



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

27 Sep 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are into the mid-point of our final term. While our P6 boys start their PSLE written exams, the rest of levels would be beginning to consolidate their learning for the year. As our Saints prepare for their examinations, I hope they are not simply consolidating their learning of academic subjects but more importantly, they are also reflecting on what they have learnt and grown in their character to be a servant leader. Let us help our Saints to see that examinations is not just about assessing what they have learnt but an excellent real-life opportunity for our Saints to apply and demonstrate the values of **Excellence, Resilience, Self-discipline** and **Integrity**. I seek your continued partnership to emphasize on the importance of character building as our first and foremost priority in the education in St Andrew's Junior School.

1. **SAJS Celebrates**

a. **President Award Teacher**



I am very proud and happy to share that St Andrew's Junior School has our first President's Award for Teachers winner in our St Andrew's history! Mr Matthew Ong, Head of English Language Department, was one of the 10 teachers, out of more than 30 thousand educators in Singapore to receive the President's Award for Teachers. This is a prestigious and very meaningful award for the teaching fraternity and we are honoured that Mr Ong was able to receive the award from the President on 29 August at the Istana. Mr Ong was a true blue Saint who had his primary, secondary and college education in St Andrews and an outstanding teacher and leader who has chosen to come back to serve in his alma mater. We hope our Saints can be inspired by Mr Ong as he role-models how he "makes lives and wakes hearts" with the education he has benefitted in St Andrews!

b. **Lee Kuan Yew Award For All-Round Excellence (LKY-ARE)**

I am equally proud and joyful to announce that St Andrew's Junior School has our first Lee Kuan Yew Award For All-Round Excellence winner in our St Andrew's history! The LKY-ARE is a national level award for achievement in education. It recognises well-round students who have excelled in both academic and non-academic spheres, and who exemplify the qualities articulated in our desired outcomes of education as a confident person, a self-directed learner, an active contributor and a concerned citizen.

We are pleased to share that Ethan Huang and Ezekiel Chan had made it to the final round of selection process and we are proud of Ezekiel Chan who has been conferred the Lee Kuan Yew Award for All-round Excellence (Primary) 2018. We congratulate both of our Saints for their achievement!

c. MOE Innergy Award

SAJS continues to support staff development and innovation, especially in the area of Teaching and Learning (T&L). We would like to congratulate Mr Yeo Peng Seng, Mrs Irene Koh and Miss Yap Lai Boon for receiving the MOE Innergy Award (Bronze) for their project – “Let me show you how I solved it!” This is a T&L innovation project, in collaboration with Keming Primary School and Holy Innocents’ Primary School. The team aims to strengthen students’ analytical skills and verbalising their mathematical reasoning through screen casting applications.

d. National Day Honours

We congratulate Mrs Susan Thomas for receiving the Long Service Award 2018.

e. National Day Celebrations



We are thankful for the reopening of the quadrangle. A simple flag contingent comprised of staff and students from our uniform groups, march down the quadrangle before we sing the national anthem played by the School Band. It was once again, “One Family Unbroken” as we pledge our allegiance to the nation on this very special day with the recited of our Recollection and the singing of National Day songs.

f. Caring Teachers Award 2018

We thank the parents and boys who have made the effort to affirm and appreciate the teachers by submitting your nominations for the award.

Our congratulation and gratitude to the following recipients:

- Mdm Lin Jingya
- Miss Norashikin Suhadi
- Miss Tan Liping Fiona
- Mr Teo Weilun
- Miss Vasanthi d/o Sinnathamby

We are also overwhelmed by the many compliments received via MOE’s mCARE. Many of the messages received are simple yet encouraging in affirming the good effort from the teachers. Thank you for making the effort to appreciate our teachers!

g. Teachers’ Day Celebration

While the theme of breakfast and lunch was “Business Class” and “Superstar”, the teachers really felt like *Divas* with *First Class* treatment. Thank you SAPTA, Church of Ascension (COA) and the many parent volunteers who made the day very special for all of us! Once again, the sincerity and the gratitude from the parents have made the effort of our teachers worthwhile.

As we celebrate Teachers’ Day, we do hope that Team SAJS will continue to shine and also nurture our Saints to be the Servant Leaders who shine in our community. It was so apt to

receive the gift from COA with LED lights in a nice glass bottle. May our teachers constantly be recharged by your love and encouragement, and may your gift be a reminder that we can shine together with our Saints.

2. **Staff Matters**

a. **Staff Movement**

We welcome the following staff to the Saints' Family:

1. Mr Lim Jin Yong ICT Associate
2. Mdm Sarita Goh Operation Support Staff
3. Miss Matilda Sim Li Juan Untrained Contract Teacher

We bid farewell to the following staff:

1. Mr Darren Li

Miss Hoe Shu Chen is selected to attend Management and Leadership in Schools Programme, a milestone MOE professional development course, in Semester Two. The learning will enable her to contribute even more to the learning of our boys.

