Greetings Parents,

To learn how to nurture your child’s curiosity to become an avid learner, I invite you to attend the parent-coffee session with our atelierista Ms. Jesse Shlabach, this coming Friday at 8:15-9:15 in the LS Auditorium.

From the very first day of school, the EY teachers create a culture of listening and emphasize it throughout the school year. Growth and development in any area won’t be optimal if not reinforced at home. Your cooperation in fostering listening at home is of utmost importance.

The skill of listening is very crucial, and usually given much less attention than it deserves. Listening accounts for more than half of the communication activity in the workplace, according to the International Listening Association, as well as playing a major role in our personal and social lives. Those who listen well, children or adults, learn more effectively and have better relationships throughout their lives. We learned to hear as infants, but anyone can learn to listen better. You can teach your child to listen carefully by being a good listener yourself. Remember, you are your child’s role model. If you want him to be a good listener, you should exhibit good listening yourself.

- Stop what you’re doing and face your child when he/she is speaking to you, rather than only giving them half your attention.
- Try to minimize the distractions in your home (such as a radio or TV that’s always on) to make listening less of a struggle.
- Avoid interrupting.
- Be mindful of your body language.
- Be fully attentive, put your smart phone away and listen carefully to their great ideas and stories. Show genuine listening and undivided attention.

When children see their parents as good listeners, they can acquire and internalize listening skills themselves. Here are some tips we urge you to use with your child at home:

- Say it once! Repeating instruction will produce lazy listening in children. If kids are accustomed to hearing instructions twice, three times, and even four times, listening the first time around becomes unnecessary. This applies to calling your child’s name. Make sure if you want his attention to call their name once and only once (make sure they hear you). Next time you call your child’s name at home, be conscious and count how many times you called before they responded.
- When you call their name, make sure you ask them to stop what they’re doing, look at you and say, “yes mom” or “yes dad” or “yes nanny”, etc...
• When you’re talking with your child, make sure he maintains eye contact and listens to you attentively and carefully.
• When you engage your child in any kind of group conversation, ask him/her to listen to what the others are saying and not to interrupt.
• When you attend a movie or a live show with your child, encourage him/her to listen and refrain from constant talking.

These are just a few tips, but we encourage you to become more conscious of your listening behavior with your child and promote effective listening among all the family members. For children to be good communicators, they need to develop effective listening skills.

After reading these few recommendations, if you think you need to promote a better culture of listening at home, invite all the members, hold a meeting, discuss why listening is important and together set the expectations of effective listening at home. Do not start any new strategies or routines before engaging every family member in discussion and dialogue.

“We have but two ears and one mouth so that we may listen twice as much as we speak.” Thomas Edison

**A Message from the High School Students at ACS:**

**TOY DRIVE!**

Have your children grown out of a toy and you thought it could passed on to someone else? The HS students who volunteer at the children’s wards in Beirut hospitals ask that you consider donating those toys to their co-curricular group, CCC. The toys will be given to the patients in their visits each cycle. Boxes for donations will be placed near the Principals’ offices and the BD entrance. They will be out from Thursday, 17 March, to Wednesday, 23 March. Please be careful that the toys are clean, in good shape, and are safe. They should be appropriate for children aged 2 to 10 who are in the hospital.

**Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember:**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 18th</td>
<td>Parent Coffee on ‘Curiosity’ at 8:15 in the LS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25th-</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>April 3rd</td>
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Respectfully,
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