獨樹一幟的學習匯報餐會

明智德國際學校啟迪兒童成長的搖藍

明智德國際學校（Pacific Rim International School）今年5月3日在Foster City的Crowne Plaza酒店舉辦的由學生策劃、組織的學習匯報餐會，新穎、獨特，讓人們在美的享受中感受該校為培育新人成材的拳拳之心。

明智德國際學校的義大利校長張慧儀女士

明智德國際學校是一所設有英語、中文及日語的蒙台梭利雙語教學課程的學校，學生在校注重各種不同的文化，鼓勵學生參與大型傳統文化活動的策劃、組織。學生親身體驗並收穫經驗，提高組織和規劃能力。每年五月的餐舞晚會，旨在給學生提供一個學習展示平臺，瞭解在正式場合應有的風度和禮儀，讓人處事的態度、保持謙虛或端莊的舉止等。舞會從會場的佈置到舞曲的播放均由學生設計、安排。當你看到學生根據學習的主題，精心製作的工藝品，當你看到身穿盛裝、彬彬有禮的4至15歲年齡不等的學生以輕盈舞步，優雅的舞姿向家長、嘉賓匯報學習成果時，你一定為之吸引和驚豔。

餐舞會上，從數十年的校長張慧儀女士發言：明智德國際學校特聘外籍教師及專家教授學者，旨在讓學生在快樂、有意義和綜合性的學習中，培養獨立思考、自我認知、個人誠信、責任擔當的能力。學校的教學方式和課程設計的獨特之處，在於結合中西文化精髓，促進學生的注意力、觀察力、判斷力，從而帶來學習的樂趣，勇於探索新事物。

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A Unique Annual Gala
Pacific Rim International School, offering a holistic approach to child development

The annual Gala held by Pacific Rim International School (PRINTS) on May 3rd, 2013 at Foster City Crown Plaza hotel was unique, extraordinary, and organized by the PRINTS students, allowing the guests to enjoy the beauty of the night and experience this school as a place to start a child's path to success.

Pacific Rim International School (PRINTS) offers a bilingual Montessori program in Mandarin-English and Japanese-English. Its integrated and culturally-grounded approach includes the students' active participation in organizing culturally significant events. Throughout all the school activities, students gain direct hands-on experience that helps them develop organizational and planning skills. The purpose of hosting a Gala every year in May, is to offer the students an opportunity to learn about grace and courtesy within the framework of a formal event; through this experience, students learn to function within a community in a manner that is graceful and harmonious. Everything from the decoration of the Gala ballroom to the rehearsal of the Gala music was designed and arranged by the students. The sight of students accomplishing their given brief, for instance, making the center pieces and decorations, the sight of students aged 4 to 15 in formal attire, courteously presenting elegant dances to their parents and honored guests, is simply fascinating, amazing and deeply touching.

The principal, Ms. Christinia Cheung, gave a speech at the beginning of the Gala that is extracted below:

“Through joyful, meaningful, and integrated learning, our students are encouraged to cultivate independent thinking, self-awareness, integrity, and a sense of responsibility toward their work, their learning, and their role as citizens of a global community. Distinctive to our approach and to our curriculum is a stress on fostering the ability to focus and concentrate, which is fundamentally borne out of a joy of learning, a love of exploration, a deep sense of satisfaction, self-discipline, and the ability to follow through. The school was established in 1989. Our teachers, teaching with passion, heart and soul, the enthusiastic community support, the parents driving their children to school on time regardless of weather conditions, hard working students, all these are the reasons why the quality of the school has steadily improved over the past 24 years and will continue to provide the best education for our students.

Mrs. Xie, one of the parents, was particularly appreciative of her experience with Pacific Rim International School: “PRINTS’ distinctive approach has earned the community’s recognition. My three children are all studying at PRINTS, the youngest, already seven years old this year, has learned a great deal, from practical life activities to academic learning. I still remember when my youngest child just started school at the age of 2 ½ years: in only one year, you could already see the changes in him, his improved ability do things for himself and not to rely on the parents too much. My experience gives me a lot of confidence in
PRINTS’ education.”

Mrs. Lau, another mother, was really impressed by the progressive education provided at PRINTS, which was designed to foster a child's natural inclination to learn. She feels that at PRINTS children become active learners and are able to reach their own unique potential with the guidance and support of the teachers. She has had two children enrolled at PRINTS for more than 10 years now, since they were 1 1/2 years old. She is so pleased to see that they keep growing more independent and developing a sense of responsibility.

Laurel Hom, yet another mother, says that PRINTS is a very structured and well-organized international school, that students are brought up in an environment that supports their natural development both psychologically and physically. She added that she and her Chinese-born husband wanted to make it possible for their daughter to learn how to speak and write Chinese. That desire led them to enroll her at PRINTS, and her competency in Chinese has since improved continuously.

A leader of an overseas Chinese association located in San Francisco and a founding member of the Lung Kong Family Association, Mr. Liu and his wife also attended the Gala on May 3rd. They were proud to say that their three grandchildren had been enrolled at PRINTS since the age of 18 months and had thus benefited from the early child education offered at PRINTS. The children have learned about different cultures, in addition to traditional Chinese culture, respect of elders, and kindness towards others. All the staff at Pacific Rim International School - from the principal to the teachers - is genuinely concerned for all the students, and for their growth and development.

Jo Ellis, who is in charge of PRINTS’ high school program, said that parents have great trust in the school because it is deeply committed to offering the best education and give the right kind of support and foundation to the students to ensure them success in the future.

The integration of bilingualism reflects the increasing internationalism of our evolving community. In the context of globalism, the acquisition of a second language at an early age has become a necessary skill, and one that will be key to our children's success. To meet these new challenges, PRINTS has been offering its pioneering, culture-based and learner-based program to Bay Area families seeking an in-depth exposure to the rich variety of our world's cultures. Previously serving children aged 18 months to 15 years, the curriculum will extend, starting September 2013, to include children aged 3 months.