



ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

2 Francis Thomas Drive Singapore 359337 • Tel: (65) 6288 4303 • Fax: (65) 6289 5242
• Website: <http://www.saintandrewsjunior.moe.edu.sg>

Our Vision

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

26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

1. SAJS Celebrates



Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebrations

Although CNY celebration has been muted this year due to the Safe Management Measures (SMM), our MT Department spared no effort to plan a series of meaningful activities for our Saints. Through the fun-filled activities, they have learnt more about the Chinese culture and CNY traditions.

We thank Mdm Wu Shixian and her team of Mother Tongue teachers for the amazing effort in their planning and all the teachers and AV crew for their resourcefulness in conducting the activities leading up to CNY.

SAJS is indeed a place where our Saints from different ethnic backgrounds can come together to celebrate and embrace the different cultural practices. The School Leaders were delighted to receive a bag of 2 oranges (*shown in the photo on the left*) and CNY greetings from two Indian boys. They told us that they would like to express their Thanksgiving to us and to the school. It really touches my heart that our Saints leverage on opportunities to exemplify the value of Thanksgiving. There were also non-Chinese boys coming to school in Chinese traditional costumes on CNY eve.

We are also thankful that we have opportunities like this to educate our Saints to embrace friends from different faiths and ethnic backgrounds and collaborate harmoniously together.

2. ST2: Developing Exemplary Character, Growing Community Builders

A. Value of the Month for February

The value for February 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

Exacting from the devotion that I shared with the Saints on 8 Feb 2021:

Good morning colleagues and saints. Today's devotion teaches us about the value of Empathy. On **page 14** of your **Personal Organiser**, it is stated what we expect of a Saint when he shows Empathy. It means:

- A Saint speaks up and acts for those who are in need.
- A Saint puts himself in the other person's shoes.

For my lower primary Saints, from P1-3, do you know what you are expected to do at your

respective levels?

- P1: A Saint is able to state the feelings of others.
- P2: A Saint is able to state the feelings of others and state the reason(s) for it.
- P3: A Saint shows consideration for the feelings of others.

For my upper primary Saints, from P4-6, do you know what you are expected to do at your respective levels?

- P4: A Saint shows consideration for the feelings of others and with guidance, shows care by taking action.
- P5: A Saint shows consideration for the feelings of others and shows care by taking appropriate action on his own.
- P6: A Saint influences others to be considerate.

The bible teaches us one way we can demonstrate empathy. Proverbs 12:18 tells us reckless words pierce like a sword but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Last week, I shared with you a story of the handicapped boy who is able to empathize the little puppy who cannot walk very well. Today I would like to share another story with you. This story not only shows us how empathy looks like but also what we can do as a community builder to care for others.

One day, an elderly woman and her little grandson went to the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws. "You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little boy.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. The grandmother added, "Freckles are beautiful."

The boy looked up and said, "Really?" "Of course," said the grandmother. "Why don't you name me one thing that's prettier than freckles." The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

This story shows us what empathy looks like. It is to put ourselves in the shoes of others and understands the feelings of others and what they are experiencing. We do not need to be in the same situation to have feelings of empathy. In fact, a person who is capable of showing empathy is usually able to imagine the feelings and emotions of other person and what it is like to be in the same situation as the other person.

The grandmother showed empathy for the boy but she did not stop there. She took actions to comfort him that his freckles are beautiful. In the same way, the boy comforted the grandmother that her wrinkles are beautiful too. This shows us that our words have the power to heal others and in the same way, have the power to hurt others as well. So be mindful when it comes to your words. It may not mean much to you but these words when spoken may stick with someone for a lifetime. So today, let us just learn one way we can show empathy and be a community builder. Let us speak words which heal others and build them up.

Now, I want you to practice what you have learnt. Please turn to your personal organizer and I want you to write something to encourage your teacher or your parents.

Before I end today's devotion, I want to remind all of us to really "THINK" before we speak. Is whatever you are going to say, "TTrue, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind?" Speak only if your words are more beautiful than silence.

