

Wishing you and your families a happy New Year,

Nesbitt Centre Staff

Welcome.... to The Nesbitt Centre (TNC) Parents Newsletter. Coming to you approximately three times per year, the aim of this publication is to provide you with information on significant events, student updates, program happenings, work placements, exciting initiatives and future endeavours.

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TNC STUDENTS

We currently have 48 students at TNC with a potential waiting list of 10 students. This includes students from the ESF sector. Additionally we have a waiting list of 3 students who have high support needs and due to constraints in space we are unable to give a place.

Students benefit from many activities, outings and events out in the community and enjoy reflecting and writing about their recent experiences.

'We went to the country club last Friday to meet with the company staff was nice to us and invites us for lunch the lunch was dim sum the lunch were very yummy, and then we also talk with them and ask them some questions'. The reason why we are there is because they will give us some job opportunities'. Joanne Liu and Vicky Wong

EVENTS AND NEWS

Shifting Perspectives Sept 2010 – with the generous sponsorship of the British Council TNC was very proud to be part of this event which through the use of photography, not only demonstrates that those with Down's syndrome can and do lead rewarding lives through vibrant, thought provoking images, but also changes the perceptions of people with Down's syndrome. A special thanks to Crown International Relocations for packing, moving and storing all the exhibits.

Sailability is a new sailing initiative in Hong Kong in which TNC students can take part in a sailing program. This has been received with great enthusiasm and positivity from those students who are part of it. Four students from TNC and staff were trained up to Level 2 sailing and recently took part in a 24 hour dinghy race as part of the Sailability team. We are very proud to say they came 2nd in their class. Recently Sailability have purchased 'access dinghy's' to enable those with high support needs to enjoy a sailing experience, we look forward to some more of our students benefiting from this program.



Coffee Shop - we are very pleased to announce that the building proposal has recently been approved which means we are well on our way to beginning construction and opening up the coffee shop in 2011. This is a very exciting development at St John's Cathedral, giving our students and others within the community with special needs a unique opportunity to work and create revenue to generate further work opportunities and donate to other organisations. A special mention and thanks must go to Clifford Chance for their donation of \$90,000 HKD for Barista training and Operation Santa Claus for their donation of \$795,000 HKD to enable the TNC coffee shop to happen.



WORK OPPORTUNITIES AT TNC provides our students with hands on real life working experience. Students at the TNC do a total of 253 work hours per week with 27 students out on work placement and some students working up to 25 hours per week.

A few of the businesses that our students work for include Park-n-shop, British Council, PIPS preschool, Wildfire in Stanley, YWCA, China Coast Community, Amicorp and many more. Work responsibilities range from administration to gardening and kitchen assistance to customer service.

OUR DONORS - To mention a couple of generous organisations, business's, individuals and community groups with their support:

CLARES group is a diverse group of women working together to raise money through donations of used clothing and bric-a-brac. This funding has been used this year for consultation training on the curriculum for staff and students.

Operation Santa Claus is an annual charity campaign jointly organized by South China Morning Post (SCMP) and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Its aim is to support the Hong Kong community and beyond, through the combined charitable fundraising power of two of Hong Kong's most respected news organizations. We are delighted to be one of the Operation Santa Claus' beneficiaries to enhance our Social Entrepreneurship projects.

Matilda Sedan Chair Race and bazaar is an annual fundraising event to support the little known Hong Kong charities. It consists of teams carrying sedan chairs racing around the Peak on a route (2.1km for both courses), starting from The Matilda International Hospital. We are very appreciative to this event group for their generous donations to assist us in the funding of our Work Opportunities Program.

New Initiatives - TNC is continuously seeking areas of improvement and working towards best practice.

Human Resources - using SWD funding specifically aimed at improving our Human Resources capability, we employed the services of Felice Dampney, HR Consultant. Felice has over 10 years human resources experience and is also a qualified Special Needs Teacher.

Over the past year Felice has been responsible for a number of HR related projects including a staff feedback survey, revising and developing a comprehensive set of HR policies and procedures aligned to both HK legislation and best practice, a revised Board policy, Job Descriptions and Newsletters. Felice will continue to work on HR related projects over the course of 2011.

SAMS – during Surinder's recent trip to NZ in December 2009 he had the opportunity to not only learn from some of the top best practice Special Needs organisations in the world, he also met with Mark Benjamin, Director of Standards and Monitoring Services (SAMS).

SAMS **pioneered** the concept and practice of developmental evaluation. The SAMS Multi-Perspective Approach (MPA) primarily uses qualitative methods and a partnership model. The SAMS team spent a total of six days in Hong Kong gathering information through observation, individual and group interviews and reviewing protocols and procedures. Interviews were conducted with family members, staff, Board members and students. The final report is due out in 2011.

VOLUNTEERING AT TNC

At TNC, we see our volunteer program as an opportunity to promote community integration and acceptance. The primary goal of our volunteer programme is to break down social barriers by providing a positive experience for volunteers in interacting with people with learning disabilities. We currently have over ten regular volunteers. We have also been developing our CSR relations in the corporate sector and relations with ESF schools.

We always try to find the best fit for our volunteers in terms of their availability, background and interest with the areas in which they can support us. It is very important to us that our volunteers have a positive experience for the work they do in the centre, so that they would be willing to continue their support for people with disability in the future. For individual volunteers, they will have the liberty to choose what activities they would like to be involved in (e.g. sports, arts, music, community outing and vocational training).

If you know of someone who would be interested in volunteering please contact Laura at TNC on email Laura@nesbittcentre.org.hk

Parents Coffee Morning?

An opportunity to connect with other parents at TNC, share experiences and enjoy a social outing....

Please provide us with some **feedback** as to whether this is something you would be interested in?



IN THE COMMUNITY JANUARY 2011

CHORAL CONCERT

Date: 22-01-2011

Time: 19:30 – 20:30 PM

Location: St. John's Cathedral

Free Admission. Bring your friends and family!

RSVP-Centre Admin or call Jacqueline for more details. A separate e-mail flyer will be posted and sent by e-mail.