



# Merchiston Preparatory School



## From the Headmaster's Desk:

11 May 2020

Dear Merchiston Parents

I trust you had a wonderful weekend. My sincerest and special wishes to all our Merchiston mums – you are greatly appreciated and loved. Your sacrifices and amazing fortitude during this lockdown period are greatly appreciated. I trust you were thoroughly spoilt yesterday – you certainly deserve it.

A new week is upon us and there is still no clear direction as to the opening of schools. The teacher unions are very clear in their demands that the government must ensure that every school is made safe and is sanitized before the arrival of staff and children. As stated before, I will keep you abreast of developments as soon as I receive the appropriate directives from the Department of Education.

***For this generation of children, the world is going to be irrevocably altered. How and in what way will be spoken about in the next few decades.***

In this time of uncertainty, the outcome on the other side of this crises needs to be built upon the values we enact right now – values such as fairness, kindness, accountability, resilience, respect and courage.

This period of lockdown has forced every one of us to review our own situation whether it be with regards to health, business, finances, religious gatherings or basic human contact. You as parents, with children at home, have seen the blessing in being able to spend precious time with them. Concerns and anxiety aside, the time at home with your children has created opportunities for you to teach your children some valuable life lessons. I have been hearing about making popcorn on a fire, sleeping outdoors under the clear skies, creating innovative inventions, dads taking over the Lego, jigsaw puzzles being taken out of the closet and a host of other pre-modern gaming device activities. Surely this is how it should be!

I believe that going forward, every parent needs to continue connecting' with their children. Creating opportunities for children to appreciate the simple things in life is so very important and essential to a fulfilling life. My heart warms when hearing some of the amazing lessons coming out of homes .... being grateful for what one has, taking the time to 'smell the roses', consideration for others, not taking things for granted, not being able to spend money recklessly, missing friends, appreciation for those who are on the frontline ... and a host of other wonderful lessons.

Merchiston's decision to stop homework last year takes on a new dimension from hereon in ..... this family time, as a result of not having homework, should be treated as sacrosanct. It is precious time that you as parents have the choice to script into your daily lives, safe in the knowledge that the emotional, physical and spiritual benefits for each and every child is simply beyond any monetary value. This is the time to 'continue to make lemonade out of this lemon'!

True Blue: Attitude is everything

Out of the world-wide pandemic that has befallen this planet, echoes a prayer that God's children will rise up with a new resolve to make this world a better place.

I conclude this newsletter with snippets of the lyrics to Bob Dylan's song Forever Young.

May God bless and keep you always  
May your wishes all come true  
May you always do for others  
And let others do for you.

May your hands always be busy  
May your feet always be swift  
May you have a strong foundation  
When the winds of changes shift  
May your heart always be joyful  
May your song always be sung.

Stay well and my warmest and sincerest best wishes to you all.

  
**DAVE BEETAR**  
**HEADMASTER**