

Thrive at E-Smart

February 2021

From the Headmaster's Desk

"This pandemic has magnified every existing inequality in our society – like systemic racism, gender inequality, and poverty. And it's impossible to pick one issue as more serious because so many people live at the intersection of all of those challenges."

- Melinda Gates

Dear parents,

Time does fly, and we have been enduring this COVID-19 pandemic for over a year now but for many people, this past year may seem to have been a decade. What is more, even with various vaccines becoming readily available, as Marc Lipsitch, epidemiologist, put it last March, we have made it to a life raft amid raging torrents but dry land is still far away. As the virus is yet to be contained, most of us suffer grief, fear, anger and boredom, to name just a few of our torments.

Struggling for our survival in this life raft, many of us have been so overwhelmed with the roller-coaster ride on the numbers of infections and death tolls and heavily absorbed in protecting ourselves from the virus that we might have become oblivious to the various misfortunes around us.

Aside from costing more than two million lives worldwide, the pandemic has made the poor become poorer. Hong Kong's economy shrank by more than 6% last year, and the unemployment rate climbed to 6.6% last December, the highest in 16 years. Most sectors have been adversely affected, and imaginably those providing face-to-face services have been worst hit. What is more, many workers in these sectors such as salespeople, cashiers and restaurant workers are relatively low-skilled on fluctuating rather than fixed incomes. Becoming jobless in a city that provides minimal social security could easily render these people homeless and impoverished.

The pandemic has also revolutionised the ways we conduct our business or interact with each other, so while high-tech online businesses have emerged as winners, some conventional businesses have faded and may become obsolete. People lacking the means to adapt to the new way of life apparently suffer. While our kids whine about the long hours of online lessons, a poor kid can't even afford a proper computer or fast enough broadband Internet connection, let alone a quiet environment to attend online classes without distraction. A lot of learning resources are now available online, but conceivably these disadvantaged students are far from being able to take full advantage, if any, of them.

The epidemic is also an absolute challenge to our mental well-being, with many of us struggling with our boredom

and tensions with other family members. Practicing mindfulness in my apartment overlooking the river every day, I keep reminding myself of the plight of the less fortunate who are stuck with their family in a subdivided cubicle a tenth of the size of my spacious apartment. If I could feel restless from time to time, they would have all the legitimate reasons to feel the urge to vent their agitation.

Finally, our badly hammered economy affects the poorest most blatantly, with charitable organizations reporting dwindled donations and food banks running out of provisions for their recipients. These humblest people have no time to feel bored but simply fight for their subsistence.

Therefore, for those of us who are already on the life raft, let us look out for those who might be drowning in this pandemic. Stuff the desire to buy more fashionable expensive face masks and donate face masks and food vouchers to charities for the poor and the minorities. Give away your excess computers and tablets to organizations helping underprivileged students to adapt to this new mode of learning. Be patient when you are waiting for service in shops and restaurants from people who are equally, if not more, stressed than you are.

May we all stay buoyant in this pandemic!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chan Yu Hei, Sirena	PTWE3 Sat 1:00-2:00
Hu Cheong Kai, James	IEK6A 10:00/WTE6B 11:00
Ko Tin Chi, Ryan	IEK8A Sat 9:00-10:00
Kwok Ching Kiu, Bowen	IEK2A Sat 9:00-10:00
Kwong Chin Fung, Jims	GWF6A Fri 3:30-4:30
Lai Yi Kwan, Sophie	PTW5 Sat 12:00-1:00
Lam Chi Wang, Benedict	IEK4B Sat 9:00-10:00
Lam Kin Sing, Carson	IEK8B Sat 1:00-2:00
Lau Lok Hang	WTE8B Sat 10:00-11:00
Lo Wan Tsz, Janice	PTWP1 Thur 10:30-11:30
Ma Pok Ho, Alvin	PTWR Sat 12:00-1:00
Mak Sze Lok, Joselyn	GWF4B Sat 3:00-4:00
Mok Fong Ting, Fanny	WTE2B Sat 3:00-4:00
Ng Cheuk Lam, Jolie	WTE4A Sat 11:00-12:00
Ng Kit Nam, Priscilla	IEKKB Tues 4:30-5:30
Seto Yuen Yi, Seto	WTE8B Thur 4:30-5:30
Shek Wan Hei, Hudson	WTE4B Fri 4:30-5:30
Tsoi Ka Ying, Angel	IEK8A Tues 6:30-7:30
Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden	GWF2B Sat 2:00-3:00
Wu Yui Lam, Eunis	WTE4B Sat 11:00-12:00
Yip Long Chi, Aidan	WTE2A Sat 2:00-3:00



February 2021 Students Page

Happy Chinese New Year!! February is a special month for many people in Hong Kong because of Chinese New Year. This is also my favorite time of the year as I can spend good time with all my close relatives. We can have a delicious meal together while we give each other wishes for good luck and prosperity for the New Year. What does Chinese New Year mean to you? For many, “Lai See” or “Red packets” would be one of them. But having a long holiday to relax after exams is likely another important thing for many students. Whatever it may be, I wish everyone an enjoyable festive time with your family, good health and may all your wishes come true for 2021 and beyond!

~Ms Josephine

Best Writer of February

A Beautiful Day
By Zoey Lam (WTE4A)

Oh, how soft was the breeze I feel
I just can't believe what I saw was real
The wind is light
The sky is bright
The sea gleams
As I fell into a dream
The wind has blown
The light has shown
The frightfulness flew away
By this beautiful day!



Chinese New Year Word Search Puzzle

S B H I H D B Q V W X N V K H E Y T Z D	RAT
A E K D O W A I F P S E M Z I O D N D R	OX
Y Q K C H I N E S E N E W Y E A R V O A	ROOSTER
A J Z A C H N Y C D K R X S J P R B W G	HORSE
X N M X N W Q H M I R T K L G C H J N O	TIGER
Z U Z T K S U C K A G M D R A B B I T N	MONKEY
C M K N P U W R A O R H M R F I X G C U	BOAR
O O E U C P E U D D J S A N Y V U N G N	ZODIAC
Z W U X Y T M Z D T B O M Z O E O G I R	DOG
Z B J G S P O F E X E B D J X V K H Y P	SNAKE
H S W O O B W K M T S Y F S N P Q N G Y	RABBIT
S O O A V A X O U S S C G W P Z O O O I	RAM
C R B B S R U K X W A D G W D J T C F M	FORTUNE
M P B V S R A E N U T R O F W H B Z E N	DRAGON
G O Q A J T M O X Z M T L M Z Y A O E S	CHINESE NEW YEAR
H K C H R R D P B T B Z T Y A C Y D N X	
M L E T N Y E A A H L K Y W T C B I F E	
U F M A I C C G B B E S R O H S G A R P	
D D P R Y N S I I O M K P W I E B C Y F	
W X V N D J A R K T H T F M K Y C L J R	

Chinese New Year Maze



Other Writers of the Month

Adrian Fong – Chinese New Year (WTE6B)
Oskar Lam – Crocno (WTE4B)
Kirstie Pang – My Drawing (WTE4A)