Dear Shatin Tsung-tsiners,

This issue of Message to Tsung-tsiners should start with an apology for not being able to honor my promise made in the last Message to Tsung-tsiners (Life episodes 1) to reveal more of the life episodes that channeled my mind, shaped my world and defined my life, on the grounds that something with immediate urgency should take precedence. I do hope those stories in my secondary and tertiary life, the battle for lost honor, the darkest and scariest moments, how I found that ‘being silly can sometimes be beautiful’ during some voluntary work in Ching Yuen (清遠), the hard-pounding reflection following my trip to the hypo-centre (原爆中心) in Nagasaki(長崎), etc., can be shared with all of you through other channels or subsequent issues so that you can become more appreciative of your current luck, wealth, comfort and the value of being imperfect. There are always some defining moments in every one’s life and those moments can speak more than what a thousand lectures from your parents and teachers can do. Please bear with this suspense, and as an English teacher, I do feel an obligation to guard the gates of the English use on campus right at the beginning of this academic year, to avoid the development of an overwhelmingly strong tendency to neutralize or even reverse our effort.

Further to the call for greater English infiltration on campus, the school has been sustaining its effort to create an even better English ethos through a host of measures, with the English Week being the most easily felt highlight. During the upcoming English Week, some of last year’s popular programmes will be re-launched, and there will be some new elements which will span the course of the term. The following poem can wrap up some of the highlights:

**English Week, English week,**
The last 4 school days in Sep constitute the English week.  
The school days without English can make you weak.  
Please speak the proper language and in the proper language at your voice’s peak.

‘Striving for Excellence’ is our theme,  
and you may have to compete as a team,  
not just in the Big Tele 15/16 and the academic quiz,  
but also in both the academic and non-academic domains throughout the year with full steam.

**Writing competition** is another dish,  
designed specifically for junior kids  
to showcase their creativity and writing skills,  
in the form of poems and slogans that can kill.

Reading should not be downplayed,  
as it is always a recipe for producing a good play.  
(A person who can’t read good book gains no better advantage over one who can’t read.)

Therefore, **book recommendations** from teachers will be displayed,  
informing you of better ways to get higher pay,  
and providing you with interesting figures to role play.

Speaking is the verbal form of English,  
that can convey emotion and feeling that others relish.  
We should defeat Chinglish,  
before it encroaches on what an EMI student should cherish.  
At the **Games and Conversation booths** shouldn’t be ‘rubbish’,  
as teachers and helpers will make sure that improper language will vanish.
No one can make you learn good-quality English faster, than the Hollywood filmmakers. Nothing can bring you more situational and functional phrases, than the movie figures and characters. Our lunch-time film exhibition can surely make you more frequent borrowers, of the available VCD/DVD titles which are popular.

At the centre of the English Week will be a drama, which delivers more excitement than going to a cinema. All except S.1 should have read the reader, which will be performed live on our stage for the first time ever. If you have forgotten the story ‘A Christmas Carol’ on VCD or whatsoever, you will be impressed by the story and the characters performed by good speakers with fever.

Campus English has been distributed, to provide language support and address language inadequacy. It is everyone of you who has to contribute, to a stronger English atmosphere with greater language accuracy.

There are more leisurely activities. Various literature works, words of wisdom and portraits of famous personalities, will be displayed everywhere with high visibility. Our exchange student Metin, will create a board showing Turkey’s cultures, customs and food specialties. Folk songs singing will be held to provide more English-learning opportunities.

The school is off to a new start, not just for a new task, but also for a new mission. Living in an era during which our politicians think of the election more than the generation, we should all take matters into our own hands. The degree of success in forging a truly English environment depends on how willing we are to do our bit in the face of opposing culture and forces.

Those who are in need (of more English language support), those who feel the need (for a more ‘English’ environment), and those who can address the need should work together for this cause - not just for a cause, but for a just cause – a cause that is meant to address the disproportional amount of time spent on Chinese.

I have to thank those who have put their faith in me all these years, alongside all student helpers (especially those broadcasting members who volunteer their time and knowledge to work at ungodly lunch hours for this cause despite a hostile environment), for their willingness to serve and for their being trustworthy in completing the assigned tasks amid tough schedules. There may be isolated instances of compromise in favor of convenience but as long as you do your bit as a Tsung-tsiner, your participation and cooperation will not go unnoticed. Rather, it will give me every reason to feel proud of you.

All Tsung-tsiners, I hope the best days of your past can become the worst days of your future. May all of you lead your life in STTSS with an endless sea and open sky in your heart, and serve your school with honesty, reliability as well as great minds. I do wish all Tsung-tsiners another unforgettable experience and a much more inspired spirit to pursue better English proficiency in the years to come. You will find its preciousness one day.

Mr. Lego K.Y.KOO

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English Department