

第一次生日会 First Birthday Party

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小朋友最期待的日子，莫过于自己的生日会。在我的记忆里，儿时每逢这一天，母亲总会为我煮上几只鸡蛋，朴素却温暖。随着年岁渐长，这份“生日鸡蛋”也被日常忙碌冲淡。转眼间已近花甲之年，才萌生了一个念头：举办人生中的第一个生日会。

今年原本只想简单地买个蛋糕，与大家分享。细想之下，恰逢翌日公众假期，又值学期将尽，加上我们加入木球会已有两年多了，那里的环境也十分适合聚会。种种机缘汇合之下，我决定邀请中文部来一个“三合一”的聚会：庆祝生日、欢庆学期结束、借此向临时助理表达感谢。

一向节俭的我，并不想花费太多。然而最近却出奇顺利：投资指数上升，租客主动加租续住。种种顺境，仿佛在无形中推了我一把——也许，是时候为自己，也为身边的人，慷慨一回。

于是，我决定不再拘谨，与同事们共享这份来之不易的心情与喜悦。既然要聚，便让大家尽兴。我开始筹划更多活动，并邀请阿美和阿仁一同参与设计，让这次相聚更生动。

如此一来，这便不再只是一个简单的生日会，而成了一次难得的团队相聚。既然心意已定，我便坦然告知大家。没想到大家都赞同，而另一份温暖，也在我不知情中悄然酝酿——大家开始为我筹划一个属于我的惊喜。



六月十八日如期而至。踏进校门，便有人向我道一声“生日快乐”。那一刻，心中已泛起淡淡暖意。小息时回到办公室，忽然响起《祝你生日快乐》的歌声。同事们围了上来，有的为我戴上皇冠，有的替我系上饰带，而桌上那只精心准备的订制蛋糕，更添几分隆重。大家的热情，把我装点得像一个准备参赛得“香港小姐”。一切来得自然而又出其不意，让人既惊喜又感动。



中午在办公室简短生日会，最盼望的是晚上的“三合一”聚会。虽然我们都准备充足，但下午一点，天文台发出黑色暴雨警告，我的心不免一沉，担心计划会被这场暴雨带走，让大家失望。

“谋事在人，成事在天。”这句话提醒我，不必执着，顺其自然。三点十五分，黑雨终于取消，天空透出一线明亮，仿佛在说：未必如你所愿，却会安排得恰到好处。结果也正如所示——因暴雨取消了课外活动，反而让大家得以齐聚，一同前往木球会。

整个活动不仅按计划进行，还因天气重新调整得更加顺畅。首订活动是保龄球，大家都挣得了最理想的高分。随后共进晚餐，原打算晚餐后再去酒吧，但用餐时少了酒，总觉得气氛欠佳，于是临时决定点了两瓶酒助兴。用餐将尽，准备转转场时，原选定的酒吧人满，室内亦不利畅谈。正在徘徊间，发现楼下酒吧出奇安静，大雨洗净尘埃，空气清新微凉，正宜放松谈笑。于是临时改道，把聚会移至楼下。餐厅经理也将酒送至新的座位。空间更阔，气氛更松，大家得以尽情谈笑、唱跳，一切反而更合时宜。



第一轮为自由活动，大家随意走动：或观泳池，或在球场散步消食，随后再回到座位。接下来，便是主持人大展身手的时刻。阿美精心设计了一连串环

环相扣的互动游戏，以积分形式进行，让每个人都能参与其中：有说、有写、有唱、有跳，亦不乏创意发挥，可谓面面俱到。整个流程衔接流畅，节奏分明，一切按时推进，并于晚上九点准时结束。大家分批返家，带着满足与轻松，迎接一个愉快的长周末。

不同的活动，可以从多面认识彼此。在固定的工作中，有些特长难以显现。以阿美为例，平日里她常被视为爱出风头、热衷张罗活动，但在这样的场合，她却成了不可或缺的灵魂人物。至于阿仁，年轻有为，做事踏实认真，处处追求完善，待人真诚，自有一股沉稳力量。其他同事亦各展所长，使这个团队在片刻之间，变得更加生动而有力量。

