

Professional papers and workshops

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The Promotion of Campus Reading Programs: Set an example of Lotung Senior High School, Taiwan

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Taiwan is one of the several Asian countries which highly value higher education investment. Students feel so heavy about study pressure that they seldom make habits of getting into libraries; in other words, they only read rare extracurricular books. But in the past ten years, our school library tried hard to further the possibility of promoting reading environment and developing the model of organizing reading groups. It is obvious that making up class reading groups has been developed in the campus. But we also encounter some difficulties and limitations. Therefore, the text tries to share our past experiences with the public.

Preface

In 21st century, Taiwan has developed economics and technology and the prosperous society has encouraged our people to promote the cultural surroundings and thinking. So we expect to step forward to a more steady and cultural society. Undoubtedly, the learning organization is one of the best choices. During these years, we remarkably felt the spirit of self-management of local organizations and governments in Taiwan, such as the rebuilding of traditional temples and local communities and so on. It makes the locals find out their own self-determining spirit. It also suits us senior high students when we try to choose the suitable and interesting topics to read by ourselves. Just like the spring bamboo shoots, there are so many reading clubs are made up. There is no exception of Lotung Senior High School.

In Taiwan, The Education Ministry makes every effort to promote the reform of education. But it is still opposed by conservatives and counteracts the effect of the campaign. To develop multiple intelligences, the popularization of reading practice must be going. Though the authorities concerned try to call for improving the teaching methods and qualities, it is still a good way to encourage students to go into library and grasp some books interested to read in campus or at home. In campus, we call reading clubs any groups who systematically search, gather, read, collocate, discuss, and shares for a certain theme. We could brainstorm with each other, discuss the details or have a short speech separately even just by reading a poem, or an article. Anyway, campuses are originally a place to read, and we wholeheartedly hope to help improving the reading qualities and surroundings, not just too well-prepare for the approaching and constant tests.

The Procedure of Promoting Campus Reading Programs

Lotung Senior High School has a lot of splendid things to say. We are one of the best in ILan County. Most of the junior high school students regard us as a prior choice. We have great achievements in all respects, such as science, literature, language, history, geography, math, and so on.

But as I said before, most of my colleagues still follow the traditional teaching method teachers teach, students listen and then students prepare for constant tests to evaluate their acquirement. Most of our students study so hard but don't acquire what they should deserve. In modern society, teenagers today need to enhance their competition by absorbing knowledge or by reading much more books than ever. The reform of the education is trying to find out better ways to solve such kind of things. In Lotung Senior High School, we did a lot of reforms to improve our teaching effect or to inspire students to enhance their creation and imagination. The procedure of promoting campus reading programs that happens in my school is as follows. And I want to show you step by step.

I. The Organization of "The Web Reading Group" And Other's Activities

There goes a western saying that opening a book is equal to opening a window of knowledge. It is no doubt that reading could broaden our horizons enrich our imagination, and acquire knowledge. We perceived that reading groups had been organized by career women, librarians and students since 1993. There is no exception of Lotung Senior High School. We had been thinking how to organize a qualified reading club to promote the campus reading programs and to help guiding students to improve their reading habits.

1st Senior High School Students Web Reading Club

Enrolled 20 students as members in Lotung Senior High School in July, 1996.

1. Basic training Consulting reference books summarizing "how to read a book" guiding how to write a report, and learning how to use a computer.

2. Visiting Visiting one of the oldest temple in Tao Yuan old street in Dashy, and architectures in JiuFen.
3. A designated speaking Inviting an alumnus to have a designated speech titled “snake venom and molecular biology”.
4. Discussing The books titled “Taiwan Snake Venom Legend ” and “Taiwan Traditional Architecture manual.”
5. Achievement
 - a. Typing all the reports into web pages and allowing discussing via internet.
 - b. Typing down the reports and discussing recording printed into a book.
 - c. Producing a PowerPoint CD.

2nd Senior High School Students Web Reading Club

Enrolled 40 students as members in Lotung Senior High School in July, 1997.

