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In order to celebrate the 45th School Anniversary, the School Anniversary Carnival was held on 9th December, suffusing the whole campus with utter jubilance and creating an unforgettable moment that will always linger in our minds.

The school was crowded on the festive day, with a river of people shuttling through the hallways with chatter and chuckles. The vibrant colors of banners and decorations dyed the campus building bright, together with the hustle and bustle in the stratosphere, the school seemed to have a life of its own.

Starting from the early morning, concerts and shows were performed. No matter it was the Dancing Team, the School Orchestra or other school teams, everyone put all their effort in the show, hoping to bring delight to the audience as well as enjoy the fun of performing with their teammates during the carnival.

Inside the classrooms, different societies and clubs were holding their own unique booths. Some of them were related to handicrafts, costumes or design, while the others provided stimulating games like throwing the hoops, Kendama Challenge etc. Though the themes and games of the societies varied, the meticulously designed decorations, games and props showed the passion and earnestness of our schoolmates. Of course, every task requires hard work, the carnival is not an exception. Before the event, all student helpers of the clubs and societies had already started their hectic schedule, busy preparing for their own booths. Some of them even stayed up until 6:00 pm for preparation the day before, presenting impressive perseverance.

As the old saying goes, "The fruits of hard work are sweeter than the sweetest of nectars", the students' hard work indubitably paid off. Every guest who took part in the carnival raised their eyebrows, showing their rows of teeth with a curve hanging wide, bringing the students to relish themselves and show genuine grins on their faces as well.

To make the carnival more intense, the Best Booth Competition was held to reward the clubs which designed the most popular and creative booth. Now, let's get to know more about the wonderful experience of the award-winning clubs during the carnival and their impressions on the event.

2 45th School Anniversary Carnival

A: Arts and Design Club Reporter

R: Did you face any difficulties during the preparation period of the School Carnival How did you overcome them?

Difficulties are inevitable, yet we overcame them with cooperation among all the helpers. We experienced many new things in this event as we were not familiar with the technical device such as the lighting equipment and computers. Nonetheless, practice makes perfect, we quickly familiarize ourselves with the tools so as to provide better experience for our guests.

R: On the day of the school carnival, what moment did you find the most unforgettable?

The school carnival was an amazing experience for both the guests and us. The most heartwarming moment came when our school janitors flocked to take a photo, in which we saw the friendly and talkative side of our hardworking janitors. It was one of the highlights of the day. I could feel that we are in solidarity and our school is the best better place.

R: What was the theme of your booth? How was your booth related to the school anniversary? How did the theme represent your club?

Our theme was light painting. We set up long exposure time of our camera, allowing guests to "draw" with light in the photo. We wanted to celebrate our school anniversary with the guests in a joyful and artistic way so we used light to spread happiness. Therefore, light painting is an aesthetic and fun way to express our fruitful feeling in honouring our school history.

R: What was the response from the guests or viewers?

Overall speaking, we received positive responses from all visitors and we were overwhelmed. They were overjoyed at the photos as they captured beautiful moments with the magical light painting. They were highly satisfied with the quality of the photos and we were happy to serve them.

R: How would you improve?

Although we had a wonderful day in the carnival, we still strive for excellence as we believe there's always room to improve. We can do better in resources and labour management. We should recruit more helpers, create a more precise timetable and lengthen the lunchbreak to improve our performance. We sincerely hope for a joyous and better carnival day in the coming years.

Apart from the Best Booth Competition, a Photo Competition was also organized in the carnival. Below is the champion, 4A Lee Tsing Yan's viewpoints about her brilliant piece of work.

Lee Tsing Yan Angela Reporter

R: How did you feel when you received the

It was really out of my expectation to be awarded the Champion because other candidates' works were also outstanding!

Reporter: I wonder if there is a link between your work and your experience in True Light. Would you mind telling us where your inspiration came from?

All the booths showed their uniqueness by an array of delicately designed activities. At the same time, our students gave their concerted efforts in the carnival, using diverse ways to attract our guests. The large variety of activities in the carnival together with our schoolmates' different personalities are in line with our colourful school wall. It is iconic and reminds me of the school.

R: What visual elements have you applied?

They were very simple! One of the elements was one-point perspective to increase spatial depth. This made the composition more complex and interesting. Besides, I used a software to tone the color of the photo. Vibrant and warm colours were applied, aiming at producing a harmonious and cheerful atmosphere.

R: How would you improve?

I do think my work still has some inadequacies, including the presentation of the theme and the composition of the photo. I will spend more time on these two aspects to produce better work matching the theme.

The carnival was a great success, but it would not have been a triumph without the help and cooperation of all students, teachers, staff and janitors. Hence, be proud of ourselves for every single contribution that we made during the fair and keep it up by devoting ourselves and manifesting the True Light spirit.



▲TLGC students told visitors how to play the booth game.

Show within the shows

5D Avery Wong Hei Ching Ching In The Inch





AStudents performed some extracts from the musical "Casting" during the 45th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service Ceremony on

▲ Students performed some extracts from the musical "Casting" during the 45th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service Ceremony on May 4.

This year marks the school's 45th anniversary. What makes it extra-ordinary is the production of our musical named "Casting". It has sparked speculations as it's sharply different from our school's previous shows. Showcasing students' talents is an integral part of the musical, but what makes it more remarkable is its theme - exploring light. The musical enables audiences to understand more about our school culture and students' aspirations, but do you know what it is about?

To be staged on July 11, the musical focuses on exploring "light" in our daily lives. There are multiple meanings of "light" and everyone interprets it differently, such as prestige, fame or glory. Searching for its true meaning comes from the fierce competition between several actresses in the casting – selecting the best person for the leading actress in the show. Every candidate tries her best to fight for this role, and therefore there are so many different strands to the plot. Some fight for personal success, whereas others compete for fame. Later on, some characters hope to make their dreams come true. The whole selection process mirrors our daily lives – fighting for survival.

4) Casting in the Musical

Characters in the casting also ask themselves if this competition is worth the effort. They have to spend a long time on competing for the leading role. However, there is only one winner, so what it means is others will lose. To win this role, will they have a cunning plan or launch into a verbal attack on others? Will they betray their friends? How will they feel when their friend wins the competition? The show is full of personal struggle as these characters will face challenge like mutual trust, jealousy and family pressure. They also suffer an identity crisis as they need to be mentally tougher to survive or do something mischievous, but this seems to be what they don't want. The show will surely elicit response from its audiences who have similar life experiences. What makes "Casting" more intriguing is its underlying theme – your right to choose. The musical director Mr Henry Fong said: "Do you choose your life or does life choose you? It's not in our hands. If people have the right to select, they should consider what will result as they have to be responsible for their own decisions. To me, I'm always humble and honest. It's my hope that everyone can make their best contributions to the world."

This show will not happen without our students and the production team. The renowned musician Mr Ng Cheuk-yin made wonderful music for our show; it's Mr Fong who composed the script, which was later translated by theatre artist Ms Jarita Wan. Other than paying attention to such fantastic music and dance, don't forget our students who have sacrificed a considerable amount of time and effort on preparing, rehearsing and performing the show. Practice is hard work, but the time seems valuable as everyone works hard together to show the best to the audiences. It's showtime for True Light Girls' College, and everyone simply wants to create the brightest light to every audience.



5D Avery Wong Hei Ching, Karis Chow

Have you ever thought about being a musician? What would you do if you want to thrive in the industry? Mr Ng Cheukyin, the composer of our school's 45th Anniversary Musical, spoke to us about his thoughts on making music creatively and professionally.

"Being an artist and a professional musician is not the same," said Mr Ng. "To be an artist, you can create any great works. But if you want to be a professional musician, you need to sharpen your skills to deal with different kinds of situations in your field."

When asked how to sharpen his techniques, he said his greatest tip is to practise. This is what makes hands-on experience so important. "If you're a professional musician, you can't always rely on inspiration which always comes to my mind all of a sudden. Then what can you do if you need to produce something in a limited time? You have to treat it as a part of your practice. Sometimes I take jobs like composing songs although I don't really like it. However, there are certain techniques you have to use in such music production process. That's where you can develop your craftsmanship," he said.

Mr Ng, a renowned music director, producer and composer in Hong Kong, started his musical journey as a teenager. "The 'journey' wasn't very dramatic. I learnt how to play and make music when I was young, and a lot of hours spent practicing. Everyone has experienced it, which is nothing special and different from other musicians I believe."



Graduated from the Department of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Mr Ng became Hong Kong Sinfonietta's first Artist Associate and won multiple music awards in the city. His works range from chamber and orchestral works to electronic music; from rock music to musicals; from choral works to pop songs and music for crossover bands and ensembles. His works have been performed by artists and groups all over the world.

▲ Mr Ng Cheuk-yin is a renowned musician in Hong Kong.

