



Message from the Head of School - October 2019

At the end of my backyard is a large hill. The hill is populated with all kinds of trees planted closely together forming little woods in many places. When they were little, my children spent hours in those woods returning all muddy, scuffed and happy. If I sit on my deck or at my kitchen table I look out at the hill. It's lovely, most particularly at this time of year.

Each year, since our children were little, my wife takes them out to the hill and they each gather a handful of fallen leaves. The more colourful and perfectly shaped the leaf, the better. I sit with a coffee and watch. When the kids were younger, it was an event filled with laughter and energy. With teenagers, its tone has shifted towards obligation and efficiency.

The gathered leaves are then brought inside and my wife makes really gorgeous table displays with them. We sit around the table during the Thanksgiving weekend eating, laughing, talking and generally being thankful for each other. The hill is forgotten, our focus is inward on each other. For my part, over the last few years, I have shared with you versions of that focus of our Thanksgiving – on family and friends and of course, if you have learned anything about me, that remains my pull, my gravity – to draw close with those we care about and to be thankful with and for them.

But I need to tell you something else. It is something that anyone working in a school right now knows with certainty. The news on television serves only to confirm it. Our children, with increasing passion and determination, are asking us, perhaps demanding of us, that we look back outside. They are asking that we look longer and deeper at the beauty of the world around us. They are asking that, as we are thankful for the mesmerising colours of autumn, we see the tender fragility of that beauty. They are asking that our relationship with the outside world no longer be just taking what we want and returning inside to our lives but rather considering the ways in which we can sustain the world from which we take.

Our children are asking for our support of the outside world so that years from now, when they gather their families at Thanksgiving they can enjoy the same crisp, clear days when the trees, as they prepare for winter, shed their leaves in such an explosion of colour.

It is my wish that you have the opportunity this weekend to be with those you love, in particular your children. My gentle request is that, as you lean inwards in thankfulness for your children, you follow their gaze to see that they are leaning outwards in support of our world.

From all of us at TMS, please enjoy a very Happy Thanksgiving.

David

David Young
Head of School
TMS