



Principal's Message:



Guard your heart, start decluttering.

*A reflection on School Theme for 2017
from Proverbs 4:23.*

During the last school break, my wife and I decided to clear our home of clutter. What I thought would be a short afternoon's work - with tea and cakes in between the sorting and clearing - turned out to be a 3-day-exercise. In all, we disposed of at least 12 trash bags of junk – old clothes that did not fit anymore, magazines, newspapers, notes from generations ago, spoilt appliances...

I want to think that some inexplicable mystery had led us to accumulate the amount of stuff we had – but in truth, we had allowed things to pile up slowly, imperceptibly over the years to what it was. In short, we had built up the clutter at home.

This decluttering episode brings to mind Proverbs 4:23 - which is the 2017 theme verse of ACS (Independent). It says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Just as we can clutter our home with junk, there is a possibility that if we are not careful, we may clutter our heart too. It

happens slowly, over time, often without us even realising it. If the clutter we accumulate in our heart is damaging or even destructive and is not dealt with, it can lead to serious consequences.

What unsavoury clutter do we allow to accumulate in our heart? Hurts, anger, disappointments, bitterness, resentment, jealousy...the list goes on. And these, if left unchecked and allowed to take root in our heart, will affect the way we view ourselves and our relationships with others. Joyce Meyer, in her devotion titled, "What's the Condition of Your Heart?" says, "Your heart's condition depends on the things you allow in your heart. These things form your thoughts and attitudes, and ultimately shape the deepest part of your being. No matter what your circumstances (the outside) are, if your heart (the inside) is right, you're going to be okay."

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heart.**

As we start 2017, as individuals and as a school family, we need to actively heed the call of Proverbs 4:23 to guard our heart, lest we accumulate clutter there. We can start off by first being careful about what we allow into our heart. As the Bible advises us in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." And when we encounter times of adversity, hurt or unfairness as we inevitably will as part of our humanity, we need God's strength and resolve not to allow these episodes to cause us to store bitterness and anger in our heart.

Let's guard our heart and start decluttering.

Happy 2017.



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