



East Spring Secondary School

Power of Positive Energy (PPE)

Student Goals/Outcomes for Excellence & Success

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Date: 5 Feb 2014

PPE Sharing

Good morning Mrs Jalil, Mrs Mohinder, Mr Chan, Teachers and fellow East Springians. My name is Royston and I'm from 3E2. I am here today to share with you on how I manage to juggle between two languages as a student and how my interest grew for the Chinese language. Remember the slew of Chinese idioms and proverbs our schoolmates shared last week? How many of you blanked out? Or how about during the Chinese New Year celebrations and your relatives went: “大展宏图，突飞猛进！” before they handed you your Ang Paos? How many of you did not understand and you even went " what in the world is going on? " but you repeatedly nodded your head violently just so you could get those Ang Paos? Well, I did that! But 5 years ago.

At first, I was a really shy and timid person, being scared to speak to a large crowd such as during class presentations especially in Chinese. However it changed and that's why I'm right here speaking to all of you. My courage to embrace the language came from a teacher but I have always rejected it all the while. Nevertheless, she encouraged me to speak the language well. I remember she told me, " I believe in your ability, Just do your very best!" From those words she motivated me with, I felt inspired to master the Chinese language well. Thus I've discovered the fun in the Chinese language.

Throughout the years in East Spring, I was also given many opportunities and platforms to improve my language. Let me share with you an experience I had last year, which enriched my learning experience in the school. It was when my classmates and I went to the National Chinese Riddle competition at Jurong JC around April last year. My classmates and I felt honored to be able to represent the school in a national competition. While we were there, we attended the workshops conducted by the JC teacher on how to solve Chinese riddle with a variety of ways. It was really exciting and engaging, we can't wait for the competition feeling all well prepared. However, when it came to the competition, we were nervous, we would never have expected ourselves to be going on to the quarter finals since it was our first time there. To our surprise, we were in the top ten among all the other schools including names such as Cedar Girls School, Nanyang Girls School and Chung Cheng High (main) school. Even though we didn't emerge as the top 3 finalists, we have gotten something much more valuable, which was the knowledge and experience we had in the competition. It's not always about winning but what's most important was the process. With every riddle solved, we felt a sense of accomplishment. Besides that, I learnt that embracing my mother-tongue could never have been any more fun since I have always steered clear from it.

With this I would like to end with a few tips on how to speak Chinese fluently.

- 1) As a Chinese saying goes "书中自有黄金屋" which translates to, " within a book lies knowledge that is as valuable as a house of gold" so I would advice you to read regularly, not just books but also newspaper and magazines (eg. XinMin WanBao, LianHe ZaoBao)
- 2) Listen. Listen to radios or the news (channel 8 or channel U) and try to imitate the way they speak such as their articulation and expression.
- 3) Try writing a diary every single day in a year. Start with a single sentence in your mother-tongue then progress on to writing more lines as you feel more comfortable and confident.
- 4) Lastly, speak in the languages often. Then you can practice speaking it until you are comfortable in speaking them. A fun way is to try saying tongue twisters. Try having a competition with your friends to see who can say the fastest.

Most importantly I'll leave you with a quote, " The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." so " Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. " Thank you!