

From the Headmaster's Desk

"When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about." — Haruki Murakami, Kafka on the Shore

Dear parents,

We have been plagued by a number of tropical storms over the past few months, and Ragasa, one of the strongest superstorms in recent years, caused the city to halt for more than 30 hours and its residents to scramble for food and supplies in food stores and supermarkets. After the widespread devastation caused by Mangkhut in 2018, we have become better prepared for natural disasters, resulting in less physical damage and fewer casualties.

In the midst of the storm, most of us took heed of the repeated warnings given by the authorities to stay indoors and away from the seaside. Yet, a few parents have chosen to risk their lives to behold the gigantic waves at the seashore with their young children, only to be swept away by some overpowering breakers. Fortunately, they got rescued, so no one died in the latest storm.

Indeed, natural disasters like tropical storms are predictable and transitory, and we can make extensive preparations to protect ourselves and repair any physical damage afterward. However, few of us prepare our children for the emotional storms in life which could cause lasting and even irreparable damage that may traumatize our children for the rest of their lives. Worse, unlike natural storms, some emotional storms are capricious and enduring, and some deep-seated emotional ordeals could go into hiding rather than totally vanish like natural disasters, and crush our children when an incident triggers some negative emotions.

How then can we prepare our kids for some unavoidable storms in life? Most parents would feel that once our kids achieve academic success, a rosy future awaits them, and they will be away from harm. To give our kids a head start, some of us sign them up for language and skills training when they are barely 6 months old. Most kids start attending school when they are two, and we demand that they devote all their time to studies, so they have never learned to do chores at home or acquire other basic life skills. Unfortunately, not all kids are cut out for academic pursuit. What I often see in my classroom of junior primary school students is the pervasive boredom and apathy, and their readiness to be fed and regurgitate rather than to think or create on their own.

You may think such lassitude has nothing to do with their ability to wear out emotional storms in life. Local research results, however, have proven otherwise. In the recently

released Hong Kong School Children Happiness & Life Worth Living Indices, "regression analysis shows that LIFE (Love, Insight, Fortitude & Engagement) education greatly benefits happiness and a student's sense of self-worth, and is associated with less bullying. Pressure, whether from study or from activities, undermines happiness and a student's sense that life is worth living."

Such LIFE education is indeed fundamental and should not be left entirely in the hands of school teachers. Our kids need to know failing a test or exam isn't the end of the world as they are still treasured and loved by their parents. They must learn some self-care skills at home and manage their time and money so that they won't squander their limited resources. They must know they are valuable by who they are not what they have achieved. When they fail, they need to see that you are there to walk with them, which will surely reinforce their fortitude.

Let's be our children's mentors rather than faultfinders, and help them overcome their storms in life.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chau Yui Tin, Isaac	PTW3 Sat 10:00-11:00
Chen Kam Hon, Tony	WTE4B Sat 1:00-2:00
Cheng Chun Hei, Marcus	IEK10B Sat 11:00-12:00
Chow Sze Ki, Stephanie	PTWE3 Sat 5:00-6:00
Choy Yat Hin, Owen	WTE4A Sat 3:00-4:00
Ho Hiu Yan, Tiffany	WTE8A Sat 4:00-5:00
Huang Kam San, Joel	WTE6B Sat 3:00-4:00
Hui Harriet	GWTF2B Thu 4:30-5:30
Hung King Him, Jayden	WTE6B Wed 4:30-5:30
Kan Pui Yui, Aiden	PTWE1 Sat 10:00-11:00
Ko Sum Yau, Zoe	IEK8A Sat 12:00-1:00
Lai Hong Ting, Natalie	WTE8A Sat 11:00-12:00
Lai Yi Tung, Crystal	WTE2A Sat 10:00-11:00
Lam Erica	WTE2A Sat 12:00-1:00
Lau Ching Sum, Venia	IEK10A Sat 9:00-10:00
Lau Tsz Fung	WTE6B Sat 11:00-12:00
Leung Nga Man, Ella	WTE6A Sat 10:00-11:00
Li Sheung Wing, Bernice	WTE10A Thu 6:30-7:30
Li Tsz Hin	GWFF9B Tue 5:30-6:30
Ling Yan Ho	WTE6B Fri 4:30-5:30
Lo Herman	IEK2A Wed 5:30-6:30
Man Kin Ching, Lester	GWFF6A Sat 2:00-3:00
Ng Cheuk Lam, Jolie	WTE10B Tue 6:30-7:30
Ng Tsz Wing, Elsa	WTE4A Sat 10:00-11:00
Poon Ka Ki, Andrew	GWFF9A Wed 6:30-7:30
Shek Cheuk Ting, Cherry	GWFF6B Sat 1:00-2:00
Tang Sze Wai, Crystal	IEK4A Sat 1:00-2:00
Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden	WTE6A Sat 3:00-4:00
Yeung Hoi Ching, Eunice	IEK4B Sat 9:00-10:00
Yip Wing Sum, Sophia	GWFF4B Fri 5:30-6:30
Yu Man Him, Nico	WTE4A Thu 4:30-5:30



