

Principal's Sharing (Newsletter 6)

Dear Parents & Students,

Lunar New Year is really a memorable festival. The atmosphere at the School was great. The walls on campus were decorated, students wrote 'fai chun', and teachers and students cooked crispy triangles. Of course, I was the first one to taste them. Although I don't really love dessert, the crispy triangles made by students seemed especially sweet. Also, in my Principal Room, I still keep the little 'fai chun' from the students. On 27th January, our students, Cheung Hoi Yan, Mung Tsz Fung, Lee Yeuk Lun and their band performed at 'East Meets West Spring Concert' in the eastern district. Our students CAN do it well! The most memorable performance was the choral speaking by S.1 students. They all looked very serious. On 2nd February, the School was invited to perform at 'Big Bowl Feast of 18 Districts'. The audience kept clapping for our student, Tam Wing Lun, for his stunning performance of singing Chinese opera in both bass and soprano. I also felt honored for him. On 6th February, the Supervisor, Principal, parents and students from CMA Choi Cheung Kok Secondary School visited our School and attended my talk on 'The Quality of Chinese Culture'. Exchanging experiences with different schools will be one of the major developments of the School. Before the Lunar New Year Holiday, all teaching staff had lunch together at school and listened to New Year songs to celebrate Lunar New Year. It seemed that spring came early in the School.

On 17th February, our booth was very eye-catching at the Confucian Carnival held in Causeway Bay. Our students became the focus as they dressed up in ancient Chinese outfits to play games with visitors. A Lunar New Year Gathering was held by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) on 24th February. Our teachers and parents held quite a lot of meetings to discuss the problems of the performance, food, rundown, MC, activities, atmosphere, etc. I was so touched by the serious attitudes of the committee members of the PTA. Especially when we were over budget, some parents were more than willing to bear the cost, donate gifts, or sponsor some food. Their enthusiasm is rather rare in other schools. I hereby thank all committee members for their unconditional assistance again.

On 24th February, we had booth games, performances, lantern riddles, etc. The performance of Chinese Opera and Gangnam Style raised the atmosphere to its highest level. The funniest part was the Election of Students' Favorite Sentence and Students' Least Favorite Sentence. Parents should know that your sons and daughters love to hear 'It is okay as long as you try. Don't force yourself', and they hate to hear

‘Others are better than you, you should learn from them’ and ‘You are the burden of the family’. Please remember not to say these two sentences anymore. The day was also Parents’ Day and report cards were distributed. A lot of parents chatted with me after they received the report cards. I’m very thankful for the trust of all parents.

In order to continue raising the academic results, we have launched the ‘Post-Exam Improvement Scheme’. Students with unsatisfactory results need to re-take the exam. I am pleased that most parents welcome the Scheme. Although students keep saying it’s too hard for them, I believe the Scheme can definitely raise the atmosphere of study in the School. In order to ensure a satisfactory result in the English public exam, we have recruited a famous tutor called Kwong Chun Wai to help the S.5 students practice English. It is held every Monday after school and it is voluntary. To my surprise, 100% of students joined the practice and this touches me and Mr. Kwong a lot since I estimated only 20 students would join. Mr. Kwong told me that he would try his best and wouldn’t ruin the trust from students.

The Chinese Cultural Week is held in March. During the opening ceremony, Dr. Chiu Sin Hin gave a talk on ‘Culture of Creativity of the East and West’. The content of the talk was interesting. He pointed out that the western rectangular dining table and the eastern circular dining table were developed from different cultures. Dr. Chiu is a multi-faceted writer and has published 13 different types of writing. He has written almost 700,000 words online. Our students learned a lot from him. After the talk, Dr. Chiu presented his major publications to our teachers. We all hoped to get Dr. Chiu’s autograph and we felt so happy. After that, I invited Dr. Chiu to give 4 to 5 lessons to our S.5 students to share his tips for HKDSE and Dr. Chiu is considering this.

We were honored to invite the lecturer from Shue Yan University, Dr. Chow Kwok Leung, to give a talk on ‘Looking at Chinese Culture with Balance from the Centre of the World’. He explained why the Chinese use “Middle Kingdom” to position themselves and keep a fair attitude. Dr. Chow believed that the proper Chinese core value means adapting to the environment appropriately in terms of behavior, attire and attitude. Secondary students may find the concepts difficult to understand but it was a valuable experience for them to listen to a high quality talk. Also, S.1 students performed choral speaking energetically and enthusiastically to express the writer’s anger and the audience enjoyed the performance.

In the past few months, we invited 2 Taiwanese Universities, Shoufu University and Chung Yuan Christian University to visit us. Chung Yuan University is one of the top

30 universities in Taiwan and is also listed in international ranking. I invited Professor Hsia Chen Hwa to give a talk. Professor Hsia promised that 2 students nominated by the Principal can have their tuition fees exempted. Most subjects offered by Chung Yuan University are recognized in Hong Kong. After graduation, students can apply for a master and doctorate in Hong Kong and China. I believe it is an alternative way for our students..

On 15th February, my letter to S.6 students was published in Hong Kong Economic Journal (HKEJ). On 4th March, they published my interview. I am so glad that I can use this media to elaborate my educational philosophy. Meanwhile, HKEJ invited me to write monthly to introduce Confucianism in order to benefit the community and allow more people to understand the mission of Confucius Hall Secondary School.