

9 May 2005

2004/2005 Newsletter No. 2

Dear all,

I am much honored to be elected the Honorary Secretary of the Association for this term and certainly understand the duties that follow - carry on with the tradition and innovate and improve.

Since the first Newsletter was produced, the second one should be on its way. It's the first time I write, and for this second Newsletter, I am pleased to include quite a few items to update you on our recent activities and endeavors.

1. Annual Conference

The 2005 Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, 9 June 2005. The title of the Conference is 'Building a Bridge over Troubled Water – The Qualities of a Principal of Today' (神閒氣定渡索橋 - 談校長領導素養).

I think we all feel that principals are now facing enormous challenges from all stakeholders of education. There are frequent issues, be they brand-new or multiply revised, of education policies from EMB, constant fluctuations of attending student numbers, hard-earned but difficult-to-maintain student accomplishments, complex management of human resources, strong but reasonable demands from parents, and ever-growing financial deficits and restrictions – to name just a few of the challenges and woes of a principal of today! We can envisage the turbulence and the vortices of the troubled waters, and we can cross the waters with a well built bridge leading our teams of students and colleagues.

The principals of today have to be able to manage the business of the school as a capable CEO, and yet we are educators who are committed to working diligently and delivering a decent education for our young generation.

While we are treading forward gingerly on the narrow bridge, we could unknowingly tilt the balance and put more emphasis on being a successful manager with a well balanced financial sheet, and less emphasis on the more important task of educating the young generation.

Managing successfully the business of a school requires great skills, and delivering a good education is, we believe, the utmost, dearly commitment at the bottom of our hearts.

What are the qualities of a principal of today? We have invited guest speakers from different fields of work to talk about these issues in our Annual Conference. They will bring their experience and expertise to the Conference and lead us into the exploration of these issues with different perspectives. Please refer to the information sheet attached and register for the Conference at your earliest convenience. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for English-speaking members.

2. Establishment of an email network

We are establishing an email network to inter-connect all AHSS members. We hope that communications among us would be greatly facilitated and enhanced while we believe we are still saving the world in the meantime. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you have no objection to receiving the news from us via email. Please contact the Treasurer, Mr. Vincent Wong, by fax (2869 8259) or email (fps-wcm3@fps.hkcampus.net), if you think otherwise.

3. Happy Hour Forum for Associate Members (Vice-Principals)

We have strived to better serve the needs of our Associate Members, the Vice-Principals, and are building up a support network among the VPs and some experienced serving principals.

A Happy Hour Forum for Associate Members (Vice-Principals) was organized on 29 April 2005, and a talk on 'The role of Vice-Principals in the New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education (3+3+4 system)' was delivered by Mr. Michael Wong. About 40 VPs attended the Forum.

We plan to organize a workshop in October or November this year on staff management for our Associate Members. If you have other ideas and/or proposals, please feel free to contact Mrs. Ruth Lee at Tel. 2548-6047 or via email rl@ywgs.edu.hk. We look forward to seeing all Associate Members in this forth-coming activity.

4. Professional dialogues with EMB

EMB Policies are drawing the attention of the schools and we have been in constant communication with EMB, letting them know about the concerns of the principals.

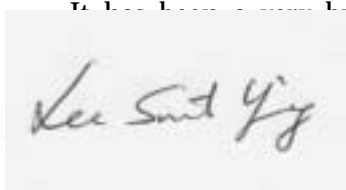
On 8 April, a meeting was held with EMB, and the impact of the new DAT curriculum on the number of surplus Workshop Teachers was discussed. Our Task Group on Staff Redundancy will follow up on the issue and take appropriate actions if necessary.

Another “friendly” meeting with Mrs. Fanny Law and Mr. Andrew Poon on External School Review was organized in late April. We have expressed the concerns of the principals on the process and the outcome of the ESR. Mrs. Fanny Law showed genuine concern on ESR and reiterated the good intention of EMB on supporting the continuous development in schools. We sincerely hope that ESR can be truly supportive and help to nurture a school culture of self-reflection and self-improvement.

5. MOI/SSPA

Schools have been showing keen interest and concerns on the proposed MOI/SSPA policies. We organized a Happy Hour Forum on ‘Implementation of MOI and SSPA’ on 3 March, 2005. About 30 principals attended the Forum and we had ample opportunities to share our views. As the consultation period of the said issue has been extended to July, we will prepare for submission a paper based on what we discussed in the Forum. Please refer your queries or suggestions to the Chairman/Task Group Convener on MOI and SSPA, Mr. William Yip, at 2551 8285 or principal@yck2.edu.hk.

It has been a busy year for all Principals. Take good care of yourselves while busily
in troubled water. Hope to see you all in the Annual Conference on 9



Ms. Lee Suet Ying
Hon. Secretary



HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS 香港中學校長會

Annual Conference 2005

神閒氣定渡索橋 - 談校長領導素養

Building a Bridge over Troubled Water

- The Qualities of a Principal of Today

Date: 9 June 2005 (Thursday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Venue: Assembly Hall
4/F North Tower, YMCA Salisbury

Program:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:20 – 9:40 a.m. | Opening Remarks by Mr. William Yip, Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools |
| 9:40 – 10:40 a.m. | Speech by Dr. Stephen C.L. Lai (陳載澧博士)
Director, Art & Cultural Education, H.K. Baptist University |
| 10:40 – 11:10 a.m. | Tea Break |
| 11:10 – 12:10 p.m. | Speech by Mr. Allen Chan (管仲連先生)
Chairman & CEO, Sino-Forest Corporation |
| 12:10 – 12:40 p.m. | Open Forum |
| 12:40 p.m. | Lunch |

The conference will be conducted in Cantonese. Simultaneous interpretation for English-speaking members will be provided.

Annual Conference 2005

Reply Slip

To: Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools

Attention: Mr. Wong Chun Man

Fax: 2869 8259

Tel: 2843 4662

1. I will/ will not attend the Annual Conference on 9 June 2005.

2. I will stay for lunch after the Annual Conference. For the lunch cost, I am enclosing a cheque of HK\$100.00 payable to the **Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools**.
(Bank, and Cheque
No. _____)

3. Simultaneous Interpretation needed: ____ Yes (please tick)

School: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Email address: _____ Fax: _____

* Please return this Reply Slip by post to:

Mr. Wong Chun Man

Caritas St. Francis Secondary School
Room 487, Caritas House
2 Caine Road, Hong Kong

or by fax (2869 8259) **on or before 27 May 2005.**