



PRINCIPAL'S WORDS

This is the last time I write for the Newsletter in my capacity as the Principal.

Ying Wa College was founded more than 200 years ago when Rev. Dr. Robert Morrison responded to God's calling. As successors who strive to continue to realize the founding aim of the school in the 21st Century, and to share the love of God and the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ, we do not only preach about the doctrine of Christianity, but also live out our faith by serving those in need. Many people queried why Ying Wa decided to move the school campus from Kowloon Tong to Sham Shui Po 21 years ago, but after all these years we are now certain about our mission here by God – to be placed in Sham Shui Po so that we, students and old boys, teachers and parents can serve those in need.

I am deeply inspired by the film, "Drifting", which is about the homeless living under the flyover in Sham Shui Po. The film was directed by Jun Li, a S1 student in my Mathematics class back in 2003. I am so touched and thankful because not only is Jun an old boy, but more importantly, he, as one of the first batch of S1 students in Sham Shui Po campus, has not forgotten the people in need in our district. He cares. This is the education of Ying Wa College.

Albert Einstein once said, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value." The Mission of Ying Wa in the 21st Century is to nurture Ying Wa boys so that they have a purpose in their life and work hard for that. The school aims at becoming a serving community in order to express God's love to society, develop students' character and nurture their spirit of service, in turn helping people in need. It is hoped that service learning will become the overarching tradition and culture of our school. We share God's love, which lasts forever.

My last words to share before the end of my term of service come from the prayer of St. Francis:

The Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

The genuine power to change the world is love. May the Lord bless you, keep you, and make you a channel of His peace in the world.

Allan Cheng
Principal of Ying Wa College



Photo taken in Cambodia Service Trip 2018

▼ VIDEO ▼



S4 and S5 Service-learning Program

In 2020-2021, with the help of Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association Jockey Club Sham Shui Po Integrated Social Service Centre and La Violet Education, the Service Learning Team arranged a series of new form-based service programs in S4 and S5 in order to promote students' ownership in the service-learning program.

For S4, "Design Thinking Training" was introduced to students in 5 workshops throughout the year. By experiencing the process of "empathize", "define", "ideate", "prototype", and "test", students did research on the community and designed their own service projects focusing on the area they

were interested in. Some of the projects were even realised, which were valuable opportunities for our students to put their theories into practice.

For S5, students were allowed to choose service activities from 4 categories according to their interests, including "Listeners of the community", "Music Volunteers", "Design Volunteers" and "Visitors of the Grassroots".

By increasing the flexibility of service programs, it is hoped that students could understand the beauty of helping others with their own strengths.



For me, being able to join the S4 Service-learning Program has been an immense and precious opportunity as it taught me to always think in different perspectives. In the scheme we had to develop a way to help the target group, which seemed very easy at first glance. We soon found out we were naive to assume that providing help to someone would be easy, since the challenges had not come until we were on the field trip.

Our group planned to help out street cleaners. The four of us went to Sham Shui Po to know more about their living and working environment. Under the melting sunlight, we experienced what the cleaners had to go through every day - pushing trolleys full of rubbish under this fatal weather.

To help alleviate the cleaners' physical burden, we planned to design and build a trolley that could assist them to finish their job without hurting themselves.

This program reminds us Ying Wa Boys to not only help society and learn how to care, but also stop being selfish. I am very glad we got the chance to learn about more knowledge beyond textbooks.

Lo Cheuk Hin Justin (Form 4)

In the S5 Service-learning program this year, I had the chance to perform as a busker. The intention of the project was to spread love and care through Cantopop music among the Sham Shui Po neighborhood, and to help them strive through these troubled times.

We were invigorated by the fruitful experience. In fact, this was more than a performance or an act of benevolence - by connecting with the neighborhood, we were able to spread our music and in some way, ease the struggles some locals may be facing, echoing the theme of this project "Without music, how can we pour our hearts out?". Though the words on the song requests might have been written in sadness or anxiety, it had been our pleasure to deliver warmth and comfort to those in need, and to encourage people in Sham Shui Po.

