

# Connecting with Nature 2014' Cherishing Youth Day at the City of 10,000 Buddhas (continued)

## 與大自然共生息——2014年萬佛聖城懷少節

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(Continued from the front inner cover)

It was all done to tell a story about a happy kingdom that discovered technology, the social and environmental collapse that followed, and the king's task of leading his people to find a balance between technology and nature.

The girls' division of the city's Developing Virtue high school hosted this year's Cherishing Youth Day, and the senior class gave it the theme "connecting with nature." A narrator told the story, and the students from all grades gave performances to illustrate it.

"We teach our children to cherish life and love animals," said Jin Jr Shi, principal of the girls' division of the city's schools, describing the "Buddha's Little Garden Musical" performance by the girls in first through third grades. The students, dressed as butterflies, bluebirds and other animals, held up letters and sang, "S-I-D-D-H-A-R-T-H-A," spelling and then singing Buddha's name in Sanskrit.

All 220 students from all grades at the city's schools participated in the event, manning booths outside, ushering groups of school children to their seats, giving various orchestral, choral, dance and other performances, preparing and serving a vegetarian lunch to the guests invited to the event, according to Jin Jr Shi.

She said the school and community aims to cherish its youth by "sharing words of wisdom, sharing wise values with them. I would say it's more of a mutual learning; we are also learning from them at the same time."

今年的節目設計，主要在描述一個主題故事。故事內容是一群生活在快樂王國的人們，發現社會與環境漸漸因為科技發展而崩塌，於是國王決定帶領人民尋找科技與自然之間的平衡。

節目主持人係由培德女中的學生擔任。今年的應屆畢業生將活動主題訂為「與大自然共生息」，旁白引述著故事，由不同年級組成的演員們詮釋故事劇情。

小學一到三年級的學生，表演一齣名為「佛陀的小花園」的音樂劇。根據女校校長近智師表示，這齣音樂劇是「教導我們的孩子珍惜生命，愛護動物。」劇裏面一群身穿著蝴蝶衣、藍色的小鳥，以及其他動物服裝的孩子，手裏拿著字母板拼出「S-I-D-D-H-A-R-T-H-A」（悉達多，佛陀的梵文），嘴裏一邊哼著「S-I-D-D-H-A-R-T-H-A」的音韻。

培德中學男校和女校總共220位學生，參與今年懷少節的籌劃及演出工作。從外場攤位的管理、引領來訪學校的學生就座、國樂演奏、中國舞蹈、歌唱，乃至午餐幫忙打菜，全都由學



And that she did, having lots of opportunity to do so with 1,050 students in attendance from all over Mendocino County, most of them in prekindergarten through sixth grade. A high school class from Anderson Valley also attended. “This is our biggest year ever,” said Steve Setera, a teacher in the boys’ division. “We’ve never had to split it into two shows before. Usually we get 400 to 500 (attendees).”

To accommodate this year’s large audience, the school gave two performances. Visiting pre-K through first graders attended the short program from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and went back to their schools with provided sack lunches, and the older children saw the long program from 10:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

A high school girl dressed in a cartoonish, hooded dinosaur costume led her classmates in a hip-hop dance as part of the long program’s story about returning to nature and finding a balance with technology. She reappeared in the final dance number, which encouraged children to play outdoors. It featured students clad in hooded, cartoon-like lion, penguin, panda, giraffe and other animal costumes, and even featured Pikachu from the popular children’s game and cartoon Pokémon, and a pink unicorn.



The students even cleaned up after the event so the school did not have to employ a janitor to do so, according to Jin Jr Shi. “We want them to cherish their blessings,” she said. “There is no need for a janitor; they have healthy, able bodies.” ❀

生們一手包辦。

舉辦懷少節的目的，主要是希望透過分享智慧的經驗與觀念，來關心愛護年輕的一代，同時也是一個互相學習的機會，學生們可以從觀眾的身上學到不同的東西。

今年似乎有更多的機會學習，因為總計有1050位學生參加。除了曼都仙諾郡內的幼稚園以及小學學生，還有一群來自安德森谷的高中生也前來共襄盛舉。目前任教於培德男校的Steve Setera說，「這次懷少節是有史以來參加人數最多的一次，往年通常只有四、五百位學生參加。在此之前，我們從來都不需要將活動分成兩階段舉行。」

為了要讓每一位學生都有機會看到表演，



今年節目分成兩階段。第一時段是從早上九點到十點，觀眾主要是幼稚園的學生；第二時段的表演比較長，則是給年紀大一點的學生觀賞。

節目當中，一位全身恐龍裝打扮的女學生，帶領一群女校學生跳了一段嘻哈舞，呼應這次活動的主題——返璞歸真，尋找自然與科技間的平衡。節目的最後，這位恐龍裝主角再次出現，鼓勵在場的孩子們多到戶外走走，這時舞台出現各種不同的動物：企鵝、獅子、熊貓、長頸鹿，甚至還有孩子最喜歡的神奇寶貝「皮卡丘」，當然這些都是由學生裝扮而成的。

活動結束後的整理工作，幾乎由男女校的學生包辦，沒有雇用任何一名的清潔人員。近智師說：「學生們都很健康活潑，都能自己動手完成。再者，也藉此機會讓學生懂得珍惜自己的福報。」 ❀