



**Theme: Enriched, Empowered, Abounding in God's Favour**  
***Focus – Maintaining the Tradition of Enrichment and Empowerment through  
a Better Understanding of our Students' Development.***

---

The theme for our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Enriched, Empowered, Abounding in God's Favour stands as a powerful testimony of God's goodness to this school family and the many blessings we have been privileged to enjoy. As we contemplate our role in maintaining this tradition of enrichment and empowerment, I would ask that we thoughtfully share in the reflections which follow and the attendant readings which are provided.

### **Accomplishments**

Over the past three years we have endeavoured to engage our students through a more interactive and integrated approach to the delivery of instruction. In that regard, we have been able to achieve some measure of success in building more interest and achieving greater participation from the students in the process of their academic development. The increased use of technology and the brave plunge taken with the introduction of the BYOD policy in 2013 have served us well and we are pleased with the changes in the culture of the teaching/learning environment that have evolved and continue to evolve.

Over the past three years, the repetition of our theme "Children Learn What They Live, Children Live What They Learn" has served as a constant reminder that much rests upon us to provide by way of exemplary lifestyles, the appropriate environment in which these young people placed in our care can thrive and so maximize their potential. As our founders intended, this should be reflected in the fourfold development: Physical, mental spiritual and social. As educators therefore we are not just teachers of subjects but shapers of the lives of the future leaders of our nation.

### **Challenges**

Our vision for these young ladies is that they will "stand out as leaders in society, maintaining a tradition of excellence whilst being socially aware and involved citizens, with strong spiritual and moral values contributing positively to the strengthening of the nation". This is no easy task in this fast paced, self centred, postmodern era where we

now face a generation that is questioning the validity of the spiritual and moral values that have guided us thus far. Very little emphasis is being placed on the importance of family and community which form the bedrock of any strong nation. Deliberate attempts are being made by the so called "developed" nations to reorder society so as to legitimize lifestyles which based on the word of God were considered unacceptable in the Western world and our young people are more and more being caught up in this web of indifference where "everything is everything". There are therefore now no boundaries and as long as you "feel" it is okay then no one has the right to tell you otherwise, even if this decision will definitely lead to your destruction. The same technology that has proven to be so helpful in engaging them positively, is being used by others to feed messages that contradict much of what our society has upheld as wholesome and good.

Conflicts at home, the financial crisis, abuse whether physical, sexual or emotional are all contributory factors which lead to the aggression or depression that is being exhibited by a growing number of students. Many of us find it difficult to reach the students exhibiting these maladaptive behaviours and often times our reactive response might end up doing more harm than good.

## **Strategies**

This year's focus on understanding the different stages of our students' development is an attempt to remind/sensitize us to the need for deliberate strategies to be implemented to reach our students at the different stages of their development-physical, mental spiritual and social. We will achieve far more if we pay attention to their unique characteristics at each stage. It is far more likely that we will be able to affect their thought patterns and their conduct if we take these benchmarks into consideration. We believe that instead of always feeling as if we are swimming upstream we will be able to strategically "go with the flow". In so doing, we could help to direct the course of the "river of influence" in the lives of these young ladies so that they, having been enriched and empowered will in turn be able, by God's Grace to help others to experience the "Life More Abundant". **This is our Ultimate Goal.**

Sharon Reid  
August 28, 2015