



CHRISTMAS 2016

Dear Bi Ai Friends,

A fine sprinkling of snow covers the Bo Ai grounds these past few days. Today the temperature outside is 7 degrees Celsius whereas it was 20 below about two weeks ago. We have put up a decorated 7 ft. Christmas tree and strings of sparkling lights meanders the pine bushes. Several times each day, Christmas songs blare from the speakers and fill the campus with Christmas cheer. Christmas is in the air. **From Bo Ai we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

2016

In 2015, Bo Ai celebrated its **Tenth Birthday**. Throughout the year **787** visitors of **Chinese and foreign nationals** came to congratulate Bo Ai and we pride ourselves on our mission of giving a sound knowledge and moral character education to our charges. **2016 marks a new year** and presents new challenges. We aspires to continue on with even more energy and zest even though Bo Ai has not had a principal for the last two years.. In September. **the position of Principal in the village Bo Ai School is finally filled..** More on **Principal Liu Kai Quan** below.



Throughout 2016, **468 Chinese nationals, 213 foreign nationals** and **many parents** came to visit Bo Ai. Space does not permit us to name all. Amongst the visitors were **Principal Xiang** and three others from **Beijing Haidian No. 5 Middle School**, the 40 member **Linfen Education Ministry**, from **Xinyuan Experimental School**, Teacher Specialist **Hu Xiao Li** from Beijing and **other educators from Beijing and from Tianjian**. **Many governmental officials** also came to visit our school. **Qinyuan Education Ministry Director Cheng, Fazhong Xiang Secretary Shi**, principals from schools, educators from **Changzhi, Taiyuan, Beijing and Hong Kong**, our **Sister School**, the 26 member **Hong Kong**

Holmgren High School team led by **Principal Philip Lee**; the Way to Success 成功之道 Seminar Series of CEO Global Education Foundation formulated for principals and directors, led by **Chairwoman Frances Lee** with 3 to 7 educators each time came **six times**, starting in the fall of 2015 and continued on five times in 2016, attorneys **Leonard Girard** and **Pamela Jacklin** of Portland, Oregon who introduced Pickleball to Bo Ai, each again donated a month's time to teach English. For the twelfth year, the 25 member **Hong Kong Bo Ai Foundation** team led this time by **Benjamin Chang** and **Dentist Dr. Mak**, came during the Easter Holidays; **Michael Tse and friend** again cooked up a storm of different flavorful cuisines for our students, the 25 member team from **Siu Bong College of Macau University** led by **Professor Kenneth Leung and Andrea Leung**; the 55 member Texas team led by **Kenneth Woo , Han Yan and Dr. Kin Lock** from **Fort Bend Community Church of Sugarland, Texas**. In early August, the **CEO Global Education Foundation** chaired by **Frances Lee** sponsored for the third consecutive year a fun-filled, spirited, identity learning, future planning Summer Camp for **200 disadvantaged eighth grade students of Qinyuan County**. **30 US and 100 Chinese volunteers** from major universities of China led the Camp. **The Island Evangelical Christian Church Team chaired by Wai-Duen Lee**, came two years in a row and had so much fun. **Sam Yang** led the 18 member **Vancouver Chinese Evangelical Church** of the **Portland area** and came for the third time. We are ever mindful of the contribution of each and everyone of our friends that makes Bo Ai a better school.



MAJOR MILESTONES OF 2016



Principal Liu Ki Quan, hailing from **Tianjin**, came on board in September. I truly believe that Principal Liu's service at Bo Ai is a godsend. I have not talked to him, nor communicated with him, nor seen his resume before he arrived at Bo Ai's doorstep. Principal Liu was offered a Principal's position in Qinghai, the Province in Western China. The location is too far from his hometown and too cold for him. Through our dear friend **Hu Xiao Li** of Beijing, who knows a friend, Ma Yan, who is a dear friend of the wife of Principal Liu. Principal Liu was told by our friend the short and long story of Bo Ai and immediately he said, "**I will serve there**". **The rest is history**. Principal Liu has **38 years of education experience** under his belt. **He has worked throughout his life** as a teacher, director, vice principal, principal, managerial positions in the Tianjin Education Ministry, mentoring schools and supervising policies. In these short three months he has gained the respect of our staff. His job, besides supervising Bo Ai School, Bo Ai teachers and students, is to help to continue to foster and administer modern teaching methods to our teachers. **Please pray** for Principal Liu to stay at Bo Ai for a few years especially since his wife is not able to come.

