彌陀學校
MEE TOH SCHOOL
21 EDGEDALE PLAINS SINGAPORE 828867
TEL: 6489 3326 FAX: 6489 3243
Website: http://www.meetoh.moe.edu.sg
Email: meetoh_sch@moe.edu.sg
Founded 1954

28 October 2026

Dear Parents,

Time really flies! As we are approaching the end of academic year 2026, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your good self for your support, trust and partnership. I also want to thank all our parents who have worked very closely with our teachers and recognising that the school and family share the same goal: to see our children becoming persons of good character, as well as experiencing growth, well-being and success in our Mee Toh Family. I want to shout out to our parents who have been contributing their time and expertise as PATH members as well as other parents whose child/children in our various levels who have been very supportive to our school such as Adeline and Joanna from P1, Dwi Lestari from P2, Patrick from P3, Gina from P5, to name a few.

Please allow me to start with a familiar short story – **The blind men and the elephant**. A group of blind men heard that a strange animal, called an elephant, had been brought to the town, but none of them were aware of its shape and form. Out of curiosity, they said: "We must inspect and know it by touch, of which we are capable". When they found the elephant, they began to touch it. The first person, whose hand landed on the trunk, said, "This being is like a thick snake". For another one whose hand reached its ear, it seemed like a kind of fan. As for another person, whose hand was upon its leg, said, the elephant is a pillar like a tree-trunk. The blind man who placed his hand upon its side said the elephant, "is a wall". Another who felt its tail, described it as a rope. The last felt its tusk, stating the elephant is that which is hard, smooth and like a spear. Unfortunately, they began to quarrel with one another, suspecting the others were not telling the truth. Luckily, a sighted man came and described the entire elephant from various perspectives. The blind men then learned that they were all partially correct and partially wrong. They came to an agreement that they should listen first and seek to understand, before they make a conclusion.

The moral of the story is that each blind man's observation was not wrong. They described the animal based on their limited experience as they could not see the elephant, and their descriptions of the elephant were based on the different part of the animal that they had touched. While one's subjective experience is true, it may not be the total truth. We may tend to claim absolute truth based on our limited, subjective experience but may not consider other people's limited, subjective experiences which may be equally true. In every good relationship, respectful and open communication requires mutual respect and understanding - first seeking to understand than to be understood. This will sustain and foster positive relationships and trust.

This simple story reminds us that challenges are easier to overcome when we work together. **Parents and educators are partners**, each bringing different perspectives, strengths and knowledge of our precious child in our Mee Toh Family. When we listen to one another and focus on solutions, we create the best conditions for our children to learn, flourish and thrive in our Mee Toh Family.

At times, disagreements and disappointments may arise. While it is important to understand what has happened, repeatedly revisiting the past episodes without identifying a constructive way forward, may prevent meaningful progress. Our conversations are most helpful when they seek understanding, repair “any past wounds”, adopt a forgiving mentality and explore practical next steps. This to me is the most constructive approach for lasting partnership with our parents.

Our young children in our Mee Toh Family are still learning to manage their emotions, relationships and behaviour. They will make mistakes, sometimes more than once. They need clear boundaries and accountability, but they also need patience, forgiveness and time to change. Our role as adults is not simply to judge a mistake, but to guide the child towards better choices. This may take time as the same child can continue to commit and make the same mistake.

We respect every parent's right to raise concerns through the appropriate channels. Wherever possible, however, we hope concerns can first be addressed through calm and direct dialogue with us – teachers, key personal and school leaders. Positive engagement encourages openness. When conversations are respectful, teachers feel able to listen, explain and offer support. When interactions become accusatory or adversarial, everyone may naturally become more guarded, and the conversation is less likely to lead to a helpful outcome. Escalating a matter to external authorities before opportunities for constructive engagement have been exhausted, can make trust more difficult to build. A respectful partnership does not mean that we will always agree; it means that even when we disagree, we remain focused on solutions and on the child's best interests.

As we move towards a new academic year in January 2027, these practices can help us strengthen our partnership:

- **Begin with a shared goal:** Keep our children's learning and well-being at the centre of our discussion.
- **Seek understanding:** Ask questions and listen to the full context before reaching conclusions.
- **Focus on solutions:** Acknowledge the past, then agree on practical next steps as we move forward.
- **Communicate respectfully:** Address the issue without making personal accusations or assumptions.
- **Allow time for growth:** Behavioural change is a process, especially for young children.
- **Recognise effort:** Appreciate the steps taken by our child, family and school, even when progress is gradual.
- **Use appropriate school channels:** Raise concerns early with the relevant teacher, key personnel or school leader so that we can be helpful and address your concern(s) promptly.

As the year draws to a close, please let go of our past hurts when we can, and begin again with renewed trust. Let us choose forgiveness, constructive dialogue and partnership - for the good of our Mee Toh Family and, above all, our children. Thank you once again for walking alongside us this year. I wish every family a restful and meaningful year-end holiday break. We look forward to a brighter, peaceful and successful year in 2027.

Partnering with you,
Kelvin Tay
Principal
Email: tay_hsien_chuan_kelvin@schools.gov.sg