

Thrive at E-Smart

January 2018

From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear parents,

Happy New Year! May you have real peace of mind, lasting joy and steadfast love of family and friends the whole year through and many more years to come!

Many people stay up to count down to welcome the New Year, but I have stopped attending countdown parties for years and always wonder why people love the countdown. Maybe it is the euphoria that drinks and partying bring; maybe it is the kindred spirits, goodwill and companionship; maybe it is the opportunity to start afresh and set goals not attained in the previous years. Whatever the reason, the New Year seems to be a time that gives us high hopes and aspirations, a time to ponder and a time to endeavour.

It seems ironic, however, that we never want to count down the days of our life. Many of us live as if we will live forever whereas the harsh reality is that most of us are going to expire by 100 years, which is 36,500 days and 52,560,000 minutes. 52 million seems a big but in fact a finite number, and as I get older, I have mixed feelings of jubilation and melancholy on New Year's Eve, for I know too well I am at least one percent closer to my finale when hopefully I shall be missed by my loved ones and people I have encountered in this life.

I am sorry if you feel intimidated by now as 'death' is always a taboo not to be mentioned or discussed, let alone at the beginning of a new year. I would like to contend, on the other hand, that reminding ourselves of our 'expiry date' is the most positive way to live because we are likely to live with fewer regrets, less hatred and much more love.

Contrary to what fortune-tellers are telling us, one of the mysteries of life is that we can never foresee the future, which inevitably gives rise to many regrets and disappointments because most of us tend to take our achievements for granted and focus our attention on failures, missed opportunities and wrong decisions when looking back – more than 30% of married adults who have ended up in divorce might regret wedding their spouses; many more in Hong Kong might lament selling their flats but not buying another one when home prices have gone up for more than 4 times the last 15 years. What if I had pursued another college degree or got into another career? What if I had married the other man or woman? What if I had sent my child to a different school? What if I had bought or sold a particular stock? What if I had left or not returned to Hong Kong? Unfortunately, unlike a computer keyboard, we cannot undo our choices or decisions in most instances.

The Bible says, "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) Admitting our mortality, be it 100 years or more, is to acknowledge our limitations and frailties, and to concede that things do not always go according to our plans, thereby we may feel less regretful of our failures or wistful of our friends' successes. Very few of us will have realized all our dreams by the time this life comes to pass, but why does it really matter if none of us can take anything with us when we exit this world?

Acknowledging our finite, indeed brief, lifespan motivates us to make the most of it. Fully appreciating our humanity also helps us to be compassionate towards one another, prompting us to forgive those who have hurt us as we may have knowingly or unknowingly inflicted pain on others. Life is after all too short and dear to be spent on hatred and bitterness.

When we are on holiday in another country, we desire to have the most fruitful trip by planning our itinerary, so we do things that give us the most satisfaction and happiness. Incongruously, we don't apply the same attitude to our daily life. We may have to toil in the workplace for many hours, but many of us also spend hours doing things that don't really yield any real satisfaction – excessive hours of electronic games or TV, binge drinking, frequently checking the 'likes' of our posts on Facebook, just to name a few. Maybe we should ask ourselves if these things are really indispensable if we are going to expire in a few days. Would we rather spend time chatting with our spouse, visiting our parents or playing with our young kids before it is too late?

Make the most of your life journey. Have a great year!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

GWF2B Sat 10:00-11:00
GWF4B Sat 4:00-5:00
GWF4A Sat 9:00-10:00
GWF4A Sat 3:00-4:00
GWF6A Tues 6:30-7:30
GWF9B Sat 2:00-3:00
IEKP Thur 9:30-10:30
IEKKB Thur 9:30-10:30
IEKKB Sat 10:00-11:00
IEKKA Sat 12:00-1:00
IEK2B Thur 4:30-5:30
IEK2B Sat 11:00-12:00
IEK2A Fri 6:30-7:30
IEK2A Sat 9:00-10:00
IEK6A Sat 12:00-1:00
PTWR Thur 3:30-4:30
PTWR Sat 9:00-10:00
PTWP2 Fri 5:30-6:30
PTWE2 Sat 10:00-11:00
PTWP3 Sat 11:00-12:00
STLA Mon 2:30-3:30
STLA Fri 3:30-4:30
WTE2B Tues 5:30-6:30
WTE2B Wed 4:30-5:30
WTE2B Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE2A Fri 5:30-6:30
WTE2A Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE4B Tues 4:30-5:30
WTE4B Sat 3:00-4:00
WTE4A Fri 4:30-5:30
WTE4A Sat 10:00-11:00
WTE4A Sat 4:00-5:00
WTE6B Thur 5:30-6:30
WTE6A Thur 6:30-7:30
WTE6A Sat 5:00-6:00

