

Wedding is holy. Rarely would there be anyone not taking it as a significant moment of one's life. Sooner or later a couple will make the decision and join hands together, make the pledge before God, and leave the church, with the glittering rings on their fingers telling others "we're taken". Girls are always ready for it; boys always wait till the last moment to decide that they are ready for it. Whatever they think about wedding, church on most occasions is their first pick; yet there are always exceptions. What about, say, holding it in a school hall?

4th October was destined to be a great day: the weather was perfect, and the sun arrived early, sending in rays through the curtain and lighting up the whole place. It's one of the best spots for wedding ever, especially for a couple who are both graduates of Shun Lee.

The couple, *Tracy and Brian*, have expressed a strong sense of belonging when they decided to have their precious moments in the school hall. They had spent 7 years of their life here in Shun Lee, setting their feet on the same floor for more than a thousand times. To come back is a journey into the memory, and to have a wedding in a place where they grew up is a tribute to the past.

The couple has known each other for 10 years. Though Destiny placed them in different classes for years, music played its magic and built a bond between the two. In a concert they met each other by pure chance, and with genuine understanding they join hands and set off for future.

Wedding in Shun Lee



However, when they needed to get the hall ready for the ceremony, it took not just love but a practical mind to tackle the difficulties facing them: the hall is not designed for wedding purpose, and it demands greater creativity to decorate the place than having the ceremony held in a conventional function hall. It was not easy; they never expected it to be. Wedding is holy; it deserves enormous efforts, a little pain in between, and euphoria in return. Thanks to their parents, who have given them full support for

their decisions, they coped with all the difficulties with composure and confidence.

When the clock struck three in the afternoon, the guests filed into the hall. They filled the hall with blessing and warmth. Soon the ceremony began. While the elegant bride was walking down the aisle under the music performed by the couple's friends, she was embraced by an aura of peace and grace, with guests on both sides, wishing her all the best, and Brian waiting ahead, with a pounding heart, for the moment to come. Everyone was glad that they were invited to be a part of it; it is what collective memory really means.

The couple expressed their gratitude to their family, friends, teachers, and the principal by making a promise: their union will stay strong until the time ends. Brian brought the ceremony to its climax when he sang the "Love Song" to Tracy. It was music in that concert years ago that brought them together. The music is still in the air, and that night has never ended.

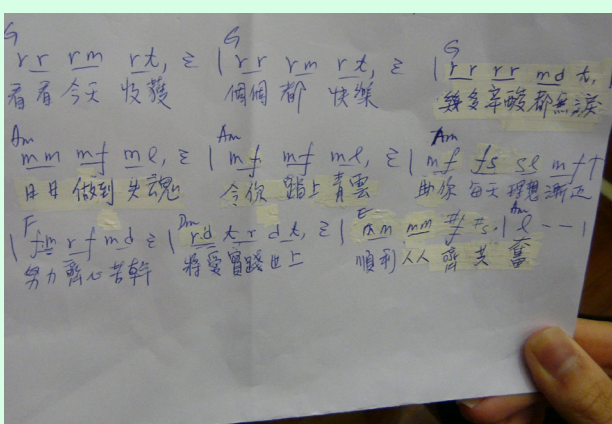
Yet as their new chapter begins, they discover that there is not only music that holds them close, but also love, admiration, and each other's hand.



Friends

It is great to have their wedding ceremony in Shun Lee, a place where they met each other and created memories of their own.

Being the first pair of such is sweet. We wish them all the best, and, of course, have a bunch of kids soon.



Mentors

I'm glad that they get married. When I see them holding hands, I recall what they did in their teens and feel as if I had become their father, experiencing the most exceptional occasion in their life.

What impresses me the most is their perseverance that helps them get round the difficulties posed by the school hall. After all, it's not designed for wedding purpose.

I wish that they'll always remember Shun Lee, and that they'll support each other in years to come. These boys and girls have graduated, left the school and started their work elsewhere, leading life of their own. But I don't believe that everything ends there. With this ceremony we unite again, and for this I have written a song.

Interview with Johnny Lam

President,
Alumni Association



Q: Every teacher addresses you as Mr. Chan, and it's always fun to call you this way. Yet what's your real name? How should we call you?

A: Call me Johnny Lam. This's my 'official' name.

Q: Mr. Lam, we've heard about the alumni association, and we'd like to know more about it. When's it established? And what's its mission?

A: I can't quite tell when exactly it's set up. It's ages, but it's definitely between 1988 and 1989. Over

the years the association has devoted to the same mission – to unite the alumni and keep everyone in touch with Shun Lee.

Q: How could one join the association? And will there be any annual fee?

A: The graduates can register their membership at our alumni forum. We did charge our members once until we reckon that it's unfair to most of our members if the collected fee is spent on activities which so few of them join. So we stop charging our members except those who attend our functions.

Q: What activities does the association organize for the alumni?

A: (laughter) We don't actually have that many as you think. The best function we've is definitely the *Shun Lee Premier League* (順超聯). We also hold talks together with the Career Guidance Team. Yet we're facing a shortage of manpower.

Q: Could you tell us about the teams?

A: Altogether we've 11 teams. The 1999-graduates-team is the star team with a great many warriors.

Q: What plans does the association have?

A: We wish to hold activities of greater variety, like basketball competitions. To invite our alumni to have BBQ gathering at our old place in Shun Lee would also be great. But we're thinking about suspending the Shun Lee Premier League. It's always been difficult to come up with a full team as each alumnus has his own schedule. We may switch the league back to the old mode—get all matches done in one day! Lastly, we're working hard on liaising with the alumni of earlier days because we've only 150 members in our forum. We wish to contact them through different ways.

The Shun Lee Premier League

07-08 League Table

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	99畢業生	9	8	1	0	25
2	寶聲隊	9	6	1	2	19
3	91畢業生	9	5	1	3	16
4	老鬼隊	9	4	3	2	15
5	順利921	9	4	2	3	14
6	育成足球	9	4	1	4	13
7	順利老師隊	9	4	0	5	12
8	順利朋友	9	3	2	4	11
9	鬥牛	9	0	2	7	2
10	晴天足球隊	9	0	1	8	1

Top Scorers

POS	NAME	TEAM	GOALS
1	莫黃維	91畢業生	10
2	Kong Ka Wai	順利921	9
2	蕭偉文	91畢業生	9
3	古常菁	老鬼隊	8

When the graduates came together one day years ago there suddenly came one thought: How about having a match with the other alumni, and the teachers? When they put the idea into practice, they arranged the matches like any ordinary football matches, and finished them all within one day. The idea received great applause, despite that several teams would like to have more matches. That's the reason the association makes it more like a tournament, with a better structure, and more matches.

Through this league alumni graduated in different years pay the old days a sweet visit. But to have a full team is never easy when no two schedules ever fit each other. Their friendship, however, is not formed by a football, but their bonds with Shun Lee, a place where they find their roots.



Message from Principal

Last year, after a talk organized for P6 parents in the school hall, a young lady approached me and asked if I still taught Religious Education after I took up the role as the school principal. Before I recognized that she was one of my former students, she proudly introduced her son to me and sincerely told me that she would also like him to experience the meaningful and enjoyable school life here as she did when she was young.

What makes Shun Lee different? What makes a Catholic school different? It is God's love. The vision of Catholic education is to foster a community which cherishes and promotes Christ's teachings of love and service as well as social values and love of life in its own culture, and which strikes a balance between the improvement of the quality of livelihood and the enhancement of the quality of spiritual life.

Numerous changes, far too many in volume and in pace, have sparked off without warning in advance to us in Shun Lee. I believe that all these contain in themselves both a challenge and an opportunity as it all depends on the qualities a person is endowed with. In preparing for the implementation of the New Senior Secondary (NSS), we have been loaded with tons of work.