Leung Wai Hei (Form 5) - "Music Volunteers"

Under the pandemic, many organizations have no choice but to stop providing services to the public due to health and safety concerns. For instance, social welfare organizations have reduced the number of visits to nursing homes and children's homes, fundraising activities have been cancelled, and people have donated necessities less often.

While we are not used to such a lifestyle, it is even more difficult for people in need. In the previous month, we were glad to have an opportunity to chat with elderly living alone through phone calls. Before my first call, I was very nervous and did not know what to do, but I changed my mind immediately after having a delightful conversation with an old lady who was friendly and polite. After several calls, I felt closer to her even though she was not one of my relatives, and I wished we could have conversations more often.

I was reluctant to part the last time I called her, and I thought she felt the same. Before these few calls, I had never thought of chatting with strange elders by phone as I seldom even called my own grandparents. However, through this experience I found that what the elderly want is very simple - that we show our care and respect to them.

With Covid-19 affecting Hong Kong, elders are now having even more difficulties going outside, including wearing face masks and using disinfectant to clean their hands frequently. So please remember that while the plague affected us severely, do not forget to think of and concern about people who are suffering in even worse situations.

Wong Cheuk Hin (Form 5) - 'Visitors of the Grassroots'



Interact Club

Ying Wa boys are also encouraged to organise service-learning programs on their own initiative. Combining knowledge acquired and research outcome, our boys can identify the community in need that they wish to serve and plan out a service project from scratch. This year, the Interact club organised an online Chinese teaching course for non-Chinese students in Hong Kong. They tailor-made the learning materials and use different e-resources to help non-Chinese children understand basic Chinese, thus helping them adapt to life in Hong Kong. These self-initiated projects enable our boys to serve with related knowledge and enhance their planning and collaboration ability, which are fundamental to their future development.

Our Interact Club has been organising annual Summer Service Trips to help the disadvantaged in mainland China and Southeast Asia for more than a decade.



“ This year is difficult for all of us. While we may not be able to accomplish our goals with the usual routine, this is also a chance for us to explore something new.

Through the service learning programme of our form, we had a precious opportunity to know more about our school as well as our society. We have also been taught to think from alternative perspectives, while not forgetting to think about the feasibility of our ideas. Although there may be obstacles or limitations in our plans, their presence encourages us to better ourselves.

With the help of the committee members of the Interact Club, teachers and social workers, we were able to help non-Chinese speaking children learn the language. The language barrier and the pandemic made it difficult for us to connect at first, but our passion could not be obscured by such minor challenges. We utilised technology to implement our service, and we were totally gratified to see our students' improvement.

As the chairperson of the Interact Club this year, I am thankful for being able to put our thoughts into actions. Not only are these rewarding experiences for me, they are also valuable opportunities for me to contribute to our society.

Angus Chan (Form 4) - Chairperson of Interact Club

“ The pandemic can never stop our passion for serving.

It has undoubtedly been a harsh year for all of us, as everything is not on the right track, including all the club activities. However, under this severe pandemic, we still managed to finish one service: Chinese Tutorial Class for NCS Kids. Although we could only involve our committee members this year, we all worked very hard to make the best possible teaching materials for the kids before the lesson. Seeing the smiles from those cute little faces and hearing them trying to use their newly learned Cantonese to say “thank you teacher” (多謝老師) after the lesson, I knew that all the effort was worth it.

Chan Tsun Lok (Form 4) - Vice chairperson of Interact Club



Orbis

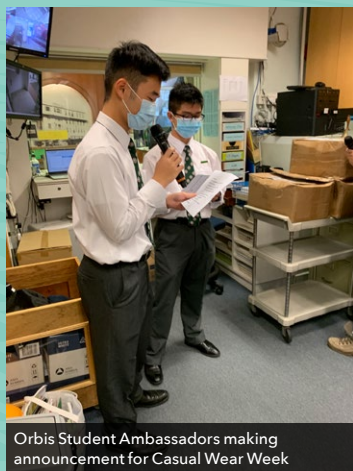
The annual Casual Wear Week was successfully held from 29th to 31st March this year.

