

Parents need to get more involved

Letter from Kwan Jin Yao

IN HER letter "Don't overburden teachers" (July 2), Dr Paulin Tay Straughan reminds Singaporeans of the tremendous responsibilities on the shoulders of educators here.

While it is true changing circumstances within the education system necessitates teachers go beyond traditional teaching-learning models, it is equally imperative for parents to play a more hands-on and complementary role in the education of their children.

The importance of parents in the education process cannot be understated. How families interact with and teach their children in the pre-school formative years sets an important foundation for their teachers to later build upon.

Parents and teachers should be always ready to complement each other. Unfortunately, interactions appear limited to parent-teacher gatherings, where the emphasis is often on examination results, rankings or serious



TODAY FILE PHOTO

behavioural transgressions.

There must be more channels and ways to help students grow holistically in school and at home. The scope of parent-teacher meetings should be expanded to include evaluation of the student's non-academic performance. For instance, parents and teachers should discuss how to customise at-home strategies for their children.

Second, schools and the Ministry of Education can provide free resources for parents on themes such as preschool education. This could be coupled with subsidised talks by counsellors and professionals on how to communicate with one's child, and so on.

Education cannot be executed by schools and teachers alone.

■ HOW MANY CYCLISTS ACTUALLY PENALISED?

I refer to the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) letter, "Cyclists, motorists must abide by road rules" (July 2).

While the SPF was clear on rules governing cycling, their letter was conspicuously silent on the matter of "enforcement" which is the crux of the issue.

Cyclists are happily cycling on footways and across pedestrian crossings

all over the island, often insisting on their right to do so by ringing their bells to get foot traffic out of their way. Motorists are fined for far less serious offences.

Can the SPF tell us how many errant cyclists have been fined or penalised in the last year?

LETTER FROM TOH CHONG SIONG

How about a week off after PSLE?

Letter from Lee Hong Leong

TO PREPARE for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), some Primary 6 pupils have been staying back nearly every day after school for the whole of Term 2 and some even stay back during Term 3 for more lessons.

While others are enjoying the Term 3 holidays, they do not get to do so as they have lessons daily. Others even use part of the mid-year holidays to prepare for the PSLE.

The P6 students should be given a week off after the PSLE for several reasons. They are human and they need a break to recharge.

Instead of having to wake up at 6am or earlier to get ready for school even after the exams are over, give them a chance to wake up later, enjoy a leisurely breakfast, relax, read a book, watch TV, play games and day dream.

Their teachers also would have made many sacrifices and would be equally stressed.

Give them a break, too, so that they can recharge and know they are appreciated.

During this week when the students are away, allow the teachers to come in later and leave earlier if they do not have classes to teach in the lower levels.

They could use the time to catch up with their paperwork.

I have spoken to some parents and we all agree this is a good idea. We would appreciate it if the Ministry of Education could look into this.

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