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**Easter Greetings of Faith, Hope and Love to all from La Salle Provincialate, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
Peace and Joy is within you.**

I came back to Malaysia for Holy Week and to celebrate Easter with the Brothers. I will return to my community in Hong Kong on Monday 22nd April and then back to LSSC Changjiao to teach the Weekend Lessons in May and June and then followed by the 2024 Summer Programme in mid July.

It is always with joy and gratefulness within me when I sit down to write a Quarterly Report on LSSC Changjiao. So, here I am again happily recalling three months of activities and events as I write this LSSC 1st Quarterly 2024.

I returned to Dabu-Changjiao on Wednesday 24th January 2024. Thankfully, with the assistance of three parents of students and a few Baijiang villagers we were able to sweep, wash and tidy up LSSC study hall in two days. On Saturday 27th January our annual Winter Programme took off smoothly. The first day attendance was well handled by former students who were able to take time off from work to lend a helping hand



Students checking in



on the first day.

As many families from out of Meizhou had not been home for the Spring Festival for 4 years because of the covid-19 pandemic, they decided to go home early and thus about a third of the Summer Programme 2023 students were absent for the Winter Programme 2024. Regular attendance was about 160 students.



Students waiting for lessons to begin.



Reading the PinPhonics system



It was wet and cold most mornings.



Girls are always very attentive.



A student standing up to read



A student telling a story.



Winter Programme 2024 The Year of the Dragon.



Singing is always part of a lesson.



We sing. We are singing.



Reading is a regular activity.



Translation into Putonghua



Teaching 3 hours continuously every morning



Ms Lucy Liao ... my former assistant

The Winter Programme 2024 was different from previous years as we did not accept new students. All students attending the lessons were admitted in September 2023 and had been regular students for 20 weekend lessons. Thus after just two days of intensive revision, we were able to move forward. Group reading activities went off smoothly most of the time. Individual reading had more volunteers than usual and at times I had to limit the number of readers per session.

Well, I must admit that teaching 3 hours continuously was no longer easy. Thank God, my former stay-in assistant Ms Lucy Liao was back in the village and she came over to assist me daily. Her assistance gave me 20 minutes break each hour. The students enjoyed her lessons as she is now a fully qualified professional English tuition teacher.

The Winter Programme 2024 ran continuously for 9 days and ended on Sunday 4th February so that students, who were returning to ancestral village, could go home early and assist in the house cleaning and preparation activities to get ready to celebrate the Spring Festival on 10th February. Overseas Chinese all over the world celebrate it as Chinese New Year. The Spring Festival is the most important holiday in China and all families try their very best to return to their ancestral village.

I had three quiet days of rest and then starting from 8th February it was invitations for lunch and dinner every day for the following 11 days. Most of the time it was within Changjiao among the villagers whose children were my former students and are now working in the urban cities in southern Guangdong such as Guangzhou, Zuhai, Forshan etc. Just as many of my students from out of state were absent for this Winter Programme 2024, many of my former students who are working out of state and had not been home for the Spring Festival for 4 years, came home. Hence, it was also a special Spring Festival for me as I got to meet up with students I had not seen for more than five years.



My early first students of 2002 back home for CNY.



These are working in Meixian/Dabu.



From LSC Kowloon and LSSC Changjiao



Two just graduated as lawyers.



Out visiting Long Life Park with former students.



A photo with the host family in PingYuan

Those of you who have been following my adventure in China will know that I had been the organiser for the 13th Lantern Day of the Spring Festival village get-together dinner and the drumming around the village activities for many years and that I had handled the responsibility to a family in the village 7 years ago. This year, this family was unable to host the activities as the grandmother had passed away and according to local custom they were not allowed to host any celebration for one whole year. Villagers therefore came to see me and asked me to host it at LSSC this year. Well, for the sake of getting together and sharing, amusement and

laughter, crackers and fireworks, I agreed. The noise and pandemonium on the 13th night signalled the official end of the Spring Festival in Baijiang.



LSSC set up to host Lantern Day dinner



Cooks at work in the side courtyard.



Villagers arriving ... early birds



More guests arrived and waiting to go in



Dinner is served ...



The elders, the adults and children



Going from table to table



Greetings and toasting



The drumming began in front of LSSC



BD having fun with the gong



Drumming in every villager's house



Young girl drum leader

I am often asked, "Where are you in China?" Well, LSSC Baijiang is in the village of Changjiao. The Chinese address is written opposite to the Western system. For the Chinese, the country comes first. Hence the address is 中国广东省梅州市大浦县湖寮镇长教村百江小组. China 中国 Guangdong Province 广东省 Meizhou State 梅州市 Dabu County 大浦县 HuliaoTown 湖寮镇 Changjiao Village 长教村 Baijiang Area 百江小组.

With this note I end this 1st Quarter Report 2024 on La Salle Study Centre, Changjiao. As always it is my pleasure and duty on behalf of the students and their parents as well as the villagers of Baijiang to thank all Lasallians and friends of La Salle for your moral, financial and spiritual support of the education and community development activities of LSSC. Your support have improved the opportunities of many students, touched their hearts and helped change their lives. God bless all of you.

As always with love in the service of youths for the development of nation through DLS,

Brother David Liao FSC
Easter Sunday 2024