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

The Value for September is Excellence

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any **excellence**, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* Phi 4:8

The last value of the year is **Excellence**. A Saint relentlessly strives to exceed his personal best and celebrates high ENDEAVOUR as its own reward.

For the devotions this month, I have showed various video clips to engage and inspire our Saints to work towards Excellence. One of the videos I shared was about Singapore's first female Olympian, Ms Tang Pui Wah, a lady who exemplifies the value of Excellence in her life. This video was created by Honour Singapore and you can find it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_utCQgFVkm

Using the Making Thinking Visible routine of "See-Think-Wonder", I invited our Saints to share with me their "See-Think-Wonder" as they learn about the value of Excellence from Ms Tang and it was very interesting as I read our Saints' reflections. With that, I followed up with the next 2 devotions to reinforce the same value and deepen the learning for our Saints.

So what is excellence to a Saint? Does it mean getting full marks for your test or exams? Does it mean having a lot of money? I think we can get a sensing the kind of excellence God hopes we will pursue each day. Philippians 4:8 tells us that "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." But is it sufficient to just think about excellent things?

From this video (<https://www.superinspirednow.com/goalcast/what-rotten-sandwiches-taught-him-about-the-only-competition-that-matters/>), I have learnt that it is not sufficient to think about excellent things. We must do excellent things. It is not enough for us to know what is not good for this world, but we must do something good to this world. Excellence is not about being better than others. It is about being better than ourselves. The only person you need to compare to is the person you were yesterday. We must strive to become a better person today such that the person you are today will not be afraid to meet the person you become tomorrow. When it is so natural to compare our test marks with our friends and do our very best to score better than others, what is more important is that we strive to become better in our character each day.

2 weeks ago, we have learnt that pursuing excellence is about being a better self each day. As I read your See-Think-Wonder about Ms Tang, Singapore's first female Olympian, many of you wondered what made Ms Tang so motivated to do her best each day. I found the answer from Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

So what are the ways we can pursue excellence? How can we ensure that we improve ourselves every day such that we can be better today than we were yesterday and we can be better tomorrow than we are today? One way to do that is to practise reflective thinking. Ask yourself, what have you done today which you could do better tomorrow? Another way is to get feedback about ourselves as with the saying, "Feedback is the breakfast for champions." What does this mean? All of us know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. So this means that to be a champion, feedback is the most important. As we strive for excellence, it is essential that we learn to receive feedback with humility instead of hostility.

4. Term 4 Calendar

| Date | Event | Remarks |
|----------|--|------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | | |
| 10.9.18 | Beginning of Term Service | |
| 11.9.18 | | |
| 12.9.18 | | |
| 13.9.18 | | |
| 14.9.18 | PSLE Listening Comprehension | P1 to P5 boys stay at home |
| Week 2 | | |
| 17.9.18 | P5 SA2 EL Oral | |
| 18.9.18 | P3 SA2 EL Oral P4 SA2 MT Oral | |
| 19.9.18 | P2 SA2 EL & MT Oral | |
| 20.9.18 | P3 SA2 MT Oral P4 SA2 EL Oral | |
| 21.9.18 | CCA/PAL 20 | |
| Week 3 | | |
| 24.9.18 | P5 SA2 EL Oral | |
| 25.9.18 | | |
| 26.9.18 | | |
| 27.9.18 | PSLE Written – EL & FDN EL | |
| 28.9.18 | PSLE Written – MA & FDN MA | No PAL & CCA Dismissal @ 1.45pm |
| Week 4 | | |
| 1.10.18 | PSLE Written – MT & FDN MT | |
| 2.10.18 | PSLE Written – SC & FDN SC | |
| 3.10.18 | PSLE Written – HMT | |
| 4.10.18 | Children's Day Celebrations | |
| 5.10.18 | Children's Day (School Holiday) | |
| Week 5 | | |
| 8.10.18 | P2 CCA Talent Identification | |
| 9.10.18 | P2 CCA Talent Identification | |
| 10.10.18 | | |
| 11.10.18 | | |
| 12.10.18 | CCA/PAL 21 | |

| Date | Event | Remarks |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Week 6 | | |
| 15.10.18 | PSLE Marking Day | All boys stay at home |
| 16.10.18 | PSLE Marking Day | |
| 17.10.18 | PSLE Marking Day | |
| 18.10.18 | PSLE Marking Day | |
| 19.10.18 | CCA/PAL 22 | |
| Week 7 | | |
| 22.10.18 | | |
| 23.10.18 | SA2 EL Paper 1 (P2 to P5) SA2 EL Listening Comprehension (P2 to P5) | |
| 24.10.18 | SA2 MT Paper 1 (P3 to P5) SA2 MT Listening Comprehension (P3 to P5) | |
| 25.10.18 | | |
| 26.10.18 | SA2 HMT Paper 1 (P5) CCA/PAL 23 | |
| 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 | | |
| 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 boys 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> | |

Up and On!

With warmest regards,

Ms Patsy Neo