

# **61<sup>ST</sup> HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPEECH (ENGLISH)**

## **FESTIVAL**

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### **Public Speaking Team**

**Vicki Lau 5S**

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### **EDUCATION IS MORE THAN ACADEMIC RESULTS**

#### **FIRST SPEAKER**

Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good evening to you all. Speaking here is Ms. Nicole Leung, your co-hostess, along with Ms Lo .

Schools. I'm sure everyone knows about schools, where the teachers use their flat tone voice to spoon-feed us with all the materials and knowledge that we need to know for our public exams, where we learn to compete with our classmates for the first in class. But wait, is that what education is all about?

I'm indeed honored and privileged to introduce you our guest speaker tonight, Ms. Vicki Lau.

Ms. Vicki Lau has been in the education field for over a decade and is the founder of Queen's glory modern education tutorial centre. She majored in folklore and mythology in the Harvard University; clay-making and paper cutting in Princeton University and most importantly way of tea in University of Beijing. This year, her unique teaching methods won her the Dorothy Howard Folklore and Education Prize 2009. She has published a hundred professional articles on education through clay making and she now writes frequently for Times Magazines as well as the South China Morning Post.

So, now, without further delay, my dear audience, please give a round of applause to Ms. Vicki Lau!

## **MAIN SPEAKER**

Hello everyone! Thank you for inviting me here tonight to share with you all the newest views on education from Queen's Glory Modern Education. Get ready to be enthralled, enchanted and enlightened as you listen to what we can offer your child.

At Queen's Glory Modern education, we REDEFINE education. So, what is education? Ah, I hear answers – school? Exams? Grades? Nope. Education simply means learning. And it has nothing to do with getting an A in your report card! Let me explain how you can learn and have fun.

For the first session of the course, we focus on brushing up students' language skills. And how do we achieve this? We read folklore and mythology. From Greek mythology like Pandora's Box to Disney adapted tales like Beauty and the Beast. Believe me: using tales from the Odyssey is the best way to introduce students to poetry – I mean all the words are written in fixed meter forms and alternate lines rhyme, alliteration and enjambment. And writing about traditions mentioned in fairy tales such as baking the gingerbread man develops students' writing skills and creativity.

That's not all! For the next part of the course, we cultivate students' unique talents and imagination by clay-making. You cannot imagine what a piece of play dough can tell us about your child – the beautiful sculptures that your children make whimsically from these seemingly simple materials actually determine whether or not your child will become the next Beethoven or the next Picasso! Clay art is a source of self expression and confidence.

Finally, for our last course, we teach students Chado - the way of tea. Patience and perseverance are essential to a child's growth and there is no better way to learn these virtues than the way of tea. Students learn to pay undivided attention to minute details after tea serving ceremonies – the flowers have to be arranged at a perfect angle - and utmost concentration is required for brewing the perfect cup of tea, put it this way – after the way of tea, students will never find it hard to concentrate on anything else in their daily lives!

We also offer air plane building and bread making, go training and Chinese medicine.

Forget academic results, education is NOT JUST about academic results! Rather, pursue a comprehensive education at Queen's Glory Modern Education – and learn about learning! Feel free to drop into one of our many tutorial centers and choose your own course now!

### **THIRD SPEAKER**

Thank you, Ms. Lau, for that thought-provoking speech!

Did you all hear the definition of education? Yes, Ms. Lau is *right*! Education *simply* means learning!

The courses at Queen's Glory Modern Education are ones that we'd all like to learn from! To develop writing skills through reading folklore and mythology... what an innovative way to learn! I guess my only wish right now is that I was young enough to take these exact same courses. I would've loved language lessons as a child, if it meant listening to Red Riding Hood and stories like Harry Potter!

Who would have thought that a little clay dough could actually tell us so much about a child, or even identify their future?

Also, using Chado to train children's patience and perseverance is impressive!

Ms Lau, congratulations on such cool ideas!

Ms Lau is truly an individual in the field of education. If only all leaders were as innovative and fun-loving as she is! What a source of inspiration! So once again, thank you, Ms Lau, for reminding us that education is more than just a grade on a silly old report card. I hope all of you can find a course that's perfect for you at Queen's Glory Modern Education!