



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

28 February 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,



Chinese New Year Celebration

1. Introduction and Celebrations

February is an eventful month with Chinese New Year (CNY) celebrations, Total Defence Day, Safer Internet Day, Class Committee Training, and Saints Games Day rehearsal. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our stakeholders and parents for your invaluable support to provide our Saints with a variety of rich learning experiences to bring about the joy of learning.

1.1 CNY Celebrations

We are also very privilege to have our seniors from SAJC Chinese Orchestra and our Singing Saints to perform for us at our CNY concert. They got everyone singing along and raised the atmosphere of the CNY celebration to a higher notch with familiar joyous tunes.



Our Values

Thanksgiving • Resilience • Unity • Empathy • Wonder • Integrity • Self-Discipline • Excellence

1.2 Total Defence Day



Total Defence Day is one of the high signature school event that our Saints enjoy very much. We are extremely thankful for a team of very dedicated and patriotic parents who have put in funds, time, effort and expertise to design and organise a series of enjoyable activities for our Saints to learn about Total Defence. I believe our Saints were inspired to learn more about how they could play their part as a responsible citizen and what's more, they get to forge memories as they took photos in army uniform and with camouflaged faces!

1.3 Farewell

We congratulate Mrs Josephine Lim, Vice-Principal, for being selected for the Leaders in Education Programme, which commences in March 2019. Mrs Lim would receive her next posting after the programme. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and best wishes to Mrs Lim. Over the past 8 years, she has served SAJS as a teacher, Head of Department and Vice Principal, with dedication and distinction. She is truly a **Community Builder** and the Saints family will certainly miss her.

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

2.1 Value of the Month

The value for Feb is **EMPATHY**. We would like every Saint to put himself in the shoes of others and learn to speak up and act for those who are down.

Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:4

As I am sharing an article in the next segment, I would not be sharing my devotion in this letter. Nonetheless, with concerted effort and reinforcement of placing ourselves in the shoes of others, I trust that our Saints will be the **Community Builder** with **Empathy** that we aspire them to be!

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

3.1 Meet-the-Parents (MTP) Sessions

Our sincere appreciation for your continual support as you make time to meet up with us at the MTP Sessions. We hope that it has been a meaningful experience for you. My teachers and I hope to start the year right in harnessing a strong and positive connection with all of our valued partners.

3.2 Positive School-Home Partnership

We are blessed to have understanding and supportive parents in SAJS. We appreciate your efforts to role model the school values of thanksgiving, empathy and unity in your interactions with our staff. We trust that the MOE's guiding principles for a positive school-home partnership will give us greater clarity on how to better partner each other and strengthened our partnership to nurture our Saints towards the school's vision. I would like to reinforce the following 2 partnership guiding principles:

Guiding Principle 1

Students succeed when schools and parents work hand in hand to support students in learning, self-management skills, taking responsibility and building resilience.

Guiding Principle 2

Mutual respect and trust forms a strong foundation for positive engagement between schools and parents.

3.3 Parents Gateway

As shared at MTP sessions, we will be using the Parents Gateway for school's communications from term 2 onwards. Kindly follow the simple instructions below to download the App if you have not done so.

Instructional Guide to download Parents Gateway

Step 1 – SingPass Registration and 2FA Setup

- SingPass 2-Step Verification (2FA) is required for on-boarding. If you have not registered for a SingPass or have not set up the 2FA, please visit the SingPass website (<https://www.singpass.gov.sg>).
- Should you require further assistance, please contact SingPass Helpdesk at 6643-0555.

Step 2 – Download Parents Gateway Mobile App

- a. Open the Apple App Store or Google Play Store app on your mobile phone.
- b. Search for the 'Parents Gateway' mobile app
- c. Download and install the app onto your phone.
- d. Enable '**Allow Notifications**' to receive push notifications.

Note: Supported OS Versions - **Android 6.0 or later & iOS 9.1 or later**

Step 3 – One-Time On-boarding

1. Tap on "Log in with SingPass"
2. Log in with your SingPass (2FA)
3. Tap on "Retrieve" to retrieve your child(ren)'s information
4. Tap on "Done" to complete on-boarding
5. You should see your child(ren)'s school announcements and activities (if any)

3.4 Article

I have found an interesting article which is applicable not just for parents at P1 level but a good reminder for all parents. Enjoy the easy read.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/commentary-learning-to-let-go-as-a-parent-of-a-primary-1-child-9897800>

Commentary: Learning to let go as a parent of a Primary 1 child

Three weeks into her child's primary school education, mother of three June Yong discusses what is arguably the most difficult task for a parent to do - letting go.

