

THE TORCH

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GOOD-BYE, BETHANY...





MORRISON ACADEMY BETHANY CAMPUS MEMORIES

GOOD-BYE, BETHANY!

再見了，伯大尼！

Transition is complicated, and families at Morrison are no strangers to relocation. In January, the Morrison community in Taipei will take transition to a new level as they undergo the migration of an entire learning institution from Taipei's Bethany campus to the new MAT campus in Linkou.

But it's not just the logistics of moving that are complicated. It is also the act of departure - the act of leaving things behind. Most of us have vivid memories of departure. The last look at an empty apartment before closing the door. The skyline seen from an airplane. A last glimpse out the back window of a car before turning the corner.

The new campus offers MAT students and families wonderful opportunities for learning. Its size matches enrollment. It has an athletic field, natural light, and space for a full high school program. But as the old Bethany campus recedes in the rearview mirror, it is important to celebrate its value.

The Bethany campus has an incredible legacy of a close-knit, student-focused community. Its very quirks have brought people together. The six-story building that houses the Bethany campus is surrounded by buildings on all sides. Two of its floors, including the gymnasium, are underground. As such, recess in the

central, netted courtyard is an event that affects the entire school. This includes the principal, who must endure the thudding of soccer balls on the office walls and barred windows. Yet this type of quirkiness also cultivates community. Elementary students have direct access to their principal, and secondary students, who can watch from the balcony or even play for a bit during ES recess, are never far away.

Teachers and students at Bethany know how to share spaces. They know how to get along in a cramped lunchroom and take turns accessing the seemingly-ancient food warmers. They know how to stay focused and keep their hands to themselves in the stairwell or while tightly packed on the worn, grey carpet in the MPR during chapels. They have practiced teamwork countless times when helping to set up and take down the chairs in the gym for all-school chapels or school events.

All the benefits of being up close to each other and to the urban surroundings will be missed. For years, staff, students, and parents have enjoyed a wide variety of eateries within a stone's throw, such as the legendary Green Tablecloth restaurant or the Fresh Small House breakfast shop down the street. In Linkou, wildly kicked balls at recess will not have netting to bounce back

on. School plays and concerts might not have quite the same intimate feel as they've always had in the Bronco Dome. Students won't brush up against the same handprint wall near the lunchroom or bump knees and elbows on the same parallel bars at recess.

But the good news is this: the family that made the memories is still in the car. Places carry wonderful memories, but people are the ones who make them. The architecture of the new campus has been purposefully designed to retain a close-knit, family-school culture. For example, the academic pods for each division of the new school contain a skywell that enables students of all ages to see each other. There are new memories to be made and new traditions to establish.

The facilities will be different, but maintaining the school's culture will be up to the people in the building. We must say goodbye to Bethany well. But let's only say goodbye to the bricks and mortar. Let's never say goodbye to Bethany's wonderful legacy of genuine, tight-knit, and Christ-centered community. Instead, let's see the new campus as an opportunity to carry out that legacy in a new and dynamic space, designed to foster community for generations to come.

過渡 時期是五味雜陳的，搬遷對馬禮遜學校的家庭來說一點都不陌生。明年一月，台北的馬禮遜社區將從伯大尼現址遷移到位於林口的MAT校區，開啟一個全新的篇章。

除了複雜的搬遷後勤工作之外，這也是一個離別的行動——拋去舊的一切。我們大多數人都對離別有鮮明的回憶：關門前最後一次望著空蕩蕩的公寓、從飛機上看著一望無際的天際線、或是在車子轉彎前，從後窗看出去的最後一瞥。

新校舍提供MAT學生及家庭絕佳的學習機會，校區大小與學生數目相符，也有完整高中課程所需要的運動場、自然採光和空間。但隨著伯大尼舊校區的身影在後照鏡中漸漸消逝，它的價值還是非常重要且值得懷念的。

伯大尼校區擁有非常棒的傳統，它是個以學生為中心而緊密連結的社群。它獨特的文化特質使人們凝聚在一起，伯大尼校區位在六層樓的大樓中，四周被其他建築物環繞，包含體育館在內的兩個樓層在地下室。因為如此，在中央有防護網的庭院進行的課間下課活動會影響整個學校，甚至校長都

需要忍受足球拍打的碰撞聲不時地傳至她的辦公室和欄柱窗戶。然而，這種奇特的默契卻滋養著社區的凝聚力，小學生有任何問題可以直接找校長、中學生和高中生可以直接從陽台往下看、或甚至在小學下課時間伸展筋骨或玩樂，各年級之間的距離都是緊密的。

伯大尼校區的師生們都很擅長分享空間，他們知道在狹窄的餐廳如何相處，並輪流使用看似古老的蒸便當箱，他們也知道在上下樓梯時要有規矩並小心行走，或是在MPR的崇拜時間知道如何在已磨損的灰色地毯上按次序坐好。在全校崇拜時間或學校大型活動時，師生們已培養了無數次的團隊合作，一起把體育館的折疊椅在聚會前排好和會後歸位。

社群裡人與人之間的緊密感以及位處市區的所有優點將成為過去。多年來，教職員、學生及家長享受著近在咫尺、提供多樣化飲食的餐館，像是著名的Green Tablecloth餐館（峨眉四川小館）或在街口的Fresh Small House早餐店（新鮮小小屋）。反之在林口，課間休息時間的瘋狂踢球將不會有網子把球給彈回來，話劇及音樂會表演再不會像

在Bronco Dome中與隔壁的人有那麼「親密接觸」的感覺，學生也不會摩擦餐廳轉角的手印牆，或在課間休息時間，在同一個平衡桿上擦撞膝蓋和手肘。

好消息是，正如創造記憶的家庭還在車裡，雖然地點讓我們想起美好的回憶，但人們才是創造回憶的主體。新校區的建築經過精心設計，保留著家庭與學校緊密關係的文化。例如：新校舍的每個區域都有開放式學習空間(academic pods)，上面的天井讓各年級的學生可以看到彼此，新的記憶即將被創造，而新的傳統也將被設立。

校內的設施將有所不同，但保留學校的文化取決於建築物「裡」的人。我們需要好好的跟伯大尼告別，但讓我們只對磚瓦說再見，而不與伯大尼真誠、緊密感、以基督為中心的社群等美好傳統告別。相反地，我們期待看到新校區用新的空間和活力帶來新的傳承，成為培育更多優秀後代的一個社群。M

