

Thrive at E-Smart

March 2018

From the Headmaster's Desk

But what I want you, my students, to take away from your middle-school experience, is the sure knowledge that, in the future you make for yourselves, anything is possible. If every single person in this room made it a rule that wherever you are, whenever you can, you will try to act a little kinder than is necessary – the world would be a better place. And if you do this, if you act just a little kinder than is necessary, someone else, somewhere, someday, may recognize in you, in every single one of you, the face of God.

~ 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio, 2012, p. 301

Dear parents,

Do you like watching movies? If you do, I would encourage you to watch more good movies with your children. I have always urged my senior secondary students to watch more English movies without looking at the Chinese subtitles if they are to develop their listening and speaking skills. More importantly, aside from providing entertainment and opportunities for learning English, some movies can teach our kids great lessons about life.

'Wonder' is one of such heartwarming and inspirational movies. Adapted from a brilliant book written by R. J. Palacio for young readers, it tells the story of a ten-year-old boy named August (Auggie) who suffers from Collins Treacher Syndrome that has caused deformities to his face. Highly intelligent but acutely aware of his facial differences that would scare other kids, Auggie prefers to put on his space helmet that covers his whole face whenever he goes out. Having homeschooled Auggie for years but determined to help him blend in with other kids, his mother decides to send him to school when he reaches grade 5. Predictably, Auggie gets ridiculed and bullied by some merciless kids who detest Auggie's appearances but get threatened by his extraordinary intellectual abilities. Some sensible and compassionate kids, however, choose to befriend Auggie and gradually find themselves inspired by his quiet strength.

The movie has a happy ending which may not always happen in real life but it does remind our kids to be kind and respect people who are different. Most pre-teens, indeed, seek acceptance from their peers and start to form cliques at school at a young age, some of whom are inclined to tease kids who look different, and worse, bully those who are physically weak or mentally challenged. More often than not, bullies act out of their inner fear and rally support from their accomplices who would rather comply than stand out from the group.

Julian, the 'villain' in the movie, represents such a bully who has power but feels insecure at heart. From a rich family and keenly conscious of his power, he has gathered a following of boys who take his 'instructions' to intimidate Auggie. A group of girls also spread rumours that they are going to catch Auggie's 'plague', which is his deformity, if they touch him by accident. I believe most of our kids will fall into this group of followers who dare not speak up for one who has been scapegoated for his or her differences from the crowd. Indeed, it takes a lot of courage and discernment to stand up for what is right and defend the weak, the poor and the powerless.

In that regard, Summer, the girl who chooses to sit with Auggie at lunch on his first day of school, is the real heroine in the story. Pretty and popular, some girls caution her not to hang out with Auggie so that she can be accepted into their group of friends, but Summer chooses to defy their warning and becomes

Auggie's confidant. Her bravery, kindness and resolve serve to inspire other students in the end.

There are a few other characters in the story who you will find enlightening. Watch the movie, or better still, read the book with your kids and discuss what they have taken away from it. I am confident it will be an edifying experience, and you will help make our world a better place when you teach your kids to be 'a little kinder than is necessary' at all times.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

GWF2A Thur 5:30-6:30
GWF4A Sat 3:00-4:00
GWF4A Sat 9:00-10:00
GWF4B Sat 4:00-5:00
GWF6A Tue 6:30-7:30
GWF6B Thur 4:30-5:30
GWF6B Wed 6:30-7:30
GWF9B Sat 2:00-3:00
IEK2B Sat 11:00-12:00
IEK2B Thur 4:30-5:30
IEK6A Sat 12:00-1:00
IEKKA Sat 9:00-10:00
IEKKB Sat 10:00-11:00
IEKKB Thur 9:30-10:30
IEKP Wed 2:30-3:30
PTW5 Sat 9:00-10:00
PTWE1 Sat 11:00-12:00
PTWE2 Sat 10:00-11:00
PTWP1 Sat 10:00-11:00
PTWP2 Wed 5:30-6:30
PTWP3 Fri 5:30-6:30
PTWR Sat 9:00-10:00
PTWR Tue 2:30-3:30
PTWR Wed 5:30-6:30
WTE1 Wed 4:30-5:30
WTE2A Fri 5:30-6:30
WTE2B Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE2B Sat 4:00-5:00
WTE2B Tue 5:30-6:30
WTE2B Wed 4:30-5:30
WTE4A Sat 10:00-11:00
WTE4A Sat 4:00-5:00
WTE4B Sat 3:00-4:00
WTE4B Tue 4:30-5:30
WTE6A Thur 6:30-7:30
WTE6B Thur 5:30-6:30

