

From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear Parents,

At E-Smart, we work hard to keep our classrooms safe and positive while helping kids learn to treat each other with respect. But as we all know, accidents sometimes happen, kids bicker, and things occasionally get out of hand. When they do, our biggest goal isn't to hand out blame – it is to encourage our students to take responsibility, learn from it, and make things right.

How we guide them through these moments depends heavily on the partnership between school and home. The way parents interact with the school definitely has an impact on how students perceive the world and behave accordingly. Apparently, while teachers have evolved from being authoritative to be more empathetic, parenting styles have also changed over the years. Looking back at my own childhood, two very different experiences with my parents taught me a lasting lesson about what it truly means to be fair and accountable.

When I was about nine, a playground argument broke out between my friends and another group. Being the leader of our pack, I ended up tackling another boy who pushed me, causing a minor cut on his arm. Since we lived in the same neighbourhood, his mother came straight to my house to tell on me. The second my mother heard the complaint, she spanked me right then and there in front of the visitor. There was no discussion, no trial, and no chance for me to explain or apologize. The other parent left satisfied. On the surface, my mother looked highly responsible, but the actual conflict wasn't resolved. In my young eyes, she was strict, but not reasonable.

On the flip side, I remember my father handling a childhood fight very differently when I was barely three. He calmly told the other parent he would deal with it privately. Once they left, he sat me down and asked for my side of the story. He listened and realized I had been provoked. He didn't punish me; instead, he reminded me to control my emotions. My dad didn't even ask me to apologize, but because he was so reasonable, I gladly would have done it just out of respect for him.

Today, we see a very different phenomenon. Instead of old-school discipline, there can sometimes be a slide into over-protective parenting – where the instinct is to make assumptions, protect one's own child at all costs, and point fingers before hearing the full story. As educators, we trust that reasonable parents will partner with us, pause, and listen to all perspectives rather than jumping to conclusions. It brings up a great question for all of us: **Do we want our kids to take responsibility for their behaviour, or simply learn to blame others?**

We saw a beautiful example of real accountability a few weeks ago. After a minor, accidental classroom dispute over some stationery, a student chose to take the high road. He

wrote an incredibly honest, mature apology letter. He didn't hide the facts – he explained that he was provoked and trying to protect his work – but he still had the integrity to write, "I sincerely apologize to you. I am sorry, please forgive me."

I highly applaud this student. By owning his reaction despite the provocation, he showed a maturity that will take him very far in life. Kudos to his family for some truly excellent parenting!

Warm regards,



Clive Chan

在我們學校，我們努力維持安全及正面的課堂環境，同時讓孩子學習互相尊重。但意外總會發生，孩子們會發生爭執，偶爾事情也會失控。當這些情況發生時，我們最大的目標不是去責怪誰，而是鼓勵學生承擔責任、從中汲取教訓，改過遷善。

我們如何引导孩子度過這些關鍵時刻，很大程度上取決於家校合作。家長與校方的互動方式，無疑對學生看待世界及相應的行為表現具有深遠的影響。顯而易見的是，當教師已從絕對的權威演變成更具同理心時，教養方式在這些年來也有所轉變。回想我自己的童年，父母處理我與他人衝突的兩種截然不同的方式，給了我一個深刻且受用至今的啟示，讓我明白甚麼是公平與承擔。

大約在我九歲那年，我的朋友們和另一群孩子在遊樂場發生了爭執。作為我們這群朋友的領頭人，我最終把推撞我的一個男孩摔倒在地，令他的手臂輕微擦傷。因為我們住在同一個社區，他的媽媽直接找上我家來告狀。我母親一聽到投訴，立刻當着客人的面打了我一頓。當時沒有討論、沒有審判，也沒有讓我解釋或道歉的機會，結果對方的家長滿意地離開了。表面上，我母親看起來非常負責任，但實際的衝突並沒有解決。在我幼小的眼裏，她很嚴厲，但並不講理。

另一方面，我記得在我僅僅三歲時，我父親處理一場孩童衝突的方式卻截然不同。他冷靜地告訴對方的家長，他會私下處理這件事。等對方離開後，他讓我坐下來，詢問我這邊的版本。他耐心地聆聽，並意識到我是被挑釁的。他沒有懲罰我；相反地，他叮囑我要控制自己的情緒，我父親甚至沒有要求我道歉，但正因為他是如此通情達理，即使僅憑對他的尊重，我當時也會心甘情願地去道歉。

反觀今日，我們看到了一個非常不同的現象。相比於傳統的嚴厲管教，現在有時會傾向於「過度保護」的教養——家長的本能往往是作出假設、不惜一切代價保護自己的孩子，並在了解事情的全貌之前將矛頭指向他人。作為教育工作者，我們相信理性的家長會與我們攜手合作，停下來傾聽各方觀點，而不是急於莽下結論。這無疑給我們所有人帶來了一個深刻的反思：我們到底希望孩子學會對自己的行為負責，還是僅僅學會指責他人？