1. Basic training Consulting reference books reading methods, and writing guide.
2. Visiting & Communicating
 - a. Visiting four senior high schools in Shinchiu County and having a discussion in Chutung Senior High Schools. Of course, also experiencing the local culture, Hakka food songs and folk dances.
 - b. Visiting Lotung Sports Park and inviting one of the original designers to be a guide to explain the designing conception and prospect.
3. Designated producing Finishing personal PowerPoint introduction and together Finishing the web pages of Lotung Sports Park.
4. Counselor training Training 20 students basic courses such as to be suitable counselors to help assisting the national school activities.
5. Achievement
 - a. Publishing a CD of introducing Lotung Sports Park.
 - b. Being counselors in “National Senior High School Students Reading Clubs Leaders Camp.” And they really did a good job.

3rd Senior High School Students Web Reading Club

Enrolled 40 students as members in Lotung Senior High School in July, 1998.

1. Basic Training Consulting reference books reading methods writing guide , and surfing the internet.
2. Visiting Visiting Tzu Chi University Library and medical academy.
3. Webpage Producing Asking students to complete personal web pages before the end of summer vacation.
4. Class reading group Asking each member to promote class reading clubs in his class.
5. Achievement Burning a CD to present ” Senior High Students Web Reading Club.”

4th Senior High School Students Web Reading Club

Enrolled 43 students as members in Lotung Senior High School in July, 1999.

1. Basic Training Reference books usage reading analysis discussion rules

report writing and acquiring reading clubs.

2. Visiting Visiting SanShia Old Street and an Old temple.
3. Personal PowerPoint & Webpage producing Producing personal power point.
4. English Learning Producing personal web pages and power point introduction.
5. Achievement Burning a CD ROM to illustrate the learning process.

5th Senior High School Students Web Reading Club

Enrolled 32 students as members in Lotung Senior High School in July, 2000.

1. Basic Training Reference books usage reading analysis discussion rules
report writing search information assembling computer, and English
conversation practice. Focusing on information search and English speaking
abilities.
2. Visiting Visiting Cheng Chi University Library.
3. Personal Webpage Producing Producing personal web pages and power point.
4. Achievement Burning a CD-ROM to illustrate the learning process.

II. The Promotion of Class Reading Groups and Its Series of Activities

Besides the Web Reading Clubs, we also encourage the classes to come into the library to borrow the books. Besides a designated book, we also try to organize them to read outside readings together and arrange a series of activities to enhance the effects. And we call them Class Reading Groups. Some of the examples are as follows

1. Local Literature Reading Hwang Chun Ming novels and seeing his film.

Our school is located in I Lan County and we have some famous writers whose works are about local people and custom. So we would like to introduce some of the best writers to our students and Hwang Chun Ming is one of them.

- i. Designated reading the book titled “The Gong” written by Hwang Chun Ming.
- ii. Derivative Reading Choosing anyone of the works written by Hwang Chun Ming.
- iii. Specific speaking Mr. Chiu A Tu (one of the famous Ilan writers) had a speech to illustrate the author himself and his novels on Nov. 17th.

Mr. Hwang Chun Ming My unforgettable writing experience.

- iv. Visiting Hwang Chun Ming led all of the members to explore the true locations behind his novels on Nov. 20th.

- v. Movies Seeing the movies titled “The Big Toy of My Son.”

- vi. Discussion Invited Mr. Chiu A Tu to be the host and Mr. Hwang Chun Ming to be an observer. Hwang even explained all the detailed questions mentioned by members.

2. Traditional Poems Seminar Reading Tang Poems aloud.

Class 207 was influenced by their tutor, Chinese teacher so that they enjoyed studying Tang poems. And they especially held a three-day Traditional Poems Seminar in winter vacation. During the seminar, they study Traditional Poems Introduction Taiwanese

Poems Introduction Poems Intoning Appreciation Writing and Intoning and posted the works on the web pages. At last, these reports were printed into a manual sent to all the participants.

