



傾聽者計畫
BEING A GOOD LISTENER

新手老師123 看見特殊學習需求

認識特殊需求學生

Understanding the Needs of Special Education Students; Become their Life Coach

Since the launch of "The Listener" program in August 2021, the message from the series on "Introduction to Special Education" has resonated with many people. The teacher, Freddy Cyu, who recorded this series had clear ADHD symptoms as a child. He spent a lot of time with special needs children during his college years and learned about the gap between families and the education system. He then established a special education center. "Simply trying to change the children is not enough, we must also influence the environment around them," said Cyu. Cyu believes his experience can be inspiring to all, including those without special needs students around them; we may all be prompted to create a more friendly environment.

Over the years, I have often been asked by parents if their children should get officially certified as special needs children. Many parents initially resist the idea. They worry that their children may be discriminated against in school, and the stigma may be permanent. For parents who are new to the concept and to our education system, such concerns are understandable. In the greater environment, stigmatization of special education is unavoidable.

Special Education is inherently a form of differential treatment!

Special education focuses on the two ends of the normal distribution bell curve, and children in these situations are easily neglected because they are not mainstream, and their needs cannot be easily met under normal circumstances. To address these special characteristics requires more flexibility and individualized guidance to create the so-called least restrictive environment (LRE) to allow these children's talents to be developed. Medical diagnosis is only one way to learn about these children. In Taiwan, one needs to go through the medical system to be certified as a special education student. In addition to that, the education system must also evaluate the child's need for special education and individualized support and services. The key is to have a focus on each child's needs, and apply various methods and a holistic approach, to properly plan for support and appropriate assistance. [Read more.](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Huatung Choir Camp Volunteer Recruitment Day

The 9th annual Huatung Choir Camp received in total 117 applications, among them 70 applicants were selected for group interviewing which involved focus groups, role playing, and activities design. The interview process allowed assessors to see the personalities of each candidate, while giving candidates the opportunity to gain deeper understanding and awareness of themselves through the questioning process. In feedback forms, several candidates shared that the group interviewing encouraged them to express themselves as well as listen to others. The occasion also created a chance for like-minded individuals to form friendships.

In effort to nurture future leaders, ACF invited former camp leaders, team leaders, supervisors, and coordinators to assist with the selection process. Senior volunteers were tasked to draft letters to candidates that were not selected using the camp motto 'I am lovable and capable' – that though they were not selected for this particular camp, it does not decrease their value or worth. The recruitment day was an occasion not only for recruitment, but a learning experience for all.



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Stanley Yen & Friends Invites Contemporary Artist Paul Chiang

"Paint and art is how I express my care to the society." – Paul Chiang

The second biannual Stanley Yen & Friends webinar, dated 15th April (PST), invites contemporary artist Paul Chiang to the stage. In 2008, Chiang made Jinzun, Taitung his residence. The nature and light of Taitung inspired him greatly and gave him a second life as an artist. The colours in his paintings shifted dramatically from dark and grey hues to a vibrant mix of reds, yellows, and blues. As someone who values aesthetic education, some of Chiang's most cherished moments are when he witnesses parents bringing their young children to his exhibition. "I will always find time to approach and have a chat with them. I will always thank them for exposing their children to the arts at a young age," said Chiang.

Chiang believes that art and music has the ability to transfigure souls. Currently, Chiang and Yen are together building a dream in Taitung – the Paul Chiang Art Center. They envision the center becoming an international landmark that will help uplift the rich arts culture and artists of Huatung.

[Join the Webinar](#)



Junyi School of Innovation: Graduation Presentation

Every student at the Junyi School of Innovation partakes in the three-year long graduation project, a project that allows them explore their interests in depth in which they will present about in the 12th grade. Beginning in the 10th grade, 10th graders are supported to first identify their topics of interests. Through curiosity and research they earn knowledge, experience, passion, and inspiration. Students are encouraged to ask questions, explore, apply their learnings from class, reflect, modify, and improve their works. They learn to bring their ideas into reality.

2022 has in total 46 graduates. Presentations took place between 5-6 March and 26-27 March broken up into four groups to present. As former years, 2022 topics varied. To name a few examples, one student presented on a new marketing strategy for a struggling fruit farm, one learned 3D computer graphics to propose a new classroom and gym space, and one created a patent for a code, inspired by a cracked tile on campus, that allows an Arduino robotic car go underground to detect problems that need repair without digging into the floor.

Parents and teachers witnessed the three-year progress, from 10th graders still unsure of their futures to now 12th graders who are confident in their directions and commitment to learning. The self-exploration built great self-assurance in students. In seeing the results, Chair Stanley Yen is optimistic that the school is moving towards the right direction.

[Graduation Presentation Part 1](#)

[Graduation Presentation Part 2](#)

[Graduation Presentation Part 3](#)

[Graduation Presentation Part 4](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Self-Acceptance, a Necessity to Carry On

"The Listener" — a program about self-awareness and reconciling.

The public has unrealistic expectations for teachers and front-line helpers. They take for granted that teachers should always have a mild manner, a cheerful outlook, and the ability to solve all problems. But teachers are human. Over time, such unrealistic expectations can be a burden, cause stress, and eventually become hurtful.

ACF launched the program "The Listener" on August 27, 2021. In cooperation with TFT (Teach for Taiwan), a podcast titled "As a teacher, can you be vulnerable?" was recorded to address the importance of self-awareness. In the podcast a rookie teacher Jessie Lee and Counselling Psychologist Chih Heng Chen candidly shared their experience. [Read more.](#)