6 Talented Ng Cheuk-yin

You may be impressed with the musicians' lifestyles as they seem to "enjoy" flexible working hours and be able to pursue their dreams, but Mr Ng treats his music career in a unique way. "It's a fact that many musicians can plan their own schedules, but don't forget you need to get your jobs done. And it's actually never easy. What you can do is to develop effective time management skills. Learn to prioritise your work and stay focused. I used to stay in my studio for two consecutive months so I wouldn't be distracted easily."

Mr Ng said it was essential to strike a balance between your own thoughts and public interest if you want to crave a career in the Hong Kong music industry. "Being a musician in the city requires a certain amount of time and effort to be given to artistic endeavours. Sometimes not many people appreciate your work, don't be disappointed. You've learnt from the whole music production process. You can try to understand what people want, and make music in a way that satisfies everyone's interests, including yours."

Many young people have complained that the prospects in Hong Kong as a music maker are not promising as you need to have a lot of connections. The market appears to be dominated, too. Mr Ng recommends these young people to focus more on the quality of their music. "Sometimes many youngsters have complained why it's difficult to enter the industry, but what they should do is to fine-tune their music. Take note of the music in other countries, and if you can, try to work with different kinds of artists who will give you a lot of eye-opening experiences," Mr Ng said.

Mr Ng's dedication to music is undeniable. It's time for you to start practising, crave your own path and inspire others.



A Quir och - II

▲ Our school's musical composer Mr Ng Cheuk-yin (left) talked to student reporters about his thoughts on making music.

▲ TLGC students Karis Chow (from left) and Avery Wong interviewed our school's musical composer Mr Ng Cheuk-yin (right).

Do you have Tiger Parents? Do
your parents ask you to study until midnight
and play at least five musical instruments? Do they
compel you to get excellent results (if not straight As) in
your HKDSE exams and enter top universities? Have you thought
about chasing your own dreams? Raising children in a traditional
Chinese way – putting great pressure on children to be academically and
professionally successful – has been hotly debated as it is commonly thought
that this will damage children's ability to create, make decision and cope with
problems. So what is the best for children?

Parentingwar between the Bast and the Wests A success of parents or children?

5D Karis Chow

It's time to explore the differences between Chinese and Western parenting styles. In mainland China and Hong Kong, it's not surprising to see parents who spend a considerable amount of money and time on their children. They think it's worth the effort which will make their children thrive in academic and professional fields. Carmen Lau-Clayton in Contemporary British Chinese Parenting: Beyond Cultural Values said that "Chinese parents placed greater emphasis on obedience, proper conduct, moral training and the acceptance of social obligations, as opposed to the development of children's independence, assertiveness and creativity". This indicates the social hierarchy that children must respect and obey their parents' orders. It's also considered by many parents that "knowledge can change fate", so they have been "pushing" their children to be perfect everywhere. What most parents have done seems to pave the way for their children's success, but is it what their children want? Can they choose their own path in life? However, Western parents appear to encourage their children to be independent mentally and financially. Lau-Clayton pointed out that "within Western societies, independence, individual achievement, personal growth and the rights of the individual is emphasised. The role of parents then, is to help children acquire self-sufficiency, self-direction, and decision-making abilities". Western parents place great emphasis on the development of children's independence, confidence and creativity. Such Western parenting style stands in sharp contrast



Both parenting styles differ significantly from each other, so what do you choose? Some people consider choosing the Chinese one as there is good hope that their children can eventually find a good job and give back to family. However, a South China Morning Post's article reported that a Chinese "tiger mum" compelled her 9-year-old son to study more than 16 hours every day, do you think the son will like it? Will he enjoy his childhood and explore what he wants? When his mum arranges everything for him, will he have time and space to rest? Conversely, the Western parenting style encourages children to be independent, what would happen if they don't do anything in their childhood? Will they show their gratitude and respect for their parents?

A survey of 20 Form One to Form Five students of True Light Girls' College in April found that all of them selected the Western parenting style. They said they were stressed as they had a lot of homework, tests and exams; they believed they had to perform brilliantly as a result of a competitive education system and their parents' expectations. However, a Form Four student surnamed Wong said the best way was to combine these two different parenting styles.

"Parents should play the role as instructors instead of 'controllers'," Wong said. "When children are still young, parents can give stricter instructions to children. This is understandable because they aren't experienced so they don't know what to do. However, when they get older, parents can provide guidance on how to select their path in life, rather than compelling them to do what they don't want."

Every parenting style is different, and each parent has their own way to raise their children. But if you haven't listened to your children, it's worth spending some time on this valuable part. This is certainly a good way of understanding each other.



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▲ Chan Yan-yan (6A) (third right) won the Hope For Success Scholarship Grand Winner Prize 2017.

How do you manifest your dream into reality with actions and career planning? Read the response from our winning dreamers of the Hope For Success programme.

Hope For Success is an award programme that rewards students who try their best to pursue their own dreams with a worthy scholarship. It was founded in 2014 by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in cooperation with Prudential. Students are required to present their dreams and their planning in multiple rounds of interviews in which the panel judges rate and select students to enter the next round according to their commitment and performance. Workshops and training sessions were provided to enrich the participants' experience and sharpen their skills that would aid their future careers in the areas of interview skills, presentation skills and body language.

In September 2017, 20 students were awarded the Hope For Success Scholarship, along with the 6 Grand Winners of the previous year. Among the 26 students, five were our students from True Light, including one Grand Winner from 2016 and one Gold Awardee from 2017. As the sole Grand Winner from our school, Chan Yan Yan from 6A has a lot of valuable experiences to share with us.

"I was honored to receive this award as it represented recognition of my hard work and commitment to my dreams by the panel judges," said Yan, the awardee of a scholarship of \$30,000. "I believe the result was due to my clear goals and career planning, and my steadfast dedication in persisting through the process of pursuing my dreams."

Unlike the 2017 participants, who only joined the programme for a short period of time in summer, Chan Yan Yan persisted through a year-long process of goal setting and carrying out her career planning. "The programme is meant to help aspiring students to bring their dreams to reality and overcome the obstacles encountered on their way through guiding them to setting and achieveing goals step by step to achieve them. The year-long programme motivates us to put our thoughts into actions and keep our promises."

Yan's dream is to be a physicist. Through the project, she has solidified her dream and obtained related experiences. "I always knew I want to participate in scientific research, the programme pushed me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to join more external programmes." She mentioned the activities she joined were in alignment with the "Goal Achievement" section of the dream presentation. "I went to university talks and museum visits. One of the major events I joined was the HKAGE Enhancement

Programme for Gifted Students in Physics (2016-17), which allowed me to join university lectures and tutorials. It was an experience based outside of secondary school curriculums, giving me a wider perspective and some friends with similar interests!"

"At school, our goals are mostly based on our academic results and in-school achievements, whereas the programme values our external participation in extra-curricular activities." This difference in perspective is really a distinctive beneficial feature of the programme. "I'm really amazed to meet all these extremely hard-working people with fiery interests and eagerness to pursue dreams. All of them have rich talents and outstanding empowering experiences. It may cause comparison and competition, but it also motivates me to work hard and widen my perspective as I am encouraged to look further than what I can see at present to find my potential and chances of achieving my dreams, "Yan said.

The quality of modesty seems exceptionally important now. "It's important for us not to be too affected by results. Sometimes we may be too aware of what we lack now and how others perform. In this programme, not only did it help me to reaffirm our beliefs and passion in our dreams and to remember why we like them. In the end, it's the process that is satisfying and leads us to our growth."

According to Yan, modesty isn't only crucial in pursuing a dream, but also helping her to enhance her performance in her field of passion. "In scientific research, we do have to know what we lack and bear the quality of self-reflection. It helps us to be detailed and precise in our work. We also have to be tolerant of others' views because scientific research is indeed a collaborative task. Modesty in turn keeps everything in check."

What other quality does she think is important and helping her in making her achievements? "It was probably having clear goals and positioning that helped me the most. I was very focused and knew where I wanted to be. Throughout the programme, I focused on finding out the steps I needed to get there and achieving them. Being focused and dedicated to acting out my plans helped me get closer to my dream and gave me great satisfaction."

As our interviewee said, "If the dream is important to you, you will definitely find a way to motivate yourself to achieve it." From her case, we can easily understand how important it is to plan our steps and implement them in real life. If you want to turn your sky-high dreams into a stunning skyscraping achievement of reality, follow her and take action promptly.

To braid, or not to braid, that is the question 4C Chow Wing Tung, Tsang Tsz Wing

Everyone can tell who we are, why? Two signature braids are symbolic of True Light Girls' College. Every True Light girl has to wear their hair in two braids. This is our tradition and we should be proud of it. But let's face it: why do we need to wear them instead of one braid or a ponytail? Are these braids necessary? Are they a burden to our life?

School rules are school rules. If you study here, you have to follow them. Our school requires us to tie two braids, whereas other three sister schools in Hong Kong have already loosened the uniform policies such as tying a ponytail and braids. They only need to wear them in special occasions such as School Commencement Ceremony. The braided hairstyle is rarely seen in other schools. Not being offensive, but should we abolish our tradition of keeping two braids in a changing world? Is our school tradition that irreplaceable?