就在幾個星期前，我們看到了一個展現真正承擔責任的優良示範。在一場因文具引起的課堂輕微意外糾紛後，一位學生選擇了高尚的做法。他寫了一封令人感動、既誠實又成熟的道歉信。他沒有隱瞞事實——他解釋說自己當時受到挑釁，並只是試圖保護自己的功課——但他仍然展現了擔當，寫道：「因為當天是你意圖用你的原子筆弄傷我先，所以我強行奪去你的原子筆。後來，因為你在我工作紙上亂畫，不過我當時只是想弄開你的手以防你一直畫下去，但我卻不小心弄傷了你。所以我向你誠心道歉，對不起，請你原諒。」

我高度讚賞這名學生。儘管面對挑釁，他依然為自己的反應承擔責任，此等成熟心智將會讓他終身受用。此外，更要向他優秀的家庭教育致敬！

Students' Page July 2026

It's July! We're halfway through the year and, more importantly, the summer holidays are about to start! It is a chance to relax after a busy school year. July has some special days to help you unwind. July 1st is already a public holiday, but did you know it is also International Joke Day? Established in 1994, the aim of Joke Day was to bring happiness to people and encourage laughing. Research has revealed that laughing is good for your health; one minute of laughing has the same health benefits for your heart as ten minutes on a rowing machine. Laughing can also help boost your immune system, diffuse anger, and, most importantly, make you feel happy. So, why not share a joke or two with your family and friends to improve their health!

14th July is Pandemonium Day. This chaotic-sounding day is when you break your normal routine and do something a little bit crazy, or completely out of character. The purpose of this holiday is to relieve stress from your day-to-day tasks.

30th July is International Friendship Day, a day intended to bring together the peoples of the world and inspire peace between countries and cultures. It is a day to go out hiking, have picnics, and meet new people – a slow-paced, relaxing day.

These are just three days in July that you can use to help relieve stress and improve mental health, surely a great way to start a summer holiday! Keep positive, keep happy, and have a wonderful holiday! ~ Mr Matthew

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WRITERS OF JULY:

Best Writer: Lau Tsz Fung (6B) – A Poem (White)

Others writers: Harriet Hui (2A) If I Am 106 Years Old; Tony Chen (4B) The First Time I Did Something!; Higgs So (8A) Are Digital Messages Changing the Way We Write?; Perseue Wong (4A) A Day At The Beach; Li Tsz Hin (8B) Should Humans Kill Other Animals For Food?

A Poem (White) – By Lau Tsz Fung (6B)

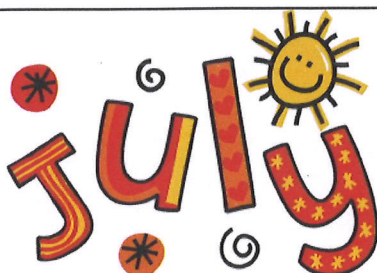
White flows peacefully in the sky,
a river passing through the galaxy.
White is so lonely,
as empty as my tummy.
White is a light of hope,
where darkness fades away.
White is my favourite colour,
clam and delightful.



☆☆☆ Stars of the Month ☆☆☆

Au Ming Hin, Steve	WTE4A Sat 3:00-4:00
Chan Wang Hei, Ethan	WTE2A Fri 4:30-5:30
Cheng Chun Hei, Marcus	IEK10B Sat 11:00-12:00
Choi Ho Lam, Jack	IEK4B Sat 9:00-10:00
Chow Tsz Hei, Hayley	WTE6B Sat 3:00-4:00
Hung Ling To, Allen	WTE4B Sat 10:00-11:00
Hung Ling To, Allen	GWF4B Fri 5:30-6:30
Ko Sum Yau, Zoe	WTE8B Sat 11:00-12:00
Kwan Tsz Ching, Eleanor	WTE4B Fri 6:30-7:30
Lam Pak Yin, Lester	IEK4A Sat 1:00-2:00
Lau Tsz Fung	WTE6B Sat 11:00-12:00
Lui Hong Lam, Caitlyn	WTE6A Sat 10:00-11:00
Man Kin Ching, Lester	GWF6A Sat 2:00-3:00
Ng Chi Yin, Andy	GWF4A Sat 2:00-3:00
Poon Tsz Mak, Wheatley	IEK2A Thu 5:30-6:30
Poon Wan Kiu, Hazel	WTE2A Sat 10:00-11:00
Tou Ka Ying, Lisa	WTE2A Sat 12:00-1:00
Wat Sin Sze, Celia	WTE2B Fri 5:30-6:30
Woo Wai Kiu, QQ	WTE4A Fri 5:30-6:30
Yam Chi Him, Randy	GWF6B Sat 1:00-2:00
Yeung Ching Hei, Daniel	WTE6B Fri 4:30-5:30
Yip Yu Shing, Bernie	IEK6B Sat 12:00-1:00

BARBECUE
BEACH
COOKOUT
FIRECRACKER
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FLIP FLOPS
FOURTH
FREEDOM
HEAT
HIKING
ICE CREAM
INDEPENDENCE
LEMONADE
OUTDOOR
PARADE
PARK
PATRIOTIC
S'MORES
SUMMER
SUNBURN
SUNSCREEN
SUNSHINE
SWIMMING
TRAVEL
WATERMELON
WATERPARK



WORD SEARCH DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 8 differences between these two pictures?

