

## Speech for St Andrew's Junior College 38th College Day

Our Guest of Honour, Professor Freddy Boey,  
Deputy President and Provost of Nanyang Technological University;  
Chairman of the SAJC Board of Governors, Mr Tan Soo Kiang;  
Members of the Board of Governors;  
Chairman of SAJC Parent Support Group, Mrs Chan May Ping;  
Principals and Alumni;  
Distinguished guests, parents, teachers and students.

Welcome to the SAJC's 38th College Day. It is such a pleasure to see all of you today. Thank you for making time to join us on this joyous occasion. Today, we are also very honoured by the presence of our pioneer colleagues and chaplains so please join me in welcoming our pioneers!

It's my privilege to deliver the College Report highlighting the development and proud achievements of the College in the past year.

As we reflect on the year gone by, once again, we proclaim that God is ever faithful and His love endures in all circumstances and all aspects of College life.

The release of the 2014 A-level Examinations saw our graduates performing well against the Ministry of Education's national indicator of 'at least 3H2 passes and a pass in General Paper'. We are proud of our Saints! They have been accepted into universities both locally and overseas at institutions like Oxford and Cambridge and many have also garnered prestigious scholarships.

Amongst their many academic achievements, I would particularly like to highlight 4 Saints who have received the prestigious 2014 Lee Kuan Yew Award in different areas of excellence:

- Navin Kumar Rai and Anthea Lim Jinwen for the Lee Kuan Yew Award for Outstanding Normal Course
- Nur Namirah Bte Abdul Rahim, the Prime Minister's Book Prize for excelling in languages, and
- Prithvi Gundlapalli for the Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science. Prithvi has won the A\*STAR scholarship as well.

Amazingly, in September last year, we also received news that the International Astronomical Union based in France has named an asteroid after Prithvi in honour of his contribution to scientific research.

We rejoice with our Saints in all their successes. What makes our College special is that we succeed together as a Family, and we would like to recognize the tremendous effort of both staff and students all of whom have contributed to making this Family united, and for making this Family proud of them.

In keeping the St Andrew's Family bonded and soaring in our high endeavors, the President of the 37th Student Council, Kenneth Teh, has outstandingly exemplified the qualities of servant leadership in leading the Councilors. On top of the heavy demands of his studies and Council responsibilities, Kenneth took on several other roles during this year's Pre-University Seminar which was organized by our College. He was instrumental in rallying and motivating a hundred Saints who served as student liaison officers who ran the 4 day and 3 night event for 550 student leaders representing all junior colleges, integrated programme schools and polytechnics.

In the area of sports achievements, Saints beat Raffles Institution for a 9 year winning streak that saw us keep, once again, the Kiwi Cup. At the A-Division competitions, Saints fought hard and 10 of our sports were in top 4 positions at the National Sports Championship. Two of these teams entered the finals - rugby and hockey girls – and although we didn't win the championship titles, we were extremely inspired by their tenacity and the College spirit displayed by our Saints. At the conclusion of the games, supporters and players stood side by side, with their arms over their neighbours' shoulders, and sang the College hymn spontaneously as One Family Unbroken.

The love for sports in our Saints continues even after they have left the College. At the recent 28th SEA Games, our Saints contributed to the Nation's record medal haul with 2 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals. We would also like to congratulate our Sports Secretary, Mr Bryan Kieu, who was one of the coaches for the Men's Dragonboat Team that won 3 Bronze medals.

Besides sports, our Saints also took part in the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging for Performing Arts. They delivered outstanding results! I am pleased to announce that the Choir, Concert Band, Dance and Guitar won Certificates of Distinction. We also saw a remarkably high standard of performance by our Chinese Orchestra and Chinese Drama during the competition.

Saints also exhibited mental toughness and agility when our team won the 2015 National Current Affairs Quiz organized by MOE and The Straits Times. Another team of Saints emerged as the winners of the Youth Innovation Challenge organized by SMU and the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

In doing their part for the environment Saints also displayed passion and care for others, and in recognition of their environmental initiatives, the Singapore Environment Council has awarded the Lotus Award (Sustained Achievement) to the College for the 8th year running.

The list of achievements goes on.

Another highlight that showed how well our College comes together to excel and succeed was the organization of the Pre-University Seminar. This high signature event for student leaders representing all the pre-university institutions was graced by two Ministers - Mr Lawrence Wong and Mr Heng Swee Keat. In this Pre-U

Seminar, our own College leadership programmes were incorporated to benefit students from other schools so they could learn to “Cherish our Past, Celebrate our Present and Create our Future”.

Our colleagues and Saints did a fantastic job and they were highly respected by the student participants for their leadership. Not only did the student participants enjoy the Seminar, they have been inspired to contribute more to Singapore as a result of their experiences in the Seminar. Such affirmation of commitment and love for our nation from our young Singaporeans is indeed very heart-warming, and as we celebrate SG50 this year, we are energized to make the next 50 years even better.

