

FLORA NEWS

Food For Thought

This story takes place when no one had indoor plumbing. In the home of an older woman who lived by herself. To get any fresh water, she had to go a local river, a trip she made every day.

Each morning, she went to get water. She took a long pole. Then she took an old bucket and hung it from the left side of the pole. Then she took another bucket and hung it from the right side. Always the same buckets on the same sides of the pole.

The walk down the dirt path from her house wasn't terribly long and it was much easier heading to the river when the buckets were empty. At the river, she would take the pole off her shoulders gently. One at a time, she would dip each bucket in the river, filling it with cold, fresh water. Then, just as carefully, she would place each bucket back on the pole, lift the pole up, and back onto her shoulders, and turn to make her way to walk up the path.

As she walked home, the left-hand bucket held the water as you expect it would. But the right-hand bucket had a small crack in the bottom. As soon as the woman started walking down the path, the bucket would start leaking. A steady persistent drip. By the time the woman reached home, the bucket would be half empty.

Nothing changed the next day. The pole, the buckets on their usual sides, the right-hand bucket dripping out water. The days passed. The months passed. The years passed. Nothing changed. Until one day, just as they arrived at the river, the right-hand bucket sighed.

This surprised the woman. She had never heard a bucket sigh before. Then the bucket spoke. "I am so sorry. I am so sorry."

"What are you sorry about?" the woman asked the bucket.

"That I keep leaking. You work so hard to bring water to the house, and I am half-empty by the time we get home. A bucket has one job and I can't do it correctly."

"Well, you do bring home half a bucket full of water."

"Don't mock me. I know what I am. I'm a failure. I was meant to carry water. I can't do it. I have this crack, this defect. I'm a failure at the one thing I'm meant to do."

The old woman looked down at the bucket, this bucket which had been on her right side for all these years, with a look on her face which was a mix of sadness and caring. After a long moment, she began to speak. "My good friend. I am so, so sorry. I had no idea that you felt this way. You've been suffering all this time, and you have no idea at all, do you?"

"What do you mean? No idea about what?"

"Here. Let me show you."

She gently picked up the bucket and filled it with water. She put it on the pole as usual. She added the left-hand bucket filled up on its typical side. As they walked down the dirt path home, she said to the left-hand bucket, "What do you see?"

"What do I see?" said left-hand bucket, who had never spoken before. "I see dirt. I see the path. I see the same thing I see every day."

"That's right," said the woman. "Now, what do you see?" she said to the right-hand bucket.

The bucket looked down for the first time and was amazed. All along the edge of dirt path were flowers, beautiful colourful flowers, showing every hue imaginable. While the left side was bare, the right side, her side, was lush and picturesque. And her crack that dripped out water? The drops fell right onto the flowers, giving moisture to each plant.

"I planted those flowers," said the woman. "They're lovely, but they need a lot of care. And, they especially need daily watering. So, when I found you, I knew I had found exactly what I needed. Every morning, I fill you with water. And every morning, as I walk back up this hill, you sprinkle out, so carefully, so precisely, drop by drop, exactly the right amount of water to keep these flowers alive. To keep them flourishing. To keep them beautiful. This path is the most wonderful place in my entire world. And it's all because of you."

The woman consoled the bucket, "I'm so sorry that you never knew this. So, so sorry that you thought that you were broken. That you were a failure. You're not a failure, and you're not broken — you're perfect."

The bucket was stunned into silence. And the woman looked at it with wise eyes and said, "What's amazing is that precisely the thing that you thought made you broken was the exact same thing that made you so powerful. What you thought was your greatest flaw, was exactly what I needed to make our world a more beautiful place.

What you think of as your weakness can sometimes be your strength.



Some pupils in Y5 got to experience another modern foreign language this week!

Miss Horne and nine Y5 pupils went to Ravenscourt Park Prep to watch the Hunchback of Notre Dame in French! They had popcorn and juice and enjoyed looking around their school.



Huge welcome to our NEW PTA Chair

Congratulations to Susan (Ruby-Lily's mum) who was appointed the exciting role of PTA Chair earlier this week. As parents at Flora Gardens you all have a role in supporting the PTA, whether it's from attending an event, baking for the cake sale or donating a prize into our raffle, nothing is deemed too big or too small. We wish Susan lots of luck and look forward to seeing some of her great ideas put into action starting with our summer 'Circus' celebration, as voted for by the children. If you think you might have any ideas or are able to support Susan please email her on:- PTAchairFGS@hotmail.com

Value Award Winners

Congratulations to the value award winners:-

Y6 - Ty

Y5- Hudiafa

Y4 - Sofia

Y3- Micky

Y2 - Hesam

Y1- Muhammed

Reception - Liam

Nursery - Roman

Music - Renato

P.E. - Zuber

You should all be vey proud of yourselves!



Y2 Visit St Paul's Cathedral

Y2 had a fabulous outing to St Paul's Cathedral. They marvelled at the incredible dome, learnt more about the Great Fire of London and got absolutely soaking wet on the Millennium Bridge (they got caught in a rainstorm!) What a lovely day!



The King's Coronation



The children had a great time today celebrating the Coronation of the King. They got to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in the sun, followed by a afternoon of making crowns and postage stamps, acting out monologues, and working in teams to answer questions in the quick fire round quiz. As you can see, a great day was had by all, and we hope you have a great time continuing the celebrations over the bank holiday weekend. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 9th May.