



梅窩學校家長教師會
Mui Wo School Parent-Teacher Association

7th February, 2011

To the HKSAR Legislative Council
Panel on education

We write to express our fully support to re-open the New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District School so as to cater for the urgent learning needs of South Lantau and Peng Chau students.

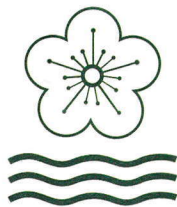
- Our school have 154 students, of which 55 (1/3) are non-Chinese speaking (NCS) and among them, 39 (71%) are permanent residents and 16 (29%) are of permitted stay status.
- In the pre-registration exercise organized by the South Lantau Education Concern Group in November 2009, 130 students (i.e. 82.3% of the total student population) applied for admission to the newly designed New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District School (SDSS), of which 97 were Chinese speaking students and 33 NCS (See Table below).

Mui Wo School Pre-registration Breakdowns

	CS students (% of total CS)	NCS students (% of total NCS)	% Total student number	Total student No.
P6 (2009-10)	25 (96.2%)	8 (88.8%)	94.3%	35
P6 (2010-11)	19 (76.0%)	5 (100%)	80.0%	30
P5 (2010-11)	16 (84.2%)	3 (75%)	82.6%	23

The pre-registration results demonstrate strong parent preference for the new SDSS for the following results:

1. The emphasis on the flexibility of teaching and learning by ability groups for both the Chinese and the English language is most suitable to both CS and NCS students; the multicultural learning themes are much needed in the curriculum for a student body of a diverse cultural background. Parents are confident that such a community-based school is most suitable to their children's learning needs.



梅窩學校家長教師會
Mui Wo School Parent-Teacher Association

2. We fully understand the plight of students who are currently commuting to schools outside the community, the detrimental effects it has on their academic and personal development, their relationships with family and friends, not to mention the financial burden on the families.

Lost of Students and Inadequate Educational Provision for Our Students

The reasons for the majority of families who choose schools outside South Lantau are the lack of space and updated facilities of our local village school, and the problem with the Islands School Net in which our school belongs:

Lack of space and updated facilities need to be urgently addressed by relocation

Our school, located in a 71-year-old building, is confined to a very basic of 6 classrooms, a small music room, a computer room, and 3 toilet units for each gender group. There is no space for a library, activity rooms, counseling room or an all-weather assembly/sports hall. In rainy seasons, some parts of the building have serious leaking problems. Despite continuous maintenance, the problems persist.

Our school twice applied for reprovisioning and upgrading existing facilities on the original premises in 1994 and 2002. However, they have been rejected due to unclear ownership of the lease. The former Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) indeed advised the relocation of the school for reprovision as early as 1994. Since 2006, **our school has submitted two proposals for relocation to the SDSS premises. EMB has promised to inform them of an open bidding of the vacant premises. Our school is still waiting for such a call.**

Providing proper educational service for NCS students needs space

NCS families choose local primary schools for social inclusion, affordability and proximity. Currently, we only have one tiny classroom for both the CS and NCS students. We do not have enough extra rooms for teaching of different ability groups. Teachers have to constantly switch between languages while teaching. Both groups of students are consequently deprived of the chance to learn and develop properly. Despite conscientious efforts by the teachers in giving extra time after school, and the school has already allocated additional resources for



梅窩學校家長教師會
Mui Wo School Parent-Teacher Association

tutorials, results are unsatisfactory. Although parents are willing to help, there are just not enough classrooms to split groups for teaching and activities when necessary.

We urge the government to, without further delay, address the problem of lack of space and facilities; and to reopen our one and only proper school premises for secondary education for our children.

Our questions for the Education Bureau

1. How will the EDB treat our 130 applications for the new SDSS?
2. In the EDB's reply to the Legco dated 11 September 2009, LC Paper No. CB(2)2482/08-09(01) para 2, "This Bureau is also prepared to explore with the Mui Wo School to help improve its facilities so as to enhance the students' learning environment in the school as well as to facilitate the school to expand its classes if necessary to meet the educational needs of students in the area." 15 months have passed and the EDB has still not contacted us and let us know how without relocation, we can expand classes. When will the EDB eventually contact us please?
3. In January and May of 2007, the former EMB replied to our school and a local organization that they would announce open bidding of the vacant SDSS premises as soon as practicable. When will we hear such an announcement?

Some of our parents' parents (older generation) of our schools would nostalgically recalled the time when they participated in carrying the cement and building the school together. Some of our parents would also tell how they built the school playground together. Parents of Mui Wo School are simple and easily contented. However, our weathered school building can no longer cater for 21st century's learning. We sincerely request the government to come to aid without further delay – we have been waiting for 17 years afterall!

Mui Wo School Parent-Teacher Association