

Thrive at E-Smart

May 2015

From the Headmaster's Desk

Which of the three key features of child development (academic, behavioral, or emotional) best predict whether the resulting adult will be satisfied with life? The answer is that emotional development is the best of the three predictors and academic achievement the worst.

- The World Happiness Report 2015

Dear parents,

According to the World Happiness Report 2015 recently published by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Hong Kong ranked 72 among 158 countries, dropping from the positions of 46 in 2012 and 64 in 2013. What the report indicates is that Hong Kong people are the least happy among all developed Asian countries, trailing behind Singapore (24), Taiwan (38), Japan (46) and South Korea (47).

After asking respondents to what extent they are satisfied with life, the researchers analyzed the results by a cluster of factors, namely, gross domestic product per capita, life expectancy, social support, freedom, generosity, and corruption. Though people living in higher-ranked countries generally have a higher income and live longer than those in countries with lower rankings, for them to feel happy, they need to feel that they have someone to count on, have freedom to choose what they want to do, feel that they live in a caring society where they can get help from and are willing to give help to others,

Apparently, financial wellbeing is positively correlated with happiness, which explains why most of the affluent countries have taken the top positions in the index. Hong Kong is affluent compared with the rest of the world, with a GDP per capita of USD\$39,871 in 2014 according to the International Monetary Fund, which is lower than Singapore's but higher than that of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. However, Hong Kong's Gini coefficient, a measurement of income distribution and inequality, is among the highest in all developed nations, jumping to 0.537 in 2011 from 0.525 in 2001, much higher than the warning level of 0.4 where social unrest is expected to ensue.

Hong Kong has always been proud of its free market economy and low tax rate, which has inevitably resulted in very minimal income redistribution. The rich and powerful continue to enjoy luxuriant lifestyles with almost no social responsibility, while the poorest, who are usually old and living alone, only receive residual social welfare. We can imagine that these poor old folks can hardly be happy.

The majority of the middle class are not doing much better either. Hong Kong's property prices are among the highest in the world. Our home ownership ratio is much lower than that in Singapore, our flats smaller and our rents exorbitant. For an average household in Hong Kong, a major portion of the family income goes to the mortgage payment or rent. The salary increases of most workers can hardly catch up with the inflation driven by the ever increasing asset prices over the past decade.

Our children are also much less happy than those living in Singapore and Osaka, which has been confirmed by a survey published by the City University earlier this year. The

researchers alluded to the Occupy Movement as a possible cause, which was highly speculative and debatable. In any case, if we take heed of this local survey and the World Happiness Report, we should be concerned about the mental health of our young people. According to the report, around 10% of the world's children today are suffering from diagnosable mental health problems such as anxiety disorder and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The researchers strongly suggest that parents place emphasis on emotional rather than academic development if they want their children to be happy adults when they grow up. Apparently this is a tall order for parents living in such an unhappy and competitive society as Hong Kong. For the emotional wellbeing of your child and the whole family, however, I suggest that you take the experts' advice seriously.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chan Yeng Lam, Yenna	GWFF2A Sat 3:00-4:00
So Wai Sum, Gordon	GWFF2B Sat 9:00-10:00
Hui Ka Wing, Yoyo	GWFF4A Sat 2:00-3:00
Lee Tin Yan, Stephanie	GWFF4B Sat 3:00-4:00
Lau Man Hei, Joyce	GWFF6A Sat 4:00-5:00
Ng Ho Sze, Ernie	GWFF6B Sat 2:00-3:00
Chan Wan Ching, Winnie	GWFF6B Wed 6:30-7:30
Cheng Wing Ho, Hoson	GWFF9A Sat 4:00-5:00
Yuen Kwan Hung, Bear	GWFF9B Sat 10:00-11:00
Lee Fei Er, Josephine	IEK2A Sat 2:00-3:00
Lai Lok Hin, Ryan	IEK2B Fri 5:30-6:30
Wong Yu Tung, Bella	IEK4B Fri 5:30-6:30
Yeung Wing Ki, Vicky	IEK4B Sat 12:00-1:00
Chan Ying Hei, Betty	IEK6A Sat 10:00-11:00
Lo Ki Yan, Cindy	IEK6A Thur 6:30-7:30
Chan Wai Sum, Candy	IEK6B Sat 3:00-4:00
Hung Chin Leong, Isaac	IEK8B Sat 11:00-12:00
Ng Sum Yi, Ruby	IEKKA Fri 3:30-4:30
Ngao Cheuk Yan, Jayden	IEKKB Thur 9:30-10:30
Kam Sau Shing	IEKKB Tues 3:30-4:30
Chong Chun Kit, Anson	PTW2 Sat 11:00-12:00
Lau Ying San, Chloe	PTWE1 Wed 4:30-5:30
Mok Tsik Yi, Magic	PTWE2 Mon 4:30-5:30
Wong Hei Tung, Abby	PTWE3 Wed 5:30-6:30
Sit Hoh Yau, Katherine	PTWP1 Tues 9:30-10:30
Leung, Bryan	PTWP2 Fri 6:30-7:30
Liu Tsz Yin, Sandy	PTWP3 Sat 9:00-10:00
Cheng, Jasmine	PTWP3 Wed 5:30-6:30
Thoi Chak Kwan, Maceo	PTWR Sat 10:00-11:00
Chan Tsz Hin, Thomas	PTWR Thur 3:30-4:30
Lee, Toby	WTE2B Sat 11:00-12:00
Li Pui Lam, Angie	WTE2B Tues 4:30-5:30
So Tze Hei, Hailey	WTE4A Sat 2:00-3:00
Lau Ching Yan, Virginia	WTE4B Sat 11:00-12:00
Ma, Alicia	WTE4B Tues 5:30-6:30
Tai Chung Yan, Emily	WTE6B Sat 10:00-11:00
Luk Tim Lun, Tim	WTE8A Sat 12:00-1:00
Law Chin Ming, Timothy	WTE8B Sat 2:00-3:00

