



# Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College

English Newsletter  
Issue No.3

## Principal's Address

It has always been our hope that all our students will develop into mature, happy, responsible young adults who are well-prepared to face the challenges in the future with confidence.

To achieve academic success, it is our core belief that determination and consistent effort of both teachers and students are key elements. The school also acknowledges the importance of working in co-operation with the student and the home to help each individual reach his or her potential through self-learning. We believe each student is a unique individual with special gifts and talents – we hope that with motivation, encouragement and hard work, all our students will unleash their potentials.

Our emphasis on the development of the whole-person approach incarnates not just the intellectual development but also the students' physical, social and spiritual development. We strive to ensure that our students lead a campus life under the guidance of a Buddhist ethos as manifested in the school motto, pursue kindness and virtue. We are committed to providing a personalized learning experience to each student, which is comprised of both in-class learning as well as extra-curricular activities, in order to promote a concern for those less fortunate than ourselves, and respect for each individual within the school community.

In the academic year to come, our teachers will endeavor to deliver customized education, where students are expected to grow beyond their comfort zone through activities such as service learning, athletics, outdoor education and the arts. Students will be provided with more opportunities than ever before to cultivate the intellectual and civic character skills to become tomorrow's leaders.

On behalf of the community of Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College, I assure all our students and their guardians especially those whose association with the school is just beginning that with foresight, intentional action, and reflection, we can make a positive difference in our lives and those of others.

Mr. So Ka Leung  
Principal

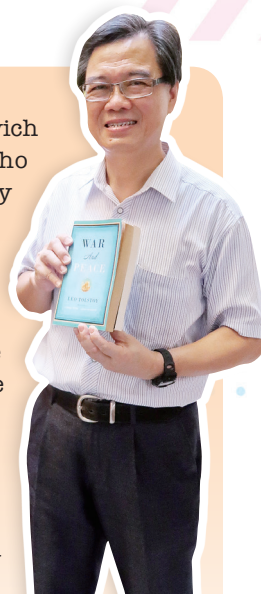


# Reading Promotion — Teachers

## War and Peace

Considered one of the greatest works of the legendary writer, Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, this enthralling epic depicts the invasion of Russia by Napoleon, who hijacked the French Revolution and betrayed its principles, with his seemingly invincible French Army. The impact on the lives of those caught up in the conflict is chronicled through the stories of over five hundred characters, among whom many are historical. The story follows the rise and fall of aristocratic families in Russia who are linked by their personal and political relationships. Tolstoy's philosophy is illustrated through the idealistic and impulsive Count Pierre Bezukhov, who persists on the path for absolute truth, and the unpredictable Prince Andrei, who shifts from utilitarianism to cynicism. Ensnared in the paradoxes of birth and death, free will and fate, the characters interweave with a variety of individuals from lower class to royal families and lead lives of imperfection and grandeur.

Generally thought to be one of the greatest novels ever written, it remarkably displays Tolstoy's cold analytical scrutiny, which is usually attributed to the province of historians rather than to that of the novelists. It may be even mildly surprising for some to find the great writer supposes political changes and even the pervasive and incessant deaths as inevitable and natural as succession of seasons.



**Mr. Tam Kai Wah**  
Assistant Principal

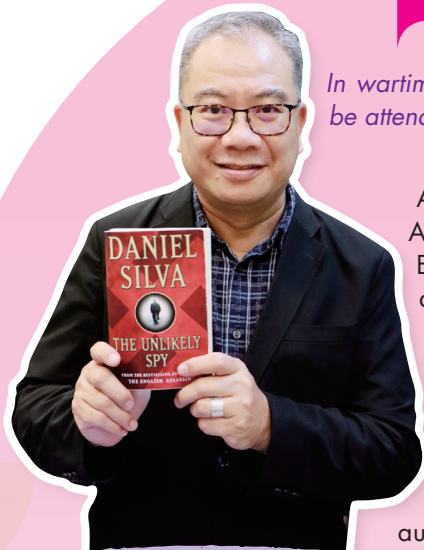
## The Unlikely Spy

*In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.*

— Winston Churchill

As one of the decisive steps to final victory, the Allied decided to land somewhere in western Europe and advance into Germany, destroying any forces arrayed against the invaders in order to force the surrender of the Nazi regime. As the Allied invasion was not far away, the high command desperately needed to know where it would take place. A tale of spies and betrayal during the Second World War by one of the bestselling American authors, Daniel Silva, features, how Catherine Blake, one of the last German spies in Britain, a sleeper planted before the war and awaiting orders, attempts to gain access to the D-day plan; on the Allied side, British intelligence also has its orders. The academic Alfred Vicary has

been recruited by Churchill himself to carry them out. It is his job to find Catherine and stop her before it is too late. Blake's demise is clearly spelled out by history; however, Vicary's success is not as clearly defined as Blake's failure. It is an intriguing thriller on espionage and Double Cross for those who crave the mysteries in secret service.



