Congestion? Pollution?

NO WAY!

By Melly Sutjitro

I am proud of our Binus International School Serpong. In a blink of an eye, our School grows up so fast. Just like any child, it grows from merely an infant to a teenager in the past 2 years. And just like any teenagers, it grows more beautifully, stronger, and more creative. But growing up also means trouble emerges. With population close to 1000 students in ECY/EL division alone, our School is, no doubt, the most crowded School within Serpong area.

Congestion during drop-off and dismissal time is a common sight. The number of the supporting people, like nannies, maids, and drivers, are increasing as well. Situation is often getting worse on Fridays, when majority of the students are dismissed roughly at the same time. Friday’s dismissal is a condition I called “Freaky Friday”. It sums up all discomfort situations in picking up our children. Parking spot is a rare commodity and sometimes needs to be fought. Some of the people leave the car’s engine running all the times, thus contributing to the polluted air within our Campus. Do they realize that our children, teachers, and fellow parents automatically inhale those cars’ smoke? Dismissal Foyer is super-duper crowded, that it’s almost impossible to get out of the crowd once you’ve picked up your child without being pushed, bumped, stepped (by other people’s shoes and by kid’s school bag). You get the idea! So, whose problems are these? These are our problems! And while the School does their share in trying to accommodate everyone’s comfort, certain limitations are still here. It’s time for us, parents, to do our share in making some of the problems “bearable” for us and for our children. Here are some of the example that we can do:

- Educate our nannies and drivers to always ready to drop off our children. Talking over the phone while they drop off our children is not only compromise the safety of our children, it also contributes to the precious minutes delay and long line up for other cars behind our car. And always have our children’s stuff ready.

- When we park the car, we’d better TURN OFF the engine immediately. Air pollution means not just the smell of it, it can also make people (and our children) sick. Our school’s building is located in the middle of the parking lot, so imagine the effect of it.

- Always respect others. Line up accordingly, especially during dismissal time. Cutting off the line to get our child is not nice at all. On top of that, cutting off line means crowding the dismissal path, thus blocking our children’s exit lines. Our children do not need to fight their way out after a long day at school, do they?

- Educate our nannies and drivers to respect the school with their proper behavior.

- While we are waiting for the School to set up more alter-native waiting areas, let’s work out with the ones we already have. Prioritize parent/nanny who needs to take care of younger children while waiting for the older children to be dismissed. Allow them to sit at the waiting area to feed or to care for their children.

- Refrain ourselves from honking within the School’s premises. It disturbs the learning activities.

- Prepare ourselves with alternative parking spots outside the campus, just in case we couldn’t get any. Ask Securities about the alternative spots. For me, the Ruko Golden Boulevard next door is always useful.

I also learn that it’s best not to do your pedicure right before you’re about to pick up your kids, especially not on Fridays, unless you don’t mind getting shoe prints or trolley wheel prints at your brand new polished toenails.

I am hoping that my Freaky Friday will turn into Fantastic Friday. However it is impossible to achieve that by myself, or by the school alone. It’s our responsibility as well to make this place a better, more comfortable place for everyone, our children especially. A School is a sanctuary for our children and the teachers. It needs to be neat, clean, safe, and quiet for them to achieve the maximum result of the learning experience.

MyRubric

Do you have ideas or suggestions for our topic? Email it to us at myRubric.biss@gmail.com complete with your name and your children’s name and class. Your constructive ideas could be printed in our next edition. Emails must be received within 2(two) weeks after the newsletter date.

Do you know how to make our drop-off and dismissal time more comfortable? How to push this speedometer from Freaky Friday to Fantastic Friday? How to push it even farther to “Fantastic Everyday”?
Since this is our 1st issue of PSG Newsletter, I’d like to personally deliver a warm welcome to all readers, especially to fellow parents. I regard this newsletter as an important tool to communicate and share ideas and information among parents and teachers so that we are all connected as one. All of the information is shared. As the new PSG Chairperson, I’d like to invite all of you to participate fully in our newsletter by writing articles or sharing ideas and programs or asking questions. Let’s use this newsletter as a proper communication tool. Don’t forget to check on our upcoming events and be part of them.

I am confident that together we can achieve more. I am asking your support in making our PSG vision and mission a reality. Let’s move together towards a better future!
Classmoms
by Melly Sutjitro

Classmom is an integral part of our school life. They work hand-in-hand with the homeroom teachers and support class’ activities thoroughly. It’s a calling job and it requires full commitment in time, energy, and emotion. I’ve never been a classmom before, but many of my best friends have. Many of them still are today. To illustrate how dedicated our classmoms are, I am going to share with you my personal experience in seeing how our classmoms work.

