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Dear Parents,

Good day. We will be experiencing warmer weather in July. Please do stay hydrated and take care of your well-being as well as your loved ones.

As we are now in the middle of the academic year, many things have happened on the school front. There have been moments of joy as we witness the growth, development as well as achievements of our amazing children. There have also been also moments of challenges. Like in the month of July, we continue to encounter “heated” challenges arising from differences in perspectives that we hold regarding education for our children. Some of us tend to over-emphasise academic excellence and feel that discipline and taking your child away for investigation and teacher talks to redirect your child to change for the better, is a waste of your child’s time, especially in a national exam year. Some of us insisted that their views and observations are right; they do not accept the school’s views and demand actions to be taken immediately to address their needs.

For instance, our children from P1 to P3 are still young and they may not know what is right and what is wrong. They may need time to be guided to see, feel and think that their actions would have a negative impact on others. We seek patience and understanding from our parents to work with us to guide our children to make moral and informed decision and actions. Sometimes, we need time to gather information from all parties to ascertain the facts and time for our teachers to gather such information as they too must juggle many demands in school.

In fact, we are very grateful that many parents are supportive and are working with us to grow your precious child. You have been very patient in working with us and I want to personally thank you for trusting us and partnering with us to grow your precious child to become a person of good character who is a good and useful citizen for Singapore and the world.

Academic performance is important, but it should not be the only yardstick to measure the worth, value and strengths of our precious child. We have constantly read of young adults who might not be strong academically, but they have found success through their interests and strengths, as well as develop meaningful and purposeful lives. Some children may also accelerate their cognitive and holistic development in their later stage in life. Let us be patient with our precious child as she or he will amaze us with time. I am sure that some of us are like that too and can relate to this.

**Let me start with a short story** about forgiveness and moving on that holds a deep lesson for us: Lily and Rose were best friends, inseparable until a misunderstanding escalated into a bitter argument. Lily, fueled by anger, lashed out with words that cut Rose to the core. Rose was devastated by the unkind and hurtful words being used, and she retreated and harboured resentment. Their friendship, once vibrant and close, became strained and distant. Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into years and the silence between them grew heavy for several years. Lily realised that she still treasured the friendship fostered earlier and she sought Rose out, not with excuses, but with a heartfelt understanding that using unkind words was a form of not showing

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**Vision** : Touching Souls, Challenging Minds

**Mission** : To maximise students' potential and develop in them a passion for life-long learning guided by compassion, conscience, purity and righteousness.

**Motto** : Compassion, Conscience, Purity, Righteousness

**愿景** : 净化心灵, 挑战思维

**使命** : 以校训慈、良、清、直为指引, 激发终身学习之热忱, 务必人尽其才。

**校训** : 慈、良、清、直

respect, a value that she learned in school. She acknowledged that using unkind words could cause hurt to a person, and the possible pain that she might have caused to the person. It was at this critical moment that Lily expressed her sincere regret.

Rose, though still wounded, was touched by Lily's sincerity. She had also reflected on the situation and realised that holding onto anger was only hurting her own heart. She decided that holding onto the pain was not worth sacrificing their friendship that had been fostered for several years. Rose also learned that it was better to have more friends than foes. With tears in her eyes, Rose told Lily that she forgave her. She explained that everyone makes mistakes, and that holding onto anger only poisons the heart. Lily, relieved and grateful, embraced Rose.

Their reconciliation wasn't immediate; it took time for the wounds to fully heal. But by choosing forgiveness, they were able to rebuild their bond. Their friendship, having weathered the storm of conflict, emerged stronger, tempered by the understanding that even after hurt, forgiveness can pave the way for healing and growth.

**My reflections:** The moral of the story is that forgiveness is a powerful tool for healing, both for the forgiver and the forgiven, and it allows us to move forward with greater strength and understanding. Forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves, not just the person we forgive. It allows us to release the burden of resentment and move forward with peace in our hearts. Holding onto anger only prolongs the pain, while forgiveness opens the door to healing and stronger relationships.

At Mee Toh School, our mission is clear: To maximise our students' potential and develop in them a passion for lifelong learning guided by compassion, conscience, purity and righteousness. While we may come from different walks of life and hold differing perspectives, we believe that when school and parents work in harmony, our children thrive. Let us not allow differences or misunderstandings to derail us from what truly matters. If there is ever a concern or disagreement, let us face it with openness, respect, and the wisdom to put the child at the centre of our decisions, especially in the moral, social and emotional domains of learning, and not solely in academic pursuit.

I must acknowledge that we are not perfect, and our practices may, at times, have caused some inconvenience to your child and family. We appreciate your feedback, and we will do our best to safeguard the well-being and safety of our students. I seek your forgiveness if there are areas where we have not done well, but we will strive to do our best to improve the situation as we equally love your child. Your child is precious to everyone in our Mee Toh Family.

However, I also want to emphasise that parents are not our customers. We are not a private company that offers a service to meet your needs and demands. We are an educational institution with a social, moral and national purpose. We are here as educators because we have chosen this profession with a moral purpose to grow and develop every child who passes through our hands. We remain committed to our purpose—to educate, guide and care for every student. We trust that with your continued support, we can journey together, anchored by trust and strengthened by shared our purpose. Thank you for walking this path with us, hand in hand, and heart to heart.

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