

Kau Yan School (Kindergarten Section)

The year 2023-2024

Principal's Message

10th July, 2024

Dear Parents,

Greetings in the Lord! Time has flown by, and we have arrived at the last day of the 2023-2024 school year. We are grateful for the Lord's protection and care, which have allowed our children and teachers to enjoy a whole year of safe and healthy learning, preparing to embark on a new stage of growth.

In recent days, I have often seen the confident smiles on our children's faces, happily telling me, "I'm ready to move on to the next grade!" Through the joint efforts of the school and parents, the children have gradually developed a self-directed learning attitude through various project-based explorations, outdoor field trips, and practical activities.

In a learning environment that encourages initiative, joy, and mutual assistance, the children have not only acquired a wealth of knowledge but have also cultivated positive character traits such as respect, focus, joy, and gentleness. I am pleased to share the children's learning achievements this academic year with you.

Before sharing the details of the children's learning in each topic, let me first share the number of field trips arranged by the teachers this year. Research has shown that outdoor learning and field trips can enhance the learning effectiveness of students (Beames et al., 2012). While we cannot bring all physical objects into the classroom, we can take the children out to explore firsthand. This school year, the children in our kindergarten have participated in over 100 field trips. Through these activities, the children have experienced that learning is not limited to textbooks, classrooms, or activity corners, but can come from exploring the various things in daily life.

These activities have not only strengthened the children's observation and inquiry skills but, more importantly, have taught them to ask questions proactively, collaborate with their peers, and continually try new things, gradually mastering the methods of learning new things and bravely facing and challenging different situations.

In the "Earth's Resources" theme, children from different levels visited places like "Hong Kong Park," "Lions Club Nature Education Center," "Water Science Park," and "EcoPark" for field trips. K1 children not only appreciated the beauty of nature but also discovered various insects and plants in the natural environment, gaining a deeper understanding of their living conditions and habits. K2 children witnessed farmers cultivating the land and personally experienced how food is not easily obtained, learning to respect and be grateful for food. K3 children learned about waste management, resource recycling, and the concept of circular reuse, and they practiced source reduction in their daily lives. They even used self-made eco-friendly musical instruments to promote environmental protection messages in the community. Research by Gill (2014) has shown that contact with the natural environment can promote children's cognitive development and emotional well-being. Through genuine interaction with nature, the children have not only gradually increased their knowledge about the natural world but have also developed a love and desire to protect it.



According to Smith et al. (2014), early childhood emotional education has a profound impact on children's future interpersonal relationships and mental health. To foster the positive and healthy emotional development of young children, in the "I am Loved" theme, teachers strengthen the children's self-awareness through sharing, discussion, and interactive games. The children learn to discover and appreciate each other's strengths, accept and cultivate their weaker aspects, and through this process, they realize that everyone is unique and deserves to be loved and appreciated. They also learn how to positively accept others' care. Furthermore, through various forms of experiences and "spreading love" activities, the children learn what love is, how to express love, and put their care for others into action.



In the "Chinese Cultural Experience" theme, the school has set up an exploration environment with distinctive Chinese characteristics. They have also invited different groups to the school to lead Chinese cultural experience activities, such as Chinese music and Chinese variety art. We have also arranged various outdoor field trips, such as visits to the Sam Tung Uk Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. In addition, we have invited parents to the school to demonstrate activities such as kneading flour figurines, ink painting, paper cutting, embroidery, and dumpling making. These diverse cultural educational experiences not only enhance the children's understanding of Chinese cultural arts, but also help them establish a sense of cultural identity and strengthen their cultural sensitivity (Banks, 2015).



In the "Exploring the Community" theme, K1 children discovered the variety of shops, public facilities, and different modes of transportation in the community around the school campus during a school bus tour. Through parent volunteers sharing and introducing their professions at school, the children learned that there are many people in the community working hard to serve the needs of others. K2 children gained an understanding of the unique features of different modes of transportation, such as taking a boat and riding the Peak Tram, while also appreciating the scenery of Hong

Kong. K3 children delved deeper into exploring the community's inclusive facilities and revitalized historic buildings, understanding how these changes facilitate people's daily lives. Gonzalez et al. (2016) also found in their research that community engagement and social connections have a positive impact on children's social skills and sense of social responsibility. It is hoped that from a young age, the children will have a deeper understanding and recognition of the community they live in, and develop a mindset of contributing back to society. As the last line of the school song states, "Today, a good student; tomorrow, a good citizen", they will be willing to do their part for the future of society.



In the "Art Appreciation" theme, K1 children visited the Hong Kong Museum of Art and appreciated the artworks of "ARTLANE". K2 children created 3D art pieces and designed their own Kung Fu moves. K3 children visited the art studios of parent volunteers, participated in art creation, and gained a firsthand understanding of the birth process of artworks through conversations with the artists - an unforgettable experience. Winner et al. (2013) pointed out that art education plays an important role in the development of children's creativity and self-expression abilities. The diverse forms of art education activities can cater to the needs of children with different characteristics, providing opportunities for them to interpret others' works or create their own. In the process, they can have chances to imitate, and when engaging in self-creation, they can realize their personal ideals. Through the expressive process of art activities, children can also exercise their memory and communication skills, which can help build their self-confidence and self-affirmation.



While writing the above activity review, I felt as if I was standing beside the children again, watching them learn happily and earnestly. I deeply felt and believed that each child is a passionate and proactive learner. Therefore, my teaching team at "Kau Yan Family" will do our utmost to create a curriculum and learning environment that caters to the children's development. We hope that in the process of self-directed learning, they will enjoy every moment of their learning journey. In addition to recounting the children's learning experiences, I also want to show appreciation to the many thank-you cards received from parents and children this week. On behalf of the school, I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents for their support and trust. Your encouragement has become the driving force behind our continuous progress. The feedback from this year's parent survey has been very positive, with all items showing positive growth, which is the greatest affirmation of our work. I also wish to thank the school's teaching team. Quality early childhood education is inseparable from a professional, ambitious, and loving team, and "Kau Yan Family" is such a team

- I am proud and honored to be a part of it. As the summer approaches, I hope that all parents and children will enjoy wonderful quality time together. I look forward to meeting the K1 and K2 children and their families again in September, and I wish the K3 children a joyful new learning journey, continuing to enjoy the pleasure of learning!

May the Lord bless you and keep you always in His grace.

Yours faithfully,



KWAN Shan, Principal

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