




Kwong Chow School

By: Connie Estampador-Adaya
(With notes from David Norcross)

As The Year of the Rat sets in for a better and brighter year 2008, Kwong Chow School (KCS) Multilingual Program, now accredited by the Office of the National Education Standard Quality Assurance or ONESQA for 2006-2010, continues to shine as one of the very few schools that offer international education with a focus on multilingual proficiency.



If you beg to disagree, try walking down the hallway of KCS and be astonished to hear students speaking in different languages. One perfect example is a boy named Sukrit Tanticharoenkiat a.k.a. Act, a seventh grader, who speaks fluent English, Thai, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish. Act has already won four local speech competitions so far. Emerging from a sweet victory in an invitational event, he captivated many hearts when he won the top spot in the Bangrak District English Program Speech Competition recently, which advanced him into clinching the first place in the National Level English Program Category. In the end, he placed second in the over-all championships besting other finalists from public and private schools nationwide. Act, who reaped most of the academic excellence awards in the recent graduation rites for grade

six, has also passed two higher level (KET and PET) examinations with merits in last year's Cambridge University English Tests, where KCS garnered a 99 per cent passing rate.

Founded by the Kong Siew Association 130 years ago to preserve and spread the Cantonese dialect and culture, today the school has evolved into veritable League of Nations, with teachers and students of various nationalities gracing its hallowed halls, while never forgetting the legacy left by the illustrious alumni that have passed on their way to their success.

Just as how this school has left such great impression to its graduates in the past, KCS multilingual program has risen to its higher grounds to pave the way for a more reliable learning environment that responds to today's demand for both English and Chinese languages. With a mission: "To produce truly multilingual children who are culturally astute as they are educated", KCS has been dedicated to offer international education focusing on language proficiency.

KCS fuses different academic models drawing on both American and British curriculums, which are approved by the Ministry of Education of Thailand, to create an environment that reaches the highest of international standard while avoiding rigidity. The teaching methodology recognizes the importance of Asian cultures, languages, and local traditions which are a cornerstone of the school's mission. The school, which is now an accredited testing center, has also been continually investing in training its students for the annual Cambridge University Tests for grade levels. Meanwhile, the UK

English courses for kindergarten were introduced just last year.

The multilingual program's unique curriculum emphasizes the importance of communication and enables its students to converse in five different languages – Cantonese, Mandarin, English, Spanish, and Thai. The students are fully equipped to cope with the ever-changing globalized world we live in today, as it has been shown that multilingual professionals are more likely to succeed in the modern business world; so to consider joining the growing KCS community is one decision you and your child would never regret.

Apart from the core-language subjects, the school's curriculum also covers academic subjects such as mathematics, the natural and social sciences, art, music, information technology and health. KCS has pioneered the inclusion of integrated lessons in health, nutrition, home economics, and physical education – all designed to teach students the fundamentals of a healthy lifestyle.

Meanwhile, one of the highlights of last year's extra-curricular activities was the Kindergarten students' participation in the first ever Bangkok Kindergarten Sports Day held in Din Daeng, where a huge turnout of schools took part in the basketball shooting, track and field, cheering, and football competitions. KCS little kickers wowed the crowd when they amazingly won the first place in their assigned grouping. Students in KCS are also encouraged to love the Mother Nature, a benevolent thought that launched the first "Clean and Green Silom District Day" recently in cooperation with Sofitel Silom and the Bangrak local government unit. Another memorable activity was the annual fund-raising Christmas celebrations last year with the theme "Christmas around the World" where students commemorated the different Christmas traditions of selected countries by donning colorful costumes and props. Proceeds went to the refurbishing project fund of the school's kiddie playground.

The International program since 2003 has increased enrollees year on year as parents are drawn to high standards and students fall in love with its caring teachers. The low student-teacher ratio means that the qualified,

caring, and dedicated staff can give the students the care they need, while keeping them highly motivated. Newcomers to KCS are given a helping hand with special intensive English and Chinese programs, as well as one to one tuition.

The school is spread over spacious grounds with bright, airy buildings and modern facilities including: a state of the art mini-theater, a comprehensive library, two swimming pools, a huge classic auditorium, and also fully-equipped computer, science, gym, and music rooms.

Moving forward the future is looking bright with a number of new developments, including an international teacher and student exchange program which is a great exposure to the teaching/learning styles in other countries, as well as exporting the KCS brand of education worldwide. With enrolment projections exceeding expectations again for the next semester, KCS continues to go from strength to strength.

All these, coupled with rich historical background, humble success and promising ventures, Kwong Chow School, a well-respected institution, has and will always provide quality education to children from all walks of life, race, and culture. When you want a sure fire find for an international education, Kwong Chow School is it. What more can you ask for?

For more information, contact 02-635-0288, 02-635-0165 or visit www.kwongchow.com