This October is truly a memorable one as we celebrate two very special holidays – the Mid-Autumn festival and the period of Thanksgiving (October 13th for Canada and the November 27th for the United States). To me, both of these festivals commemorate a time when family gathers around to offer appreciation for each other. These celebrations also serve as a reminder that, beyond the fruitful outcomes, we should always give thanks to the ones who believed in us and were there to offer help in the process. With a grateful heart, let us show love and appreciation for our family and friends in the month of October.

Sending you all Blessings and Hugs,
Ms Heidi

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WRITERS OF OCTOBER:

Best Writer: Issac Wong (10A) – What does “home” mean to you?

Others writers: Harriet Hui (2A) – A visit to Hong Kong Disneyland; Nick Tsai (4A) – A Robot Pet; Una Fung (4A) – Meeting a Famous Person; Rianna Ho (6B) – To Fly in a Spaceship; Kelvin Leung (8A) – Playing Games

What Does “Home” Mean To You? – By Issac Wong (WTE10A)



What is a home? Is home something that is built with large machinery and noisy tools? Is home a place to find comfort in? Is home a way for landlords to increase the rent and earn profits? Is home a place you come back to after a long day? To me, a home is many of these things, but a home is so much more than that. A home is a place of stability. It makes you physically safe by having a place to stay, beyond the dangers of a gloomy night. It protects you from the dangers of the calamities outside. When heavy rain comes, there is a roof above your head; snow and hail won't break through the security of your home and harm you.

A home allows for mental stability too. You know you won't have to suffer through the night on a bench. You know that nobody is going to sneak upon you in the middle of the night. You know that you will always have a place to come back to even in the worst times. It is comfort to you in a mental sense. Think about the memories you have gained; perhaps it is that of your childhood, inviting your friends over to play, learning how to play a sport for the first time, or discovering something that will interest you for the rest of your life.

These are all the things that happen inside a home. A home holds precious memories for you, which bring you nostalgia. That is what a home is all about.

THANKSGIVING I SPY

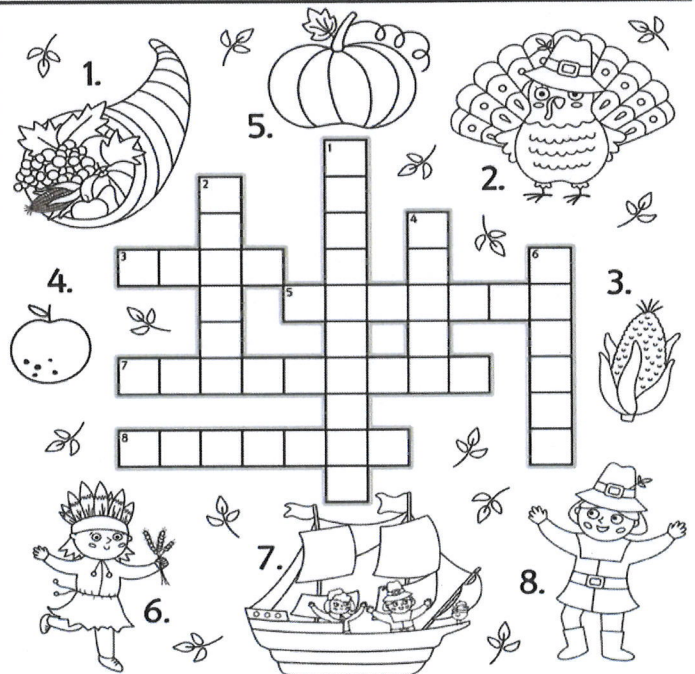


Count how many of each image you see and write the correct number below.



THANKSGIVING

— crossword puzzle —



1.Cornucopia 2.Turkey 3.Corn 4.Apple
5.Pumpkin 6.Indian 7.Mayflower 8.Pilgrim