

Messages from Principal

2018_My Hope at the Commencement of a New School Year

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My Hope at the Commencement of a New School Year

Alan Ping-yan CHOW

3 September 2018

Dear Fellow Colleagues, Students, Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to school after a long holiday! Hope that you all have enjoyed your summer vacation and bringing more sunlight to us!

As presented in the Parents' Meeting on 1 September and the First Assembly for all students at the beginning of the new school year on 3 September, I shared a story of a boy who successfully turned his dream into action so as to let them know that a strong and positive school culture can start from a good will and it depends on how well the school and the people within can actualize their vision and put it into workable and doable action.

The father of the boy gave him an old T-shirt and asked him to sell it for money. In the process, the boy had made use of his "Wisdom, Faith and Love" and completed his tasks one by one. Of course, in the end, the boy could sell all the T-shirts at very good prices.

When the boy grew up, he successfully developed his endeavor, shared his resources to create a better world where he could bring "Hope" to all under-privileged people who had once lost their faith and confidence. I quoted Joel A. Barker's words to sum up the boy's experience:

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.”

And in my elaboration of what education for is, I explained it with the following:

“The core of education is to transmit culture and develop people. The core business of school education is the sustainability of the quality of teaching and learning, and the talent development of students!”

The main theme of my presentation is about “Character Building for the Future” and the focus of this school year is to let students learn what “Hope”, being one of the 24 character strengths, can bring to them. In particular, our school serves:

“To nurture students as world citizens who are aspirated, self-confident, caring for the community and with international perspectives”!

To conclude my presentation, I put forward some quotes that we can better interpret what “Hope” really means to us. They include:

- “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence...” by Helen Keller.
- “Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love...” by Bradley Whitford.
- “Stay positive and happy. Work hard and don't give up hope. Be open to criticism and keep learning. Surround yourself with happy, warm and genuine people...” by Tena Desae.
- “A good teacher can inspire HOPE, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning...” by Brad Henry.

If students, teachers and parents do want to put “Hope” into action, I suggest that we can refer to the 4 character strengths that Aristotle had strongly recommended. They are: “Courage, Justice, Temperance and Prudence”. For further reflection, if we want to realize our dream, first, do we have the necessary “Courage” to put theories into practices, and take our first step forward? Second, when we start our action plan, do we know how the principle of “Justice” can help to distinguish what actions are right or wrong and whether or not we are compliance to the required rules and regulations? Third, if the principle of “Temperance” is applied, do we know how to do self-management, monitor its progress and ensure that the plan is on the right track? And last, considering the principle of “Prudence”, do we need to set up a

quality assurance system so that we can assure that what results we expected can be under well controlled and monitored?

Thanksgiving to our School Sponsoring Body and the core personnel, especially special thanks should go to our Supervisor Dr. Lee and all members of the School Management Committee, who are always very supportive to us and who have given much invaluable advice and numerous resources to further develop our school. It is hoped that our school as the beacons of light can continuously improve and be developed from good to great, from developing to more developed, and from above standard to a “Centre of Excellence”. We also hope that good practices that were created within these years can form our unique “Specialist” model which can be shared with others and shed light to our education community in future!

Your continuous and kind support to us in the past, the present and the future is always appreciated!
Please accept our wholehearted gratitude to all of you! Thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Lee', written in a cursive style.