



17 September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I believe that the most important task for ACS Barker Road is to provide the environment to develop the character of our gentlemen. It is the formation of character that will provide the foundation for achievements and service in much the same way A-C-S is reflected on our shield. In their book "Growing Kids God's Way", Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo talks about moral character being *"the quality of a person's personality and the moral restraint or encouragement of his temperament; it is the outward reflection of the inner man. Our morality defines character, and our character reflects our morality. Moral training and character development are synonymous concepts."*

They further elaborate that the quality of character *"is best exemplified by the presence or absence of three attributes: respect, honor, and honesty. These are action terms. Having an attitude of respect, honor, and honesty is not enough; there must be an ongoing demonstration of the three. Respect, honor, and honesty are critical fibers in the moral fabric of our being. To respect our fellow man is to honor him, and to honor him is to live honestly with him. (Our) job is to take the intangible concepts of respect, honor, and honesty and make them tangible – to take their abstract meanings, and make them concrete."*

The Ezzos talk about six natural relationships that are foundational to every society because they are fundamental to all human relationships. We interact with authority, parents, elders, peers and siblings, property of others and nature. These relationships provide the basis for character development.

In the last nine months of being in ACS Barker Road, I have had opportunities to speak to students about the relationships the Ezzos talk about. It is an ongoing work to make the intangible tangible for our gentlemen through encouragement, correction, reprimand and meting out consequences. School is the crucible for our gentlemen to learn the important attributes of respect, honor and honesty as they interact with teachers, parents and peers. Learning to respect and honor others who are different from them, in terms of learning needs, academic achievement and racial background, through their words and actions is key to their character development. Tangible ways include respecting the learning space of others through cooperating with their teachers, looking out for those with different learning needs and ensuring that their words are always seasoned with grace. Parents are vital to the whole process of character development as you reinforce habits of respect, honor and honesty at home through your expectations and behaviour ensuring congruence between home and school.

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Achievements of our CCAs

We are proud of the achievements of our students in the National Schools Games and international competitions.

| CCA | Achievement | Acknowledgement |
|------------|---|---|
| Rugby | C Division – 2 nd Runner-up in Nationals | During their final match against SJI to decide the 3rd/4th place, our boys played with great determination even though they were trailing 10 points. They never allowed their previous defeat to SJI in the group stages to affect them and believed that they could win it. They eventually scored two tries and converted them to win the game 14:10. |
| Shooting | East Asia Youth Airgun Competition 2018 – Silver | Marat Lleyton Veloso (3H1) was part of the Singapore team that clinched a silver medal. The team came in second in the youth men's 10m air rifle competition finishing behind winners Republic of Korea. |
| Ice Hockey | South East Asia Youth Ice Hockey Competition – Silver | Matthew Hamnett and Lee Shaw Kiat were part of the Singapore team. In one of the thinnest squads in the 5-team competition with 12 players, the team overcame the odds to finish behind Thailand. In addition to Matthew and Shaw Kiat from ACSBR, the team was also formed by three other boys from ACS Independent. |

Building of Indoor Sports Hall and Fund-raising

Piling works have begun at the building site for the Indoor Sports Hall and progress has been good in spite of delays in obtaining approval from relevant government agencies. Target completion date remains at September 2019 when the school will be able to use the Indoor Sports Hall, Futsal court, classrooms and Chinese Orchestra room. We continue to trust God to provide the \$734,000 needed. With the successful completion of the fundraising events in August, the school has raised close to \$450,000 to date.

Responsible use of technology – Mobile devices and computers

Further to my last letter on 30th July where I mentioned about managing your son's usage of mobile devices and computers, the school has implemented additional controls on the students' Chromebook. Only whitelisted sites and videos that are relevant to learning will be allowed on the students' Chromebook. I understand that that might lead to some inconvenience for students who will like to use their Chromebook for learning beyond the prescribed curriculum. However, we believe this measure is now necessary so that the Chromebook can be used for its intended purpose of learning by all students. Students can still request for useful learning sites/videos that are relevant for learning to be whitelisted through the school's IT department. We hope that such a measure will reduce online distractions and keep students focussed while using their Chromebook.

I will also like to take this opportunity to remind that our current Secondary 1 to 3 students should be using Chromebook as their learning devices. Any other devices, e.g. MacBook or Windows laptop are not allowed in the school as the school does not have control over these devices and students could be using it for the wrong purposes.

The school rules require all students to place their mobile phones in their lockers for the entire school day, including extra lessons, academic coaching and detention classes. Mobile devices that are not in their lockers may be confiscated for a period of up to 3 months. The recent inappropriate videos taken after school hours will result in the following. Starting from Term 4 of this year, besides keeping their mobile devices in their lockers for the entire school day, students are not to videotape or photograph any student, staff or visitor in the school so as to ensure that he does not violate the PDPA issues unless permission is given and it is under the supervision of a member of the staff. This will include hours before and after lessons. We ask for your understanding and support for the above measures by reinforcing them with your sons.

Reminders about upcoming school events

| No | Event | Date/Time | Remarks |
|-----------|--|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Honours Day and Level Awards for Sec 4s and 5s | Friday 28 September | The Guest-of-Honour is Col Srinivasan VN, Managing Director, Heng, Leong & Srinivasan LLC |
| 2 | End of Year Exam Marking Day | Monday 15 October | Not a school day |
| 3 | Academic Promotion Day | Tuesday 23 October | Not a school day |
| 4 | Sec 2 Subject Combination Briefing | Thursday 25 October | Briefing for Sec 2 parents regarding subject combination choices for 2019 |

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal