



26 June 2006

2005/2006 Newsletter No. 2

Dear Colleagues,

Since I wrote last time, a lot of activities have taken place. With the end of this school term rapidly approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate with all of you for a hard-earned, fruitful year, and wish for a more successful 2006-07 school year.

In the past months, AHSS organized several programs for principals and school administrators. During the past Easter holidays, 26 principals and senior teachers from 19 secondary schools went to Shanghai for an 'Education leadership training program' (中學教學領導學習考察團), which was a five-day training program arranged by Professor Zhang Min Sheng of Shanghai. Apart from attending the workshops and seminars, participants were attached to a secondary school in Shanghai and observed classroom teaching by the Shanghai colleagues. At the end they had discussion and feedback sessions under the guidance of Prof. Zhang. We appreciate very much on what we have learned from our colleagues in Shanghai.

With funding support from EMB, AHSS worked with the Humanistic T & T Holistic Growth and Therapy Institute to deliver a program, 'Wellness for School Administrators', which included four workshops and one full-day retreat, and ran from March to May. Prof. Lam Man Ping and Mr. Luk Ka Yin guided us through the workshops and gave us a lot of insight on wellness and some practical guides on how to relax. A total of 100 participants enrolled, and their feedback was highly positive. Participants also suggested that the series of workshops and retreat should be repeated and expanded, and that more programs should be organized.

More programs are coming:

1. **Happy Hour Forum**

The next Happy Hour Forum will be held as follows:

Date: 14 July 2003 (Friday)

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Venue: Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School
9 Hing Wah Street West, Shamshuipo, Kowloon

Lately there are a lot of talks about how the EMB policies, including the NSS, the TSA, the SBA, the IMC, and the ESR, have created excessive workload for schools, and how the decline in student population leads to uncertainties and worries. We have also talked about the very heavy workload of teachers and the great stress being put on them. I believe we, as the principals of schools, do understand the difficulties and the pressure our teaching staff are facing and are committed to find ways to ease their workload pressure. In fact, policies have been planned and implemented by EMB to reduce their burden. Unfortunately the continual disarray among the various parties led to the allegations and blames being leveled at the principals and the real crux of the problem might be overlooked. With all these happening around us, we should be aware of the great stress and heavy workload pressure that we are experiencing, but let us keep our heads up and spirits high.

Certainly we are at a critical, and yet difficult, moment of the education reform process. We should call on the various stakeholders in the Education sector to have an open mind, an accommodating attitude, and a dedicated heart to tackle the problems we are currently faced with and come up with the best solutions for the education of our young generation.

There are certainly many issues to discuss and ponder. In this Forum, we welcome your opinions and would like to share with you our concerns on the stress teachers as well as ourselves are facing in the line of duty. Based on the outcome of the Forum, we could then prepare a policy paper to state our positions and solutions. Please fill in the enclosed reply form and join us at the Forum before we break for the summer vacation.

2. **Annual Conference**

It has become a tradition that AHSS organizes its Annual Conference in June. This year, we would like to have a change. We are now liaising with educators in Hangzhou and Singapore to organize an off-shore tri-city education visit and host an

International Conference on 'Psychological Hygiene' (心理衛生) in Hong Kong for educators in late September or early October. We will announce with more details in due course. Please mark your calendar for this important event.

3. Class restructuring in NSS

The proposal from EMB on class restructuring has become a very sensitive issue, particularly in time of drastic population decline. We are most concerned with the quality of education and believe that children should be given the opportunity of a continuing six-year education in the same school. We also question if effective learning and teaching would be possible when the senior secondary class size would be kept at 40. Please send in your comments, suggestions, or advices to Ms Lee Suet Ying (fax no. 2109-2002, email lsy@hoyu.edu.hk).

As the school year is coming to an end, we are all very busy as ever with the end-of-term activities. In the past year, we have faced challenges, resolved issues, tackled problems, and yet come up with the best solutions for our students and staff within the constraints of our school system. As a leader and chief administrator in the school, we have strived for the best, maintained a high standard, and upheld our mandate of quality education. As a colleague, we have shared our concerns and best practices, and put our shoulders together as a team to fortify our beliefs, to carry out our responsibilities with devotion and professionalism, and to impart our values to the various stakeholders. It has been a year of changes, a year of improvements, a year of unfulfilled promises, and a year ahead of years of changes.

Let's take a good break and enjoy a relaxed and refreshing summer vacation,

Ms. Lee Suet Ying
Hon. Secretary



Happy Hour Forum

Dear Fellow Members,

Recently, teachers' stress is a hot issue. At the end of the school year, we are sorry to hear that one of the sources of stress of teachers is the administrative decisions by the Principals. It is apparent that all of us are nearly brimming over with insurmountable challenges and stresses. While expressing our view on the workload of teachers, we need to gather strength in order to stand tall against the torrents of the time. It is extremely important, therefore, for us to sustain our comradeship and support to one another.

The Association has planned to hold our last Happy Hour Forum this year for members to share feelings and views on this issue. We can talk freely about the concerns we face in school, the sources of stress of teachers as well as ours, and ways to ease the pressure of classes cut due to the ever decreasing number of students. Based on our discussion and sharing, the Association can then plan the future action to take.

Please do come and have a chat before the school breaks up for the summer holiday.

Details of the Happy Hour Forum are as follows:

Date: 14 July 2006 (Friday)

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Venue: Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School
9 Hing Wah Street West, Shamshuipo, Kowloon

Target Group: Principals / Vice-principals

Setting: Informal, tea/coffee and snacks will be provided



Reply Slip

To : Mr. Ho Ki-to (何奇韜), STFA Tam Pak Yu College

Fax No. : 2440-1994

Tel No. : 2450-1402

Please put a ✓ in the box and complete as appropriate.

I will attend the Happy Hour Forum on **14 July 2006** to be held in Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School.

Name : _____

School : _____

Please reply by fax (2440-1994) on or before 10 July 2006.