

## 一、一位領隊的來信

八月十日星期六，培德中學男校四位學生林鼎智、劉承濤、呂明賜和葛漢鐸代表北加州，在芝加哥參加了全美中文學校聯合會所舉辦的中國文化常識比賽。男校在初賽中表現卓越，以第一名的成績直接進入決賽。由於參賽隊伍是各州一時之選，實力都在伯仲之間，因此決賽時競爭激烈，男校反而落入第四名。

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### 1. A Letter from a Team Leader

On Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, four students of the Developing Virtue Boys School (Rex Lin, Hubert Liu, Michael Lu, and Alejandro Gracia) represented Northern California in participating in the National Chinese Culture Competition, which was hosted by the National Council of Associations of Chinese Schools and held in Chicago. In the first round, the students performed outstandingly and were able to directly enter the final round by obtaining first place. However, because the participating teams were the best of every state and their strength were neck and neck, the final round was very intense and the Boys School dropped to fourth place.

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# 從芝城賽事 看聖城教育

## Observing the Education of CTTB through a Competition in Chicago

編輯部 文 / 呂明賜 英譯

Written by the Editorial Staff / English Translation by  
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(續) | (continued)

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### (續封面內頁)

但賽後十天，領隊陳頌淵老師收到他校領隊蔣老師的來信，信中提到：「在我心目中，培德中學才是2013年全美中文常識比賽真正的冠軍。」這話怎麼說呢？蔣老師信中語氣真摯誠懇，來信轉載如下：

「在八月十日的比賽現場，我被貴校師生所表現出的氣度與風範深深感動，於是就向林會長打聽您的電郵地址，沒想到他亦有同感。

回航的四小時中，我不斷地檢討：這些年我在海外教學中到底做了些什麼？除了教導孩子們中文的聽、讀、寫之外，似乎就沒有了。我辜負了海外中文教師的神聖使命，也沒做到傳遞中華文化的責任。

至聖思想以『仁』為中心，其中的修身就是要修養品德。是年輕的您警醒了我，是那四位學生成為了敝校的楷模。培德中文學校所展現的風采，對全美的中文學校來說，真可謂是『醍醐灌頂』。在我心目

### (Continued from the front inner cover)

But ten days after the competition, team leader Ben Chen received a letter from another team leader named Jiang, which said, "In my heart, Developing Virtue Secondary School was the true champion of the 2013 Chinese Culture Competition!" Why did he say this? The tone of team leader Jiang in his letter is extremely sincere, genuine, and moving. Below is the complete letter:

During the competition on August 10<sup>th</sup>, I was deeply moved by the encompassing spirit and awesome demeanor displayed by the teachers and students of your school. Thus, I requested your e-mail address from President Lin. Much to my surprise, he had similar feelings towards your school!

During the four-hour plane trip back home, I incessantly reflected and criticized myself: What have I truly done these years in teaching overseas? Besides teaching children the Chinese skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, I don't think I have done much else. I have not lived up to the sacred mission entrusted to teachers instructing overseas, and I have not fulfilled the responsibility of passing on Chinese culture.

The philosophy and thought of the great sages were centered on benevolence, and the concept spoken of in their teachings of cultivating one's body was just referring to developing a good moral character. It

中，培德中文學校才是2013年中文常識比賽真正的冠軍。

很冒昧的請問，貴校位於哪一州？哪個城市？介意外校去拜訪觀摩教學嗎？原本我是無神論者，但現在已找到心航的方向了。」

身為海外中華文化教育工作者，蔣老師在這次比賽中，觀察到培德中學學生言行舉止間散發著良好的教養，令他相當震撼！這是從事ABC（在美出生華裔）教育工作者最崇高的目標，但也是最難實踐的理想。信中的「林會長」，是此次主辦單位的負責人；信中「是年輕的您警醒了我」，指的正是陳頌淵老師。陳老師是培德中學的畢業生，五年前從美國大學中文系畢業後即回到母校擔任義務老師。

## 二、芝城媽媽的出現

這次到芝加哥，還有一個很特殊的因緣和際遇。一位居住在芝加哥的陳親文居士，因為參加線上佛法研討會，獲悉男校將到芝加哥參加比賽，即寫信給男校中文部近梵師，表示她可以負責幫忙接送學生，因為她家距離比賽地點只有十分鐘的車程。暑假期間她的孩子都不在家，房間空著，所以也可提供學生膳宿；甚至還邀請學生賽後多留幾天，可以帶他們參觀芝加哥大學和西北大學，還有幾個博物館和景點。

自稱「芝城媽媽」的陳居士，其實也不瞭解聖城的學生；但相處幾天後，寫下了她的觀感：

「孩子們都很乖，不愧為聖城教導出來的學生。比賽當天的晚會，喜瑞都中文學校告訴我，中午因午餐慢一個多小時送達，大家都顯得焦躁不安，培德的學生顯得特別沉穩，有耐性。孩子們沒有得失心，頒獎時，主持人報錯了，說培德是第六名，我說不是第四嗎？陳頌淵老師說沒關係啦！最後主持人自己發覺報錯了。

許多次我開錯路，快趕不上了，孩子們

was you, young team leader, who alerted and awakened me; it was those four students who have become exemplary models for our school. The graceful bearing of Developing Virtue Secondary School is truly like ghee anointing the crown for all the Chinese Schools in the country. In my heart, Developing Virtue Secondary School was the true champion of the 2013 Chinese Culture Competition!