**Mr. Fung Wai Ming**  
Vice Principal



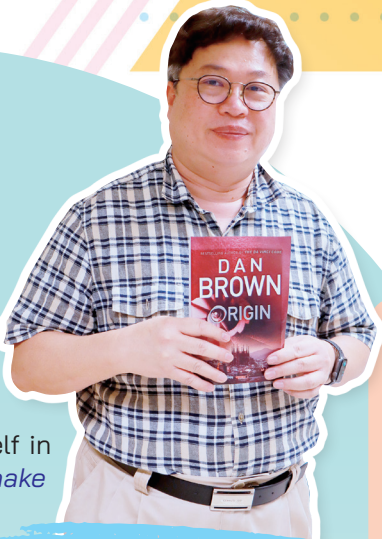
**Mr. Lam Sai Chun**  
Head of Examinations and  
Assessment Committee



## Origin

As one of the most controversial writers, Dan Brown introduces us a brash futurist and computer prodigy, Edmond Kirsch, who comes up with a theory so bold, so daring that, as he modestly thinks to himself in Brown's beloved italics, *'It will not shake your foundations. It will shatter them.'* Based on the questions raised by scientists who adopt atheism in a world where strict creationism has less and less relevance, the religion-flouting and shocking ideas may throw our entire belief systems into jeopardy. Accompanied by the beautiful and brilliant fiancée of the future King of Spain, the renowned and beloved Harvard symbologist professor, Robert Langdon, chases all over Spain on Kirsch's trail in order to unravel the final episode of Kirsch's astonishing breakthrough as it teeters on the brink of being lost forever.

As in his previous works, Brown has his story revolve around real monuments and landmarks in Spain, making it a sensible choice to learn about the Catholic traditions in Spain. Enigmatic symbols, gunshots, extreme religion and hidden history all together make the book an entertaining thriller.



**Mr. Lam Pik Wai**  
Head of Information  
and Communication  
Technology Department

## The Death Instinct

The second work by Jed Rubenfeld, a professor at Yale law school, based on the psychoanalytical theories of Dr. Sigmund Freud, begins with the true and shocking bombing in America's financial centre in lower Manhattan in September 1920, in which four hundred people were killed or injured. Though the purpose of the attack has never been unveiled to this day, the appalling event has long been believed a terrorist attack in America's history.

The gripping novel weaves among war veteran Dr. Stratham Younger, his friend Captain James Littlemore of the New York Police Department and the beautiful Colette Rousseau, a French radiochemist. The secret trail leads them away from New York on to a psychological journey from Vienna to Prague and finally to Paris, where the most incomprehensible and savage instinct of human beings reveals itself at last. As the seemingly disjointed pieces of what Younger and Littlemore learn come together, the two uncover the shocking truth behind the bombing.

With experience in both Shakespearean Plays and the help of his thesis on Sigmund Freud, the writer delivers an enthrallingly concocted fiction which demonstrates how political conspiracy and corporate crime concern us all.

## Sophie's World

Looking in her mailbox one day, a fourteen-year-old Norwegian schoolgirl called Sophie Amundsen finds two surprising pieces of paper. On them are written the questions: 'Who are you?' and 'Where does the world come from?' Together with the writer, the enigmatic Alberto Knox, Sophie embarks on an extraordinary tour through the history of Western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to Sartre. In the wild, incredible and sometimes bizarre introduction into the world of philosophy, Sophie not only learns about the eccentric ideas of early philosophers but also starts to open up her enquiring mind to the fundamental questions that philosophers have been asking since the dawn of civilization.

The remarkable book was originally written in Norwegian by Jostein Gaarder, having been translated into over 59 languages, and over 40 million copies have been sold worldwide. Gaarder successfully condenses the 3000-year discourse into 400 pages and simplifies complicated arguments to the taste of teenagers. As a wonderfully engaging story, at the same time an accessible and lucid introduction to philosophy, it is a book that deserves a space on the shelf reserved for books you definitely need to read in the very near future.