Traditions can be a burden. Probably you've developed a routine of waking up, dressing up, having breakfast and going to school. But wait, we need to tie our braids. For every True Light Girls' College student, braiding is an essential part of their daily routine. It takes time and effort to accomplish, especially for students whose hair is relatively short.

What makes us more stressed is the way other people look at us. They recognise us as True Light girls by our braids and expect us to be well-behaved students. What they do seems to put pressure on us. Another example is to wear your braids during inter-school competitions. It's never convenient to do sports with two braids. When these two braids make you easily recognisable, you can be stressed and this may affect your performance. Do you want to "lose face" and harm your school's reputation?

We have been hotly debating whether we should keep this tradition. Some people think these two braids are very symbolic as they indicate our identity clearly, but others prefer more freedom to choose their own hairstyles.

Despite these disparate views, it is undeniable that the two braids are an integral part of True Light Girls' College as they identify who we are. These braids mirror our school's principles of discipline, independence and sense of responsibility. During the Form One Orientation Day, True Light girls are taught to tie their braids. This is to ensure that every one of them is able to tie by themselves. With an emphasis on tidiness and orderliness, the braids remind us of our special identity.

The braids recorded countless years of history, witnessed the growth of True Light girls from one generation to the other and, most importantly, represented our school's faith to preserve the traditions.

Braiding is a good way to assert and celebrate the individuality of True Light girls as it highlights our bravery and capability of overcoming barriers. Even though it is such an arduous task – we have to detangle our hair first, divide our hair into three sections and cross the left (right) section over the middle section – it enables us to show our perseverance and commitment to our school. The braids now provide us with an iconic image that we can become more resilient in any situations. The braids are therefore iconic, reflecting the capabilities and characteristics of True Light girls.

You will not forget now in every morning True Light girls will still be their braids though they are in such a hurry to go to school and tie their braids. We are proud of keeping this a tradition as it is our memory. Years pass by, maybe we will forget everything we have learnt from this school, but our two iconic braids will still blossom in our memory.



▲ All students at True Light Girls' College need to braid.



▲ The 2017 Form 1 Orientation Day showed students how to braid.



▲ Guangzhou True Light Middle School's student's hairstyle (left) contrasts the TLGC's.



▲ Teacher Chan KK (from left), students and Principal Tam Kimhung showed how to operate the 3D Food Printing Machine in the Cookery Room.

▲The STEM Education Centre shows student works such as The Green Mech.

In the 21st century, the elements of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are prevalent in our daily lives, from medicines, cars, houses, to the smartphones. To keep up with the global scientific and technological development, STEM education has been promoted in Hong Kong. In light of highlighting the brand new facilities and courses at True Light Girls' College, does STEM education play a vital role in our personal and academic development?

Some people question the importance of STEM education as they think that the STEM-related knowledge is already covered in the curriculums of science, computer and maths. Unlike humanities and business studies, STEM education is a cross-curricular subject which can't be easily learnt by just simply



▲ Principal Tam Kim-hung (left) and other students introduced the STEM Education Centre.

reading textbooks. In fact, hands-on learning activities beyond classrooms, like conducting experiments and creating electronic products, require students to integrate their skills into their daily lives, and therefore nurture their creativity and spark their innovation. Scientific endeavours involve numerous challenges, so students would unleash their potentials in finding solutions and ways to improve. As can be seen, STEM education places a great emphasis on the innovation spirit, problem-solving skills and sense of accomplishment.

Acknowledging the importance of hands-on experience of STEM education, True Light Girls' College organised multiple extra-curricular activities, including the 'mBot project' and 3D printing workshops. Students in these events could experience hands-on experiments and be skilled in science and technology. For example, the smart home model in the STEM education centre shows how technology is beneficial to our daily lives. Automation in lighting, air-conditioning and heating system has made our lives easier and more comfortable.

Apart from equipping students with practical scientific and technogloical skills, STEM education will cultivate their soft skills in the knowledge economy. STEM education encourages group projects, so students need to cooperate, communicate and reach a compromise to overcome multiple difficulties they encounter. As well as developing interpersonal skills, students can learn from each other and make new friends. It is evident that STEM education fosters our personal growth as when we know how to get along with others through a number of group projects.

Although some remain skeptical about the effectiveness of STEM education, the government has provided each school with the HK\$200,000 grant since the 2016-17 school year to promote "STEM-related learning activities/projects". With this grant, our school has made a special effort to integrate STEM education into our school and curriculum. Have you visited the STEM Education Centre during the 45th School Anniversary Carnival in December 2017? This centre is fully equipped with innovative facilities like 3D printers and scanners, which encourage students to spark their innovation and apply their scientific and technological knowledge to everyday life. Apart from learning how to operate robots, drones and other scientific materials, students are able to develop their STEM-related knowledge in an enjoyable way.

Taking all aspects into account, the advantages of STEM education outweigh the drawbacks. Despite some limitations ranging from resources to funding, STEM education helps equip students with scientific and technological skills, and encourages them to apply them to our daily lives. In addition, STEM education is also in line with our school motto "Thou Art the Light of the World": the pragmatic skills and knowledge students acquire will make them "brighter" and their contributions will shine through in our community.

Guess what? I am currently lounging at the Starbucks in my neighborhood. Talk about being coincidental. Despite the argument of caffeine being detrimental, each store of the overpopulated coffee chain still caters for an average of 750 customers on a daily basis. I would say the handcrafted beverages of the coffeehouse are in fact irresistible, swirls of eccentric flavored syrups mingling with the conventional aroma of coffee beans, toppled with cream and sauce and sprinkles, that is what one calls 'a burst of creativity'. When the factor of taste buds being tantalized is being exempted, health advocates would turn up one by one with reasoning on how caffeine is deleterious to our well-being. I believe we are accustomed to hearing the inimical effects of the stimulant. On one hand, it is authentically true. On the other hand, that is not always the case.

Caffeine is associated with cardiovascular irregularities at all times, ranging from anomalous heart rate to fatal heart attacks, it inflicts great impact on the blood-pumping structure. Dr. Lucio Mos, a cardiologist at Hospital of San Daniele del Friuli in Udine, Italy, came to conclusion that young adults diagnosed with remote hypertension were 4 times at risk of having an embolism if they were invited to 4 cups of coffee while relatively moderate drinking were 3 times periled.

There is also the notorious 'bone caffeine connection'--the interrelationship between excessive swilling of caffeine and the possibility of being exposed to the danger of bone fractures. It is incumbent upon heavy drinkers to note that the more one guzzles the stimulant, the more that one excretes; the more one excretes, the larger amount of calcium is expelled from the body. When human is low on calcium, bone becomes frail and is easily dismantled.

Veracious as it is to say drinking coffee stains our personal health records, but by shifting the conventional perception, shedding the regular viewing on coffee, a higher calling can be found through consumption.

When the aid assisted by caffeine on our respiratory system is discussed, how many of us know about it? Asthma, a disease that 235 millions of the entire humanity are battling with, can be ward off by consuming caffeine. The energizer is akin to Theophylline, a drug no stranger to Asthma patients since it is often prescribed to relieve symptoms like wheezing, breathlessness and coughing. A mere amount of it can already enhance lung function according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. At low dose, less than 5mg/kg body weight, the performance of the organ is shown to have enhanced to up to two hours after intake.

On top of that, the Alzheimer's could be fended off. The more coffee one chugs, the stronger their power of retention is. The University of South Florida has conducted an experiment on mice to observe how caffeine corresponds with the mind. When rodents bred to develop traits of Alzheimer's disease (please do ignore how immorally it sounds for a split second) were given caffeine, an amount equivalent to 5 cups of coffee per day, the memory impairment of the subjects was scrubbed over the course. The atypical levels of protein related to dementia sagged in the presence of the medium tested. For the sake of memory consolidation, caffeine addicts now carry an extra excuse to quaff coffee.

It is always good to know that there are in-house washrooms in most cafes. Since coffee is diuretic, it is a plus for the drink to not only increase bowel movement, but also dilute urine. "Our study showed a dose-dependent protective effect of caffeine consumption on all-cause mortality among patients with CKD [Chronic Kidney Disease]." Dr. Miguel Bigotte Vieira of Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte shared his discovery with MedicalResearch.com. In his stupendous 217,883 person research, juxtaposing ones that did not consume caffeine with those who did, the latter participants were proved to have less kidney stones. What a pleasant news to know about that.

As the article comes to nearly the end, I am only halfway through my mug of coffee. Resonance of splintered objects sounds from a near distance, captivating my attention from the computer screen. A lady has dropped her change onto the floor, coins venture in all directions, bronze and silver pennies run like rivulets, ripples and sparkles under the coffeehouse's fluorescent light. One accelerates into my way. 'Tail,' I mused. It slows down and pivots before me, each spin it takes is sedater than the previous one. Eventually it lands flat onto the ground. The bauhinia flower flashes with pride, proving my estimation wrong. Well, I guess a coin has two sides.



▲ Chocolates come in different colors; caffeine comes in different products.