Despite the increasing number of schemes and projects, the spiritual development of our students is still always our top priority. That is, to implant our core values, "Love", "Mutual Respect" and "Responsibility" in their hearts. It takes years to establish the culture of Shun Lee and we do hope that the influence and the differences we intend to make in our students would be lifelong.

The contributions of our teachers, pupils, parents and alumni to make this happen are all essential. In the past months, I have witnessed our alumni's unreserved

support for their Alma Mater.

Their generous support as shown in Dr. Ivy Chan's Scholarship, Dr. Chan Wing Kwan's and Dr. Sun Siu Yan's recent sharing with our students, the careers development seminar and the professional sharing session organized for our S3 to S7 students on the Career Day are just a few examples to name. Many of our graduates also come back to school to visit their teachers, to take photographs and to invite their teachers to share their happiness on such momentous occasions as graduation or wedding. I would like to thank our alumni for their warm presence in Shun Lee, which is always encouraging to us.

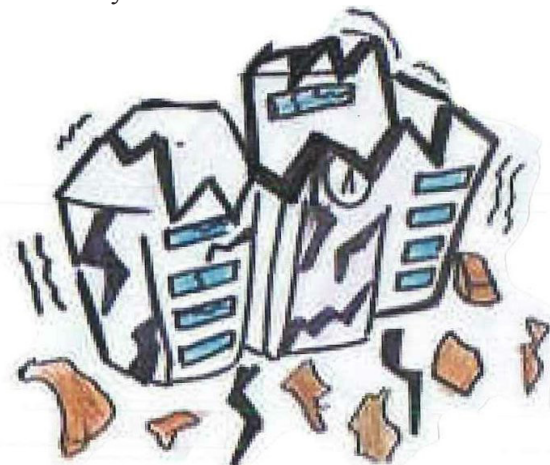
"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, nor touched..... but are felt in the heart." Helen Keller

The nice Year of Mice

For the Chinese, the year 2008 is more than just a Year of Mice. When the Olympic Games have dazzled the world with its spectacular opening ceremony and record-high number of gold medals, and when the blast-off of the Shenzhou-7, 4 years after its forerunner Shenzhou-6, that carries the first Chinese who takes his space-walk, has drawn its path across the sky into the outer-space, China has once again, in a positive way, caught global attention. Yet, the prologue has ended; a disheartening chapter of the history of China begins.

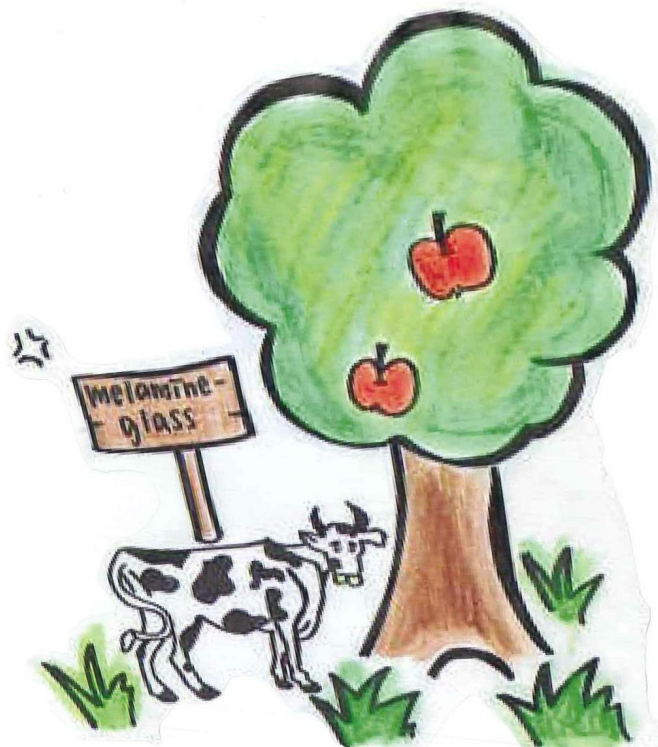
Sichuan Earthquake

The heartbreaking natural disaster claimed more than seventy thousand of lives, burying the victims under ruins alive. Yet what further aggravated the problem was that the buildings were constructed in such a way that it joined force with the mighty earthquake and caused greater casualties. Investigations uncover the scam that a great portion of the capital for the construction has been drawn by the third party, rendering the building less durable against the devastation of the natural force. Worse still, there is news reporting that the officials have been trying to hinder the outsiders, including those from Hong Kong, from unveiling the scene. Parents of the victims are also discouraged from filing for any prosecutions. The strength of the Earthquake is no match for the power of the government. Being invincible and unshakable, the authority has defeated the natural power, in an unnatural way.



The tainted-milk scandal

Chinese government, at the very frontline, should have taken the responsibility to monitor food quality and avoid contamination. Yet the episode exposes not the weakness of the administration, nor the irresponsibility displayed by the officials, but the greed embedded in the merchants and the extremity of capitalism. When profits outrun morality seldom would anyone care about integrity until the evil costs human life. It is reported that over 300,000 infants have fallen ill due to the contaminated milk powder, the only food they ever need for their first few years. The parents would have prepared other food for their beloved if they had been informed in advance that the milk powder with melamine costs not only yuan but also their babies' kidneys. Once again the government does what they are best at, trying to cover everything up. The press smells it, and do what they are best at – dig in, get shoved away, and dig in deeper with the collective strength of the public. The government is always the scandal magnet.



What's nice with this year?

Heartbreaking though, 2008 is worth, with joy and pride, embracing. The Beijing Olympic Games, a tremendous achievement in history, enchanted the globe with its richness of Chinese culture. Years of preparation has improved the citizenship and modernized the city. Chinese starts to know what a queue looks like and the etiquette of not spitting in public. The Games does fulfill its mission, that it brings the mainland one step closer to civilization. The lift-off of Shenzhou-7 has also led China into the larger domain in astronomy. Being the third country which has sent man into the outer space doing space-walk before the camera, China has projected a clear image: it is in advancement with a controlled progress, yet it has no intention of dominating the world. To be prudent and modest is always the golden rule of Chinese.



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Horizontal:

- i. (adj) lasting for a long time
- ii. (adj) polluted by dangerous substances
- iii. (v) to form or join a line of people
- iv. (v) to force a small amount of saliva out of your mouth
- v. (v) to spoil
- vi. (n) particular task or duty undertaken by an individual or a group

Vertical:

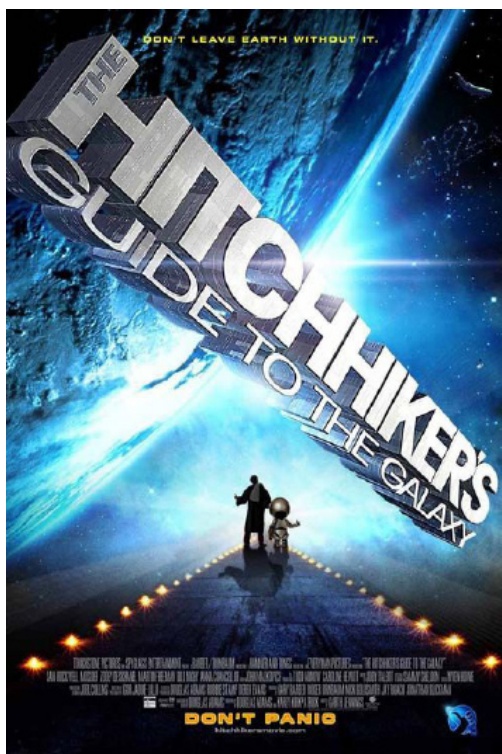
- 1. (n) the legal right of belongings to a particular country
- 2. (adj) world-wide
- 3. (n) the moment when a spacecraft leaves the ground
- 4. (n) the chemical found in recent China-made milk products
- 5. (n) a baby or very young child
- 6. (n) the opinion people have of a person, organization, product etc.
- 7. (n) an event in which someone, especially someone important, behaves in a way that shock people
- 8. (n) customs, arts, social institutions, etc of a particular group or people
- 9. (n) one type of natural disaster

Film Review

Want a ride?