By June Yong

28 Jan 2018 06:22AM(Updated: 28 Jan 2018 09:57PM)

SINGAPORE: It's only the third week of school and already I have mixed feelings about my child starting Primary 1.

On the one hand, I feel a sense of pride as I witness my son growing in independence and developing new skills.

After the first week of school, parents are no longer allowed to walk in with their child. The first morning I had to bid my child farewell at the school gate, I stood watching as his small figure diminished into the distance.

I realised then that I was also witnessing the emergence of his autonomy.

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INDEPENDENCE

As a family, we have tried to encourage independence in our kids from an early age. We took baby steps like allowing them to self-feed, dress themselves, and do simple chores like setting the table and packing up their toys.

Now, at the age of 6, my son has to make his own decisions in school – from what to eat at recess, to whom to befriend. Though I teach him the importance of eating healthy food, I have zero control over his daily choices.

I just have to trust him and give him the information he needs to make better decisions.

Over the course of just three weeks, I have seen evidence of his budding independence and responsibility.

He is starting to check his handbook to ensure he has the necessary items for school the next day, and will take the initiative to hand me letters from his teacher. There were also times when he could tell me that he needed me to buy extra files or ask for money for a magazine subscription.

The road ahead of him may be long, but I am heartened to see the first fruits of our labour. Yet I find myself still constantly worrying about him.

FEAR OF BEING LEFT BEHIND

The anxieties that parents face in helping their children adjust to school and gain independence are real, from dealing with bullying issues to their child being called out for not paying attention in class.

But what we don't often discuss is how do we learn to let go graciously, in this season of formal education, so that our child can take over?

This is arguably the most difficult thing a parent must do when their child enters school.

Evelyn Tan-Rogers, a mother of two whose second-born started school this year, reflects:

What helps me to let go is knowing that the space is good for us both, to grow. It's a chance for him to gain independence – we realised in the first week that there were so many things we'd been helping him with, such as putting on his seat belt or dressing him.

At home, we can give our children space to demonstrate that they can tackle their homework

with minimal adult intervention.

A friend of mine actually prompts her child to update her regarding all administrative matters or homework, even though she may already have the information from the teacher. This helps to place the responsibility firmly in the hands of her child.

I have mixed feelings towards class WhatsApp group informally set up among parents. While such chat groups may prove useful at times, I wonder if they take up more of our mental loads than we realise. No surprise that my child's principal explicitly discourages parents from setting up such groups, explaining that it can be a source of anxiety and misinformation.

Another area is in allowing kids to make mistakes and take action to solve their own problems.

Just the other day, my child left his wallet at the canteen during recess. I gave him instructions to look at the lost and found cupboard in the canteen, and if it's not there, to then enquire at the general office.

Yet, the next day, I gritted my teeth and tried to keep my fingers from dialing the general office's number to find out if my child's wallet was there.

Imagine my surprise to hear him reporting that he went to the office and managed to reclaim his wallet, with the money intact. It was a learning moment for the both of us.

Independence is a skill we all desire for our children and yet we hesitate to see the day when we are totally unneeded or even unwanted. This journey of letting go and handing over the keys to life is bittersweet.

LETTING GO AND RECONNECTING

To help myself in this process, I've decided to channel my inner Elsa, the heroine in the Disney movie Frozen.

Instead of worrying about the thousand and one things that may go wrong, and trying to take control of all the elements, I'm choosing to let it go, and trust that I have prepared my child enough.

I'm choosing to see the newfound freedom we have both gained in a new light.

Apart from parent volunteer duties in my son's school, I have been diligently fixing up more breakfast dates with friends. I'm also devoting more time to growing my career this year.

At the same time, I look forward to reconnecting with him. I plan special things to do together, whether it's a romp at the playground or a play date with an old friend, and have dedicated one day of the week to do that.

When I pick him from school, I have to control the string of questions in my head and ask him in small bites. "Who did you eat recess with?" "What did you buy?" "What was your favourite part of your day?"

Being able to reconnect and spend some time together helps parents like me tune in to my

kids' emotions and mental state.

A mother of a child with different learning needs once confided:

Knowing what is happening and being able to help him deal with his difficulty one thing at a time helps me to reduce my own anxiety.

