



20 October 2008

2007/2008 Newsletter No. 3

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from the Executive Committee to you all, especially to the new principals.

It has been more than a month since the commencement of the new school year. While various issues and matters, including those that might have great impact on our education system, happened or have been happening, we have the urgent school-based issues to be concerned about. This would be the last year for us to get ready before the launch of the NSS curriculum next year. In the preparation, we would be heavily involved in timetabling, manpower planning, curriculum design, and other areas that provide support to NSS curriculum. But no matter how busy we are, we have to bear in mind that, down to the basics, students' learning and character building should be the core business of a school.

MOI is a topic that draws much discussion these days and we would like our members to know and understand the position and standpoints of AHSS.

Before you are bogged down by your busy schedules and massive undertakings, I would like to share with you the following matters:

1. New Membership Drive

The annual membership drive is now under way. To the new principals and colleagues who are not members yet, you are cordially invited to join us as a new member. Please fill in the Membership form attached – full membership for current and new principals.

2. Associate Membership Drive

We value very much the participation of Vice-Principals in our Association as Associate Members. Please encourage and support your Vice-Principals to join our Association.

3. Membership Renewal

Please fill in the enclosed Renewal form for your membership. We are grateful for your continuing support in the past year and look forward to having you again as an active, enthusiastic member.

4. Annual General Meeting

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on Friday, 12 December 2008 (from 9:00 a.m. till lunch time) and have invited the Secretary of Justice, Mr. Wong Yan Lung, SC, JP (律政司司長黃仁龍先生) to share with us his ideas on "Value Education and Character Building". We are honoured to have Mr. Wong confirmed as the keynote speaker and look forward to his inspiring and enlightening talk. Details of the AGM will be announced in a separate letter later.

5. **On MOI :**

The MOI issue has drawn a lot of our attention recently. Since CMI was implemented and practiced among a great majority of secondary schools ten years ago as per the government's Education Policy on "Mother-tongue Education", the practice itself is now considered lacking in some aspects by general consensus.

We are therefore cautious when EDB proposed a revised policy to fine-tune MOI. The revision allows a school to operate a certain number of 'English-medium classes' based on the number of 'more capable students' (top 40% of students) that the school has. When it is already detrimental enough to the CMI schools being labeled as 'second-rate', we are concerned at the possibility that these schools would be further sub-divided into different grades according to the number of 'English-medium classes' that the school offers and operates.

In order to poll the opinions of our members, we sent out questionnaires at the end of September and received responses from 170 members who categorically echoed our concerns. Enclosed herewith are the summary of the questionnaire responses and our letter to the Education Commission. The Executive Committee expressed the collective views on the revised policy as follows: (1) The fine-tuning deepens the labeling effect of a school; (2) The fine-tuning further undermines the effort in the "Mother-tongue Education" and alleviates its acceptance by the society; and (3) The fine-tuning does not fully address students' needs to learn English and the timing in its offering is entirely inappropriate, given the fact that the NSS curriculum is to be implemented next year.

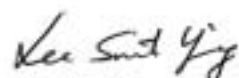
Should you have any comments or suggestions, please contact our Chairman, Mr. Michael Wong Wai Yu (Tel: 2338 2971)

6. **External Auditor**

The AHSS, in the middle of the term of office, has appointed Ms. Rosalia Kamariah Kesuma (郭月娟), Principal of Sempie Memorial Secondary School, as the external auditor.

In the past months, we watched with concerns and anxiety on the changes in the global financial systems and the drastic fluctuations in the financial markets. The impact was direct, swift and ruthless, and has profound influence on many of our staff, parents of our students, and ultimately on our students. There could be needs for them, and we have to be ready to provide relevant and appropriate assistance should the need arise. Meanwhile we keep our heads high and move on steadfastly with our mission and commitment to a quality education for our students.

I will write soon on the Annual General Meeting, and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone another successful and productive academic year. Please take it easy on the many tasks on hand and 'work and play' in an effective and efficient way!



Ms. Lee Suet Ying
Honorary Secretary