When Arthur Dent woke up that morning like every ordinary Englishman did, he wasn't be aware that he and his house were nuisances to the construction of the new highway. But soon it would be the least of his problem. The construction shuttles from the Vogons had arrived, and the Planet Earth ranked top on the demolition list to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. Boom! And that's it for your unbelievably short and insignificant life, unless you hitchhike, as though what Dent and his Alien pal did, and got on the Vogons shuttle. That's where the journey began.

Based on an acclaimed science fiction comedy "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy", created by Douglas Adams and broadcast on BBC radio4 in 1978 as a radio comedy, the movie has preserved its intense black humour, like what most British-made comedies do, to mock the rigid bureaucracy of a government, particularly that of the British. It also questions our obsession with pursuing the truth of the origin and meaning of our existence: are we asking the right question? Have we ever grasped the full context of what we are asking? This philosophical movie, coated with humour that requires deliberate thinking and interpretation, which are never the speciality of HongKongers, is ranked top at the "worst comedy chart" when it's released in 2005, by



critics who think they can think. These thinkers should be put at a higher priority than Earth on the Vogons' demolition list.

Pick "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and learn the secrets of the universe. This movie is not set out to make you laugh till it ends, yet it bears what a good movie should have: an open-end that raises questions and is worth thinking about even after years.

Album Review

When the book was released in 2005, not even Stephanie Meyer would have imagined a story depicting the romance between a vampire and the girl he likes, which goes against the nature and the very rules, could drive the world mad.



And when its big-screen adaptation sweeps the world, I mean the whole world, with a total gross of \$158M, what follows is always an OST. Once again a beautiful mind turns itself into a money-printing machine.

While to talk about the subtle relationship between money and art could take a century, it takes one only an hour or so to listen to the album in entirety. To those who like upbeat and rock they will find the album an easy ride. Full Moon by the Black Ghosts, and Eyes on Fire by Blue Foundation would make way into my top picks, as upbeat and rock have never worked well with me. What funny is that only one track of the playlist developed by Stephen Meyer for the movie is put on the album. Meyer surely has the ability to manipulate words and the emotions among her fans, but to get in line with the music the teens nowadays like, she has no ideas.

One Laptop Per Child

One could not imagine how unbearable it could be to live in extreme poverty - with the walls of the home torn down, and the supply of water and electricity cut off -- until one is trapped in such a situation like those kids are in Reaksmey, a remote village in Cambodia, or many other villages. We have been lucky for too long that we have got used to taking it for granted.

But someone denies turning their backs on these tragedies. Prof. Negroponte, the founder of MIT's Media Lab, reckons that the kids' enthusiasm towards learning should be answered. In 1999 he founded a school in the village, satellite dish and generators - ready, and gave laptops to the kids. When the path to the technology is cleared up, and the map put into these kids' hands, these underprivileged for the first time see what we have long neglected - the value of knowledge and chances.

It's how the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) starts, and what lies upon could only be something of greater purposes. When the devastating earthquake stomped Sichuan, throwing many lives and hopes into the endless abyss, OLPC decides that they should contribute by giving the young survivors computers so they can continue their study and get over the pain. Now by paying only HK\$3380 you can own an XO and donate the other one to the underprivileged kids; you can, of course, give away the other one to one more kid. With the XO, the kids get online with us again. For more details, please visit <http://www.oregonscientific.com.hk/g1g1/>



Life @ Shun Lee : The SU Debate

SU Debate Demo, staged successfully on 22 October, is set out for a great objective: to build a platform on which fellow students can express and exchange their views towards social issues.

The duel was arranged on the podium, members of the Chinese Debating Team being the affirmative side and S6 the challenger. Words replaced swords, and arguments were fired against each other; There was no peace until a consensus was reached.

The motion "Strengthening the censorship of internet messages sets an immoderate measure to information release" was designed to raise our schoolmates' concern about the first-round public consultation of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). Since there is an intense concern about the freedom and mental health of internet browsers, we find it an arguable topic, and are eager to hear the voices of our fellows.

For more details about the review of COIAO, please visit <http://www.coiao.gov.hk>



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Our newsletter

We are pleased to introduce By the Numb3rs, the newsletter from Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School's Department of Mathematics.

The newsletter will bring you interesting mathematics problems and issues, updates on recent development in mathematics and upcoming activities for students.

Of course, your suggestions on ways to improve the activities and newsletter are also welcome. Just like Paul Erdős said "Our minds are open".

Behind NUMB3RS

Suppose you are an exterior painter, a person who takes jobs painting the outsides of various buildings. Let's say that the builder who has hired you to paint some new apartment buildings has a certain subjective design requirement that goes something like the following.

He wants to use two colours of paint : red and blue. His only rules are that the outside of each storey of the building be either red or blue, and that no two floors adjacent to each other vertically may be red.

Each building must be painted differently. How many different combinations of colors can there be for apartment buildings with various numbers of floors ?

Let's start with apartment buildings with one storey:



Next, let's find the combinations for buildings with two storeys:



Maths Odyssey

This year, we are going to screen the famous TV series, NUMB3RS during Thursday and Friday lunch time (1:20 – 1:45pm) in ILC and to organize a bi-weekly workshop after school on Friday for all students.

Discussions and activities are arranged after viewing the episodes to let students further explore these mathematical tools. By trying the maths used within each episode of NUMB3RS to classroom

activities, you can increase your interest with these real-world examples.

Membership is open to all students. A simple registration is required and students can join the club at any time.

Please contact Mr. Mak K.C. or your mathematics teacher. (slcss.maths@gmail.com)

Apartments with three storeys:



Apartments with four storeys:



Apartments with five storeys:



Can you observe any pattern ? How do we know this is not just a coincidence ?

Book Recommendation

Las Vegas, card counting and five brilliant MIT students, what else do you need ? The book Bringing Down the House, 21 offers up what Ocean's 11 can't. And while the original story has obviously been altered, the reality of master card counting is surprisingly accurately portrayed.

When Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess) is in need of money to fund his Harvard Medical School tuition, the math whiz kid is conveniently provided with an opportunity to partake in a Blackjack team composed of four other MIT students. Led by Ben's mathematics professor Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey), the team would fly into Vegas and hit the tables. The team employed well-rehearsed verbal and hand signals, and wore disguises to conceal their identities.

What is card counting ?

Card counting has nothing to do with remembering every card that has been played, that's more a feat of memory. Although the card counting systems take many forms, one of the most popular and simplest is the high-low count. Each card is assigned a positive, negative or neutral value :

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 = +1
- 7, 8, 9 = 0
- 10, J, Q, K, A = -1

21: Bringing Down the House

The player keeps a running total of the count, adding or subtracting as each card is played. The player raises their bet according to the positive strength of the count. The count also determines how to play each hand.

For example, if the deck is strongly positive the player is more likely to draw face cards, so may profit by playing a more cautious strategy.