Let's pray. Lord, help us to remember that everybody needs somebody to be kind to them. Help us to model and mirror kindness. Help us to always put ourselves in the shoes of others and ask ourselves if we can do anything to help them. Help us to remember to treat others kindly like how we would like to be treated. Help us to always reflect on what we do and say, to think through if what we do and say is helpful or hurtful. Even if what we say is helpful, help us to say them in kind ways which will not hurt others. Even when we are hurt by others, help us not to retaliate with unkindness but help us to still insist to say and do what is helpful and to have self-discipline to NOT do and say what is hurtful. We pray that we will show empathy to others because we know that we will feel better if others feel better. Help us to love others like the way Jesus love us. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Acknowledgment: Story adapted from
<https://sites.google.com/a/wautoma.k12.wi.us/character-education/stories-about-empathy>

B. Total Defence Day (TDD)

The nation commemorated Total Defence Day on 15 February 2021. The theme for this year's campaign is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". The theme focuses on the many ways we can put Total Defence into action in our everyday lives.

There were activities organised by the National Education Committee to engage our Saints. We thank Mdm Halimatus and the CCE Committee for the well thought through and engaging activities, one of which is the "Our Home Photo Competition". The competition, reinforcing the Total Defence theme, required parents to capture an activity related to any of the 6 pillars of Total Defence with our Saints. We are encouraged by the responses received and the effort from the parents.

You may view the winning entries in the link below.

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMMg2hO7hi4CVt-tq1D5_KBANJFoS6iOoXj1kZ9VPV1QgdXJbwKV67Jx_JxwNymTQ?key=djVTSTZGUHBMRGxERXZOOtkzNFJLODgwaUk5bWVB

3. ST4: Harnessing to Connect, Connecting to Harness

A. Punctuality & Personal Thermometer

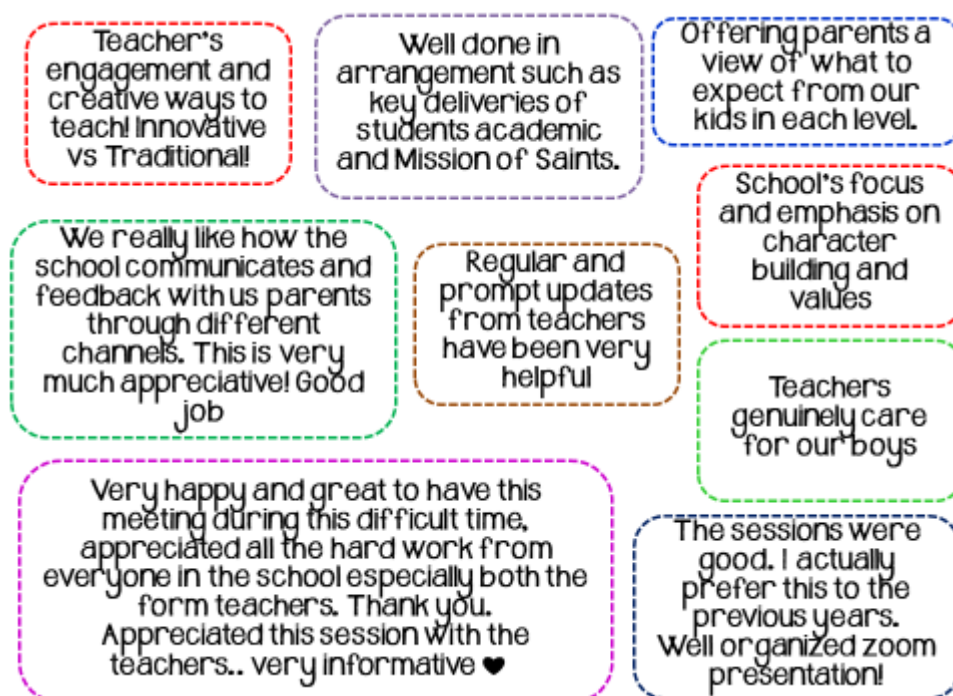
Our Saints are able to articulate the eight school values with ease. Nonetheless it is still a journey for them to demonstrate the school values in their words and actions at all times. Most of our Saints exhibit **SELF-DISCIPLINE** and **EXCELLENCE** as they are punctual for school and they are ready for the daily temperature taking routine with their personal thermometer. However, we do have a small group of Saints who are late for school (or to reach the assembly ground for flag raising) or without their personal thermometer regularly.

We seek the cooperation of parents to ensure that our Saints are committed to a regular morning routine, such that they will arrive in school on time. Please note that all Saints need to reach their classes and be ready for flag raising at 7.30am. Hence, please ensure that our Saints reach school before 7.30am so that they have the time to go up to their classes. After all, we observe that our Saints are more ready for learning and continue with a positive learning disposition for the day, when they are well settled in class before we start the National Anthem.