Taekwondo Black Belt Master Jiang Xiao Qing, a true Christian at heart, heard that I was interested in giving our students more exposure to our extensive Enrichment Programs and that Taekwondo would be a program that would **teach discipline and self defense** to our students. **She** immediately

volunteered her services and comes **every whole day Wednesday from Changzhi, an hour and fifteen minutes to and fro trip** from Bo Ai and on a volunteer basis at **no remuneration**. **A true Christian!!** So popular a program that **148 of our students signed up** and have gone through the first Program of Taekwondo and have already learned some polite words and stern commands **in Korean**.



Shanxi Drum Corp is a well known traditional provincial ritual in Shanxi. Bo Ai has hired **an itinerant teacher** and has bought the **drums and cymbals** for this purpose. You can hear our Bo Ai Drum Corp in action every **Tuesday and Thursday** where **100 of our students** beat the drums and cymbals to different cadences and can be heard and fill the air of Fung Cun Village.



We care deeply about our students on how to **survive in deep water** that from now on **every year** beginning in the spring of 2017, **all Bo Ai fourth grade students** will learn **how to swim**. Bo Ai will transport the students **to Qinyuan Town** where at the **Tai Yue International Hotel** there is a sanctioned standard size **Olympic Swimming Pool**.

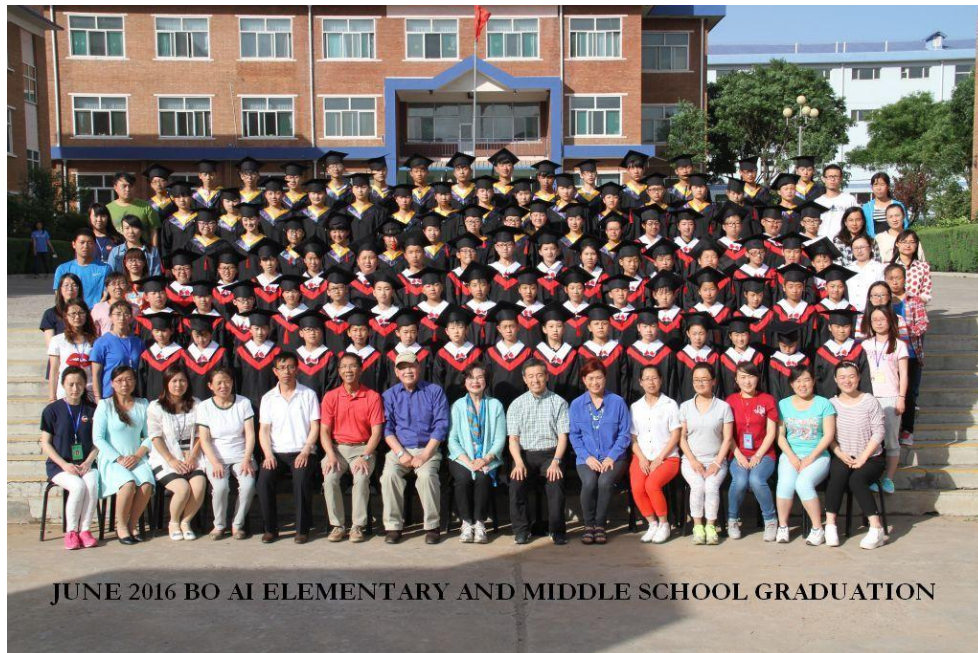
Amongst several special projects of 2016, one stood out: the **Flying Paper Airplane Competition**. It created so much interest, knowledge and joy to our students.