Here are some oral count signals :

- Tree : The signal for a count of +1, because a tree looked like a one
- Switch : +2, because a switch was binary, on and off
- Stool : +3, because it has three legs
- Car : +4, four wheels
- Glove : +5, fingers
- Gun : +6, bullets
- Craps : +7, lucky seven
- Pool : +8 eight balls
- Cat : +9, lives
- Bowling : +10 strike
- Football : +11, goalposts
- Eggs : +12, a dozen
- Witch, +13, witchy number
- Ring : +14, fourteen-carat gold
- Paycheck : +15, got paid on the fifteenth
- Sweet : +16 sweet sixteen
- Magazine : +17, the name of a teen magazine
- Voting booth : +18, the age you could vote

Eventually, members of the blackjack team were betrayed. Out of greed, some team members sold names and faces to the Griffin Agency, which is hired by some casinos to track players who win disproportionately. The Griffin Agency compiles a face book of card counters and prohibits them from betting.

Card Counting Strategies
<http://www.qfit.com/card-counting.htm>



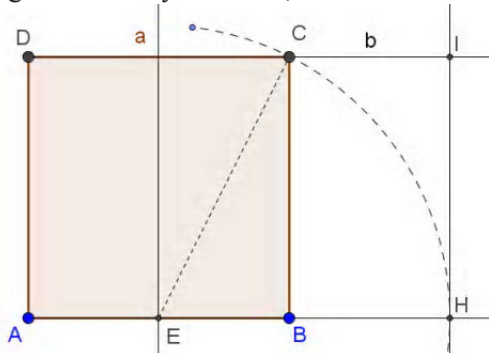
Construction site : Golden triangle

1. Construct a simple square ABCD.
2. Bisect the side AB at the point E.
3. Draw a line from E to an opposite corner C.
4. Draw an arc centered at E, radius EC to the extension of the bottom side.
5. Complete the rectangle AHID.

Measure the ratio AH : AB. No matter you try, the ratio you obtain is the same as those your classmates obtain. Why ???

It is easy to prove that rectangle ADIH is similar to rectangle CIHB.

The Golden Rectangle is defined as a rectangle that can be partitioned into a square and a smaller rectangle CIHB which is similar to the original rectangle ADIH. In this example, the length of the smaller rectangle divided by its width is equal to the length of the larger rectangle divided by its width,



i.e., $a \div b = (a + b) \div a$. The ratio of the longer side of each rectangle to the shorter side is known as the Golden Ratio. This ratio can be proved to be approximately 1.6 : 1.

Mathematically, this works out to be about 1.6 : 1, or 3.2 : 2 compared to the 3 : 2 aspect ratio of 35mm film.

Mathematician

很多數學觀念是在輝煌年代的亞歷山大城形成的。其中一位長期在亞歷山大城做數學研究工作的希臘人是丟番圖 (Diophantus, 約 246 - 330)。

《算術》“Arithmetica”是丟番圖的主要著作，是一部代數的論著。原書共有 13 卷，保留至今的只有 6 卷，相傳其餘 7 卷在一場大火中被燒毀了。也是首位用符號來表示冪 (power) 的數學家。

丟番圖享年之謎

在丟番圖的墓誌銘中，記載了他享年的秘密：「上帝給予的童年占六分之一，又過十二分之一，兩頰長鬚，再過七分之一，點燃起結婚的蠟燭。五年之後天賜貴子，可憐遲到的寧馨兒，享年僅及其父之半，便進入冰冷的墓。悲傷只有用數論的研究去彌補，又過四年，他也走完了人生的旅途。」你能從墓誌銘中，求得丟番圖享年多少歲嗎？

Further studies in Mathematics

Two of our alumni are now pursuing some undergraduate programmes in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

Mathematics and IT Education

This program intends to produce outstanding mathematics and information technology (IT) teachers for secondary schools in Hong Kong.

This four-year program is composed of a three-year honors degree program in mathematics provided by the HKUST and Technology, and a one-year professional teacher education provided by the HKIEd. Program graduates will be granted Registered Teacher Status by the Education and Manpower Bureau upon application.

Unlike the traditional “first degree + one-year post-graduate diploma in education” training model, this program integrates professional teacher training with academic studies from year two onward, giving students ample opportunities to build up professional confidence before taking up their first teaching post.

Mathematics

This is a three-year program that includes six options : Pure Mathematics, Mathematics and Physics, Applied Mathematics, Mathematical Sciences, Statistics and General Mathematics. Students in all options take multivariable calculus, linear algebra and introduction to analysis in the first year.

BR41N3T0RM

Problem 1

Explain the following pattern and show that it is always true.

$$3^2 - 2^2 = 5 = 3 + 2$$

$$4^2 - 3^2 = 7 = 4 + 3$$

$$5^2 - 4^2 = 9 = 5 + 4$$

Problem 2

Can you continue the following pattern ? What is the general pattern ? Give a dia- grammatic justification ?

$$1 = 1^2$$

$$1 + 3 = 2^2$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 = 3^2$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 = 4^2$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 = 5^2 .$$

Problem 3

在數列 A、9、B、C、D、E、7 裏，任何三個連續項之和皆為 19，求 A+B+C+D 的值。
(係咪小兒科 6.12.2008)

Problem 4

某人的生有六分一的歲月是小孩、十二分一是少年、七分之一是未婚成年，他的兒子在他婚後五年出世，卻比他早四年去世，而兒子的壽命則只有父親的一半。問題是：這人活了多少年？

註：希望同學可以提供至少兩個不同方法。

3. 26 4. 84 5. 18

(信報 12.6.2008)

Problem 5

John fenced off a rectangular area for his chickens. He placed the posts 1 m apart all round the edge before tacking the wire netting in place. When he'd finished the job he noticed that the area of the chicken run was numerically the same as the pe- rimeter. How many posts did John use in making the run ?

(Ministry of Education, NZ)

Answer

81 5 48 4 92 3

Olympiad Corner

Question 1

Calculate $2 - 0.\dot{1} - 0.\ddot{1}2 - 0.\dot{1}2\dot{3}$.
(HKMO 2006)

Question 2

$$\text{If } p = \frac{2}{3 + \frac{2}{3 + \frac{2}{3 + \dots}}},$$

what is the value of p ?
(HKMO 2006)

Question 3

Let $f(x) = 4x^2 - 4x - 2006$. Find $f\left(\frac{\sqrt{2006} + 1}{2}\right)$.

Question 4

Among 4 English books, 6 Chinese books and 9 Japanese books, two books are se- lected. It is found that they are of the same language. If there are X such choices, find the value of X.
(HKMO 2006)

Coming opportunities

第一屆香港中學數學創意解難比賽
The First Maths Creative Problem Solving
Competition for Sec. School
Four S1 students

國際數學奧林匹克 - 香港選拔賽
International Mathematics Olympiad Pre-liminary
Selection Contest-HK 2008
Four S4 students

天主教教區學校聯會數學比賽
CSCD mathematics competition
Four S4 students

香港培正中學數學邀請賽
Pui Ching Middle School Invitational Mathematics
Competition
Three junior form students

香港青少年數學精英選拔賽
The Hong Kong Mathematics High Achievers
Selection contest
Five S3 students

If you are willing to challenge yourself next year, please contact Mr. Mak K.C. and Miss Chan C.Y. for further details.

