

Principal's Sharing (Dec 2013)

Dear Parents and Students,

It's the 60th Anniversary of CHSS in the academic year 2013 – 2014. Our Diamond Jubilee has revitalized the School and the celebration held in December boosted the emotion of everyone in the School to a climax. Principals, teachers and students of primary school from different districts were invited to visit the School. Also, some other schools asked to visit our school which means that the School is getting more and more popular. In early January, I visited the communities of ethnic minorities to seek directions for setting policies for teaching Chinese and English.

In mid-December, judging for the Hong Kong-wide writing competition was completed. I want to hereby thank Dr. Zhane Wanmin, Assistant Professor from City University and Dr. Gavin Chiu, Assistant Professor from Caritas Institute of Higher Education for judging the writing. The Champion piece had to be nominated by both judges in order to enhance the fairness and acceptability. More than 60 primary and secondary schools participated in the competition submitting more than 1000 entries. Though the workload was high, our teachers and students were very happy as it was a successful activity to promote Confucianism.

On 14th December, we held the most important celebration activity for the anniversary. We invited Mr. Linus W. L. Cheung, JP, the Chairperson of the School Board of Centennial College to be our guest of honor for the Speech Day. More than 100 school principals, parents and students joined us that day and the hall was fully seated with guests and students. Mr. Cheung's speech reminded me the importance for our students grasping the opportunity to pursue their tertiary education in universities in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and overseas since studying in university does not only bridge to a brighter future but also highly benefits one's self-development.

The 60th Anniversary dinner was held in Tin Hau. Alumni from different eras including those graduated in the 60's, filled up more than 30 tables and happily shared their sweet memories of our school. Former teachers Ms. Lo Wai Luan and Mr. Kwan Ying Leung were surrounded by a group of middle-aged 'kids' to talk about their memories at CHSS. We also invited Ms. Hong Chan Tsui Wah from the Education Bureau, Professor Joseph S. P. Ting, Professor Lee Kam Keung and more than 20 school principals and staff to be our guests. We are very thankful to all of them for sharing in our joy.

Our Supervisor, Mr. Dennis Hui gave his welcoming speech recognizing the effort that our teachers and students had paid for organizing the celebration activities. He re-emphasized the School's mission and would continue to provide education to teenagers no matter how the School would develop in the future. He also expressed his thanks to those who had ever helped in the School.

During the dinner, there were an auction, performances and a lucky draw. Thanks to the School Board, our friends and alumni for donating auction items and prizes. Thanks to Ms. Poon Shui Wah, Ms. Lin Yue Xim and Kwong Mei Ling for their performances. Alumnus Mr. Tam Wing Lun gave a very unforgettable Chinese Opera performance. Also, we were very surprised that an autographed book from Ms. Lo Wai Lun sold for HK\$8000.

During the evening, the various screens looped the photos from the 60's to present while many alumni were cheering. The students from the 3rd cohort were not very happy as their photos were not shown. I promised that I would add them later. Most of the prizes were sponsored by the School Board. The prizes included tablets, music boxes and cash vouchers. At the end of the dinner, an alumnus came to me and told me that he had been working in Taiwan for many years and our students could go to him if they encountered any difficulty in pursuing further study in Taiwan. I was deeply touched by his love to the School.

The Open Days were held on 14th and 15th December. Even though it was rainy, quite a lot of visitors came to the School. On the 14th morning, a seminar about ethnic minorities was held to share views of further study and career prospects for them. We invited representatives from Equal Opportunities Commission, HK Christian Service, VTC and Professor Au Wing Kwong, the Head of Department of Social Work of Shue Yan University to be our guests. More than 30 participants from the minority community joined the seminar which was conducted fully in English. On 15th December, the rain made us shift our game booths indoor but did not reduce the passion of our students. In the afternoon, many parents of primary students visited the School with the help of our teachers. I talked with a few parents and the School gave them a very good impression.

Lunar New Year is approaching. I hereby wish all parents good health and happiness in the new year.