



# HEADLINES

February 26, 2010

Volume I, No. 11

## The Responsibilities of Privilege

*The world has changed, and we must change with it.* (Barack Obama, 2009)

The world is changing around us. But even with all of the economic upheavals and uncertainties of the past year, we still live in world of privilege. Globally, every member of our Somersfield community belongs to the tiny percentage of the world's population that is well clothed, housed, and fed. We enjoy fresh water, some weeks more than others, clean air, and a temperate and embracing climate. A higher proportion of Bermudians have internet connections than anywhere else in the world and we have access to about 100 more television channels than anyone could possibly want to watch!

The children in our Montessori classes have the advantage of a strong and child-centered programme with a proven track record for preparing them for higher learning. Every student in our Middle School – from M1 to M5 is already a member of the educated elite, having had more schooling than ninety percent of the rest of the planet! We truly live in a world of privilege.

Last year was one of celebration and reflection as we looked back on 400 years of Bermuda's history. But now is a time for looking forward to a somewhat fluid and uncertain future. What might that future hold for our students? How can they build on that privileged beginning that has been given them by their parents, extended family, teachers and school?

They will live in a world where education makes all of the difference – families and teachers can provide them with opportunities but it will be up to them to make the most of them.

They will live in a world where character counts. Where honesty and integrity and compassion are not old fashioned values – they are the critically important ones for

future success. They are privileged to have had role models at home and at school to demonstrate how true this is. It will be their responsibility to live up to those examples.

They will live in a world that is interdependent. A world where every citizen must do her or his part for social justice, to improve the environment, to take part in the political process and to be a good friend and neighbour. It is their responsibility to take an active role in the life of their community – and not just be a bystander.

They will live in a world where the impact of climate change and political upheaval and global economic forces will take their toll on the weak and the helpless. A world that will need them to step forward, as I am proud to say they have done for the people of Haiti, to roll up their sleeves and to give of themselves to lessen the suffering of others.

Finally, they will live in a world that is going to be radically different from the one that their grandparents, parents, teachers and I grew up in. A world where doing the same old thing in the same old way just isn't going to cut it anymore. As teachers and parents our mission is to try to prepare the children and young adults in our care to face challenges that we can't even imagine using ideas and technologies that haven't even been thought of yet.

It will be their responsibility to take a leadership role in that world.

That is the responsibility of privilege.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Read-a-thon

March 1st—19th

#### 9-11/MYP

#### Sports Day

March 4th

#### Budding Chef Competition

March 20th

#### Last Day of Term

March 26th

#### First Day of Next Term

April 12th

#### Apologia

To those parents who were trying to contact us by phone or email on Friday. The school was without power for most of the day. Thank goodness for sunshine!