

In Love with Words -

INTERVIEW WITH A CALLIGRAPHER

Ms Kaye Shu, our alum, is a calligrapher by profession. She teaches calligraphy and creates commissioned works for her clients. Even though you may not have met Kaye in person, you have all seen her work: Kaye wrote the beautiful calligraphy on the cover of the "Care" notebooks presented to our girls by the PTA this year.

Kaye spent 10 unforgettable years at Maryknoll, from kindergarten until she left Hong Kong to study abroad. She has many happy memories of her time on our red brick campus – the handbell that was rung in the covered playground every day before classes began, the old terrazzo slide and merry-go-rounds in the playground, the excitement of bringing the class' homework to the staff rooms, the chic uniforms, and of course, Maryknoll Handwriting.

Maryknoll Handwriting is part of the heritage proudly shared by all Maryknollers. "Our cursive is the streamlined, practical handwriting approach of the Spencerian calligraphy font, designed by American Platt Roger Spencer in the 19th century. Both fonts, based on the oval shape, are pleasing to the eye," Kaye explained. Her first encounter with the Maryknoll cursive was in Primary 3. She still remembers her teacher, Mrs Mui, writing elegantly on the blackboard during the weekly Penmanship lessons. "From then on, cursive has become my go-to handwriting," said Kaye.

While in university, Kaye began to practise calligraphy as a hobby. She took interest classes before studying with renowned calligraphers to hone her skills. For Kaye, "Calligraphy is a study of beauty, a training of the mind and hands. It is a discipline from which one develops being focused and mindful." As her love for calligraphy grew, she resigned from her job in marketing and communications in 2016 to become a full-time calligrapher.

As a calligrapher, Kaye conducts workshops to share the joy of writing and lettering, and show her students how to "turn the pen into a magic wand". Besides teaching, she also creates calligraphy for invitations, thank you cards, Christmas cards and weddings. Kaye said, "Calligraphy is a happy business – I have joy creating the calligraphy while the recipients are often thrilled to see my works."

Kaye has had many special moments in her career and she shared with us some of the highlights. One time, she was asked to write "Will you marry me?" on a card at a jewellery shop event, and she thought, "How touching that my calligraphy plays a part in someone's special moment!" Part of

"Care" notebooks featuring Kaye's calligraphy

