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By the time this welcome message is out, I will have seen a lot of new faces, as well as older ones, at the Lizhi hall. Whether you are returning or new to the hall, let me welcome you (with a big hug) to become a member of this big family. Hopefully, by the time you have to leave, you will have established friendship and enjoyed different aspects of the hall life.

Some reflections for the last year

In the middle of the last academic year, the Lizhi Hall Student Association's leadership was passed to the eighth one led by Alvin Lam. Let me express, on the behalf of all the hallmates, our thankfulness to the seventh and eighth associations for their dedication and efforts on helping build up this family.

Similar to the past years, Lizhi hallmates actively participated in many inter-hall activities. Because of the effort of our sportsmen and sportswomen, it is the first time ever in the Lizhi history that both men and women received the overall sports awards: the men received the second runner up and the ladies the first runner up. The most memorable scenes, however, are not receiving the recognitions at the Prize Presentation Ceremony. The most memorable ones instead are when the men and women teams trained up themselves and tried their very best to play a good game at every match. Some of the scenes that are still vivid in my memory are:

- The men's basketball team, who trailed behind by more than 10 points in the 4th quarter, came back in the last few minutes at the semi-final match and made it to the final.
- The women's volleyball team played a beautiful match in the semi-final against the champion last year and made it to the final.
- The men's soccer team, though lost in the semi-final, played like a professional team in the match for the second runner up and as a result, three out of the four top shooters came from Lizhi.
- The women's badminton team played with such dedication that a player broke her tooth but insisted on finishing the game, and they eventually received the first runner up.

There are also many similar 勵志 stories that I could not possibly include here. I hope that the spirit of performing the best in the inter-hall activities, academic studies, and other services will be Lizhi's trademark.

We also reluctantly bid farewell to Jacky for his unwavering dedication as our tutor and friend, and Gigi and Eric for their tutor service for the past year. We wish them the very best and hope to see them around from time to time.

Other reflections

While the hall life could be very colorful, at times I feel that we seem to be living quite apart from the rest of the world. Almost all the hall activities (not just Lizhi's) are revolved around (entertaining or competing among) ourselves. I have to think very hard to recall activities (e.g., energy saving) that serve a purpose beyond ourselves. Even for those activities, we may just treat them as another competition item.

Something is missing in our hall life. We have become so inward-looking and conveniently ignored many important issues and development in the society that we are part of. Many of these issues (such as, political reform, sustainable development, and various social issues) will have profound impact on shaping our lives and Hong Kong's future. The baton of addressing these issues (whether you like it or not) will be passed to the younger generations. Some of these issues are very complicated and therefore require independent and critical thinking, whereas others simply require our compassion and actions. Hall life, therefore, should be much more than entertaining ourselves and competing in sports and cultural events. Hall life could give us opportunities to explore the world around us and contribute to making our world a little better.

To sum up, the hall could be a place for us to develop a worldview which is necessary for us to search for meaning in what we do (and what we don't do).

“求你指教我們怎樣數算自己的日子、好叫我們得着智慧的心。” (詩 90:12)

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

Enjoy your hall life.