3. Life Science Reading “The Human Body Shop” ,written by Andrew Kimbrell.
 - i. Designated reading “The Human Body Shop” on Jan. 31st ~ Feb. 19th.
 - ii. Derivative Reading “Brave New World” , “Brave New World Revisited”, by Aldous Huxley ; “Genome: The Story of the Most Astonishing Scientific Adventure of Our Time the Attempt to Map All the Genes in the Human Body” by Jerry E. Bishop, Michael Waldholz.
 - iii. Search Internet Surfing on the internet to search for useful information about gene.
 - iv. Visiting Visiting medical department in Tze Chi University in Hua Lien on Feb. 20th.
 - v. Specific Speaking “The Past and the Future of Gene Engineering” and the speaker was Professor Wang, medical department in Tze Chi University. On Feb. 20th.
 - vi. Movies “Junior” starred by Arnold Schwarzenegger on Feb. 26th.
 - vii. Discussion Having a discussion in class.
 - viii. Recording and Printing The record was printed into an electronic file and posted on the web pages.
4. The Internet Times Reading “The internet Times.”
 - i. Designated reading “The internet Times.”
 - ii. Derivative Reading “Cyberpunk-Outlaws and Hackers on the Computer Frontier”, the author was K. Hafner & J. Markoff.
“The cuckoo's egg: tracking a spy through the maze of computer espionage”, the author was Cliff Stoll.
 - iii. Search Internet Surfing the net to search for useful information about computer virus.
 - iv. Visiting Visiting Information Science and Computer Center of Education Ministry.
 - v. Movies ”The Net”, the main actress was Sandra Bullock.
 - vi. Discussion Having a discussion in class and the record was both in print and online.

III. The Family Reading Groups and Tour Study

In order to promote the reading service based on community service and family communication, our library tried to draw up a series of activities to cultivate children’s thinking ability by reading speaking seeing movies visiting and discussion. To avoid too much burden, the series of activities was not only unique but also combined together. So, it is flexible for family members to choose to join once or every time. In 1999, we recruited family reading groups for three times. The details are as follows

1. The 1st activities Bird-watching Trip at Wu Wei Wetland in SuAo Town.
 - a. Date Jan. 17, 1999
 - b. The Designated Book ”A Flock of Birds Soar Overhead in I Lan.”

- c. Movies “Fly Away Home”
 - d. Specific Speaking Bird Ecology Study by Professor Mr. Lin Yin He.
 - e. Exploring Activities Bird-watching in Wu Wei Wetland.
 - f. Producing a Memory Book We demanded parents worked together with their kids to take photos, to observe, and to write what they had learned.
2. The 2nd activities Exploring the Rocky Coast in Northeast Cape.
- a. Date May 16, 1999
 - b. The Designated Book “Rocks Manual” by Chen Wen San.
 - c. Movies “Sand Carving” and “Rock Types”
 - d. Specific Speaking Introduction
 - e. Exploring Activities Observing the terrain of the northeast rock coast led by Miss Lan.
 - f. Producing a Memory Book We demanded parents worked together with their kids to take photos, to observe, and to write what they had learned.
3. The 3rd activities Wildness Survival.
- a. Date Jun. 27, 1999
 - b. The Designated Book “Wildness Survival Manual”
 - c. Movies “Wildness Survival”
 - d. Specific Speaking Survival Use of Plants by Mr. Chen Liang Kai
 - e. Exploring Activities Cooking Bamboo Rice without utensil
 - f. Producing a Memory Book We demanded parents worked together with their kids to take photos, to observe, and to write what they had learned.

IV. Allying With Schools and Video Conference

1. 20 members of 2nd Senior High School Students Web Reading Club came to ChuTung Senior High School to have a discussion with the other five schools on Jun. 06, 1998. All the participants discussed the book titled “The Knight in Rusty Armor” and shared what they had learned.
2. Invited the bilingual students in National Experimental High School at Science-Based Industrial Park to have a discussion in Lotung Senior High School on Feb. 22, 1999. The title of the book is “Men from Mars, Women from Venus.” All the participants try to discuss the details in English. Of course, it is a little bit difficult for students.
3. 20 members of 1st Senior High School Students Web Reading Club had a discussion with the other three schools in Taipei via Teleconference. The names of the three schools are Taipei First Girl High School Chien Kuo Senior High School, and The Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University. The title of the book is “The internet Times.” The discussion was hosted by the Professor Wang Huang Chen, the director of Computer Center of National Ilan University.