The school continues to educate our Saints to exercise social responsibility during the current pandemic period. Simple and important acts like having a personal thermometer ready for daily temperature taking, completing the wipe down routines diligently and maintaining safe distancing are manageable for our Saints. But some would need more prompting and reminders. Once again, we appeal for your support to ensure that our Saints have a thermometer with them as a "must have" item. Let us work together to lead our Saints in playing their part to overcome the pandemic.

B. Meet The Parent Session (MTP)

We thank all parents for your support and appreciation as we successfully completed our first virtual MTP with all 5 levels from P1-5 in the midst of Covid-19. This first MTP at the start of the year seeks to provide an opportunity for your son's teachers to touch base with you and also for me to share the school's overall direction, focus, key level programmes, support and partnership principles. Even though it was not easy planning the logistics and overcoming the technological constraints in engaging 1440 sets of parents, we are very thankful for your understanding and support in making it possible. Feedback on the sessions was very good with almost 100% of the parents who responded to the survey agreeing or strongly agreeing that the session was useful and relevant to them. We especially want to thank parents who took the time and effort to affirm our staff (sharing some verbatim comments from our parents as seen in the graphic below). You have definitely role-modelled the value of **THANKSGIVING** for our Saints and is a source encouragement for our staff! We also took the feedback for improvement seriously and will strive to improve ourselves in pursuit of the school value of **EXCELLENCE**.



C. Semester 1 Calendar

Date	Event	Remarks
TERM 1 Week 8		
22.2.21		
23.2.21		
24.2.21	Class Committee Training (Upper Primary)	
25.2.21		
26.2.21	PAL & CCA (6)	
27.2.21 (Sat)	Meet-the-Parents Session for P6 parents	
TERM 1 Week 9		
1.3.21		
2.3.21		
3.3.21	Prefects' Commendation Service	
4.3.21		

5.3.21	PAL & CCA (7)	
TERM 1 Week 10		
8.3.21		
9.3.21		
10.3.21		
11.3.21		
12.3.21	PAL & CCA (8) End of Term Service	Staggered Dismissal @ 3.30pm
TERM 2 Week 1		
22.3.21	Beginning of Term Service	
23.3.21		
24.3.21		
25.3.21		
26.3.21	PAL & CCA (9)	
TERM 2 Week 2		
29.2.21		
30.2.21		
31.3.21		
1.4.21	Saints' Learning Festival	
2.4.21	Good Friday (Public Holiday)	
TERM 2 Week 3		
5.4.21		
6.4.21		
7.4.21		
8.4.21		
9.4.21	PAL & CCA (10)	
TERM 2 Week 4		
12.4.21	P5 Camp	
13.4.21	P5 Camp	
14.4.21	P5 Camp	
15.4.21		
16.4.21	PAL & CCA (11)	
TERM 2 Week 5		
19.4.21	P4 SA1 MT Oral	
20.4.21	P6 SA1 EL & FEL Oral	
21.4.21		
22.4.21	P4 SA1 EL Oral P6 SA1 MT & FMT Oral	
23.4.21	PAL & CCA (12)	
TERM 2 Week 6		
26.4.21		
27.4.21		
28.4.21		
29.4.21		
30.4.21	PAL & CCA (13)	
TERM 2 Week 7		
3.5.21	Labour Day (Public Holiday in-lieu)	
4.5.21		
5.5.21	P4 & P6 SA 1 EL Paper 1 & LC	
6.5.21	P4 & P6 SA 1 MT Paper 1 & LC	
7.5.21	PAL & CCA (14) P6 SA1 HMT Paper 1 & 2	
TERM 2 Week 8		

10.5.21	P4 & P6 SA1 Science	
11.5.21	P4 & P6 SA1 EL Paper 2	
12.5.21		
13.5.21	<i>Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday)</i>	
14.5.21	PAL & CCA (15)	
TERM 2 Week 9		
17.5.21	P4 & P6 SA1 MT Paper 2	
18.5.21	P4 & P6 SA1 Math	
19.5.21		
20.5.21		
21.5.21	PAL & CCA (16)	
TERM 2 Week 10		
24.5.21		
25.5.21		
26.5.21	<i>Vesak Day (Public Holiday)</i>	
27.5.21	End of Term Service Parent-Child-Teacher Conference (ePCTC) (2.15pm – 5pm)	<i>Last Day of Term Staggered Dismissal @ 1.30pm</i>
28.5.21	ePCTC (8am – 5pm)	

Up and On!

With warmest regards,

Ms Patsy Neo
Principal