Due to the limitations of the pandemic, Orbis Student Ambassadors in our school tried various ways to promote eye care awareness and other activities online. For example, our ambassadors held a live music performance on 30th April to support the visually impaired. Let's check their work out on their **Instagram** page and **YouTube** Channel!



333 Learning Companion Leadership Program

Our students have been participating in 333 Learning Companion Leadership Program over these years, whereby they serve as tutors and apply their knowledge to provide academic support to underprivileged children in the district. In addition, the program also constitutes an ideal platform for students' personal growth. Working closely with members of our neighbouring community in Sham Shui Po, students are able to realise how privileged they are to enjoy such a supportive environment that provides resources and exposure as they become future leaders.



As the winning school of the Orbis Student Ambassador Campaign for eleven straight years, our boys have joined numerous mission trips to different developing countries and have been performing remarkably through the years. After visiting China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and Mongolia, students shared their overseas-service experiences with the whole school in assemblies, encouraging their fellow schoolmates to serve people in need.



IDEA Project

In 2017, our students worked with the IDEA Project team to improve the study environment for students in Cambodia, which was the first time ever for the IDEA Project to collaborate with a secondary school in Hong Kong. Our students were involved in both the design and construction of a classroom, a hygiene booth and outdoor facilities for the iHerb English Language School students in Oudongk District, Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia.



Hands-on experience of construction work



Holding an Empowerment Workshop



Empowerment Workshop

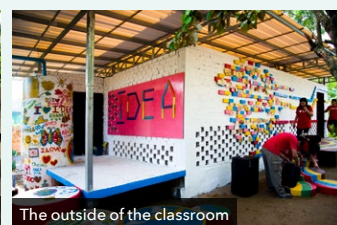


The Classroom, Hygiene Booth and Outdoor Facilities after project completion

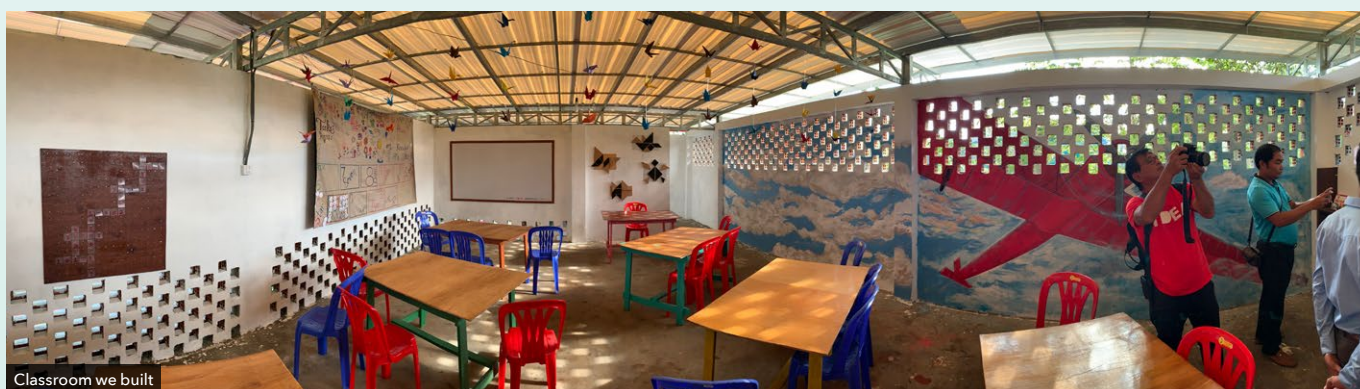
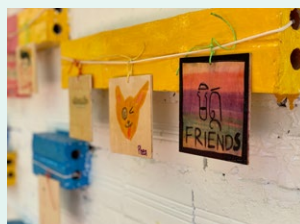
In summer 2019, our students collaborated once again with the IDEA Project team and students from HKU SPACE to design and build a classroom and outdoor facilities in Krong Svay Rieng, Cambodia.