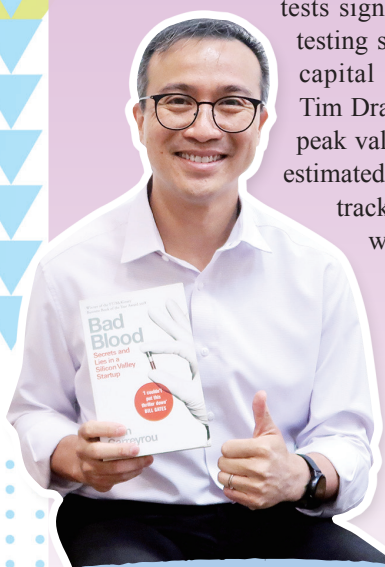
**Ms. Long Wai Ying**  
Assistant Principal

## Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup

Being the first to break the story, John Carreyrou, the prize-winning journalist, reports in detail the full inside story of the breathtaking rise and shocking collapse of a multibillion-dollar startup.

Theranos was a massively hyped “unicorn” healthcare startup that aimed to perform hundreds of blood tests from a single drop of blood pricked from your finger. The founder and CEO of Theranos, Elizabeth Holmes, was once widely seen as the female Steve Jobs: a brilliant Stanford dropout whose startup “unicorn” promised to revolutionize the medical industry with her machine that was claimed to be able to make hundreds of complex blood tests significantly faster and easier than traditional blood testing system. In a decade, under the support of famous capital investment ventures such as Larry Ellison and Tim Draper, Theranos managed to raise \$900 million at a peak valuation of \$9 billion, putting Holmes's worth at an estimated \$4.7 billion. Everything seemed to be on the right track except for one problem: the technology did not work.

Though exposed to the pressure and threats from Theranos lawyers, Carreyrou together with the whistleblowers successfully unveiled the fact that Holmes had been misleading investors, FDA officials, and her own employees. A criminal investigation is underway, and indictments are likely. The detailed account of the upsetting corporate fraud cautions against the bold promises and gold-rush frenzy of Silicon Valley.



**Mr. So Ka Leung**  
Principal

## Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea

Tourists who have actually visited North Korea can tell that it is hardly possible to know the ordinary lives of people living there as they are only allowed to visit the showcase capital Pyongyang and talk to the carefully selected citizens living there. To explore this enigmatic country, one has no other ways other than interviewing those who managed to escape from the country, widely known as the defectors. Based on her interviews with over 100 defectors, the writer Los Angeles Times journalist Barbara Demick presents to her readers facts about North Korea in an informative and telling journalistic style. The book also provides keen insight into the personal experiences, attitudes and views about events, such as the famine of the 1990s – in which more than a million people might have died.

One of the most impressive chapters depicts how Dr. Kim, a once ardent loyalist to North Korean socialism, experienced a stark revelation upon escaping to China in order to avoid impending starvation at the sight that dogs in China were fed with rice, a luxury only available to the officials of high ranks in her country. 'She still wanted to believe that her country was the best place in the world. ...But now she couldn't deny what was staring her plainly in the face: dogs in China ate better than doctors in North Korea.' — *Nothing to Envy*, ~ p. 220

## Justice

Is it always wrong to lie? Should there be limits to personal freedom? Can killing sometimes be justified? Is the free market fair? Questions like these are at the heart of our lives. Based on his acclaimed Harvard course, Sandel offers an accessible education in thinking through many complicated issues and hotly debated controversies, such as equal rights, democracy, euthanasia, abortion and same-sex marriage. Sandel relates the disputes in political philosophy and the most vexing issues of the day and shows how an understanding of philosophy can help us make sense of politics and morality. As a guiding torch in the labyrinth

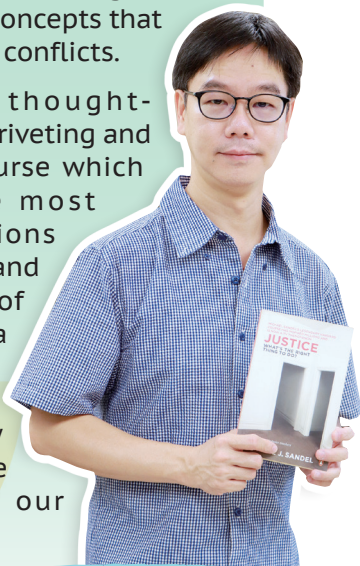


**Ms. Tong Tsz Yi**  
Head of Career / Life  
Planning Committee



of ethical dilemmas, the book inspires those who yearn for a more robust and thoughtful discussion over concepts that lurk beneath our conflicts.

