**Don Quixote de la Mancha**

Do you know the expression “tilting at windmills”? It means to fight imaginary enemies. It and many other common expressions come from the novel *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes who died 400 years ago this year. In fact, he died the day before William Shakepeare! Many people consider *Don Quixote* to be the first, and greatest, novel of all time. And certainly the story of this self-made knight who wears a shaving dish as a helmet, his tubby “squire” Sancho Panza on his donkey and his lady-love Dulcinea are some of the best-known characters of all times and have inspired operas, ballets, and even cartoons!

Cervantes himself had an eventful life—he had been a soldier, captured by pirates and made a slave, ransomed back home only to be tossed into a Spanish jail—all before writing *Don Quixote*, which was an immediate and huge success.

If you don’t know the story of Don Quixote, we’ll show you some great books to get started.

*Illustration by Chris Riddel from Don Quixote (Walker Books)*

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**The Cervantes 400th Anniversary Book Prize**

*Don Quixote* is a work beloved by the entire Spanish-speaking world. On the 400th anniversary of the death of author Miguel de Cervantes, the Consulates General of Spain and Mexico in Hong Kong and Macau are inaugurating a new book prize for “excellence in Spanish language studies” for local secondary school students. The prize is designed to encourage the study of Spanish — one of the world’s most important and widely-spoken languages — and to support students’ university applications. It is sponsored and administered by Paddyfield.com.

Each school with a Spanish language programme may nominate a student in the second-to-last year of school to receive the award in late May. Winners will receive a copy of a new 400th anniversary edition of *Don Quixote*.

Schools who wish to register for the Cervantes 400th Anniversary Book Prize and to receive more information, should contact Paddyfield at tel. 2511-4211 or email custserv@paddyfield.com.
Can you read too much?

In an unnamed village in La Mancha, Spain, a nobleman named Alonso Quijano, after becoming completely consumed by the countless novels on chivalry he reads, reimagines himself as the valiant Don Quixote, and the knight and his loyal squire, Sancho Panza, set off on a series of misadventures to right the wrongs of the world, battling fictitious enemies for the sake of gallantry.

Don Quixote’s imagination runs away with him, much to his “squire” Sancho Panza’s distress. Windmills become giants, monks become monsters.

Don Quixote is a tale for all ages, a story about dreams and disappointment, wisdom and foolishness, kindness and cruelty, what it means to be a hero, and how people change the lives of those around them.

“With little sleep and much reading his brains got so dry that he lost his wits.”

illustration by the Mexican artist Eko in Don Quixote, 400th Anniversary edition

Quixotica: poems East of La Mancha

To commemorate Cervantes’s 400th anniversary, Chameleon Press will — with the sponsorship of the Spanish Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau — publish a new collection of poetry in which local poets interpret the themes of Cervantes’s classic Don Quixote. For more information and to submit, see chameleonpress.com/cervantes400.

The Paddyfield Post would like to thank the Spanish Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong for their assistance in compiling this special section. ¡Gracias!
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And the winner is ...

Each year, the Hong Kong Women in Publishing Society (WiPS) runs a Short Story Competition for Young Writers. The competition is open to secondary students in Hong Kong and welcomes entries of short fiction, written on a theme. The winning story is published in Imprint, WiPS’ annual anthology. This year WiPS partnered with Paddyfield who are generously donating prizes to the top three winning stories. The authors and their families are invited to the Imprint launch party where they will be presented with their prizes.

Now in its fifteenth year, the student writing competition has been a part of Imprint since its inception, reflecting the society’s commitment to encourage aspiring local authors. WiPS received a record number of entries this year, representing more local and international schools than ever before.

The theme of this year’s competition was “In the Blink of an Eye”, which invited an impressive variety of styles and genres. It was hard to choose a winner but the judges had high praise for the first prize selection. While we don’t want to spoil the surprise, here is an excerpt from the winning story “The Paradox of Fate” from Annie Chan, a budding author at Maryknoll Convent School:

“Michael Banks? It’s your turn,” a burly man said gruffly, motioning me to follow him. Even before reaching the end of the hallway, I could already feel the energy of the Time Machine pulsating around me. I reached for the door and gasped at the sight in front of me.

Lying in the centre of the room was the most beautiful piece of machinery I’d ever seen. It was a golden portal with dozens of golden clocks attached to its sides. Each clock had a hand pointing in a different direction, recording every second of the past, present and future. There was a tiny window in the middle of the portal from which emitted a soft silvery glow. As I got closer, I could hear the gears inside whirring.