I boldly ask: Which state and which city is your school located? Is it okay if other schools come to visit and observe how the teachers teach here? Originally, I was an atheist, but now I have found a path/direction for my soul to pursue.

Mr. Jiang, as a teacher of Chinese culture overseas, was astonished upon observing from their speech and actions how well-educated the students of Developing Virtue Secondary School were. This is the greatest goal of a teacher of ABC (American-born Chinese) students, yet at the same time it is the most difficult ideal to achieve. The “President Lin” mentioned in the letter was the head of the organizing committee of this competition. “It was you, young team leader, who alerted and awakened me;” this line is referring to Mr. Ben Chen. He is an alumnus of the Developing Virtue Secondary School, and after graduating from the Chinese Department of an American university five years ago, returned to the school to be a volunteer teacher.

## 2. The Appearance of “Chicago Mother”

Behind the trip to Chicago this time is a special affinity and encounter. Laywoman Chen Qinwen, a resident of Chicago, learned through attending an online Buddhism seminar that Boys School students were attending a competition in Chicago. She then immediately wrote a letter to Dharma Master Fan of the Boys School’s Chinese Department, saying that she was willing to pick up the boys from the airport and drive them to and from the venue of the competition since her house was only a ten minute drive away. Because her children were not at home during summer vacation, the rooms in her house were empty and available for residence. She even invited the students to stay in Chicago for a few days after the competition and was willing to bring the students to visit the University of Chicago and Northwestern University as well as a few museums and tourist attractions.

Calling herself “Chicago Mother,” Laywoman Chen actually didn’t really know much about the students of CTTB, but after getting along with them for a few days, she wrote down her responses:

“The children are all well-behaved and live up to the name of being students taught by CTTB. During the party on the evening of the competition, Cerritos Chinese School told me that lunch that day was delayed by one hour due to a late delivery. Although everyone seemed restless and anxious, only the students of Developing Virtue Secondary School appeared steady and patient. The children also did not care about the ranking they received; during the awards ceremony, the MC (master



都會說：『阿姨，不用急，沒關係。』這些孩子們天天在佛法薰習之下，每天早晚課的唸誦，都在修戒、修定，智慧自然也就隨境而生，我想我還要跟他們多學習。」

多年來，「以文會友」及「增廣見聞」是學校鼓勵學生參賽的目的，名次並不重要。因此在任何比賽中，不管比賽有多激烈，培德中學完全尊重比賽單位和評審的決定，從無異議。這特殊的參賽風格，往往令主辦單位和他校另眼相看。

蔣老師以及芝城媽媽，如此肯定男校學生的表現以及聖域的教育成果，對聖域的師生而言都是極大的鼓舞，也表示上人的教育理念是世界上每個老師和家長所企求的目標，因此我們更應再接再厲，朝此方向努力。而這四位學生都來自虔誠的佛教家庭，良好的家庭教育也奠定了學校教育成功的基石。



of ceremonies) reported incorrectly that we were sixth place. I asked, 'Weren't we fourth?' But Mr. Ben Chen said that it didn't matter. In the end, the MC realized himself that he had made a mistake.

On many occasions, when I got lost and we would almost be late for an event, the children would tell me, 'Auntie! No need to hurry. It doesn't matter.' Because the children are under the influence of the Buddhadharma daily, they can develop precepts and samadhi during the Morning and Evening Recitations, and then their wisdom arises in accord with states. I believe that I still have much to learn from them!"

For many years, the school has encouraged "making friends through civility" and "increasing knowledge and experience" to be the goals for students participating in competitions; the results are not important. Therefore, in any competition, no matter how intense it is, students of the Developing Virtue Secondary School completely honor the decisions made by the organizing committee and judges and never raise objections. This unique style of participation often causes the organizing committee and other schools to regard our school in a new light.

Mr. Jiang and "Chicago Mother" are able to strongly affirm the performance of the students of our school as well as the results of the education of CTTB. This gives much inspiration to the teachers and students in CTTB and also proves that the educational visions of the Venerable Master are the goals and aspirations of every teacher and parent in the world. We should take this as encouragement and strive to improve ourselves even more in this direction. One thing worth mentioning is that these four students have all come from devout Buddhist families and have received good education in the family; thus, they have provided the school with cornerstones of success.



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