▲ Caffeine is highly accessible in modern days.

My Fair Lady George Cukor Chee Ka Ka 5A

What English accent do you have? Imagine you were a girl with a strong Cockney accent. In professor Henry Higgins's eyes, you must be poor with low social status. You are probably struggling to climb up the social ladder as well. Poor you! An uneducated person who cannot even speak proper English is discriminated. He believes the accent and tone of one's voice determine a person's prospect in society.

This captivating movie explores the journey of Eliza in which she has grown up a lot. She is the one with a strong Cockney accent. She is a poor flower girl and her ambition is so simple which is working in a flower shop so that she can earn a living but her thick accent is her barrier. Eliza goes through many different forms of speech training from speaking with marbles in her mouth to practising tongue twisters repeatedly. She endures Higgins' harsh training all the time but the progress is so little that both of them are about to give up. Yet she keeps on practicing and begins to speak with an impeccable upper-class accent. The lovely flower girl eventually morphs into a royal, elegant "Hungarian princess".



▲ My Fair Lady was first broadcasted in 1964.

What touches me the most is not the success of Eliza but the action Eliza takes after discovering all these trainings are only due to a bet between Higgins and his friend. She is upset by Higgins's callous treatment and his indifference to her future. Instead of staying beside Higgins, she throws Higgins' slippers at him, and walks out on him, leaving him mystified by her ingratitude. Although her ambition at the beginning was just to have a better accent and work in a flower shop, she was drown into the shallow happiness of success. She did not come crawling back to Higgins without self-respect. She uses actions other than words to prove one thing: she is not bonded with Higgins, she can still be a princess without him. She starts a new life and announces that she can marry another man, Freddy and she is going to have a new career which is to becoming an assistant. People say to girls, you can have ambition, but not too much. You should aim at being successful, but not too successful. Otherwise, you would threaten your beloved man. But Eliza does not listen to those words, she shines ultimately like a diamond. She proves that a woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle.

In the closing scene, Higgins is upset to discover Liza has left him so she returns to his studies to lament his loneliness. At first, he did not respect women and even saw the training as a bet to prove his own talents. He once said, 'I shall not feel alone without you. I can stand on my own without you. I can do bloody well without you!' But without her, he is lost and lonely. He finally admits Eliza's importance and realizes how much she has come to mean to him. I appreciate the way the film focuses on how love changes Higgins. It really takes courage to love but the pain through love is the purifying fire which those who love generously know. We all know people, just like Higgins, who are so much afraid of pain that they shut themselves up like clams and give nothing, receive nothing. Therefore, they shrink until life is a mere living death. Their fear of the cold, cruel world tempts them to build hard shells to protect and isolate themselves by focusing on describing their relationship. The film conveys a message of great friendship and mentorship. They support each other in discovering themselves, reaching beyond themselves as well as enriching their lives and the world together. The delight, intimacy and warmth of love can help us overcome our fear of the world, escape from our lonely shells and engage abundantly in life. Love enriches our whole life indeed.



Reader's Corner — Book Review

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Jonas, is a twelve- year-old boy who resides in a utopian community exempted from war, famine and pain, where the people must adhere to a monotonous daily routine and stern regulation. He is apprehensive about the forthcoming ceremony in which every twelve year old will be assigned a role ranging from an indignified birthmother to a benevolent caretaker, based on their attributes and capabilities. He was chosen as a highly honored Receiver of Memory, the sole keeper of collective memory wiped off from the whole community, and his life deviates from the banality. He receives the memories from the Giver, a wise old man. He starts to discover dark secrets lying beneath the surface of his seemingly flawless world, how people eliminated choices to elude pain and sufferings. Frustrated, he tries to bring back the long lost memories to the people and sets off an unorthodox and arduous journey.

My favourite character is Jonas, apparently, an ordinary young lad who behaves like most kids do but he is more intelligent and sensitive, allowing him to perceive things differently and showing more affection towards others. He receives the memories, both good ones and bad ones. His first one is the touch of snow. The exhilaration of sledding is a brand new experience. Later, the Giver transmits the dreadful memory on battlefield to him. The ravage of war made him feel stunned. He is too young for this tremendous responsibility. The daily simulations made the inquisitive lad not only very sensitive to beauty, pleasure and pain, but also more eager to explore and make changes. He wants to invoke peoples' awareness of the pursuit of a fruitful life. I really appreciate him for being bold and determined to bring emotions, warmth and vibrancy to the dull community. For the sake of awakening the people, he puts his life at risk and starts a perilous journey which is to escape from the community and leave all his memories behind for the people. This is really a bold and selfless act. There are Receivers who end up killing themselves after witnessing all the hideous misdeeds of the authority. This proves that Jonas has strong emotional endurance. His courage, perseverance and adventurous spirit made him a fantastic character.

The story points out the importance of rational thinking. In the story, the people are deprived of memories so they cannot decide what is right or wrong. They simply stick to the rules intuitively, regardless how absurd they are. The elders, constant rule breakers and even one of the identical twins will go through a ritual called 'release'. The authority announced that those released will be going to a



▲ The book was adapted for screen starring Meryl Streep (from left), Brenton Thwaites and Jeff Bridges.

▲ The Giver's book cover

Connie Chu 5A

place with peace to reward their contribution to the community. Jonas finds out the atrocious truth that the 'release' is actually a procedure of euthanasia carried out by altruistic caretakers who know nothing about the conspiracy. Children behaving differently will be reprimanded for not following the rules so it leaves no room for individualism. The norms in the community may not be correct.

The number of people supporting an argument or complying with a prevalent phenomenon has nothing to do with its correctness. That's why we need to think rationally and contemplate the reasons behind before making our choices. Rational thinking is a moral imperative. It allows people to feel confident in the choices they make. Taking what you hear or see with a grain of salt sometimes would make a better choice than blindly believing in what other people say. Delving into the reasons behind and sticking to our own beliefs is the right way to go.



▲ The book was adapted for screen in 2014.

外門房庭成場開創

5A 方潔華 5B 楊穎晶

本校樂施行動組於 2015 年參與了「賽馬會公平貿易獎勵計劃」。在計劃中,樂施行動組的同學以工作坊、講座、體驗活動等積極向家長及同學推廣公平貿易,鼓勵同學成為 負責任的世界公民,用行動支持第三世界的生產者。

其麽是公平貿易?

公平貿易的目的是減少貿易過程中對生產者的剝削,保障發展中國家的農民和工人有合理的工作環境和回報,確保他們的基本需求能得到滿足,讓生產者與商人建立更公平的貿易關係,減低對環境的損害,締造可持續發展的公義社會。

為了解更多關於公平貿易的資料、計劃和相關活動等資料,我們訪問了樂施行動組主席吳卓盈同學及樂施行動組顧問老師鄧月儀老師。

樂施行動組推廣公平貿易的目的及相應行動

樂施行動組從2015年起,開始將推廣焦點放於讓更多家長和同學關心社會中的不公平議題,增加相關知識。

為推廣公平貿易,樂施行動組舉辦的活動很多,當中有針對同學舉行的活動,例如讓同學體驗發展中國家 小農面對的困境的「橙農處境遊戲」,及讓同學身體力行體驗公平貿易的公平貿易食品售賣;亦在每年家長會時 舉辦校園賣物會,和在學校嘉年華期間設置攤位,讓家長和外來人士認識公平貿易。

而且,在每個新學年開始及學年完結時,亦舉行有關公平貿易的前測及後測,以了解活動及宣傳能否有效的向同學推廣公平貿易。

推行公平貿易當中經歷的困難

首先,樂施行動組的規模不大,只有六位幹事,即使擁有來自賽馬會對推廣公平貿易的資助,惜心有餘而力不足,在推廣大型活動時仍感吃力,每次籌辦活動都要耗費幹事大量時間和精力;如在公平貿易產品售賣活動中,因人力微薄,幹事們往往要犧牲整個午膳時間,所以在推廣公平貿易時,人手是其中一個考慮的因素。

令人洩氣的是,即使樂施行動組對推廣公平貿易有莫大的熱誠,總因現實的種種因素而不能如願。如在公平貿易產品售賣活動中,縱使產品種類十分多元化,但畢竟同學的經濟能力有限,即使產品價錢比起市價已經為低,大部分同學都只購買價格相宜的零食,無法對公平貿易產品有全面的認識。而且,雖然公平貿易的推廣機會已不多,但樂施行動組舉辦的活動往往與其他活動舉行的時間相撞,以致活動出席人數不似預期,令活動成效降低,白費老師及幹事的一番心血。

此外,即使樂施行動組希望向師生推廣公平貿易,也因不同原因而受限制。如有關產品不適用、缺乏相關配套等,未能讓師生全面地了解公平貿易。但經過本組過去數年間的努力推廣,本校師生對公平貿易的理念已有相當充分的了解。



▲ 中一級體驗活動──橙農遊戲



▲ 家長日公平貿易食品售賣活動



▲ 樂施行動組的電子易拉架



















▲ 公平貿易的十個原則

顧問老師及學會幹事又如何克服困難呢?