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用愛鋪成的道路 中三 謝穎欣

此時此刻，我們心連心、手挽手的在這條艱辛、漫長的道路前進。憶起當天，一塊塊沈甸甸的巨石，無情地壓住我們的至親。痛，揮不去，在心的深處埋下來……

好想好想在曲折崎嶇的道路上突然出現一台時光機，載我們回到過去，無論多麼難熬，只要一息尚存，也並肩向前走。四川地震中，我的家人全部離開了我。那些日子，無論怎樣也擦不乾我那不斷流下的淚珠，黑暗淹沒了我，使我失去平衡。

是愛把絆倒的我扶起，讓我抬頭看見曙光。

在醫院治療期間，每天都有哥

特殊的禮物 中一 吳卓盈

自從那大樓崩了，天空塌了，到處頹垣敗瓦，我一直被困在漆黑當中。寂靜的黑暗籠罩着我，我連一聲「救命」也喊不出來，只靠着發抖的手去尋找出路。抖動着的手一直摸着水泥牆，直至我感覺到，有人握着我的手。

那是一隻冰冷的手，我隱約地聽見手的主人在挽留我。我知道，那手的主人將會是我一生中最後

哥、姐姐前來探望我。他們為我講故事，教我唱歌，與我跳舞。他們親切真誠的笑容，叫我嚐到人間的愛。「眼淚流過了才有力量！」這句話是一位姐姐告訴我的。

原來在這條迂迴的路上，有無窮的愛推動著我。那天，我收到一封奇妙的信，上面寫着：



給堅強的四川小孩：

您好！我是一棵印度橡樹，您想要認識我嗎？我就盤踞在前方的山坡上。

在我初到來這世界時。環境十分惡劣，山坡荒乾，因此我盡量散枝落葉，保存僅有的水份，甚至不開花。我的樹根粗獷，葉子闊而厚，在荒涼的山坡上經過多次劫數，卻更見盎然。

日出日落多少個世紀；人的靈魂輪迴了多少次，這片國土上發生過什麼血洗戰役，都無礙我鬱葱地生長。願聰明的您明白一切生命都有價值，活在當下！

印度橡樹
二零零八年五月二十八日

泛著淚光的雙眼滑下一顆淚珠，我卻咧咀笑了。這顆小小的淚珠載住了對父母親千絲萬縷的記憶與懷念，也載住了對愛我、支持我的人的一份感謝。謝謝你們的愛！

除了地震，可能還有水災、大雪災、生離死別、疾病苦痛，前方的路不平坦，但鋪滿了愛。有了愛，我不怕了，我還要往前走，尋找那棵屹立不倒的印度橡樹，還要看見美妙、瑰麗和煥發燦爛的兩後陽光，聽見身旁有人替我們打氣，唱着振奮人心的歌。

這才發現，道路兩旁枯萎的花朵毅然盛開了，好不豔麗，香氣直沁心脾；樹木枝繁葉茂，在路上替我遮風擋雨。

認識的友伴，我們素未謀面，卻是如此的親切。我在水泥牆的縫中跟「手的主人」渡過看似漫長卻又短暫的時光。他告訴我，他的願望是要當一個好老師，教出最好的學生。可是我知道，這不再可能發生，除非奇蹟出現。

我捉緊他的手，害怕失去最後的一個朋友。我答應了他，我會永遠緊握着他的手，即使他可能再也感覺不到。我們會有獲救的一刻嗎？會有見面的機會嗎？在矇矓之際，我想起甘甜的河水，我渴；我想

起河畔清新的空氣，猛力吸一口——卻只是一鼻子灰。黑暗令我漸漸的失去知覺。那時，我發現黑暗的安靜是別處找不到的，我被溫柔的黑暗哄得睡着了……

我一直的在沈睡，直至空虛的感覺突襲而來！我張開眼後立即感覺到握在手中的那雙手不見了。他在哪裏？那一直在黑暗中陪伴我的手在哪裏？正當我迷惘之際，一道強光使我眼皮也撐不起來：久違了的陽光！

在地震後的兩天，我終於獲救了！是多麼的難以置信！我永遠也不會忘記逃出黑幕時看見工作人員的喜悅表情！

忽然有人拍了拍我的肩膀，我的感覺絕不會錯，他是那雙手的主人……原來他正是我的老師。他憔悴得很，可能因為他剛為我盡心盡力的上了一課。

人與人之間的扶持，是最好的禮物。

淚 中四 陳振洲

淚，是淚腺受到刺激，不由自主地產生的分泌物。曾有人說，這是人類擁有情感的明證，也有人說這只是發洩過後的副產品。但面對着人生種種經歷和變化，會不為所動，不流下一滴淚嗎？

從我們離開母體的一剎那，看見了人生的第一點光，身體便被一雙溫暖的手抱着、撫摸着。那暖透心扉的體溫，彷彿穿透了身體，讓我們感受到人世間第一絲的愛。在我們看見陌生的世界，感到不知所措、無所適從的一刻，淚伴隨着大哭大喊，不由自主地流下來。此刻，為了表達自己對新世界的驚訝，淚，流下來了。

長大了，難免看到至親一個一個無聲無息地從我們身邊離去，在我們的生命中消失。一雙雙曾捉緊你，暖暖的手，變成了一雙雙冰冷的手，僵硬地放在沒有靈魂的軀殼旁邊。難道你不會有一絲絲悲傷，甚至讓眼淚奪眶而出的衝動嗎？此刻，為了失去而感到莫名的空虛，淚，流下來了。

在電視上，看見一個個奧運健兒，經過了無數的戰鬥，灑下了無數的汗水，直到最終取得勝利的一

刻，呼天大叫，站在頒獎台上，手中緊緊地握着金牌，在國歌的伴隨下，淚從兩頰間徐徐流下。健兒心裏懷著的，是一種明白自己多年努力已得到回報的興奮之情；是一種能為國家爭光、不負所望的激動之情。此刻，因著興奮和喜悅，淚，流下來了。

十三億的中國人，有着無數能令人感動的故事。四川大地震中，數以十萬計的傷亡數字，令人無不為之流下同情惋惜之淚。但亦因此，中國人互助互愛之情，表露無遺，深深打動了每個人的心。無數同胞盡一己之力，捐獻金錢，甚至為了盡力去搶救一息尚存的生命，遠赴山區幫忙，不惜任何後果。受災的人，因外界的竭力幫忙，而流下無數感激的眼淚。此刻，因著人與人之間的微妙的愛，淚，流下來了。

在這片住着十三億人的土地上，同一時間，有人因生命的誕生喜極而泣，也有人因生命的結束嚎啕大哭，是甚麼原因也不要緊，只要我們的淚，是因著愛——愛自己、愛親人、愛祖國，愛這片土地而流下。讓我們在黑眼睛中流下的淚，劃過黃黃的皮膚而流下的眼淚，滴在地上，化成生存的動力，化成愛人的動力，永不止息。

話說捐贈 中六 施華涓

在熙來攘往的街道上，不難發現慈善機構的義工在到處募捐。然而，不少路人都對義工的奔波視若無睹。

香港絕對稱得上是一個物質豐盛的城市。有調查指出，本港有不少「百萬富翁」。可是遇到上述情景，面對雙手捧著善款箱的義工，一眾身穿名牌的上班族不是揮手拒絕，便是急步離開。即使人如何的富裕，願意真正與他人分享的，為數實在不多。

其實，人所吝嗇的，又何止金錢呢？

記得有一次，我拿著器官捐贈卡去問母親：「媽，我可以填嗎？」結果母親生氣地對我說：「你要是敢填，以後就別再叫我媽！」這就是中國傳統觀念：死也要有全屍。每當老一輩聽到關於器官捐贈的時候，都總愛搬出一大堆似是而非的道理，目的就是想要你打消捐贈器官的念頭。其實，對於一個沒有生命的人來說，器官已經沒有用處，它待付諸一炬，化成灰燼。既然如此，何不把它捐出來延續生命呢？這樣不但可以拯救病人的生命，也能救贖在世者的心靈。若果硬要

