



Cover Story x 5 Articles

## Cover Story: One Teacher's Path to Changing Taiwan's Education

2018 has been a year of dramatic change in Taiwan's education scene. It is the year Teacher Weiyin Lan resigned from her curriculum consulting position at the Ministry of Education as well as her teaching position at the Lishan Senior High School, and announced her commitment to coaching and mentoring schools and educators. Lan recognizes the urgency for an education revolution in the current education climate, and sees teachers and parents as the key force to change. Lan takes a practical approach to empowerment, and aims to nurture professional education consultants. She turns theory to practice, and builds a network of partners to help mentor schools and educators... [Read more.](#)

## ACF: Hualien Earthquake Relief

After being struck by the powerful earthquake in February this year, residents of Hualien suffered not only physical injury but mental and emotional distress. To address the latter, ACF brings together a team of mental health counsellors, social workers, and aromatherapists establishing the Hualien Seven Kilometers to Happiness recovery platform for survivors. An initiative funded by Pegatron Corporation, activities such as the reading club, mindfulness workshops, and aromatherapy courses hope to create a sense of re-belonging for its residents. In addition, ACF formed a Practitioner' s Training Program with Dwen An Social Welfare Foundation where residents who undergo training will be equipped with the right tools to engage and offer support to survivors in every corner of the community.



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## Junyi School of Innovation: Study Abroad Program Scholarship Fund

This summer, Junyi celebrated its first high school graduation. Out of 17 graduates, six continued their studies overseas. Of the six, sponsored by the school' s Study Abroad Program Scholarship Fund, four were accepted into community colleges in the United States, and two were accepted into United World College in Canada and Germany.

The scholarship fund supports two years of learning abroad and was initiated in hopes to encourage to-be graduates to pursue education overseas. Candidates are selected based on character, talent and comprehensive learning potential. To ensure the sustainability of the fund for future graduates, beneficiaries are expected to donate a percentage of their future income back into the fund. ACF Chair Stanley Yen believes that two years abroad will significantly improve students' English fluency as well



as gain basic global understanding and learning attitude which in hopes will be influenced back into the local Huatung communities upon their return.

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## **Ci-Xin Waldorf School: Self-Exploration & Reflection Project**



From 8th September, over a span of three days, Ci-Xin Waldorf School's 12th graders took turns in presenting their findings in each of their self-exploration & reflection projects. One student shared the encounter of meeting a condemned prisoner at the age of 16 which led to the research of looking deeper into the judicial justice system as well as the social status quo. Other students reflected on school life and self-image. Topics ranged from beetles to triathlons, animation, tarot cards, mountain climbing and much more. Through Ci-Xin's thematic projects and research, students are given the opportunity to further explore oneself, one's identity and one's voice in society.

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## **Teacher Weiyang Lan Coaches Schools Online**

Since the school summer holidays, the number of elementary and high schools that have joined Teacher Weiyang Lan's online coaching program has increased to 15, including seven counties and cities on the mainland as well as the nation's offshore Orchid Island and Kinmen. In response to covering the diverse needs of the individual schools, Lan will conduct monthly seminars committing 108 seminars in an entire academic year. Lan will engage in establishing a practiced school vision, student image, as well as forming cross-disciplinary courses. This online community is growing and is expected to hold regular



meetings so that other teachers alike can have the learning ability to eventually take the lead in coaching.

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## Sharestart: Panel between Founder Hui-Cheng Chang and Teacher Sheng-Ji Luo



In celebration of Teacher's Day, a spontaneous panel was held between Sharestart Founder Hui-Cheng Chang and National Taitung Senior High School's Teacher Sheng-Ji Luo at the National Taitung Senior High School. The panel formed three days prior attracted over a dozen teachers to take last minute leave. Luo, an active user of the Sharestart method, shared that before adopting the method into the classroom, having students fall asleep in class was a regular occurrence. After introducing the method, he noticed for the first time an entirely focused class even during student presentations. Since discovering the method, Luo began his journey of promoting Sharestart. He teaches and discusses with teachers inside and outside the school in an open classroom setting, and have set up a teacher's community to promote Taitung's open classroom classes – a core value of the Sharestart classroom.

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