

What can be learnt from the 2008 Beijing Olympics?

Dear Teachers and Students,

I think you all know that The Beijing Olympic flame is scheduled to arrive in Hong Kong today afternoon and the torch relay will be conducted on May 2. This event denotes the start of the China leg of the Olympic Torch Relay; after it has completed the round-the-globe trip and it also marks the 100 days countdown of the Beijing Olympics, which is the 29th Modern Olympic Games. It is the 2nd time the Olympic torch comes to Hong Kong. This is certainly an important event and memorable time for Hong Kong people and all the Chinese. Many people think that the Olympic Movement is the most influential social cultural phenomenon in the world. It is wonderful to be able to witness the talent and grace of the athletes, and also to learn their stories. These are often stories of struggle and human triumph over adversity. They are always stories of discipline, perseverance and remarkable achievement.

This morning, I would like to share a short article by an unknown writer which I've read on the Internet. The article gives us an insight into the meaning of Beijing Olympics.

The article starts by quoting 3 questions which appeared in a magazine called "China's Tianbing Youth" in 1908.. These are the questions ...

First, when will China send a player to participate in the Olympics?

Second, when will China send a team to participate in the Olympics and wins awards?

Third, when will China host the Olympics Games?

In 1908, China was very weak and was being invaded by western powers. These 3 questions reflected the dream of the young Chinese at that time. The Olympics has been expected by the Chinese for a very long time.

Today, we all know that, we have already achieved the former two goals, and in August this year, we will accomplish the 3rd dream. No doubt, it is a great time for the China.

Following these 3 questions, the author expresses his expectations of the Beijing Olympics. He uses 3 different colours to symbolize his wishes: red, amber and green.

Red stands for the flames, which is the Olympic flame. The Olympic flame was first used in 1912 and the torch relay was introduced in 1936. Although the Olympic flame is ignited in the European continent, it belongs to all of mankind. For the torch, it is the symbol of righteous and the Olympics Spirit. This is the sacred flame, rekindled often. Though no country can own the torch for a long time, but it marks our courage to search high and to dream. The Olympic slogan: "Higher, Faster, Stronger" makes a good match with the Olympic flame. They show the willpower and the passion for excellences.

The 2nd colour is Amber. (amber is yellow)

Amber, represents the yellow skin and brown eyes Chinese people. For a long time China has been the most active supporter and participant of the Olympics movement. The 29th Olympics Games must show the strength and strong will of the people of China.

China lost in the Olympic host city vote in 2000 and again in 2004. However, China did not give up. An opinion poll conducted in Beijing showed that 94.9% Beijing people support the Olympic bid. This figure is very encouraging. The contestants of the 2008 Games bid included Paris, Osaka, Toronto and Istanbul. As a developing country's capital, Beijing's bid was built on strength in economy, science and technology. After nearly 10 years of construction and development, Beijing has gone a long way to prepare for the Olympics: the entire city is freeway connected, modern stadiums constructions built by modern technology, advanced traffic management, etc. This clearly shows that Beijing is positioned on the frontline of modern world cities. Our government has tried her very best and we are ready for a successful Olympic Games.

The 3rd colour is Green. The author thinks that

Green, represents the environment, it is also the colour of the global village. We are enjoying the benefits of rapid advancement of technology, but we must not neglect our responsibility to take care of the environment. In the concept of global village, green should be the eternal theme. Our government strives to combine the Olympic Games and the environment. To run a Green Olympic Games becomes one of the core concepts of the Beijing Olympics. For the purpose to add new green belts for the city, the Beijing Metropolitan Government has launched a whole lot of environmental conservation projects and policies, for instance, an Olympics Forest and "Five rivers and 10 roads" green channel are the most famous. After the completion of all these projects, the city's green coverage will be up to 36%, and the per capita public green space will be 9 square meters. The Beijing people use their own hands to construct a green home, a green Olympics and show the world an example.

It seems to me that the author of this little article wants us to think about the value for conducting the Olympics in China. Our government has invested a lot of money and resources in this event and we believe that it is going to bring great changes --- not just the buildings and the environment, but also the mind and heart of we Chinese.

Do you still remember the slogan and the 3 core concepts of the Beijing Olympics? "One World One Dream" is the slogan. While the three core concepts include: **the Green Olympics, the High-tech Olympics and the People's Olympics.**

The slogan fully reflects the core values of the Olympics spirit -- **Unity, Friendship, Progress, Harmony, Participation and Dream.** It expresses the common wishes of people all over the world and to strive for the brighter future of Mankind. In spite of the differences in colours, languages and races, we share the charm and joy of the Olympics Games, and together we seek for the ideal of mankind for peace. We belong to the same world and we share the same aspirations and dreams.

The Chairman of the International Olympic Committee, Dr Rogge, remarked on the opening the 28th Olympic Games held in Athens in 2004.

He said "Our world today is in need of peace, tolerance and brotherhood. Athletes from the 202 countries, show us that sport unites by overriding national, political, religious and language barriers. May the Games be held in peace, in the true spirit of the Olympic Truce that was created here."

Truly, the most important value that made the Olympic Games last forever is not the number of awards or medals a country wins, it is the brotherhood, fairness and perseverance of mankind that made the world come together.

Thank you everyone for your attention.