

Results of Primary One discretionary places to be released on Monday

The results of Primary One discretionary places for September 2019 will be released on Monday (November 26) by all government and aided primary schools.

"There are 51 460 children applying for discretionary places in government and aided primary schools this year, of whom 22 702 will be offered a place in these schools," an Education Bureau spokesman said today (November 23). "A total of 12 055 are applicant children with sibling(s) studying or with parent(s) working in the schools that they have applied to, whereas the remaining 10 647 are selected according to the Points System."

Parents are reminded to bring the parent's copy of the Application Form for Primary One Admission and check the results of their application between 9am and 5pm on Monday (November 26) or Tuesday (November 27) at the school to which they have applied.

The registration of successful applicant children should be made on Wednesday (November 28) or Thursday (November 29) during school hours.

Parents whose children have been offered a Primary One place are advised to note carefully the registration procedures and requirements of individual schools, such as bringing the parent's copy of the Application Form for Primary One Admission and the number of photographs required for registration purposes.

"Parents who cannot register within the specified period should notify the responsible person of the school in advance to make alternative arrangements. Otherwise, they will be deemed to have given up their discretionary place," the spokesman said.

Under the Primary One Admission System, each government or aided primary school may make use of about 50 per cent of its total Primary One places as discretionary places. The remaining 50 per cent will be reserved for Central Allocation at a later stage.

"Parents of applicant children who have failed to secure a discretionary place or who have opted for Central Allocation only will be invited by letter from the Education Bureau in mid-January 2019 to make choices of schools for Central Allocation at a designated Central Allocation Centre on January 26 or 27. Primary One places will then be allocated to these children in Central Allocation. For applications for participation in Primary One Admission 2019 after January 27, parents need to complete the necessary procedures with the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau. The Education Bureau will separately arrange a Primary One place for the applicant children in June 2019," the spokesman said.

"Parents should note that once their children have been allocated a Primary One place, they cannot take part in the Primary One Admission System again in future," he said.

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (November 23) released the latest grading of water quality for nine gazetted beaches. Other beaches have been closed to swimmers from November 1 for the winter season.

Nine beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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* Big Wave Bay Beach, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Deep Water Bay Beach, Middle Bay Beach and Stanley Main Beach remain closed until further notice due to the severe damage brought about by Typhoon Mangkhut earlier.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (www.beachwq.gov.hk and www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Ensemble Kamaan to perform "Iranian Alchemy" (with photo)

Ensemble Kamaan will stage a concert entitled "Iranian Alchemy" in January 2019. The four main members of the troupe are Amir Amiri (who plays santur), Showan Tavakol (kamancheh), Behnaz Sohrabi (rabab) and Olivier Marin (viola).

In the Ensemble Kamaan's eclectic musical universe, borders are abolished to make way for a bewitching alchemy of mystical conversation. Drawing on the cultural diversity of their homeland Iran, they create a unique fusion that combines the refinement of traditional and classical Persian music with regional rigour and folkloric influences.

Also performing will be "whirling dervish" Shraddha Blaney. Through the trance induced by whirling, whirling dervishes seek to obtain a divine state. By performing the ritual of rotation and becoming aligned with cosmic motion, a dervish (literally "doorway") is the entrance between the material world and the spiritual world – a connection between the two worlds.

To the sound of the Ensemble Kamaan, the whirling of the dervish will be accompanied by a series of photographs of doors and windows, open and closed, taken in the Iranian countryside.

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, concert "Iranian Alchemy" by Ensemble Kamaan will be staged at 8pm on January 12, 2019 (Saturday) at the Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall. Tickets priced at \$150 and \$250 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk).

For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_687.html.



CS to lead HKSAR Government delegation to attend Hong Kong/Fujian Co-operation Conference in Fujian

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, will lead a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government delegation to visit Fujian from the afternoon of November 27 to November 29. Mr Cheung will co-chair the Third Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Fujian Co-operation Conference with the Vice-Governor of Fujian Province.

The Conference will be held in Fuzhou on November 28. During the Conference, Hong Kong and Fujian will discuss the strengthening of mutual co-operation in various areas. While in Fujian, the delegation will also meet with officials of the Fujian Provincial Government and the Xiamen Municipal Government, and visit Wuyishan to explore youth co-operation between the two places. In addition, the delegation will meet with Hong Kong people working, doing business and studying in Fujian.

Members of the HKSAR Government delegation will include the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip; the Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Dr David Chung; the Under Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-Lin; the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan; the Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Joseph Chan; and the Under Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Jack Chan.

The delegation will return to Hong Kong in the evening on November 29. During the absence of Mr Cheung and Mr Nip, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, and the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Andy Chan, will be the Acting Chief Secretary for Administration and the Acting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs respectively.

Eulogy by CE at funeral service of Dr Chung Sze-yuen (English only)

Following is the eulogy by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the funeral service of Dr Chung Sze-yuen today (November 23):

Last week, Hong Kong lost a distinguished, universally respected leader, a man who dedicated his life – such a long, eventful, brilliantly engaged life – to serving Hong Kong and everything that meant for him: family, community, country.

