



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

31 Oct 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

This is the week where our Saints will consolidate their learning as they sit for the final assessment of the year. We seek your partnership to reinforce the spirit of learning and the purpose of the assessment with our Saints so that they continue to focus on developing the values of **Resilience**, **Self-Discipline**, **Excellence** and **Integrity** instead of mindlessly chasing after marks as they prepare for their examinations. Do be mindful of their stress level and look out for their well-being and let us work together to ensure our Saints' physical and emotional well-being is not compromised.

We congratulate our P6 Saints in their completion of their PSLE, however, learning does not stop after PSLE. The school continues to plan a series of learning activities for them to continue to build their character and 21st century competencies. They should be busy preparing for the Entrepreneurship Day where they apply their creative thinking and collaborative skills as they work together to sell a service or product to raise funds for the needy. We strive to instil the Joy of Learning (JoL) and the attitude of Learning for Life (LfL) in our Saints. We seek your partnership to emphasize to our Saints the necessity of respecting the school rules and the importance of attending school even after PSLE.

While we started the journey of JoL and LfL in St Andrew's, we aim to do this better as we seek greater alignment with MOE's direction announced at Work Plan Seminar 2018. Thus, with the reduction of school-based assessments to reduce over-emphasis on grades, the school will be conducting a strategic review of our teaching and learning processes and school programmes and you can anticipate quite a few changes coming next year. I will be sharing the details with you at the Meet-the-Parents Session early next year and I seek your understanding and support for the changes that would be made.

1. SAJS Celebrates

Children's Day Carnival 2018 – SAINTS' WORLD CUP





The “football fever” was re-ignited in SAJS on Thu, 4 October. The dedicated team of Parent-Volunteers (PVs) and operation support staff had less than 24 hours to transform the hall from an examination venue for PSLE into a football arena. The mammoth task posed a small challenge to the team of “professionals”. Besides the physical transformation, more PVs arrived on the actual day to give our P6 boys the most memorable Children’s Day Carnival as they celebrated their last Children’s Day.

Saints from all levels had a fun-filled day as they treated themselves with scrumptious food and exciting games. The carnival also provided our Saints with a wonderful platform to pick up soft skills during the unstructured play time. I am confident that our little ones will soon learn to be like their seniors who will be able to plan and utilise their time wisely as they optimise the usage of their purchased coupons in exchange for a great experience. We seek the understanding of all parents to give our Saints the room for growth and to take greater ownership over the purchase and the usage of the coupons at future carnivals. We are also supported by wonderful PVs who had reminded our Saints to moderate their purchase and took the effort to contact parents of some Saints who had requested for a big amount of coupons at the counter.

Once again, we would like to acknowledge the blessings we had received from the sustained partnership with SAPTA. Through their fund raising effort for **SAPTA Cares**, our Saints learn to care as **Community Builders** and they are given the opportunity to bless their friends from less fortunate families.

2. **ST2: Developing Exemplary Character, Growing Community Builders**

a. The Value for October is **RESILIENCE**

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. - James1:4 (NIV)

We would like every Saint to build up his mental and emotional strength so that he does not quit but perseveres in the face of challenges. A Saint will also demonstrate courage, optimism, adaptability and resourcefulness so that he does not give up even when life is tough.

I shared a short story which I read online at <http://journeytojoy.tv/donkey-story/>.

There was an old farmer whose donkey fell into an empty well. The farmer was old and the donkey was too. The farmer knew he didn’t have enough strength to pull the donkey out of the deep hole. So he said to himself, “This donkey is old. I am too. I can’t get him out of this mess. It is better for the donkey and for me if I just bury him here in this hole. He’s had a good life and served me well, but I can’t do anything with him now. It is better to bury him and put him out of his misery.” So the farmer grabbed a shovel and started throwing in dirt.

The dirt felt like raindrops on the donkey’s face, only it was messy and it hurt a little. He wondered what was going on. He was already bruised from the fall. His body ached and he felt tired. Everything around him looked dark. He couldn’t make sense of what was happening

to him. He felt scared and alone. “What more could go wrong?” the donkey thought to himself. That’s when the second pile of dirt hit him. It seemed to come out of nowhere — and this time it hurt. “Why is this happening to me?” the donkey groaned. He was angry and confused.

The farmer could hear the donkey’s cries from below. The donkey cried louder and louder with each pile of dirt he threw. And then the cries stopped. The farmer felt relieved. He didn’t want the donkey to suffer and was glad he was no longer in pain. He continued to fill up the hole.