Summer Classes 2015

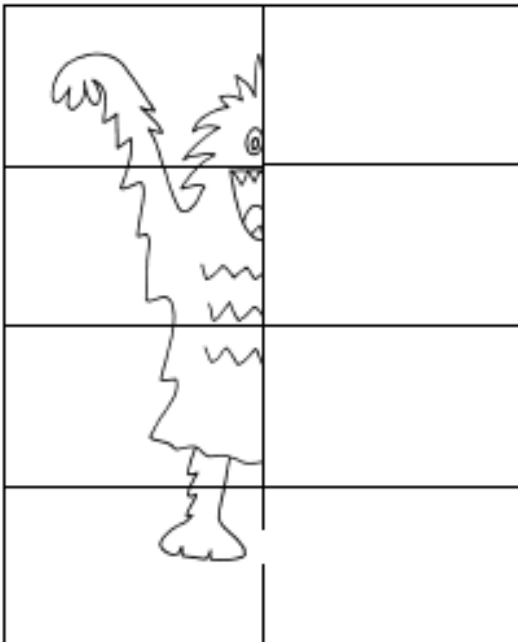
Enrolment for our summer classes has started. Sign up before June 13 to enjoy the early bird discount.

How much do you know about **Nepal**, the country that has suffered so much from the earthquake on 25 April?

- Geography
- Between China and India.
 - Mount Everest of the Himalayas is the world's highest peak.
 - Nepal has eight of the world's ten highest peaks.
- Capital Kathmandu
- Population 30,986,975
- Languages Nepali, English
- Religion Hinduism and Buddhism
- Economy One of the poorest and least developed countries. Money comes mainly from farming and remittances(money sent from workers working overseas back home)
- Monster The Yeti (or the Abominable Snowman) is said to live in the cold Himalayas. No evidence has so far been found.



Can you finish Yeti's other half?



People of the world

I would like to go to Korea because I like to go skiing and walk around with my family.

In Korea, we went to the Seoul Zoo. We saw many different kinds of animals there. The giraffes and the camels do not appear in Hong Kong Ocean Park so I was happy to see them in Korea.

The Koreans look the same as us. We have the same skin colour. But our languages are not the same. Their language is Korean.

Koreans like to eat spicy food because the weather is very cold in winter. They want to keep their bodies warm by eating spicy food.

They wear the same clothes as ours. We look like a big family.

Jade Chan WTE2A

WRITERS OF THE MONTH IN MAY:

Jade Chan WTE2A Chan Hok To WTE6B Thomas Poon WTE4A

Virginia Lau WTE4B Adrian Ho WTE8A Cody Ho WTE6B