

### **EDITORIAL**

Dear Parents,

Let's usher in 2019 with hopes, growth and success for the year!

Thank you for choosing Julia Gabriel Centre and Chiltern House Preschool as the preferred early childhood education provider for your children. I believe in this shared caretaking role, there is still much to learn from parents in a partnership, as you entrust your children in our care.

I look forward to our new Flexi and Full-Day care in our Chiltern House programmes with new learnings set to pave the way for new achievements to take place. We have received a good response from our parents and I hope to see this programme flourish and grow in its strength.

I also wish to congratulate all our children and Julia Gabriel Centre specialist teachers who were involved in the Trinity College London Speech Communication Arts examination in 2018. All our children from Julia Gabriel Centre did really well, with many awarded with Distinctions for their results.

My team and I look forward to this partnership with you, and I hope this year will be a good and fruitful year for us all.

Happy New Year!

**Sharon Roshini Jacob** Principal of Schools

**dramatically**different

### **EVENTS | NEWS**

#### **CITTA MALL: NOW OPEN ON SATURDAYS**

Julia Gabriel Centre CITTA Mall is now open on Saturdays!

You can now enjoy your favourite programmes from our Early Learning Range - **Bilingual PlayClub**, selected **Speech and Drama** Programmes, and **Readers and Writers** <u>Programmes</u>.

Come and join us in trial classes and experience first-hand what makes us such a dramatically different school of thought!

For more information on our Saturday programmes, drop us an enquiry by visiting www.juliagabriel.com.my or call CITTA Mall centre at 03-7832 2233.











### SPEECH & DRAMA AND READERS & WRITERS CAMP 2018

Two weeks of fun and exploration in Julia Gabriel Centre's year-end holiday programmes.









## KINDERGARTEN TWO GRADUATION

Congratulations to our Kindergarten Two children in Bangsar and CITTA Mall centre for completing your preschool education with us at Chiltern House Preschool!

Our six-year-olds put up a splendid line-up of performances in English, Mandarin and Bahasa Malaysia at their graduation which took place at Mont' Kiara centre's auditorium.

You will all be sorely missed and thank you for allowing us to be a part of your early years journey. Now spread your wings and soar!



# HANDOVER OF DONATIONS TO SPCA SELANGOR





# **PRAMATICALLY**IFFERENT CONVERSATION

### **Fostering Empathy**

Who doesn't hope that their child grows up to be happy and successful, and ideally, kind, caring and compassionate?

To be the latter requires empathy, a meaningful quality we should encourage in our children because our ability to love, respect and understand how others feel stems from how empathetic we are as individuals. Research indicates that children who demonstrate high levels of empathy are more likely to develop into confident, non-judgemental, open minded and giving adults. Though some children are more instinctively empathetic than others at a young age, with studies indicating that girls tend to be more empathetic than boys, empathy is a skill that can be learned — and as always, the earlier the better!

#### Benefits

Empathetic children are more likely to succeed at school and in their careers. They are usually more confident socially and demonstrate healthy levels of self-esteem. Today, companies increasingly seek candidates who possess high levels of emotional intelligence when interviewing prospective new employees because they tend to demonstrate strong communication skills, be good at building relationships and are more likely to have a positive influence on a team. Empathy is widely recognised as one of the most important qualities a leader in any field can possess.

An empathetic leader is thoughtful as well as intellectually competent. Today, an individual's Emotional Quotient (EQ — measure of empathy and levels of self-awareness) is as important as Intellectual Quotient (IQ).

### What can parents do to foster empathy in children?

Firstly, it is important to keep in mind that young children rarely show empathy consistently, so avoid unrealistic expectations of your child's behaviour. Instead:

Enable them to experience the customs and languages of other cultures. You can do this through travel, but you don't have to go far if you'd rather not go overseas. Just look at the wealth of cultures and languages here in Singapore!

Read stories (picture books, National Geographic Magazine, etc) about people of different races, ethnicity, colour and religion, as well as about families less fortunate than your own. Watch quality documentaries that open a window to a wider world (about nature, the animal kingdom, the environment, cultural practices, etc).

Caring for a pet helps children learn responsibility and understand the needs of another

living being. If you have a pet, encourage your child to help look after it. (Avoid buying a pet for a small child, though, with the expectation that they will care for it all the time!)

Role model empathy yourself. Show your interest in and enjoyment of the diversity of this planet, as you demonstrate kindness towards others. Remember, your child looks up to you and will follow suit. Encourage conversation! Talk to your child and, most importantly, listen! A child who feels safe to communicate openly develops emotional fluency and the ability to handle different kinds of relationships.

Praise your child when they demonstrate empathy. It feels great and they are more likely to repeat the same positive behaviour!

At the end of the day, your child will forge their own path in life but, by encouraging the development of empathy as early as possible, you can be sure you are giving them the best possible start!

Source: Julia Gabriel Education, Singapore.