



# Anglo-Chinese School (Primary)

## Parent Support Group (PSG)

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*The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it. -- John Ruskin*

Dear P6 Parents/Guardian,

With the PSLE oral & listening comprehension over, the big day is now looming near. You may feel like all the years of study and hard work finally comes down to this one final step that decides the next phase of your son's/ward's educational development. With my youngest in P6, I am entirely with you in this stressful year of preparation. So much seems to weigh on it that if we are not careful, it can so easily tip us off the balance and cause us to look at everything out of perspective. The pull towards giving in to the temptation of fatalistically attributing far too much to that one exam is really very great indeed.

Over the course of the year, unending questions and fears may have been playing in our minds so much so that if we do not consciously put a stop to them, the only definite outcome is that our boys will suffer. Personally, I find the toughest part of the struggle is the element of vulnerability because things are out of my control. When my elder boy was doing the PSLE, I fretted quite a bit till it finally dawned on me that no matter which school he lands up in and how he performs in the PSLE, life will still go on and he will still grow and learn and become the person that I can continue to nurture wherever he may be. And today, being a parent with PSLE experience, I can honestly tell you it is just another life event that will come and go.

During a stress-free talk conducted in school for our P6 boys a couple years back, majority of them reported not having enough time to sleep. Many were feeling extreme pressure and stress. A couple had even entertained thoughts of suicide! Such extent of pressure and misery is surely not proportionate to the meaning of PSLE, no matter how much weight we may attribute to it.

In the remaining days counting down to the actual exam, let's try to do our part to encourage, motivate and boost their confidence besides simply bearing the pressure down on them. It's a delicate balance, I know, but it's also absolutely necessary to provide a pillar of support so that our boys know that they are not facing this giant on their own. I urge you to be as creative as you can in incorporating some high points into this period to bring some cheer and assurance of unconditional love and acceptance into their gloomy and tiring days.

Some suggestions to what we can do as parents:

- Inspire and motivate them with a card, poem or song
- Introduce a little surprise to bring cheer at the end of a tiring day
- Squeeze in some time to relax and/or do sports together with him, no matter how little it may seem
- Spend quiet moments praying together with and for him
- Speak love, encouragement and confidence into him without reserve

The Best Is Yet To Be!

God's Grace & Peace,  
Julie Ng, PSG



### **Do Not Quit**

One day I decided to quit...

I quit my job, my relationship, my spirituality... I wanted to quit my life.

I went to the woods to have one last talk with God.

"God," I said. "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?"

His answer surprised me... "Look around," He said.

"Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"Yes," I replied.

"When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them.

I gave them light. I gave them water.

The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor.

Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.

In the second year, the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful.

And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed.

But I did not quit on the bamboo," He said.

"In the third year, there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit.

In the fourth year, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed.

I would not quit," He said

"Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth.

Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant...

But just 6 months later the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall.

It had spent the five years growing roots.

Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive.

I would not give any of my creations a challenge it could not handle."

He said to me. "Did you know, my child, that all this time when you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots?"

"I would not quit on the bamboo. Neither will I ever quit on you."



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"Don't compare yourself to others," He said.

"The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet, they both make the forest beautiful."

"Your time will come," God said to me. " You will rise high! "

"How high should I rise?" I asked.

"How high will the bamboo rise?" He asked in return.

"As high as it can?" I questioned.

"Yes," He said. "Give me glory by rising as high as you can."

I left the forest and bring back this story.

I hope these words can help you see that God will never give up on you.

He will never give up on you!

Never regret a day in your life.

Good days give you happiness

Bad days give you experiences;

Both are essential to life.

Keep going...

Happiness keeps you Sweet,

Trials keep you Strong,

Sorrows keep you Human,

Failures keep you Humble,

Success keeps You Glowing,

But Only God keeps You Going!

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