

THE
SERIOUSLY
FUN
ISSUE

Lee Jiahao, of Woodgrove Primary School, loves dressing up as the main character from the Japanese animated series *Naruto*. "I feel like a celebrity!" he says. The P6 student is a young fan of "cosplay", or costume play. His costume was a surprise Christmas present from his sister, who bought it from a toy shop. But many cosplayers make their own costumes. They take part in competitions, showing off their stunning creativity and their cool attitudes. And if you think that only students take part, think again. There are even some teachers who do it. Check out the back page!

This newspaper belongs to:

TOY STOREYS

Toy-lover builds five-storey home for his giant collection

If a friend asked to see your toys and games, you'd probably open a cupboard, or point at a bookshelf. To show visitors Mr Chang Yang Fa's toys and games, he had to open a five-storey building.

He has more than 50,000 pieces in his collection, worth more than \$5 million altogether. From December, you can admire his playthings at his new MINT Toy Museum.

The collection is so unique that it is expected to become a tourist attraction.

Many of the items are extremely rare. Some are 150 years old. So, don't be disappointed that you're not allowed to play with them or even touch them. Like precious artifacts in other museums, many of the toys will be inside glass cases, and protected by security systems.

Only a small fraction of his collection will fit into the building, so he will change the exhibits every few months.

You may wonder how Mr Chang, who is 56 years old now, got his parents to buy him so many toys. He didn't. He became a serious collector when he was an adult.

But, when he was a child, he already showed the kind of passion that later made him one of the greatest toy collectors in Asia. He was the kind of kid who took great

care of all his toys and games. After each game of Cluedo, for example, he would carefully erase the pencil markings from each used clue sheet. More than 40 years later, he still has his first Monopoly set, with none of the pieces or play-money missing. And he still has his first toy, a Matchbox truck that was given to him when he was six years old.

Mr Chang, who went to St Andrew's

School, wants visitors to his museum to experience a "journey of rediscovery – a trip back in time to try and recapture the magic of childhood". He also hopes that younger visitors, like *What's Up* readers, will realise that creative play is an important part of life.



This rare Batman figure from Mr Chang's collection is a piece from the 1960s.

