

REFLECTIONS ON BRING YOUR PARENTS TO SCHOOL DAY

Recently, ACS (Independent) organised its inaugural *Bring Your Parents to School Day*. The event, held over three mornings in the last week of Term 3, allowed Year 1 parents to experience a slice of life of their son's day in school. The programme included parents attending the morning assembly on the parade square, sitting through students' presentation in class, taking a short tour of facilities frequently used by their children, attending a talk by our PSG Chairman before ending the morning in the canteen for tea.



When it was first mooted, teachers wondered how it will feel with parents sitting through lessons. The students' response to me was sharp. I remember one young gentleman telling me, "No way, Sir! We don't want parents in our classroom." However, despite our students' reservation about having their parents in school and in their classes, the response from parents was strong.

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Observing my students those three days, it was clear that they were pleased – and indeed proud of their parents' presence and participation in their lessons and the day's programme. My teachers, as expected, were in their element and ably facilitated the presentations. Parents' feedback was positive overall.

Many expressed appreciation to the school for organising such an event. They felt that the morning was well spent as it gave them some insight into their son's life in school and his interaction with his classmates and teachers.



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Bring Your Parents to School Day is part of a continuing drive at ACS (Independent) to partner with parents in the education of our students. In their book, *Beyond the Bake Sale – The Essential Guide to Family-School Relationships (2007)*, researchers Henderson, Mapp, Johnson and Davies assert that "partnerships among schools, families, and community groups are not a luxury – they are a necessity." A school's work of educating a child cannot be accomplished alone. We build on the foundations laid by parents and the home. As such, a positive partnership with parents based on trust, mutual respect and collaboration is vital. Only then can the school and home, with teachers and parents together, create the environment of care and support for each child to learn, grow and excel in, both at home and in school.



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