

SPHRC Kung Yik She Secondary School sets world record by launching 1,056 water rockets at once

# Blasting off into the record books



It didn't take a rocket scientist for a Tin Shui Wai school to create history - it took more than 1,000 of them. On December 7, students, teachers and parents came together to create a new world record for launching water rockets.

The SPHRC Kung Yik She Secondary School already held the Guinness World Record for launching the most water rockets at the same time, when they launched a remarkable 693 in 2011. On that occasion, they beat the previous record of 443 held by a school in the Netherlands. But the school has now smashed its own record, with an amazing 1,056 rockets launched last month.

The feat was achieved with the help of 25 primary schools in Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai. Participants gathered with their water rockets

and placed them on the launching racks in preparation for take-off. On the count of 10, more than 1,000 successfully took off, darting into the sky to create an unforgettable scene. Everyone taking part sheltered together under umbrellas

to try to stay dry, but they were not always successful.

The project was a chance for students to not only apply the scientific theories they've learnt in physics class, but also work

together as part of a very large team. The scientific principles used in building the rockets helped to improve students' problem-

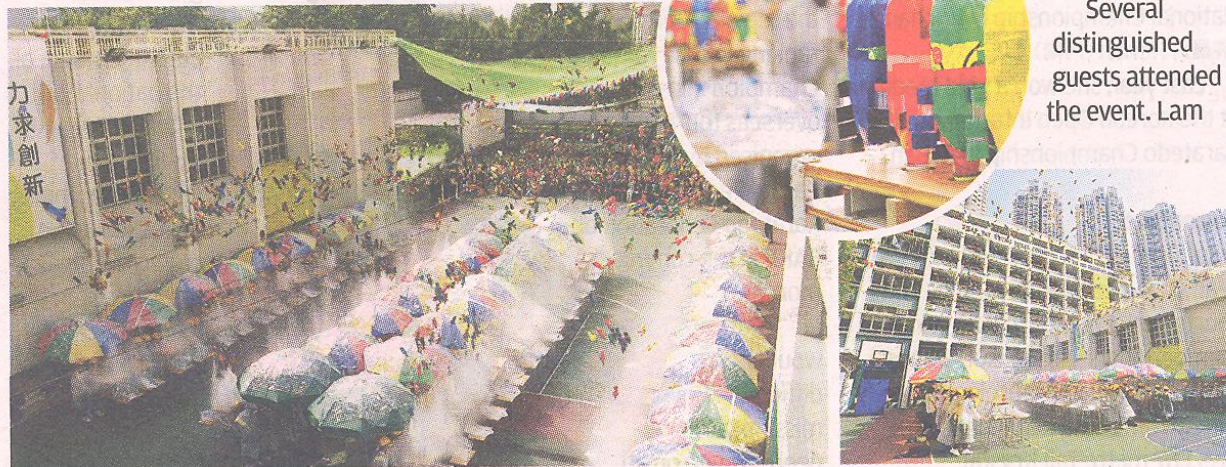
solving skills and develop confidence when working on new projects.

Several distinguished guests attended the event. Lam

Tai-fai, chairman of the Legislative Council's panel on education, Wong Chi-wah, acting district officer for Yuen Long, and Yu Law Siu-man, Yuen Long's chief school development officer, were all impressed by the record-breaking launch. Principals from the participating primary schools also showed their support by cheering on the students.

Kung Yik She has a long history as Hong Kong's leading science school. It was the first school in the city to build its own science park. It has also done a lot of work promoting technology education.

The school regularly enters its students in local and international science competitions. In previous years, its students have won a number of awards, including championships at the annual Inter-School Water Rocket Competition.



More than 1,000 water rockets, all launched at the same time, created a colourful rainbow effect over a Tin Shui Wai school in December.