“Ah, Mr Banks. The documents, if you please,” said a rickety old man sitting behind a desk in the corner, surrounded by a panel full of switches.

“How, so you’re here to retrieve a picture in the year 2012, am I right?”

“What? Oh yes, that’s right,” I replied absent-mindedly, entranced by the spinning dials.

“Now, listen very carefully. You are going to grab the picture when you get there and leave once you have it. You have exactly seven minutes to do this.” The old man glanced at the screen before continuing: “Your mother is supposed to come into the room in ten minutes. You cannot be seen by anyone in the past. It’s the law of time.”

“Do not make any mistakes and do not touch anything else besides the picture. Do you understand? Remember that once a certain time in a place in the past has been visited, it cannot be visited again.”

“You make a mistake in the past, and everything changes in the future,” the old man finished gravely, staring hard at me with his orb-like eyes.

“Remember that, young man. No mistakes at all.”
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HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES
30th ANNIVERSARY 1985 - 2015
BMX Challenge
by Jake Maddox,
illustrated by Sean Tiffany

BMX Challenge is the perfect book for kids who like sports. Not only can you enjoy the story, but you can also learn a lot about how to ride BMX.

This story is about an eleven year old kid named Jason. Jason does not know anything about BMX. Jason makes fun of his friends for riding what he thinks is a baby bike. All BMX bikes are small. Paul, one of his friends, challenges Jason to a big BMX race. If Jason wins, he gets to keep one of Paul's BMX bikes. Jason then learns how hard BMX is. Will Jason win?

My favorite part of the book was when Jason overtook someone when he was jumping because the other rider was so amused that he didn't look where he was going and did a huge face-plant in the dirt.

From this book, I learned not to give up even if you crash because if you give up, you won't succeed.

I would recommend this book to all kids who like exciting sports stories!

Eliot Monick, age 8, Chinese International School

Boom by Mark Haddon

Boom is a marvelous book for kids who dream about aliens or want to be an astronaut.

Boom is about Jimbo and his friend Charlie who escape from people wearing a grey wrist band. They spy on their teachers Mr. Kidd and Mrs. Pearce. Jimbo, Charlie and Jimbo's sister, Becky, finds out a big and horrible secret.

My favorite part is when Vantresillion comes to Earth and Becky uses her great hair spray and sprays him in the face. I learned that you can trick people who are stronger than you if you have the brains.

Christine Da Silva, age 8, Peak School

Scarlet and Ivy: The Lost Twin
by Sophie Cleverly

Scarlet and Ivy is a thrilling and exciting book for mystery lovers. This book is about two identical twins who go to boarding school. At first, Scarlet goes but then she dies. Ivy takes her place and wants to find out if Scarlet actually did not die.

My favorite part of it was when Ivy finds Scarlet's Diary pages to get clues. I would recommend this book to children from 7-10 years old because at times it can be a little bit scary for little children.

It would be great if kids would want to be mystery solvers like Ivy.

Ivy and Ivy, age 8, ISF Academy

Jackie Chan Adventures #1: The Dark Hand
by John Rodgers

This is a book about Jackie Chan and how he defeats the bad guys.

This book is a story about the twelve magical stones of the Chinese zodiac. They are powerful so the Dark Hand wants them. When Jackie Chan knows about this, he tries his best to stop them.

Jackie Chan has a partner called Jade. My favorite part is how Jade helps Jackie Chan because every time it happens it is very funny.

I learned in Jackie Chan's letter that he told us to be brave and smart.

I would recommend this book to all of my friends.

Marcus Yiu, age 9
Saint Paul's Co-Educational College Primary School

What books do you like?
Local cartoonist Larry Feign has returned with a new English-Chinese “dictionary”. All for fun, of course. It features Larry’s familiar and hilarious cartoons made famous in his books and strips in the South China Morning Post. Whether you’re new to Larry or remember him from his earlier books, you’ll be sure to find to smile and say “aieeyaaa!”

Would you like to write about books?

Just choose any book in this term’s Paddyfield catalogue and tell us what you think. We’ll choose some of those we think help other kids the most and publish them in our next edition. Some tips! Keep it short (a few paragraphs or about 200 words); be sure to include the title; ask teachers and parents for help; remember that you’re trying to help other kids like you choose what to read. Send your reviews postreviews@paddyfield.com
An Alphabeast Book!

“Just when it feels like there’s nothing new under the abecedarian sun ...” says Publishers Weekly. The idea behind this concept book with a difference is that there are words that change and become an entirely different word through the simple subtraction of a single letter. In other words, without the “A,” the Beast is Best. And without the “S”, snow falls when?