The donkey stopped groaning for a moment. “All this complaining isn’t getting me anywhere,” the donkey reasoned. “I’m still in this mess and it is only getting worse. I need to do something different so that I can get out.” So the donkey thought, “I can’t do anything about the dirt being thrown at me, but I can change my attitude. I don’t have to let others put me down — or steal my hope. I do have a choice.”

The donkey decided to shake off the dirt and not let it affect him. Something amazing happened. When he shook off the dirt, it no longer affected him the same way. The dirt fell down around him. He used the dirt to STEP UP and GET UP on top of it. In that moment, the donkey made Three Critical Choices.

1. He chose to STOP letting others influence him and took back control of his life.
2. He chose to SHAKE OFF any hurt feelings — negativity, discouragement or feeling overwhelmed — that kept him from moving ahead.
3. He chose to STEP UP to the challenge, confront what was happening, and push past the obstacles facing him.

STOP. SHAKE OFF. STEP UP. He did it over and over again. With every step he got stronger and more determined. The more dirt he shook off, the better he got at not letting it affect him. The struggle built his confidence. “I can do this,” the donkey thought. “I can do this as long as I don’t give up.”

The farmer couldn’t believe his eyes. Instead of being dead, the donkey was very much alive. With every pile of dirt he was getting closer and closer to the surface. The farmer mistook his silence as a sign he had given up. The farmer had underestimated the donkey. If the donkey had just stood there and done nothing, he would have surely died. The donkey refused to let a negative circumstance determine his outlook on life. He did not allow his feelings to influence his mood or steal his joy. He walked out of that hole one step at a time. The very thing that hurt him actually helped him get free. By not giving up, the donkey overcame a hopeless situation. The donkey left the struggle stronger and more confident, with a hopeful attitude toward the future and a different perspective on pain.

Have you ever been stuck in a situation that looked hopeless?

Life can throw a lot of dirt on us. Negative people can throw dirt by their critical comments. Negative circumstances can make us feel like we are being buried alive. It is easy to get discouraged when life doesn’t go as we’ve planned. Sometimes the struggles we face can cause us to lose hope.

- Do you feel like there is “dirt” being thrown at you?
- Are you confused? Are you asking, “Why is this happening?”
- Do you feel like, “Life is not fair?”
- Have you lost hope that things will ever change?

Don’t let negative circumstances or people give you a negative mindset. You do not have to STAY discouraged. You can make a choice to have a good attitude despite what is happening around you. You can choose to never give up. How do we rise above our circumstances? By making the same Three Critical Choices the donkey did:

1. We need to STOP allowing negative circumstances or people to get us down and take back control of our lives.
2. We need to SHAKE OFF our hurt feelings in order to move forward. We cannot allow

- our feelings to influence our mood or steal our joy.
3. We need to take one STEP at a time, one obstacle at a time. We need to give it time.

Someone once said, “The definition of insanity is to continue doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results.” If we stay stuck in a negative situation and don’t do anything differently to change it, we will never be free. Simply hoping things will get better is not enough. We need to make the choice to change. Remember every action comes with a consequence. Good actions will lead to good consequences and negative actions comes with negative consequences. Don’t give up doing good.

Don’t let a negative circumstance give you a negative outlook on life. With God’s help, you can overcome any obstacle you face. Whenever I feel troubled or scared, I will always look up into the sky and remember this verse from Psalms 121:1-2, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” This gives me the assurance that the greatest powerful God, the one who is so powerful to create heaven and earth is on my side. He will help me.

3. Term 4 Calendar

Date	Event	Remarks
Week 8		
29.10.18	SA2 Science (P3 to P5)	
30.10.18	SA2 MT (P2) SA2 MT Paper 2 (P3 to P5)	
31.10.18	SA2 EL Paper 2 (P2 to P5)	
1.11.18	SA2 Math (P2 to P5)	
2.11.18	SA2 HMT (P5) CCA/PAL 24	
Week 9		
5.11.18	Eve of Deepavali	Hindi and Sikh Saints will be dismissed at 10 am. Pls refer to a separate letter “Early Dismissal on Eve of Deepavali on 5 November 2018” given to the Saints.
6.11.18	<i>Deepavali (Public Holiday)</i>	
7.11.18		
8.11.18	P6 Applied Learning Programme – Entrepreneurship Day	
9.11.18	P1 (2019) Orientation Promotion Day	All Saints will stay at home
Week 10		
12.11.18		
13.11.18	Partners Appreciation Tea P6 Graduation Party	
14.11.18		
15.11.18	End of Term Service	Dismissal @ 1.45pm
16.11.18	<i>Saints Award Ceremony (Only for prize recipients and family members)</i>	

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Saints who are Hindu and Sikh and their families, a Blessed Deepavali.

Up and On!

With warmest regards,
Ms Patsy Neo