Kau Yan School 2018-2019 Principal's Message (5)

3 June 2019

Dear all parents,

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

The ear is a complex sensory system not only allows humans to hear, but balance. God gives us a couple of eyes, ears and nostrils but a single mouth. We treasure the power of listening and observation. The school listens carefully to the voices of parents who are our cherished collaborators. We also appreciate the voices of our students, for instance, introducing *Green Monday* after a P.1 boy's suggestion. Listening is particularly important as I newly join the school this year.

Throughout this year, a number of communication channels have been established in order to listen to and exchange views with parents. Apart from the conventional Home-School Evening, we organised monthly breakfast meeting and three parent forums in addition to appointments with parents and a lot of informal chats. The feedback of a parent survey was collected last Friday. Thank you very much for your care and effort on giving us valuable comments. All responses, including both quantitative and written ones, are now being carefully analysed and considered in order to formulate the school plan of next academic year. A lot of issues about our curriculum and pastoral care are being reviewed. The results will be shared next month.

A number of parents asked if our school had made any decision on the adjustment of our assessment policy (Question 41 for P.1-2 parents) and the introduction of *Skyline Week* (Question 42 for P.1-2 parents and Question 41 for P.3-5 parents). These two issues are carefully explored with reference to the good practices elsewhere and to see how these good practices may appropriately adapt to our school. We are listening cautiously to our parents' voice before making any decision.

We received diverse opinions about assessment during and after the second Parent Forum on 15 March. In the parent survey collected last week, amongst the 156 responses from our P.1-2 parents, 53% agreed on the cancellation of summative assessment (examination) in Term 2 of P.3 while 17%, 29% and 1% of them expressed neutral, disagreement and don't know respectively. We, therefore, will not change the assessment arrangement for all current students without overwhelming support.

Skyline Week, another feasibility study, originally aims to facilitate our students to widen their perspectives with deep learning as well as to develop cultural quotient (CQ) which is vital to future leaders. Some pilot tours have been introduced this year with overwhelming feedback, including Sichuan Panda Conservation Tour, Paleontological Study in Siberia, Sustainable Living and Economy in Japanese Fishing Village, Great Barrier Reef and Rainforest Exploration, Russian Cosmodrome cum China North & East Poles Expedition, Future City Planning and VR Technology Study Tours in China. As shown in Table 1, Slightly over 60% the parents appreciated this idea. Since this suggestion is not close enough to a consensus, the Skyline Week won't be implemented. The school may propose a few unique and meaningful excursions and service trips throughout the year, particularly on school holidays, for students and parents to choose according to their interests. Another questionnaire for parents' options will be sent out

this Thursday.

Table 1. The responses of the parent survey on the suggestion of Skyline Week

It is suggested that the Skyline Week may be organised for P.5-6 students after the summative assessment in June. The students may exchange in different countries (eg. China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, Cambodia) to widen their horizon and develop cultural quotient.

	P.1-2 Parents (N=156)	P.3-5 Parents (N=224)
Strongly agree	29%	30%
Agree	34%	35%
Neutral	15%	19%
Disagree	3%	7%
Strongly disagree	3%	4%
Don't know	15%	6%

Another new initiative this year is the *High Table Luncheon* for all our graduates. We invited them to this special event at Graduate House, The University of Hong Kong on 17 May 2019. A banner filled with inspirational quotes written by the students and their class teachers is now placed at the Learning Centre. We wish them every success in their future endeavour. Aim high, see wide. Every child can succeed!



Some new initiatives this year are being evaluated. Although we received over-subscription of Team Joshua 2019-2020 as an acceleration leadership programme, the scheme will be ceased. We are reviewing its format and scalability in order to cater for the needs of all students. Moreover, in the P.5-6 Sports Module, a new option, known as *Wit and Grit*, is proposed in addition to current soccer, basketball, rugby and volleyball trainings. The new option is the combination of some mountain craft skills and scientific investigation of water quality

at 4 corners of Hong Kong with the support of The Swire Institute of Marine Science, The University of Hong Kong. The students are given an opportunity to present their research findings in an academic conference afterwards. The circular of students' choice of P.5-6 Sport Module will be issued later this month. This pilot programme will not be held if we receive a very low enrollment number. We will continue to diversify our programmes in order to meet individual needs.

