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The summer vacation in August was a good time to learn. My teacher also assigned more classes than usual. My concentration had also improved, so I insisted on practising online every day. From August 1st to 23rd, my ranking was always at the top. I insisted in practicing so that I could earn the world's championship in the end. However, a student, Justin Jen, from Singapore later surpassed me to become the champion, and I was ranked second place. I was very disappointed. However, under my mother and teacher's encouragement and support, I decided not to give up. Finally, I won the competition. This competition was like an Olympics game to me. It also became a meaningful and beautiful memory to me.

I told myself not to be satisfied and proud with this result, because I have to pursue a higher goal and earn better achievements. I also hope my classmates can achieve their goals.

Online Competition in Mental Arithmetic, August, 2008 World Second Placer's Wining Remarks

September 1, 2008

I'm grateful to Principal Tai and wrote this remark on behalf of my five years old son, Justin Jen, who participated in CMA's world online competition in abacus mental arithmetic for the first time. I wanted to share our experiences with everyone who's learning abacus mental arithmetic and encourage them to face every challenge with power and perseverance.

CMA has designed a complete system of abacus mental arithmetic courses. Teachers can follow the teaching materials designed from the simplest to the most complex to systematically teach students by utilising multimedia in a lively way, instructing students to build images in the brain and connecting it to the numbers. The students can thus gradually develop skills in speedy and accurate calculation, allowing my child to experience an educational and meaningful learning process of abacus mental arithmetic.

As Justin Jen participated in the online competition on abacus mental arithmetic held for the first time in Singapore, we really felt his great improvement. At that time, Justin was placed on level 13 of beginning stage. Justin was very excited about practising online and did practices every night; gradually he could solve the more difficult questions.

We also accompanied him during online practice every day. He was indeed building a road to a more successful future as a five years old child.

When he knew his practice results were placed at the top of the rankings and that he had qualified to participate in the world competition, Justin was very excited and happy. He then started to practise more difficult questions and set himself higher standard without parents' worrying. As parents, we are so proud of him.

One more story worthy of sharing happened two days before the end of the competition. We were having problems with the Internet connection, so Justin couldn't upload his answers online into the database system. However, he didn't give up practising although he was exhausted and his eyes were swelling due to long hours of straining his eyes. As parents we care about his health, and asked him to stop participating in the competition. We knew he had already done his best, and we provided him with great applause and encouragement. After all, his mother and I all thought that the competition result was not that important.

On the other hand, Zhang Yi from Gaungzhou, China, won the championship in this world competition. We all admire and respect him. I believed only those who had participated in this competition could understand how difficult the process was while other people might take our success and glory of victory for granted.