

法界聖城中小學畢業典禮

Promotion Ceremony at the City of the Dharma Realm



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西沙加緬度法界聖城育良小學與培德中學於2016年6月5日舉行第三屆畢業典禮。今年的四名畢業生分別自幼稚園、小學、初中畢業，都將留校繼續升級就讀。

校長恒是法師首先致詞指出，教育是上人一生的願力，上人常說，盡虛空遍法界無一處不是學校。法界聖城於2009年申請成立中小學，經過公聽等程序獲核准，於2011年正式開辦。五年來，不僅學生人數從一人增長至17人，也看到學生個人的成長。

八年級畢業生文森佐·特吉原先就讀公校，其後因公校取消音樂、自然、美術課，母親史黛西·特吉決定讓他在家自學。一年前史黛西聽說培德中學注重培養品德兼優的學生，因此為他申請入學。文森佐在致詞時說，剛來上學時，跟在家自學相較，覺得挺辛苦的。但正是這份辛苦，讓他充分發揮潛力。他將自己在數學、科學、社會、英文等學科的進步歸功於師資優良。他感謝所有師長，並將升上培德高中部就讀。副校長吳姿瑩為他頒發畢業證書。

On June 5th, 2016, the third promotion ceremony of City of the Dharma Realm's branch of Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School took place. There were four graduates from kindergarten, elementary school and junior high school. All of them were promoted to the next level.

The principal Dharma Master Heng Shr delivered a speech first. She said that education was one of Venerable Master Hua's vows. Master Hua often said that everywhere, to the ends of empty space and pervading the dharma realm, are places for schools. The City of Dharma Realm applied for the permit to run an elementary school and a high school in 2009. After public hearings and required procedures, the permit was bestowed. The schools formally opened in 2011. Since then, the number of students has increased from one to seventeen. In the five years Dharma Master Shr has witnessed the students' growth.

8th grader Vincenzo Terzi went to a public school in the past but his mother Staci Terzi decided to home school him when the music, science and arts classes were taken out from the curriculum. A year ago, when Staci heard that CDR's Developing Virtue Secondary School educates student in virtue and academic excellence, she applied for him to enter Developing Virtue Secondary School. Vincenzo said, "Before coming here I was home schooled which is a very different environment than

小學畢業生莉莉·嘉西亞以及兩位幼稚園畢業生卡米洛·丹伯格、可麗歐·宋思蓓瑞，分別自恒貴法師與恒是法師手中接過畢業證書，並發表畢業感言。學生家長特雷維·丹伯格表示，孩子在此求學，不但品德與成績並進，還能學到終生受用不盡的戒律。特雷維有一回開車時，對旁邊不守交通規則的駕駛者很憤怒，朝對方大喊：「我要宰了你。」沒想到還在念幼稚園的孩子竟然提醒他：「爹地，你不能這樣說，這是違反戒律的。」他當下覺得孩子給他上了永難忘懷的一課。

學生監護人麥克·史密斯則說，他監護的侄兒、侄女原本就讀公校，有一次他去接他們放學，看到校車上衝下來的學生大聲叫囂，神情狂野，彷彿在校車上舉行過派對似的。侄兒、侄女告訴他，學校午餐時間也是如此。他當即決定另覓學校，在沙加緬度地區終於找到法界聖城育良小學。如今看到侄兒女彬彬有禮，注意力提高，學業也進步了，他非常高興。

接著三名學生由恒貴法師頒發全勤獎：陳嘉禧、陳嘉悅、蔡雍熙，獎勵他們上課從不缺席。當天的演講嘉賓是在加州中谷牡丹市擔任外科醫師的李茗樵，他的同修正是副校長吳姿瑩。李茗樵鼓勵學生保持終身學習的精神；人生中要學著化挫折為諒解，也要學著照顧父母，照顧地球（例如吃素、節約資源）。畢業後要跟老師保持聯繫，他自己正是如此，有些老師如今成為他的病人，他覺得很榮幸能報答師恩。

畢業典禮中，還有學生們的才藝表演，包括陳嘉悅的鋼琴演奏、黃柏宇的小提琴演奏；全體學生合唱「弟子規」、「您養育我成人」、「聖城故事多」、「法界佛教青年歌」。主持這次畢業典禮的兩位同學蔡雍熙與鄒史密斯，口齒清晰、台風穩健，再度展現學校的教學成果。法界聖城中小學目前共有19位老師，其中四位是博士，另有五位碩士。❀

CDR. This school was tough for me at first. But the toughness of this school brought out the best in my academic abilities.” Due to his excellent teachers in math, science, social studies and English, Vincenzo made academic progress. He extended his gratitude to all teachers and will continue to work hard when he moves on to high school. Vice Principal Wu handed him the certificate of completion.

Elementary school graduate Lily Garcia, and Kindergarten graduates Camilo Danberg and Cleo Thornsberry received their certificate of completion from Dharma Master Heng Gwei and Dharma Master Heng Shr and gave their speeches. One parent, Trevor Danberg, said that his kids had made much progress in virtue and in academic work; they have also learned precepts which will benefit them throughout their lives. One time, when Trevor was driving, he got mad at another driver who didn't follow traffic rules and yelled at that driver, “I will kill you.” His kindergartener told him, “Daddy, you shouldn't have said that; it's against the precepts.” It was an unforgettable lesson for Trevor.

Mike Smith, a guardian of some of the students, said that his nephew and niece were originally in a public school. One day when he picked them up after school, he saw that students getting off the school bus were shouting at each other and looked crazy, as if they were partying on the school bus. His nephew and niece told him that students behaved like that at lunchtime as well. Hence, Mike decided that he should find another school for his nephew and niece. Finally he found the Instilling Goodness Elementary School in West Sacramento. Now he feels happy seeing that his nephew and niece are much more polite, have longer attention span and have made much progress in their schoolwork.

Students Eton Chan, Jessica Chan, and Genevieve Choy received Perfect Attendance Award from Dharma Master Heng Gwei. This award was to encourage students to never be absent from classes. The keynote speaker was Calvin Lee, a surgeon practicing in Modesto, California. His wife is the vice principal, Tammy Wu. Calvin encouraged students to keep learning throughout their lives. He said, “We need to learn how to turn frustration into understanding, to take care of parents, and to take care of Mother Earth (such as being a vegetarian and conserving natural resources.)” He suggested that students keep in touch with their teachers after graduation. He did. Some of his teachers are now his patients and he felt privileged to be able to do something for his teachers.

There were students' performances in the graduation ceremony. Jessica Chan played piano, Apollo Wong played violin, and the students' choir sang “Standards for Students”, “You Raise Me Up”, “Sagely City Stories” and “Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth”. The two masters of ceremonies were Genevieve Choy and Zoe Smith. They were both articulate and had good manners, which reflected the fine education they had received from the school. There are currently nineteen teachers at the schools of the City of Dharma Realm. Among them, there are four with a PhD degree and another five with Master's degrees. ❀