

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is: **Respect**. I have written about it in the newsletter.

Regulatory Compliance Inspection (RCI)

Everyone is aware that the school went through a Regulatory Compliance Inspection on Wednesday, 26th and Thursday, 27th September 2018. Contrary to belief in some pockets of the school community, this was an inspection we were long expecting because it has been four years since our last integrated inspection. We were visited by two highly experienced inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). Every aspect of the school was scrutinised, pupils, staff and governors were interviewed; pupils, staff and parents also completed an online questionnaire. As you would expect the report for the inspection undergoes rigorous scrutiny before being published. We will share the outcome with you once ISI publish the report and authorise us to share it with school community. After which a copy of the report will be placed on the school website. ISI will publish it on their website as well.

Important Year 11 Sixth Form Meeting on Wednesday, 10th October 2018

As the Year 11 pupils start their application process for 6th Form and A level studies, we would like to organise a meeting for all parents and pupils on Wednesday, 10th October 2018 at 6.30pm in the Yogi Hall.

Senior 4 Parents' Teachers Consultation Evening

The S4 parents' consultation evening will take place on Thursday, 18th October 2018, between 4.30 and 7.00 pm. There will be an opportunity to meet all the subject teachers including the Tutors. This is an important meeting for Senior 4 as many are likely to be entered for several GCSEs next summer. We do hope all the parents will be present.

Diwali celebrations & Senior Citizens Party 2018

This year the much anticipated Senior Citizens Diwali Party will be held on Friday, 26th October 2018. There will be two performances of the play, the first to start at 8.45am, for which parents are welcome to attend. The second performance will be at 11.00am for the senior citizens, if there are any grandparents of the students who would like to attend, please contact the office to collect the tickets. We will also be serving a delicious Diwali lunch prepared by our diligent kitchen staff at lunch time. We thank you for your support in advance.

Half Term, Diwali and Annakut Holiday

The week beginning Monday, 29th October 2018 will be the start of a two weeks half-term holiday for all pupils and teaching staff. Pupils and staff return to school as normal on Monday, 12th November 2018. The office will be open between 9am to 4pm during the week. Diwali will be celebrated at the Mandir on Wednesday, 7th November 2018 which is of course followed by Annakut day at Mandir on Thursday, 8th November 2018.

The value of respect

Think

The most important relationship you will form is with yourself. You have to live with who you are and what you are, where you come from and where you are going. If you fail to develop this deep connection with yourself you will never respect yourself. In order to become a good and worthy citizen of your community or your country, you must understand all the goodness within you and all the changes you need to make in your life. When you respect yourself, you will also respect others.

Feel

I have always found that when I approach people with respect I can get them to do almost anything I want them to do. Approach your friends with respect, asking them to help you to do something, and observe their reaction. You will see that respecting what other people are without being judgemental enables them to see your own inner goodness and immediately makes them more receptive to anything you say.

You will not always agree with people but that doesn't give you the right to be disrespectful to them. These days when people don't get what they want, they riot, vandalise property and start fights. It is a quick road to ruin. Approaching everyone with respect wins you many allies that you will inevitably need in your own march through life. Respect is the first step of that long march.

Do

Approach your teachers with respect and you will see that they will help you with any problem you have, even going as far as giving up their break and lunch times. If they are busy they will give you a time when you can go and see them. The same is true for friends, family and anyone else you meet on the street. Everyone wants to be treated with respect, to be told that they are important and that their

WRITER'S CORNER



To kick things off until I start receiving articles from students from the English department, I thought parents may find this article useful, "How Children Learn Social Skills" by Naomi Aldort.

It is the child's success in relating that becomes his social competence. To ensure such success in the early years, the child needs to immerse in one-on-one, loving and peaceful relationships with socially competent people; mostly parents and other loving care givers. Children's play develops later, after practicing with mommy and daddy. *It becomes an important social practice once children are old enough to choose their company freely and play without the interference of adults.*

Many parents believe that unless a toddler or young child plays with peers, she is not socializing and therefore not learning social skills. They often organize play groups and enter their wee-ones into day-care, preschool or kindergarten, believing that this will help the child develop social skills.

Although I am going to debunk the benefits of such group experiences and even show the harm they can cause, I am aware that some parents have no choice but to place their child in the care of others, or in a group situation. This article in no way intends to generate feelings of guilt, nor does it judge anyone's choices. When a child feels secure and loved, she can handle many different experiences even when they are not optimal.

Later in this article I will offer suggestions for alternative solutions to the need for child-care as well as ways to deal with group-care in healing ways. My goal in this article is to shed light

on the way children learn social skills so you can respond to your child's circumstances and needs more productively and honestly, or consider a different path if needed.

By being born to adult parents, nature designed for the child to immerse in social competence. *It is wonderful for the child to join the community... from his mother or father's loving arms or in the security of their presence.*

When being part of the community while in his parent's care the child benefits from the parents' social maturity in the same way the embryo benefits from his mother's blood supply. And like pregnancy and birth, the child graduates from this need not by being pushed ahead prematurely, but by having enough time to complete the "training" and to feel confident and rooted in himself as he connects with others.

Parent-child relationships are the foundation on which the child will build his social skills; he learns the qualities of care, love, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, sharing and deep connection. He will duplicate these qualities if we give him sufficient time to master them through his primary relationship first. He will treat his friends the way he has been treated and the way he observed his parents and others relating to each other.

When choosing his own interactions from the security of parental care, a young child gravitates towards playing with one older child, teenager or an adult (or being with them as they engage with others.) Likewise, the older child enjoys and benefits of caring for and including a youngster.

A child will duplicate his daily social experiences. If he spends his time with those who don't have social skills, he will learn the failing experiences that are likely to occur. You won't see a three year-old organizing a playgroup. She cannot do it and is not interested in being in a group with others who are as socially unskilful as she is. Instead, the very young is mostly yearning to be with mommy, daddy, an older sibling, or other loving adults who CAN show her the way.

Some wee-ones are strongly drawn to other children but usually not to groups. A child will typically reach out to one child of any age while she stays in the secure care of a parent or another loving adult. She is likely to prefer to play with one or two children who are much older than she is – because as long as she is little, she knows to seek those who can take care of her and who have social skills. Her success in relating becomes the blueprint for future relationships. The child's innate direction tells us what is best for him.

Yours sincerely

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