

Press Release

【For immediate release】

**Imagination Awakening
Cherishing Childhood Creativity**

(Hong Kong – 16 May 2020) ‘How a Gifted Mind Starts’ Award Presentation Ceremony cum Online Forum (the event) held by the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) was successfully concluded today. Seventy-seven creative works of early childhood in total were collected from student contestants of local primary and secondary schools. A panel of judges formed by numerous experienced educators has chosen a few outstanding pieces. In addition, more than 500 public members have also selected ‘My Favorite Work Award’ through an online poll. Apart from the award presentation, an online forum on how to enhance children’s creativity was conducted concurrently. In view of the pandemic, the event was held online for more than 100 audience members, making it the Academy’s first-ever online award ceremony.

Professor NG Tai Kai, Executive Director of the HKAGE, pointed out in his welcome speech that children in their infancy are the most creative. As they grow up, children learn to follow rules while acquiring different knowledge, subsequently bounding their creativity. Starting from 2016, the HKAGE holds the event ‘How a Gifted Mind Starts’ every one or two years. The HKAGE collects student members’ and non-members’ creative works made at the age of six or below. Through the demonstration of those works together with the narration for the muse of the creations, the creative enthusiasm of student contestants as well as the event participants will be awakened.

An online forum was held in parallel with the award ceremony, with the keynote speeches made by **Dr Amelia LEE, Head (Early Childhood and Elementary Education), School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University** and **Mr CHOI Kam To Scater, Program Development Officer, Program for the Gifted and Talented, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong**. Dr LEE encouraged parents and teachers, when nurturing the children’s creativity, to allow the kids a higher degree of autonomy and enrich the children’s life experience, such as inviting them to take part in household chores and family decisions. ‘Most people would think that creativity development should be without boundaries’, Dr Lee said, ‘but it is not true because people tend to pick the easiest way to deal with problems by applying the accustomed means. Guidelines and boundaries, somehow, can push us to create new measures to resolve hitches.’

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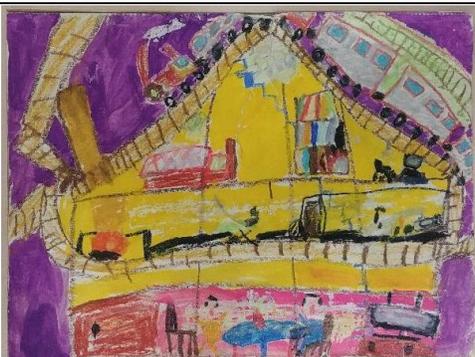
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Mr CHOI opined that the progress for humanity is driven by creativity. He added ‘children could always demonstrate their originality when solving problems. Parents should grasp this opportunity by giving their children a free hand to tackle their problems, whenever possible.’

Below is a list of the award winners in the event:

The Winning Work	Ideas and Memories Related to the Work	The Winner
Creativity Award & Inspiration Award		
 <p data-bbox="164 1150 581 1184">Painting, created at the age of 5</p>	<p data-bbox="678 764 1062 1482">When I was small, I enjoyed drawing animals that can fly, especially birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Not only were they beautiful when their wings fluttered in the sky, they always reminded me to fly high and try my best to achieve my goals. These feelings towards them remain today. When I look back at this piece of artwork, I created 9 years ago, and I always feel happy that I could create this at such a young age. They may seem like ordinary creatures that you see daily, but dragonflies' connections to me are extraordinarily deep.</p> <p data-bbox="678 1507 1062 1541">(Text provided by the winner)</p>	<p data-bbox="1089 764 1463 831">LAM Yee Yan Avery, 14, S3, HKAGE student member</p> <p data-bbox="1089 856 1463 1071">According to her mother, Avery always likes playing the piano and painting. She would bring along her painting tools when travelling.</p> <p data-bbox="1089 1096 1463 1453">After moving up to secondary school, Avery becomes busier and has less time for practicing piano and painting. During the pandemic in recent months, however, home learning leaves her more spare time to produce creative works again.</p>
Originality Award		

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Painting, created at the age of 6

When I was a little kid, I returned home from school every day wishing that my mom could reach home very soon after work. When the teacher asked us to draw a painting titled, My Ideal Home, I drew a house with railways all around and trains flying on the railways. I was thinking that the flying trains would take my mom home at its highest speed and dropped her off at the station built on our rooftop. Then she could enter our home right away, and I would see her immediately. That would be very convenient for us.

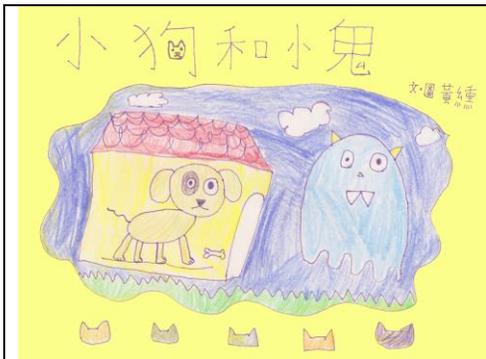
(Original text is Chinese, provided by the winner)

FU Lok Hei, 15, S4, HKAGE student member.

Lok Hei is a student member of the HKAGE with talents demonstrated in the science domain. Apart from drawing, he likes to invent. As the academic pressure increases along with grade promotion, Lok Hei treasures even more the squeezed time for his innovative works.

Lok Hei has been drawing and maintaining a target invention list of about 20 items since primary school. He hopes to place them into reality one by one. One of the innovative ideas that Lok Hei has already materialised is a pair of power-generating shoes.

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Painting, created at the age of 6

I have been in love with creating since my childhood. I love to express myself through painting and handicrafts. When I am inspired, I will utilise whatever materials I can get to create my work. This comic book was my first comic book and my first well-planned creation. Back then, I wanted to publish my own storybook. After I had drawn the characters and the story, I tried to add the text using my limited language. I also designed the covers and the inner pages, two essential elements for a published book. I was just thinking that I needed to design the covers and the inner pages if I took the publication seriously. Besides, I also need the covers to write down my name as the author and the illustrator!

(Original text is Chinese, provided by the winner)

WONG Finn Meryl, 12, S1, HKAGE student member

Finn likes to create. She often sets creation targets and production schedules for herself. Her works include writings, picture books and handicrafts. She pays attention to details such as the placement of food. Recently she has been fascinated by computer design software and short film production.

Although the pressure from homework and examinations has become greater after advancing to secondary school, it does not affect Finns motivation for creation. Finn's mother, Mrs WONG, said that Finn's production schedules are not affected by examinations as she likes to paint and make handicrafts during the resting time when studying for the examinations. Not only her production schedules can progress as usual, but also her stress can be relieved. Finn also gets plenty of inspiration during the examination period.

Mrs WONG considers creativity more important than academic achievements and encourages her daughter to

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continue to create, so that her talent could be unleashed. Mrs WONG said, 'As a parent, I will require my daughter to fulfill her responsibilities as a student, such as finishing her homework as assigned and taking her studies seriously. But I will not ask her to spend extra time on private tuition or practices for better grades. I want her to have more time to develop diverse interests/talents, creativity being one of them.'

My Favourite Work Award



Painting, created at the age of 6

I loved Cantonese opera since I was studied at kindergarten. I was attracted by the colourful opera costumes, however, my mother did not allow me to pursue my dream of learning about Cantonese opera. Thus, I took out my pen and paper and started to paint the opera mask with pastels. I was fully absorbed by the symmetrical patterns and found them very interesting, and then I would put on the opera mask to perform a Cantonese opera classic - The Story of Patriotic Princess Changping to my parents.

Tam Yi Ming, 14 years old, S 4, HKAGE student member

Yi Ming has been extremely fond of artistic creation since childhood. She frequently painted flowers and plants, portraits of family and friends in her diary. She draws graffiti with watercolour on the bathroom's walls and producing toys from the wastes. Her creative works include abaloneshell-wind chimes, shoe boxes and biscuit boxes made fashion shop, Halloween masks made of recycled materials like handicraft wastes and old clothing. Her family is tremendously supportive of Yi Ming's

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	<p>When I looked back to my childhood works, I was deeply touched by my intention to paint my dreams with pictures, by adopting simple methods, like alphabets and numerals, and fundamental patterns to complete a drawing. After that, I would make use of this painting to perform the Cantonese opera classic in front of my mom and dad. Flashing back for the old days of striving for my dreams. I am really proud of my good old self.</p> <p>(Text provided by the winner)</p>	<p>production and allows her to follow her heart. Her parents believe that there is no conflict between her drive for originality development and academic excellence. Yi Ming is also a self-disciplined child who can well allocate her time for studies and creative works. In fact, the process of production would give Yi Ming peace of mind and reduce her academic pressure.</p>
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The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education, a subvented non-governmental organisation, was established in 2008. It aims at serving the education sector in Hong Kong, offering high quality information and appropriate learning opportunities to students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders engaged in gifted education. Most of its programmes are provided free-of-charge.

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Annex

Photo #1	Photo #2
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#1. Online forum via Zoom.
(from left, upper row) Student MCs Percy and Michelle, Speaker Mr Scater CHOI.
(from left, lower row) Speakers Professor TK NG, Dr Amelia LEE.



#2. The 2 student MCs and student photographer take a group photo after the event.



Photo #3



Photo #4

#3 & 4 The 2 student MCs are hosting the event.