In the past three years, we have drawn closer and grown together as an Anglican family of schools as we came together to design and implement a total curriculum to stretch our students’ potential to be servant leaders with exemplary character, equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies to serve in public service. This programme is the Anglican Character, Thinking, & Service Leadership Academy. In short, ACTS. For a start, the key focus of ACTS is the development of critical thinking in our students and these lessons have already been implemented in Anglican High School, St Andrew’s Secondary School, St Margaret’s Secondary School and our College from secondary 1 to junior college year 2. To facilitate greater collaboration amongst teachers, an online repository has been created for schools to store and share critical thinking lesson plans and a 2nd Critical Thinking Conference was organized to promote deep learning. It was attended by 160 teachers from our Anglican schools. This year, the critical thinking component in ACTS has been extended beyond the classrooms to co-curricular domains. As ACTS takes root, we look forward to seeing our students blossoming as 21st century servant leaders and educated citizens contributing to the nation, and creating a better future for all.

Our Saints are our pride and joy. Their growth as outstanding Saints and leaders who are WISE and TRUE is attributable to the love and sacrifice of our dedicated staff. They have designed meaningful and exciting programmes, provided excellent pedagogies in engaging student learning and forged a nurturing relationship with their students. As we celebrate and give thanks for the success of our students, we are also celebrating our colleagues’ success and faithful devotion to their calling as educators. Colleagues, you have inspired me with your purposefulness and positivity in tough times and I have drawn great strength from your willingness to learn and stand for what is in the best interest of the College.

Please join me in honouring our teachers and support staff for all that they have done for us.

I would also like to congratulate 27 of our staff members who were promoted to a higher educational grade this year. Mr Jae Chia was awarded the National Day Commendation Medal last year and he is now in Finland doing his master’s degree in counselling. In addition, Mr Chay Wai Sum and Mrs Helen Goh received the

National Day Long Service Awards for their faithful and outstanding service in education.

Our College is also grateful for the unstinting support of the parents under the leadership of Mr Daniel Ho, chairman of the 2nd Parent Support Group or PSG. Under Mr Ho's leadership, the PSG has intensified their efforts in meeting the needs of our Saints. Indeed, their presence in College demonstrates the unbounded love that parents have for their children and their children's friends. I greatly enjoy my time with the PSG who are such generous and fun people to work with. Another term is over and we thank Mr Ho for his remarkable leadership. We also welcome the 3rd PSG EXCO led by Mrs Chan May Ping. You might find Mrs Chan familiar. She was also from the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSG EXCO and she is continuing her service in leading the 3<sup>rd</sup> EXCO because she has 2 sons studying in our College one after another.

Indeed, this is a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing, and a special SG50 College Day! We are blessed to have each another in the St Andrew's Family and a peaceful nation that has enabled us to live our life's purpose and to grow from strength to strength.

All that the College is would not have been possible without our pioneer educators and staff. It is they who had laid an enduring foundation for us to build on for excellence, and to continue the tradition of caring for every member as one Family during their time in SAJC. May I invite our pioneers to kindly stand as we show our appreciation to them.

This evening, we have put together a special tribute for our pioneers in acknowledgement and appreciation for their love for our College. Please enjoy the video!

[AFTER THE VIDEO]

I am sure you will agree with me that our pioneers look just as youthful now as they were in the video.

Lastly, may I express my deepest gratitude for the unwavering support of our Bishop Rennis Ponniah, Board of Governors, Alumni, parents, and friends of St Andrew's. Without them, we would not have come so far. Led by Mr Tan Soo Kiang, our Board of Governors has embodied the Saint's spirit of giving without expecting anything in return for their service to the College. I have never failed to experience their unreserved faith and support in all that we want to achieve for our College.

But most of all, today, we humbly thank God for His overflowing abundant blessings and grace. As One Family Unbroken, we shall stand strong and tall as we continue to look to Him for wisdom and guidance. God is good and He shall lead us, Up and On!

It is now my pleasure to introduce our Guest of Honour, Professor Freddy Boey.

A Professor of Materials Engineering, Professor Freddy Boey has a track record of breakthrough commercial applications that have given the “Made in Singapore” label pride of place on the global stage.

Before becoming the Provost, Prof Boey was Chair of NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering, during which time he led its transformation into one of the world’s largest materials engineering institutions with a solid reputation for generating industry-relevant technologies that can be commercialised.

Prof Boey is also a pioneer in the use of functional biomaterials for medical devices. Over the years, Prof Boey has published 356 journal papers, won more than S\$42 million in competitive research funding, developed 103 patents and founded several companies to commercialise his cardiovascular, ocular and surgical implants. His most recent company, Peregrine, is based on a nanomedicine delivery system to treat Glaucoma and it has been successfully deployed in human trials.

Of his many accolades – which you can see on screen - we proudly proclaim that Prof Freddy Boey is a Saint. I am sure that we will be blessed by Prof Boey’s practical wisdom and be inspired as he addresses us.

Without further ado, may I invite Prof Boey to give his address.