

Message to Shatin Tsung-tsiners

20th February, 2009

Dear Shatin Tsung-tsiners,

Receiving your report card two weeks ago, how do you feel? Are you satisfied with your performance in the first term? If not, have you thought about the reason? Have you come up with any action plans on how to make a change in the second semester?

Many students often envy those who come through the exams with flying colours. We often hear remarks like 'I wish I had Apple's talent!' or 'I wish I had Billy's luck!' or 'I wish I had Carmen's English proficiency!'. However, have they seen the months and years of effort which has moulded that person's achievement?

I plant flowers and shrubs in my small garden at home as I enjoy being in the nature. Outdoors gardening takes me time, effort and patience but brings me fruitful rewards. (There have been strawberries, tomatoes, peppermint, English ivy, St. Bernard's lily, Boston fern, nerve plant, dot plant, creeping fig, lily, peace lily, tulip, garden pentunia, poinsettia, cineraria, African touch-me-not, common cosmos, hyacinth and sunflowers living in my home!)

In the nature, we get back only what we put into. If we plant tomatoes, we won't get potatoes. The same rule works with everything we do. I can enjoy being with the beautiful blooms in my garden now because I have prepared the soil and watered the plants every day for months. Similarly, if you can enjoy warm friendships now, it is because you have treated others in a friendly way too. If you are loved now, it is because you have loved others too. If you can enjoy physical and mental health now, it is because you have maintained a balanced diet and lifestyle regularly. If you can enjoy an outstanding academic result now, it is because you have devoted much effort on your study.

'There ain't no such thing as free lunch!'

Thomas Edison said, 'Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent perspiration ... I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident. **They came by work.**'

Michelangelo Buonarroti, who has been considered the greatest artist of all time, once commented, 'If people knew **how hard I have had to work to gain my mastery**, it wouldn't seem wonderful at all.'

Don't hope that your results will suddenly get better. Things change only when **you change**. Things get better only when **you try harder and do better**. We never know when we will get back what we put into, but the rewards **always come!**

Your teacher,

Ms. Lam Suet Fong