

Cultural connections

Hong Kong educators visit Scott County school system

By MIRANDA WILSON
Georgetown News-Graphic

Sam Tse and Ray Chan stood before the class as children's hands waved madly in the air:

"What's your favorite food?" "Where's Hong Kong?" "How many people live there?" "How do you write your name?" the students asked anxiously.

Tse and Chan smiled at the questions and answered as best they could, surprising students most when they revealed there was a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Hong Kong.

"Really?" "Whoa!" the third-graders gasped, causing Tse and Chan to laugh.

Visitors from Asia, like Tse and Chan, got a glimpse of the American education system while visiting Georgetown this week.

Scott County Board of Education administrators welcomed 62 educators from Hong Kong, China and Tahara-shi, Japan, during the delegation's stop in Georgetown. The group is en route to Atlanta to attend the International Alliance for Invitational Education Meeting and World Conference.

While staying in Georgetown, the delegation toured the area and visited each school, including 2004 Invitational Education Award winners Garth, Stamping Ground, Western and Anne Mason elementary schools.

In his fifth year of visiting



News-Graphic/Miranda Wilson
Hong Kong educator Bill Chiu eats lunch with second-graders during a tour of Northern Elementary.

Shirley Lo listens as Northern fifth-graders Adam Froehlich, right, and Brady Vaught describe the object of their educational computer game.

Scott County schools, Senior School Development Officer Peter Wong, of the Education

See VISIT, Back page



Hong Kong teachers tour local schools

Educators impressed with space available in Carlsbad classrooms

By Karen Polly
Current-Argus Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — Pearl Chan, an educator from Hong Kong, says schools in her homeland face some of the same challenges as those in the United States. But she walked away impressed with local schools after a tour on Monday.

"They really treated every kid as their own kid," Chan said.

Chan was among a group of educators who toured local schools Monday to view an implemented invitational education program.

The teachers marveled at the amount of space available for students.

"The most impressive thing is the space here," Chan said. "Today, I went to the Early Childhood Education Center, and I think that's bigger than our high school. The classrooms are really huge."

Chan said partnerships with area organizations and businesses are also impressive and a method of getting support they may start using in Hong Kong.

Chan said both U.S. and Hong Kong schools suffer from gangs, dropouts and budgeting issues.

