



Dear Parent,

In OakTown we are working to develop an environment that teaches children about Jesus through every day experiences.

God used this method with the children of Israel when he had them to institute the earthly sanctuary and its services. The sanctuary leaders, the sanctuary furniture, and each of the daily services associated with the sanctuary were a lesson in God's plan of salvation. (Hebrews 9:24-28)

In OakTown it is our plan to have characters, buildings, and practices that will teach and remind children of how much Jesus loves them and wants a relationship with them. In this letter we focus on the buildings and spaces in OakTown.

OakTown Buildings and Spaces

The G.I.F.T.S. Shop teaches children that salvation is a gift and God Is Forgiving To Sinners. Children can come to Jesus just as they are and he will love them, forgive them, and help them enjoy the best relationship with him. (Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9)

The P.O.S.T. Office teaches children that Prayer Opens Special Treasure. When they pray, not only can they ask God for things that they need and want, but most importantly they can experience the treasure of being in God's presence. (Matthew 7:7, 8; Revelation 3:20)

The F.B.I. Office teaches children the importance of Fearless Bible Investigation. The study of the Scripture leads to a better understanding of the Truth—Jesus, himself! (John 5:39; 14:6)

The B.A.N.K. teaches children that whatever God instructs and inspires them to give for him, they should Bring All, No Keeping. By giving for God's purposes they show and inspire faith in Jesus. (Luke 18:22; Galatians 6:6-8)

The Performing A.R.T.S. Center teaches children that God has given them gifts and talents and no matter what gift or talent God has given them they should Always Represent The Savior with it. (Mathew 5:16; Ephesians 4:11, 12)

The S.T.O.P. Sign teaches children that God made the Sabbath in such a way that the Sabbath Turns On Power. We especially experience that power when we see that the seventh day is Jesus' promise to love us forever. When kids stop to celebrate the seventh day Sabbath of the Bible, they will find it is a special day that is invaluable and irreplaceable for both rest and blessings. (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Mark 2:27, 28)

The R.E.S.T.A.U.R.A.N.T. teaches children that their health is important to God. One way to maintain and improve health is to "eat to live" rather than to "live to eat." R.E.S.T.A.U.R.A.N.T. reminds children to Remember Eating Supplies The Arteries Useful Renewing And Nutritious Things when we eat right. (Psalm 139:14; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

The P. A.R.K. teaches children that they must keep Jesus on their minds even when they play—Play Always Respectful, Kind. (Matthew 7:12; John 13:34)

Through the balance of this year both you and your child will hear more about the buildings and spaces in OakTown. With your assistance, these buildings/spaces can help your child connect spiritual meanings with everyday structures and places. When you visit, drive past, or think of these buildings/spaces, you can ask your child what the acronyms stand for and why they are important.

For instance, when you drive past the local Post Office you can say, "What does P.O.S.T. stand for in OakTown?" This will give you an opportunity to talk about the importance of prayer with your child. As you write, mail, receive letters, and/or even email, you can help your child compare/contrast communication with others and our communication with God.

Some of the buildings and spaces may not be as visible in your daily commute, but you can still find ways to make the spiritual lessons connected with the buildings/spaces come alive for your child.

Conclusion

In OakTown it is our desire to serve as a resource for parents and guardians as you train your child to know Jesus and go for Jesus.

Please let us know if you have any ideas that may assist us in our mission.

Sincerely,

Pastor Marc Raphael