

“Marshals to stop bullies making school hell for students?” (Jason Tan, Today Voices, 18/10, p18)

FILM-MAKER Pearry Teo ("Pearry Teo has made it to Hollywood", Oct 14) was bullied while in secondary school and dropped out in Secondary 2. I am not surprised.

I have a friend whose son was bullied everyday in that same school.

His grades dropped. His textbooks and workbooks were stolen all the time. He even had words written on his shirt during PE.

What kind of education is he going to get? He goes to school in fear — not exam fear, but fear of what might happen to him. How can he study? How can he excel?

When my friend had approached the teacher to resolve this problem, she was told that the bullies were out of their control — there were just too many to handle. My friend spoke to the principal who told her to "look for other options".

My friend pulled her son out of that school and now he is a drop-out.

I cannot imagine how many students out there are suffering or have been bullied.

Is my friend's son going to be another Pearry Teo? I doubt so — my friend does not have that much cash to send him overseas.

My wife conducts enrichment courses with some secondary schools. Students from the "good" secondary schools will bow their heads and greet her, while in the "bad" schools, only a handful turn up and the teachers just cannot do anything about it.

My son is going to Secondary 1 next year and I worry that if his Primary School Leaving Examination results are no good he will have to go to a "bad" secondary school.

Can the Ministry of Education introduce school marshals to control the bullies if the teachers and principals can't control them? This is important if every student is to get a fair shot at education.