“With rereading and maturing, young readers will discover the jokes gradually, if they don’t at first go. All alphabet books require mastery of the letters in order to read them, but this one manages that paradox with genius.” - New York Times

“A playful celebration of language not as a dry, mathematical exercise in letter-organization but as a living organism, in which letters make meaning through a vast mesh of metaphorical associations driven by the imagination—the very faculty that is the hallmark of children’s minds... There is also a subtle, wistful lament about our relationship to animals, its only protagonists.” - Brain Pickings

“Beyond the inherent fun of the concept (which has plenty of potential for classroom activities), every scene tells a story—it’s practically 26 books in one.” - Publishers Weekly
Robots, video games, smartphones, virtual reality, 3D movies, self-driving cars... wouldn’t it be cool to build these things, or use them in your job?

Did you know that you can start right now? In the last Paddyfield Post, we showed you how to start coding video games; this time, we’ll show you how to have fun with math and science too.

Maths isn’t just about sums: numbers can take you anywhere!

Test your friends with magic tricks, discover mind-reading techniques and find out about the simple puzzles that stumped the world’s brainiest mathematicians for centuries.

Many games are really maths, too: tic-tac-toe, checkers, chess... Here is a book full of more maths games. So roll the dice, spin the wheel, pop, lift, pull and learn with this fun-filled, cool maths games book that covers maths from fractions to geometry.

Your brain is a computer. Test it out!

Can your brain beat a calculator? Crunch the numbers and find out. This book is packed with cool maths, perplexing puzzles, and brilliant brain teasers and comes complete with a colourful calculator to check your maths and get your brain buzzing.
Here is a kit to perform 18 experiments that snap, crackle, pop, ooze, crash, boom, and stink. Sure, it’s a blast to send up a Soda Bottle Rocket, but it’s also illustrates Newton’s Third Law of Motion. And that messy and seemingly risky combination of ooze and electricity in the Static Electricity Slime? It demonstrates a fourth form of matter beyond solid, liquid, and gas—a colloid. So go ahead: Encase a younger sibling in a giant soap bubble. Drop Mentos into a bottle of diet soda, and stand back as a geyser erupts. Shoot a bolt of lightning from your fingertip. Any curious kid would be irresponsible not to try these experiments.

Or have you ever wanted your own robot to control? mBot is a low cost, easy-to-run robot kit for kids to get hands-on experience about graphical programming, electronics, robotics.

A note to parents:
“STEM is a well-known acronym in the education arena, and it’s rapidly on its way to becoming a household word,” write the authors of The Everything STEM Handbook. “Short for Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics, STEM ... has become a way of life for many people and it represents a pathway to the future...

“As technology continues to advance, the need for highly skilled workers will only continue to rise. Although not every student will ultimately become a computer programmer or engineer, every future citizen will need to understand how to interact with technology. In order to carry out their duties, many future workers will need a firm grasp of mathematics. Many future jobs will require specialized training in some STEM field. Already employers place premium on the kind of critical thinking skills developed in math and science classes, and that trend will only intensity as workplace technology becomes more and more complex.”
Get with the programme!

Paddyfield now offering a new set of in-shop programmes for students of all ages, including:

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- acting, drama & public speaking
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- essays: writing with a purpose

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The 2016 Summer Olympics!
Are you ready for Rio? Read up and get prepared!

Here’s the lowdown on all the key Olympic sports, from rowing and gymnastics to cycling, athletics and swimming, plus a look at the new Olympic sports — rugby sevens, kite surfing and golf, focussing on the format of each sport, how it is scored, and the key rules.

You also get background information to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, their history and traditions. The book also looks ahead to the Games in Rio in 2016. It explores the Olympic village, the venues for the events, and how Brazil is preparing for the arrival of the world’s most famous, and best-loved sporting event.

Or take a fascinating look at the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, from the first events in Ancient Greece right the way up to London 2012 and Sochi 2014. It focusses on when and where each Games has been held, and some key stats, such as how much it cost, how many athletes competed, and how many spectators came to watch.

This book explains how all the Games — Summer Olympics, Winter Olympics and Paralympics — came into being, and how the Olympic Games were revived in Paris at the end of the 19th century. It compares the ancient and modern Games, looking at the sports and athletes involved then and now, and at how the modern Games are continuously evolving.

These and other great books on the Olympics are available from the Paddyfield Spring 2016 School BookClub catalogue or on-line at Paddyfield.com