, I was fortunate enough to be selected to represent Hong Kong at Hockey at the Asian Championships in 2023 and be selected for the World Cup in 2025.

Time in HK:

3 Years

Before joining AISHK...

British International College, Kyiv, Ukraine

What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

Moving countries and starting life from scratch is incredibly daunting, but from day one at AISHK, I was surprised at how comfortable I felt. It was clear that the majority of the staff here understood exactly how we were feeling, having been through it themselves, so it gave me a sense of peace knowing I would be OK too. They were all incredibly supportive and kind from the moment I stepped into the school. I found I'd have to leave 10mins early for meetings as whenever I walked past a staff member on the way there, they would stop for a friendly chat or to introduce themselves if we haven't met. I love the mix of nationalities at the school and how inclusive everyone is. I've not worked at a school where there have been so many well-being activities, morning teas, check-ins and reasons for staff to mingle and catch up with each other outside of the regular school business each day. It's a great little community here.



Penelope Jarius
Secondary Admin Assistant

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Sydney, Australia



Gloria Kwok
Reception Classroom Assistant

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

As a local, my favourite aspect of Hong Kong is its remarkable efficiency and, in my experience, the people of Hong Kong are helpful and supportive.

Time in HK:
Born & raised in HK

Before joining AISHK...
Monash University, Melbourne

What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

As a returning staff member, I've observed the enduring legacy of our school values and ideals, which are both imminent and palpable throughout the entire school community. AISHK, to me, is a home away from home - embodying the traditions and values of Australian culture and education in a global setting.

Time in HK:
3 Years

Before joining AISHK...
Gold Coast, Australia



Rebecca Lachmund
English & Drama Teacher



Faye Lee
Payroll Administration

What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

Since joining AISHK, I've noticed an incredible sense of camaraderie and teamwork. Everyone in the school is warm and welcoming. It's very impressive to see how the team balances a positive, stress-free vibe with a strong dedication to achieving outstanding results.

Time in HK:
Born & raised in HK

Before joining AISHK...
Different international schools in Hong Kong

Why did you become a teacher?

I studied music at university and always knew my career would involve music. Starting as a school music technician, I found myself drawn to working with the students and teachers - the part I enjoyed most. This led me to complete teacher training and eventually move to Hong Kong.

Working in the Performing Arts is a continuous learning journey - you will never 'complete' being creative. Every practice session, collaboration, or exposure to new ideas offers us a chance to learn. Creating art demands effort, commitment, perseverance, and risk. Involvement in the arts builds the capability to be open-minded, curious and reflective - skills that are so important in our daily lives.

Time in HK:
15 Years

Before joining AISHK...
Island School, Hong Kong



Joseph Travers
Head of Performing Arts

Why did you become a teacher?

I think for most teachers, the reason they become teachers is due to a positive experience that. But after school I was drawn to follow other passions and interests. Some jobs on my CV include, carpenter, electrician, skydiving instructor, DJ, photographer, taxation clerk, car salesman, and many more in-between. It wasn't until I worked for a large global fruit store that I discovered my true passion, teaching. In that role I helped people learn new skills, and knowledge, and most of all, enjoy technology for what it is – a useful tool.

Being focused on technology education is always exciting; it also comes with many challenges. I strive to create an engaging learning environment where students can explore, experiment, and innovate. Witnessing their growth and enthusiasm for technology is incredibly rewarding and reinforces my commitment to teaching.



Troy Savill
Primary Technology
Integration Specialist

Arrived in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Queenwood in Sydney, Australia



Casey Wong
Primary Classroom Teacher

Why did you become a teacher?

Growing up, I always enjoyed helping and teaching others. I remember being in Year 6 and I had a buddy in Year 1 and I loved spending time with my younger buddy and teaching her how to read and draw. Additionally, I had some truly amazing teachers. When I went into education, I aspired to live-up to the incredible teachers I have known and have positive impact.

Time in HK:
7 Years

Before joining AISHK...
Born and raised in Canada

What do you like most in Hong Kong?

One of the things I absolutely love about Hong Kong is its cultural mix. Walking through the city, you can feel the vibrant blend of Eastern and Western influences everywhere. With Chinese temples alongside the skyscrapers, it's amazing how people here are so accustomed to the cultural mix and are so inclusive. The cultural richness here always leaves me feeling inspired and connected to a global community.



Hazel Yeung
Classroom Assistant

Arrived in HK:
Born & raised in Hong Kong

Before joining AISHK...
AISHK graduate



Ka Ping Man
Year 1 Classroom Assistant

What do you like most about Hong Kong?

I love the energy and community spirit in HK. It is an incredibly safe city with plenty of things to do within the city and HK is a great place to travel out to nearby countries to explore with family.

Time in HK:
18 Years

Before joining AISHK...
I worked in corporate Human Resources in Banking before joining AISHK.

Why did you become a teacher?