Below is our belief on each KYS student:

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.

Marie Curie, double Nobel laureate

Apart from academic excellence, we celebrate the achievement of our students. Following the Silver Award in the Symphonic Band Contest 2018 Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows in Term 1, our Orchestra Team fully developed their potential and talent by winning the Gold Award at the Hong Kong Joint School Music Competition 2019 Symphony Orchestra Contest on 25 May. Special thanks to our parents who gave unconditional support to the students to participate in the competition in the preparation week of the summative assessment.

In the area of STEAM, our school teams manifested their creativity and problem solving skills by winning the following awards last month:

- ◆ Gold Medal, Creative Coder Competition, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
 - Li Chin Wang (5F) and Hui Shing Lok (5H): AI Typhoon Response System
- ◆ Silver Medal, Tamiya Robot Challenge 2019 Mark Daniel Gittings (6L), Hui Shing Lok (5H), Lin Ching Chi (3F), Chiu Yu Tim (3F) and Lau Yat Long (3F)
- ◆ Second Runner-up, Product Design Makeathon 2019 (Primary School Division: Health Product), Hong Kong Polytechnic University Li Chin Wang (5F), Wong Cho Yan (5F) and Ngai Fong Hang (5H): Water Checker

Last but never the least, we received record breaking enrollment of our time-honoured Parent Class this year. On 26 May, we celebrated the graduation of Term 2 of the 23rd Parent Class. It began with a hymn by the joint kindergarten-primary school teacher choir and the sharing from three families. The participating parents were divided into groups in order to encapsulate their learning from the course. Each group then shared their insights in a variety of ways, such as oral presentation, rap song, poem, drawing and drama. The event was filled with laughter and appreciation. Like the successful formation of our first KYS joint parent-teacher Oxfam Trailwalker team 2019 just now, together we carry on this close collaboration and growth between parents and the school. *You will never walk alone*.

Until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the measure of the fullest of Christ. Ephesians 4:13

救恩學校 2018-2019 年度 校長來信(五)

親愛的家長:

耳朵不僅讓我們能聽見,還讓我們能保持身體平衡和腳踏實地地走路,難怪創造主給我們一張嘴巴,卻給我們一雙耳朵和一雙眼睛,讓我們明白到聆聽和觀察的重要。同樣地,家長是我們的重要合作夥伴,我們有必要細心地聆聽家長們的心聲。聆聽是我加入救恩大家庭的首要任務,例如早前一位小一男同學對我提出 Green Monday 的建議後,我立刻付諸行動。

本學年開展了多條家校溝通的渠道,除了以往的家校晚會外,我們增辦了「每月早餐會」和三次「家長論壇」,而與個別家長面談,以及非正式面談是恆常不變。上星期五,我們剛完成了家長問卷調查,衷心多謝家長積極回應,我們現正小心地分析有關回應,就家長量化和文字回饋全面檢討課程和學生發展事宜,以釐定未來的發展方向,詳情將於下月校長來信(六)分享。

不少家長問道:問卷最後兩項諮詢,關於評估政策(小一至小二家長問卷第 41 條)和國際交流週 Skyline Week(小一至小二家長問卷第 42 條;小三至 五家長問卷第 41 條),學校是否已有定案?事實上,這兩項諮詢只是我們根據一些學校的良好經驗作出的探討,最終推行與否,必須付合我們的校情和家長的意願,現階段,我們正分析家長的回應。

在 3 月 15 號舉行第二次家長論壇當天,以及過後的時間裏,我們陸續地收到對評估方向的不同意見。就過去兩星期收集到的家長問卷調查統計,在 156位小一至小二家長回應中,53%贊成取消小三下學期總結性評估(即考試)、16%中立、28%反對和 1%不知道。 所以現階段,在未達成共識之前,我們不會貿然改變現時小一至六的評估安排。

