

Welcome back! Hope the June break was fruitful and the brain batteries have been recharged. The Mid-Year Holiday programmes were a lot of fun. Thanks to all the students who joined us for it. A big welcome to the students who have now joined us as on-going enrichment students.



We have written a vocabulary series for primary students called English Language and Thinking Skills – Reading and Vocabulary. The books showcase vocabulary for different themes. In the Creative Horizons style, the exercises are fun and interesting. Each

thematic section has a reading passage, spelling, grammar, exploration and comprehension exercises and a writing project.



As authors, we are able to offer our students and parents a special price for the books.

To purchase the books at this special price, please contact Serene at 67344201 or drop by to have a look at the books.

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aMUSE

A CreativeHorizons™ Newsletter

Come Meet Us – Parent-Teacher Meeting Term 3

Singapore: The extended PTM days worked well in Term 2 and we were able to meet and chat with quite a few parents. The sessions are always beneficial in helping both parents and teachers work more effectively in their roles. So we look forward to seeing you in Term 3.

Please call the front office to make your appointment.

Malaysia: It was great to meet the parents last term. Looking forward to equally effective sessions this term.

Singapore	Malaysia
(P1, P3, P4, P6, S1, S4, JC2)	All levels
15, 16, 17, 18 and 21 August 2006	Tuesday 1 August 2006
	Monday 7 August 2006

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what's the secret message?

A cipher is a secret message in which letters or symbols replace the actual letters in the message. Every cipher has a "key" – that is – information used to decipher a message.

We also use ciphers in our daily lives – passwords and encryptions for computer programs, banking transactions and confidential documents.

CIPHER AWAY

1. Over 2000 years ago, generals in the Spartan army sent messages to one another by a very old cipher called a Spartan Scytale.

To make a scytale, you need a round rod. The Spartan general used his staff but a pencil will work as well. The receiver of a scytale can decode the message only if he or she has the same-sized stick, pencil or rod as the one the writer has used.

TO MAKE A SCYTALE

- # Cut a strip of paper about 2 cm wide from a long piece of paper.
- # Hold one end of the paper firmly near one end of the pencil and spiral it round and round the pencil.
- # Do it loosely and then tighten the spiral till the edges of the paper meet.
- # Use a small piece of sticky tape to hold the paper firmly.
- # Now print your message down the length of the pencil in capital letters.
- # When your message is complete, remove the paper strip. You will find that your message is now in a mysterious code.
- # Give the scytale to your friend to decode. Your friend must wind the message around a pencil of the same thickness.



2. In ancient Rome, the leader Julius Caesar used a simple key for his cipher. The receiver just had to shift the letter one position. In other words, "a" was represented by "b", "b" was represented by "c" and so on.
Try this one. (**vtf uijt djqifs xjui zpvs gsjfoet**)

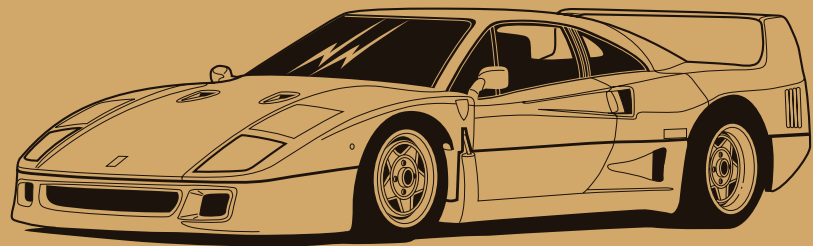
Solution: **USE THIS CIPHER WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

Now that you have seen some examples of codes and their keys, it is time for you to get creative. Try your hand at creating some codes and their keys and sent them to us by Week 7 of Term 3. Remember to include the answers for your secret codes. If we think your codes are interesting and decipherable, you could win a \$20 book voucher. ENJOY!

POWER UP WITH SELF-DISCIPLINE

Have you ever seen a Ferrari F50 zooming confidently down a curvy Formula One racing track? It is a long race and a driver must remain focused whilst manoeuvring and travelling at speeds up to 300 kilometres per hour.

Like the Formula One driver, you, as a student also need self-discipline and focus to accomplish your tasks.



Break down the “dreaded tasks”

When we don't like doing something or/and when a task is too difficult, often we procrastinate or become distracted. The driver of a Formula One racing car handles a long race by dealing with one curve at a time. So break down your task into smaller parts and deal with one part at a time. For example, focus on one piece of work at a time rather than be distracted thinking about all the work you have to do.