同學的反應是決定活動是否成功的主要因素。因此,在舉辦活動前,幹事會先考慮同學的興趣,如比起靜 態的講座,動態的工作坊、體驗活動或會更能吸引他們參加。而且,在活動前,幹事亦會多做宣傳,如在週會上 宣佈,在各班房裏貼上宣傳單張等,讓更多同學認識活動,希望提高參加人數。

而在籌備活動前,幹事會先考慮舉辦活動的時間是否與其他學校活動或同學的測驗時間相撞,以最大程度 地提高活動出席率,使老師和幹事的一番心血不至浪費。可幸的是,在推行計劃的數年間,同學對公平貿易的認 識更深,對活動的反應也越發積極,使舉辦的活動獲得更積極的反應。

公平貿易獎勵計劃不但讓同學認識公平貿易的概念,也讓他們意識到有不少第三世界的人民正在挨飢抵餓, 風餐露宿,藉此喚起他們的同情心,明白到自己衣食無憂不是必然的事,從而學會知足及感恩。

影響計劃成效的因素

本校樂施行動組在 2015 年首次參與公平貿易獎勵計劃,至今已經累積了三年經驗,顧問老師和幹事在舉辦 活動和推廣公平貿易的時候,確實更得心應手,他們亦相信同學對公平貿易的認識在學期完結時有一定的增加。 然而,樂施行動組的表現並不是唯一決定計劃成效的因素。同學的配合、校方的支持均對計劃推行成功與否有莫 大影響。

同學參與活動的心態與他們最後得來的學習成果密切相關。過去幾年,樂施行動組舉辦了自願參加的活動, 如咖啡渣工作坊、校園賣物會等;同時亦舉辦了全體或部分同學必須出席的講座、體驗活動等。這些活動的目的 無非希望同學認識公平貿易的理念,並建立對農村民眾的同理心,日後繼續支持這項社會運動。假如同學視這些 體驗為一次性活動,過後忘記了活動背後的理念,把焦點模糊,不免浪費了老師、同學舉辦活動的心血。因此, 在享受活動過程之餘,同學也應謹記所學,才能有更深刻的體會。

學校在公平貿易獎勵計劃中所扮演的角色亦十分重要。樂施行動組近幾年致力推廣公平貿易,成效雖然不 俗,但學會顧問老師和幹事仍然希望推廣能夠更全面和深入,而學校的支持則能夠助他們一臂之力。除了在預 留週會時間舉辦有關公平貿易的講座外,學校亦有意在教員休息室提供公平貿易食品。除此之外,校方亦能夠 在其他渠道滲入公平貿易一如在聚餐時提供公平貿易飲品和食品、在贈送嘉賓的紀念品中加入公平貿易產品等。 相信樂施行動組與校方緊密合作之下,能夠讓真光的同學和老師進一步認識公平貿易,在消費的同時支持可持續 發展和公義。

結語

公平貿易既是社會運動,也是一種寶貴的教育資源,從全球化、自由貿易和平等公義等角度認識身為消費 者的責任。在種種限制與困難下,本校樂施行動組仍能夠取得頗為理想的推廣成效,讓一眾同學在不同程度上認 識了支持公平貿易的原因和途徑。在此,我們希望樂施行動組能夠累積更多經驗,得到師生和校方的支持,令計 劃的推行更臻完善。

什麽是全球暖化?

地球表面由大氣層所包圍,就像溫室的透明玻璃,在陽光照射地球時,有防止 地面熱量散失的功能,使地面溫度不會下降太快,地表年均溫度因此能保持在攝氏 15 度左右,此現象即稱為「溫室效應」。若無溫室效應,來自陽光的能量會很快 地釋放出去,地球也將成為冰冷的世界。

溫室效應本是有利人類的存在,可是自十八世紀工業革命後,各種溫室氣體如 二氧化碳、甲烷等的濃度大幅上升。燃燒化石燃料、砍伐林木等人類活動,無一不 加劇了溫室效應,導致全球整體氣溫上升,最終引致全球暖化。

全球暖化帶來的主要影響

1. 冰川融化、海平面上升

由於海洋溫度升高,格陵蘭、南極等冰川開始融化,海平面也會隨之上升。一 些沿海地區可能會被淹沒,而全球主要人口生活於沿海地區,馬爾代夫等島國更將 遭受「滅頂」之災,可見影響之大。

2. 損害生物多樣性

海洋由於吸收大氣中過多的二氧化碳,令海水酸性增加,危及到海洋生物的繁 殖和發展,令海洋生態系統面臨崩潰的威脅。此外,一些生活在寒冷地區的物種, 如北極熊、企鵝等,也會因未必能適應溫度上升而死亡,許多物種會加速滅絕的步 伐。

3. 危害人類生存

氣溫上升導致細菌滋生速度加快,每年因氣候變化導致瘧疾、傳染病而死亡的 人數將會持續增加,對公共衞生造成嚴重威脅。而海平面上升也會造成地下水污染 的問題,威脅各地人民的健康。最重要的是,稻米是人類的主要食糧之一。可是稻 米對於溫度的改變十分敏感,平均氣溫過高會嚴重影響稻米的生長,導致稻米失收 的情況,大大危害到人類的生存。

5B 楊穎晶



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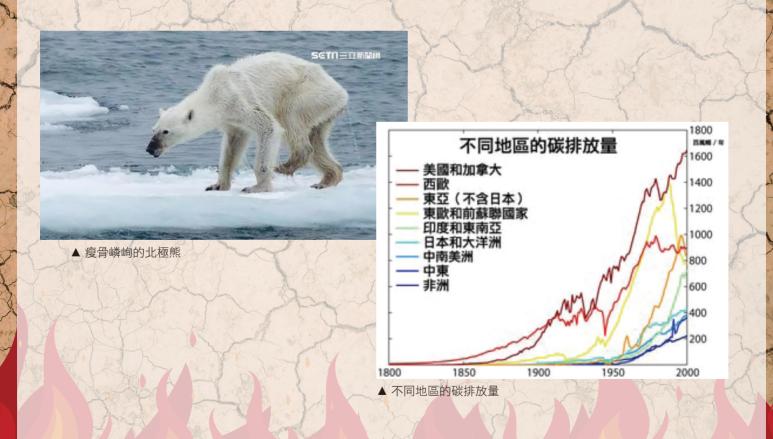
消除全球暖化——全球協作

在 2006 年的紀錄片《絕望真相》中,道出人類因過度開發及使用化石燃料,導致嚴峻的氣候問題。而在片中提及的冰川溶化,各種極端天氣現象,物種滅絕的災難,在這十二年期間,已從熒幕上的「災難」變成屢見不鮮的新聞。國家都深知單靠一己之力無法解決氣候問題,只有合作才能對應刻不容緩的氣候問題。但在全球協作初期,國與國之間卻未能達成共識。在 2009 年的「哥本哈根氣候會議」中,各國都將本國利益置於環境之上,在會議結束前,南非、巴西、印度、美國、中國五國首腦無法就解決氣候問題的具體措施達成共識,只能達成一份毫無法律約束力,且不能獲得會議各國一致認同的聲明。

但隨著氣候問題越發嚴重,及各國人民對國家之間不願合作而觸發的示威抗議,各國開始意識到只有合作才能解決氣候問題的燃眉之急。於是,在 2015 年,聯合國氣候峰會在法國巴黎敲定旨在解決全球暖化問題的全球性協定,簡稱《巴黎協定》。富國和窮國終於達成共識,都承諾致力抑制不斷增加的溫室氣體排放量,並設定廣泛長期目標,要在本世紀達成零排放的目標。雖然峰會中通過的方案尚有美中不足之處,但對於解決全球暖化問題已邁出了一大步。

雖然如此,但在《巴黎協議》中,限制全球溫度升幅在 1.5 度至 2 度之間的實質目標,以及阻止自然災害發生的長遠目標,始終需要國與國之間的合作,亦需要不同的非政府組織、私營企業和各國人民為解決氣候問題出一分力。「亡羊而補牢,未為遲也。」各國應將環境保護置於本國利益之上,以解決這個不但影響我們這一代,更會禍延至後代的問題。

事實上,不是國家才有能力為解決氣候問題做出貢獻。不少環保團體為解決全球暖化問題提議 了某些有效方法,如倡導使用生物柴油、風能、太陽能、電動車等。甚至在日常生活中,只要我們 珍惜資源,對全球暖化這個關乎人類存亡的問題加以關注,其實已經為幫助地球出了一分力。



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"Me Too" 運動

對施暴者的控訴? 受害者的解脫?

