

# Forces United, Stronger Together: Cherishing Youth Day 2018 at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

## 團結力量大：2018萬佛聖城懷少節

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“Good morning and welcome to the 2018 Cherishing Youth Day!”

On April 13, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was alive with energy as 700 plus students from many schools throughout Mendocino County came together to celebrate the annual Cherishing Youth Day, hosted by the Instilling Goodness Developing Virtue Schools. In the morning, schools arrived at the gates and started their day with booth activities at the Girls School and a short program hosted by the Boys School.

Students delved into arts and crafts, creating “element flags” for each of the four respective elements. They were immersed into Chinese culture in the calligraphy booth, which taught how to write the word “citizenship” in Chinese. Finally, the students expressed their youth and vitality learning the Unity Dance that was to be later performed in the program.

This Cherishing Youth Day also had the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua’s tribute as a unique addition to the program. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of his life, the IGDVS students expressed a Gratitude Message to honor his service and compassion for the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas community and beyond.

This year’s theme focused on citizenship and strength in interconnection. The program’s plot line is based on five sisters; four of the sisters discovered their ability to control the elements of fire, water, earth, and air, while the fifth sister remained an ordinary, powerless human. Fueled by her anger and seeking revenge, the Human started a conflict, leading to a schism between the sisters as they all declared war. Each element attacked one another—after Air, Fire called upon her most powerful dragon, the Human sent



「早上好！歡迎大家來參加2018年的懷少節！」

4月13日，萬佛聖城以熱烈的情懷歡迎著各校學生的來臨，來參加育良小學、培德中學一年一度的懷少節。一大早，來自不同學校的700多個孩子們，紛紛聚集到萬佛聖城的大門前，女校學生為他們擺設好活動攤位，男校學生也即將為他們表演精彩節目，準備開始充實的一天。

在手工攤位，學生們製作不同顏色的小旗子；書法攤位上，他們接觸體驗中國文化，一筆一畫學寫「忠」字。最後

在大姐姐的指導下，童心漫溢的學生們學會一段稍後要在舞台上表演的集體舞。

同時為了慶祝宣公上人的百歲誕辰紀念，今年懷少節也安排育良小學、培德中學的學生發表對宣公上人的感恩，感謝上人慈悲創建萬佛聖城。當然，需要感激上人的遠遠不止這些。

今年節目以「忠」為主題，用五姐妹的故事呈現。故事中的五姐妹，其中四個人發現自己分別擁有掌握火、水、土、風四大元素的能力。當第五個人發現自己一無所有，是個平凡的人類時，惱羞成怒之下決定分裂手足之間的團結，最後彼此互相攻擊。在風大的攻擊下，火大釋出一條猛龍；人類祭出武力強大的部隊；地大擊起戰鼓而地動山搖；水









her best generals in the martial arts, Earth's mighty drums shook the lands, and Water called upon the great oceans of the world in an attempt to stop the fight.

After all the chaos, the Human sister realized her mistake. Determined to right her wrongs, she found a strength from within that she never realized before. The Human was not without her own force, because she had the power to unite all the elements. This power manifested into a great Yin-Yang Lion, a creature of balance and order, which brought the sisters back together and restored peace to all. Thus, symbolizing the integration of the Western four elements and the Eastern principles of Yin and Yang.

With harmony and happiness in the air, everyone came together to celebrate with the Unity Dance. As the students danced and the audience waved their element flags in the air, everyone took part in expressing how the Forces United were truly Stronger Together. ❀



大發動洪水試圖終止鬥爭。

經過一陣的混亂，人類終於發現自己的錯誤。為了彌補錯誤，人類找到與生俱有的力量，只是從未察覺。其實她並非一無所有，她有能夠結合四大元素的巨大力量。這個力量化身為一頭陰陽獅，象徵平衡與秩序。陰陽獅讓五姐妹和好如初，一切回歸平靜。故事裡的四大與陰陽，象徵著西方文化與東方文化的融合交流。

和諧快樂的氣氛散佈在空氣中，大家在台上歡樂跳著舞的同時，台下的觀眾也配合揮舞著

紅、黃、藍、綠四種顏色的旗子。台上台下融成一片，向大家展示「團結就是力量」。❀