Today, we gather together here to pay our last respect to this distinguished person – Sir S Y and to celebrate his good fortune – to have lived such a full and resplendent life and slipped away peacefully, surrounded by his beloved family. His words and deeds will remain in the hearts of many of us for a long time to come.

Though Sir S Y had retired for almost two decades and rarely appeared in public since, my memories of him were fresh. As a relatively young member of his circle of friends, I had the fortune of being invited to attend his birthday parties in recent years. And earlier this month, on the 3rd of November, I had the honour of hosting a birthday party for him at Government House. It was a sunny autumn day and the party was filled with joy and warmth. There was no formality, no protocol and everyone has a chance greeting, hugging and even kissing Sir S Y on his 101st birthday. Those happy moments were captured in our respective iPhones.

I have no doubt that every guest at the party find himself or herself fortunate to be on the invitation list of Sir S Y, not mine, and rejoice at our great good fortune to have known Sir S Y, to have worked with him, to have been touched by his vision and to have been inspired by his unassailable commitment to Hong Kong. So much of Sir S Y's life will remain memorable for all of us.

Indeed, as Sir S Y remarked in the Foreword to his memoirs Hong Kong's Journey to Reunification, and I quote, "memory is very selective and porous. The mind is like a sieve, which as time goes by drains the fluid and leaves behind residues that are generally dramatic". Sir S Y's 20 years between 1979 and 1999 when he finally retired, were as dramatic for him as for Hong Kong. His contribution to the smooth transition and the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was one that was most aptly described by himself as an accomplishment that "we can face our own conscience and sleep well at night."

My own association with Sir S Y also started from that dramatic period of preparing for the Reunification. I had the privilege of working with him in the Budget Expert Group under the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, which dealt with the transitional Budget for the 1997-98 fiscal year and related issues before Hong Kong's return to the motherland. He was an expert to the Chinese side while I was a Hong Kong official on the British side. During that one and a half year, I learned from Sir S Y the value of adhering to principles and objectives, the diligence in finding solutions and the dignity of speaking without fear or favour, though I have to say Sir S Y's Putonghua was often hard to follow. I was impressed by his leadership, but more so by what motivated him. And that was invariably the interest of the people of Hong Kong.

Born in Hong Kong, for almost half a century, Sir S Y participated in

the administration of Hong Kong. He served the people of Hong Kong – generation after generation – and in so many ways.

He was, first and foremost, an illustrious engineer who served as president of what was then the Engineering Society of Hong Kong, which later became the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, and led the Society in its path to become a statutory body. He won countless awards in engineering, and was well known for significantly reducing the cost of producing torches with new technology. Throughout his life, he had been highly respected by the engineering sector.

But it was politics that captured his imagination, his dedication, his remarkable ability to get things done. He was indeed a rare talent in politics. Before Hong Kong's return to the motherland, Sir S Y had served as a member of the Legislative Council for 13 years and a member of the Executive Council for 16 years, with dual membership in six of the years. He became a Senior Unofficial Member in 1980, making him one of the top decision-makers in the Hong Kong Government. With that, he found himself at history's doorstep, witnessing the negotiations between China and the United Kingdom over Hong Kong's future. In the early 1980s, he tirelessly travelled between Beijing and London to voice his views, acting solely with Hong Kong's best interests in mind.

He retired from ExCo in the late 1980s, but was no doubt persuaded by the first Chief Executive, Mr C H Tung, to assume the position of Convenor of the first Executive Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at the age of 80 to provide a pair of safe and credible hands to put the reborn Hong Kong on her stable footing. After his official retirement in 1999, he still showed his care for Hong Kong by sharing his valuable insights on local issues from time to time. He was an important witness, and a huge contributor to Hong Kong's smooth transition and successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

It is no exaggeration to say, which I did say on his 101st birthday party, that Sir S Y's legacy is being felt up to this day. During my first official trip to Japan earlier this month, I was reminded that Sir S Y was one of the early chairmen of the Hong Kong–Japan Economic Cooperation Committee which helped to lay the strong foundation of Hong Kong's trade and investment links with Japan. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology which was established through his leadership and guidance is one of the best young universities in the world and a much sought after partner in developing higher education in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, and will play a pivotal role in our effort to build an international innovation and technology hub. As the founding chairman of the Hospital Authority, Sir S Y had led our public healthcare system into a new era.

In recognition of his tremendous achievements, Sir S Y was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal, Hong Kong's highest honour, on July 1, 1997, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's establishment day.

Sir S Y once said that his guiding light – the principles he lived and worked by – were, and I quote: "to act with conscience and consider the best

interests of Hong Kong."

Ladies and gentlemen, Sir S Y – a native son of Hong Kong – lived those principles to the fullest, completely and selflessly. We were blessed to have him among us. And we are blessed today to enjoy the innumerable rewards he helped enable. May he rest in peace.