



PARKVIEW INTERNATIONAL PRE-SCHOOL

Our Children, Our Future!

Director and School Supervisor ELLA LAU's passion for quality education is adding a new dimension to formative schooling in Hong Kong. Here's why and how.

The first Parkview International Pre-School (PIPS) kindergarten was established in 1989 by Ella Lau, for whom early childhood education is a passion. 25 years ago, the demand from a large number of expatriate families for international school places was as high as present. What Ella had in mind was not only an international school, but also a quality kindergarten.

"The key event was the availability of brand new premises at Parkview on Hong Kong Island which made it possible for me to create a beautiful campus with outdoor gardens, huge sandpits, spacious classrooms, a music room, and library," says Lau.

Built to Serve

"The market has been growing. There has been a rising demand for top quality kindergartens in Hong Kong. Parents see the role of kindergartens in providing social and emotional, creative, and physical developmental and challenging opportunities for their children. In response to this market, we established two more schools, one in Sham Tseng and one in Kowloon Station."

PIPS is unique in being an IB-PYP (Primary Years Programme) kindergarten – the first independent kindergarten to become a fully authorized International Baccalaureate World School in Hong Kong. It provides small classes (maximum of 18 students per class) with two qualified teachers per class and options for language of instruction. Many classes are bilingual at the Hong Kong campus, while at the Kowloon, all classes are bilingual with Cantonese and Putonghua choices.

"All our teachers are qualified; each class has two teachers, working together in a collaborative way, teaching through their own language authentically. This is very unusual, as many schools will have



Ella Lau,
Parkview International Pre-School
Director and School Supervisor.

one qualified teacher and an unqualified teaching assistant. Our small class size is also a rarity. Many schools have far larger class sizes. We do believe that this makes a huge difference in the quality of our teaching."

Raising Standards

"We have been asked by many parents if we can establish our own primary school and we are currently exploring avenues to do just that. We have recently submitted an application to the Education Bureau to allocate a former local school building to be transformed into PIPS Primary School," says Lau.

"We have continually sought to upgrade our facilities and continue to recruit high calibre staff. We invest heavily in staff training and development too, in order to provide the very best teaching.

"Parents are very supportive and appreciative of what we do and what we achieve at PIPS. We have built very positive and open relationships with parents, welcoming them into the school and involving them as much as

we can. We are very approachable and welcome parental suggestions, and have put together very strong communities at our campuses. Our curriculum is strong and well established. It is challenging and interesting for our children. Parents are very happy with our high standards and with how our children emerge as confident and articulate little people, able to gain entry to top Hong Kong international schools. Parents are also very impressed with our facilities, which are quite unique in Hong Kong. In summary, we owe our success to a collaborative effort in the right direction that we have been pursuing, the dedication of the work team and the support of the parents," concludes Lau. ■

For additional information please visit www.pips.edu.hk