Wise and thought-provoking, it is a riveting and engaging discourse which speaks of the most difficult questions of our civic life and invites readers of all ages onto a journey of moral reflection by showing how reasoned debate can illuminate our lives.



**Mr. Lee Kin Sang**  
Head of Ethics and Religious  
Studies Department

## Persuasion

Published posthumously, *Persuasion* is the last novel of the influential British writer Jane Austen. It is unfortunate that *Persuasion* is often overshadowed by its seemingly more glamorous siblings, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. This has been helped by the big-name cast BBC adaptation, with Colin Firth as the cold and distant Mr Darcy and Ang Lee's Oscar winning adaptation, with Alan Rickman as the chivalrous Colonel Brandon. The story concerns Anne Elliot, a young Englishwoman of 27 years, whose family is moving to lower their expenses and get out of debt. Their tenant's brother in law, Captain Frederic Wentworth, proposed to Anne earlier but Anne refused him due to his social status. Now they meet again, both single and unattached, after no contact in more than seven years.

Jane Austen once compared her writing to painting on a little bit of ivory as the plot concerns many trivialities of family life faced by young women of her times. One must say it is an enormous success on her 2 inches square. Since the characters' lovely traits and annoying habits are painted so vividly, many readers of all time believe they are actual people. Subtle and sarcastic, Jane Austen never disappoints her readers.



**Ms. Wong Sui Fong**  
Head of Chinese  
Language Department



**Ms. Ip Lai Ping**  
Head of Discipline  
Committee

## The Minds of Billy Milligan

It is widely accepted as a brilliant work depicting the very first man who used multiple personality disorder, a highly controversial psychological condition, in an insanity defence.

Appearing to be a weird young man, Billy Milligan was in effect suffering from dissociative identity disorder, under which, 24 different personalities competed to 'take the spot to control his body' in the physical world. His personalities ranged from a deaf young boy aged 4 to a well-educated young Englishman aged 22, who was interested in hematology, while the real Billy was put to sleep since high school.

These distinct personalities battled for supremacy over Billy's body for over 10 years to act as they liked without the knowledge of other personalities until the police broke into Billy's house one day and had him arrested for kidnapping, robbing and raping three women. In a landmark trial, Billy was acquitted of his crimes by reason of insanity caused by multiple personality—the first such court decision in history—bringing to public light the most heartrending case of multiple personality ever recorded. During the psychiatric treatment Billy was ordered to receive, he was confirmed to be having 24 personalities, including men, women and several children, each showing unimaginable traits, living as a family in his mind. This book will lead you to an extraordinary trip into the mind of this tortured man and his splintered world.

# Reading Promotion — Students

## My Weird School Daze By Dan Gutman

### Mrs. Dole is Out of Control!

In the very first book of the *My Weird School Daze* series, A.J. and his gang are having a graduation ceremony for completing Grade two. The PTA president, touchy Mrs. Dole, is turning it into a grand gathering for adults with spectacular firework shows, a flyover by the Blue Angels and a speech by a former president of the USA. It is a pity that the kids have to resort to the mythical 5-second rule before they could enjoy the cake they have been looking forward to the most. Is moving up to third grade really such a big deal that you have to catch on fire and witness two ladies wrestle? Wouldn't it be better for the adults to listen to the kids before they put on a show of vanity in the name of their kids?



2A Keung Ki

### Mr. Sunny is Funny!

After the disastrous graduation ceremony comes the hilarious summer vacation in a rented house on beach. A.J.'s heart sinks as he finds Andrea, the most unpopular know-it-all girl from his school, will spend her vacation next door. It is probably A.J.'s first occasion to be involved in love affairs when he has to give Andrea resuscitation to save her life.



They make acquaintance with the funny 16-year

2A Wong Tsz Yin

old sand sculpture artist Mr. Sunny and the weird Mr. Granite, who loves parasailing and accidentally falls on Mr. Sunny's sand castle. Not even the funny beach lifeguard Mr. Sunny can save A.J. and his friends from this strange summer when the odd Mr. Granite reveals his big secret on the last page of the book.

