

# Wahyanites



8 Dec 2000

Wahyanites

Volume 13 Issue 2

<http://www.wahyan-psa.org.hk>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### US\$26,188 Donation to East Timor

Principal George Tam: "This week I sent the combined donation from all Wah Yan subscribers to the school in East Timor. The total amount was a very substantial US\$26,188.95 which was broken up for specific fundings as follows:

Library:	US\$5,000
Laboratories:	US\$2,750
Scholarship:	US\$17,000
General:	US\$1,438.95

Mr. Tam wishes to thank all those who have made their contribution.

(13 Nov 2000)

### Jesuit Fathers Nursing Fund

"Jesuit Fathers Nursing Fund reached HK\$537,000 and \$20,000 was spent in medical check-ups," reported George Tam at 6th Council Meeting on 13 Nov 2000.

Please keep up the good work!

(15 Nov 2000)

### "Can Cheuk Che Yin put Grand Sport's unbeatable fairy tale to an end?"

With three straight wins, Grand Sport is the only team with 9 points and losing not even a goal. Last year's top scorer, Cheuk Che Yin, coupled with his partner, Tsang Kai Yin, scored 7 and 4 goals respectively and widening the gap with the others. If they are to play with Grand Sport, it would be in the final round.....

(26 Nov 2000)



### "Fortune of Wah Yan"

PSA Racing Syndicate confirms name of their new horse: "Fortune of Wah Yan"

"Fortune of Wah Yan" is an Australian colt owned by the newly formed Wah Yan PSA Racing Syndicate. The horse arrived last month from France where it was acquired by the PSA's agent. It is now in trainer Francis K.W. Lui's stable. Acclimatization and preparaton work will take a few months and "Fortune of Wah Yan" is expected to race early next year.

"Star of Wah Yan" is the other Wah Yan horse owned by our Kowloon counterparts.

(2 Oct 2000)

## INDEX

<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
US\$26,188 Donation to East Timor	1
Jesuit Fathers Nursing Fund	1
"Can Cheuk Che Yin put Grand Sport's unbeatable fairy tale to an end?"	1
"Fortune of Wah Yan"	1
Annual Ball	2
Wah Yan Family Day	5
<b>PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN</b>	
The Educational Blueprint for 21st Century	3-4
<b>CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN</b>	
Chairman's Message	6

# ANNOUNCEMENT



WAH YAN (H.K.) PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
香港華仁舊生會

## PRIZES ARE GETTING IRRESISTIBLE!

**Joe Junior** to entertain you with songs dear to your hearts! **Dance** to live band music with your loved ones! Party games to keep you and your guests happy and cheerful! **Old friends** to refresh your memories of yesteryears! **Christmas carols** and the **School Song** to lift your spirits! **Chinese cuisine** specially prepared by Conrad International to impress you! **Raffle prizes** you didn't think were possible:

### LIBERTAS LIMITED

- Patek Philippe watch (Retailled at HK\$45,000) sponsored by Libertas Ltd.



- Two round trip tickets from Hong Kong to Sydney sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways Limited



DRAGONAIR  
¥%o 2 s0É™

- Two round trip tickets from Hong Kong to Sanya sponsored by Dragonair



- Compaq iPAQ Pocket PC H3630 sponsored by Compaq Computer Limited

### LIBERTAS LIMITED

- Patek Philippe golf bag sponsored by Libertas Ltd.
- Swiss watches sponsored by Eldorado Watch Co.

Sponsors by:

- Andrew Y.S. Mak (PSA President)
- Micheal Au (PSA Vice-President)
- Kin Keung Lam (PSA Chairman)
- Peter K.H. Tam (PSA Vice-Chairman)

Table Prizes & Souvenirs:

- Computer carrying cases with Wah Yan badge sponsored by Dick Lau of **Asia Luck Co. Ltd.**



- Watches and souvenirs sponsored by Smart-Player.com

Date: 23 Dec 2000      Time: 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Venue: Grand Ballroom, Conrad International Hong Kong  
Admission: HK\$1,000 per person

Reservation: James Pak Ling Chan (Tel: 2522-7155) or  
Kin Keung Lam (Tel: 9144-9537) Email: [kk23lam@netvigator.com](mailto:kk23lam@netvigator.com) or  
Bernard Cheng (Tel: 9800-8300) or any council member of the PSA  
(Book now and we will deliver your tickets)

## Principal's Letter to PSA entitled The Educational Blueprint for 21st Century

Over the last year there have been major developments at both 281 Queen's Road East and at 183 Queen's Road East. I am referring of course to Wah Yan and the Education Department (ED) which is currently ensconced in the Hopewell Centre.

