

## 15 Outstanding Elementary Schools Nominated for 2015 Teaching Excellence Award

(Photo and article by Jia-xi Lee, Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool Education)



A total of 38 schools were nominated for the 2015 Distinguished Excellence Award in the category of elementary schools, and 15 schools stood out against all the other competitors after the second round review held at Changhua County Yu-Ying Elementary School in early July. The nominees of this award are New Taipei Municipal Sanxia District Jian-An Elementary School, New Taipei Municipal Sanxia District Cha-Jiao Elementary School, Taipei Municipal Neihu District Kang Ning Elementary School, New Taipei Municipal Shimen District Lao Mai Elementary School, Nantou County Guoxing Township Chang Fu Elementary School, Tainan Municipal Rende District Hushan Elementary School, Hsinchu Municipal East District Dongmen Primary School, Tainan Municipal Cigu District Guangfu Elementary School, Tainan Municipal Sianbei Elementary School, Kaohsiung Municipal Neimen District Ximen Elementary School, Taoyuan Municipal Pingjhen District Shiang-An Elementary School, Kaohsiung Municipal Shanlin District Min-Zu Da-Ai Elementary School, Taipei Municipal Wenshan District Jingxing Elementary School, Taipei Municipal Beitou District Mingde Elementary School, and Chiayi County Shuishang Township Beiui Elementary School (listed by their numbers in the secondary review). These outstanding teams of teaching excellence will be

recognized for their merits in the award ceremony held at Changhua County Yuanlin Performance Hall on September 11.

Among all of the nominees, New Taipei Municipal Sanxia District Jian-An Elementary School, through the incorporation of its local history dating back to 1896, developed a creative environmental protection project, which generated much community influence, as well as international interaction. Its ultimate aim is to fully develop environmental protection curriculum, thereby solidifying environmental education on campus. New Taipei Municipal Sanxia District Cha-Jiao Elementary School, inspired by the spirit of buttress plants, extended that spirit to establish three major significances of ROOT. In addition, the school provided a four-axis curriculum, using that to cultivate kids' aesthetic basis in the theater of "Adventures in Buttress." Taipei Municipal Neihu District Kang Ning Elementary School focused much on "Character Plays with Creativity." Through the process of paradigm learning, critical thinking and inspiring, affecting and encouraging, as well as environmental modeling and service learning, students are expected to put knowledge into action and become inquisitive and virtuous students.

New Taipei Municipal Shimen District Lao Mai Elementary School took kite-flying courses as a medium to provide a stage for the teachers and children to display their expertise, as well as helping others and residents in their hometown to build up confidence and optimism, and living with shared prosperity. Nantou County Guoxing Township Chang Fu Elementary School adopted service learning as their core curriculum. Kids learned to provide service for the local community through writing picture books from their collected local stories. They also offered service to other children in disadvantaged areas through donation from the charity sales of these books.

Tainan Municipal Rende District Hushan Elementary School adopted "Children Play in the Beautiful Landscape, Children Dream in the Forest" as the featured curriculum in this ecological school, which was based on the belief that Nature can expand kids' horizon, that education can be enhanced through hand-on experience with nature, and Nature is kids' greatest teacher. Hsinchu Municipal East District Dongmen Primary School, developed the project of "Looking for 3D Maps in Dongmen's Human Culture," focused much on kids' multiple needs. The project effectively enhanced every kid's human cultural competence, allowing kids to gain peak experience of multiple capability, so they are willing to share with and care about others. Tainan

Municipal Cigu District Guangfu Elementary School, designed the “Recover Ocean, Enlighten Classroom” curriculum, utilizing the marine ecology parks and ecological assets, so kids can acquire marine knowledge right on campus.

Tainan Municipal Sianbei Elementary School intimated kids with Yanshuei River, a unique and precious gift from nature, through the core value of “People Living in Harmony with the Surroundings.” Kaohsiung Municipal Neimen District Ximen Elementary School showcased “Three Treasures in Neimen.” Their innovative curriculum provided students with the opportunities to get close to the local human cultural history and deepened their understanding of the culture in their hometown. Furthermore, the school also provided students with the opportunities to publicize folk arts groups through serving as local guides.

Taoyuan Municipal Pingjhen District Shiang-An Elementary School, incorporated the sensuous experience system to establish the special courses “Wind Starts from Shiang-An: Souring and Learning for Fun,” thereby providing contexts for students to learn through experiencing, thereby internalizing their service learning, while demonstrating distinguished school features. Kaohsiung Municipal Shanlin District Min-Zu Da-Ai Elementary School learned from Bunun Tribe’s millet culture, wisdom, and conventions to create its “Aesthetics of Millet: Courage to Go up, Humility to Bend Down” project, through which the crucial competence in future generation’s cross-ethnic talents was developed. Taipei Municipal Wenshan District Jingxing Elementary School, through the project “Landscape Jingxing,” conducted a field survey to reinforce teachers’ professional competence, thereby promoting learning through experiencing, as well as learning sustainable development from the environment.

Taipei Municipal Beitou District Mingde Elementary School, took a textbook-based approach to teach Mandarin through reading comprehension strategies. The school asked their kid to envision a “boat,” so that they can ride through the ocean of knowledge, and encouraged kids to read books at their leisure time. Chiayi County Shuishang Township Beiui Elementary School featured itself as “The Only Sun School in the World” due to its location at Tropic of Cancer, and used that to develop the school-based curriculum of “experts at Tropic of Cancer” and “fairies of green energy.” The school aims to establish itself as “the Benchmark School at Tropic of Cancer.”

Apart from displaying professionalism and enthusiasm in their teaching design, the above

nominees placed equal emphasis on cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains, and impressed and received positive acclaim from the jury. No doubt that all of the nominees have made much efforts and used such great love to accomplish these projects that each of them can serve as a model for teaching all over the country. The Ministry of Education is scheduled to hold an award ceremony at Changhua County Yuanlin Performance Hall on September 11. Please look forward to seeing which school can win the gold and silver medal.