

Highgate House School—Monthly Note

September 2014



A warm welcome to everyone, both to new families and to those who have returned, for the start of this new school year! We have (mostly!) enjoyed a calm start. The children are getting to know each other, some reconnecting with existing friends as well as making new ones. Our new nursery children are beginning to settle and some will still need a parent or carer over the next few weeks. We will be working together on a gentle separation process to ensure a positive first experience of coming to school unaccompanied.

New Parent/Baby and Child Room and Parent Workshop Room

We are very excited to be opening two brand new purpose built centres for these classes as well as for parent education on child development (0-7) and parenting. Our first centre is opening this month on the Peak. This new space is located opposite the car park and the flower shop on the ground floor. It will include a small library, a private consultation room and a kitchen. The finishing touches still have to be completed, however, the first groups have started enjoying the new classroom. Very special thanks go to Damita Yu and her husband Dylan Baker Rice of Affect-T (www.affect-t.com) for their invaluable help in organizing the renovation and helping us with the design. We are so incredibly grateful for all their amazing ideas, all the time and effort they have given to help us complete the project in such a short amount of time over the summer.

We will also be opening up a new centre on the ground floor in Redhill Plaza, Tai Tam and work will be commencing soon. Both centres are purpose built, have parenting resources and classrooms with beautifully crated equipment for the support of motor development. We are working with the principles of Waldorf Education (www.steinerwaldorf.co.uk) and the Pikler approach for children from birth to three (www.pikler.org).

Curriculum Evening

Wednesday 8th October 7pm

What makes the curriculum at Highgate House School different? What are the ways in which we can allow children to remain full of wonder and motivated for new learning? How can we give the best possible start to a child's future educational experiences?

We invite all parents to this first talk of the year. Look out for an invitation coming soon.



More Options for Mandarin

We have new options this year for children to take Bilingual or Mandarin classes. These include a **morning Mandarin** class for ages 2-4, a **Bilingual Nursery** class for ages 2-3, as well as an **afternoon** and a **Saturday morning Bilingual** class for ages 2-4, which may be added onto any existing classes. Please let us know if you would like to join any of these groups to give your child more exposure to Mandarin. We continue to run extended day Mandarin from 1pm – 2.30pm. Please note that both morning Kindergarten classes (ages 3-6) are Bilingual.

Here is a link to an article written by Pennie Brownlee (<http://penniebrownlee.weebly.com>) that offers some insights into preserving the natural wonder of learning. Enjoy!

http://penniebrownlee.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/4/3/10437917/wonder_fuels_love_affair.pdf

Conference Invitation

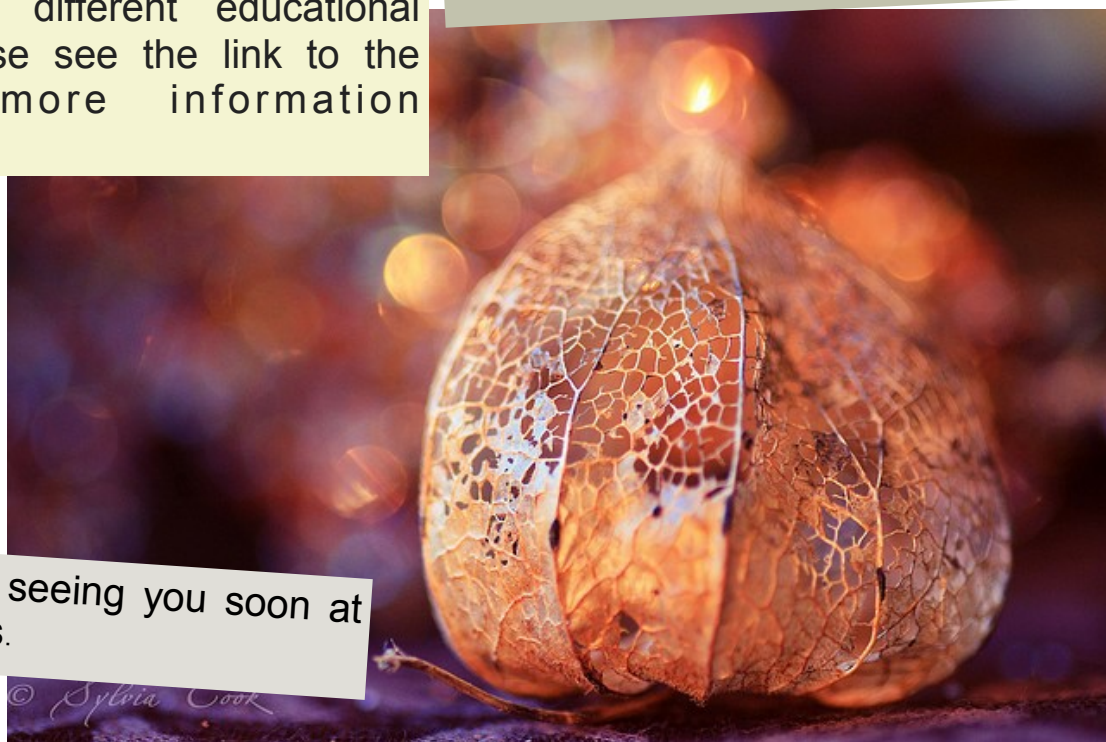
EDiversity is a charitable organization whose aim is to promote diversity and choice in education. They are organising a first parent initiated education conference "We Need Choices", co-organized with the Faculty of Education, HKU to be held on **October 11th and 12th** at the University of Hong Kong. The aim is to provide useful information on education and links to various educational services so as to create a platform for people to find and match their educational desires or liaise to create more educational choices - Julie Lam, our founder and education coordinator at Highgate House, will be speaking about Waldorf early childhood education and participating on a panel for questions and discussion along with other representatives of different educational philosophies. Please see the link to the website for more information www.ediversity.org



Mid Autumn Festival

We warmly invite everyone to The Mid Autumn Festival celebration for the whole school on Wednesday 10th September from 6pm to 7pm at Repulse Bay Beach. A letter with further details has already been sent out by email. If you have not received it, please contact the school office.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the upcoming events.



Dates to Remember:

Public Holiday	Tuesday 9 th September
Lantern Festival	Wednesday 10 th September 6pm (Repulse Bay Beach)
Public Holiday	Wednesday 1 st October
Public Holiday	Thursday 2 nd October
Teacher Development Day	Friday 3 rd October (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Curriculum Evening	Wednesday 8 th October (PARENTS ONLY)
Half-Term Holiday	Sunday 19 th to Sunday 26 th October
Beach Outing	Friday 7 th or 14 th November