4. 30 members of 2nd Senior High School Students Web Reading Club had a discussion with students from National Taichung Girls' Senior High School via Teleconference on Nov. 16, 1997. One side was at Ilan Chunghwa Telecom, and the other side was at National Chung Hsing University in Taichung. The title of the book was "King Solomon's Ring." The discussion was hosted by Professor Yuan Hsiao Wei, biology department at National Taiwan University.
5. Invited bilingual students at The Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University to have a discussion with Lotung High School students via Teleconference. The topic was "Campus Living". One side was at our school and the other side was at Taipei. The discussion was hosted by Professor Chang Yang Pei, history department at National Taiwan University.
6. Invited students from Galileo Academy of Science & Technology, located in San Francisco, to have a discussion with Lotung High School students via Teleconference. The topic was "Campus Living" and the language was English. The discussion was hosted by Professor Ke Hwa Wei, director of General Education Center in Chung Cheng University.

V. Publishing the Guided Materials and Electronic Newspaper

We always believe it can cultivate students' administrative ability, improve their judgment and accumulate their experiences that students take part in the activities. Our reading clubs had so many activities which were demanded to have concrete achievement. So, there were so many accomplishments left behind. The results are as follows

1. Published "Senior High School Web Reading Club Selection" which was adapted into "Provincial Senior High School Teaching Counseling Group Series" in Jun., 1997.
2. Issued "Senior High School Students Web Reading Club CD-ROM Aid materials", sent to all the public and private senior high schools in Taiwan in Jun., 1987.
3. Recording a video tape titled "How to hold a discussion of the reading club", sent to all the public and private senior high schools in Taiwan in Jun., 1988.
4. Issued a CD-ROM of 4th Senior High School Students Web Reading Club in Sep., 1999.
5. Issued a CD-ROM of 5th Senior High School Students Web Reading Club in Oct., 2000.
6. Issued Senior High School Library Electronic Newspaper for all the school librarians on 2005. Actually, it is a little difficult to publish online such an electronic newspaper.

We found out some enthusiastic and professional editors who voluntarily edit all kinds of columns without rewards.

VI. The Variations and Difficulties of Promoting Campus Reading Programs

During the period of developing reading clubs, we met a lot of problems in our school.

In the beginning, most of our colleagues don't agree with our decision. So there is some objection caused by ourselves. In order to have better tests grades, teachers asked students to come to school to review their lessons on holidays. And that spent them a lot of time on useless review. Students felt exhausted as a result of being demanded to examine again and again. But eventually, we have overcome every objection and completed the mission on time.

Conclusion

I am firmly convinced that seeds would finally be budding. After we walked such a long way, we are glad to see such reading popularity aroused by our school, Lotung Senior High School. In Taiwan, we have heavy schoolwork burden. Owing to the reform of education, some students misunderstand the true signification of the reform of education. They just throw away the pressure of studying. They think they don't need to study so hard any more. Conversely, they should learn how to pursue their own study interests and to explore their innate characters and intrinsic worth. It is believed that reading is good for teenagers, especially in schooling.

Facing the information society which technology is progressing so fast in developed countries in 21st century, we want to call upon how senior high students to prepare for themselves to adapt to their future? Facing knowledge exploding age, reading seems to be one of the best ways to acquire knowledge in place of experiences. And we know reading can enhance individual frustration tolerance and reduce the fear caused by ignorance. Reading others' experiences can help us overcome the difficulty nowadays and inspire ourselves to restart in the near future. Besides information search, reading also helps us to clarify our thinking blind. Reading also make you stand upon the giant's shoulders to look farther and think far better. Reading makes us understand the common truth in different times and different communities. We hope that there are sounds of reading aloud everywhere in the campus in the near future. And it brings pleasant voices, not the chilly mourning.

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