

AT A GLANCE

All signs point north to Shanghai

CHUN Yeung Street in North Point was a "little Shanghai" at one time. Gradually it was taken over by people from Fujian as the Shanghai-nese moved out of North Point to other parts of Hong Kong. Chun Yeung Street was once named Shanghai Street because of the concentration of Shanghai people, goods and foodstuffs. But when Fujian people moved there, they also set up shops to sell products from their hometown.



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Project brings artist back to life

"SEE, he died a long time ago," a little girl said, pointing at the carvings on a gravestone. It says: Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890). "It is not a real headstone. It's just here to remind people of the great artist," the mother corrected her daughter. The woman is right, but not completely. For van Gogh is really there, in a gallery of the Hong Kong Arts Centre which has just showcased an exhibition called "Starry, Starry Night". Dressed in a shirt stained with oil colours, with a tawny vest on the top, van Gogh is surrounded by a group of students who are eager to know about his intriguing life.

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Radio thief let off the hook

ONE day at about 6 pm, a gentleman wearing a hat and a black suit, went into a shop. There was a suitcase in his right hand and he was smoking a cigarette. The shopkeeper welcomed his last customer for the day as it was closing time. He asked the gentleman whether he could help him. The shop showcased different kinds of electrical appliances. Looking around, the gentleman pointed at a radio on one of the top shelves and asked, "May I have a look at that one?" "Sure!" the bespectacled shopkeeper, who was wearing a sweater and a bow-tie, said.

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No question about being Chinese after handover

Stronger identity good for civic education

By Christine Chow

CIVIC education has greatly improved after the handover because there is less confusion on the question of identity now.

"Our identity has been strengthened after the handover. We no longer question it. We're no longer British citizens. We're Chinese," Principal of Chan Shu Kui Memorial School, Gloria Chan Chuk-yue, said after the school's Hong Kong's Reunion With China — First Anniversary Memorial Gathering on 30 June.

The chairman of the program's organising committee, vice-principal Chiu Cheung-ki, said: "The anniversary of the handover is an ideal time to remind our students of the meaningful and significant moment."

With a clearer identity, students are more likely to be involved in social activities.

"More than 100 students volunteered to help promote the Legco election last month," Mr Chiu said.

Various activities, such as visits to China, are organised by the school to enhance students' national, social and civic awareness.



School performance: Hong Kong's Reunion with China — First Anniversary Memorial Gathering.

PICTURE BY AGNES CHEN

"Through various cultural activities, we can instil in students a true sense of national identity and develop their potential to play positive roles as responsible citizens of Hong Kong," Ms Chan said.

Last summer, Secondary Six student Eric Tam Wing-fun and Secondary Four counterpart Kwok Ching participated in a Shanghai-Hong Kong exchange program.

Apart from polishing up their Putonghua, their understanding of the mainland was greatly enhanced by the trip to Shanghai.

"Stereotypes of the mainland Chinese were eliminated. I found that they are no different to us," Ching said.

Singing the national anthem impressed Eric very much.

"Hong Kong people are rather excited when singing the national anthem, whereas the Shanghai-nese are very serious," he said.

At the end of the gathering, Mr Chiu reminded students that although the past year had been very difficult, "I hope that students, who are future leaders, can equip themselves with knowledge and confidence to cope with various problems".

Students also shared the same feelings. "Last year, there were downpours for a week leading up to the handover. It seemed to symbolise a difficult year to come. Today was a sunny day. I wish Hong Kong a bright future," Eric said.

The gathering started with the national anthem. After the principal's address, there was a slide show which reviewed developments after the handover. Finally a Cantonese pop song, *Bright Future*, marked the end of the gathering.