

From the Headmaster's Desk

"A father's tears and fears are unseen, his love is unexpressed, but his care and protection remains a pillar of strength throughout our lives."

– Ama H. Vanniarachchy

Dear parents,

My friend's father passed away at a good old age last month, and as he was the eldest of 8 siblings, his younger brothers and sisters and many good old friends, some in crutches and wheelchairs, said farewell to him at the funeral service. Reading and listening to the eulogies filled with praises and love from church ministers and family members, I could sense that my friend's father was probably a loving and generous man, though like most fathers, he wasn't good at expressing his love in words.

At the lunch following the cremation service, my friend jokingly said he did wonder at one point during the pastor's sermon if the deceased man lying in the casket was indeed his father. Apparently, my friend has a much more intimate understanding of his father's life and personality than the pastor, his shortcomings in particular. In his view, the eulogies did seem to sanctify his father, but he was a loving father overall, and his mother has always taught him to respect his father. Indeed, no one is perfect, and a father doesn't need to be perfect to be loved and remembered by his children.

Understandably, a child's perception of the father is largely influenced by the mother who generally spends more time with her young children. Although gender role stereotypes have been slowly changing, the father is still expected to be the breadwinner, work long hours without complaint and keep all his fears and tears to himself. At home, the father is usually quieter than the mother, and therefore she plays a pivotal role in shaping the views of her children about a 'busy' or even 'absent' father.

The absent father phenomenon is largely caused by the extreme financial and work stress in Hong Kong. It is not uncommon for men to spend 10 hours or more at work every day. To make ends meet, some men even take on one or more part-time jobs. Such fathers don't even have enough time to sleep, let alone spend time with their young children. In their children's eyes, the father could be working hard to provide for the family or simply a workaholic who cares about work much more than his family. A loving wife will remind her children to appreciate their father's sacrifice rather than whine about his absence, but a dissatisfying marriage could often lead the mother to belittle the father's contribution, which not only adversely affects the father-child relationship but also jeopardizes the marriage.

A good friend, who is now divorced, used to work 12 to 14 hours a day when he started his business about 20 years ago. He slept less than 6 hours a day, got up at 7 in the morning so that he could drive his children to school before going to his office. He often worked in the office past the family dinnertime, and on days when he could make it back to his home earlier, say 8pm, he would still dine alone as his wife insisted on having dinner with her children before 7pm for better health. Worse, his wife often complained that she was like a single parent as she had to attend most of the parents' meetings and school functions alone. This poor father worked hard but didn't feel loved or respected at home, so it was heartrending but unsurprising that he chose to leave the family when the children started attending university.

As we celebrate Father's Day this month, I hope you can help your children recognize the quiet contribution of the father at your home. Mothers, do not demean the father even if your relationship is far from satisfactory. Instead, amplify his provision and protection to enhance the emotional wellbeing of your children and attain a happier marriage.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chan Lok Yee, Carina
Chan Yik Him, Brandon
Chau Yui Tin, Isaac
Cheng Chun Hei, Marcus
Chiu Cheuk Kit, Jacky
Choi Ho Lam, Jack
Chong Pui Chi, Gigi
Chow Lok Ki, Makis
Gong Ka Yi, Rainie
Ha Hang Yu, Rachel
Hui Martha
Ip Yan Tung, Ella
Lau Huen Yu, Summy
Li Chin Ying, Jade
Li Sheung Wing, Bernice
Li Tsz Wai, Ethan
Ling Yan Ho
Lui Hong Yu, Alexandra
Man Kin Ching, Lester
Ng Chi Yin, Andy
Ng Tsz Wing, Elsa
Poon Ka Ki, Andrew
Poon Ka Ki, Andrew
Ren Zi Qing, Annie
Siu Charlotte
Siu Scarlett
Wen Pui Yuk, Kristy
Xie Wen Xi, Jason
Yau Hok Yan, Holly

