

The 160th Anniversary Exhibition Day

Three weeks ago I spoke about the 160th Anniversary Concert. Today, I shall talk about the 160th Anniversary Exhibition Day held nine days ago.

We were blessed that the rain of the previous two days held off leaving us with perfect conditions for what turned out to be an excellent day. Congratulations to all who were involved in the planning and preparation of this big event. The organisation of an Exhibition Day is no small task and the desire to present an excellent display of work does put great pressure on all concerned. Let me say that the time spent was well worth the effort given the comments from parents, alumni and members of the public.

I certainly enjoyed the day as I gradually made my way around the College and later in the afternoon looking around the Primary School. Unfortunately, there was not enough time during the day for me to look at all the exhibits or listen to all the presenters although I do believe that I was able to cover most of the ground. The day commenced with the Opening Ceremony at the Podium under the direction of the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Ryan. Bishop Thomas Soo, our Guest of Honour and alumnus, addressed the audience at what would be his last official duty at the College as Bishop of Western Kowloon before retirement. The Wind Band performed exceptionally well particularly its presentation of a piece I first heard the band play two week's earlier at the St. John's Cathedral Michaelmas Fair.

I left the Podium and made my way down to the Hall that had been transformed into a gallery full of various styles of art work. After leaving a message on the Greetings board and looking at the SA and College Archive displays I studied the paintings in the global classroom exhibit. One work in particular caught my eye; a painting on three or four panels that depicted images of everyday life in China. The piece was outstanding and I hope we have an opportunity to see it displayed once again at the College. There were many hundreds of pieces of art to admire including fine displays of glazed ceramic tea-pots and dozens of wooden figures painted or dressed as cooks, movie stars, terrorists, Spiderman and countless others. Some items had taken hours of work especially a large paper crane constructed from hundreds of smaller paper cranes. I also appreciated the work that had gone into the portfolio books that told the story behind the production of the final pieces of art. As with writing an essay, the portfolios showed that planning is essential to the quality of the final product.

On leaving the Hall, I made my way to the classrooms calling in first to look at the Geography display. The photographs from the recent Iceland tour would have certainly convinced everybody that this is one country we should visit at

some stage. The same could be said of the Economics and BAFS display where information on the economic changes taking place in Dubai and throughout the Middle East reinforced the global importance of this oil rich region. In appreciation of my visit, I received a bookmark, the first of what would become a fine collection of bookmarks acquired by the end of the day! I'm delighted to tell you that I did get the answer to the Biblical question correct when visiting the Religious Studies display and duly collected a prize. I'm afraid that my visit to the RS display did not coincide with a performance by the Praise Team although I did hear their fine rehearsal the previous day. I have always been a big fan of the Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher who drew seemingly impossible objects and houses based on mathematical relationships to space and scale. The Mathematics display used many of Escher's works to demonstrate mathematical principles as well using his repeated patterns or tessellations. In the Liberal Studies and Integrated Humanities display rooms I heard about urban renewal programmes in Hong Kong and some of the possibilities associated with wind turbines. The Scout display of photographs and stories from this year's Jamboree in Sweden highlighted the wonderful ties that develop between scouts around the world. The Scouts also showcased the many badges, pins and flags collected over the course of the camp. My tour of the 3rd and 4th floor classrooms ended at the Guidance Room suitable transformed into a forest setting that provided a peaceful location away from the hustle and bustle happening outside.

The students running the Chinese and Chinese History room kindly provided a detailed translation of the work on their display boards. In the History Room I listened to a fascinating account of the rise of Nazi Germany and the horror of the Holocaust. The Library showcased many new resources before I moved on to the Science Laboratories. I spent the shortest time possible looking at a frog dissection, complete with its beating heart, before learning more about organic farming and DNA testing techniques. I enjoyed listening to the younger boys talking about Integrated Science and was fascinated by a simple display of tortoise shells and other skeletons. I was also intrigued by the display showing the refraction of a beam of light as it passed through running water although nothing compared to the simulated volcanic eruption that was captured on countless iphones. It was at this point that I made my way up to Computer Studies room to look at the latest programming software and a large Lego model featuring a train that collected, transported and deposited miniature soccer balls.

My last stop was at the covered playground where I arrived just in time to hear a performance by the English Department teacher-student choir. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and musicality of the choir and hope we have an opportunity to hear them again at an assembly later in the year. The English activity centres

were a lot of fun and showcased the learning taking place in English lessons. Many other activities took place throughout the day and I enjoyed the demonstrations put on by the Scouts and Youth Red Cross as well as the displays by the Hockey, Fencing and Football Teams. In the case of the Football Team, the hundreds of people who watched the game would agree that our boys did remarkably well against the TSW Pegasus team matching them in skill and ball control if not on the score board.

Finally, I would like to mention the displays of art work that has appeared around the school in recent months. It has always been my firm belief that schools need to showcase fine works produced by students and teachers. The photographs of sporting teams, community service programmes and music activities add warmth and colour to plain white walls in the Stewart Building particularly as each is brought to life by a spotlight. The drawing by Mr. Ng Ka Wang, whom I believe is a talented artist, hangs on the wall in the lift lobby next to the Canteen. A new display of student photographic works, organised by Miss Yuen Wing Yan, brightens the 4th floor corridor outside the Hall. A photograph of the lower playground taken from the 10th floor is particularly impressive. However, my favourite photograph is of the Foreman, Mr. Lau Si Fu, proudly waving the College flag at the Anniversary Concert. Furthermore, new photographs have appeared on the walls going down to the Pokfulam Road entrance; new abstract paintings have filled the space between the Stewart Building and the Podium; and new print and tile paintings line the corridors of the East Wing.

I thank Miss Lee and her Visual Arts teachers and students for providing such stimulating material that adds colour and life to our College. Yet there is still room for additional works that can be rotated over the years. My next project is to see more written sayings placed around the College; the watchwords over the doors to the Hall and the Confucian quotation are only a start. A phrase like "Discovery has no Boundaries" would be fitting outside the Science Laboratories whereas a Biblical verse could be placed outside the Chapel. I would invite each of you, teachers and students, to think of appropriate ways to showcase the many artistic talents that exist in our College community.

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