

Growing Healthy Minds

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The fall quarter is well under way. Teachers have likely begun to appreciate their new students, and may have loved some of them instantly because they are model students who take their studies seriously, or because some naughty ones remind them of their own youth.



You see, Christian Teachers' responsibilities have increased considerably. They strive to master their subjects so as to make them easy to learn. In addition to teaching the curriculum, they have to inoculate attitudes to the youngsters in a time when Christian values are no longer popular. They also have to serve as surrogate parents to boys and girls coming from single-parent homes or homes where at least one parent is emotionally absent. Ellen White says it well:

The true teacher is not satisfied with second-rate work. He is not satisfied with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest which it is possible for them to attain. He cannot be content with imparting to them only technical knowledge, with making them merely clever accountants, skillful artisans, successful tradesmen. It is his ambition to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity-principles that will make them a positive force for the stability and uplifting of society. He desires them, above all else, to learn life's great lessons of unselfish service.

Obviously, this is easier said than done and sadly at times the classroom breathes horror. Violence is rampant. Bullies are on the rise and the school has become a theater for hyperactive children. Teachers often neglect good students to discipline the emotionally disturbed ones. It's not surprising to hear teachers complain that they are overwhelmed and their hands are full, but at Greaves Adventist Academy classes are kept relatively small and the ratio of teachers to students is only 1:28.

As you may know, the feminist movement had an impact on our educational system. More and more options are open to girls and some come to school with a vengeance. They no longer dream of becoming the doctor's or engineer's wife, rather they want to be the doctor or the engineer themselves. They are focused. They want to fly.

In addition, today's schools are more adapted to girls needs. No wonder they perform much better than

boys. At Greaves Adventist Academy, our teachers validate both boys and girls and give them equal opportunities to learn and soar. As a result, students of both genders thrive and set lofty goals for themselves.

Teachers regularly assign best-sellers to students. Sometimes these books are devoid of moral values. I would rather see our students read meaty books like *The Greatest Salesman in the World*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Little Women*, the work of Plato and other brilliant minds instead of popular books that come and go. Greaves Adventist Academy boasts a sizeable library with books that not only teach love and logic, but make winners of our students. This year, we welcome good used books for our library. Any donation will be appreciated.

In recent years we have upgraded our computer room, and our ITT teacher wants to teach manual skills, like wood work. He is planning to use his students' skills to make items that will be sold for the benefit of the school. The music department has set up singing groups and quartets. Several literary classes are enhanced by entertaining drama groups.

Our school building has become too small and we will need to add a new wing in the near future. Our teachers are all provincially certified. Most have obtained our church certification as well. Those who are new to our Christian institution go to Canadian Adventist University to pursue our Adventist certification.

We have always worked on two fronts: science and conscience. One without the other spells ruin. Thank God we have been pleased with the results. Our graduates are well received in institutions of higher learning. Others are forging ahead in the marketplace, and we are confident that today's wave of evil influence will not submerge them because their hearts have been open to heaven.

Resources:

- Ellen G. White, *Education*, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, 1952, P. 29.