

# Thrive at E-Smart

March 2021

## From the Headmaster's Desk

I want justice to be so pervasive that it will be taken for granted, just as injustice is taken for granted today.

- Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Dear parents,

Spring is here, but aside from the weather, things don't appear to have warmed up in our city, with the pandemic still tormenting a seemingly subdued and silenced population. Strolling the streets of Hong Kong, I could sense the angst and devastation of the people walking past. Their aching hearts and silent tears seem to echo my laments for the lives and freedoms lost.

The pandemic has taken the life of the mother of a very dear friend, and caused members of her extended family to be hospitalized with varied levels of pain and suffering. The most distressing thing for them was not panting for life with gas masks or the myriad ailments inflicted on their bodies but the isolation and deprivation of the opportunity to bid a proper farewell to their mother and grandmother. Conceivably, it is even more heart-wrenching to watch a loved one pass away online than not witnessing it as the sense of regret, helplessness and incompleteness would linger for a long time.

Fearful of cross infections, many families and friends shun gatherings, and the continued panic and detachment have bred more incidences of depression. According to a report in November 2020, compared with 2016 and 2017, the stress level of Hong Kong people increased by 28.3%, while prevalence of anxiety increased by 42.3% and the depression symptoms and unhappiness doubled during the COVID-19 outbreak. The increases in stress levels were significantly higher among older and less educated respondents as they are more vulnerable to the disease and have much less resource to cope with the financial impact of the virus.

Powerlessness therefore seems to prevail among Hong Kong people who have no choice but to acquiesce to the confusing, ever-changing and even conflicting social distancing measures of the authorities. For example, why are we allowed to have meals in groups of four but not to gather in public areas? Many of us take for granted the Government measures are appropriate as we don't have the professional knowledge to debate or even inquire, and the authorities have taken advantage of such innocence to take away many of our rights and freedoms unawares.

What is more, as we are self-absorbed, we pay little attention to any news other than the pandemic. We start to take the pervasive injustice for granted. For example, few of us would question the legitimacy of holding 47 democrats in prolonged custody and the marathon hearing simply for their release on bail. Fuelled by the pandemic, the pillars that sustain the core values of Hong Kong have crumpled much faster than many of us had envisaged.

As an ordinary citizen and modest educator approaching retirement, I have been advised by some friends to start taking the new norm for granted. Indeed, they take a lot of things for granted – the new political order, their wealth and their health concerns. Many of these affluent and aloof friends around my age suffer a number of chronic diseases – high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high sugar level, just to mention a few. They take their medication for granted, saying no one could escape from aging and dying anyway. But wait! I don't have any of these health issues, at least for now! By the same token, I refuse to take for granted the new script being written by the overt and shadow authorities in Hong Kong.

Arroyo's plea for justice has been deeply imprinted in my heart as I have learned to recite the following Bible verse since my youth. "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amen!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

## Stars of the Month

Cheung Hei Ching, Rosanne	PTWE2 Sat 10:00-11:00
Cheung Ka Lam, Pansy	IEK8A Sat 9:00-10:00
Cheung Lok Sum, Andrea	WTE8B Thur 4:30-5:30
Cheung Ngai Wai, Ryan	WTE6A Mon 6:30-7:30
Chu Man Pok, Man	WTE4B Sat 11:00-12:00
Fok Wing Hei, Haymond	WTE4B Sat 4:00-5:00
Hu Cheong Kai, James	IEK6A Sat 10:00-11:00
Hui Wing Yu, Vianne	WTE6B Sat 11:00-12:00
Lam Hui Ting, Jayden	PTWR Mon 3:30-4:30
Lam Kin Sing, Carson	IEK8B Sat 1:00-2:00
Lam Wang Hei, Aidan	WTE8B Sat 10:00-11:00
Lee Ho Ting, Alvin	IEKKA Tues 10:30-11:30
Leung Chung Hee, Marcus	WTE2A Sat 2:00-3:00
Li Wei Ting, Ryan	WTE4A Sat 11:00-12:00
Lui Hong Yu, Alexandra	IEKKB Tues 4:30-5:30
Man Kin Ching, Lester	IEK2A Sat 9:00-10:00
Ran Choi Yap, Rainbow	PTWE3 Sat 1:00-2:00
Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden	GWFF&WTE2B Sat 2:00-4:00
Viseu Luis	GWFF4B Sat 3:00-4:00

# Students' Page



March 2021

Spring is here! It is cool in the morning but warm in the afternoon; new leaves grow and flowers bloom. It is always a great sight to see butterflies and ladybugs flutter around bright-colored flowers. With the warmer weather, many people enjoy spending time outdoors or hiking up trails. If you are one of them, remember to maintain good personal hygiene and be mindful on your surroundings especially in crowded areas. Enjoy the fresh air and the beautiful nature! 😊 ~Ms. Michelle



## Annie

by Hannah Pow (WTE 2B)



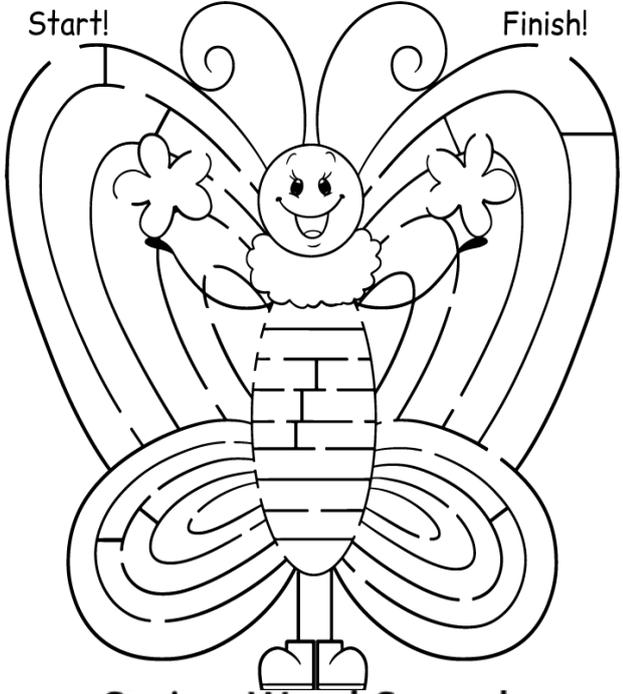
At nine o'clock, Annie went to bed. After she said goodnight to her mum, she could not sleep. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Then Annie went downstairs to look for her dad. Dad said, "Baby, go back to sleep."

Annie went upstairs and tried to sleep but failed. She looked out of the window and saw the starry sky. Suddenly, there were shooting stars and Annie quickly made a wish.



She wished she could sleep.



## Spring Word Search

B	O	E	A	S	T	E	R	T
U	L	S	P	R	I	N	G	R
T	O	B	C	B	Z	H	B	M
T	R	E	E	I	A	R	O	A
E	B	E	N	R	P	A	W	R
R	R	S	W	D	R	I	K	C
F	G	R	O	W	I	N	G	H
L	A	M	A	Y	L	R	J	I
Y	P	O	F	L	O	W	E	R

Find these words.

- Spring
- butterfly
- bees
- March
- growing
- bird
- April
- Easter
- rain
- May
- flower
- tree

Congratulations to the other  
Writers of the Month:

Brian Liu (WTE 4A) – A Drink  
James Hu (WTE 6B) – Summer Holiday  
Wins Ho (WTE 4A) – The best way to go!

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