5B 林詩敏 5C 梁韵琦



▲ 參與 #Metoo 運動名人登上紐約時代

2017年10月,知名荷里活電影製作人哈維·溫斯坦 性侵事件引起全球 嘩然,不少荷里活女星站出來表示自己 有相似經歷,從而掀起了#MeToo 熱潮。數以百萬計的人 們響應這項反性侵、反性騷擾運動,紛紛在不同的社交網 絡如 Twitter、Instagram 等公開被侵犯的不愉快經歷,以向 大眾顯示這種罪行的普遍性。然而,這項運動掀起的不但 有熱潮,同時也有爭議。

這項運動首先在美國荷里活興起,不少知名男演員、 導演、製作人等紛紛被揭發曾對女性進行性騷擾或性侵犯。 在運動的發酵下,被控訴的男性都受到了全球的口誅筆伐。 如哈維 · 溫斯坦不但被美國製片人協會開除, 更面臨警方 調查。而另一位受檢控的荷里活男星詹姆斯 · 法蘭克, 剛 憑電影《災難藝術家》(The Disaster Artist) 奪得金球獎影 帝榮譽後,接踵而來的不是讚美,而是因被揭露醜聞而得 來的批評。被控訴的施暴者大多都身敗名裂,為他們衣冠 禽獸的作為付出代價。但當 #MeToo 運動發展到後期, 輿 論不再只是譴責施暴者,人們轉而思考這些一面之詞的可 信程度。有網民認為,「施暴者」或會變成「受害者」。

在香港,2017年末運動員呂麗瑤控訴教練在她13歲 時對她進行性侵犯的事件,引起不少討論。有網民質疑她 當時為何不報警,又為何要在接近十年之後才揭露事件。 而涉事教練在未經警方調查、控罪的情況下已遭解僱,故 此也有網民認為教練才是「受害者」。#MeToo 運動讓人爭 議之處,首先在於提出控訴的受害者會被懷疑作出片面之 詞。縱使事件未經查證,但他們所控訴的人則會立刻被貼 上「施暴者」的標籤,導致聲名狼藉。其次,不少人認為 女性不會用損害自身清譽的方式來誣告他人,故傾向相信 這些控訴大多是真實的,容易造成「三人成虎」的情況,





▲ 有關 #Metoo 運動的示威



可見 #MeToo 運動有其不足之處。

但#MeToo 引起的反應是好是壞?往好處想,這項運動的盛行讓受害者有一個正常渠道講述自己不愉快的經歷。發聲者用親身經歷提醒女性要保護自己,亦提醒了家長更要多留意自己的孩子。各地政府也可響應此次活動,設立更完善的求助配套措施幫助受害者度過難關。

同時,女性被非禮或者被性侵的情況在香港不罕見,但眼見外國社交網絡 #MeToo 盛行,相反,我們很少見到亞洲國家的女性響應。有沒有想過,為甚麼這麼少人願意說出來?

在人民思想比較傳統保守的亞洲地區,包括香港,多數受害者因為害怕面對社會輿論以及指責,或擔心報警時警察的質疑或尋根究柢的追問,令她們只得將苦楚往肚子裡吞,甚至產生「自己不會得到幫助」的想法。這種恐懼正是令女性閉口啞忍的原因。運動員呂麗瑤就是一個活生生的例子,她在社交網絡公開不愉快經歷後,立刻被指責當年沒有即時報案求助。

此外,從受害者的角度來看,報案求助會對她們造成心理壓力以及傷害。報警、上庭指證被告,對性侵受害者來說是困難的,因為她們要將自己的傷痛暴露於眾人的目光之下。例如她們在法庭內向眾人反覆講述受害經歷。「去醫院要講一次、對著警察又講幾次,去到法庭又要講幾次,不斷重覆自己受傷害的沉痛經歷」,這種想法只會令受害者卻步,不敢向外界求助。

#MeToo 運動出現的原因,就是因為不論在香港還是歐美國家,處理性侵的「正常渠道」令受害者失去信心,亦令他們感到求助無門。因此,社會各界人士應以正面、理性的態度看待這項運動,給予鼓勵,讓未求助的受害者勇敢面對傷痛。

一襲藍色的旗袍校服讓真光學生予人一種端莊而淳樸的感覺。普遍人認為它是我校學生的身份象徵,一些初來乍到的新生亦會有同樣看法,但事實上,它還象徵我國衣飾文化的傳承。身穿旗袍的真光女兒擔當著火炬手的角色,肩負起薪火相傳的重大使命。

旗袍起源於民國時期,是國家級非物質文化遺產之一,享負中國國粹之美譽。傳統旗袍兩邊開衩,右衽採半開襟形式,立領盤紐,擺側開衩,採用修腰的貼身設計,意在凸顯女性的柔和美與曲線美。傳統手工旗袍工序極為繁複,又極考驗工匠的針織技巧及手藝,從剪裁到縫紉,都費盡時間心血,一針一線都滿載著工匠對旗袍工藝的熱誠與情懷。縱然科技的進步為旗袍的製作帶來便利,但仍有工匠堅持百分百人手製作並採用傳統技法,務求令傳統工藝代代相傳,只可惜事與願違,隨著旗袍熱潮退卻,傳統旗袍工藝亦逝於時光荏苒之中。



▲ 創新旗袍

旗袍校服彷彿成為傳統旗袍工藝留下的最後一點足跡。早於三十年代,香港真光中學突破性地選用藍色旗袍作為校服,自此掀起一股學界熱潮,不少學校如雨後春筍般紛紛以藍色旗袍作為校服。與此同時,顏色方面卻一改傳統。民國時期,傳統旗袍多以白色為主,但基於藍色染料的耐用性較高,真光的旗袍校服以湛藍色為主調,糅合創新與傳統於一身。我校的旗袍校服在款式方面亦保留了傳統旗袍的特色,兩邊開衩,右衽半開,腰側以拉鍊開合,修身的設計將女性的柔美演繹得淋漓盡致。

近年,旗袍的樣式、設計越趨西方化, 傳統美淹沒在創新熱潮之中。藍色旗袍校服 儼然成了傳統服飾中的一股清流,向傳統旗 袍工藝致敬之餘,亦有助弘揚中國國粹,傳 承中華文化,成為劃時代的共同回憶。現今 世上,傳統旗袍工匠已寥寥無幾,最年輕的 亦已年屆七十,在創新與時尚的洪流中,旗 袍校服便是那逆流而上的先鋒,是努力將薪 火延續的火炬手。



▲ 傳統旗袍

此時此刻,你我身上那一襲湛藍色的旗袍,又豈止只是身份的象徵?願所有真光女兒都能將這薪火傳遞下去。



5A 方潔華

「真光女兒盡精英黃藍旗飄百代千載不變」書院巾幗皆翹楚桃李花開四秩晉五盛放」

記得某天早上, 甫進校門, 便看見校園多了兩道長約六層樓的對聯。 這副對聯的三十二個字氣勢磅礴地迎接我校四十五週年的校慶, 亦為真光 校舍多添一分文藝色彩。

對聯,又稱對子,是源遠流長的中國文化產物,分上下兩聯,偶有橫幅,需講究音調、內容、格式等等,自有一番考究。這種古老的中國文學品類流傳至今,仍然隨處可見,甚至傳到了越南,它的歷史發展以及當中學問,均頗有意思。

歷史上的對聯

對聯從詩句衍生而來,有指中國最早出現對聯是五代十國後蜀君主孟 昶之作,但這屬真屬偽,已經再難追溯查探了。而張貼春聯的緣由,又另 有故事。傳聞明太祖朱元璋酷愛對聯,下令百姓除夕前必須在門上貼春聯, 他微服出巡時便可逐戶觀賞。他發現有一家門戶上沒有貼上春聯,在查問 下,原來主人以殺豬為業,並不識字。太祖於是親自揮毫為主人家寫下一 聯一「兩手分開乾坤路」一刀截斷是非根」——這成為當時一段佳話, 並奠定了過節時貼春聯的習俗。

談起對聯,我不禁想起周星馳主演的港產電影《唐伯虎點秋香》。周星馳所飾演的唐伯虎與王晶所飾演的參謀大臣以對對子比拼文學實力,參謀大臣先道出一句「鶯鶯燕燕翠翠紅紅處處融融洽洽」,唐伯虎隨後回以「雨雨風風花花葉葉年年暮暮朝朝」。下聯不太工整,亦難以稱得上是藝術作品,但情節有趣,確能博君一笑。

雖然電影中並未能完全準確顯示古人對對聯的情景,而且不少觀眾或會認為,影視作品中的文人對對聯時你來我往,有如不經思索,並不合理可信。然而,古代的文人雅士十分重視對偶這項文字技巧,經歷長期的訓練和薰陶,在上聯不太複雜的情況下,他們能夠脱口而出,承接下聯,並不是不可能的事。文人間亦流行名叫行酒令的酒席遊戲,先讓眾人推舉一人作令官主持遊戲,然後由令官提出上聯,客人則須「續令」,即是出下聯,內容和形式要符合要求,對不上就要罰酒。可見,對聯在當時文壇和民間中已經相當受重視和普遍了。



對聯佳作

對聯要稱得上好,自有一番學問。上下兩聯不但要對仗工整,更需留意音調是否優美,平仄協調,意思亦要相應,短短幾十字便展示了題聯者的文學造詣。不少佳作均家傳戶曉,而上乘之作的內容更能具備啟發性,或顯奮進之心,或示愛國之意,內容廣泛而雅俗共賞,對聯的藝術實在難得。

