

On Phước Thiện Primary School

On September 3rd, AMA on behalf of Trinh Du and his two sons Marcus and Alex donated 5 new Ipads to Phước Thiện Primary School. The main objectives are (1) to provide access to technology and the internet for the teachers and students and (2) to promote online learning. We have studied the needs of the school for a while together with the founder Miss Thao, who knows what Vietnamese educational apps will be appropriate and useful for the teachers and students. We are very excited for the school, as the internet will provide a new learning platform for the kids and can open their eyes and minds to the world.

Trinh, Marcus and Alex wholeheartedly dedicated their time and energy to take this project from start to the finish line. While visiting the school and spending the afternoon with the kids, they also brought a few goodie bags with educational toys, stationaries, etc. They landed at 11am with 3 school bags of things for the school and flew out on the same day for Hong Kong at 7pm with no bags to bring home! We sincerely thank them once again and admire their dedication and kind-heartedness. Miss Thao was also very moved by their generosity and was quite emotional at one point when thanking Trinh in person.

The school and the kids continue to amaze us whenever we visit. Their penmanship is impeccable at such a young age (see photo). They are all extremely well-behaved and studious, remaining focused on their tasks despite very hot temperature around them (we were constantly sweating even with fans on). It gives us so much hope to see these kids who have so little at home being able to achieve so much at the school.



Trinh (left) and his sons Marcus and Alex presented Miss Thảo with 5 new Ipads with cases. We thank our coordinator Kim Chau (right) for organizing the efforts.



The children and the teachers were excited when they saw that the Ipads could stand up nicely on the table. Thank you Trinh, Marcus, and Alex for being so thoughtful.

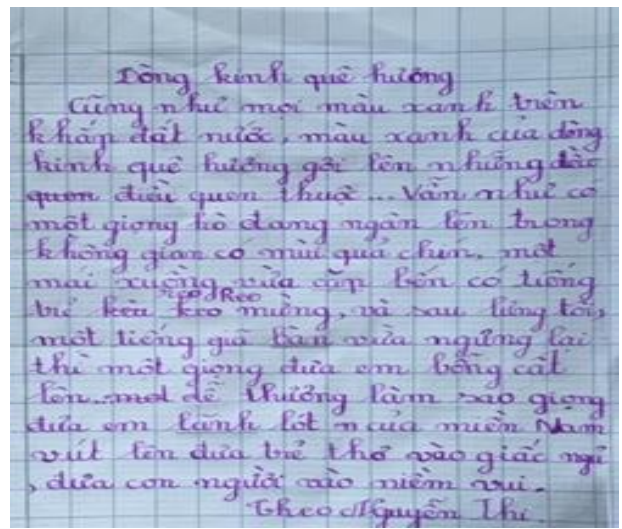


Trinh brought out more goodie bags with educational toys and stationaries, addition to Ipads.

Selective Photos



These students are extremely patient and hardworking. They also have amazing penmanship; look at a sample of their handwriting on right side.



Handwriting of a 3rd grader! Beautiful calligraphy! We are reminded that this art is gradually being eroded by excessive computing and texting today.



Like mother like child. She once grew up at this school, then returned as a teacher. Now, her child is growing up here with her.



A class in session. Despite a hot and sweaty environment, these students stay focused on their work. She is a wonderful and loving teacher.



I love their focus and attitude. No one complains. They just do what they got to do in order to get educated and get ahead in life.



I watched this boy write over the same words in a sentence 4 times during a dictation test because his pen was running out of ink. Though the teacher already moved onto the next sentence or 2, he still managed to memorize and catch up. He works hard.

Training by Alex

Alex Trinh is our new AMA member based in Saigon. He is an educator by training and returned to Vietnam from the USA to teach. He is the Academic Director and one of the founders at the Summa Learning Institute, an education and training platform founded by progressive educators and experienced managers from world-leading universities and companies (<http://www.slinstitute.com/about-us/>). He is a California-credentialed English teacher who previously taught writing and literature at Cornell University, where he received a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry. Alex graduated from William Jewell College with dual bachelor degrees in English and Psychology (magna cum laude) and spent a year as an Oxbridge Scholar at the University of Oxford (UK).

In his spare time, Alex has volunteered to teach AMA recipients on a pro-bono basis, which we really appreciate and admire. The students have attended two training classes from him thus far, and they continue to enjoy his work and positive re-enforcements. Thanks to Alex, AMA hopes to expand its relationship with Summa (SLI) by inviting more experienced teachers who want to volunteer their time to teach and advise our students at the University of Education. Some of our students have expressed interest in getting more practical training in the English language, so we will explore the possibility of providing English training in the near future with Summa teachers.

We thank Alex again for his time, energy, and compassion. We also thank our coordinator Kim Chau for doing another great job in getting these events organized for our recipients. It is true labour of love and AMA appreciates all of our volunteers and members!



Alex taught our scholarship recipients over 2 training sessions already. The university kindly provided classroom space on the recent event on Sept 5th.



Classes thus far focus on practical topics and aim at developing the potential of these students and teachers.



Training in session at the university campus.



The students also got time to bond, which helps our goal of building an AMA identity and community.