WTE4A Sat 3:00-4:00
WTE2B Sat 10:00-11:00
PTW1 Sat 10:00-11:00
IEK8A Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE4A Wed 4:30-5:30
IEK2A Sat 9:00-10:00
WTE4B Sat 10:00-11:00
IEK4B Sat 1:00-2:00
GWF2A Fri 5:30-6:30
WTE6B Sat 3:00-4:00
GWF4A Sat 1:00-2:00
IEK2B Wed 5:30-6:30
WTE10B Sat 11:00-12:00
IEK6A Thu 5:30-6:30
WTE10B Thu 6:30-7:30
WTE8A Sat 11:00-12:00
WTE4A Fri 4:30-5:30
WTE2A Fri 6:30-7:30
GWF6B Sat 2:00-3:00
GWF4B Sat 2:00-3:00
GWF4B Sat 9:00-10:00
GWF9B Wed 6:30-7:30
IEK8B Sat 12:00-1:00
WTE2B Fri 4:30-5:30
WTE2B Sat 12:00-1:00
PTWP3 Sat 10:00-11:00
IEK4A Sat 12:00-1:00
WTE2A Sat 1:00-2:00
WTE4B Thu 4:30-5:30

Happy June everyone, and welcome to summer!

The weather is heating up, and it is very tempting to stay indoors all the time and enjoy air conditioning, doing homework and playing computer games. While playing online games is fun and relaxing, those activities do not help our brains relax. We all need a little balance, and this month is a fantastic time to go out and enjoy nature, like having a day at the beach or swimming pool. Hong Kong is world famous for its country parks, and many of the outdoor attractions are free of charge and within easy access by public transport. Perhaps you can plan an outing, pack a picnic and have a little adventure with your family to celebrate Father's Day.

~ Ms Carola

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WRITERS OF JUNE:

Best Writer: Kayla Cheng (WTE6A) – Recycling

Others writers: Higgs So (WTE8B) – What Happened?; Jacky Chiu (WTE4A) Chocolate; Rianna Ho (WTE4A) First Flight; Yanie Li (WTE8B) – Should Museums be Free?; Bernice Li (WTE10B) Though My Eyes; Rachel Ha (WTE6B) – How to Draw a Capybara; Ling Yan Ho (WTE4A) What Paul Likes to Do?



Recycling – By Kayla Cheng (WTE6A)

Looking back, would you think the world has become better, or worse? In 2025, 50 years ago, there was the iPhone 16 which tells you how much technology has improved over the years. But what about the most important work, recycling? People took off the caps, labels, staples and cleaned thoroughly before putting items in a recycling bin. But what about now?

Nowadays, you can just hand it to a robot and it will do all the tedious tasks for you then send it off to recycle. There are even more robots picking up the litter. Because it is easy to recycle, people are better at recycling and does it more often, but on the other side, more people tend to litter as the robots will pick it up and they can leave without any consequences.

As for the alternative of plastic items like plastic bags, plastic containers and plastic straws, if you remember, in 2025, the alternative was to use paper ones instead. But now, people has found a way to coat the paper with a substance that makes it non soggy. Because creating plastic causes pollution, we try our best to encourage citizens to use paper bags and other paper items. The bags are more durable, so we believe it is sufficient before we can find an eco-friendly way to produce plastic-like materials.

Pollution is still a problem but will it ever not be? Looking at everything that has changed, the changes don't seem super big. They are mostly just products of new technology like robots and such. But what do you think? Has the environment improved?

FATHER'S DAY MISSING LETTERS IN WORDS

Write the missing letters in the boxes to complete the Father's Day vocabulary.

f_th_r

l_tt_r

g_ft

gr_ndf_th_r

m_ss_g_

c_rd

l_v_

c_k_

ch_c_l_t_

h_g

k_ss

fl_w_rs

b_rb_c_

w_tch

sh_s

br_kf_st

d_ght_r

s_n

b_by

h_m_

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GIFTS FOR DAD

Aftershave
Beer
Belt
Book
Card
Chocolate
Compass
Cuff Links

Golf Balls
Grilling Tools
Hat
Keyring
Mouse Pad
Mug
Pen
Phone Case

Pocket Knife
Power Tools
Razor
Slippers
Socks
Tie
Wallet
Watch