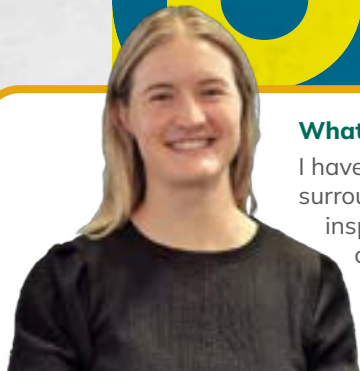
I have always enjoyed working with children and spent a lot of time during my high school years coaching different sporting teams and working in a mentor programme with younger students. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do when I finished high school, but I had the chance to do some work experience in a primary school assisting teachers and students with ICT in their classrooms. Also, teaching small groups of students how to use different software programs. The passion for teaching grew from that moment, I still remember it. I knew that I wanted to be a positive role model for younger people and spend time teaching and learning with them.



Time in HK:
January 2025

Before joining AISHK...
Sydney, Australia

Rodney Jarius
Year 3 Classroom Teacher



Claire Bester
Year 4 Teaching Assistant

What have you noticed about AISHK since you joined the school?

I have always had a passion for education growing up. I was lucky to have been surrounded by teachers and others that were involved in education. My main inspiration was my Year 5 teacher who created a magical environment in her class and allowed us to plant a garden together. She still is a huge part of my life and still inspires me to be a better educator. I have a passion for the power education gives students and how it plays a huge role in their growth.

Time in HK:
11 Years

Before joining AISHK...
South Korea and South Africa

Other Staff that Joined AISHK

- **Valerie Ng**, Administration Assistant
- **Alvin Dong**, PE Assistant
- **Bernadette Lau**, Year 2 Classroom Assistant
- **Thomas Keeble**, Year 1 Classroom Teacher
- **Niall Bennie**, Primary PE Teacher



Experience a Day^{at} AISHK

Years 3 to 11



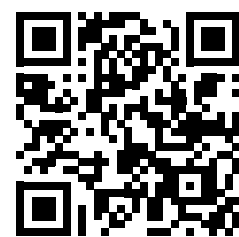
SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 2025

For students Years 3 to 11 and their families

**Discover our vibrant and interactive campus,
where students thrive and flourish.**

Meet our dedicated teachers and explore a variety of activities. From creative arts, music, and sports to classroom learning, experience the dynamic environment of our school.

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PARENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Dear AISHK Parents,

It has been an exciting Term 2 for the AISHK parent community as families settle into the school year, begin to grapple with homework tasks and get to grips with never ending school activities and ECA's. Fortunately, the Parent Association is filled with passionate volunteers willing to give their time to support school activities, help establish events and provide feedback to support the school's continued growth.

One such event was the mother's night out held on the 9th May at Madame Fu's Grand Chinois in Central. In a departure from past years, the event was a cocktail function which allowed parents to mingle freely and make new connections – an especially important element for new mums. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with great food and drink enjoyed in wonderful company. The event was a sold-out success with over 75 mums attending and \$8,900 raised to support school projects.

Enormous thanks must go to our major sponsor Oreana Wealth Management and to our prize sponsors for the raffle donations.

At the end of May we held the second General Meeting which was a great opportunity for parents to have more input into PA activities and events, and for collaborative dialogue between parents and school leadership. As always, we are grateful to Ms Mina Dunstan, Ms Jane Thomas and Mr Peter Phillips for making themselves available to speak about school operational initiatives and respond to parent inquiries

Looking ahead

Excitement is building for the Pearl of the Orient AISHK ball being held at the Kerry Hotel on Saturday 9th August. Please consider booking a table to invite your friends, colleagues and family. The AISHK community is a dynamic sum of the connections we have now and the ones about to be forged.

We hope to emulate the success of the mother's day event to celebrate father's day in September. Aligned with the Australian fathers day on Sunday 7th September, the AISHK dads will gather on the evening of Friday 5th September.

Please keep a look out for upcoming PA events and if you have any concerns, suggestions or would like to learn more about the AISHK Parent Association, please get in touch by emailing the aishkpa@aishk.edu.hk

Thank you for being an integral part of our school's community.



Alex Harrington
President,
AISHK Parent Association

PA Events in Terms 3 & 4



New Parent Welcome Coffee



5 Aug 2025 | 08:15 - 09:00p.m.

7 Aug 2025 | 08:15 - 09:00p.m.



5 Sep 2025

**Father's Day
Evening Social**

30th Anniversary Ball: The Pearl of the Orient



**Grand Ballroom, Kerry Hotel
9 Aug 2025 | 6:00p.m.**

Parent Association General Meeting

27 Aug 2025 | 08:30-10:00a.m.

5 Nov 2025 | 08:30-10:00a.m.

Parent Association AGM

24 Nov 2025 | 1:30-33:0p.m.

Jingle Mingle



10 Dec 2025 | 4:00p.m.

ACAMIS Basketball



Wallabies visit AISHK

Activity Week



LOOKING BACK AT TERMS 1 & 2...



Chinese Battle of the Books

Activity Week



Visit, dhanara.aishk.edu.hk to see previous school highlights.



Year 2 Excursion



Maths Carnival



Wallabies visit AISHK



Interhouse Soccer



Chess Carnival



Primary Cross Country



Beijing Shijia Primary School Visit



Maths Carnival