從傳統思想的角度來看，捐贈器官雖或會破壞家族的運程，但何嘗不是為祖先積積陰德呢？如此看來，是福是禍都只是觀點與角度的問題。

可惜，這種根深蒂固的觀念，使為數不少的「衛道之士」選擇將別人的續命神藥送進火化爐。

其實，每一種有形的捐贈都是出自一種無形的捐贈——愛。人願意犧牲個人利益及私見去幫助別人，正是因為人有愛心。試想一下，假如父母沒有愛，還會義無反顧為子女付出時間和金錢嗎？又如醫護人員沒有惻隱之心，或是存有種族偏見，還會願意盡心盡力去拯救生命嗎？要是人人都是以物質享受為大前提的話，還會有人願意當義工嗎？由此可見，不論透過任何方式去捐贈，都是發自內心的，希望把自己所擁有的與別人分享。當中所體驗的，就是愛。

香港人，是哪些價值把你的愛心理沒，是甚麼思想把你所能與人分享的，都放在自己的口袋裏呢？

希望日後在街頭看到的，是一個又一個塞得滿滿的善款箱吧！

文字遊戲

文字，乍看令人感到有點沉悶，但它箇中包含的樂趣，你可有領會？讓我們分享其中奧妙。今期「語」文有約會跟大家探討「文字遊戲」。

一、甚麼是文字遊戲？

文字遊戲是使用同種文字的人群之間的情趣活動。但是，如果一種文字遊戲既能為人們傳達心靈訊息、又能給人們以優美的精神享受，則不失為一項文字藝術。

中華文化是世界上最古老的文明之一，有超過五千年的歷史。由於中國文化源遠流長，諸如此類的文字遊戲無疑不少，而且許多技藝精巧、寓意深刻。

二、介紹三種文字遊戲

有關文字遊戲的專題不勝枚舉，但最具影響力，且能寓學習於娛樂的要算是燈謎、對聯和謎語三種。

三、燈謎

燈謎又叫「文虎」，它主要是依據文字中一詞多義、筆劃組合及摹狀象形等特點，通過別解、假借、運典及拆字等方法而成的文字遊戲，故屬於「文義謎」。燈謎謎面較文雅，講究言簡意賅和思維的邏輯性，強調字詞含意的別解，一般難度和技巧比謎語要高得多。同學試完成以例子，答案在頁底。

- 1、積食(打一口語)
- 2、前事不忘，後事之師
(打明代抗清名將一)
- 3、生產必須出正品(打成語一)
- 4、選嫩的(打作家一)
- 5、紅橙綠藍紫(打成語一)

四、謎語

謎語又稱為民間謎語，它著重以事物的形體、性能和動作等特徵，以求達致猜射的目的。所以謎語是屬於「事物謎」。它是用白描手法，以形象、特徵的寫照，讓人感受所要猜射的事物，較直接。它直接體現了所指物的特徵，無需別解謎面的含意。這是它和燈謎不同之處。試看一看以下例子：

- 1、一物真離奇，誰也不能缺；
不洗還能吃，一洗就變髒。
(猜自然現象)
- 2、出生同一天，住在山兩邊；
說話聽得見，卻互不見面。
(猜人體器官)
- 3、十個禿頭兒，分開站兩邊；
同床同被枕，分穿兩件衣。
(猜人體器官)
- 4、長得真奇怪，腰裏出鬍子；
去掉鬍子後，露出牙齒來。
(猜農作物)
- 5、生在深山死在鍋，
藏在瓶子活在懷。
(猜農作物)
- 6、生根不落地，有葉不開花；
街上有人賣，園裏不栽它。
(猜蔬果)
- 7、紫樹開紫花，
紫色果裡盛芝麻。
(猜蔬果)

五、對聯

對聯也是一種文字遊戲，對聯又叫楹聯，是我國文字的一大特色。它以較少的文字，依據平仄排列成上下兩句而意思整合的對子。同學試看一看以下例子：

- 1、書山有路勤為徑，
學海無涯苦作舟。
- 2、燕燕鶯鶯處處紅紅紫紫，
風風雨雨年年朝朝暮暮。
- 3、人過大佛寺，寺佛大過人
- 4、客上天然居，居然天上客。
- 5、僧遊雲隱寺，寺隱雲遊僧。
- 6、路人行上行人路，
居士隱留隱士居。
- 7、自在自觀觀自在，
如來如見見如來。
- 8、有水有田方有米，
添人添口便添丁。
- 9、弄假似真終是假，
將勤補拙終輸勤。

試找一找以上對聯哪些是可以倒讀？(對聯中回文體詩)

對！3、4、5及6首是可以倒讀回文體詩。今期先後介紹了三類文字遊戲，希望大家能共享文字中樂趣。

士 8 1 5 互 9 舞 豔 5 米 互 1 預 幽 8 且 2 米 1
： 豔 豔 豔 豔
舞 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔 豔
： 豔 豔 豔 豔

考一考你 極品回文詩

一、「連環回文」

續上期淺談回文詩，今次要介紹回文詩中之極品，最難寫作。這種回文詩，不論從詩的哪個字開始讀，朝哪個方向讀，都是一首好詩。據說清朝同治皇帝的御用小茶壺上，就刻有下面一幅簡單文字圖案。它順讀、倒讀都得出五言絕句一首，堪為連環回文詩之千古佳作：

落
花 雪
豔 飛
舞 芳
風 樹
流 幽
霧 紅
香 雨
迷 淡
月 霞
薄

您可以很容易讀出：

- (其一) 芳樹幽紅雨，淡霞薄月迷。香霧流風舞，豔花落雪飛。
- (其二) 芳飛雪落花，豔舞風流霧。香迷月薄霞，淡雨紅幽樹。
- (其三) 迷月薄霞淡，雨紅幽樹芳。飛雪落花豔，舞風流霧香。
- (其四) 迷香霧流風，舞豔花落雪。飛芳樹幽紅，雨淡霞薄月。

二、蘇蕙璇璣圖

歷史上回文詩之登峰造極者，非前秦時代才女蘇蕙莫屬。蘇蕙，字若蘭，陝西扶風縣人氏，自幼聰慧，善刺繡、諳詩文，嫁竇滔為妻。據扶風民間傳說，竇滔在任秦州刺史期間公正廉明，卻被奸人誣害，因而被發配邊疆沙州（今敦煌）服役。蘇若蘭日夜思念丈夫，後來刻意寫了一首112字精美的回文詩，用五彩絲線織成一幅錦繡《璇璣圖》，托人送給他。

112字版本的《璇璣圖》

去日深山當量妻夫歸早耐真思又
公雀同初叫寡思回婦囑不身情貴
陽婆結夫配早織垂時思上何米語
侶髮年夫與錦歸去雙少深柴夫誰
好伴奴邁回要淒可寒淚中久料我
豈赦尋文身孤本衣憐家上至別月
早知朝能受靠野歸想天今枕日離
子天冷淡尚鶴誰更不久地同鶯鴛

此文字方陣在很長一段時間裏不為人們所解讀。後來知道，若從最上一行中間的「夫」字開始，向右斜念下去，再七轉八拐，直到「妻」字為止，便得一首十六句的七言詩：

夫婦恩深久別離，鴛鴦枕上淚雙垂。
思量當初結髮好，豈知冷淡受孤淒。
去時囑咐真情語，誰料至今久不歸。
本要與夫同日去，公婆年邁身靠誰？
更想家中柴米貴，又思身上少寒衣。
野鶴尚能尋伴侶，陽雀深山叫早歸。
可憐天地同日月，我夫何不早歸回。
織錦回文朝天子，早赦奴夫配寡妻。

真是加密容易解密難！當時回文詩迷解開以後，便被廣為流傳，最後傳到秦王苻堅手裏，讓秦王驚詫莫名、讚歎不已，遂為竇滔平了冤案，讓他官復原職，令蘇蕙夫妻得以歡樂團聚。這一簡樸民間故事在當地傳為千秋佳話。