Yan Davin
Tsang Cheong Fun, Tony
Ko Tin Chi, Ryan
Tam Lai Wa, Kerry
Lee Ching Yin, Uno
Lam Zoe
Mo Ka Chun, Bobby
Mok Tsz Long, Arthur
Wong Sing
Ran Choi Yap, Rainbow
Wong King Yeung, Bismarck
Lee Cheuk Hei, McQueen
Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden
Lo Ching Yin, Oscar
Lau Siu Hang, Andy
Lai Yi Yin, Carrie
Chau Hong Yin, Taylor
Tam Leong Yin, Teko
Wong Chi Yeung, Ivan
Chau Ching Tung, Dora
Wong Wing, Eleanor
Yuen King Lam, Hannah
Yu Yin Hei, Heiley
Heung Chin Lok
Hui Cheuk Lam, Elva
Chan Ka Kiu, Alice
Kwok Tsz Lok, Jerry
Kung Yik Long, Marcus
Chan Yat Hei, Kingston
Kwok Wing Kiu, Stephanie
Kwok Tsz Yau, Karly
Yue Jing Yin, Elyse
Chan Clementine
Leung Yat Nam, Abby
Lam Yat Hei, Jacko
Lam Zoe

Easter Cooking and Reading Classes

Special Easter cooking and reading classes will be held on April 3 & 4. Enrol before March 17 to enjoy the Early Bird rate. Please contact our administrative staff for details.



Students' Page March 2018

National Grammar Day is observed in the United States on March 4th. Grammar is a vital part in communication. We use it every day when we text our friends or post comments on Twitter and Facebook. In this digital age we live in, we need to be cautious of our wording. For example: do we need conservation or a conversation? Is the food glutton-free or gluten-free?

Can you spot the mistakes in these sentences?

*You are invited to
come hunting bare.*

It isn't fare to judge
people buy there
appearance.

~Ms. Michelle
Let's eat
grandma!

Hi Jack,

How are you? I'm in a computer café. I want you to give me some books—just some old ones you don't want to read anymore. These books may be disposed of a few days from now. They may be there just to beautify your bookcases, but for some children, they are treasures!

You may think I am strange. I have never done this. I only sit in front of the computer every day. Now I know, I was wrong. Last month, I went to the mountains of Nepal for hiking and solitude. I met a man who was an 'Education Resource Officer' of a school area. I visited a school with him, and I was amazed at what I saw. There were almost no educational resources, and there were only a few books. The principal asked me to bring back some books. But if the principal hadn't asked me, I would have still done it.

Don't you think their life is miserable? There are a lot of our students who hate to read a book or go to school. That is not fair! Every family in our city has full bookcases of books, but some people never read the books. But students in Nepal need books. If every family can give them a book, they can even build a big library for their school. If they don't have a good education until they grow up, they can only be poor people who can't understand anything. There is no other way they can go. Why don't we try to change their future?

So I'm planning to help them. I have already told all my friends my plan. If you also want to help them, please send the books to my parents' house in Colorado, U.S.A. I will bring them to the children. Thank you!

Best Regards,
John
(Leo Gu WTE 8B)

Congratulations to all the best writers of the month.

Shannon Yee	4B
Icy Lee	6B
Karina Wong	2B
★ Leo Gu	8B

Help the bunny find his way to the 4 houses.

