

## Kau Yan School (Kindergarten Section)

The year 2019-2020

### Principal's Message (1)

Dear parents,

It has been a month since the beginning of the school term. We are happy to see children coming to school with lots of energy. Our K1 and transfer students get familiar with the school environment and routine. Children and teachers from all class years have started a new school year with laughter in a joyful atmosphere.



In early September, K1 children finished their orientation week. They are now attending school independently. Also, children can learn different self-care skills and get used to daily routines during school. That helps them blend into school life. There would be differences in children's development due to different family backgrounds. Therefore, teachers need to make close observations of every child. Providing challenges and guidance according to children's development can gradually improve their abilities. Self-care ability is critical learning for children. It helps them develop big and small muscles and build confidence and responsibility. So, teachers would focus on children's self-care habits at the beginning of the school term. Teachers would also share with parents how to help children improve their related abilities. When children first start learning self-care, they might need more time to finish a task or depend on the help of adults. Parents and teachers should do nothing when this happens. No matter how anxious we are, we still need to wait relaxingly. Children should finish the task with encouragement and guidance from parents. That way, they can gain a sense of success. It enhances children's motive to do their own things and lets children learn to be responsible for themselves.



On the other hand, K3 children need to be familiar with their new classrooms, new class teachers, and new class rules. We arranged a mixed-age game day for them. Through different game stalls, children learn to interact politely with teachers and children that they do not know. Although children encountered difficulties during the activity, they tried their best and finished all the tasks. I expressed my appreciation for children's hard work and braveness on many occasions. In addition, I also shared tips to support children's learning with parents. From sharing between parents, we can see that happy parents can help children embrace learning and challenges. Parents' trust and support are the critical elements for children to get out of their comfort zone.



All class years started the project "School and Me" in mid-September. Teachers designed exploration and research based on children's experiences, abilities, and interests. Children knew about the people and surrounding in the school. Some children learned about the staff in the school; some children explored the secret places in the school; some children discovered their body changes during growth. The learning context varies according to children's interests and abilities. This project will extend to mid-October. You can refer to class teachers' emails on e-class every Friday for the project details.



Also, we celebrated birthdays for children who were born in August and September. The birthday party theme of the month is Old Hong Kong. Children learn about the local cultures through costumes, food, and toys. Parents spent a lot of time helping their children dress up and prepare related items to share in class. Bravery is the focused character of the month. The pastoral staff of Kau Yan Church also shared stories about bravery from the bible during the birthday party.



This month, we conducted parents' night regarding curriculums and selected parents' contact representatives. In addition, we had the first parents' day and parents' contact representatives gathering. The parents' day allows teachers to understand parents' expectations and questions regarding children's learning. Teachers also shared with parents about their children's performance during school. We understand the meeting time for each parent is limited. Since having close communication and mutual understanding is the foundation of home-school collaboration, our teachers will call parents from time to time. Parents are welcome to contact class teachers to know more about children's performance. During the parents' contact representative gathering, the representatives of each class year shared their methods and experience with strengthening cohesion among parents. We also exchanged ideas about school matters during the gathering. The gathering finished in laughter. We will send out a meeting minute to all parents so that you can know more about the topics discussed.



On the other hand, to help parents understand more about the arrangement of "parent paired reading" and improve parents' paired reading skills, our school has organised the "parent paired reading workshop" on 27 September. We shared different methods for paired reading and interacting with children. Don't be disappointed if you are unable to attend this workshop. We invited Dr. Richard Wong, the author of the English learning material *Get Set, Go!*, to share how to enhance English learning at home and improve paired reading skills on 15 October. We encourage parents to attend and help us with improving children's learning.

Both children and parents are facing new challenges at the beginning of the school year. The growth process of children can give us a lot of joy and surprises, but also worries and confusion. We welcome parents to share with us through different means. That way, we can know more about each child and provide support to all families. You can fill in the reply slip on the next page. Write down your feelings, thoughts, and things that you would like us to pray for you. May God's grace be with you always.



KWAN Shan, Principal