

## A Letter from Stephen Lai, Class of 2006

It's been over a year since I've graduated and since then I have yet to find a place as unique and amazing as the Purple Lotus Buddhist School. To me, this place is more than just my high school; it's like a home to me. Every time I visit during breaks from college I am greeted by the warm smiles and joyous laughter of familiar and new faces alike. While others may consider the small size of the campus as a disadvantage, I find that that is what makes this school so charming; it really helps create a family atmosphere.



There is no student in this school I can't name. A small student body size only means that people must learn to work together and get along, since avoiding others because you dislike them is simply not an option. I think it helps to enhance the family feeling, like that annoying brother or sister you have to live with, but deep down inside love and cherish. The teachers and monks care about our health and well-being just as much as our academics. I'm confident that my fellow students will agree with me when I say that Lian Chun fashi<sup>a</sup> is like a mother to us; always there when we need to talk; always so caring. Another thing I really enjoy is seeing how much some of my friends have grown. I have known them for more than four years, and seeing them go from middle school, to high school, to almost graduating gives me a feeling like no other. Perhaps the word I'm looking for is "old".

When I first came to school here, I remember seeing everybody looking through yearbooks and old photos from past years. At that time, I hoped that some day, I could do that, that I could look at pictures with them and reminisce about the years and all the memories that have been experienced. And now, years later, I am glad to say my wish came true. I would like to thank all the students, teachers, volunteers, and monks at the Purple Lotus Buddhist School. Thank you for letting me be a part of the Purple Lotus family.

Stephen Lai  
09-11-2007

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<sup>a</sup> Fashi – means "Tibetan Nun" or "Reverend".