



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2.

Happy New Year Cambridge.

As we enter this new year, can I offer some advice? Most of our children will not remember the gifts and holiday crafts that we spent hours planning and preparing. Most of our children will not remember the gift that we stressed about. Do you know what your children will remember? They will remember feeling loved. They will remember feeling important. They will remember being happy. Much of what happens or doesn't happen for our children occurs because of our lived experience. As we seek to educate our children, we unconsciously set limits on their success and beliefs by what we think is possible. Thus, the largest inhibitor of their success, is our belief of what is possible. Let us embrace our HPL training and again this term make sure we do not limit our children in any way. Boundaries of course, but let's drop the belief that life is fixed, the brain is fixed, the future is fixed. No matter what the circumstance, we can control what is around us. Going into this year, leave happy notes on their desks. Give them a hug. Give them smiles. Challenge them. Those are the memories they will remember, not the physical possessions we surround them with.

This term we are back with a world that has still not shaken off this nasty pandemic and in some areas it has become worse. However, this year certainly looks more optimistic with a vaccine developed and is slowly being distributed, #covidbegone. Are we ready to knock COVID out of the park? Yes, we are. This term we go into a new educational provision that was decided by the community. We do appreciate this will be difficult for some parents, however as a school we have limited choices based on the rules and regulations of DHA, MOE, KHDA and the UAE, in order to keep everyone safe. Student and staff safety is our number one priority, even though it may be uncomfortable as we enter a new school term. Please do what is right, if you are waiting for a PCR test stay at home, if you were in contact with anyone that has COVID or even symptoms of COVID stay at home, if your child is feeling unwell, (sniffle, cold, cough, sore throat, headache) stay at home. If any student or staff shows any of these symptoms they will be sent home immediately. Please help us keep our school safe.

At the end of last term, you completed the termly GEMS survey and I am excited to say that as a parent community you are awesome. Continually unifying the sense of collective purpose to make improvements is essential to collective and individual success. I say this as we are now getting feedback that allows us to act. This action mainly based on parents who are "recommending the school" (9 & 10 score). The comments written by these parents are extremely helpful and we are acting on suggestions and calling parents to ask them if their concern has been resolved or discussed. Please remember that the best way to resolve a problem is to speak to us immediately, rather than waiting for the survey. It was great to see a much higher participation rate by parents this term (70%), helping us reach the highest NPS score we have ever had, of 14. We are indeed creating a community with a voice.

I have always believed that we should always walk-in truth with feedback, make visible our intent and act with integrity at all times. I write this to reach out to the CIS community to walk with us in the same way. In everything we do, we leave an emotional footprint and without us walking with visible intent, we can easily lose our way. So again, I reach out and ask you to speak to us when you have a concern, not after or later in the term when it may be difficult to resolve.

Finally, as we begin this new term and New Year, I encourage all of us to embrace all that life offers. Let your knowledge, understanding and character be your foundation, and let your imagination be your guide and inspiration.

Sincerely,

Lachlan MacKinnon
CEO/Principal