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A Jesuit Secondary School

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Wish you a blessed and fruitful 2020!

Ringing in the new year is just like turning over a new leaf, wiping the slate clean and getting ready to paint in colours on a new canvas. As the painter of our own life, we are endowed with autonomy to resolve what to put down on this new page- we can paint the page with rosy colours or dark colours; we can make it colourful or turn it gloomy. How we live determines what this page of life will look like.

Never belittle ourselves and think a new year is just a small step in our life. Who knows? A small step may eventually turn out to be a giant leap. Sometimes, we hesitate to move forward because we do not believe in ourselves and we have doubt about what we can do. Our life is made vibrant with vicissitudes; we have been daunted by too many failures and each misstep casts a shadow of uncertainty. It is this speck of doubt that becomes our hurdle. Yet, we may not realize that each setback is indeed part of our preparation for success in the future. Each mishap is a learning experience to prepare us to be Men of Human Excellence, if we can do reflection on our tumble and learn.

At Wah Yan, we do not have losers. How good are Wahyanites? Remember we had the External School Review, whole school inspection by the Education Bureau, in October 2019, and the draft report has been sent to us. The verdict states, "Students display good learning attitudes and abilities. Students are reflective and respectful. Both their academic and non-academic performance is good." The findings say it all. Now and then we fall short, not because we lack the capabilities, only because we are not ready. What we have to do is to get ready, in the new year.

It is essential to recognize the special connotation the new year brings with it. A time of fresh starts comes with a time of reflection, cherishing what we have achieved and contemplating what we want to accomplish. It is time to be hopeful, have new goals and make some resolutions for the new year in our life. It is time to embrace new *SMART* goals, goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based. If we want to form the habit of reading, which is the key to a whole new world, we may set goals like, "I want to read two books each month." We all want a happy life in the new year and true enjoyment is life satisfaction, which only comes from a



purposeful life. Life without purpose never gives us satisfaction. When we set our goals and live life with purpose, karma will take care of itself and life will find its way to happiness. Setting goals is a simple endeavor but the practice can have a profound impact on our life.

Life is lonely when we do things alone. The new year is also the time to connect with each other and chase our dreams together. Our brotherhood and companionship are significant ingredients that nourish and energize our life, garnering momentum to move on. Our brotherhood and friendships are the ones that never fade away in the tides of time. They only mature and blossom as time goes by, making life worth living, even when things go wrong.

The new year 2020 is a year we all look forward to, as Wah Yan is celebrating the 95th Anniversary. There is an exciting line-up of celebratory programmes in the pipeline and the first event is our Open Days, which are a perfect occasion for us to connect with each other and strive for a purpose. The theme of our Open Days is Transcendence, which signifies our drive to go beyond our boundaries and to be better, living out our spirit of Magis. Transcendence is more than acquiring new knowledge, skills and attitudes, as it is initiated by turning inward, listening to our heart, knowing what we want, what goals we want to reach. Let us start the new year with new dreams and pursue our dreams together with our companions!

Wish you a blessed and fruitful 2020!

Warren Chung Principal