Touching Lives Overseas held a successful **Fund Raising Dinner** in Toronto and the proceeds went towards **remodeling the Boy's Dormitory**. Recently **Bo Ai Foundation of Hong Kong** held a sale of **formal gowns and dresses** donated by a name brand company and raised needed funds for Bo Ai

BOAI GRADUATES

For the **2015-2016 Academic year**, we had an enrollment of **404 students**, For the **2016 – 2017 academic year** **395 students** enrolled at our school. In **June 2016**, Bo Ai School **graduated 52 from the Elementary School and 41 from the Middle School**. **Kudos to the Texas Team of Fort Bend Community Church for donating the graduation caps and gowns**. At Qinyuan County, Bo Ai is the only school to have graduates wearing caps and gowns in the graduation ceremony. Of the elementary

graduates, 40 Elementary School Graduates continued on at our Bo Ai Middle School. Each year, for those whose families are well off enough, the graduates may want to go to the big town Changzhi and several to the Qinyuan County Middle Schools. This year, fewer students chose this route. Of the 41 **Middle School graduates, all continue on to Senior High School or vocational school.** None dropped out of school. The results of their tests are as follows: Bo Ai maintains its **Second Ranking** in average scores out of the seven Middle Schools in the County. Bo Ai scored comparatively quite well in the higher scores. But there are some who scored low. **However we need to do even better. The new method of teaching** is still quite novel to our teachers and **needs more to be learned and applied. Lesson preparation** is vital in the new method of teaching.



GIVING THANKS

Thanksgiving is an annual remembrance day at Bo Ai. Besides the usual cards/letters sent to friends, teachers and families, Bo Ai held a **rummage sale** of used but clean clothing on Nov 17th. **One Thousand Five Hundred Yuan** was raised from the **rummage sale** and **Three Thousand Yuan** from **donations for a total of Four Thousand Five Hundred Yuan.** The money will be used to **buy grains, oil, noodles, toiletry etc.** for **needy old people and families** and will be given out **during the Chinese New Year.** **Used clothing** will also be given out to these people. Amongst our initiatives, beginning in the spring of 2017, 8-10 upper grade students **will visit an Old Folks Home every two weeks** where they will hear old time stories from the old folks, sing songs or tell stories to them, clip their nails, clean the Home, bring some food or cakes to them. We believe this will put our **Thanksgiving Heart into Action.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

In order to raise the teaching caliber of our teachers, Bo Ai invites **notable educators to hold seminars** for our teachers and as well for the regional principals and teachers. In 2016, our teaching staff attended **13 seminars of 2- 5 days each**. They have listened to and learned about **primary and modern concepts of education, interpretation of texts and its application** in teaching, how **information technology** should be applied in teaching to **arouse student interests in learning**, so lessons are hands on, in depth, subjects are brought to life, life brought to subjects. The teachers are taught how to **work as a team with unity and harmony**, they are taught the concept of **servant leadership** and how the classes can be taught with integrated parts of **STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics)**

(The Way To Success 成功之道 Team: from CEO Global Education Foundation: from Hong Kong: Frances Lee, Dr. Louise Tang, Clement Lam, Lam Yuk Fei, Esther Wang, Principal Caroline Yee, Dr. Samuel To), (Hu Xiao Li of Beijing), (Beijing's Wu Jing Xia, Li Zhi Gang, Zheng Yue Ha, Sun Guo Jun, Xia Shu Ming, Ma Jing Dong, Liu Xue Qing, Ma Yan, Wang Li)(Sun Li Li from Tianjin)(He Ki from Taiyuan)(Ivan Tang from Hong Kong) (and others) All participated in the Continuing Education Program for our teachers. We are indebted to all.



