



## Principal's Letter (July)

Welcome back from the mid-year break. As we progress into the second half of the year, we are thankful for the resumption of National School Games and Singapore Youth Festival activities. We are so glad that our Saints are able to be active with their CCAs and preparation for the respective competitions and events. Our P5 Saints could once again celebrate National Day with their counterparts from other schools as they attend the NE Show!

Here is a short letter to start the new semester and I would like to draw your attention to some key dates in the Calendar. Though it has only been 3 weeks since semester 2 started, the school has provided enriching experiences to engage our Saints in their holistic development.

### 1. Celebrations

#### A. P1 Heritage Trail



St Andrew's history was brought alive on 8 July 2022 for the P1 Saints as representatives from the P4 classes presented to them the rich history of St Andrew's at various heritage stations. Our P4 Saints used their creative, critical, and collaborative skills to tell their P1 schoolmates about St Andrew's story. In addition, the P1 Saints were also allowed to participate in the heritage games created by the P4 classes. Both cohorts of Saints learn to be skilled communicators who can express their ideas with clarity and confidence and by active listening. We want to thank all (staff and parent volunteers) who have worked hard to organise and see through to this Heritage trail for our Saints!

## **2. Staff Movement**

We warmly welcome new colleagues to the St Andrew's Family and bid farewell to those who have served faithfully.

### Welcome

Mdm Sofia Othman (ML Teacher)

Ms Tan Ming Ju (EL Teacher)

### Farewell

Mr Mu Zhiming	(Senior Teacher)	School Transfer
Mr Norman s/o Selvaraju	(EL Teacher)	- School Transfer
Mdm Siti Suraidah	(ML Teacher)	- School Transfer
Mr Arthur Tay	(PE Teacher)	- School Transfer

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

### **A. The focus for the month of July is *Community Builder***

The school continues to inspire our Saints to collaborate in teams so that they can contribute positively in the community where we belong. Our Saints are reminded to respect and consider different opinions in team decision making. We also encourage them to support one another in the acquisition of desired skills, knowledge and values as they contribute positively towards the people in the community and the environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a devotion which I shared with our Saints, hopefully, they will be inspired to be community builders.

[slide 1] Good morning colleagues and saints. Today's devotion teaches us about the servant leadership quality of being a community builder.

[slide 2] On **page 19** of your **Personal Organiser**, we define a community builder as one who contributes positively and who can collaborate in teams.

You can **contribute positively** by:

- Taking care of the environment and making it a better place for others; and
- Helping others and mentoring them to acquire desired skills and knowledge.

[slide 3] You can **collaborate in teams** by:

- Being able to take turns;
- Affirming and encouraging others;
- Keeping others focussed;
- Helping your team to achieve set goals;
- Giving constructive ideas to help others give their best; and
- Respecting and considering different opinions in team decisions.

[slide 4] What does the bible teach us about being a community builder? **1 Tim 4:12** 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech,

in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

[slide 5] Last week, I shared all of you how 13 year old Singapore became a community builder by thinking creatively to raise funds to help the needy in Ukraine.

[slide 6] Today, I am going to share with you a story of a boat painter and repairer. A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him.

While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it.

When he finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said "You've already paid me for painting the boat Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened:

"When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole.

"When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip.

"They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time.

"When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole.

"Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

"Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole!

"You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."

[slide 7] So no matter who, when or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

[slide 8] Along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

[slide 9] Make a difference....be the best you... at the end of life, what really matters is not what you've got, but what you've shared, not your success but your significance. Live a life that matters. Live a life of love.

