

Thrive at E-Smart

October 2020

From the Headmaster's Desk

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear parents,

This October is special as we are going to have 3 days of public holidays during which hopefully friends and family can safely gather despite the social distancing measures enforced against the COVID-19 pandemic. We may treasure these opportunities even more as some of our family members and friends may be leaving the city for good. My thoughts, however, go to the 12 people, all of them under 30 years old, who chose to abscond to Taiwan in August but got caught and are still being detained by Mainland Chinese authorities rather than repatriated to Hong Kong according to international customs.

Critics could simply point their fingers at the 'crimes' these absconders have committed, saying they were simply trying to avoid the legal consequences. However, when a prominent social worker like Jackie Chan who has been faithfully and competently acting as a peacemaker between the police and the protesters, thereby successfully preventing a lot of unnecessary clashes, got prosecuted by the police for rioting but rightly acquitted by a sensible judge, we can see the charges against these 12 absconders may not be totally justified.

Among the 12 young people, Lee Tsz Yin stands out as he is a professional quantity surveyor rather than an uneducated jobless nobody, but like hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people and many more of 64 cities around the world, he chose to participate in the Global Anti-Tyranny March on September 29, 2019 before he got arrested for rioting and allegedly attacking the police.

Contrary to some critics' expectations or wishes, Lee's mother didn't try to apologize for her son's act to plead for leniency but wrote a public letter saying she was truly proud of her son, praising her son's kindness to the poor and needy and his steadfast adherence to fairness and justice since he was young. This immediately drew blatant attacks from a writer notorious for blasting young protesters, and she ascribed Lee's "bad behaviour" to his mother being a "Monster Parent". But is Lee's mother really a Monster Parent? According to my knowledge, the answer is an absolute NO, and that is why I am utterly disappointed with this writer who rose to fame by writing a series of books in Chinese about monster parenting. Apparently, she has abused the term Monster Parents to attack people of different political views.

"Monster Parents" is a term first coined in 2007 by Yoichi Mukoyama, a Japanese educator, then made popular in Asia by a Japanese TV drama also called Monster Parents, and it usually refers to parents who smother their children while making unduly high demands on their children's academic performance. Conceivably, children who grow up with monster parents might go to two extremes. They might be highly competitive, go to Ivy League schools, and end up working as affluent professionals. On the other hand, those

who fail to meet their monster parents' demands might become dependent and reclusive. In either case, these monster parents embrace success in the mainstream society, and would surely support institutions that maintain the status quo. Therefore, you cannot imagine them supporting their children in protesting against the authorities.

I do not have much information about the other 11 detainees, but I can imagine their disillusionment over the past years. They were all born after the 1990s when Hong Kong was still in its golden era. As most families had only one or two children, these young people were probably the centre of attention when they were born. The average expectable environment for them to grow up and adapt to was largely positive, allowing them to freely express their views. At school, they were taught to be assertive and outspoken if they were to succeed in life. Despite the highly slanted economy and enormous wealth gap, they would still believe in an equal opportunity in education, a relatively incorrupt society, the freedom of speech, an independent judiciary, and a clean and efficient police force, but these things are being compromised if not totally gone. These young people might have tried to avoid a few years of imprisonment, but I could not imagine their leaving their hometown and family with absolutely no way of returning unless they do not see any hope for the future.

As an educator rather than a social commentator, I just hope that our young people could continue to thrive in an environment where they could express their ideas freely and peacefully, which indeed brought about the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong in the past. Simply asking them to keep silent will only dampen creativity, which won't do our society any good.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chau Kai Sun, Michael	PTWR Mon 3:30-4:30
Cheung Hei Ching, Rosanne	PTWE1 Sat 10:00-11:00
Chui Hoi Yan, Yan	IEK6B Fri 3:30-4:30
Chung Nga Ching, Connie	IEK8A Thur 6:30-7:30
Fong Sheung Man, Adrian	WTE6B Fri 5:30-6:30
Kwok Sze Nam, Angus	IEK6B Sat 9:00-10:00
Lau Lok Hang	WTE8B Sat 10:00-11:00
Lau Sing Yu, Matthew	PTWP2 Fri 4:30-5:30
Liu Justin	WTE4A Sat 11:00-12:00
Lo Kin Hang, Issac	WTE4A Tues 5:30-6:30
Ng Kit Nam, Priscilla	IEKKB Tues 4:30-5:30
Ng Pui Ching, Jodi	GWF2B Sat 2:00-3:00
Ran Choi Yap, Rainbow	PTWE2 Sat 1:00-2:00
Tang Kwan Ho Tim	GWF4A Sat 10:00-11:00
Tang Man Hei, Helen	WTE4B Fri 4:30-5:30
Tse Chun Yin, Jasmine	IEK2A Sat 9:00-10:00
Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden	WTE2B Sat 3:00-4:00
Tsui Lok Ki, John	WTE10B Sat 4:00-5:00
Wong Mei Ki, May	WTE6B Sat 3:00-4:00
Yeung Pak Dick	GWF6A Fri 3:30-4:30



Students Page - October 2020

October is the month of autumn. This is a great season for people who love nature. We can see the change in the colour of leaves into red and golden yellow before falling to the ground. We can also see plenty of fruits, nuts and seeds everywhere. If you're interested in apple picking, this is the best season for you.

Did you know that October comes from the Latin word "octo" which means "eight"? This is a powerful number which represents success and peace. This is the time of the year when farmers gather their harvest, hoping their crops will be full. October is also the tenth month of the year and as the number "ten" contains all the numbers from one to nine within it, which means that this is the month which symbolizes achievement of goals and completion of tasks.

We hope that this beautiful season and powerful numbers will help you all achieve continued success in all that you do and peace in your life.

~ Ms. Josephine ☺



BEST OF THE BEST



**Writers of
the Month**

Superstitions

By Nicole Leung (WTE6B)

Superstition is to believe that doing or not doing something would bring you luck. E.g. someone believes that wearing or seeing red things will bring good luck.

I asked my mother. She does not believe in these beliefs because she believes in God. Second, I interviewed my sister. She does not believe in these beliefs either because she thinks being superstitious is very silly.

Last, I do not believe in these beliefs too because I also believe in God and will pray to God and wish for good luck. I think it is really fake.

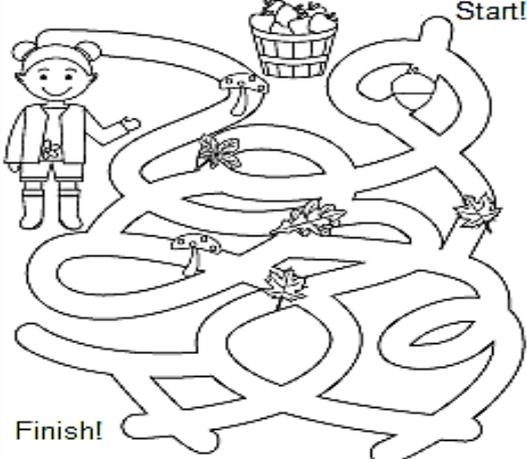




Autumn Maze

Help the little girl find the apples.

Start!Finish!



It's Autumn Season!

Color objects that belong to *Autumn*.



Congratulations to the other Writers of October:

My Favourite Restaurant – Wins Ho (WTE4A)

Dream School – Bridget Chiu (WTE6B)

Mary The Cat Gets Lost – Jolie Ng (WTE2A)