Holding games with school children



The outside of the classroom



Classroom we built



Hands-on experience of construction work



Other than contributing to the facilities of the campus, our school also organised a trip for teachers to share the experiences in teaching with the local teachers in Cambodia. Our principal Mr Allan Cheng led our vice-principals and subject teachers to exchange ideas of school management and teaching pedagogies of different subjects. Lesson demonstrations were also carried out. It was a precious experience for our teachers to understand the learning environment there too.



Our teachers giving English lessons in iHerb English Language School



Sharing Teaching Pedagogies with Teachers in Cambodia

2020 Sham Shui Po Outstanding Youth Volunteers Scheme

In order to recognize the commitment and contribution of youth volunteers towards society, the Home Affairs Department organized the 2020 Sham Shui Po Outstanding Youth Volunteers Scheme. Six of our boys were selected to be the Sham Shui Po Outstanding Youth Volunteer this year. Congratulations to the students listed below!



Wang Kin Hei (6B), Wong Lok Hin (6C), Leung Tsz Ho (6D), Fok Tsz Hong (6E), Lee Sai Chung (6E), Chang Long Hei (6F)

Students' Sharing about service under Covid-19

“Despite the pandemic, our school had provided students with numerous service opportunities through partnership with different organisations.

This year, the 333 Learning Companion Leadership program was held in Heep Woh Primary School (Cheung Sha Wan), where our volunteer students from S3 and S4 taught and helped primary school students from the Sham Shui Po district to deal with their daily homework and quizzes. I was in charge of teaching junior students. Although I had to kneel down to talk to them for most of the time, it was great fun spending time with the adorable kids!

The pandemic could not stop us from doing more. The "S4 Service Learning Program" (SLP) allowed us to delve deep into different social topics and issues of our own interests. Some suggested giving construction workers a helping hand, we opted for helping stray animals, and one even proposed to help teachers of our school. By allowing us to explore our interests, the program irrefutably increases one's motivation to serve the community!

We would like to thank the school and everyone who helped us in overcoming the formidable obstacles during this pandemic. May Ying Wa boys continue to uphold our school motto - "Steadfast faith, beneficent deeds" by serving the community.

Lam Hei Shun (Form 4)

“2020 was a year of challenges and adversity. With growing social tensions and the ensuing global pandemic, ongoing community service required greater resilience and perseverance than ever. As the Vice-Chairman of the Interact club in the past year, I wanted to make good use of this role to spread the joy and essence of volunteering work to my schoolmates. Yet, my hopes were let down as school was suspended, and all service projects planned had to be put on hold.

Amidst the sense of disappointment and despair, Mother Teresa's words acted as a beacon of light for me. She once said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." I realized that if traditional methods of voluntary work are disrupted due to risks of infection, then the key to adapting and overcoming these setbacks lies in innovative ideas and alternatives. In other words, the most important thing is that we must never let unfavorable conditions hinder our actions, as there are always underprivileged people who could do a lot more with our help. Hence, no matter how insignificant our efforts may be, we must keep going, one step at a time. This to me, is what resilience means.

Apart from paying regular visits to the homeless in Sham Shui Po, I had also tried new approaches to contribute to the community in the past year, which included a project decorating a temporary shelter for the homeless, and another painting murals for traditional local shops. However, one of the most thrilling projects was the establishment of the Sum Up Post, a publication that allowed me to listen to different stories and gain insight into the community. These experiences taught me not only how important it is to step out of my comfort zone and take the initiative, but also how to be compassionate and sincere. They also gave me a new perspective in seeing the needs of the marginalized and disadvantaged: Sometimes, all they need is someone to who listens.

The path ahead will definitely not be a short and easy one, but I am determined to continue to strive for the betterment of our community; and even though no one knows what the future might hold, I believe that one day, all of us under the same sky could live freely and equally.

Chang Long Hei Ronney (Form 6)