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**Wah Mei School Secures Permanent Home**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Wah Mei School (WMS) announced today that it closed escrow on its current site and now has a permanent home.

WMS, an SF Legacy Business that was at risk of displacement, has provided San Francisco residents with childcare and bilingual education at its 1400 Judah Street location for over four decades.

“We are excited that we are now anchored in this community and can continue delivering exceptional and affordable bilingual education,” said Ben Wong, executive director at Wah Mei School.

WMS offers programs, which celebrate the Chinese language and culture, to children ages 3-14. With a permanent and now larger property, the organization can grow its program offering and serve more families. WMS is assessing community needs and considering expanding its programs.

“We want to ensure that the support needed (such as affordable childcare, before/after school programs, and family-friendly activities) to raise healthy, informed and educated children and youth is available to families,” Wong said.

WMS is unique, as it is one of the few SF bilingual education programs to have a diverse mix of families from varying cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

“It is critical for us to sustain families and ensure they remain in SF. We want to play a critical role in offering this support, at least in our corner of the City - the Sunset District,” said Wong.

Acquiring a permanent space is also instrumental in allowing WMS to build on its legacy of advocacy for accessible services for all residents and to expand those services.

“We are excited about what’s possible. This allows us to continue our work and to do so much more to meet the needs of the community (needs),” Wong said.

Lastly, WMS is marking its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 9<sup>th</sup> with its annual Spring Gala. The event will honor staff member, Dorena Lee for her long career in bilingual education. Lee was one of the first credentialed bilingual educators in SF.

*Wah Mei has been providing high-quality bilingual education for preschool to middle school-aged children and youth for over 45-years. .*

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