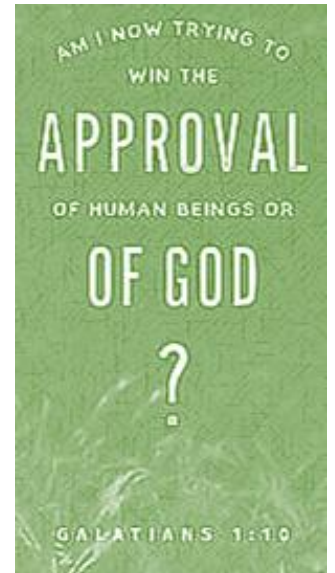


26-8-2022

Dear PEPPS Community

Galatians 1:10 'Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings or of God?'

Galatians 1:10 reminds us that we should be living for the approval of God and not for the approval of man. Of course, many of us have subtly different views on what God would approve of but I believe we can agree that we were **all sent to love one another**. Love involves being kind and compassionate to everyone – not just those who look like us, behave like us, worship like us etc. **We are all part of God's magnificent creation!**



Child shaming looks like:

Put downs: "Do you have to eat like a little piggy?"
Moralising: "That's mean! Good boys don't do that."
Age based: "You are four now! You're not a baby."
Gender based: "You're behaving like a girl."
Comparison: "You don't see your sister doing that do you?"
Competency: "Are you ever going to learn?"
Responsibility for adult emotions: "You make me so angry; and you make your father mad too."

Inspired by Elizabeth Earnshaw's meme • Artist: Christine Karron

I am convinced that we can also all agree that there is no space in God's vocabulary for shaming and belittling one another. Shaming is any action or words that make a person feel that the essence of themselves is not good enough.

This should ensure that we all agree that bullying would not be accepted by God. Therefore, **we cannot tolerate bullying** either.

We have to endeavour to ensure a **feeling of belonging** for our children. **Let us honour the humanity of our precious children!**

Every human you encounter is the embodiment of The Almighty. Let that sink in! Do we treat each human that we meet this way, or do we spend a great deal of our energy judging people who are different from us, or who make different choices in their lives to us, as somehow lesser? They cannot be lesser, because they are equally God's children. **Everyone is equally valuable.**

This week I have been speaking to pupils about being their authentic selves. My appeal to all parents and caregivers is that you **love your child for who they authentically are** and not only offer approval if they behave in a way that serves your ego and plans for their lives.

Value your child for being themselves. Seek to **appreciate their unique gifts and special talents**. **Unconditional love from one's parents is one of the greatest predictors of adult success**. I am not suggesting that children can do exactly what they want and that poor behaviour should not be met with consequences. I am advocating for **discipline with dignity** and an **open heart to value the essence of the child that God has given you**.

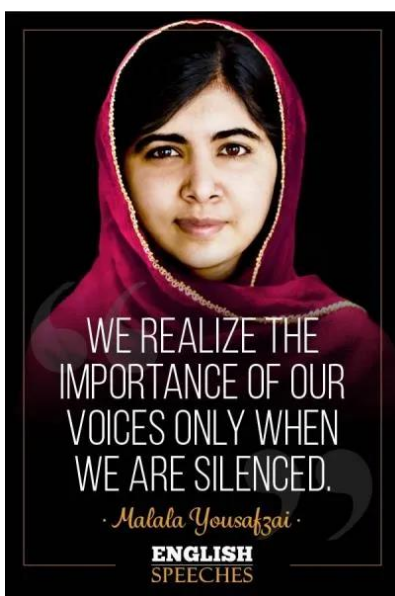
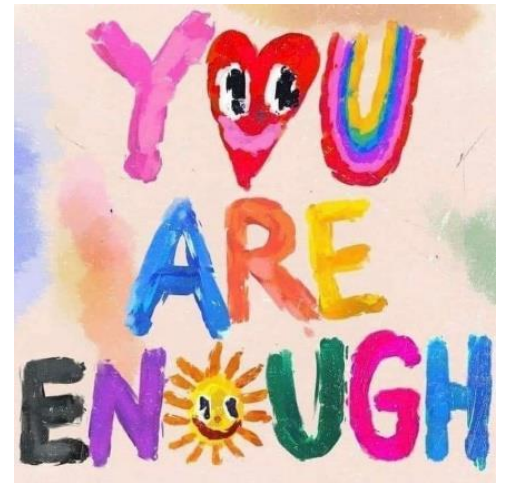
I accept that this is not always easy. We have hopes and dreams for our children that we want to see manifested. These are little humans who also have hopes and dreams for themselves and **we owe them the time and respect to hear what their vision is for their lives**.