这第一次生日会，让我更珍惜身边同事的情谊，也更深体会到团队合作与互助所带来的喜悦。与此同时，我对自己也有了新的期许：时刻省察言行，以身作则，让身边人都能建立自信，看见彼此的长处，为中文部注入更多正能量。在合作中获得愉悦，在相处中感受温暖，让这份归属与幸福在工作中滋长。

My First Birthday Gathering

As a child, nothing was more eagerly awaited than a birthday. In my memory, my mother would mark the day by boiling a few eggs for me—simple, yet quietly full of care. Over time, even this small ritual faded into the busyness of life. Now, nearing sixty, a thought finally emerged: to host my very first birthday gathering.

At first, I had only planned to buy a cake and share it with colleagues. But with a public holiday the next day, the term drawing to an end, and our two years' membership at the Cricket club—an ideal setting for a small gathering—the idea

soon took shape. I decided to invite the Chinese Department to a “three-in-one” celebration: to mark my birthday, the end of term, and to thank our temporary assistants.

Being naturally frugal, I had no intention of spending much. Yet that week seemed unusually smooth—investments rose, and my tenant offered a higher rent to renew. These small turns of fortune nudged me gently: perhaps it was time to be a little generous, to myself and to those around me.

By nature, I tend to spend with care, reserving it for what I truly value. Yet that week unfolded with unusual ease—investments rose, and my tenant chose to renew at a higher rent. These small turns of fortune gently nudged me: perhaps it was time to be a little more generous, to myself and to those around me.

So, I chose to let go, to share the moment with colleagues and make the gathering truly enjoyable. I planned more activities and invited Meg and Ren to help design them, bringing life and energy to the evening. What began as a simple birthday soon became a meaningful team event. Everyone agreed warmly—and, unknown to me, they were also preparing a surprise.

On June 18, I arrived at school to early birthday wishes. By recess, as I returned to the office, the song “Happy Birthday” filled the room. Colleagues gathered around—some placing a crown on my head, others draping a sash over me. A beautifully customized cake awaited on the table. With all the attention, I felt almost like a contestant in a “Miss Hong Kong”. It was unexpected and deeply touching.

After a brief office celebration at noon, I looked forward most to the evening gathering. Yet at 1 pm, the Observatory issued a Black Rainstorm Warning. My heart sank—I feared the plan would be washed away.

“Man proposes, Heaven disposes.” The Chinese old saying reminded me not to cling too tightly. At 3:15, the warning was cancelled, and a line of light broke through the sky—as if to say: things may not turn out as planned, but they will unfold as they should. And so they did. With extracurricular activities cancelled, everyone was free to go together to the club.

The evening not only went ahead but unfolded even more smoothly than expected. We began with bowling, where everyone played with ease and enjoyment. At dinner, we had planned to head to a bar afterward, but the meal felt incomplete without a touch of wine, so we decided to order two bottles to lift the mood.

When we were ready to move on, the bar we had chosen was crowded and not suited for easy conversation. Just then, we noticed a quieter bar downstairs with outdoor seating. The rain had cleared the air—it was cool and fresh, just right. We moved there and even had our wine brought down. With more space and a relaxed setting, everyone talked, sang, and laughed freely. In the end, it felt even better than planned.

We started with free time—some strolled by the pool, others walked around the grounds before returning. Then came the highlight: Meg’s series of well-designed interactive games. Run on a points system, they drew everyone in—speaking, writing, singing, moving, and creating. The program flowed smoothly and ended right on time at 9 p.m. Colleagues headed home in small groups, relaxed and content, ready for the long weekend.

Through these varied activities, we saw one another more fully. In daily routines, certain strengths remain hidden. Meg, often seen as attention-seeking or overly enthusiastic about organizing, proved to be the heart of the event. Ren,

young and capable, was steady, thoughtful, and sincere. Others, too, revealed their strengths. For a moment, the team felt more vivid, more alive.

This first birthday gathering deepened my appreciation for my colleagues and for the quiet power of teamwork and mutual support. It also left me with a renewed sense of responsibility: to be mindful of my words and actions, to lead by example, and to help others see their own strengths. In working together, may we find joy; in being together, warmth—and let this shared sense of belonging quietly grow.

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