EMPOWERING RATHER THAN PROTECTING

Letting go is a bit like a dance. As our children show a desire to take on more responsibility, we need to step back and let them take the lead.

By subscribing to the maxim of never doing for a child what he is capable of doing for himself, I believe this will help our children learn confidence, independence and other life skills, which will help them navigate their later years.

Like a butterfly needs to break out of its own cocoon in order to develop strength in its wings to fly, our children are also coming into their own and developing their personhood when they enter school.

We can empower them by being there when they need help or a listening ear, rather than being overly protective or intrusive. We must give them the space to make mistakes, and learn from these.

Though I may still ask the question, "Where did my little boy go?" I am choosing to focus on the answer I know I already have - my child is growing up and learning how to be a responsible young man, and this is definitely something worth being proud of.

June Yong is a mother of three, an educational therapist and owner of [Mama Wear Papa Shirt](#), a blog that discusses parenting and education in Singapore.

4. Calendar of Events

Term 1

Date	Event	Remarks
Week 8		
25.2.19		
26.2.19		
27.2.19		
28.2.19		
1.3.19	PAL & CCA (7)	
2.3.19 (Sat)	Parents Learning Festival	
Week 9		
4.3.19		
5.3.19		
6.3.19	Prefects' Commendation Service	
7.3.19		
8.3.19	PAL & CCA (8)	

9.3.19 (Sat)	Beijing Immersion Programme for P4 and P5 students (9 – 14 Mar)	
Week 10		
11.3.19		
12.3.19		
13.3.19		
14.3.19	End of Term Service	Last Day of Term 1
15.3.19	Saints Games Day	Dismissal at 11am

Term 2

Date	Event	Remarks
Week 1		
25.3.19	Beginning of Term Service	
26.3.19		
27.3.19		
28.3.19	P5 Camp (28 – 30 Mar)	
29.3.19	PAL & CCA (9)	
Week 2		
1.4.19	Home-based Learning (HBL) Day	ALL students stay at home
2.4.19		
3.4.19		
5.4.19	PAL & CCA (10)	
Week 3		
8.4.19		
9.4.19		
10.4.19	NLB Book Talk	
11.4.19	NLB Mass Borrowing	
12.4.19	NLC Mass Borrowing PAL & CCA (11)	
Week 4		
15.4.19	P3 SA1 MT Oral P5 SA1 MT Oral	
16.4.19	P5 SA1 MT & FMT Oral P6 SA1 EL Oral	
17.4.19		
18.4.19	Saints' Learning Festival	
19.4.19	Good Friday (Public Holiday)	
Week 5		
22.4.19	P3 SA1 MT Oral	
23.4.19	P4 SA1 MT Oral P5 SA1 EL Oral	
24.4.19	P4 SA 1 EL Oral P6 SA1 MT Oral	
25.4.19	P3 SA1 EL Oral P4 SA1 MT Oral P6 SA1 MT & FMT Oral	
26.4.19	PAL & CCA (12)	
Week 6		
29.4.19	P3 & P6 SA 1 EL Paper 1 & LC P4 & P5 SA 1 MT Paper 1 & LC	
30.4.19	P3 & P6 SA 1 MT Paper 1 & LC P4 & P5 SA 1 EL Paper 1 & LC	

1.5.19	Labour Day (Public Holiday)	
2.5.19		
3.5.19	PAL & CCA (13)	
Week 7		
6.5.19		
7.5.19		
8.5.19		
9.5.19		
10.5.19	P5 & P6 SA1 HMT Paper 1 PAL & CCA (14)	
Week 8		
13.5.19	P3 – P6 SA1 Science	
14.5.19	P3 – P6 SA1 EL Paper 2	
15.5.19	P3 – P6 SA1 MT Paper 2	
16.5.19	P3 – P6 SA 1 Math	
17.5.19	P5 & P6 HMT Paper 2 PAL & CCA (15)	
Week 9		
20.5.19	Vesak Day (Public Holiday off in-lieu)	
21.5.19		
22.5.19		
23.5.19		
24.5.19		
Week 10		
27.5.19		
28.5.19		
29.5.19		
30.5.19	End of Term Service PCTC* (2.15pm – 5pm)	Last Day of Term 2
31.5.19	PCTC* (8am – 5pm)	

***PCTC: Parent-Child-Teacher Conference**

Looking forward to your continual support and strong partnership in the year ahead.

Up and On!

With warmest regards,
Ms Patsy Neo