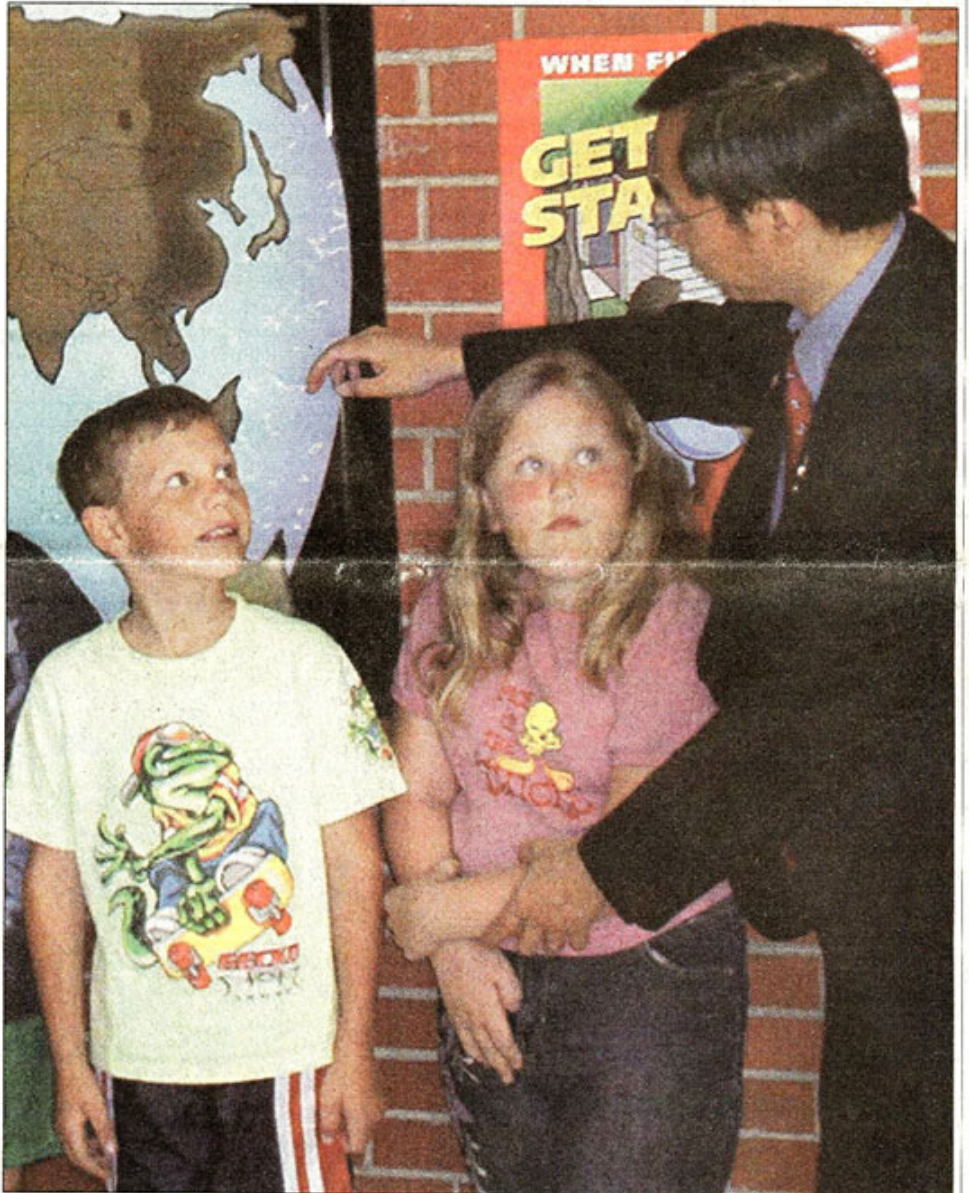
"I guess that's universal in every place," Chan said.

However, educators in Hong Kong face some unique issues, such as a lack of classroom space, said Peter Wong, a senior school development officer.

In Hong Kong, schools must build upward, instead of outward, to accommodate students, and they must schedule two schools in the same space each day, he said.

As part of the tour, the teachers learned that invitational education is an approach to teaching that centers on the theory that every person in the schools — from the janitors to the bus drivers to the teachers and principals — can be a beneficial presence in the lives of students.

The approach also says schools can, and should, be the most inviting places in a community.



Karen Polly/Current-Argus

See TEACHERS, Page 8A

Peter Wong, right, a school development officer from Hong Kong, shows Cody Badgett, left, and Lindsay Clifton where his country is on the map while on a tour of Sunset Elementary School.

Hong Kong educators tour area schools

By **TONYA SHIPLEY**
Staff Writer

NEW CONCORD — Yan Suk Ching entered the classroom at East Muskingum Middle School and took out a camera to capture a picture of the scene.

All of the signs and bulletin boards scattered about the walls impressed her. At her school in Hong Kong, it is not typical to have so many decorations.

Ching and nine other educators from Hong Kong toured the East Muskingum Local School District on Monday. They are in the United States for the International Alliance for Invitational Education Conference being held in Atlanta beginning Thursday.

Spacious schools were one of the things the educators were impressed with as they toured the schools.

"Because of space constraints we can't do as much," said Leung Shuk Kwan, principal at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School.

She said her school has about half the space of the intermediate school and probably three times the students. Ching, who is a teacher at the same school as Kwan, said teachers at the middle school make more use of their walls inside and outside of the classroom than they do. It's one of many ideas she would like to take back to Hong Kong.

"It inspires us a lot," she said about the visit.

See **EDUCATORS**, Page 5A



RICK HARRISON/Times Recorder

Elementary school teachers from Hong Kong, Wan Ngai Ting, left, and Cheung Siu Woon, speak with Larry Miller Intermediate School students Shelby Lorenz, 8, back, and Darian King, 8, foreground. The teachers were touring East Muskingum Schools on Monday.