



ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Our Vision

St Andrew's Village - Home of Servant Leaders who Bring Life to the Nations

25 May 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

1. Introduction

It is part of our review process to take stock at the end of each semester. Beyond academic development of our boys, we review programmes that help our Saints to acquire and demonstrate the **Servant Leaders'** traits – namely the qualities of **Holistic Thinkers**, **Skilled Communicators**, **Exemplary Character** and **Community Builders**. We are heartened to observe that our Saints do exhibit these traits in the recent competitions that they have participated in.

I would encourage all of you, as our valued partners, to support us and reinforce the school's efforts at the home-end. When you meet the teachers at our Parent-Child-Teacher Conference (PCTC), the conversation should not be academic-focus alone. Please affirm our Junior Saints in their pursuit to be the aspired **Servant Leader**. You may also like to have *intentional conversations* at home, like these listed below:

"I'm sure you can relate to the waiter and take your orders confidently as a Skilled Communicator.";

"Does this action reflect an Exemplary Character/Community Builder?" and;

"I want to affirm you that you have displayed the school value of _____. I'm happy to see your effort in working towards an Exemplary Character!"

I believe that the best teacher is through role-modelling. May I encourage all parents to be more intentional in role-modelling the 4 Servant Leadership traits and 8 school values and highlight them as teachable moments for our Saints!

2. Strategic Thrust 1: Nurturing Holistic Thinkers and Skilled Communicators

2.1 School Text Recital Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools

At the recent St Andrew's Alumni Annual General Meeting, I was celebrating the effort and success of our teachers and Saints in our Saints' Mother Tongue Language (MTL) competency. Our Saints continued to excel as **Skilled Communicators** in the inaugural School Text Recital Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools. The event was organised by the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning (CPCLL). Please join me to congratulate the following Saints who have done exceptionally well as they compete with their counterparts from schools with strong MTL culture.

Silver	Bronze
Evan Riley Gill (P3 Resilience)	Javier Lim Jie Wei (P5 Thanksgiving)
Josiah Ezra Menon (P3 Resilience)	Thaddeus Tan Loo Kai (P5 Empathy)
Elston Tan Zhi Yuan (P3 Resilience)	

2.2 English Language Competitions

Congratulations to our teachers in the English Language department and our 5 Saints who participated in the competition "Wit and Words". They have achieved the **Top 8 teams in Singapore** and one of them, Jared Ho Min En (P6 Resilience) was awarded the **Good**

Speaker Award! One of our Saint, Cai Renxuan, Benedict (P3 Thanksgiving), also emerged as the finalist in the competition “Babble and Speak.”

Wits and Words	Ho Min En Jared (P6 Resilience)
Timothy Lawrence Ng ((P6 Thanksgiving)	Akshay Williams Nair (P6 Resilience)
Samuel Chareonsri (P6 Thanksgiving)	Ajay Srinivasan (P6 Resilience)

We believe that our Saints will enrich their learning when they have different platforms outside of school to apply their learning and interact with fellow students with other schools.

3. **Strategic Thrust 2: Developing Exemplary Character, Growing Community Builders**

3.1 **Value of the Month**

The Value for May is Integrity

The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; ...who keeps an oath even when it hurts. – Psalm 15:2

For the month of May, we have been sharing about the value of **Integrity** with our Saints. SAJS defines **Integrity** as someone who does right even when no one is watching and someone who does right, wherever he is, whomever he is with and whatever he is doing. One may ask, what does doing right look like? On 21 May, I shared with our Saints a verse from Titus 3:1-2 which reads, “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.”

One way of doing right which we can learn from the verse above is to submit ourselves to rulers and authorities. For our Saints, it means respecting and obeying the school authority like the school rules. It also means respecting and obeying those entrusted to enforce the school rules. This verse uses the word “submit” which means that it goes beyond obeying to accepting and complying even if they may not agree with the rules.

Another way of doing right which we can learn from the verse above is to get ourselves ready for every good work. Examples of good work are: not speaking evil of anyone, avoiding quarrels, being gentle and showing perfect courtesy toward ALL people. This means that we are to show gentleness and politeness to everyone including the teachers, staff in the general office, the cleaners, the canteen vendors, the security guards, friends whether you like or dislike them, and anyone who treat you nice or treat you badly.

I hope that all of our Saints can role-model these 2 behaviours to everyone around them. I also hope that parents can support us to role-model these 2 behaviours for our Saints to look up to, such as not entering the school compound and being polite to our security guards, and all school staff.

3.2 **Microthon 2018**

This is our first attempt at the above-mentioned event organised by IDEA Hub, UWCSEA (Dover Campus). In this competition, the participating teams are expected to apply coding skills to design products that serve the needs of the elderly.

We have taught our Saints how to exercise **Empathy** to care for the elderly. Applying this in the competition, Team SAJS coded a "Smart Buddy Watch" aka "senior panic alarm system" that was integrated with radio signal system. The Smart Buddy Watch has 3 functions: a

button is to press for "alarm", and another button to press "SOS". When both buttons are pressed, the words "SOS" or "alarm" will appear on another panel. It is wireless and user - friendly. The 3rd function enables the user to take the body temperature.

