

Primary One allocation results to be released on Saturday

The Education Bureau reminded parents today (May 31) that the results of the Central Allocation for entering Primary One in September this year will be released on Saturday (June 2).

"A total of 32,171 children took part in the Central Allocation for Primary One Admission (POA). Among them, 22,486 children were allocated to schools of their first three choices," a spokesman for the bureau said.

"Taking into account discretionary places and the number of children allocated to schools of their first three choices, the overall satisfaction rate is 82.9 per cent."

The Central Allocation of POA is composed of two parts. Ten per cent of the places for the Central Allocation, which are not restricted by school nets, are under Part A and parents may choose up to three schools in any school net. The remaining 90 per cent of the places for the Central Allocation are under Part B and parents are required to select schools in the school net/Choice of Schools List in respect of the applicant child. Of the children allocated places in the Central Allocation, 3,301 are under Part A and 28,870 are under Part B.

Parents who completed a Choice of Schools Form for the Central Allocation on February 3 or 4 this year are advised to return to the Central Allocation Centre where they submitted their Choice of Schools Forms on Saturday or Sunday (June 2 or June 3) from 9.30am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm to collect the Primary One Registration Form. They should bring their copy of the Application Form for Admission to Primary One or the Choice of Schools Form for identification purposes.

The Primary One Registration Form will show the name and address of the school to which the children are allocated, together with the dates for registration and some notes for parents. Parents are requested to complete the registration formalities on Tuesday (June 5) or Wednesday (June 6). Registration hours are as follows:

AM schools: 9am to noon

PM schools: 2pm to 5pm

Whole-day schools: 9am to noon and 2pm to 4pm

If parents cannot register their child with the allocated school within the specified dates and time, they must contact the school beforehand to make alternative arrangements, or they will forfeit the place allocated.

Upon registration, the Primary One Registration Form should be surrendered to the school. Parents should note that all places allocated are final. Requests for reallocation will not be entertained.

Should parents decide to give up the place allocated because of special difficulties, such as moving to another school net far from the school allocated, they need not register their child with the school. They are advised to go to the Education Bureau's School Places Allocation Section, Office 2, 2/F, Manulife Financial Centre, 223 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, to make necessary arrangements. They should bring along the Primary One Registration Form, the original and copies of documents showing proof of the new address, such as a rental contract, rates demand notes, or water or electricity bills bearing the name of the parent or the guardian of the child.

If parents find it necessary to transfer their child to another school after registration, they are strongly advised to get some assurance of acceptance before they retrieve the Primary One Registration Form from the original school, because retrieval of the registration form means cancellation of the allocated school place.

In the event of inclement weather on the day of announcement of results or on the day(s) designated for registration, parents should listen to announcements on radio and television for special arrangements.

Parents wishing to obtain general information regarding POA procedures can call the 24-hour enquiry service of the Education Bureau at 2891 0088. Further enquiries can be made to the School Places Allocation Section at 2832 7610 (for Hong Kong Island and Islands), 2832 7620 (for Kowloon), 2832 7635 (for New Territories West), 2832 7659 (for New Territories East) and 2832 7700/2832 7740 (for general enquiries) during office hours as well as from 9am to 4.30pm on June 2 and 3.

HKMC Annual Report 2017

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC) today (May 31) published its Annual Report for 2017. The Report reviews the business performance, corporate governance, and initiatives on corporate social responsibility of the HKMC in 2017.

The Report is now available on the HKMC website (www.hkmc.com.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, May 31, 2018 is 99.7 (down 0.4 against yesterday's index).

Successful prosecutions against illegal construction waste disposal by EPD following public report

Four renovation and construction workers and contractors, who illegally deposited a large amount of construction waste and bamboo poles on the roadside of Minden Avenue in Tsim Sha Tsui last November, were fined a total of \$20,000 at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today (May 31) for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO).

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) received a public report last November that some waste had been illegally deposited on the roadside of Minden Avenue in Tsim Sha Tsui. The total volume of the waste was about five cubic meters, causing obstruction to the pavement. The member of the public also provided a video recording he captured during the incident to assist the EPD's investigation. With the licence plate information captured and the reported information, the EPD were able to trace the four persons involved. After evidence gathering, they were prosecuted in accordance with the WDO.

It is unethical and unlawful to dispose of construction waste in public places or on the roadside. An EPD spokesman reminded those involved in building renovation, construction works and transportation sector that they should dispose of construction waste properly in accordance with the law. Reusable materials or waste with a recycling value should be collected by recyclers, while non-recyclable waste should be delivered to appropriate waste management facilities, such as public fill banks or landfills, for proper treatment or disposal. Under the WDO, it is an offence for anyone to dispose of waste in public places. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment.

The spokesman urged members of the public to report to the department if they witness any vehicle illegally dispose of waste. They can report the case by providing videos or photos or call the EPD departmental hotline at 2838 3111 to help combat illegal dumping.

CFS announces food safety report for April

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (May 31) released the findings of its food safety report for last month. The results of about 11 000 food samples tested were satisfactory except for four samples. The overall satisfactory rate was 99.9 per cent.

A CFS spokesman said about 900 food samples were collected for microbiological tests, some 2 400 samples were taken for chemical tests and the remaining 7 700 (including about 7 200 taken from food imported from Japan) were collected to test radiation levels.

The microbiological tests covered pathogens and hygienic indicators, while the chemical tests included pesticides, preservatives, metallic contaminants, colouring matters, veterinary drug residues and others.

The samples comprised about 2 900 samples of vegetables and fruit and their products; 600 samples of meat and poultry and their products; 1 700 samples of aquatic and related products; 600 samples of milk, milk products and frozen confections; 700 samples of cereals, grains and their products; and 4 500 samples of other food commodities (including beverages, bakery products and snacks).

The four unsatisfactory samples comprised two vegetable samples detected with pesticide residues exceeding the legal limits and two popsicle samples found to contain total bacterial counts exceeding the legal limit.

The CFS has taken follow-up action on the unsatisfactory samples, including informing the vendors concerned of the test results, instructing them to stop selling the affected food items and tracing the sources of the food items in question.

Since the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap 132CM) came into effect on August 1, 2014, as of April 30 this year, the CFS has taken over 141 800 food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing for pesticide residues. The overall unsatisfactory rate is less than 0.2 per cent.

The spokesman added that excessive pesticide residues in food may arise from the trade not observing Good Agricultural Practice, e.g. using excessive pesticides and/or not allowing sufficient time for pesticides to decompose before harvesting. The maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticide residues in food set in the Regulation are not safety indicators. They are the maximum concentrations of pesticide residues to be permitted in a food commodity under Good Agricultural Practice when applying pesticides. In this

connection, consumption of food with pesticide residues higher than the MRLs will not necessarily lead to any adverse health effects.

The spokesman also reminded the food trade to ensure that food for sale is fit for human consumption and meets legal requirements. Consumers should patronise reliable shops when buying food and maintain a balanced diet to minimise food risks.