

21 February, 2009.

Dear Parents,

It has always been exciting to share with you, our school partners, the school's latest development. God has given much grace to our school by making it a place of vision and love. Given such circumstances, every moment I spent with our children is joyful and meaningful, and I treasured it most dearly. I am truly thankful for every minute of my time here. So far, a strong atmosphere of togetherness and bonding with our children has been established during my course of class observations, morning assembly sharing and principal-pupil luncheons. When I had lunch gatherings and chat with my students, they told me little witty stories that brighten up my days. My dear students never fail to surprise me with their unique modes of thinking and innovative acts. I have a great deal to learn from them. As adults, we often resolve to a rather fixed mindset, it is precisely the flexibility, diversity and novelty of their thoughts that we have to learn from.

God is kind and gracious to me. Every day, I feel that I am closer to my beloved family, colleagues, students and friends despite of my hectic work schedule. I sometimes receive a little card, letter, small gift, picture, book or sharing from them from time to time and I would like to take this chance to thank for all the lovely gifts and cards I have received from you and your child, and I would be even more grateful if the money of your generous gifts for me can be donated to support the education of children in less fortunate circumstances. A little hand-drawn card from our pupils is enough to touch my heart and lighten my day! For my Christmas and Lunar New Year holidays, although I spent much time on finishing school work, drafting proposal, planning and reading, I did have a great time with my family and friends. I hope that you all had an enjoyable time with your beloved ones too.

Kau Yan School has been upgrading in terms of the quality of learning and teaching throughout the past few months, particularly the development of our Learning Centre in the third floor which will offer us many new possibilities for further improvement in quality learning. The school is currently submitting proposal to various government departments for approval of our project. I wish this could be timely approved so the construction work can proceed well and finish by the end of this school year.

I always remind myself that not merely the arrangement of activities or programmes matter to the children, but the quality of learning. It is always exciting to recall and anticipate events that are taking place and will take place in Kau Yan. The entire school had focused on the study of Chinese culture in our enrichment week, in which I was pleased to see many students fully engaged in the learning process. Most of them enjoyed this experience and were keen to share with me their joy of learning. Another enrichment week will be organised in the end of this school term. We would like to let our students have an even richer and better learning process and outcome.

The school has developed a closer partnership with the Faculty of Education of The University of Hong Kong since this academic year. We are invited to be one of the two partnership primary schools in the "Whole

School Mentoring Support Approach” (WSMS), School-University Partnership Scheme. I believe that the partnership is mutually beneficial. This provides Kau Yan with more professional development opportunities and HKU may learn from our valuable experiences in learning and teaching. The Knowledge Forum is developed by the CITE of HKU, which has aroused greater learning interests of our students to construct knowledge and learn in a proactive and an innovative way. A group of educators from the Philippines (organized by HKU) will visit our school to exchange ideas regarding IT development in education.

Kau Yan School’s mission is to promote life education based on biblical principles. Just like the Samaritan, our school is eager to serve the needed and let our students learn from serving the underprivileged. Our trip to the Mainland with three other Tsung Tsin schools at the end of last year has received positive feedbacks from our 140 students and their parents. Our school will host the Watoto Children Choir in May by offering home stay to their members (I will open my home to receive three dear guests from Uganda as well) and co-organising two concerts in our school church. The details of this event will be discussed at the parent meeting in early March. Your kind support is crucial for the success of this meaningful event. I am sure this experience will allow us to open our eyes to the needs of the world.

I hope that students are learning important principles and virtues in life through the sharing of real-life incidents, bible stories and news analysis during morning assemblies, particularly about the importance of “respect” and “responsibilities” which the school puts a huge emphasis on. Students are encouraged and supported to become respectful and responsible youngsters. A Bi-weekly Award Scheme will be introduced starting from Term Two to appreciate good efforts, promote work ethics and uplift standards of desirable good behaviour.

My students are extremely generous and expressive; they often share with me things that impress them, from which I build up a further understanding on their needs, abilities and interests. I still recall an incident of which an enthusiastic Primary Six boy came to me and gave me his opinions towards the development of the school library. I was deeply impressed by his dedication to his service of being a school library assistant. We kept in touch and he never ceased telling me his ideas. He even spent more than an hour to construct a proposal in English on this matter. I truly appreciate his initiation, sincerity, dedication and sense of responsibility.

The recent epidemics arouse much of our health consciousness. The physical well-being of our students is our primary concern. We are working on health programmes for our students. A healthy and hygienic learning environment must continue to be our key focus.

Home-school activities are well-developed and it is our good school culture. I am encouraged to know how the parenting class, festival evenings, reading day camp, parent gospel night etc. help build up trust and understanding among us. The coming School Sports Day will include parent-child event for our lower forms, so please join in! As school work is always demanding and challenging, your understanding and support is indispensable in helping us to move forward.

As I mentioned in various school seminars at the beginning of my principalship, Kau Yan School is an open system in which its development involves partnership of our key stakeholders. After receiving questionnaire feedbacks from all of you, we are looking forward to communicating with you in the School Development Forum on 6th March. Areas of concern in the forum are our life education, curriculum development, modes of assessment and home-school co-operation.

Last but not least, I understand that the school still has room for improvement. We are not satisfied only with what we have achieved so far because the school is a learning community. We all learn together to glorify our Lord and nurture our students in the best possible ways. I am proud to tell you the school team is devoted to serving and loving our little ones. God's goodness is manifested in His love and guidance. This becomes an important drive for me to lead our school ahead.

Thank you for your continuous support for the school.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Gloria Chan
The Principal