We would like to congratulate the teachers and the team from Media Club for clinching **4th place** in the coding competition. The team comprises of:

Manraj Singh Dhillon (P5 Integrity)	Teo Kai Shen Matthew (P5 Empathy)
Ryosuke Chang (P5 Integrity)	Thaddeus Tan Loo Kai (P5 Empathy)

4. **Strategic Thrust 4: Harnessing to Connect, Connecting to Harness**

4.1 **Supplementary Lessons in Semester 2**

As communicated at our Meet the Parents Sessions earlier this year, the school has reviewed the effectiveness of the supplementary lessons. Taking the feedback from both Teacher Saints and Student Saints into consideration, the school strives to be more targeted in supporting our Saints in their learning in Semester 2.

While there is no change to the Supplementary Lessons for MTL, the format for EMS will be as follows:

Level	Schedule	Deployment
P1	Thu	Bridging: catering to Saints with specific learning gaps for EL
P2	Tue	Bridging: catering to Saints with specific learning gaps for EL and MA
P3	Tue & Thu	Bridging: catering to Saints with specific learning gaps for EL, MA & SC
P4	Tue & Thu	Supplementary lessons catering to students of different learning needs through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouping of Saints according to learning ability and needs; • Using differentiated resources to address specific learning gaps; and • Deploying teachers according to their expertise and strengths. Pls note that students may <u>NOT</u> be attending lessons with their subject teachers during curriculum time.
P5	Mon, Tue & Thu	
P6	Mon, Tue & Thu	No change

Parents of P3 boys, please note that you would only be informed if your son has been identified for Bridging Lessons in Semester 2.

Parents of P4-6 boys, please note that like in previous years, Supplementary Lessons remained optional and parents are to indicate if you would like your son to attend the Supplementary Lessons organised by the respective departments.

4.2 **Travel Declaration**

As we go off for the June holidays, we would like to remind you to declare your child's travel plans. This is to ensure that the school is aware of the whereabouts of our students in case there is any emergency. You can do this through the school's website via the **Parent's Portal** – <http://www.saintandrewsjunior.moe.edu.sg/letter-and-updates/parents-portal> In the event that the plans change, do update accordingly. **Please note that a nil return is required.**

4.3 **Eat With Your Family Day 2018**

“Eat with Your Family Day” is a nation-wide event initiated in 2003. This event is led by the Centre For Fathering, to encourage all Singaporeans to consciously set aside time on that day to be with their families. Through the simple ritual of having a family meal, we hope the event will serve as a reminder for families to encourage them to eat together regularly.

This year, “Eat with Your Family Day” is set to take place on **Friday, 25 May**. We encourage all our staff to support the initiative every year. As it falls on our second day of PCTC, we seek your cooperation to be punctual for your appointment and be disciplined to keep the conversation within the stipulated time. **We aim to end the last PCTC session at 5.35 pm and lock up the school by 5.45pm so that all of us can eat with our families.**

4.4 P’s Sharing of the Month

SAJS prides ourselves to deliver a values-driven education. However, my personal belief is that values are best caught than taught. My best experiences with our Saints who exemplify strong character values come from families where role-modelling of such values is consistent and evident and I am very thankful to many Parent Saints who are so willing to work with us in this journey of character building. I would like to share an article by retired principal, Mrs Jenny Yeo, who spoke about the important role that parents play in developing the character of our children. The article can be found at <https://www.schoolbag.sg/story/are-values-taught-or-caught>.

Are values caught or taught?

How do we build strength of character in our children? I asked one of my daughters this question, and this was her reply:

“For me, I learnt from your words and actions. You preached kindness and respect and I saw you practising it as you interacted with staff and students as a principal. Even when you had to discipline the naughty students, it was always done with kindness and respect. What struck me most was the joy you brought to people. So as a child, I learnt that joy was the result of treating people with kindness and respect. I think that really shaped me.”

Through an experiment, a psychologist, Mr J. Philippe Rushton, demonstrated that role modelling was the most effective way of helping our children to internalise values. Often, adults are not aware of the impact of our actions. For instance, if a parent curses other drivers on the road, children in the car will think that it is acceptable and do likewise when they get angry. In our day-to-day lives, we need to be more conscious of our own behaviour, even when it is not directed at our children, such as our response when something unexpected happens.

My daughter went on to recount an incident at a supermarket that I barely recall. She said, “That day, the wheels of a trolley ran over your feet. Instead of fussing about the pain it must have caused, you checked on the person using that trolley. The lady had tripped and you immediately checked if she was alright. I learnt not to care only for ourselves, but to also care for others.”

Building character must be the work of both parents and schools. It does not just happen! We must work hand-in-hand to impart the same values. If we fail to do that, our children will be confused. For example, a teacher was teaching her students to show care by giving up their seats to the very young, elderly and pregnant on public transport. One eager student

pledged to practise this on his way home. However, the next day, the student was downcast and refused to share his experience when asked. He explained later in private that his mother had told him off for giving up his seat. The poor child was perplexed.

If we want our children to grow up to be good and useful citizens, we need to inculcate the right values and habits. If we teach them to focus only on themselves, they will grow up self-centred, thinking that the world owes them a living!

One way that we can actively support the efforts of schools, is to spend quality time together with our children or as a family. Suggested activities can be found in the Character and Citizenship (CCE) workbook, which accompanies the textbook which is designed based on students' daily experiences.

So how do we build the character of a child? My advice is to:

Teach
Enforce
Advocate and
Model

This will set behaviour boundaries to shape your child's character. Building a child's character is certainly not an easy task as it takes time and effort, but we know that character counts in life and your children are counting on you!

Wishing you a blessed holiday and quality family time.

Up and On!

With warmest regards,

Ms Patsy Neo
Principal