

## **A Hope for A Better Tomorrow**

By: Millie Ho

*Earl Haig Secondary School*

When we survey the planet around us today, perhaps we cannot help but to feel a bit pessimistic. There is war, there is poverty, and there is discrimination – all products of our current world, where political upheaval continues to gnaw at the foundations of many countries and ignorance towards those in need remains an epidemic.

It is now the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In a time where the twin ideals of our time, quality and quantity, can demand so much from us, it is not always that we remember to treat each other with the level of empathy and understanding as could be found in an ideal world.

The world I want to live in will emphasize fairness and equality amongst all persons, and perceive each other based not on their status, religion, gender or ethnic background, but rather on the content of their character.

The governments in war-torn countries should be willing to set aside their political antagonisms with other nations and instead execute their decisions to reflect the needs of their people. Religion would not be used as a scapegoat to breed hatred or to inflict blame, but rather be used as a catalyst to bring people together and to encourage peace within the world.

But even with the added focus on compassion, an equal emphasis should be placed on education. Our education institutions should reinforce innovation, creativity and never shun possibilities – this is one way to empower a future generation of global thinkers and global leaders. Children should be taught earlier on in school – alongside the academic curriculum – the importance of honesty, kindness and peaceful resolution, so that they will not only have these skills be cultivated within themselves, but will take strides to cultivate them in others in the years to come.

Human beings are social creatures, and communication runs in our blood. When we hear about catastrophes in areas that are foreign to us, we should not distance ourselves but rather lend them the same helping hand we would like to be shown to us during our time of need. Medical innovations should continue to be supported, and we should continue to give our time and money to those who are less fortunate than ourselves, because at the end of the day, after all that has been said and done and despite all of the differences that may separate us, we are all still of the human race.

This is the world I want to live in: a world of hope and resolution, optimism and initiative. As with all the monumental achievements throughout history, all began with a single idea and a single hope. Granted, our present world is not perfect, but it is up to each and every one of us to embrace the mentality of a better tomorrow. We should never pass on an opportunity to set an example.

And think – if all of us here today carried this idea within our minds, and this hope within our hearts, who is to say there are limits on what we can accomplish?