

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE : ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

### **Integrity and Honesty**

As we prepare for the mid-year exams next week it is important that we focus on the importance of honesty and integrity, two values which are closely related.

People with integrity are those whose words match their deeds and whose behaviours mirror their values. Their honesty and ethics can be trusted unconditionally. They honour commitments. They are dependable. They are known for doing the right things, for the right reasons, at the right times. While numerous tales of integrity take place in public settings where others can see them, often the most powerful examples occur in the quiet stillness of a private moment – when no one else is looking. Such is the case in the “Catch of a Lifetime.” (From “Everyday Greatness” by Stephen Covey).

*He was eleven years old, and went fishing every chance he got from the dock at his family's cabin on an island in the middle of a New Hampshire lake.*

*On the day before the bass season opened, he and his father were fishing early in the evening, catching sunfish and perch with worms. Then he tied on a small silver lure and practiced casting. The lure struck the water and caused coloured ripples in the sunset, then silver ripples as the moon rose over the lake.*

*When his pole doubled over, he knew something was on the other end. His father watched with admiration as the boy skilfully worked the fish alongside the dock.*

*Finally he very gingerly lifted the exhausted fish from the water. It was the largest one he had ever seen, but it was a bass.*

*The boy and his father looked at the handsome fish, gills playing back and forth in the moonlight. The father lit a match and looked at his watch. It was 10:00pm – two hours before the season opened. He looked at the fish, then at the boy.*

*“You'll have to put it back son,” he said.*

*“Dad!” cried the boy.*

*“There will be other fish,” said his father.*

*“Not as big as this one,” cried the boy.*

*He looked around the lake. No other fishermen or boats were anywhere around in the moonlight. He looked again at his father.*

*Even though no one had seen them, nor would anyone ever know what time he caught the fish, the boy could tell by the clarity of his father's voice that the decision was not negotiable. He slowly worked the hook out of the lip of the huge bass, and lowered it into the black water.*

*The creature swished its powerful body and disappeared. The boy suspected that he would never again see such a great fish.*

*That was thirty-four years ago. Today, the boy is a successful architect in New York City. His father's cabin is still there on the island in the middle of the lake. He takes his own son and daughters fishing from the same dock.*

*And he was right. He has never again caught such a magnificent fish as the one he landed that night long ago. But he does see that same fish – again and again – every time he comes up against a question of ethics.*

*For, as his father taught him, ethics are simple matters of right and wrong. It is only the practice of ethics that is difficult. Do we do right when no one is looking?*

*We would if we were taught to put the fish back when we were young. For we would have learned the truth.*

*The decision to do right lives fresh and fragrant in our memory. It is a story we will proudly tell our friends and grandchildren.*

*Not about how we had a chance to beat the system and took it, but about how we did the right thing and were forever strengthened.*

Gentleman I would suggest that it is same for you during exam time and in fact in every aspect of your lives. Do you take unfair advantage by cheating when no one is watching? When you look at yourself in the mirror are you proud of who you, is your conscience clear. There is a French Proverb which says “*there is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience*”. Do you sleep well at night with a clear conscience?

Mahatma Gandhi wisely said, “*One man cannot do right in one department of life whilst he is occupied in doing wrong in any other department. Life is one indivisible whole*”.

I wish you all the best for the exams, prepare well and do your best, that is all that we and I am sure your parents ask of you.