據文獻記載，從現有的《璇璣圖》而言，繁簡不一，扶風的《璇璣圖》共841字，天水的《璇璣圖》112字；從時間上來看，天水的在前，扶風的在後。唐代武則天曾親自為《璇璣圖》寫序，對之推崇備至，說是「才情之妙，超古邁今」。後人關於蘇蕙和《璇璣圖》的許多版本，均從此序言演繹而來。但武則天畢竟不是史學家，所說不足為憑。

參考資料：

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2. 吳麗薇：香港教育城《趣談文字遊戲》

中國國旗

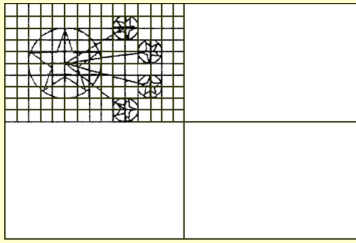
中華人民共和國國旗是一面五星紅旗。紅色的旗面代表革命精神，黃色的星是表示在紅地上顯出光明，同時亦象徵中國人黃皮膚的特徵。旗上的五顆星及其相互關係象徵中國共產黨領導下的中國人民大團結。

使用國旗尚且有不少規條，更何況在同時使用國旗和區旗這種複雜情況呢？無論懸掛、列隊舉持等情況，國旗也應該在較高和較前的位置。而展示或使用破損、污損、褪色或不合規格的旗幟，皆可能觸犯基本法第十八條規定在港通行的《中華人民共和國國旗法》及《中華人民共和國國徽法》，送官究治。

我們看見一些國家領導人或對社會有莫大貢獻的人逝世，如早前在嘉禾大廈火災殉職的兩位消防員，都會在棺木上蓋上國旗，以示尊重。可是，國旗或其圖案決不能在私人喪事活動中展示或使用。商標廣告、日常生活的陳設或布置私人慶吊活動也嚴禁擅用國旗和區旗。任何人違反這些條文也屬違法，除非經行政署長事先批准。

目前，國旗每天都會在行政長官辦公室、行政長官官邸、香港禮賓府、行政會議、終審法院、立法會及設於海外的香港經濟貿易辦事處展示。而在香港國際機場及所有邊境管制及檢查站懸掛的國旗，有著更實際的用途——標示國境範圍。

在某些指定日子，當局亦會在其他政府合署及建築物，如醫院、學校、部門總部、體育及文化場館等地方展示國旗和區旗。該等指定日子為每年國慶日(十月一日)、香港特別行政區成立日(七月一日)和元旦(一月一日)。



創作文章：升旗禮 何志豪

昨天，是國慶紀念日。

在清晨的天安門廣場上，天氣冷得使人發抖，刺骨的寒風吹向毛主席的畫像，吹向四周的群眾，也吹向負責升旗的軍人。不管風多大，軍人眼眸裏那點愛國的熊熊烈火不但沒有熄滅，反而燒得更旺盛。我深深的感受到他們堅毅的精神和對祖國的熱愛。

今天，是平凡的一天。

在清晨的天安門廣場上，天氣和暖，萬里無雲，陽光絢麗地灑向捧著五星紅旗的軍人。把軍服熨得筆直的軍人手上抬著中國的國旗，臉上掛滿光榮的汗珠，他的步伐依然沈實穩健，腰板也挺得沒有半點彎曲。為此，我感謝他們對國家的承擔，對升旗禮的尊重。

廣場上响起一陣響徹雲霄的熟悉聲音：升國旗，奏國歌！

頓時，整個天安門廣場上的人群都肅靜起來，像是連太陽也抖擻起來。國歌徐徐地奏起來了！那神態莊嚴的軍人隨著節奏，揚手一翻，敬著禮，把國旗送到風中去。在抑揚頓挫的國歌中，五星紅旗一步一步地爬升。轉眼間，五星紅旗已爬到旗杆的最高點，我知道，中國也在世界的旗桿上，爬得很快，很高。

回憶起四十年前，我曾穿著一樣的軍服，在同一個廣場上，聽著同樣的歌曲，升起同樣的國旗。而唯一不同的是，四十年前的中國和今天的中國，完全是兩碼子的事。從前我要手動升國旗，現在已是電動的了。中國在急速發展、進步；而我只在一天一天的衰老。但我深信，中國的崛起和強大，需要軍人的努力，但願年輕一輩在想起國家時，亦能抱著同樣的使命感，貢獻國家。

回過神來，升旗禮早已結束，人群也開始散去。

軍人還在站著。一些零星的面孔還在站著，我還在站著。

我想，這些零星的面孔或許是我四十年前並肩的戰友，或許是有意投身解放軍、為人民服務的年輕人，或許是正在休假或剛退役的軍人，他們都正在仰望旗桿，像是思考著甚麼似的。不管如何，愛國的心總能從他們堅定的眼神中展現出來。

長江後浪推前浪，一代新人勝舊人。但願中華兒女愛國的熱情，也如浪花一樣越推越高。此時，我想所有的退役軍人，也和我一樣，正在向旗杆敬禮，畢竟我認為

我老了，但我仍是中國的軍人。

升旗手訪問

認識國旗和區旗的使用範圍及細節後，有沒有想過自己也能成為升旗隊的一份子，執行莊嚴而神聖的任務呢？今次我們邀請了兩位在升旗隊中負責不同職務的同學接受訪問，與大家分享一下擔任升旗手的經驗和感受。



記：大家好！歡迎兩位同學接受《順誌》的訪問。請問兩位為甚麼會參加升旗隊的工作呢？

邱：說起來也有點「誤打誤撞」，我是德育及公民教育組的大使，自覺沒有甚麼藝術天份，當不上壁報製作的事，便參加升旗隊。還記得當初對升旗隊的工作還是一知半解的。

王：我參加升旗隊也有一點因緣的。第一次接觸國旗升旗禮是中五的時候。那時「順利」剛建好三支旗杆，當時還沒有正式的升旗隊，我是香港少年領袖團的成員，對升旗禮的步操儀仗有點認識，老師便挑選我擔當升旗手，後來自己也協助老師訓練護旗、步操的同學。

記：怎樣開始也不太重要，看來大家頗能各司其職。平日大家也沒有機會近距離觀察升旗的過程，可否為大家介紹一下你們工作的具體情況呢？

王：作為升旗手，最重要的是把旗準時升到旗杆上，但其實在把旗升到旗杆前還有一連串指定動作。

首先是解旗繩，然後檢查旗繩有沒有打結及旗繩的活動是否順暢。接下來是要把旗正確地扣到旗繩上。這步驟是十分重要的，如果把國旗上下倒轉升上旗杆，後果是十分嚴重的。最後是跟隨著國歌的節奏，把國旗準時升到旗杆頂端。而除了升旗手外，還有負責出場時護旗、升旗時候揚旗的護旗手，就是站在升旗手旁邊的那一位。另外，為了確保旗幟可垂直升上旗杆，護旗手一般也要在升旗的過程中手持旗繩。

記：那你們準備升旗禮的過程是怎樣的？當中有甚麼竅門？

王：升旗禮是一個莊嚴的儀式，旗手必須以尊敬及嚴肅的態度負責整個升旗禮。準確度方面，護旗手要於國歌前奏最後一個音揚起旗幟，而升旗手則要在國歌完結時剛好把旗升到上旗杆頂。合作方面，旗手與護旗隊的步操也要互相配合，兩者進場及離場時必須步伐一致。還有，升旗手與護旗手之間的默契是十分重要的。大家不可以透過言語或動作溝通，但要以同一步伐、在同一時間完成升旗，兩者可算是要「心靈相通」。

