

From the Headmaster's Desk

"All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

~ The Holy Bible 1 Peter 1:24-25

Dear parents,

Spring is here, and our city is filled with beautiful flowers in country parks, riverside gardens and podiums of housing estates. For the past few weeks, I've been to different places to view the blooming hydrangea, cherry blossoms, roses and golden trumpet trees. As all their blooming periods are limited to a few weeks, my friends and I always share information on where and when to go to catch the best moments.

Indeed, 'people are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades.' Therefore, flowers have often reminded me not of life's vitality but its fragility and finitude, exquisite but transient, blissful yet painful at times. Though enlightened and inspired by the beauty of flowers, my heart has often been tinged with an inexplicable feeling of sadness when I see flowers fade.

This grief of irreversible fading of life has indeed grown stronger as I get older and become acutely aware of the gradual degeneration of my physical strength despite my continued efforts to stay agile and healthy. Unfortunately, Hong Kong is too fast-paced and utilitarian a city to honour and respect seniors who are more often considered old-school, slow and even burdensome. This mentality is reflected in the lack of support for elders in varied facets of life.

First and foremost, if you are an elder who haven't saved enough money for retirement but have to survive on the meagre old age living allowance after fulfilling the stringent income and asset requirements, you can hardly live a dignified life with only three to four thousand dollars a month to spend. Relying on the government assistance is also deemed despicable. On the contrary, an elder who has her own home and car, and lives on the federal pension in Australia is far luckier for she will be getting a monthly allowance of three times or more of that of her Hong Kong counterpart, not to mention the many other benefits her pensioner status entails. I still remember on the pension day every fortnight, I would see streams of seniors wearing their best clothes chilling out in a neighbourhood shopping mall after collecting their pension, enjoying a sumptuous lunch or simply chatting with other seniors over an extravagant afternoon tea, feeling respected and absolutely entitled to all the privileges bestowed on them.

Conceivably, some might say the Australians have simply institutionalized financial support for elders by levying hefty taxes whereas Hong Kong has always promoted filial piety to encourage financial support for elderly parents from their adult children. In various research reports, however, more than half of Hong Kong teenagers and young adults expect their elderly parents to be financially independent. I remember once at a family dinner, my 33-year-old nephew, a single child, told his parents that few of his friends would give regular financial support to their parents, therefore my elder sister and brother-

in-law shouldn't take his monthly allowance for granted. I was dumbfounded upon hearing his self-righteous remark.

Financial support aside, most seniors need physical support due to their waning health. Priority seats on trains and buses are an international standard by which Hong Kong abides, but many young people apparently do not appreciate the respect for seniors that underlies this arrangement. More than once, I have reproved a child or a teenager who jostled for an empty seat beside which an elder was standing. In this respect, we do far worse than people in Beijing which I visited in 2017 with my grey-haired friend who was only 58 years old then. On many occasions, I was amused to see him being offered a seat on a crowded train, which sharply contrasted the callousness my dad endured on his journey to the dentist when he was 85 years old. To save me from driving in the heavy morning traffic to pick him up, he told me to take public transportation and meet him at the train station, but to my dismay, he ended up standing for more than 30 minutes on a crowded train before almost falling fainted and getting help from the MTR staff!

Flowers bloom and wither; so does human life that goes through a cycle of growth and inevitable degeneration. For this, I hope you can join me in nurturing your kids' love and respect for elders so that we can all age gracefully and live respectfully in our twilight years.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chan Clementine
Chan Yik Him, Brandon
Cheung Cheuk Ki, Emma
Chiu Hoi Ying, Bridget
Chow Si Lam, Scarlett
Fok Wing Hei, Haymond
Fung Nok Hei, Lucas
Huang Tsz Tung, Vicky
Hung Wing Laam, Ivana
Ji Zhao Hong, Kevin
Kam Wing Kam, Anderson
Ko Sum Yau, Zoe
Ko Sum Yee, Yuki
Lau Cheuk Long, Tyrus
Lau Ching Sum, Venia
Leung Sze Chun, Jayden
Leung Sze Hang, Caleb
Li Chin Ying, Jade
Li Sum Yuet, Cindy
Liu Ailey Wai-Si
Lo Megan
Man Kin Ching, Lester
Man Kin Ching, Lester
Mok Fong Ting, Fanny
Ng Cheuk Lam, Jolie
Wong Sze Wing, Wing
Wu Hiu Ting, Hilary
Xie Wen Xi, Jason
Yeung Ching Hei
Ying Siu, Elvis
Yu Wing Yan, Venus

WTE10B Sat 10:00-11:00
PTWP2 Fri 5:30-6:30
WTE1 Sat 10:00-11:00
WTE8B Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE2B Sat 3:00-4:00
WTE6B Sat 4:00-5:00
IEK2B Tue 4:30-5:30
PTWR Mon 4:30-5:30
IEK8B Sat 9:00-10:00
WTE2A Sat 3:00-4:00
WTE2B Thu 4:30-5:30
WTE4A Sat 11:00-12:00
PTWP1 Sat 10:00-11:00
WTE4A Thu 4:30-5:30
WTE6A Sat 11:00-12:00
IEK2B Sat 1:00-2:00
WTE2A Wed 4:30-5:30
IEK4A Thu 5:30-6:30
WTE2A Fri 4:30-5:30
WTE6B Sat 11:00-12:00
IEKKA Thu 10:30-11:30
WTE4B Sat 10:00-11:00
IEK4A Sat 9:00-10:00
IEK6B Sat 12:00-1:00
WTE6A Tue 6:30-7:30
WTE4B Wed 5:30-6:30
GWF4B Sat 2:00-3:00
GWF2B Sat 2:00-3:00
IEK4B Sat 2:00-3:00
IEKKA Sat 9:00-10:00
WTE2B Fri 5:30-6:30



Students' Page March 2023

March signifies the beginning of spring when the flowers bloom and birds chirp. When you look up the sky at night and see a full moon this month, you can say that you are looking at a **worm moon**. The worm moon is the final full moon of the winter season. It is called a 'worm' moon not because worms actually spawn on the moon, but rather, earthworms are thought to appear around this time as the ground begin to warm from winter.

Additionally, this month is also the season of Lent. It is the time of the year when some Christians prepare for Easter. Christians around the world consider Lent a time to reflect on what Jesus did for us.

Therefore, when you look at worm moon this month, you can also ponder on what Jesus's sacrifice means to us.



~Ms. Michelle

E-Smart's Writers of March:

- Minjae Kim 6B ~ *The Deserted Island of Possible
Doom and Deteriorating Insanity*
- Sophie Lai 6B ~ *Trees in 2150*
- Morris Li 2B ~ *Weather Report*
- Bryan Fung 4B ~ *Sharks*



Butterfly Maze



A Dog Called Sam by Draco Leung (4A)

Hello, I am a dog called Sam sitting in a Lam Tin pet shop. As a pet dog, I hope I can make other people happy. The shop is huge, which helps me to run and run around. I have much freedom here. I am looking forward to having owners in the future.

I live with two dogs called Kelly and Dick; three rabbits, Sally, Mary and Michael; plus two cats, Max and Vinci. We live delightfully. We always play ball games and have running races together. I always win! We share food with one another. Although we want to have owners, we want to live in this place forever.

When our performance is good, the pet shop owner will give snacks to us. They are extremely delicious!

Next time when I see you again, I hope I am at your home and wagging my tail to welcome you back home.

SPRING

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

BUGS	NEST	GROW
BIRDS	SEEDS	KITE
FROG	SPRING	LEAF
GREEN	TREE	WORM