「風聲雨聲讀書聲,聲聲入耳;家事國事天下事,事事關心。」這兩句話對大家來說自然不會陌生。這幅對聯出自明朝政治家顧憲成的筆下,置於東林書院。顧憲成作為明末東林黨領袖,哀國政之敗壞,怒閹黨之猖獗,以這幅對聯表現自己作為在野的知識分子,仍一心為國家和社會盡忠的抱負,並希望一眾學者不要埋首書中而忘救國之責。此作佳妙之處不但在於它具形式美、韻律美,背後的胸襟抱負更是啟迪人心。

清代大臣林則徐被貶邊疆時,創作了《赴戍登程口占示家人》兩首七言律詩以告別家人。他回到長沙時,友人向他讚揚左宗棠的才華,林則徐便與他會面。二人暢談天下事,臨別時,林則徐手寫「苟利國家生死以,豈因禍福避趨之」一聯贈予左宗棠,而這兩句正是出自《赴戍登程口占示家人》。他贈左宗棠以這幅對聯,表達自己願意為國家盡心竭力,同時希望勉勵左宗棠,鼓勵他承擔抵禦外敵的重任。後來,左宗棠成為中興名臣,便經常以這兩句話自勉,激勵自己。

各種文學品類均有自身精妙之處,對聯格律整齊,朗朗上口,小小篇幅卻蘊涵哲理、個人感受等內容,難道不是一種令人讚歎的藝術嗎?



▲ 顧憲成筆下的對聯名作



▲ 對聯為方榮深副校長所撰

資料來源:

對聯由來 http://w3.hyps.tp.edu.tw/~hy059/ant02.htm

知乎 — 古人對對聯能否做到「脱口而出」?https://www.zhihu.com/question/20602566

圖片來源:

顧憲成對聯: http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog 4c3ea8090102e6xy.html





從風靡亞洲到不值一提

淺談香港影視業

5B 楊穎晶 5B 林詩敏

香港本土影視業有數十年歷史,曾經製作了不少膾炙人口的影視節目,陪伴港人跨越了不同時代。可惜,如同經歷生老病死的人一般,香港影視業盛極一時,卻後勁不繼;不少評論更認為香港影視業已走上窮途末路。那麼,香港影視業曾經有過什麼輝煌歷史?它又如何陪伴港人走過數十年的歲月呢?

電影業

談起如今的香港電影,大多數人或許支吾了半天也説不出一部電影的名字。但回到二、三十年前,

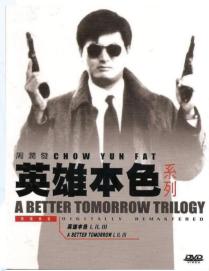
那個香港電影行業的「黃金時代」,無論是電影,或是影星,都曾掀 起整個東南亞的一股熱潮。那個時代的港片和影星,也成了一代人心 中不可磨滅的經典。

回顧那時候的輝煌,人們第一時間會想起了哪些電影和影星?在八九十年代,成龍的警匪槍戰片、周潤發的熱血英雄片,還有周星馳的「無厘頭」喜劇片,成了「港片」的代表。在這段期間,票房冠軍成績從1986年《英雄本色》的3000餘萬上漲到1996年《警察故事4》的5700多萬,當時的電影業,對「黃金時代」這一稱號當之無愧。強大的明星魅力,出色的商業片製作能力,使得香港電影在亞洲,如台灣、新加坡、馬來西亞、泰國等華人社會都獲得了廣泛認同,可說得上是「風靡亞洲」了。現在在東南亞地區,或在日本、韓國,說起港片,談起周潤發、張國榮,也還能得到一片粉絲的呼聲。

但為什麼,香港電影業從以前的無上榮耀,變成現在的默默無聞?

背後種種複雜原因暫且不提。從一個觀影者的角度來說,港片衰落的原因可以總結為四個字:「時代變了」。從電影製作的角度來看,九十年代後期製片成本提升,加上周邊市場如韓國、日本等自身電影產業發展迅猛,港片競爭力早已不如前。而早前培養的電影人才如成龍、周潤發等人亦不再在香港影壇發展,造成青黃不接的現象,香港電影業的衰落正式開始。

説到這裡,就不得不提美國電影。成龍、周潤發等人便是離開香港影壇,前往荷里活發展的最佳例子。 至於香港電影與荷里活電影兩者之中,為何前者已開始式微,而後者依然聲勢浩大?從一個普通觀影者的角度來看,答案呼之欲出。以往的香港電影充滿武打、警匪、喜劇等元素,但除去這些元素,香港電影似乎在其他方面做得並不出彩,只是一直延續著原本的「特色」,一成不變,難再有新意。內在因素加上外在因素,註定了香港電影難有起色。反觀美國電影,直至現在依舊繁榮昌盛,這與其題材繁多、百花齊放、資金充足等因素關係頗大。



▲ 英雄本色



▲警察故事4

電視業

香港電視廣播行業興於 1957 年,由麗的映聲(後名為亞洲電視)先拔頭籌,開創電視廣播的先河。 隨後,電視廣播有限公司(即無線電視)及佳藝電視分別於 1967 年及 1975 年加入。「三國鼎立」的 局面只持續了不到三年,佳視因不惜工本製作電視劇,導致虧損嚴重而倒閉。佳視的倒閉,彷彿為隨後 無線、亞視兩台角力而造就的電視業黃金時代寫下序幕。

要提高競爭力,自然要製作出高質素又符合大眾口味的電視節目。在收視之爭的前期,亞視略勝一籌,先有電視劇《鱷魚淚》與無線《歡樂今宵》播放時段相撞,無線只好加插短劇迎戰;後有鄉土劇《大地恩情》使亞視收視走高,最高點為無線的 1.5 倍,無線迫不得已腰斬《輪流轉》而播出《千王之王》抗敵。九十年代,《再見艷陽天》,《百萬富翁》等節目使亞視升上事業的高峰,亞視的收視率,影響力都和無線不相伯仲,令人交口稱譽。

可惜在 2000 年間,亞視的節目質素不斷下降,後因資金不足而停止製作節目。電視業漸由「兩雄爭霸」變成無線「一台獨大」的局面。當時,提起《尋秦記》、《衝上雲霄》等電視劇時,總能引起一片熱烈討論。此外,港劇開始衝出香港,在新加坡、中國內地等地區也十分吃香。於 2008、2009 年,《溏心風暴》,《宮心計》兩劇都達到了 50 點的收視率,傳為一時佳話。

到了 2016 年,因內外種種問題,亞視不獲通訊管理局續牌,不敵無線電視,但亞視金牌劇集《我和僵屍有個約會》創下的 51 點收視高點,無線至今未能超越。

近年,電視節目對港人的影響大不如前。從觀眾角度而言, 我認為電視業青黃不接的境況主要由兩個因素形成。

第一,缺乏競爭。從無線電視「一台獨大」的局面形成開始, 電視業失去了競爭,自然失去了進步的動力。無線節目的質素每況 愈下。同時,電視節目雖不如以往吸引,但既然電視幾乎是每個家 庭都擁有的,無論如何,總有一定的市民以電視節目作娛樂用途, 不用擔心。久而久之,電視製作不再精益求精,題材無新意,藝員 流失等情況疊加起來,電視劇質素越發差強人意。電視業不復輝 煌,被批「港劇已死」,也是理所當然的事了。

第二個因素則相反 —— 競爭太大。隨著科技的進步和外來文化衝擊,本地電視業的競爭者擴至全世界。中美日韓電視業都放遠目光,將目標觀眾擴至全世界,竭力製作電視節目;但香港的電視業則卻步不前,不思進取。這樣的話,它又如何在不停進步的世界中保持競爭力呢?因此,本地電視的吸引力進一步下降,已成為不可逆轉的趨勢。

香港電影和電視劇曾經是每個港人生活不可或缺的一部分,反 觀如今,本地影視業發展停滯不前,使觀眾一看難忘的影視作品已 不可多得。雖説如此,香港影視業在香港尚有一席之地,不只提供 港人茶餘飯後的娛樂,也是港人珍貴的集體回憶。



▲ 尋秦記



▲ 歡樂今宵



圖片來源:

警察故事 4: http://www.xjsvtc.com/dianying/956.html

歡樂今宵: https://www.symedialab.org.hk/talk/%E6%97%A5%E6%97%A5%E9%99%AA%E4%BC%B4%E4%BD%A0%E7%9A%84%E3%80%8A%E6%AD%A1%E6%A8%82%E4%BB%8A%E5%AE%B5%E3%80%8B/

尋秦記: https://www.myvideo.net.tw/TWM Video/Portal/servlet movie intro1.jsp?packingID=4700&seriesType=3

狀元與醫科之間的微妙關係



七年文憑試狀元幾乎全數希望修讀醫科)