[slide 10] Let's pray. Lord, help us to fix our eyes on the love you share with us every day. And, may we be reminded of the grace and mercy you extended through your son as we go through our lives. Lord, may we look to your love as a guide to love others. And not just those who are easy to love. But God give us your eyes so that we may see all your children the way you do. Help us please, God, to love ourselves the way that you love us. For we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Lord, help us to be kind. Help our words to uplift and show your love. Lord, may our actions to build others up so that they too will know the love of Jesus. May we be generous with the things you have blessed us with. May we give to others expecting nothing in return, the way you give us blessings upon blessings every day. Lord, help us to remember that one act of kindness in your name may not change the world, but it could change a life. Let us be kind in all things just as Jesus was kind, even to those who persecuted Him. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen

[\*A man was asked to paint a... - No Legs No Vision No Problem | Facebook\*](#)

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

##### A. Key events to note

Event	Date	Remarks
Racial Harmony Day	Wed, 20 Jul	SAJS continues to educate our Saints to appreciate of the diverse races and religions that make up our multicultural society. <u>Saints are encouraged to come to school in Ethnic Outfits on 20 Jul</u>
Home-based Learning (HBL) for P1 – P5	Fri, 22 Jul	SAJS continues to prepare our Saints to be resilient and adaptable, such that learning would still take place when there is a school closure. Hence, we would be conducting our 1 <sup>st</sup> HBL since the last school closure. P6 Saints will be back in school for their Prelim MT Oral Exam while the P1 – P5 Saints have their HBL. Details of the HBL will be communicated at a closer date.
SAV Combined Thanksgiving Service	Thu, 1 Sep	We give thanks for God's blessings over the 160 years. There will be a SAV Combined Thanksgiving Service held at SAJC Cultural Centre. A zoom link will be shared with everyone so that everyone could join us to give thanks as One Family Unbroken.
Early Dismissal: National Day Celebration	Mon, 8 Aug	Kindly note the dismissal time for the 2 days: 10.30am (P1 & P2 will be dismissed at 10.20am)
Staff Appreciation Day	Thu, 1 Sep	10.30am (P1 & P2 will be dismissed at 10.20am)

##### B. Term 3 Calendar

Date	Event	Remarks
<b>Week 3</b>		
11/7	<b>Hari Raya Haji (Public Holiday)</b>	
12/7	Mother Tongue Fortnight Opening	
13/7		
14/7		
15/7	PAL/CCA 20	
16/7 (Sat)	NE Show for P5 Saints	
<b>Week 4</b>		
18/7		
19/7		
20/7	Racial Harmony Day	Saints are encouraged to come to school in Ethnic Outfits
21/7		
22/7	P6 Prelim Exam – MT/Fdn MT Oral Exam Home-based Learning (HBL) for P1 – P5	<b><i>P1 to P5 Saints stay at home for HBL</i></b>

Date	Event	Remarks
<b>Week 5</b>		
25/7		
26/7	P6 Prelim Exam – EL Oral (PM)	
27/7		
28/7		
29/7	PAL/CCA 21	
<b>Week 6</b>		
01/8		
02/8		
03/8		
04/8		
05/8	PAL/CCA 22	
<b>Week 7</b>		
08/8	National Day Celebration	<b>Dismissal @ 10.30am</b>
09/8	<b>National Day (Public Holiday)</b>	
10/8	<b>School Holiday</b>	
11/8		
12/8		
<b>Week 8</b>		
15/8	<b>PSLE Oral (Day 1)</b>	<b>P1 to P5 boys - stay at home</b>
16/8	<b>PSLE Oral (Day 2)</b>	
17/8	P3 Gifted Education Programme Screening Exercise	
18/8		
19/8	P6 Prelims Exam (Written) – EL & FEL PAL/CCA 23	
<b>Week 9</b>		
22/8	P6 Prelims Exam (Written) – MA & FMA	
23/8	P6 Prelims Exam (Written) – MT & FMT	
24/8	P6 Prelims Exam (Written) – SC & FSCA	
25/8	P6 Prelims Exam (Written) – HMT	
26/8	P6 Prelims Exam (Written) – EL LC & MT LC PAL/CCA 24	
<b>Week 10</b>		
29/8		
30/8		
31/8		
1/9	SAV Combined Thanksgiving Service Staff Appreciation Day End of Term Service	<b>Dismissal @ 10.30am</b>
2/9	<b>Teachers' Day (School Holiday)</b>	

Up and On!

With warmest regards,

Ms Patsy Neo  
Principal