Ko Tin Hay, Ryana
Yuen Kwan Ho, Kenneth
Wong Chun Hei, Carson
Tsang Cheong Fun, Tony
Lee Ching Yin, Uno
Cheung Donna Kuen Tone
Lo Chun Yin
Chen Sum Yuet
Siu Ka Tung, Sophia
Chau Ching Tung, Dora
Chan Lik In
Chang Hoi Yu, Hayden
Liu Justin
Kwok Tsz Lok, Jerry
Lam Ching Him, Samuel
Lam Ching Hin, Nathan
Yuen King Lam, Hannah
Lau Siu Hei, Matthew
Chan Wai Tung, Winky
Ko Sum Yau, Zoe
Lau Siu Hang, Andy
Tse Hong Ching, Kris
Mok Ho Wan, Owen
Wong Yuet, Avery
Lee Cheuk Wing, Sireen
Tai Hong Kiu, Ellie
Chan Emily
Leung Lok Tung, Abby
Yeung Pak Dick
Cheung Ka Man, Carmen
Chu Wing Nam, Emma
Law Man Shuen, Helen
Lee Yee Bing, Icy
Cheung Shun Yiu, Stephen
Kung Hoi Ching, Kathy

STUDENTS' PAGE

As the saying goes, "In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future!" — [Mehmet Murat Ildan](#). Growing up with a mixed culture and belief, I have been blessed to be able to understand the world's differences and to be able to see what life brings from west to east. Without the people surrounding me, most especially my family and my closest friends, I wouldn't have reached and gained what I have now. Yes, life is perfectly imperfect, however, looking back at the experiences I went through, I now can say, I am ready to share what I have – the skills, knowledge, and most of all, love. Always remember to SMILE and be thankful that you have another day to enjoy in this world. Be happy and have a prosperous new year everyone.

~Ms. Winnie

Can you spot the 12 differences between the pictures?



"Slavery"

by Cindy Lo (WTE10B)

"Hey, faster. Don't you dare rest!" A man shouted with a whip in his hands. He was wearing golden luxury clothes, sitting on a chair which was decorated with different jewellery. He was my master, Tam, and I was his slave.

I got up at 4a.m. every day so as to make breakfast for him. However, he was never satisfied with the breakfast and flogged me with his whip. Life was tough because no matter what I did, Tam would flog me or sometimes even kick me. I could not escape nor fight back as I was just a slave. A slave never had rights, even to speak. If you speak, you would be flogged; if you move you would be flogged.

"Hey! You come here. How can you be that stupid?" Tam was mad, not because of me but because of his wife. He had just argued with his wife over a glass of water. Every time he was mad, he would flog us, so as to release anger. "Pa..Pa..Pa" the whip hit me once, twice and three times. It felt like I was in a frying pan at first, but then later I started to have no feeling. I could not control my eyes anymore; they were closing by themselves. Slowly I was in the dark.

I was not so sad but delighted as I was free. I would never be flogged again. I used to hate my parents but now, I felt relieved.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Countdown
Confetti
Midnight
Balloons

Celebration
Fireworks
January
Happy

New Year
Clock
Cheers
Goals

Party Poppers
Noisemaker
Resolution
Sparklers



Congratulations to the Writers of the Month:

Cindy Lo (WTE10B)

Toby Chung (WTE)2A

Dick Yeung (WTE)4B