醫科是文憑試狀元以至一眾優異生的寵兒,單看二零 七年文憑試六位狀元均選讀醫科,兩者之間的密切關聯似 乎不言而喻。被譽為大學「神科」之一,醫科入學門檻高是當然 之事,然而近年,醫科在優異生之間的受歡迎程度似有攀升的趨勢。

這種趨勢卻引起了非議。二零一七年文憑試狀元的學科選擇公佈後, 負面評論迅速淹沒了正面、支持的言論。幾位未來的醫生被指不過是為高薪 厚職而攻讀醫科,不但思想狹隘,更有愧於醫生的神聖使命。前大律師、現為補 習導師的林作更不屑地指出選讀神科的狀元們不過是讀書機器,思想狹窄,難成大 器,是社會的悲哀。

被訪狀元多道出個人經歷以解釋讀醫之舉,如家人或自己曾經患病,類似經歷令自己對 醫生的神聖使命感產生憧憬,希望報效社會云云。不少人對此嗤之以鼻,認為這不過是藉口。為 了探討何真何偽,我和幾位醫科生和非修讀醫科的優異生進行了簡單的訪問。

所有讀醫的受訪者不約而同地指出了興趣是最關鍵的選科原因。所謂興趣,包括對於助人的熱誠,和 對生命科學及化學的熱愛。「收入可觀是這個職業其中一個優點,但絕對不是主因。」於香港中文大學醫學 院畢業的劉同學道:「細想一下,其實單為了名譽和收入修讀醫科並不理智——讀醫比考公開試艱難多了,更需 要犧牲睡眠和與家人相處的時間。沒有一定熱誠和興趣,當初也不會如此不智地修讀醫科吧。」

一位來自香港科技大學、於環球商業管理系第一榮譽畢業的黃同學則認為,批評者並沒有嘗試了解 這些醫科生的心態。他指出有能力應付公開試的狀元擁有一定的意志力、毅力和自律性,不能草率指 控他們為讀書機器。一眾批評者亦先入為主地假設醫科生沒有考慮其他生涯規劃因素,只因高薪厚

與身邊同學談論此事,部分仍質疑這些受訪者的言論之可信程度。我亦無法查究他 們是否以藉口來應付我,但既然他們願意抽空接受訪問,我選擇相信這些言論,但這 不代表其餘的醫科生亦必然與他們有相同的心態。然而,對我來說,狀元修讀醫 科不是社會的悲哀,反而是對於香港出路、行業越加單一化的警號。

常説「行行出狀元」,香港卻無法讓人有這種多元出路。金融、房 產、法律、醫護等行業可算是人才輩出,然而近年創意藝術、人文學 科、創科產業中成就卓越者卻寥寥可數。香港對於「多元化城市」 的稱號依然愛不釋手,卻樂於無視產業單一化的問題,比起狀 元與醫科之間的關係,前者難道不是更令人擔憂嗎?





人類為什麼總是 重複相同的錯誤?

4C 周慧琳

常言道「失敗乃成功之母」,這句話的意思是叫我們不要懼怕犯錯,只要勇於嘗試,已經向成功邁進一步。可是在現實中,我們往往都是相同的錯誤一犯再犯,就如皇帝昏庸,導致一朝覆亡的歷史事實不斷重演。究竟重複犯錯是人性的弱點,還是思維慣性在作祟?

其實在心理學和認知神經科學上,這一現 象是可以加以解釋的。我們可以假設人類的大 腦是一副特殊的機器,它只會執行習慣,而不 分辨對錯。大腦也是懶惰的,因為跟從習慣不 用思考,它會傾向跟從你的習慣。因此,當你 的一個壞習慣導致你在犯了錯,下次遇到同樣 情況時,大腦還是會重複你這犯錯的壞習慣的。 這也是導致我們總是寫同一個錯字,每次都撒 謊偷懶,甚至可以上升到偷劫搶盜、殺人放火 等大錯!

人人都希望可以擁有好習慣,免於犯錯。 但人無完人,習慣不是一朝一夕便能就養成的。 在新習慣未養成之前,我們的大腦還是會不停 重複舊習慣,所以重複犯錯是難以避免的。

當然,我們不應拿這個理據作為放任自己 不斷犯錯的藉口。其實,重複犯錯是可以糾正 的。不過,改變一個人的習慣十分困難,也要 付出相應的代價,關鍵在於我們是否有足夠的 自制力。當你意識到你的錯誤時,你是否願意 付出努力去改變它呢?當你意識到吸煙是錯誤 時,你是否願意去戒煙呢?當你發現說謊不對 時,你能否忍住下次説謊的衝動?人總是會重 複相同的錯誤,有的人在發現錯誤後,可以迫 使自己不再跟從犯錯的習慣,久而久之就不再 犯同樣的錯誤;有的人置之不理,任由自己一 錯再錯,直到覆水難收。

那要避免重複犯錯的訣竅是什麼?我認為 是自省。自省其實是一門高超的學問,它集自 我評價,自我反省,自我批評於一身。從古籍 上可見,聖人就具有有自省的習慣。例如孔子 的見賢思齊、曾子的三省吾身等,他們都是每 天反省和提醒自己有什麼不足之處,然後盡量 完善自己,才能成為一代聖人。

「知錯能改,善莫大焉。」我們既非聖人, 重複錯誤是難以避免的事情,最重要的是我們 要不時檢討自己,看看自己重複犯錯的原因, 想辦法拋棄這些陋習。據説一個人改掉一個習 慣最少要二十一天,那麼二十一天後,你還在 重複犯下之前的錯誤嗎?



《與神同行》講述一名消防員意外殉職,死後接受「背叛、暴力、不孝、殺戮、怠惰、欺騙、不義」七大地獄的審判,藉以揭示人性百態。

《與神同行》以審判作為劇情的主線,誘發觀眾反思並自我審視。當中所牽涉的價值判斷與道德思辨值得我們深思:道德與生存之間該如何取捨?善意的出發點是否就等於謊言應得到諒解?一生功過能否相互抵消?這一切的是非對錯從無既定的標準與答案,現實世界中亦如是。在現實困境的驅使下,我們免不了虛與委蛇,免不了違背初衷,甚至免不了迷失墮落,這個世界並不是非黑即白,往往總是錯對難辨,卻又無規可依。電影無疑是人生百態的最佳詮釋,審判官則是社會的道德標準與規範,判決象徵社會對事物的主觀價值判斷,接受刑罰則代表人們為當初所作的決定付出代價。判決的當下,一切塵埃落定,如同翻至書本的終章,充其量只能回顧往昔,黯然懊悔,這令我聯想到電影中的一句對白:「活著時做不到的事,死了才來後悔。」早知如此,又何必當初?



買穿整部電影的核心思想體現於這一句對白之中:「不要為過去的事情,浪費新的眼淚」。寥寥幾字 引申出售永而深刻的主題——活在當下。主角死後對憾事未了,耿耿於懷,同時亦捨不得離親人而去,他對世事的留戀一如人們對往昔的牽掛,同樣地為過去的事情而自怨自哀,作無謂的感慨。沉醉過往如同走進絕路,將自己困在無盡的深淵。攥緊手中沙子只會令沙子流失得更快,執著於昔日的恩怨情仇只會浪費更多的光陰。走出這深淵,便會發現外面的世界是多麼廣袤遼闊。與其將時間及精力耗於懷緬過去,倒不如放諸於現在或未來,珍惜這活著的當下,並一改從前,讓往後的每一刻活得有意義,亦無愧於心。

電影中的角色設定與佈局安排亦別具心思,深化它所帶出的意義。主角是一名盡忠職守的消防員,乍一看無疑是良好市民的典範,但在審判的過程中,他卻背負種種的罪名。當中有部分是普遍人都會犯下的過錯,「說謊」、「怠惰」等看似微不足道的罪名被一一放大,令觀眾油然產生一種強烈的代入感,並自我反思、審視。七次的審判將主角不為人知的秘密一一呈現眼前,懸念隨劇情的自熱化而遞增,令觀眾一同深入探討人性百態。此外,當故事中的陰間使者成功引領護送四十九個亡者通過審判並投胎轉世,就可得到救贖,這個劇情佈局為審判增添一層意義,審判既預示著一切的終結,同時又是一切的開端,留下想像的空間。判官處決亡者後可獲得升遷的機會,故劇中的判官處處為難受審者,但主角經歷重重困難最終也能通過審判,這塑造主角的正義良善,令角色形象更為鮮明,同時電影更富戲劇性和吸引力。

觀眾踏進影院。可能只為了娛樂。但隨著劇情的走向,我們發現這不單單是一部電影。更是一次珍貴的課堂,電影的各個角色帶領我們深究生死的課題。使我們重新詮釋「活在當下」、「堅持初心」等既淺白。 又難以參透的道理。《與神同行》笑中有淚。又有不同道理隱含其中,實是一部值得一看的電影。









True Light Girls' College

Address: 54A Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong

Website: www.tlgc.edu.hk
Email: tlg-mail@hkedcity.net

Telephone: 2385 1491 Fax: 2782 5300