



WATERSTONE COLLEGE

17 March 2016 (Newsletter 5 of 2016)

Dear Parents

Time and traditions have changed – and with them, the relationship between schools and parents. While change does not necessarily entail progress, it is certainly the case that progress require change. For parents and teachers who have been part of a long established schooling system, to change is sometimes even more difficult than those who have never experienced the traditions and expectations associated with the older and venerable educational institutions.

It is almost always a slow process to change the culture of a school when the process involves the fraught notion of tradition. Modern schools make efforts to initiate **respect** and to transform tradition in ways that celebrate the school's founding principles. Waterstone College was founded on the principles of **Faith, Integrity, Respect and Excellence**. As we strive to create an ongoing tradition of mutual respect and community warmth out of an ever-changing world and sometimes in conflict with what parents and teachers themselves want, calls for some creative thinking.

If we at Waterstone College can accomplish this, the school can get to a much happier place where respect is understood as mutually engendered.

On Tuesday evening I had the privilege of attending the High School's production "I Love Rock and Roll". What an outstanding production; a wonderful journey from the music of the fifties up to the modern era. It was so inspiring to see the wonderful talent that we have at our school, from the musicians, vocalists, dancers and comedians, to the entertaining narrator all working together to perform this wonderful showpiece. I was once again reminded that this is such a beautiful example of what our school and community could be; pupils and teachers from different backgrounds and beliefs all working together and in harmony for the desired outcome. We have the same experience when we watch the sport teams competing for the good of our school. There is so much that we can learn by watching our children.

I once read a quotation that said "A lot of different flowers make a bouquet". We at Waterstone College need to acknowledge and appreciate that it takes all types of HUMAN BEINGS to make our society work. Waterstone College is a community school and thus we will be a lot of different flowers that make up our bouquet of schools. As Jintao Hu said: "Diversity in the world is a basic characteristic of human society, and also the key condition for a lively and dynamic world as we see today". The outcome that Waterstone College should be striving for is that the experience at our school will be the inextricable link between academic achievement, sporting success, entertaining creative arts and social comfort and adjustment.

May I also use this opportunity to wish all parents, pupils and staff a blessed Easter and a wonderful holiday.

Faith. Integrity, Respect, Excellence.

God Bless

Vernon Rorich