

Principal's Message

A Spirit of Thankfulness

Gratitude – one online source defines it as the “*quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.*”

Gratitude or thankfulness is not a virtue that comes naturally to most people. We are taught from young to make the best of the opportunities that come our way. We are continually encouraged to achieve peaks of excellence in our fields of pursuit. We are reminded repeatedly to be committed, diligent, self-reliant and tenacious in the face of many demands and obstacles so that we may one day savour the fruit of our successes.

"To Mum & Dad, thanks so much for your encouragement and for tirelessly helping me move forward at every step of the way. I couldn't have made it without you*."

These are indeed sound qualities to nurture in our young but they must always be accompanied by a spirit of gratitude. Without this quality of thankfulness in our lives, we risk becoming too full of ourselves and fail to recognise that our successes have not come solely from our own efforts but that of many others.

No one succeeds by himself. Behind each successful person are many other people – parents, teachers, coaches, pastors, friends - who have provided him with support, expertise, care and encouragement. Such people and their efforts must be acknowledged, affirmed and celebrated with thankfulness in our lives. It is not just people that we must be thankful for. We should never forget God in our lives – and

His blessings of love, mercy and grace. The Bible teaches us to make this spirit of thankfulness a life-long trait – that “in everything, give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thess 5:18)

"To my teachers, thank you for putting in so much effort to groom us into the best people we can be. As students, there is nothing more encouraging than knowing that our teachers are committed and that they believe in us.*"

To help inculcate a spirit of gratitude in our students, ACS (Independent) has introduced the “With Gratitude” card that we use at Founder’s Day and Honours Day. For award recipients and other students, the card provides a tangible opportunity to reflect on their life and learning journeys and to recognise and thank the people who have guided and cheered them on through thick and thin, always believing they had it in them to make it.

As you read this, who have you to be thankful for? Don’t wait or hesitate – go recognise and affirm that person.

Winston Hodge

Principal

ACS (Independent)

**These are two of several hundred Gratitude Cards written by ACS (Independent) students to special people in their lives for Founder’s Day this year.*

