



10 October 2018

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2017/2018 Newsletter No. 4

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from the Executive Committee to you all!

It has been more than a month since the commencement of the new school year. Hoping that you are doing fine. I would like to share with you the following news of the AHSS.

1. Membership Drive
 - A. Full membership (for serving principals)

The annual membership drive is now under way. For new principals who are not members yet, you are cordially invited to join us as new members. For members, we are grateful for your continuing support in the past and look forward to having you again as active, enthusiastic members.

- B. Other membership (for Vice-principals, retired and former principals)

We value the participation of Vice-principals, retired principals and former principals very much in our Association. Please encourage and support your Vice-principals as well as former principals of your school to join our Association.



C. Subscription

Membership Category	Subscriptions	Remark
Full Member (Serving principals)	\$300	Annual
Associate Member (Vice principals)	\$200	Annual
Life Member (Retired principals or principals serving more than 10 years before leaving the post)	\$300	One-off
Affiliated Members (Previous Full Members leaving the post before retiring age and serving less than 10 years)	\$300	One-off

To subscribe, please fill out the relevant membership form, [Full/Associate](#) or [Life/Affiliated](#), which can also be found on the Association website, and return it together with a cheque to Dr. Lau Yiu Hung, our Hon. Treasurer.

2. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held on 3rd December 2018 (Monday) morning, themed "Homeschooling And Alternative Education". We are very delighted to have invited Mrs. Chan-Yeo Peck Leng (陳楊碧玲女士), Founder and Supervisor of Grace Christian Academy, Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong (宋黃凱欣醫生) and Mr. Henri Samoutou, Co-Founders of New Sight, to be our keynote speakers.

For more than centuries, people are so used to formal schooling and very few of us would think about other alternatives for educating our younger generations. It seems that to get educated, the only way is through formal schooling.

With increasing criticisms about the local education systems and when educators are puzzling about what works the best for educating our young ones, the understanding of alternative means for children to attain good



education that would unleash their potential is certainly worth the while. In this regard, the AHSS is determined to lead members to stride into unexplored territories. **Home schooling**, which has been practised by quite a few, is our starting point.

Some parents believe that every child is unique and talented in his/her individual way and can be nurtured to his/her full potential. They also believe parents are the most significant and best teachers of their children. Therefore, they strive either on their own or to partner with other parents to provide another mode of education with individualized programmes to meet their children's individual needs. Mrs. Chan-Yeo Peck Leng (陳楊碧玲女士) is one of them. She is the Founder and Supervisor of Grace Christian Academy and the wife of Honorable Bernard Charnwut Chan (陳智思議員). In 2011, Mrs. Chan started an 'alternative' primary school, the Almitas Academy (培生學校) with her two sons as the only students. The number of students has grown since then with their parents actively involved.

Besides parents such as Mrs. Chan, there are also some who are in areas where schools and teachers are not available and home-schooling is their only option. Among them, Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong (宋黃凱欣醫生) and her husband Mr. Henri Samoutou are medical missionaries serving in Congo and founders of New Sight Eye Care, a charitable organisation registered in Hong Kong and the UK. As they established the first non-profit eye centre in the Republic of Congo 6 years ago and are gearing up for a larger eye hospital, the only education option for their three children is homeschooling. Despite their initial doubts, their whole family has now come to fully embrace homeschooling, and their three children are regularly praised and commended by educators who meet them. Their eldest daughter, Cherissa, aged 13, won full scholarships for a summer music program in the USA in 2017 and 2018. She is now pursuing her secondary education in a UK boarding school on a full academic and music scholarship.

We encourage you to take a good break from your busy schedule and join us for the **AGM**. You are also most welcome to join us for the buffet lunch. You will definitely enjoy the event and the sharing with other colleagues.



Please click [HERE](#) for the relevant information. For registration, simply return the reply slip by fax on or before 19 November 2018. We look forward to seeing you there.

3. Self-regulated Learning Festival (SRL Festival)

The SRL Task Group is going to organise a series of 'Open Classes' in the Annual SRL Festival between 1st November 2018 and 31st January 2019 for all our member schools. The three-month Festival is truly a showcase of different learning and teaching strategies that promote SRL. We hope this is also a platform to develop learning communities among teachers, where they can gain insights and support from one another in their teaching path. Thank you for the very positive response from many schools, which provide a total of 107 lessons for professional exchanges.

May we invite you to pass the [attached information](#) to your teachers and encourage them to take part in the different sessions of lesson observation and post-observation meetings? We sincerely hope that the learning communities developed during the Festival would enhance professional development for all participants. Please feel free to sign up the sessions according to the instructions given by each school. Looking forward to meeting you and your teachers on different campuses.

A Joint-school Professional Development Day will be held on 1st February 2019 at Ho Yu College and Primary School (Sponsored By Sik Sik Yuen). It is our great pleasure to have invited Professor Lau Kit-ling (劉潔玲教授) as our keynote speaker on "Teacher control or student autonomy? Reflection on the theories and experiences of promoting self-regulated learning in Hong Kong classrooms". On the development day, teachers from SRL network schools will share their learning experiences from the SRL 3.0 Lesson Study Project. We cordially invite you and your teachers to join us on the Day. More information will be released in early November.



4. Support a Total Ban on E-cigarettes and Other New Tobacco Products

E-cigarettes, since its launch, have gained popularity, especially among youngsters. Both e-cigarettes and other new tobacco products are marketed as trendy products with novel design and up to over 10,000 flavours, and are sold in boutique stores and shopping malls where youngsters frequently visit. The growing number of youngsters using e-cigarettes in the past few years is alarming and we are very much concerned about the situation. A press conference was jointly held on 29 September 2018 (Saturday) by Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools, Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council, Subsidized Primary Schools Council and Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association. We strongly urge the Hong Kong Government to enact a total ban on e-cigarettes and other new tobacco products as soon as possible to safeguard public health and prevent the re-normalization of smoking, especially among children and youth.

5. Our concern about Secondary Education Curriculum

The existing secondary education curriculum has been criticized for being too broad and too heavy. It is time that we think about what we can do to provide an appropriate and balanced curriculum to our students so that they can learn with fun, their potentials can be unleashed, and the learning pressure can be reduced. Mr. Michael Wong, our Hon. Executive Secretary, has written an article, titled “需全面宏觀檢討香港教育體制” which was published on Ming Pao on 8 October 2019. Please click [HERE](#) to read the article. It can also be found on the Association website.

6. Responses to EDB's Consultation Papers

Following the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, various Task Forces were set up by the Education Bureau to review certain areas of education policy. During the past few months, these task forces launched public consultation on their preliminary recommendations. The AHSS has responded to consultation papers on several areas, including Home-school Co-



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operation and Parent Education, School-based Management Policy, Professional Development of Teachers, Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education. We hope we can help shape a better, more professional Hong Kong education.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I look forward to meeting you on our upcoming occasions! Wish you every success this year!

Ms. Pang Wai Lan Helena
Honorary Secretary

Encl. -

1. Membership Registration Form
2. Annual General Meeting Programme and Registration Form
3. Information of "Open Classes" in SRL Festival