

FEB 2004 EMAIL TEXT

From: "GFI admin" <admin@gfi-singapore.org>
Subject: 2004 January Mailer
Date: Thursday, January 01, 2004 11:39 AM

Clear DayDearest parents!

Wow, a brand new year. Time flies! May we take this opportunity to wish all of you a blessed New Year! The Ezzos also send their wishes and a special greeting in the attachment! We also touched on teenagers and some toddler meal time review this issue and pray that they will be helpful.

For classes - don't forget the January 9 information session - 7.30 pm Tony Buzan Centre (Goldhill). This session is to orientate all potential attendees and also to get to know each other a little before class starts. It is also a wonderful opportunity to find out more and ask all the questions you may have.

Classes will start Fridays in February (same time, same location). Please check the website out on this as there are quite a few forms we did not want to jam your emails, download from the web accordingly. There are phone numbers on the forms for you to call if you need any clarifications. Please help to spread the word around to those who may be interested. Please feel free to drop us a note any time.

Continue to send in your suggestions, questions and thoughts as we are learning as we go along. May your family be strengthened as you journey on this wonderful path prepared for you.

GFI Singapore
log on www.gfi-singapore.org for parenting resource



NEW FORMAT

Chinese New Year. Seen your relative you have not seen in a year? Perhaps it is a good opportunity to keep in touch with one family this year?

Valentines Day is round the corner, why surprise your spouse? For husbands, cook a meal ? (Oops, must I?). For wives, what about a special, candlelit meal prepared by yourself that is different (and send the kids away for a few hours like your inlaws place!).



Snippet on house rules

We got annoyed when our children borrowed our handphones to play games or SMSing while walking! (OK, it's actually our fault, we could have just asked them back!) Well, one day, we went into the lift, daddy was SMSing. Guess what – Elliot said, “Naughty daddy! Broke house rules!” Daddy stopped immediately! Now, who says house rules aren't effective. The difficult part is for daddy to obey!

Teenage experiences

Just in case you are wondering, yes, Samantha finally got her handphone. We caved in! She had so many activities towards the end of Sec. 1 that it was inconvenient to stay in touch. She said she will find a way to keep us posted of schedule changes (public phones for example), but we found that she usually borrows someone else's handphone...! However, the struggle was good. We believe she is more

appreciative of the phone! One of the other frustrations of teenage (or even younger children) parents is the unhappiness showed by our kids when parents make a stand. We end up feeling sorry they are unhappy and give in to the demands against our wisdom. We just need to ask God for wisdom and stand firm if we have to.

About explaining to our children

“The moral reason why” we learn about in GKGW where we teach our children the whys behind certain prohibitions sometimes lead some children to end up demanding an explanation every time. Remember, there are certain times explanations are not necessary! ‘I said so’ or ‘You have to trust us that when the time is right, you will know’ is enough. Don't fall into the trap of having to explain every single thing – it does not help! Too much of explaining may result in too much verbal freedom from our children where they think they deserve an explanation to everything! This is especially true for the below 7s. When they are in the teen years, the explanation naturally become more and the ‘I said so’ will become less (note we did not say that they are eliminated!).

Good versus Bad

We have a teenage boy and teenage girl (brother and sister) whom we have been helping on and off for a few years now. The boy is usually more rebellious while the girl more quiet. Recently Jeremy SMS them both to delay a certain appointment on a school day in the morning. The girl replied while the boy did not. So, Jeremy was a little annoyed at the boy until Suan Ai pointed out that it is school day and the boy did the right thing because he did not switch on the handphone while the girl for some reason still has the phone on! This experience showed us that sometimes we blame the wrong person because we parents have a tendency to praise the good ones continually and be blinded even if something bad came from the good kid. So, the not-too-good kid

always get the scolding and go from bad to worse while the good one gets away with murder! That happens to Elliot and Josiah as well. We thus have to make a conscious effort to praise Elliot more and be “watchful” of the good boy Josiah – to be fair, they are both adorable in their own ways!

