



## ST. LOUIS SCHOOL

Circular No. 211 (23-24)

15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Dear Parents / Guardians,

### **Re: Nomination for Harvard Prize Book, Scholarship and Essay Award 2024**

We are pleased to inform you that the Harvard Prize Book 2024 is now open for school nomination. The details of the Harvard Prize Book, Scholarship and Essay Award are as follows:

#### **Harvard Prize Book**

The Harvard Club of Hong Kong Education Fund awards book prizes annually to three students per school. Each school can nominate up to *three Secondary 5 students* for their academic excellence in English and significant contributions to school in the previous academic year. Only the three nominees from each school are eligible to apply for the Scholarship and Essay Award.

#### **Essay Award**

Applicants will have to write a 500-word essay on the following topic:

For hundreds if not thousands of years, books have been, arguably, the most important "treasure chest" of the human race. Knowledge and history are handed down in the form of books -- from Aristotle to Einstein, these crown jewels of the intellectual history of human beings are kept safe in books, and in the vast majority of cases, in books only. Books also served as a chief method of entertainment for many in the society. In Victorian London, Charles Dickens enjoyed the fame and popularity which, by today's standard, probably exceeded that of JK Rowling and Taylor Swift combined. All of this changed dramatically within the past hundred years, and accelerated at an enormous speed, especially with the dawn of the Internet a little more than 20 years ago, followed by the explosion of mobile internet riding on the success of smart phones. Today the functions that used to be carried by books are replaced by either our laptops or phones, with YouTube, Netflix, Zoom, Coursera, TikTok...and most recently and potentially more revolutionary than any of the foregoing, AI. ChatGPT can summarize a book in just a few seconds, it "read" and "memorized" more books than the largest libraries in the world. So we have to ask: are books becoming the dinosaurs of the new age? Do we still need to read books if the exercise sounds so old-fashioned, time consuming and inefficient?

Winners of the Essay Award will have their essay published on the Harvard Prize Book website.

#### **Scholarship**

The 2024 Harvard Prize Book Scholarship Winner will receive HKD 10,000. Scholarship winners are determined by need and merit. Students from families with an average monthly household income of HKD 40,000 and below are welcomed to apply for the Scholarship. Students who do not meet this requirement should apply for the Essay Award. Scholarship applicants will have to write a 500-word essay on the above topic and write a 250-word response to each of the following three short questions:

1. *What did you do last summer during your break? Please share a highlight.*
2. *If you were awarded the HK\$10,000 Scholarship prize money, what would you do with it? Please be reminded there are no right or wrong answers!*
3. *If you had unlimited time or money, what would you like to learn and why?*

## Timeline

8 a.m., 18 March, 2024 (Monday)	Interested Secondary Five students express their wish to be nominated by school.
5 p.m., 18 March, 2024 (Monday)	The school coordinator submits the nomination.
19 March, 2024 (Tuesday)	Applicants will be notified of the selection results. Nominees will be selected based on their English writing results and contributions to school in the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 academic years.
5 p.m., 8 April 2024 (Monday)	Deadline to apply for the Scholarship or Essay Award. Please complete one of the following parent / guardian consent forms: ➤ Scholarship Award: <a href="https://www.harvardbookprizehk.org/_files/ugd/4d2ffa_16cecc95b2864203b1a60d8ebb24025f.pdf">https://www.harvardbookprizehk.org/_files/ugd/4d2ffa_16cecc95b2864203b1a60d8ebb24025f.pdf</a> ➤ Essay Award: <a href="https://www.harvardbookprizehk.org/_files/ugd/4d2ffa_a95ed5066df54529bef8be5ead29e531.pdf">https://www.harvardbookprizehk.org/_files/ugd/4d2ffa_a95ed5066df54529bef8be5ead29e531.pdf</a>
26 April 2024 (Friday)	Scholarship semi-finalists announced
4 May 2024 (Saturday)	Scholarship semi-finalists interviews
5 May 2024 (Sunday)	Scholarship and Essay Award Winners announced
31 May 2024 (Friday)	Distribution of Prize Book and certificates & 2024 Scholarship and Essay Award Ceremony  The winning students will be required to collect their certificate and Prize Book from an arranged location (details to be released in due course).

Thank you for your kind attention. For enquiries, please contact Ms NG Kar Wai Vivien at 2546 0117.

(Ms NG Kar Wai Vivien)  
for Principal

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**Reply Slip**

Circular No. 211 (23-24)

### **Re: Nomination for Harvard Prize Book, Scholarship and Essay Award 2024**

Dear Principal,

As the parent / guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (Class: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_), I understand that my son / charge  **would like to** /  **would not like to** seek nomination for the Harvard Prize Book and he will submit the essay along with a parent consent form for the

**Scholarship Award** /  **Essay Award**.

Signature of Parent/Guardian : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian : \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Mobile Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

22/23 Annual English Writing Result : \_\_\_\_\_

23/24 Term 1 English Writing Result : \_\_\_\_\_

Position(s) Held / Contributions to School : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please delete as appropriate.