

Thrive at E-Smart

May 2020

From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear parents,

It is getting really warm when I am writing this letter. Hopefully, the heat will help kill the COVID19 virus and enable us to take off our masks and gather in bigger groups soon. Hong Kong people have done an outstanding job in preventing the further spread of the virus, but we must all stay vigilant till we win the war against the pandemic.

The past few months have been tough for most of us. The pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to our economy, resulting in a lot of businesses closing down and job losses. Many of us have experienced a completely new kind of stress, that is, to be taken captive in our tiny homes 24/7 with our increasingly cranky kids who thirst for some space to run around. How we miss the routines before the pandemic took control of our lives!

Indeed, routines seem essential in our lives. We groan about our long working hours but we don't want to be left idle not knowing how to spend the day either. We complain about the never-ending homework assignments of our kids, but neither do we want them to have nothing to do but have their hands on electronic games indefinitely. We drag going to work, but somehow we miss the 'contact' with acquaintances or even strangers we meet on the long suffocating commute. We miss these routines as they have somehow given us an identity and a purpose in life.

When routines are gone, many of us find our lives in disarray. A friend of mine retired from his civil service position of 35 years. Bored to death, he found himself walking all the way from his home in Kwun Tong to his former office in Tsim Sha Tsui during rush hours on a Monday morning, finding satisfaction from rubbing shoulders with other pedestrians.

Pathetic my friend's story sounds, his experience isn't that uncommon. Many of us live 'in a trance', completing our daily schedules without any reflection of what we are actually doing. What are we really trying to achieve aside from staying alive? What are our deepest desires? What gives us lasting satisfaction in life?

When these questions aren't asked, let alone pondered or answered, we go through the motions of commuting to work, doing chores or helping our kids with their schoolwork, then going to bed exhausted every day. When a pandemic forces us to stay home, we are suddenly at a loss, and we experience acute identity crisis, as we don't see our worth or purpose in life.

In the same token, our kids feel irritable not only because of boredom but a loss of direction. If they have completed their schoolwork simply to satisfy their parents rather than crave for knowledge or enjoy the mastery over a subject, read to regurgitate in tests to get high marks rather than get continually curious about the world around them, they won't take the initiative to read quietly on their own. Without routines, they would merely slip into indolence and ignorance.

You may be thankful that such idleness may finally come to an end when the routines are reinstated as our kids go back to school next month. But it is time that we helped both ourselves and our kids stop living in a trance. Help them understand why they miss going to school and what joys they can derive from learning.

Stop going through the motions but stay mindful in life!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

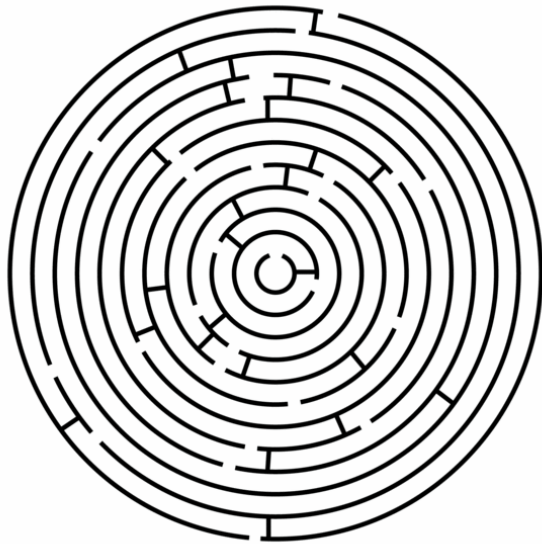
| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cheng Ka Ki, Kayla | WTE2B Sat 2:00-3:00 |
| Cheung Ho Kwan, Charles | IEK2B Sat 9:00-10:00 |
| Cheung Man Chun, Isaac | PTW2 Sat 12:00-1:00 |
| Choi Lok, Sabrina | IEK8B Tues 6:30-7:30 |
| Chung Nga Ching, Connie | IEK8B Sat 9:00-10:00 |
| Lai Tsz Yan, Clara | IEK6B Sat 12:00-13:00 |
| Lam Chiu Ming, Haden | WTE4A Sat 3:00-4:00 |
| Lam Kin Sing, Carson | IEK6A Sat 10:00-11:00 |
| Lau Yan Ching, Candy | GWF6B Fri 5:30-6:30 |
| Leung Chung Hee, Marcus | GWF2A Sat 3:00-4:00 |
| Li Sheung Wing, Bernice | WTE4A Sat 11:00-12:00 |
| Mok Hoi Yui, Zared | WTE4B Sat 4:00-5:00 |
| Ng Ben | WTE6B Mon 6:30-7:30 |
| Pang Shu Sang, Marcus | WTE6A Sat 10:00-11:00 |
| Tang Man Hei, Helen | WTE2A Sat 11:00-12:00 |
| Wu Yui Lam, Eunis | WTE2A Fri 4:30-5:30 |
| Yau Lam Yan, Ariel | WTE8A Sat 11:00-12:00 |
| Yeung Yee Lam, Elim | PTWP3 Mon 4:30-5:30 |

Our Classes Resume on 1 June

Classes resume at our centre on 1 June. In the meantime, keep learning from our online classes and enjoy the special discount.

Summer Classes

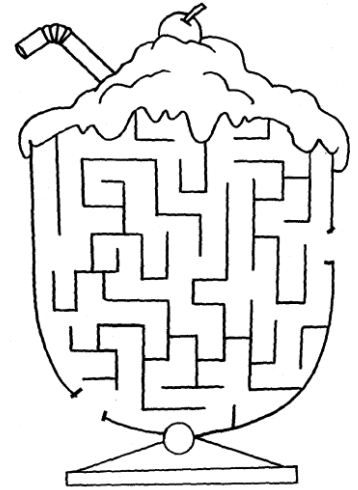
Our summer classes start on 13 July. To help kids catch up at school after the extended school suspension, we have a new class specially catered for the local curriculum. Enroll early to enjoy the early bird discount.



Have you ever wondered what the difference between a labyrinth and a maze is? A **labyrinth** has no dead ends and there is only one path with many twists and turns. A **maze** has many choices of path and multiple entrances and exits and dead ends.

Whether it has dead ends or not, I enjoy both of them. What about you?

~Ms. Michelle



BEST WRITER OF MAY



The Monster

~by Hailey Tai (WTE 4B)

Once upon a time, there was a big monster, who had one big eye and sharp teeth. It lived in a dark cave near the town.

The monster caught all the pets in the town and ate them. The pet owners were sad. They thought the monster was horrible, and they felt scared.

One day, the king sent the soldiers to kill the monster. Although they were scared, they needed to help the people to save their pets. They found the monster in the cave; they threw a big net to catch it and used their swords to kill it.

All the people cheered. They have not seen the horrible monster again.



HONOURABLE MENTION



Daniel's Chocolate Trouble

~by Adrian Fong (4A)



Daniel liked to eat chocolate very much. He was eating chocolate one day when suddenly the chocolate started to speak. It asked, "Do you want to go to the chocolate world?" "Yes," he replied.

When they were going to the chocolate world, Mr. Chocolate said, "There is a law that you can't eat any chocolate there. If you eat some, you can't come to the chocolate world anymore and you must leave."

When they arrived he saw that everything was chocolate. He wanted to eat but he knew he couldn't. When they were walking on the street, he saw a tree. It was made of chocolate ice-cream. It was his favourite food and he couldn't wait to eat it, so he left the chocolate world and went home.

He didn't go to the chocolate world anymore since then.



Other Writers of the Month:

Owen Mok (4B) Three Wishes

Anson Lau (6B) My Monster Little John