

## Visiting “The Hope” primary school

This Easter holiday, I was joint the volunteer work held by my mother's charity club. The hygiene problem in Mainland China is quite terrible. The main purpose of this volunteer trip is to educate the native students about personal and public hygiene. At first, I did not care about this trip, I just wanted to skip this trip and carry on my computer games in Hong Kong. But my mother assigned me to be the captain; my group was responsible in teaching grade six students.

At first I was shocked because my group mates were all older than me. The assistant captain was my cousin; he was older than me too. I felt it was odd to lead older kids to do a project. I had prepared all the materials, for example writing slogans for the students to learn. These slogans were all about hygiene. "Brush our teeth after waking up and before bed." I had also prepared a "question and answer" game for the students. They were all easy questions. We just wanted to distribute presents in this section, to support them and hoped they would try hard to answer the questions.

Time flew. It was the date we visited "The Hope" primary school. The name Hope, we could already known that the school's ambition is to give students hope, and provide them with a comfortable and suitable place to study. The other volunteers and I walked up the stairs to the school. Students were standing in two rows. They were saying their slogan; "Welcome, Welcome, We warmly welcome you." I felt extremely extraordinary, I was imagining that I was a professional basketball player, the audience were screaming and yelling out my name and I was jumping out to the court from the locker room.

When I first stepped in the classroom, the students were all looking at me. They all looked cute but they were looking at me curiously. I could see that these kids were a bit short, so I thought that they were shocked at my height. My heart gradually beat faster and faster, because I was worrying about my Mandarin. I could not speak fluent Mandarin. My improper pronunciation might make them and led to laugh. I first explained the flow of today's activities then I did some warm up exercises with them. We stretched and we explained these exercises could clear our minds, when we have lessons we can act more attentive. Then I demonstrated to them how to brush their teeth completely. I had difficulty in pronouncing some words and I sent help signal to them. Then they came up the teacher stage and helped me teaching the students. I thought "Oh my goodness, I do not know what will happen if they are not here!" Although I did all the preparation works on my own but if lack of significant help, it would not be that successful. I continued to teach with my improper pronunciation but the atmosphere in the classroom was out of my expectation. It was high, I tried to make some jokes but the students did not react, I think that may be they would not understand my words.

This trip was fantastic, especially have these teammates. And through this trip, I learnt several things. Leadership is an important element to succeed. In the future, if I have projects with my teammates, I have to make sure whether they are eager to do, and I will guide them properly. Secondly, I learnt to cherish the things that I have got. I have discovered that being educated is not a must for every one. The Mainland China students acted very enthusiastically when we had the Q and A game. It was an amazing scene that almost all the students raise their hands up, answering the questions. In Hong Kong there would not be any scenes like this. May be this is the thing that the Hong Kong students can learn from them.

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