The Power of Class Page over Our School Magazine

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I. Introduction

Like other schools, every student in our school will get one school magazine at the end of the school year. Yet, our school magazine seems unpopular. It is usually found in the recycling bin the day after being issued. What’s worse, some students throw it away the same day without flipping it. In fact, our school magazine is rich in literary production and is printed colorfully. However, most students just read it and throw it away the next day. What a pity! Our school journal club feels upset and tries to find a way to entice us to read and keep it. This year, the members of the school journal club decide to add one unit to our school magazine: Class Page.

Does the unit work? Will we students keep it instead of throwing it into the recycling bin? This research aims to investigate our schoolmates’ viewpoints toward our school magazine. Through the questionnaire and our observation, we intend to explore if the unit Class Page works to allure students to read and keep our school magazine.

II. Thesis

A. Something about a school journal

1. Definition

A school journal is published periodically by the school journal club. It is run by students. It contains a variety of topics such as school affairs, students’ writing, case studies, and so on. (2011, WIKIPEDIA, The Free Encyclopedia)

2. Functions

According to High School Journal Contest by Ministry of Education and National Taichung Wen-Hua Senior High School, a school journal can encourage students to write. What’s better, students’ literary ability can be promoted, which will inspire more and more creative works. Besides, students can build up team spirit during the process of writing and editing. After the contest, there will be an interscholastic school journal display. Students can inspect and learn from each other's school journals to promote the level of their school journals. In a word, students’ writing and team spirit can be cultivated by editing a school journal.

3. Type
According to the same official document, there are two types of school journal.

(1) Newspaper

A school journal is published in a form of newspaper.

(2) Magazine

A school journal is published in a form of magazine, which is the object of our research.

B. Something about our school magazine

In order to know whether the unit *Class Page* works, we compare the two latest school magazines: Issue 54 and Issue 55.

1. Contents of Issue 54

It was issued in 2010. There are 248 pages in this issue.

(1) Principal’s Words

There are 5 pages in the unit. Besides introducing the background of our school, our principal also says something inspiring to encourage us to work hard.

(2) Case Study

There are 5 pages in the unit. It explores a topic we students take interest in. This issue talks something about Facebook.

(3) Meeting Characters

There are 17 pages in the unit. The editorial staff interview outstanding figures. They once made an interview with a baseball star, our county magistrate, a lyricist, and so on. In this issue, they paid a visit to a famous novelist Giddens (九把刀) in this issue.
(4)Literary Creations

There are 70 pages in the unit. It is an annual competition for us students. There are eight genres, including short fictions, prose, poetry, calligraphy, paintings, comic drawings, posters, and photography. Winners will get a handsome reward, which motivates a large number of students to submit their pieces of writing or art.

(5)Winning Entries

There are 149 pages in the unit, which shows masterpieces winning interscholastic competitions. The unit is meant to promote students to participate in more interscholastic contests. It offers us an example to follow.

2. Contents of Issue 55

It was issued in 2011. There are 256 pages in this issue.

(1) Principal’s Words

There are 15 pages in the unit. It functions the same in Issue 54.

(2) School Activities

There are 15 pages in the unit. There are two sections in it. One section talks about our field trip: the Taipei International Flora Exposition. The other shows students’ pieces of art in the art class.

(3) Literary Creations

There are 51 pages in the unit. It functions the same in Issue 54.

(4) Winning Entries

There are 21 pages in the unit. It functions the same in Issue 54.
(5) Class Page

There are 38 classes in our school. Each class offers 4 pages of their class life. Thus, there are 152 pages in the unit. Most classes offer photos with words to describe their classes. Take our class for example. As the picture on the right shows, we post photos of our swimming class, the athletic meet, the fire-fighting exercise, and so on. In a word, each class can show whatever they like to tell the school what their class is like.

3. Comparison between Issue 54 and Issue 55

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Issue 54</th>
<th>Issue 55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Table of Contents</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal’s Words</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Activities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study &amp; Meeting Characters</td>
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<td>Literary Creations</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>Winning Entries</td>
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<td>Class Page</td>
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<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total pages</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Comparison between the two issues

From the table above, we find out that two units Case Study and Meeting Characters are crossed out in Issue 55. The pages of another two units Literary Creations and Winning Entries are cut down in order to spare pages to the new unit Class Page. A new unit School Activities is added. The unit Class Page covers nearly 60% of the magazine. Both the two units have a close connection with students’ lives.
C. Data analysis

In order to compare students’ viewpoints between the latest two issues, we sent the questionnaire to those who have the two issues. There are junior high and senior high in our school. In other words, only ninth-graders and twelfth-graders are qualified to fill out the questionnaire. Our school has five ninth-grade classes and seven twelfth-grade classes. We sent out 10 copies to each class. That is to say, we sent out 120 copies: 50 for ninth-graders and 70 for twelfth-graders. We received 110 valid ones: 47 from ninth-graders and 63 from twelfth-graders.

1. Do you read your *Class Page*?

Based on the two figures above, over 90% students read their *Class Page*, which means every student does care about his class. As far as we are concerned, we are eager to know whether our photos are posted on the pages.

2. Do you read another *Class Page*?

According to figure 2.2, nearly three-fourths of senior high read other classes’ pages. However, less than
half of junior high did on the basis of figure 2.1. It surprises us a little. We senior high would look for our friends’ photos in other classes’ pages, so we thought these junior high would do, too. After interviewing some ninth-graders, we find out the reason. When tenth-graders become eleventh-graders, senior high school students have to choose one group to study: the first group, the second group, the third group or the fourth group. Accordingly, we have friends in each class. That’s why we would like to read other classes’ pages. However, junior high school students don’t need to make such decisions. In other words, they will stay in the same class for three years. Therefore, they don’t have as many acquaintances in other classes as we do. Undoubtedly, they are less interested in reading other classes’ pages.

3. Do you read other units besides Class Page?

The two figures indicate that 76% of the ninth-graders and 67% of the twelfth-graders would flip other units after reading Class Page. In this way, the unit Class Page successfully entices us to read other units of our school magazine.

4. Please mark your favorite three units.
At the end of the questionnaire, we asked them to mark their favorite three units in Issue 55. For Junior high, *Class Page* ranks the second; as for senior high, it ranks the first. There is no denying that the new unit *Class Page* does attract students a lot.

### III. Conclusion

One of the goals of a school magazine is to promote students’ literary ability. Reading others’ excellent pieces of writing is a good way to help students promote their writing skills. However, in spite of containing brilliant pieces of writing, a school magazine will be functionless if students have no willingness to read it. In this case, the unit *Class Page* has successfully tempted students to open our school magazine. After reading the unit, they will start to read other units. In addition, they will keep the book because there are their own photos and school lives in it. Then, it will occur to students to read their class pages from time to time. Then, they will read other units by the way. At last, they will finish the school magazine. What’s better, they will read the magazine over and over again.

Hundreds of our school magazines used to be found in the recycling can. Amazingly, at the end of last semester, less than twenty ones were found. The number is much less than ever. In this aspect, the unit *Class Page* really has accomplished its mission—making students read and keep our school magazine.

### IV. Reference

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