



Unplugging to think computationally

THE current trend of moving away from game apps on smartphones is called 'unplugged'. And the Jockey Club is one of the sponsors supporting such trend. One school participating in the programme recently developed a game of its own.



Ling To's board game

AS one of the schools in the CoolThink@JC programme, Ling To Catholic Primary School has designed an offline game that helps teach children **computational** thinking. The game is a bit like an **old-fashioned** game, like **novuss**, in which players win by using the fewest moves to do a task. It even has a **durable** version to play at home so students can practice computational thinking skills.



▲ Teachers at Ling To showing off their game

CoolThink@JC

COOLTHINK@JC is an **international** group effort. The Hong Kong Jockey Club – the JC in the programme name – is the one sponsoring the programme. But there are a few universities working in the programme as well: The Hong Kong University of Education, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and The City University of Hong Kong. The goal of the programme is to teach primary students in Hong Kong computational thinking.

Computational thinking

COMPUTATIONAL thinking means to think about problems as if you are trying to write a computer programme. Its roots are based on computer logic and computer science, and it is meant to help people learn about logic by helping them think through how something is made, step-by-step. For example, to make notes, one has to first find a pen or pencil and paper before listening to the speaker.



▲ Kids doing a presentation on the step-by-step nature of their programme



▲ The launching ceremony of CoolThink@JC



Judy
S.K.H. Yan Laap Memorial Primary School



Learning logic is so useful!



Spot four differences between the two photos.

Answers on P12



Vocabulary

- current (adj) 現時的
- computational (adj) 運算的
- old-fashioned (adj) 舊的
- novuss (n) 康樂棋
- durable (adj) 耐用的
- international (adj) 國際的

Challenge

