

happenings school news

Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce Secondary School

Australian writer Isobelle Carmody met Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce Secondary School English reading ambassadors on April 24.

Tam Fong-kit, Wong Lei-o and Yim Tin-lok from Form 2A write about the preparations the club made for Carmody's visit.

"We made some displays about her and her books.

"The Ambassadors also participated in the campus TV interview with Isobelle. They also watched her as she was interviewed by Miranda Yeung of *Young Post*."

Pandora Tang of 3C learned more about Carmody's works.

"Her books include *The Obernewtyn Chronicles*, *The Gathering* and *Little Fur*. *Obernewtyn* is a series set in a world after a nuclear holocaust. Carmody wrote the first one when she was just 14 years old.

"*The Gathering* is a fantasy story with a classic "good versus evil" theme. *Little Fur* is also



ISOBELLE CARMODY (CENTRE) SHARED HER LIFE STORY AND WRITING TIPS WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF IN THE READING AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME.

part of a series, for slightly younger students, and is about the environment."

Jamie Chong of 3A enjoyed Carmody's talk. "First she told us how she survived during her

early years when she had to stay at home with her seven brothers and sisters and entertain them!

"Then she told us how she builds up atmosphere in her stories. Next, she told us why

storytelling is so important to her as a writer.

"Finally, she let us view her beautiful illustrations.

"I was honoured and happy to listen to her talk."



THE TOP STUDENTS ARE HONOURED AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY ON JUNE 2.

NLSI Lui Kwok Pat Fong College

Speaking at the 22nd graduation ceremony of the college on June 2, Professor Lau Siu-ying of the Chinese University of Hong Kong reminded the graduates that they should learn from the Sichuan (四川) earthquake.

"Fortune will not necessarily come, so treasure what is around you, especially your parents, the school principal, the teachers and the janitors. Without their selfless

contributions, you would not excel as brilliant and law-abiding citizens," Professor Lau said.

In his annual report, principal Dr Lau Man-fai said the average pass rate of the students in the 2007 HKCEE and HKALE was 89 per cent and 80 per cent respectively, with 83 per cent of F.7 graduates pursuing further studies. He complimented the students on their outstanding performance.

The Chinese Foundation Secondary School

The earthquake which devastated Sichuan (四川) last month caused more than 69,000 deaths. This event saddened every Chinese person.

Our school joined millions of Hongkongers and played its part in raising funds for survivors. During the three-day national mourning period, we borrowed an Olympic torch from Hong Kong table tennis stars Li Ching and Ko Lai Chak and charged students HK\$10 to have their photo taken with it.

The principal encouraged students to donate even more by promising to match the amount of money they raised.

Teachers held a concert and charged an entry fee and the music society held a concert one lunchtime to raise more money.

It is heart-warming to see

how our classmates and teachers pulled together to support the earthquake survivors. They spent their free time organising activities and didn't expect anything in return. The events raised more than HK\$10,000 and students donated a further HK\$20,000.

The donations will be passed to Oxfam and Red Cross to help rebuild the refugees' lives.

I hope that our donation will help them to get their lives back to normal and remember those who lost their lives.

Anthony Chan

Share your news!

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bright spark

Austin James Pike

Simply inspired

Do you recognise the image of a glowing light bulb hovering above a person's head? Bright ideas don't come very often so whenever you feel inspired, grab a piece of paper and make a few sketches.

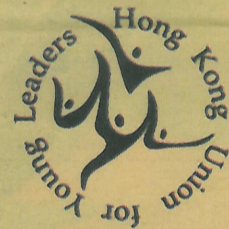
As complex as it seems, the ability to create a masterpiece of our own lies in every one of us.

Proposing a simple solution to a sophisticated design problem is hard, but through passion and perseverance success can emerge.

A great design begins with a plethora of research and sketching, followed by co-operation and compromise.

From observation to conceptualisation, it is necessary to explore and analyse before deciding on specifications to tailor your product to its function.

Then, from testing to finalisation, you should make



sure that you generate plenty of variations to choose from, and identify useful features.

John F. Kennedy once said: "A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on."

If there's something you use which irritates you, have you thought of ways to improve it? That is the best place to start.

Anyone could invent the next breakthrough product, something as simple as the paper clip, that will be used around the world.

So don't throw away the napkin you scribbled that radical solution on.

Austin, a Form Six student at Diocesan Boys' School, is promotion manager of the Hong Kong Union for Young Leaders