另外一項研究議題為國際交流週(Skyline Week),原意是讓同學擴闊視野,提供具廣度及深度的學習歷程,以及發展文化智商,這正是未來領袖必須具備的特質。本學年試辦了多項備受歡迎的境外交流活動,包括四川熊貓保育、西伯利亞古生物探究、日本漁村可持續發展經濟及生活體驗、大堡礁保育及熱帶兩林生態研習、俄羅斯太空科學站及中國東北兩極探索、中國未來城市規劃和 VR 科技研發。家長問卷回應詳列表一,因暫時未獲共識,故此,我們將不會推行 Skyline Week。然而,為繼往開來,來年度我們仍舊在不同的月份,尤其是學校的假期裏,繼續籌辦少量獨特和具意義的國際交流、學習、服務和短宣活動,以供學生和家長選擇,自由報名參加,詳情請參閱本星期四的國際交流問卷。

表一: 家長問卷有關國際交流週 (Skyline Week) 的意見回應

擬為小五及小六同學於下學期總結性評估後(即 6 月)設立 $Skyline\ Week$,同學可到不同國家(如中國、韓國、台灣、日本、澳洲、柬埔寨)交流,藉探索世界,拓闊視野,發展文化智商 (CQ)。

7 (02)		
	小一至二家長	小三至五家長
	(N=156)	(N=224)
非常同意	29%	30%
同意	34%	35%
中立	15%	19%
不同意	3%	7%
非常不同意	3%	4%
不知道/不適用	15%	6%

今年我們新辦了一項活動,為畢業班所有同學舉行的 High Table Luncheon。於5月17日,我們誠邀他們到香港大學研究生堂,進行按大學禮儀的午宴。當天班主任和同學們在橫額上寫上互勵互勉的字句,現正掛在學習中心牆上,祝願所有畢業同學前程錦繡,主恩常在。



我們現正檢討一些本年新辦活動。雖然招募來年 Team Joshua 迅速額滿,為考慮推行模式和受惠人數,明年度該加速領袖培訓將暫停,期望以更合適的途徑惠及所有同學。另外,五、六年級的運動單元課,除排、足、籃、 欖球以外,建議新增一項名為「Wit and Grit」課程以供選擇,該課程獲香港大學太古海洋科學研究所支持,糅合山藝技巧,抵達香港四角作水質研究和環境評估,同學們並將於學術論壇發表研究成果。有關來年運動單元選修課安排及報名詳情,請參閱本月底的家長通告,按報名人數釐定是否開辦該新增選修課。

正如兩屆諾貝爾獎得主居禮夫人所言:我們每人都在某方面有一些資優的地方,憑堅毅和自信,必有所成。同學亦然,他們在不同範疇上發揮所長,成績斐然。本校樂團屢創佳績,繼12月管樂團獲得銀獎,管弦樂團於5月25日在香港聯校音樂協會舉辦的「聯校音樂比賽2019-管弦樂團比賽」中勇奪金獎,願榮耀歸予天父! 在此特別感謝有關家長,在考試前夕讓同學參與比賽。

在科普方面,本校同學發揮創意和解難能力,在上月勇奪以下獎項:

- ◆ 香港青年協會舉辦的創意編程大賽:李展泓同學 (五信) 和 許承洛同學 (五 望) 取得「任務挑戰王」及「金獎」,參賽作品名稱:智能颱風應變系統
- ◆ 田宮機械人程式設計挑戰賽 2019: 賈曉嵐同學 (六愛)、許承洛同學 (五望)、 連靜之同學 (三信)、趙汝添同學 (三信)和 劉日朗同學 (三信) 取得「銀獎」
- ◆ 香港理工大學舉辦的全港中小學產品設計大賽 2019:李展泓同學 (五信)、 黃楚恩同學 (五信) 和倪方恆同學 (五望) 取得小學組 (組別:衛生保健或健 康產品)季軍,參賽作品名稱:健康水精靈

本年度歷史悠久的家長班報名人數創歷史新高,於5月26日,我們舉行了第23屆家長班第二學期結業禮。結業禮以幼稚園、小學教師教師聯合歌詠團獻唱主禱文揭開序幕,並有三個家庭分享所學;參與家長亦分為小組沉澱他們所學,並以不同的形式分享,包括匯報、饒舌歌、打油詩、繪畫和戲劇,生動活潑,彼此激勵,家長班結業禮在歡笑聲和感恩中結束。就像剛組成的首隊樂施毅行者救恩學校家長教師隊一樣,我們一起繼續見證家校無縫的合作及成長。誠如利物浦、些路迪及多蒙特球會會歌及口號: You'll never walk alone!

Dr. P

2019年6月3日