



中国广东省梅州市大埔县湖寮镇长教村
La Salle Study Centre, Changjiao, China.

Website: www.lasallechina.com

Email: liaodavid@yahoo.com

Mobile: +86-13536733440

1st Quarter Report 2019

Greetings from La Salle Study Centre, Changjiao, Dabu, Meizhou in Guangdong Province, China. Peace and Joy is within you.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone whom I met in Malaysia at the end of November 2018 to early January 2019 for your company and friendship. To all who organized get together for me to meet up with former students and old friends I say “Thank you.” I truly value the opportunities to meet up with many of you at least once a year. I apologize to those I was unable to catch up with. To everyone I extend the invitation to visit LSSC Changjiao.

I flew back to Hongkong on 9th January and on 15th January I returned to LSSC Changjiao so that I could make preparations to run the Winter Programme from 23rd January to the 1st of February. A few parents and students came 4 days earlier and they helped me clean and tidy up LSSC. Three university students, three junior high school students and a primary student came on 21st to assist me. A village restaurant owner offered to give us a free dinner that first evening so we had time to wash, clean and tidy up the dormitory and kitchen. After dinner I drove three of them to a supermarket in Huliao to buy whatever they needed to prepare breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



Cleaning and tidying up LSSC



Parents and students helping

For the first time since I began running LSSC, I did not make any public announcement about the Winter Programme apart from posting a notice at LSSC announcing the schedule of the lessons and stating clearly it is entirely the responsibility of parents to ensure transport safety and attendance. Hence, I did not inform the local bus service that we were running a programme. I made this decision based on my experience that many parents – especially grandparents – because of the availability of direct public transport, sent their children to LSSC so that they can have “free time”. We had trouble with students who did not want to study. The villagers jokingly say “廖老师涨牛”. Ha ha ha ... I have become a cowherd!

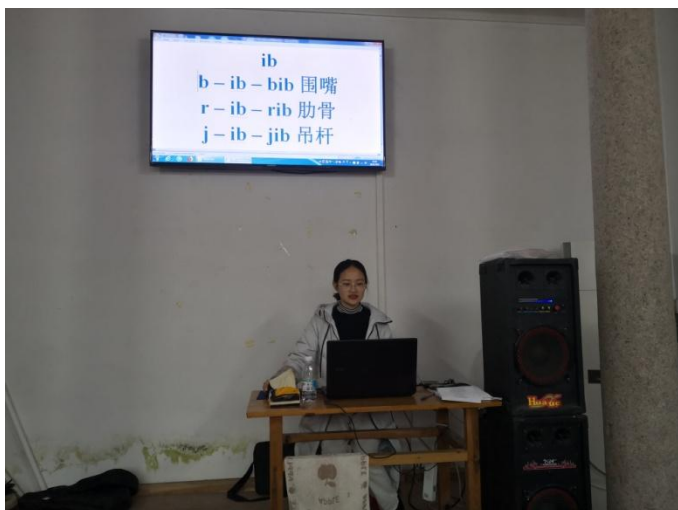
Anyway, despite the low key approach, we had 60+ students for Class A (Primary Students), 40+ students for Class B (Lower Secondary) and 20+ students for Class C (Upper Secondary and University).



