

Thrive at E-Smart

August 2017

From the Headmaster's Desk

Grit is passion and perseverance for long-term goals. Grit isn't talent. Grit isn't luck. Grit isn't how intensely, for the moment, you want something. Instead, grit is about having what some researchers call an "ultimate concern"—a goal you care about so much that it organizes and gives meaning to almost everything you do. And grit is holding steadfast to that goal, even when you fall down. Even when you screw up. Even when progress toward that goal is halting or slow.

- Angela Duckworth

Dear parents,

Grit has become a buzzword among educators in recent years after Angela Duckworth, a former classroom teacher turned psychologist, publicized the idea that the success of students in their studies can be predicted by their grit scores measured by a simple questionnaire like the one below.

1. I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge.
2. New ideas and projects sometimes distract me from previous ones.
3. My interests change from year to year.
4. Setbacks don't discourage me.
5. I have been obsessed with a certain idea or project for a short time but later lost interest.
6. I am a hard worker.
7. I often set a goal but later choose to pursue a different one.
8. I have difficulty maintaining my focus on projects that take more than a few months to complete.
9. I finish whatever I begin.
10. I have achieved a goal that took years of work.
11. I become interested in new pursuits every few months.
12. I am diligent.

Source: angeladuckworth.com

In Duckworth's words, grit is passion and perseverance for long-term goals. Grit helps us to keep our eyes on our goals, stay focused on a task and remain steadfast when facing obstacles.

We may tend to think that the average grit score of Hong Kong students will be higher than their American counterparts given our rigorous and highly exam-oriented education system. However, while it is helpful to cultivate perseverance and audacity in our kids, it is important for us to understand their passion or 'ultimate concern' so that we don't force our own goals on them and blame them for not being determined to achieve the targets.

It has taken me quite some time to discover such ultimate concern of my older son who started learning the violin at the age of 3 and had his first solo performance at the age of 4. Though seen by his teachers as talented and expressive in his playing, I honestly didn't see his passion for the instrument. He rarely took the initiative to practice but would drill enough before performances to receive complimentary remarks from relatives and friends.

Later, when he stopped playing the violin and spent countless hours uploading YouTube videos, which earned

him a partnership offer from Google and an audition invitation from Warner Brothers for a Hollywood movie, I thought that his passion would be in entertainment. While some YouTubers can really make a living by producing videos, his long-term goals have been apparently different. Now, video production is more a pastime for him to connect with his 'fans', while his passion is still very much in keeping up with the fads, which is probably useful to his current work as a young manager in an international clothing company. His long-term goal, however, is to run his own online business, which won't be realized immediately.

You would probably like your children to be gritty and be persevering so that they can attain their dreams. It is good to bear in mind that grit is not talent but a long-term goal to which your child is so truly dedicated that she or he will hold steadfast to it despite repeated setbacks. It is surely more than good exam results or even a university degree. It may also take some time for your child to discover their grit, so I urge you to be patient. Inspire them rather than impose goals on them!

Enjoy the rest of the summer vacation with your kids!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

GWF2B Thur 5:30-6:30
GWF2A Thur 5:30-6:30
GWF4A Thur 4:30-5:30
GWF4B Wed 6:30-7:30
GWF4B Sat 9:00-10:00
GWF4B Sat 3:00-4:00
GWF6B Tues 6:30-7:30
GWF6A Sat 2:00-3:00
IEK2A Sat 10:00-11:00
IEK6B Thur 6:30-7:30
IEK6B Sat 12:00-1:00
IEK6A Sat 12:00-1:00
IEKKB Sat 12:00-1:00
IEKKA Sat 11:00-12:00
PTWR Wed 5:30-6:30
PTWP1 Thur 9:30-10:30
PTWP1 Fri 5:30-6:30
PTWP1 Sat 12:00-1:00
PTWP2 Sat 11:00-12:00
PTWE1 Sat 10:00-11:00
PTW3 Sat 9:00-10:00
STLA Thur 3:30-4:00
WTE1 Wed 4:30-5:30
WTE2A Sat 3:00-4:00
WTE4B Fri 4:30-5:30
WTE4B Sat 10:00-11:00
WTE4B Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE4A Thur 5:30-6:30
WTE6B Sat 5:00-6:00
WTE8A Sat 10:00-11:00

Wong Yu Sze, Sisi
Wong Nok Hei, Adrian
Wong Pak Kiu, Jan
Ng Kwing Leuk, Arthur
So Wai Sum, Gordon
Law Chun Kiu, Terrence
Lee Ching Yin, Uno
Cheung Donna Kuen Tone
Chan Hiu Wai, Reginia
Chim Hau Ching, Ashley
Chan Chi Lam, Larrisa
Chak Kai Hin, Colin
Choi Ho Chung, Ethan
Chang Hoi Yu, Hayden
Yip Ho Yin, Andrew
Cheung Ming Ching, Justin
Chan Chun Yu, Mason
Wong Wing, Eleanor
Cheng Hiu Ching, Jaime
Wong Man Yin, Macy
Chan Nga Yung, Tiffany
Ho Sau Tung, Emma
Santitoned Long Ching, Isaac
Chan Clementine
Pang Cheuk Ling, Lilian
Chan Yuet Sum, Jolly
Kwok Ka Chai, Sam
Lam Zoe
Chan Ching Ping, Sam
Chau Shing Cheong, Matthew