THE BO AI CAMPUS



If you step onto the Bo Ai Campus in two years, you will see **cherry trees, magnolia, pines, peach trees, red plum trees, hibiscus, roses, sycamore, cypress, red barberry, iris and many bushes and groundcover** growing taller, stronger and blooming in **multicolor splendor**. As you may know from our **Summer Update**, in September, Bo Ai launched the **outside facelift**. Our **wonderful student parents**, with help from **volunteers from HK Island ECC Church** who happened to be at Bo Ai at the time, and our students for one afternoon worked very hard with shovels and spades for ten days and **planted about 105 trees and thousands of bushes**. The trees and bushes have not grown much yet, nor bloomed but **we welcome you to come anytime**.



During the summer, **three floors out of the total four of the boy's dormitory** had a **total remodeling**, with tiled floors, chest high tiled walls on the hallways, a fresh coat of paint, new doors, new washrooms, restrooms with sit down toilets and partitioned shower stalls. Bo Ai is blessed with so many friends and this time to a dear friend who **sold the tiles at cost to Bo Ai**, about **one fifth and one eighth the retail cost**. Now the boys are given equal attention and they are very happy. We thank **Touching Lives Overseas of Canada, Susana Ma, Anthony Wong, Daniel Lau, Dr. Kin Lock and Yun Tao and others** whose donations help make the remodeling and landscaping work possible. Bo Ai is still raising funds to **cover the rest of the cost totaling fifty-five thousand yuan**.

The County government has been very supportive of our private Bo Ai School. It helped pay a major part of the teachers' salaries, for which we are extremely grateful. It also **has built two basketball courts, a tennis court** and some running space behind the Elementary School. We have the tennis net put up but as yet the basketball courts are **without basketball stands**. Our school still **does not have a running tract nor a soccer field**. This is a major wish list. The **barren land** is there behind the Middle School.




FINALLY...

The average age of our teaching staff is **27 years young, young in teaching experience**. We need to instill more initiatives into our teachers that **teaching** our young charges is **not a job** but a **serious avocation and an indomitable calling**. Some of our teachers have an **attitude problem that needs to be corrected**. Please pray that our Principal Liu and I can correct this attitude. Our staff is young and **already four got married** these last few months. **Four** are pregnant **with the first child**.

Four are also pregnant to bear the government sanctioned **second child**. So often we have to **rearrange teaching schedules that teachers have to teach classes outside their range of aptitude**.

I am pleased to have shared with you in this missive a snap shot of our recent undertakings and where we would like to accomplish in the future. Our needs are myriad. Our students pay for their board and room at about **12 yuan per day** for **three meals a day** and that can **hardly pay** for the cost. Many of our students **remain to be sponsored**. The **soccer field and running tract behind the Middle School need to be done in order to qualify** as a middle school, even in a village setting. While we celebrate the joy of our Middle School Graduates continuing on to Senior Highs in the big town, we are mindful that not all graduates will pursue that venue. In our backburner is the dream to establish a **vocational/trade school** where many students can **learn a skill** and **make a living**.. **Finally, please pray for a loving dedicated person who will assume my position**. I am ready to assist him/her in that position **for a few years and then I would like to work for Bo Ai from the outside**. In closing, I pray that the Good Lord will bless you with a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Fruitful New Year of the Chicken.

Blessings,



Christine Chan
Executive Director
Bo Ai School
Shanxi, China

FOLLOWING THIS LETTER, PLEASE PERUSE THREE PAGES OF PHOTOS.

Overseas Helping Hands

P. O. Box 91004
Portland, OR 97291
www.overseasHH.org

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The following organizations are tax deductible non-profit organizations in their respective countries. All three organizations are conducted for the benefit of Bo Ai School. Donations to Bo Ai School or Student Sponsorships through the respective organizations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please see the respectively web sites for donations.

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OHH donation Form – LAST PAGE









Overseas Helping Hands

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BUILDING FUND & STUDENT EDUCATION **SPONSORSHIP FORM**

YES I would like to donate to the Bo Ai School Building Fund or
Sponsor a Child's Education through Overseas Helping Hands

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I would like to donate to Overseas Helping Hands

\$420 – Full-year sponsorship for one child's tuition plus room and board

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\$35/month for _____ months (please specify)

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