2. Make mind maps and illustrate facts to help make long lectures/texts easier to plough through and to remember.
3. Listen to some music, which is not boring nor too calming.
4. Study with a partner.

Remember, the “**neutral activity**” must not distract you from your end goal.

Reward yourself

When you have accomplished the task, **do something that you really enjoy and that really makes you feel free and satisfied.** It could be something physical like running or playing a sport. Or it could be watching a favourite movie or hanging out with friends. Or just having a good nap. When you are rewarded, you will feel more energised and motivated.



Pump up the “tedious, long tasks”

Sometimes a task is long and tedious, making us lose concentration. To

maintain focus and motivation, include a “neutral” activity. Drivers learn breathing techniques to stay calm at crucial moments. You can also:

1. Chew gum or suck on candy, to help you concentrate.

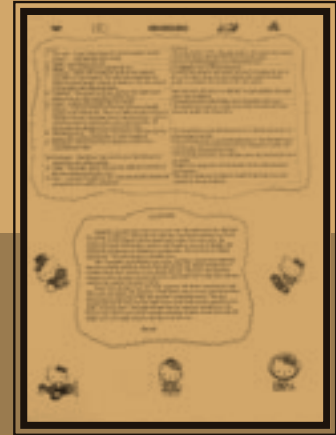
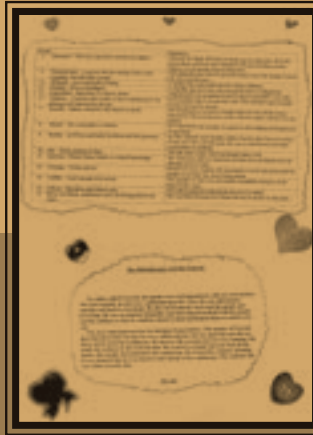
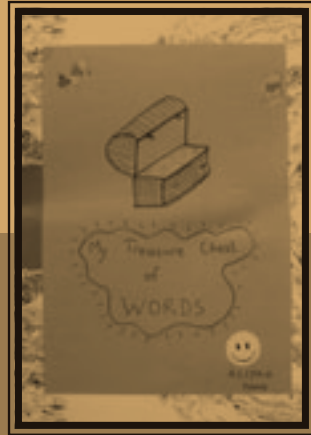
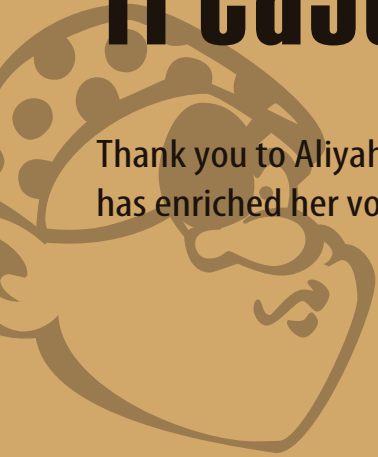
Try it out today!



Treasure chest of words



Thank you to Aliyah Fong (Level 5) for her wonderful "Treasure Chest of Words". I'm sure it has enriched her vocabulary. Keep up the good work.



great WRITING FOCUS:



Chia Ying Jing (Secondary 3) wrote an essay about growing up. We were impressed by her fluid expressions and thoughtful opinions on the essay topic. Here is an extract.

Describe your thoughts about growing up

Growing up is part and parcel of life, and I suppose this is an inevitable truth that everyone has to face eventually. To be honest, I fear the future and if given the choice, I would rather stay ignorant forever. Yet growing older is something, which is beyond my control.

I remember when I could not wait to grow up. Anticipating every year's birthday, I would look forward to stepping into a new phase of life. To me then, adults ruled their own lives. There were no boundaries, no restrictions and they could do anything they liked. Besides, it seemed that adults were always in the right while the supposedly young oblivious ones were always at fault. However, as I matured, I gained a better insight into life. There are adults who behave so childishly that they are even worse than three-year olds. Then, there are some adults who think too highly of themselves, without the least idea of what "humble" means, and this often results in heated arguments over trivial matters. This is something, which I do not wish to see in myself a few years down the road, when I eventually step into adulthood.

EMAIL US TODAY!

Comments, suggestions, questions about grammar, questions about creativity ...

Or just to share creative works or ideas.

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