邱：我也同意呢！原來升旗是很難控制的，也許我們完成整年的升旗工作，也未必能做到盡善盡美。不過，得到老師及同學對我的指導及體諒，才慢慢的掌握了升旗的技巧，因為每次升旗之後老師也會跟我們檢討升旗的過程。不過最困難的是，若果每次升旗手的成員配搭不同的話，升旗的節奏便很難配合。例如我是急性子的人，夥拍一個「慢郎中」的話，也許要練習上半天才可配合。



王：我認為在學校升旗還好，假若要到其他地方升旗，我們必須實地練習，因為個別升旗場地的旗台與旗杆與學校的不盡相同。我最難忘代表香港少年領袖團在金紫荊廣場升旗，由於早上八時正升旗，六時正降旗，我們必須待六時後才能練習。

邱：對！又例如陸運會，我們會提早個多小時到會場作最後的練習，我之所以說「最後」，因為一般情況下，幾位升旗和護旗手在較早前到實地不知練習了多少遍。回想起我們出行的時候，提著沉甸甸的錄音機，到達了場地，還受到市民的「圍觀」，真有點尷尬呢！

卓：我個人認為要做好一次升旗禮並不是容易的事，我實在非常欣賞大家。升旗的步伐和節奏的確有改善的空間，但我們決不能每次都用相同的升旗手，你們在升旗隊的日子也不短，也明白同學終有一天會離開順利。在我的立場而言，我希望讓不同的同學嘗試擔當升旗的工作，那除了是一個很好的體驗外，也能讓他們透過活動加深對國旗、升旗儀式的理解。

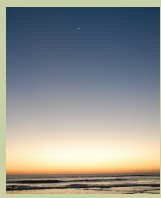


記：記者

王：王梓璇同學

邱：邱慧珊同學

卓：卓少雄老師



文踪

版四



「語」文
有約

版三



升旗手
專訪

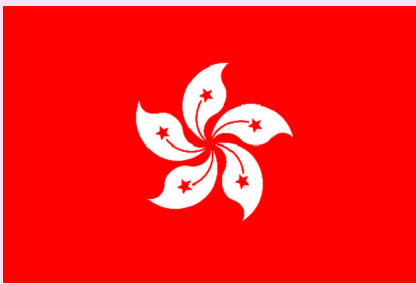
版二



是日專題
旗海飄揚

版一

旗海・飄揚



大家好！上一回的《順誌》，我們跟大家分享過有關死亡的文化，生死之論確實和我們息息相關，從中更能窺見中國文化豐富的內涵。今次我們輕鬆一點，找來一些有趣的話題和大家一起探討——國旗。每逢國家的喜慶節日、學校的盛事，都會以莊嚴肅穆的升旗禮開始，屈指一算，我們在上學期也參加過不少大大小小的升旗禮，但對於國旗，我們又知道多少呢？升旗禮有甚麼注意事項？更重要的是，升旗禮和我們有甚麼關係？筆者希望透過今期的專題介紹，讓大家了解國旗和升旗禮的底蘊。我們也找來我校的升旗隊成員，跟大家分享一下他們對執行這項神聖職務的看法。

世界上第一面國旗

關於世界上第一面國旗之說眾說紛紜，但其中以丹麥國旗及拉脫維亞國旗為首面國旗的說法最為普及。

丹麥國旗

傳說中，丹麥的紅底白十字旗是世界上第一面國旗，這是最古老而現在仍在使用中的國旗。1219年6月15日，丹麥王沃爾德馬二世在愛沙尼亞打仗，一面紅底白十字旗從天而降，丹麥王將它當作軍旗使用，之後便戰勝了敵人。丹麥王把軍旗視為神賜予權力的證明，其後將它訂為國旗。

拉脫維亞國旗

最早出現的國旗是紅色加上白色橫條，相信出現於遠古時代，在拉脫維亞部落與愛沙尼亞部落交戰的時候。其後，在一九一八年十一月十一日至一九四零年八月五日期間，國旗上的紅色被人改為暗紅色，暗紅色代表拉脫維亞人為國家勇於拋頭顱，灑熱血的愛國情懷，白色代表拉脫維亞人對和平的渴望。其後，拉脫維亞國旗上特有的暗紅色被慣稱為「拉脫維亞紅」。

有關國旗

國旗是一個國家的象徵圖案，不同的國旗通過不同的樣式、形狀、色彩和圖案展示各國不同歷史、文化背景、民族、地理位置、國教及國家信念等，並會隨著歷史的變遷作出修改。

國旗大多數是長方形的，並且擁有各自的長闊比例。國際交往促成了公認的懸掛國旗慣例。各國國旗圖案均由各國憲法規定，如果不同國家的國旗比例不同，兩面旗幟放在一起，就會顯得大小不一，因此，並排懸掛不同比例的國旗時，應將其中一面放大或縮小。

有趣的國旗

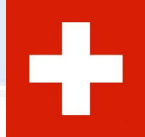
不少國家的國旗都十分有趣，它們的特殊設計吸引不少人注意，你們曾經看過或認識它們嗎？

最少顏色的國旗——利比亞國旗



這是利比亞國旗，整面國旗只採用綠色，是世界上最少顏色，也是唯一單色的國旗。

最短的國旗——瑞士國旗



這是瑞士國旗，這面旗的長寬比例是一比一的正方形，是世界上最短的國旗。

最多顏色的國旗——南非國旗



這是南非國旗，包含六大基本色彩，包括紅、黃、藍、綠、白、黑，是世界上最多顏色的國旗。

最容易畫錯的國旗



這是英國國旗，四條紅斜條有它固定的位置，不過相信很多人也不留意，可說是最容易畫錯的國旗。

最長的國旗——卡達國旗



這是卡達國旗，長寬比例為二十八比十一，是全世界最長的國旗。

形狀最特別的國旗



這是尼泊爾國旗，採用雙三角形的設計，可說是全世界形狀最特殊的國旗。

國旗顏色的象徵意義

國旗常見的色彩有紅、白、藍、綠、黃、黑六種基本色彩，只有不到 5% 國家的國旗上沒有六種基本色彩。不過相信許多人都不完全明白每種顏色在國旗上表達的意思，故在此稍作介紹。

紅色 革命烈士在國家獨立戰爭時所流的鮮血，亦象徵博愛

白色 純潔、光明與和平，亦象徵平等

藍色 天空、海洋或河流，也象徵自由

綠色 農業或植物；伊斯蘭教的代表色彩

黃色 礦產、財富、太陽光芒或象徵皇室的顏色

黑色 非洲有黑色大陸之稱，故常代表非洲或黑人

順誌

中英合刊第二版

一月號

非賣品

法國國旗的事跡

法國國旗是一面影響深遠的三色旗。除了影響其他國家的國旗設計外，還成為某個行業的象徵，究竟是哪一個行業呢？

提到旋轉的彩色燈筒，相信大家都聯想到理髮店，而且燈筒包含藍、白、紅三色，其實這是源自法國國旗的。

第二次世界大戰期間，德國出兵攻打法國，其中五萬德軍進攻一個叫柏爾納河城的城市，駐守該城的法軍知道兵力不足便事先向東撤退。德軍入城時，城中空無一人。一名叫丹基倫的理髮師被一名德軍捉到，他透露法軍往西撤退。德軍立刻向西追趕，誰知追了三十多里還是不見法軍蹤影，原來丹基倫騙了他們，德軍一氣之下殺了丹基倫。

大戰結束後，法國為丹基倫舉行了國葬，遺體安置在巴黎萬國紀念堂裡。後來，法國的理髮店紛紛掛上了藍白紅燈筒，以紀念理髮師的愛國事蹟。

久而久之，便成了理髮廳的習俗並遍傳各國，所以現在幾乎全世界的理髮廳門口都有這個光榮的標誌。