At Wah Yan much of our non-teaching time has been taken up not only on routine administration but in debate over the best direction the school should take in the 21st Century. The debate is highly complicated and multi-faceted. I must admit that I find it bewildering much of the time. The debate is far from over and that is why I feel it only proper to include the PSA in some of the issues in this letter.

### Background.

You will no doubt that we are aware of a plethora of initiatives that the ED is pushing through in accordance with The Education Blueprint for 21st Century entitled Learning for Life: Learning through life. Earlier this year the blueprint was under consultation. It has now been adopted and was published in September. I support much of the blueprint mainly because I feel that it is humane, flexible and feasible. The many proposals within the blueprint seek to cater for all learners whatever their age, ability and needs. Of course at Wah Yan we are principally concerned with the Secondary School initiatives covered in the blueprint, but, for obvious reasons, the initiatives relating to Primary Schools and Tertiary Education will also affect us.

The Government, at least in terms of education, seems to have accepted the notion that centralizing authority and the decision making process at the top will not achieve its long term goal of producing an innovative, pro-active and creative workforce. Unfortunately, the proposals in the blueprint do not delegate enough key functions to the schools. Even though the blueprint is honorably intentioned, it would keep many functions at the center requiring Principals and teachers to be administrators rather than leaders and managers.

I accept that more autonomy would make the business of running schools even harder for schools themselves. This is because schools would not only have to manage and balance their accounts but would also have to develop policy and management systems of their own which suit their particular needs, philosophies and vision. The onus of responsibility for nearly everything would fall much more on the Principal and his teachers and it would make greater demands on their abilities and their time.

Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS). The Direct Subsidy Scheme is a concept that has been mooted by the Government over the past few years but no Government or aided school so far has switched to this system. Recently the Grant Schools were approached by the ED and were invited to consider the terms by which schools might switch to the DSS system. This offers greater autonomy to schools including the freedom to design and choose the content of the curriculum, the freedom to choose the medium of instruction and the freedom to choose students under their own system of selection from applicants throughout Hong Kong.

These are the main freedoms now on offer under the DSS system. The Grant Schools have been asking for these very things for many years. They are now "on the table" and we are very tempted by the option.

We all know however that with freedom comes responsibility. Currently the DSS system would make schools responsible for their own maintenance and responsible for a large proportion of teacher salaries. These are two very large budgetary items and we are unlikely under the current proposals to be able to balance our books at the end of the financial year. In fact

seems that we would have to charge students such high fees that the school mission of education for all could well be compromised as only wealthy parents may be our only customers.

My current fear is that Wah Yan could become a school for the wealthy and be elite not because it produces Wahyanites but because it produces wealthy, privileged graduates. This is not what we aspire to at all. Indeed there are already many expensive schools around Hong Kong that cater to wealthier students and they do a very admirable job. I do not think that Wah Yan however needs to go down this path.

The Grant schools are currently in discussion with the ED about the level of maintenance and teacher salary funding that will be available. Most of us agree that if these two items can be solved and thus school fee charges minimized, we are likely to take the DSS option.

Don't worry however. We are not going to do this overnight without full and open consultation with all parties concerned including the PSA. This move is something we will be going into very carefully indeed and will no doubt require several feasibility studies to ensure that our eyes are fully open.

I invite you, even if you have not got children of your own, to take a look at the Education blueprint for the 21st Century as it has implications for Hong Kong society as a whole. There are a plethora of initiatives which will directly affect you or your business. Specifically the DSS system will have far-reaching effects on Wah Yan but so too would a decision to reject the DSS. Indeed it could be argued that if we do not adopt the DSS system our unique Jesuit identity could fade as our autonomy continues to be eroded by what is viewed by the ED's desire to level down rather than level up.

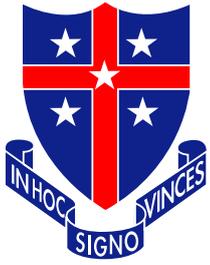
Sadly this is not a situation where sitting tight and doing nothing or just watching and waiting is a viable option. We must be proactive, keep our finger on the pulse and ensure we position Wah Yan so that it continues to remain in step with changes in Hong Kong society.

I thus welcome the PSA's views on any aspect of the blueprint and on our possible switch to the DSS system. I do value the PSA's informed input.

Wah Yan will change whatever we do but clearly we want to ensure that it changes for the better while not compromising our Jesuit traditions.