### Mr. Granite is from Another Planet!

Meeting the weird Mr. Granite on the beach is one thing, having him as A.J. and his friends' third-grade teacher is another. A.J. and his friends find Mr. Granite weirder and weirder as time goes by. In order to be awarded the 'The Greenest School', Mr. Granite asks his students to pedal to generate electricity during language arts lessons; he also encourages A.J. to write to the president of the USA to clarify if he has a nose attached to his foot. He is finally confirmed to have been building a spaceship in his garage so as to return to his home-planet 'Etinarg'. This book is full of fun tales about A.J.'s weird alien teacher. It is suitable for all who have not had a good laugh for, in A.J.'s words, 'a million hundred years'.



2A Chen Yi Ying

### Coach Hyatt is a Riot!

It is already weird enough when you hear A.J. say he loves school. It is even weirder to read about A.J.'s new football coach, Ms. Hyatt, who asks the football team to pick up her car in order to build team spirit the first time she meets the team. She wants the boys to do push-ups in the mud. She even wants to put girls on the team! You'll never believe in a million hundred years what happens in the big game. Apart from the hilarious story, the book also offers a first-step introduction to American football strategies. It is comforting to know one has to fake left, fake right and leap over all obstacles on the way to success even at such an early stage of life.



2A Wong Wing Lam



## ***Officer Spence Makes No Sense!***

The weirdness stops at A.J.'s Ella Mentry School. A series of robbery cases concerning peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are received by Officer Spence, the school security guard. He points finger at every adult on the campus and arrests every one of them there afterwards. All staff, including Principal Klutz, are put in portable jail without a trial under Officer Spence's order as he insists the true criminal is always the one you least suspect. His theory is proved to be true when peanut butter-sniffing dogs are brought to the scene to identify the culprit and his motive behind this series of cases. It is the miniature of a well-designed detective story from the perspective of kids that even adults would also find interesting and engaging.



**2A Hon Ying Ki**

## ***Mrs. Jafee is Daffy!***

As Mr. Klutz, the Principal of Ella Mentry School, is leaving for a principal camp, the Vice Principal Mrs. Jafee was authorized to act on his behalf. Mrs. Jafee is an absolute weirdo. She loves carrying out crazy experiments on how kids can learn better. A.J. and the gang have to stand on their heads while they do math! They have to take a spelling test underwater! Everybody has to do yoga! A.J. has the best day at school when Mrs. Jafee invites him to have candies, cakes and soft drinks in her office to test if kids would read better when they are offered sweet treats. During the Civil War week, General Stonewall Jackson of the Confederate Army is invited to lead a group of kids while Mrs. Jafee leads another group to reenact the Civil War on the playground. How could one end the weirdness?



**2A Wong Hau Ching**

## ***Dr. Brad Has Gone Mad!***

A.J. finds the adults at his school weird when they tell him that they find a poem A.J. comes up by copying words out from flash cards randomly 'beautiful' and 'touching'. Dr. Brad, the counsellor at Ella Mentry School, acts on Principal Klutz's request to carry out various tests on A.J. to find out whether he should be sent to Dork School, a school for geniuses. A.J. is really a fast-learner as he already learns to hypnotize others from Dr. Brad after Dr. Brad practises hypnotism on him once. A.J. tries his newly-acquired hypnotic skills on Andrea, the know-it-all perfect girl, and turns her into an absolute delinquent. She shouts at teachers in class and climbs up to the roof of the school. Will A.J. be able to snap his fingers to turn Ms. Know-it-all back to normal and save Dr. Brad from his guilt of endangering Andrea's life in time?



**2A Li Tsz Yiu Crystal**



**2B Tsui Yuen**

## ***Miss Laney is Zany!***

It is the saddest day in the history of the world. Ella Mentry School is about to close down due to a cut in the education budget. Teachers are fired one by one. School assets are removed from the campus. The speech therapist, Miss Laney, is forced to set her office in a girls' bathroom. A.J.'s group decides to put on a Shakespeare play to raise one million dollars to save their school with the assistance of Miss Laney. The play never gets a chance for debut as Miss Laney gets fired at the scene of rehearsal. Can anyone win a million dollars on the *Win Money or Eat Bugs* TV show to save the school by spelling out the longest word in the English language – pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis? This book keeps the readers in suspense until the end and provides the story with a twist.