They are God's children and therefore priceless in their value. **At PEPPS we teach children that they are enough**.

We also wish to set every child up for success in the modern world. Knowledge alone is insufficient to be effective this century. **Every child must be encouraged to think**. We cannot do this at school only and expect our efforts to yield results. I am recruiting our parents into **valuing your child's thoughts and ideas**. Ask them what they think and why they think that.

Please keep your finger on the pulse of the story that PEPPS tells about your child through ADAM. **We are constantly populating ADAM with marks and comments which inform you about your child's progress**. ADAM information empowers you to have conversations with your child about their successes and what they hope to improve on.

In this year's Free to Play Summit, Nathan Wallis quoted interesting statistics about increased conversations with the significant adults in a child's life being a predictor of academic success. **Carve out time to talk with your children**.



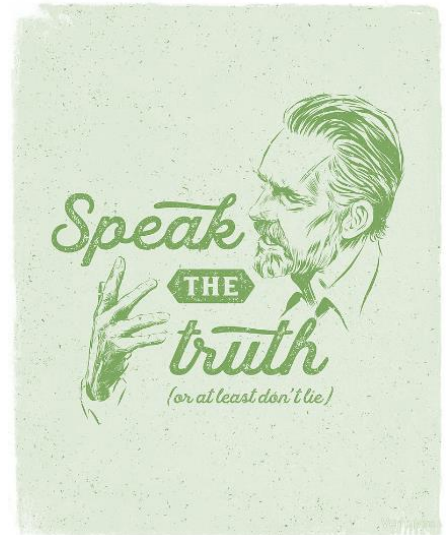
At PEPPS, our other pursuit is to **develop independent, critical and creative thinkers through progressive, holistic education**.

Thank you for choosing to send your child to PEPPS to receive the privilege of an excellent and liberal education. We have to remind our children to recognise that many children around the world are denied the opportunity of education and our children must savour this foot up the ladder of a sustainable life. We are striving to develop adults who can present substantiated, well-researched and well-reasoned opinions and arguments. This is what will be valued in the future. We want to hear the child's authentic voice come through in all that they do. Believe in your child so that they believe in themselves.

At PEPPS we are also Creating Tomorrow's Leaders.

Tomorrow's Leaders need to be trustworthy. If children are terrified of our reactions, they will default to lying. Try to create a safe space in your home. Jordan Peterson is a notably outspoken clinical psychologist who claims to speak the truth. This does not always make him popular and many people disagree with him but his wisdom in avoiding lying is undeniable.

We want to teach our children impeccable integrity.



Many grades will be going on tours soon. We are incredibly excited to be offering this opportunity again after two years of no tours. **Tours are intended to enrich your child's educational experience** and they are supposed to be fun. The rules are all in place to keep your children safe. Please remind them that if they ignore the expectations, we cannot protect them and we shall have to send them home.

We also intend to keep our pupils safe on our campuses.

Please **do not send unwell children to school.**

Please **drive safely** on and off our campuses. Our children are treasures and we ask that they are transported as precious children of God.

Please remind your children, and model for your children, that all rubbish belongs in a dustbin or should be recycled. Littering is unnecessary, ugly and it pollutes.

ANNOUNCEMENT

From the start of September, Mrs Delyn Jacobs will be offering **private Adult Learn-to-Swim lessons at PEPPS Polokwane** in the early evenings. She is a qualified swim instructor and can be contacted on 073 852 1506, after 17h00, if you would like to join the classes.



Yours in healthy, safe and excellent education

Annabel Roberts

PEPPS Executive Head