

From the Desk of the Executive Head...

15-6-2021

Dear PEPPS Community

The intention of this letter is to be reassuring and encouraging as we move into uncertain times.

I start by offering prayer for all those infected and affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. I am sure we are all feeling it touching our homes more and more. Again, we give thanks to those medical frontline workers who tirelessly work to care for those suffering. The challenge of staying positive and emotionally strong for ourselves and our children cannot be underestimated. I pray for God's strength and comfort for us all.

Philippians 4:6-7 - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

We are living in a distinctly unclear period. As we look to the future, we are powerless to provide certainty or definite assurances. At times like this, I am humbled to my knees and I ask God's protective hand over our community.



My assurance to PEPPS families is that **we shall prioritise safety**. Each campus may make different arrangements based on their specific circumstances. PEPPS does prioritise on-campus teaching as far as possible. That said, when called for, our teaching team and families are able to bridge a small gap by working online.

Academic lessons will continue (on-campus or online, if necessary) until our breakup day of **17 June**. **We shall also re-open on 13 July** as planned. If it is unsafe, or forbidden, for us to return to campus, we shall continue online. Let us hope and pray that it does not come to that.



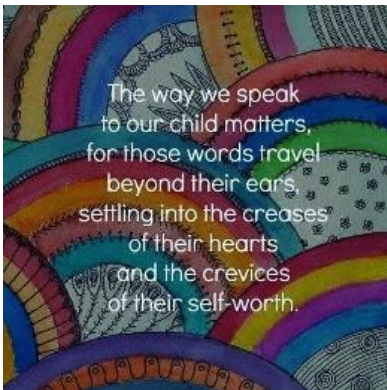
Let us take a moment to be grateful for our blessings. Many government schools still do not have their full cohorts coming to school every day and just when primary schools are about to fully open this third wave has come to risk education for most children in our country again. I am thankful that PEPPS pupils have been able to benefit from face to face classes for the majority of this year.

This week, I came across a podcast that spoke of technology as a gift from God, in that it has been invented by the magnificence of the human mind, which is God's creation. Another blessing that PEPPS enjoys is the privilege of having technological platforms and know-how which allow us to continue to provide meaningful and excellent education even during adverse times.



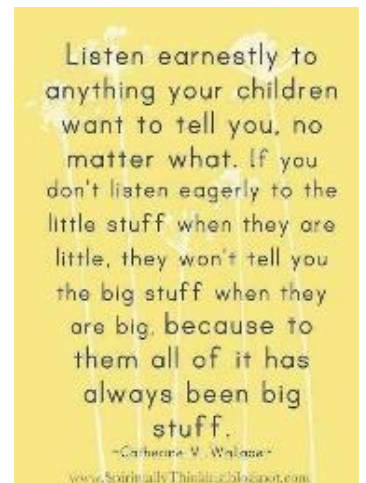
PEPPS does all it can to set children up for success educationally. Our philosophy is one of encouraging critical and creative thinking. This will enable our pupils to take their place as tomorrow's leaders in the 4th industrial revolution. We ask our parents to take our hands as we increasingly ask your children to research information and then to formulate their own considered opinions on various facts, situations, current events, environmental concerns and philosophical debates.

It is a great educational leap to move from simply learning new work as it is presented, to empowering a young person to consider the new information that they have learned through their personal critical filter. Another challenging step for our pupils is to be able to coherently present their findings and ideas in a logical manner that is aesthetically pleasing. PEPPS is so proud when we see how independently our pupils are able to think in comparison to many of their peers. This **INDEPENDENT THINKING is our differentiating goal.**



At home, we encourage families to ask the children in the home about their hopes, their dreams, their opinions and their outlooks. A child who believes that what they think adds value will become an adult who is confident in the world and not vulnerable to the scourges of bullying, discrimination and abuse. It is essential that we empower children to have self-worth.

Obviously, I am not advocating for raising children who always get their own way and are indulged in all of the expectations. Children cannot control the home. The adults in the home still need to be the leaders and decision-makers. What I am asking is that attention and time are given to the children in the home so that they can practise their thinking abilities within the safety of the family.



I stress as I have before, that emotionally healthy children and adults function most successfully in society and we, as adults, are obligated to offer emotionally regulated homes to our children so that they always know that if the world is cruel or overwhelming, they have a safe place to land among loving adults.



I came across this YouTube link which is about 12 minutes long. It speaks about the statistical advantage that children are given, to be better contributors to society, if they are read to or spend time recreationally reading in the home. In addition, if their parents/caregivers give them meaningful attention and if regular routines (especially bedtimes) are set up in the home they are more likely to thrive. Children who have adults who show an interest in what the child has done at school are statistically more successful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Dv2Hdf5TRg>

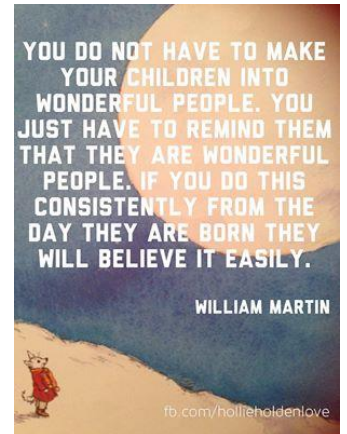
As I consider us giving attention to children, I wonder to what extent each of us should give consideration to how much time we spend with our eyes on a screen rather than making contact with our children. Excellent parenting does require the commitment to give undivided attention to our children regularly. I know this can be a challenge in our modern world, but it is necessary.

Imagine

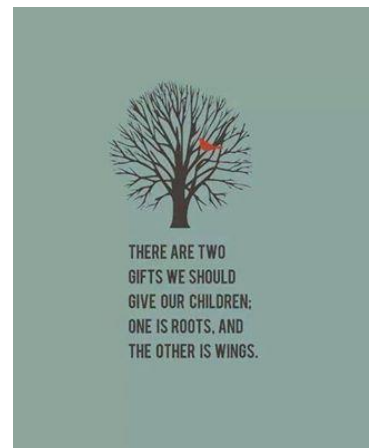
*who you want your
kids to become*

Be that.

Remember that children follow our behaviours, so we are obligated to set an admirable example. Let us adults watch how we treat others and the life choices that we make.



I am sure that we all want to see our children succeed. At PEPPS we will continue to do our best to set our pupils up for success in an uncertain future. I know that our parents and caregivers will further reinforce our desire to raise children into adults who are emotionally regulated and who are able to formulate original thoughts in a constructive way. These are the kind of people that our world needs now.



Thank you for your continued support of PEPPS. I hope that this letter has brought some calm into your mind and inspired you all to work towards a brighter tomorrow for all.

Yours in healthy and safe education

Annabel Roberts

PEPPS Executive Head

