

a + *b* = 3 Ltd



No 4 - October 2008

TIPS AND NEWS ON MONEY

✉ Forward to friends

■ MONEY TIPS



Now what? With investments plummeting, inflation lurking and economics stumbling, what shall we do? Don't let your **emotions** decide for you! Try to stick to **facts** and first get to know where you are. Don't you need a compass to help your sail this financial stormy ocean? There are great **software's**

to help you track your expenses and investment (Quicken®, Microsoft Money®, I-bank®, and others). Isn't it time to set one up and have a clearer picture of your **assets**, your **debts**, where your money goes and all the **leaks**? Go **step by step**: track first your **current account**, then your **investments** (you will need to find the amounts and dates you purchased them, good incentive to sort out your files), your **debts**, and then once you are on top of it all, your **cash** expenses. That will also make you think twice you before selling stocks at a loss. As long as you haven't sold an investment, you haven't lost money. Set a **day in the week** where you update your personal accounting. You will get the right data to take **decisions** (what expenses to reduce, how to re-allocate your assets...) and **discuss** with your spouse on **facts**, not preconceptions and emotions! *Email to us what subjects you would like tips on.*

FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Monthly Check-in

If you have worked in big corporations before setting up your business, you might still remember the monthly deadline to issue your report. Guess what: I still do the same for my small business. What's the benefit? That will help you **sit down** and look at the numbers: the bad ones and the good ones. Then you can **take actions** to improve the bad indicators, and **feel positive** about the **achievements** (how often do you congratulate yourself?). This is a good way too to see how you have **spent your time and money** over a month: is it on line with your **goals**? Do you spend time on **profit generating** activities? You can also make sure your **accounting is updated** which will **streamline** your yearend requirements. Pick up a few **indicators** which are relevant to your business and drive your cash and profit, and follow them over the months. Keep your monthly report short: a few numbers and a few bullet points. And have a look at the previous months' reports. We have a lot to learn from the past provided we record it!

Next month: is it still worth planning in such an uncertain world?

■ KIDS' CORNER



Hi Kittens! I am sure you are great at making the difference between needs and wants! Spot in this long string of words the needs and the wants:

ICECREAMRICEHATSCHOOLBOOK

SHOESTVJUICEDVDTOYTSHIRTMOB

ILEPHONEBUSTICKETCRAYONSCO

MPUTERVEGETABLESELECTRICITY

PILLOWPRESENTAPPLEGLASSES

Have you spotted some tricky ones? Email your list to Sophie@aandbmake3.com and let's talk about the tricky ones next month!

■ *a* + *b* = 3 Ltd News

- We have launched our new **10 hour kids courses!** Time to enroll your children to a lifelong source of knowledge.
- We will do our first Training the Trainer programme in **China** (Yunnan province) in November.
- Are you an NGO operating in Hong Kong? Join our new programme "Personal Enrichment" targeting **low income Cantonese women** and sponsored by The Women Foundation.

■ COURSES TO COME

- **Children: Adventures at Money Park™**: Fridays 3:30 to 5:30 starting 07 November and **A Trip to the Money Moon™**: Wednesdays 3:30 to 5:30 starting 12 November.
- **Adults – through our partner Leverage: Budgeting ABC™** (13 and 20 November) and **Investing ABC™** (14 and 21 November)
- **ENROL NOW**, discounts for two people or two courses
- Setting up your business (25 October until 30 November) and Good Habits with Money™ (2 & 9 November + other dates through our partner **enrich**) More information on www.AandBmake3.com