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Lightning McQueen Fan's Wish Comes True on World Wish Day

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and Make-A-Wish Hong Kong team up to create unforgettable memories for wish child



HONG KONG, April 28, 2024 – Today, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) together with Make-A-Wish Hong Kong brought the wish of an 8-year-old wish child and Lightning McQueen fan to life for World Wish Day. Held annually on April 29, World Wish Day marks the anniversary of the wish that inspired the founding of Make-A-Wish® in 1980. The highlight of this year's celebration was a special parade where the young wish child from Macau marched alongside Lightning McQueen at HKDL in a celebration of the spirit of determination which inspired people of all ages.

Inspired by the thrilling speed of his favorite character from the Pixar Animation Studios “Cars” movie franchise, Heison – who has acute lymphoid leukemia – dreamed of meeting his racing hero and creating cherished memories together. His passion has been a source of strength and inspiration for him throughout his treatment. More than 400 guests including families who previously had a wish granted, Disney VoluntEARS and medical staff from Hong Kong and Macau were delighted to come together to celebrate his dream come true at HKDL.

A Disney Wish Comes to Life

Heison was surprised with a celebratory processional at the park, where he took center stage alongside Lightning McQueen, Jonathan Hui – the first Hong Kong racecar driver to win the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup – and dancers, amid cheers and applause. During the stage ceremony, Hui shared inspirational stories of dreams, courage and resilience with Heison. Jonathan also gave Heison the medal he won at the "2023 CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa" race in Belgium as a token of encouragement to pursue his dream.



Mickey Mouse, dressed in a racecar driver outfit, also joined Heison on-stage, presenting him with a one-of-a-kind trophy to commemorate the fun-filled occasion and celebrate his courage.



"To all of you here, I want to tell you that no wish is too big," said Michael Moriarty, managing director, HKDL. "At Disney, we celebrate the power of dreams and just like Lightning McQueen, I hope you race toward your dreams faster than fast, quicker than quick."

"Every wish has infinite power and can help children with critical illnesses regain the happiness they deserve in childhood," said Karlson Wong, board director, Make-A-Wish Hong Kong. "It also brings hope and strength into their lives and families. We are grateful for the unwavering support of Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and their dedication to making dreams come true."



Heison added, "This experience has given me even more courage to pursue my passion for racing and to never give up on my dreams."

Heison's parents were overjoyed. "This memorable experience means so much to our family. Seeing our son's face light up with joy and excitement is something we will treasure forever. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this day possible."

Hui said he was honored to help bring Heison's wish to life. "I am delighted to be supporting Make-A-Wish once again with such a wonderful cause. My passion for cars and racing started around the same age as Heison, and so I can relate to what this all means to him. I never gave up on my dream to compete and win on a global stage; I hope my achievements can inspire him and others to do the same in whatever they're passionate about."

For more than 40 years, Disney and Make-A-Wish have worked together to fulfill more than 155,000 Disney-inspired wishes around the world. The bravery, tenacity and optimism displayed by wish children inspire all cast members at HKDL. The resort will continue to work with Make-A-Wish Hong Kong and other Make-A-Wish International Affiliates to support the most heartfelt wish of children with critical illnesses and their families, creating magical, memorable moments for all.



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About Make-A-Wish Hong Kong

Make-A-Wish Hong Kong was registered in Hong Kong as a charity (registration number: 91/5366) in 1998 and became a member of Make-A-Wish Foundation International, the world's largest wish-granting organization with 40 affiliates serving over 50 countries and territories nowadays. Collectively we have realized over 550,000 wishes worldwide since 1980. Our mission is to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses aged between 3 and 17, in Hong Kong and Macau, to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. To date, Make-A-Wish Hong Kong has transformed over 2,200 children's lives. We are dedicated to making every eligible child's wish come true.

About Hong Kong Disneyland Resort

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort offers unforgettable, culturally distinctive Disney experiences for guests of all ages and backgrounds. Filled with your favorite Disney stories and characters, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort offers guests the opportunity to explore eight diverse lands that are home to award-winning, one-of-a-kind attractions and entertainment. Complete your adventure with stays at the resort's luxurious Disney hotels. The magic doesn't end at our doorstep; as a dedicated member of the local community that cares deeply about societal wellbeing, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort spreads its magic through community service programs that help families in need, boost creativity among children and families, encourage the protection of the environment and inspire healthier living.

Mobile app gives the latest updates & helps plan your visit



The Hong Kong Disneyland mobile app keeps guests informed of all the excitement at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, from operating hours to entertainment schedules. Reserve your park visit and get Disney Standby Pass to meet Disney friends inside the park. Use the GPS-enabled map to find your way around the park or make reservations for park and hotel restaurants, and make every moment count with wait times for each attraction. Magic Access members can also view block-out calendars and membership privileges, designed to make your visit even more magical.

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