During a fieldtrip last year, I tagged myself along with the other classmoms. I wasn’t doing any classmom’s duties. My duty was only to accompany my son. I brought one sling bag complete with my son’s stuff, like extra clothes, extra snacks, and extra bottle of water. My classmom friends also brought supplies, not only for their own kid, but for all the kids in the class (25-26 kids). They carried multiple bags, held camera in one hand, and held the kid’s hand in the other.

I saw what they put inside their bags. They had everything in there. It reminds me of the Doraemon’s magic pocket. They had dozens type of snacks, ranging from cookies, bread, and chocolate to solid food like homemade macaroni, noodle and rice. They had multiple sizes of plastic bags (not sure what they are for). They had packs of tissue, different in sizes and types. Medications were in there too, from lotion to Tempra. I have no idea how they survived carrying those magical bags with them the whole day while running along with the kids in the field. I barely managed my own son!

It’s only fair that we dedicate our first edition to honor these classmoms. Here is the line up for the year 2009/2010. These super moms are brave enough to accept this challenging task. There’s no reward for this job. Only a satisfied smile in a child’s face and a “thank you, Auntie” whisper from their lil’ lips. Then again, this alone means the whole world, doesn’t it Auntie?

**EL 6**
Ibu Lety (6A). She would say yes to any spicy food, especially seafood. Her favorite holiday place is Puncak.
Ibu Sien Lie (6A) is a mother and an accountant. She likes to go to the gym. Mother Theresa and Princess Diana are her idols.
Ibu Susie (6B) is a mother of two. When she’s not doing any classmom duties, she likes to read novels and watch movies.
Ibu Sina (6B).

**EL 5**
Ibu Titi (5A) is a mother of 2. She owns a catering business. Like her daughter, she likes to dance. This is her 2nd time as classmom.
Ibu Etty (5A). This mother knows how to dance. She loves bakso iga sapi. Her favorite pasttime book is Chicken soup for the Couple soul.
Ibu Rika (5B)
Ibu Vanda (5B) enjoys Bali as her holiday spot. This mother of 2 prefers blue as it suits her House of Water color. She loves any kind of detective movies.
Ibu Deli (5C) is a mother of 3. Very energetic and passionate when it comes to children’s activities. Ask her to sing and she would definitely sing sound of the music songs.
Ibu Nanda (5C and 1B) is a mother of 4. She doesn’t hesitate to be the classmom in 2 of her children’s classes. This supremom loves Nasi Padang. Reading and shopping are her hobbies.

**EL 4**
Ibu Fita (4A), Ibu Widi (4B), Ibu Vera (4B), Ibu Lydiana (4C), Ibu Letta (4C), Ibu Yayu (4D), and Ibu Netty (4D).

**EL 3**
Ibu Kristin (3A) loves white color. She is one of our canteen’s tenant. She likes camping, reading, and listening to music.
Ibu Lina (3A) also loves white. She enjoys cooking. Her favorite foods are bakmi, bakso, and empek-empak. Aside from being a fulltime mother to her 3 kids, Ibu Lina works in RBS Bank.
Ibu Aida (3B) and Ibu Fanny (3B)
Ibu Grace (3C) loves to read, dance and travel. This mother of twins works as a conference & exhibition consultant. She thinks that Jeffrey Archer novels are the best.
Ibu Yani (3C and 1F) is a proud mother of 2 boys. She is well known for her talent in music. On top of her classmom job, she’s also a member of PSG Executive Committee.
Ibu Vivi (3D) serves as classmom for the 2nd time. She loves tahu campur and lontong mie. She is an active Facebook-er, find out more about her in this social network.
Ibu Desi (3E) is taking this classmom job for the first time. Her favorite movie is Shop around the corner by Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. She takes on Hillary Clinton as her role model.
Ibu Lili (3F) often goes to Bali for the holiday. She enjoys reading Harry Potter very much. This is her 2nd time as classmom. Her favorite food is noodle, any kind of noodle.
Ibu Renni (3D), Ibu Ute (3E), Ibu Melani (3F)

**EL 2**
Ibu Indri (2A) is a proud mother of 2 active boys. She is well known for her appetite in Indonesian food. Being a classmom doesn’t slow her down, as matter of fact she’s very active in organizing some of the PSG events.
Ibu Sylvia (2A) is using her spare time to read books, relaxing on the beach while sipping margarita. She can’t say no to Mexican food and nasi liwet. This is her 2nd time as classmom.
Ibu Maya (2B) is a mother/professional photographer. She’s so professional in photography that other parents mistakenly think of her as one of Binus’ employee. When she’s not taking pictures, she designs clothes and sells batik.
Ibu Lina (2B), Ibu Siskawati (2C), Ibu Magdalena (2C), Ibu Heri (2D), Ibu Cia Cia (2D), Ibu Gina Hosea (2E), Ibu Jenny (2E), Ibu Yuni (2F), and Ibu Dini (2F).

**EL 1**
Ibu Hylda (1A) ’s role model is Obama. She
Children Learn What They Live
By Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.