# ANNOUNCEMENT



香港華仁舊生會舉辦  
學生會及家長教師會協辦



WAH YAN FAMILY DAY

# 華仁日

**凝聚動力 創造明天!**

日期: 2001年1月7日(星期日)

時間: 上午10:30 至下午6:00

地點: 皇后大道東香港華仁書院

節目: 彌撒 (上午10:30) 紀念已故神父及老師而設。

展覽 華仁的過去, 現在與將來。

攤位遊戲 供小朋友玩耍盡興之地帶。

研討會 (下午2:00至下午4:00)「發揚華仁精神」。

園遊會 (下午4:00至下午6:00) 與舊同學相聚  
共進茶點的最佳時刻。

紀念品展銷 1933 - 1999 校刊光碟、「華仁精神」VCD、  
華仁木筆座、華仁相架、舊生會領帶等。

並設午膳供應 (自費)

歡迎華仁舊生及家屬、學生及家長、老師及職工回校一聚

## Chairman's Message

By the time this issue is published, it will be December. Celebration of Christmas and the New Year will inevitably cross one's mind. January with the Chinese New Year will also be approaching. How I long for these holidays!

For this festive season, the Association has organised three important functions for Wahyanites -

### Annual Ball

- Saturday 23 December 2000 at the Conrad Hotel ;

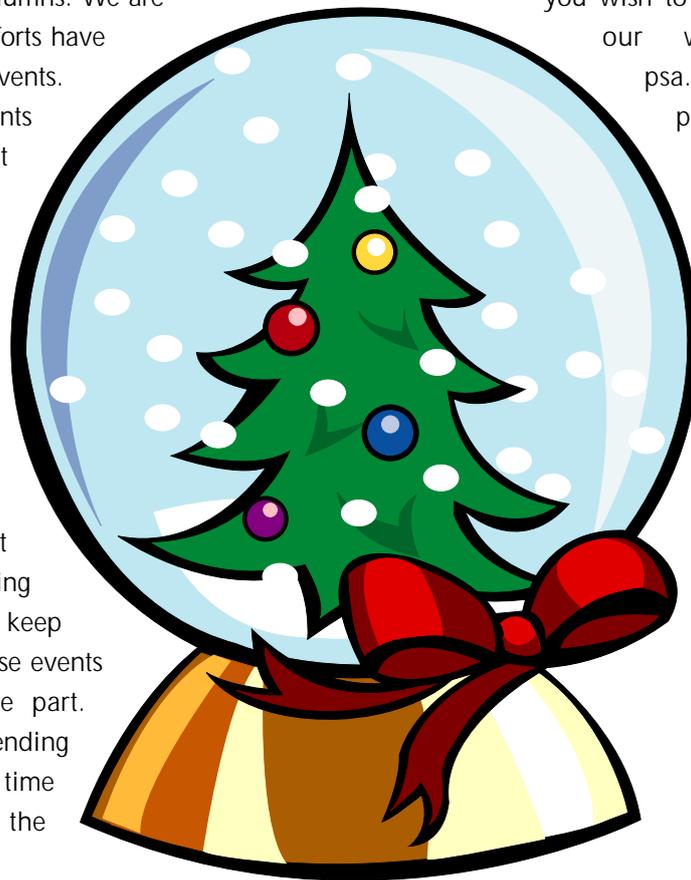
### Wah Yan Family Day Spring Dinner

- Sunday 7 January 2001 at the school; and

- Friday 9 February 2001 at the school hall.

I appeal to all Wahyanites, be they members of the Association or not, to take part. Details of the first two events can be found in other columns. We are working on the third. A lot of efforts have been put into organising these events. Despite all the efforts, these events will not be successful without your support and participation. So do come to share the fun and the alumni spirit!

The period is also a time for the family and Wah Yan is a big family that has spread across continents. Members range from those great grandfathers to those still studying in Wah Yan. It is not easy to keep everyone in touch and to organise events that everyone is keen to take part. Publishing the Wahyanite and sending it out by post to all members in time is already quite a task for the



editorial team. Thanks to technology and the help of Nicholas Tsui, we are able to put nearly everything you wish to know about the Association in our website (<http://www.wahyan-psa.org.hk>) in the Internet. This publication is also included. The website is updated very frequently with news about upcoming events. Do visit us there regularly. Give us your comments and suggestions so that we can offer better service to you.

On behalf of the Association, we wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

LAM Kin-keung (65)  
Chairman

★ **Wahyanites** is an official newsletter published by the 'Wah Yan (Hong Kong) Past Students Association Ltd.' aiming at promoting communication among its members. You are most welcome to submit your article by fax to the Editorial Committee at 2893-9290. Ideas and opinions expressed in articles appearing in this Wahyanites are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the ideas and opinions of the Editorial Committee, the School or the Association,

You may contact Mrs Eleanor Pang, our Executive Secretary, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00 am and noon at 2893-9290 for membership affairs. You may also leave your message via fax or voice-mail at the same telephone number. Alternatively, the Secretariat can be reached by electronic mail at this address: [wyhkpsa@netvigator.com](mailto:wyhkpsa@netvigator.com).

### Editorial Committee

Chief Editor C O Fung (74)

Managing Editor Leo Yu (91)

Member Christopher Kho (80)