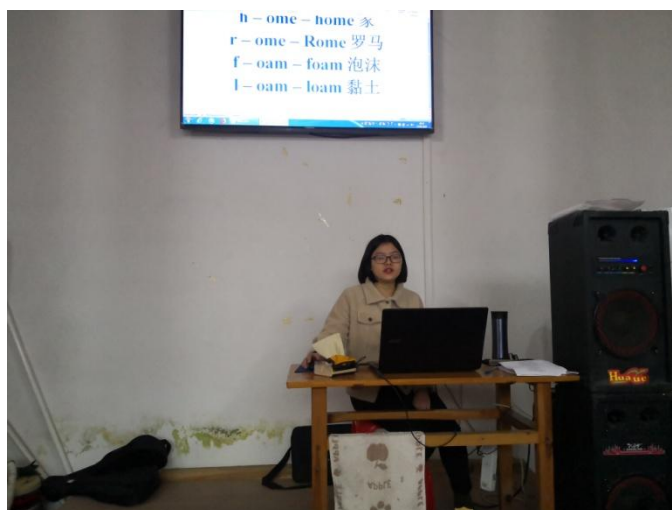
Reading PinPhonics Sounds



at Assembly before Lessons



University students assisting



as Assistant teachers to BD

I thoroughly revised my Structural Approach to teaching English Grammar for Class B and Class C. I am very happy with the response of the students. The Questions and Answers sessions with Class B showed marked improvement and students participated willingly and actively. The Public Speaking sessions with Class C helped the students to overcome their fear of speaking in English. My regular senior and university students prepare their talks well and spoke confidently and that encouraged the new comers to come out to speak. Two of the university students assisted me by taking over the lessons after I had taught for 10 minutes and I take back the lessons after they had taught for 40 minutes. Both of them want to join the teaching profession after finishing university.

Thank God, the lessons went off smoothly and soon it was time to say to one another: 新年快乐. 万事如意. 身体健康. 平安幸福. (Wishing you a Happy New Year. May you enjoy Good Health, Peace and Success) For health reason, I only accepted 17 lunches and dinners throughout the 21 days of festivities, which was half of previous years and that I was able to do by deciding to accept invitations only when villagers' children were home – I was happy to notice that most girls married to other provinces do come back two days or more later to see their parents – ha ha ha ... they have cars now and so travelling during festive season can be easily arranged!

On the 2nd of March we resumed our weekend lessons. Once again, I did not arrange for direct bus service to LSSC for the weekend lessons. I opened the lessons to all who turn up. Students attendance and transport to and from LSSC becomes the sole responsibility of parents. This seems to be a better approach and since then we have been running one junior class, a senior class and a ukulele class. For those who are new to Pinphonics, they can begin learning at 7.30 a.m. Two of my regular students taught the Basic Sounds in the assembly area. I taught the regular Class A lesson from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and the emphasis was on pronunciation and reading. In between they sang our grammar songs. Class B and C was from 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and the lessons were on making statements based on our Structural Grammar approach and asking and answering questions. The Ukulele lesson was from 10.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. The last public bus to town for the morning passes by at 11.30 a.m.



Weekends students assembly



Looking up and Reading aloud

As I write this report, tomorrow is the last weekend lesson for the first half of this year. I leave for Hongkong on 14th April and will fly back to Malaysia on 15th April to be in time for the Malaysia Brothers Holy Week and Easter Retreat and at the end of April I go to Thailand for Brothers' LEAD 3rd District Chapter. LSSC will resume classes in early June followed by the Summer Programme in mid July and August.

When I first came back to LSSC in mid, Dabu was experiencing a severe drought that I had not seen in my 18 years of mission here. Even the so called "never dry" well by the side of the river was bone dry. The drought lasted till the middle of March. Farmers were worried as the drought affected the early flowering of the pomelo trees. When the rain finally came, it came heavy and rained for days. Thank God, it came just the right time for the full flowering of the pomelo trees. The aromatic scent of the flowers was just fantastic. Even my grape fruit tree (Brazilian Jaboticaba) is flowering.

With this happy note I end this report. Thank you for reading and keeping in touch with this little remote Lasallian Mission at LSSC Changjiao.

As always with love in the service of youths for the development of nation through DLS,

BDLiaoFSC
LSSC Changjiao
5th April 2019



Parents and students setting up the hall



The parents and students work team



Early birds Morning Assembly



Reading before lessons begin



BD Welcomes students



It is important to listen well



Class A students attentively ...



reading aloud



Class C students



Group Performance



Who will begin ...



OK ... I speak first.



LSSC on Chinese New Year morning ...all red after firing fire crackers



Drumming session at LSSC ...



to welcome the New Year



Former students with their sons



Present students with their father



The Never Dry Well dried up



My grape fruit tree - Jaboticaba



Picking Winter Oranges



Here ...one for you