August is a summer month. This summer has been very hot. Many people have been hiding from the hot weather in interesting places. Many people like to turn on the air-con at home, but some people do not want to spend money, so they go to places with “free” air-con. There are photos of people having a picnic or sleeping on the floor inside the train station because it has “free” air-con. There are also photos of people sitting inside the supermarket all day long because it has “free” air-con. Would you have a picnic inside an MTR station or sit in a supermarket all day long instead of spending money to use your air-con at home?

—Mr. Boa

WRITER OF THE MONTH

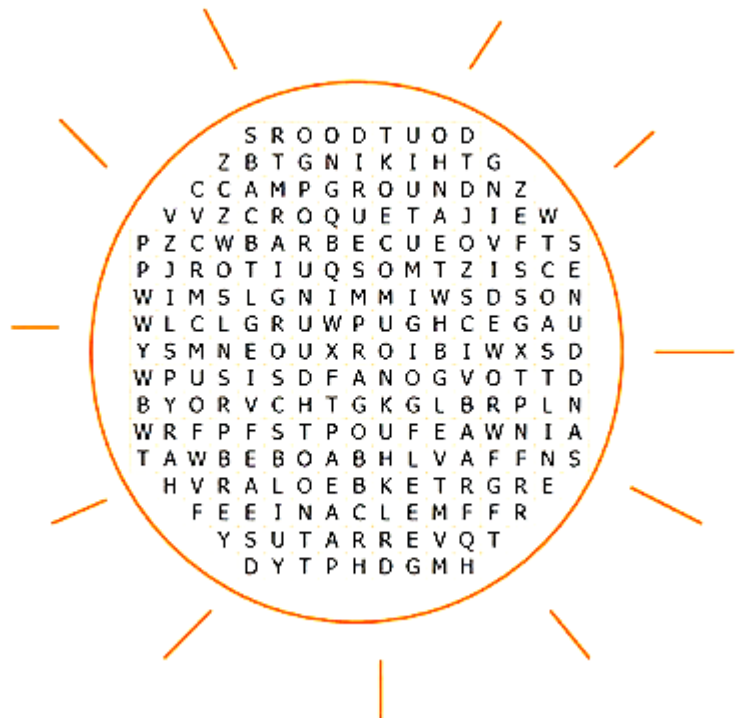
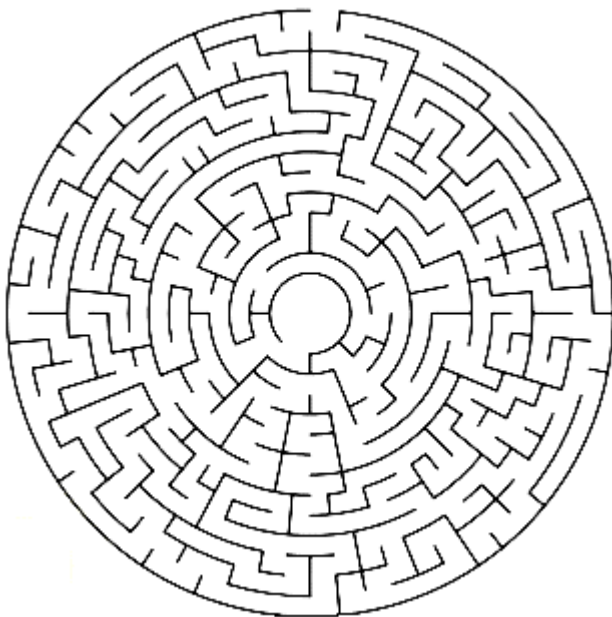
I Wish to Have...

- I wish to have a toy box, so I can put my toys inside.
- I wish to have a big house, so I can play hide and seek.
- I wish to have a pair of shoes, so I can walk.
- I wish to have a new teddy bear, so I can play with it.
- I wish to have a school bag, so I can carry it to school.
- I wish to have a little sister, so I can play with her.

—Yeung Tsz Ki, Selena (WTE-1)

OTHER WRITERS OF THE MONTH: *Talis Lee (WTE-4B), Chloe Lau (WTE-2A), Ryan Ko (WTE-4B), Cassie Kwok (WTE-6B)*

SUN MAZE!



Words for the word search:

barbecue, hot dogs, outdoors, pool, resort, surfboard, travel, waves, mosquito, campground