

BOAI UPDATE 2020

Given the unsettling and extraordinary times we are facing, I am **grudgingly ensconced in Portland, Oregon** and hammed in and **unable to be at the forefront** of Bo Ai School to **personally supervise** its daily activities. However, I am grateful and rightfully **thank God** that **through weChat** I am able to **confer daily online** with our Bo Ai staff, directors and Principal Kwan.

Firstly, at the height of the corona19 virus infestation, **supporters** of Bo Ai **sent** to our students and staff **masks, thermometers** and **gowns**. For their kind deeds, we are more than **grateful**. The global pandemic has brought no shortage of challenges to Bo Ai. **Summer vacation had to be shortened to make up for the loss** of real **in-person class** attendance education. For **several months** with the initial onset of the corona19, classes were **held online**. For those families who live in remote villages with no internet reception, Bo Ai bought for them satellite dishes so they could receive internet reception. In **May, gradually**, class by class, students received **education** at Bo Ai **in person** with precautions. Because Bo Ai is a boarding school, **extra** safety and security **precautions** had to be taken for the students and staff. The previous semester was carried out with masks, social distancing, disinfectants and daily temperature testing. This **present semester** started in September with **no masks, social distancing etc.** There **has not been any case** of the coronavirus at our school, our village or the neighboring Township and villages. This also is the first time in **15 years that I am unable** to be **present** at the **Graduation Ceremonies** of the **Kindergarten, Primary and Middle School Classes**. How I wish I could be present to congratulate and wish them success in their continuing education!



The Qinyuan **Party Secretary** recently paid a visit to our Bo Ai School and both he and the Township **Education Secretary** commended that **our Bo Ai School** is an **outstanding educational school** and conferred to Bo Ai the **singular privilege** to send our Vice Principal to **Guangzhou** and another Vice Principal to **Chongqing** to attend and learn at the **National New Method Education Conference**. An accolade and commendation indeed! Bo Ai is **one of five schools** in the township to receive **this honor!**

Even though I was not in person supervising the activities at Bo Ai, the **expectations** and the **foundation of activities** have been **laid**. These were carried out as you can see from the **attached photos**. However, in a very great measure, I **regret** that because of the Coronavirus and travel restrictions, **fifteen large** visiting groups/**smaller** groups had to be **cancelled**. Visiting volunteer groups from Hong Kong, University of Macau, U.S., Canada and the Shanghai Yew Chung International Schools from China have been cancelled. Many persons who are not in large groups but come as private persons from China, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, U.S. etc. have also cancelled their visits. The **loss** to our students is **great!** Our students learned so much from these friends!



The **Hong Kong dental clinic** chaired by **Dr. Eilly Lau** and the **Houston medical clinic** chaired by **Dr. Kin Lock** were also cancelled. Bo Ai also miss dearly the **Touching Lives Overseas Group**

chaired by the late chairwoman, **Ida Fok** of Toronto, Canada. Ida had been an **enthusiastic** and **passionate** supporter of Bo Ai. We will **miss profoundly** her contributions to **TLO** and to our School. A planned **learning trip of 20** of our **Bo Ai** students to **visit** the H.K. **Kin Lock Schools** in 2020 also had to be cancelled. How disheartening! Our students also **miss greatly** the **Carnival Event** that the Hong Kong Group and Uncle Michael hold for us at Bo Ai each year! Games, popcorn, cotton candy, prizes galore and different first time relishing dishes! However, I am happy to report one exception. Our **Sister Kin Lock Schools** in Hong Kong held an **Online Meet** with our students and teachers!!!



Bo Ai has been looking forward to Natural Gas and rid of the foul air coal burning for a number of years. Hurray ! Finally, **Natural Gas arrived**. The **government** has been gracious and **donated the natural gas furnace** to Bo Ai. **Bo Ai pays** for the **connection** of the natural gas from the street to Bo Ai, the **dismantling** of the coal furnace through the roof and **installation** of the natural gas furnace again through the roof and **connection** of the natural gas piping and connection to **the new kitchen stoves** which Bo Ai has to purchase. How much **Bo Ai** has to **pay** each year for **the natural gas** for heating the buildings and for the kitchen cooking is **still unknown**. The government had been subsidizing partially the cost of coal in previous years. It will also **subsidize partially** the cost of the natural gas but to what extent is still **unknown**. **Natural gas costs** more than coal.

Next time when you visit Bo Ai, I know you will notice **the pristine air** you breathe in will feel and smell different. Looking forward, many students are yearning to have **you to sponsor them**. US **\$420/year** will pay **for a child's** tuition, board and lodging. The **soccer field** and the 200 meters **running tract** for the Middle School still have to be built to qualify Bo Ai School as a full fledge Middle School.

This missive provides a snapshot of the work and **accomplishments of the past year** of our Bo Ai School. This is just a small representation of the many ways **your time and energy and donations** impact our Bo Ai and **make a difference** in the lives of our students. It is **because of your support and belief** in the transformative qualities of a Bo Ai education that we are in a position to lead our Bo Ai into a **promising and bright future!**

There will be **challenges ahead**. We know there is **uncertainty** with what the coming months will bring. Though we are separated by space and miles, we are **united in support** of one another and I am **confident that you and I** will be here **carrying the torch of Bo Ai**. We will seek to make sure our students are **safe and healthy** and are able to **reach their educational goals**. I hope you will **pray for us** during this time and **we will be lifting prayers** of safety and gratitude **for you**. You and us are very **thankful and hopeful** and more so at this time of the year at **Thanksgiving/Christmas**. **Be safe and Go Bo Ai!!**



Your Friends:

Christine and Patrick Chan

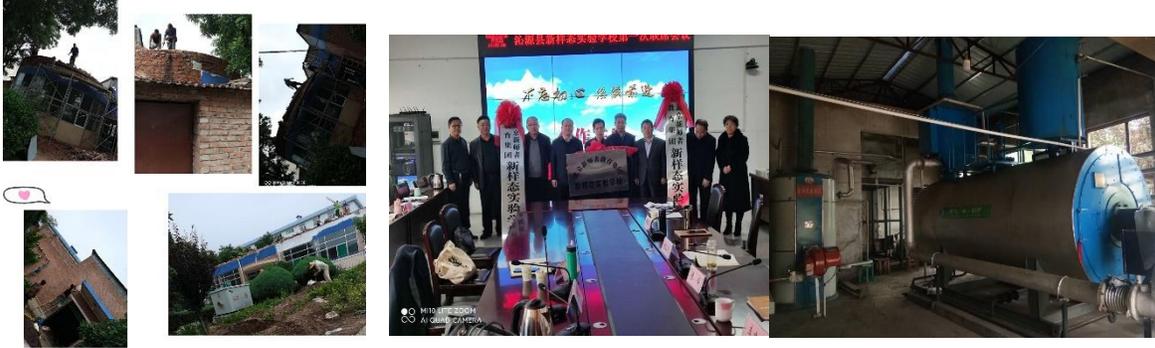
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NEW YEAR

