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Pick your news to be a winner

Alice So

Here's your chance to say which news stories in 2011 affected you the most — and possibly win a great prize as well.

Voting on the 16th annual Top Ten News Stories began yesterday and will run until the final seconds of December 31.

The voting is divided into two categories — Open and Student. Voting can be made via mail, fax, mobile phone or the internet.

Entrants whose selections match the final list of Top Ten News Stories 2011 will have the chance to win fabulous prizes.

Yesterday's opening ceremony was attended by Secretary for Transport and Housing Eva Cheng Yu-wah as well as representatives of the event's sponsors *The Standard*, *Sing Tao Daily*, Commercial Radio, Cable TV and i-Cable.

"As this fruitful year of news draws to a close, we ought to have a fair judgment of current affairs and think twice about which news items really had an impact on Hongkongers," Cheng said.

To help voters, the organizers have compiled a list of 29 major news events plus one extra dubbed "Others" to allow voters to choose a social, financial or political news item they thought significant.

Five students from the Aplichau Kaifong Primary School were among the first to vote.

An 11-year-old student Choi Chau-tong picked Japan's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear aftermath which happened in March. "The humanity of Japanese rescue teams deeply touched me as they insisted on being in the front line despite the risks," he said. "Their nationalist spirit



Eva Cheng, center, kicks off the news-story voting at Aplichau Kaifong Primary School. SZETO WAH-KOON

has inspired me to offer a helping hand to the needy at times of disaster."

Choi said he has developed a habit of reading the news daily to boost his knowledge and to understand his surroundings.

Ten-year-old Lau Yan-shun went for more recent news and slammed ATV news over its false report of the death of former president Jiang Zemin.

"The media must be responsible and double-check the facts in order to back the news with evidence," she said.

"This report made me realize that I have to stay alert before digesting such information."

The school's discipline mistress Tsang Sau-ying added: "As an educator, I always encourage youths to develop an interest in news reading with critical thinking skills."

She said librarians cut out headlines and stick them on news boards to spark discussion among schoolmates.

Students also buy *Sing Tao Daily* on a regular basis for its in-depth and high-quality articles. alice.so@singtaonewscorp.com



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