

校長致辭

我時常在想：鳴遠中學的學生有什麼特徵？各位日後畢業時會被塑造了什麼特點？學校的辦學理念是以基督的博愛精神，有教無類，因材施教。而天主教教育有五個核心價值，真理、公義、愛、生命和家庭，對於非教友來說，這些是一些普世價值觀。作為天主教學校，我們希望與同學一齊活出這些核心價值。今年，我們選擇了「愛」為主題。

有時，年青的你們會覺得成年人認為是對的事情，未必就是你所想的。舉個誇張的例子。上星期五發生了一件新聞，中一男生與小六女生發生性行為，並進行攝錄。從他們的角度看，他們可能認為冇問題，自己想做便做。但社會上的道德價值觀判斷為「風化案」，亦不為大眾所接受的犯罪行為，因為他們年紀尚輕，他們正在青少年成長階段，應學習知識和技能，發展個人興趣和能力。若因此而懷孕，在經濟及心理上的角度看，他們怎有能力去承受及履行父母的責任？

有不同的見解是正常的事，這不要緊，要緊的是大家抱著謙卑的心多溝通，多聽對方的意見，多接納與包容。這已經能活出「愛」。上學期尾，多謝學生會及四社在會議上收集了同學的意見，共有 120 張意見紙條。當中有好多寶貴意見，要多謝你們樂意表達心中所想。例如同學建議增加英文活動提高學生英語水平、社的活動事前多宣傳等。今天我亦趁此機會用一套電影故事向大家說明學校對一些政策堅持的背後想法。

夢想越野隊，故事改編自 1987 年 McFarland 高中田徑隊參加越野競賽的事蹟。位於美國加州南端的 McFarland。當時有一位教練 Jim White 一位嚴格、火爆的運動教練，在原本任職的學校惹出不少糾紛，因誤傷球員最終被迫離開。為了生活 Jim White 與妻小來到美國加州南端的 McFarland，這是個拉丁裔占了九成以上人口的貧困城市，並在當地一所高中兼任體育老師。在他指導學生美式足球期間，竟發現這群拉丁裔青年潛藏賽跑天賦，他訓練這群經濟基礎相對弱勢的墨西哥裔孩子們，讓他們發揮自己的跑步天份，參加越野競賽。這群孩子一開始被嘲笑也懷疑自己的能力，例如他們認為自己讀書冇用，因為天生下來便一無是處，他們生命唯一價值便是幫家人在農田工作，認為他們的命運就只有貧困。但 Jim White 不斷地對他們付出愛與關懷，終於讓他們願意付出努力實現遠大的夢想。他們最後獲洲際冠軍，七名隊員中學畢業後獲大學取錄，現在有的返母校當教師，有的做了警察及當兵。

Jim White 鼓勵隊員在跑步時感到吃力，不要放棄。因為在前面的跑手也會有相同的感覺，只要隊員再堅持，便不會落後；如能再加一分力，更可以超前。

因此，學校的各項政策是經校董會、老師、家長深思熟慮，亦有仔細考慮你們的意見。同學們，我們盼望你能信任我們，我們之所以堅持是為了讓你實現遠大的夢想，是「愛」的表現。因此，同學們試以一個樂觀及進取的心情，不管你對政策是否完全認同，你仍是主動積極，對能力能掌握之事全力以赴。

Principal Message

I often wonder: What are the characteristics of Catholic Ming Yuen Secondary School students? When you graduate in the future, you are shaped in some sort of characteristics. But what are they? Our educational philosophy is based on the spirit of Christ's love, providing education for all without discrimination and to teach students in accordance with their aptitude. The Catholic Education has five core values: truth, justice, love, life and the family. For non-Catholics, these are some universal values. As a Catholic school, we want to live up to these core values with the students. This year, we have chosen the theme "Love".

Sometimes, as a young person, you will find what adults think as the right thing, may not necessarily be the same as what you pick. To give an exaggerating example, what appeared last Friday in the press was that a S1 boy had sex with a P6 girl alongside with live recording. From their perspective, they may not think it is a problem, and that they just do their own business. But the society determines, in terms of moral values, that it is another "indecent assault case", not accepted by the public. It is because they are still in teenage growing stage. They should acquire knowledge and skills, develop personal interests and abilities. If pregnancy results, from the economic and psychological point of view, how



can they have the ability to withstand and fulfill parental responsibilities?

It is normal to have different opinions and it does not matter. What matters is that we should maintain more communication, more patience listening to one another's comments, more acceptances and more tolerance. It is to live up to "love." Last semester, I thanked the Student Union and the Four Houses which held their meetings and a total of 120 comment notes were collected. There was a lot of valuable advice. Thank you for all your willingness to express your thoughts. One example is the proposed increase in English activities to raise students' English level. The other is the suggestion of more publicity before any activities are held by the Houses. Today, I also take this opportunity to tell the story from a film and explain some ideas supporting our school policies.

'McFarland, USA' , is the story adapted from the 1987 McFarland High School track and field team who participated in cross-country races. The coach Jim White who was a strict, quick-tempered coach provoked a lot of disputes. He was eventually forced to leave due to an accidental injury of a player. Jim White, with his wife and children, came to the southern tip of California, McFarland which was a poor city with a Latino population up to over ninety percent. He started his job again there as a Physical Education teacher at a local high school. With his coaching of the American football team, he discovered the hidden race talents of these Latino youths. He trained a group of relatively under-privileged Mexican children, let them show their talent in cross-country competitions. At first, these children were teased as "ridiculed" and even they doubted their own ability. For example, they thought that they were nothing since the day they were born and that their value in life was to help the family to work in the fields and poverty was their destiny. But Jim White continued to give them love and care, and finally they were willing to make efforts to realize their big dreams. They were finally eligible for the Intercontinental Championship.

After graduating from high school, seven players were eligible for university admission. Now some become teachers, policemen or soldiers.

Jim White encouraged the players to “taste hardship” while running, but not to give up, all because the runners in front had exactly the same feeling. So hold on as long as they possibly can and they will not lag behind. And if they can “squeeze their last juice” , they are the ones to take the lead.

Yes, our school policy is approved by the School Management Committee, teachers, parents and your views are carefully considered. Dear students, we hope you can trust us. The reason why we insist and never give up is to allow you to realize your big dreams, which is also a demonstration of "Love". Finally, dear students, you ought to try to adopt an optimistic mood, regardless of whether you totally agree to the school policy, be proactive and strive to grasp every opportunity and take every challenge.

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