## Mrs. Lizzy is Dizzy!

Ella Mentry School is locked down in emergency. All kids have to stay in dark while a crazy person escaped from the loony bin. The next week will be crazy week, including crazy hair, clothes, hats and shoes. A Mrs. Lizzy shows up on campus and starts to teach A.J. and his friends weird skills under the so-called recess enrichment program. A.J. and his group begin to wonder if Mrs. Lizzy is really a registered teacher as she thinks it is important for kids to learn about keeping worms and milking sheep. A.J. suspects Mrs. Lizzy may have kidnapped the real teacher and disguised herself as the teacher responsible for the program. Officer Spencer is determined to look into the case of the teacher imposter and find the missing teacher, Mrs. Sanford.



2A Chiu Mo Chak

## Miss Mary is Scary!

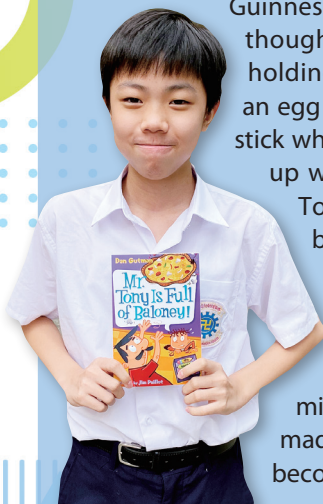
A student teacher, Miss Mary, is assigned to Mr. Granite, who takes teaching extremely serious. In spite of living many years in England before moving to America, Miss Mary cannot find England on a world map. Her boyfriend, Zack, plays in a heavy metal band and is accustomed to climbing into classroom during lessons to kiss Miss Mary in students' presence. A.J. finds them weird as they wear black from head to toe and say 'bloody' a lot when they talk. One day, Zack climbs into the classroom and sings a song he has just composed for Miss Mary. Andrea, the know-it-all, films his performance and puts the video on Youtube, where it goes viral. Zack finally gets the blessing from Miss Mary's father to get married after a contractor agrees to pay two million dollars for the copyright of the song – 'I love dirt'. Wedding and live concert constitute to the sweetest ending in the series.



2A Cheung Tsz Yiu

## Mr. Tony is Full of Baloney!

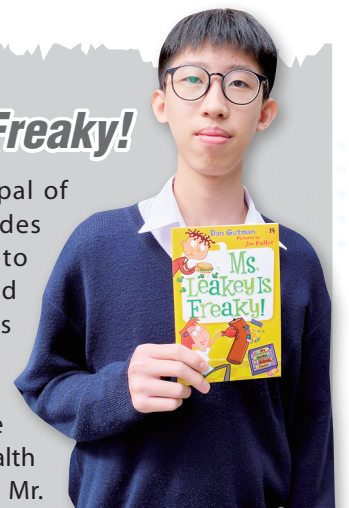
A.J. gets the worst news he has ever had from his mother that he has been signed up for an after-school program because his mother has decided to start a catering company. Mr. Tony, an Italian born American, is in charge of the After School Kids' Kare. He is desperate to become famous by breaking a Guinness World Record. He has tried, though in vain, to run a mile while holding a spoon in his mouth with an egg on it and jumping on a pogo stick while juggling. A.J. finally comes up with a great idea to make Mr. Tony famous – making the biggest pizza. However, the plan turns out to be a fiasco as Mr. Klutz, the Principal, makes his unexpected appearance right in the middle of the biggest pizza ever made. The good news is Mr. Tony becomes famous anyway.



2B Chan Po Lam

## Ms. Leakey is Freaky!

Mr. Klutz, the Principal of Ella Mentry School, decides to hire a health teacher to promote healthy diets and regular exercise to pupils as he thinks they are leading a very unhealthy lifestyle. Ms. Leakey, the health teacher, is a real health nut in A.J.'s eyes. She beats Mr. Klutz and Officer Spence, the strongest man on campus, in arm wrestling. She sprints to vomitorium during lunchtime and yanks all the cupcakes and candies from pupils and throws them in dumpsters nearby. She seems to be following A.J. around as she even jumps out of candy pile to prevent A.J. from getting a treat while he is doing shopping with his mum. A.J. is absolutely certain that Ms. Leakey hides under his bed so as to prevent him from having sweets in his dreams. Unfortunately, on the *Disgustingly Healthy* campus, what A.J. and his friends learn from Ms. Leakey is not a healthy lifestyle but the word 'hypocrite'.



2A Yeung Hoi To