

Skaters have their own Holiday on Ice

MOST of their schoolmates are away for the year-end school holidays, but best friends Max Ko and Maxel Lee will be having their own "holiday" this weekend.

The two, both eight, are among nine Henry Park Primary School pupils selected to perform in ice-skating show *Holiday on Ice* — Hollywood.

Choreographed by Olympic figure-skating champion Robin Cousins, the show features re-enactments of some of the most memorable Hollywood moments — from Charlie Chaplin to *Grease* to James Bond. The show opened at the Singapore Expo yesterday and runs till Monday.

Said Max: "My family do not go overseas for holidays very often because it is quite expensive. But this is a special holiday for me. I'm very excited because I like skating and I can perform in front of so many people."

Added Maxel: "It is challenging but it is also fun because I am doing it with my friends."



PHOTO: EDWIN KOO.

RARING TO GO: Maxel Lee (left) and Max Ko are excited about performing in front of a large audience.

In all, 12 children aged between seven and 13 were picked for the show by All Stars Figure Skating Club president Raymond Cheah.

Of the other three not from Henry Park Primary, two are

from Raffles Girls' Primary and one from the Japanese School, Singapore.

They have been training three times a week for the past fortnight.

Cheah, who also coaches

Henry Park Primary, said: "The skaters were chosen based on the requirements for the show. We actually performed the *Grease* number with 30 students before but we had to cut the number to

10 for the show."

Henry Park Primary won the overall title at the schools national ice-skating championships in June and it is no surprise that the bulk of the performers are from there.

Ice-skating is not recognised as a Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) by the Ministry of Education, but Henry Park offers it as an Enrichment CCA, which is run by the school's Parents Association on a volunteer basis.

It is the only primary school in Singapore to do so, although Shuqun Primary will also offer it from next year.

Said Henry Park's head of department for CCA, Julia Wan: "It is the second most popular of our five ECCAs. We started off with about 30 pupils last year. Now, we have 110."

While Max and Maxel may be excited about their first performance in a major skating show, they are more concerned about making their mark in competitions.

Max, who finished second at this year's schools national championships, said: "I prefer competing to performing. It is more fun and I get to win prizes and medals."

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