

THE PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH – 39TH COLLEGE DAY REPORT

Our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Ong Chong Tee, Deputy Managing Director (Financial Supervision), Monetary Authority of Singapore;
Chairman of the SAJC Board of Governors, Mr Tan Soo Kiang;
Members of the Board of Governors;
Cluster Superintendent, South 5 Schools, Mdm Sambwani Vimi Dail;
Chairman of SAJC Parents Support Group, Mr Michael Wong;
Principals and Alumni;
Distinguished guests, parents, teachers and students.

Welcome to SAJC's 39th College Day. We are happy that you are able to make time this afternoon to join us on this joyous occasion. It is my privilege to deliver the College report highlighting the key developments and fine accomplishments of our Saints and staff in the past year.

First of all, let me acknowledge the student leaders of the College for their dedication and contributions. The 38th Student Council was led by Clement Lim Jia Jing as President. Together with his fellow student councillors they had work very hard to be the voice of the students and to foster and pass on the Saint's spirit. Through their creative and well thought out programmes and activities they have managed to rally their peers together as one united St Andrew's Family. They have served their peers and the College tirelessly and selflessly.

We also acknowledge the Christian student group of the College – Saints-for-Christ, in particular the EXCO led by its President, Jun Ohata. They have served fervently to keep our Christian heritage strong through their daily morning worship and prayers, weekly scripture reading, and in the Life Concert, Good Friday and Easter celebrations. Their service had inspired their peers to be true to God and be a testimony for Him.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the House Council and the Saints Advocate, together with all the CCA leaders for your commitment, dedication and love for the College shown through your service and contributions. Even though I am not able to mention each and every one of you by name here, I have placed you on record in the Principal's Report. Thank you for making SAJC a special place enriched by your talents and gifts.

Our theme this year for College Day, 'For Thy Unfailing Mercies', is taken from our College Hymn. It affirms God's ever faithfulness – it represents His unfailing love, care and protection for us and for the College; that in spite of our failings, transgressions and flaws, we witness on a daily basis new mercies that he has 'strewn along our way'. Truly God has been merciful and gracious towards us as we give thanks with a grateful heart for the abundance of His blessings and gifts bestowed upon all our Saints so freely and generously.

The release of the 2015 A-Level Examination results saw our graduates performing well against the Ministry of Education's national indicator of percentage of students with 'at least 3H2 passes and a pass in General Paper'. Not only did the College surpass this national indicator, I am pleased to announce that the 2015 cohort of Saints has obtained the best results ever for the College in the mean A-level rank point. Congratulations to the Class of 2015 Saints and teachers on your success and for setting yet again a new benchmark of excellence for your juniors.

In this cohort we saw Bill Chee topping the Science Faculty and being the overall top student in the College, and Eve Dana Ng Shi Ying for topping the Arts Faculty. Both of them received a perfect score of 90 rank points. Sharing the same honour of achieving the perfect score are 9 other students. We are also especially pleased that our students continue to excel in both their academic endeavours and co-curricular pursuits. Notwithstanding their very heavy involvement in CCAs, 25 Captains and Presidents scored 80 rank points and better in the A Level Exams. This includes Kenneth Teh, the Student Council President.

The strong foundation that the College has laid for our Saints' academic learning and their development in the 21st century leadership competencies has served them well as our Saints continue gain admission into courses of their choice at both local and overseas universities. As you can see in the programme booklet, this year we have Saints garnering prestigious scholarships from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Minister of Education, the Ministry of Health Holdings, the Singapore-Industry Holdings, etc. The list is by no means complete as we are still in the midst of receiving good news of more scholarships in the coming days – just today I received news that our Saint, Arunachalam Selvanayaram is one of the recipients of the 2016 Prime Minister Book Prize. In addition to scholarships, our Class of 2015 Saints have continued to distinguish themselves by securing places at several renowned universities in the world including Oxford University, King's College London, Australian National University and Yale-NUS.

The Principal's Report shows the full list of achievements garnered by the Saints as they excelled in various competitions. I will thus only highlight the key achievements and accomplishments of our students, staff and the College.

In the area of sports achievements, 7 of our sports teams were in the top 4 positions at the National Schools Games. All the games were highly contested and even though they did not win all their matches we were proud our team played hard at every match. Of particular note is our Water Polo Girls' team, participating on an extremely lean team of only 8 members (we need at least 7 members in order to participate); they succeeded against the odds to clinched 2nd place at the national championship finals at the OCBC Aquatic Centre. A special mention needs to be made for our Track and Field Boys team who managed, after many years to make a comeback into the top 4 national placings, in spite of the domination by traditional powerhouses.

At the Rugby semi-finals, our boys fought a fiercely contested match where they were neck-to-neck with the opposing team at every juncture and the atmosphere in the stadium was electric. We were really inspired by our boys' relentless and tenacious resolve to play hard and play well right to the very final moments of the game. While we came in 4th at the nationals, our Rugby boys through their valiant efforts, have truly exemplified our College spirit of 'Truest fame lies in high endeavour'.

This is a non-SYF year for all performing arts CCAs except English Drama. We congratulate English Drama for obtaining a Certificate of Commendation at the SYF and for staging their play over three shows for us to enjoy their talents. Saints in Chinese Drama, Chinese Orchestra, Choir, Concert Band, Dance Society and Guitar Ensemble, took to the stage in public venues like the Esplanade, the Arts House, NUS University Cultural Centre and in College, and played to almost full houses and resounding applause at each event.

Two of our H2 Art students, Jade Wong and Muhammad Shafeeq, took part in the 2016 SYF Art and Craft Presentation. They submitted their A Level Art Coursework pieces and both were selected for the SYF Art Exhibition at the Arts House and were awarded Certificates of Recognition (Special Mention).

Consistent with our aspirations to be servant leaders, a unique defining attribute of our Saints, is their selfless service to others. With a grateful heart all Saints and staff alike shared God's blessings by helping the less privileged members of the community both here in Singapore, and overseas in Vietnam and Thailand to support the NGOs in their work with poverty-stricken communities. As part of the College's National Day and SG50 Celebrations last year, our JC1s worked in partnership with Central Singapore CDC and Kreta Ayer-Kim Seng Grassroots Office to embark on 'Project Silver Homes', where they visited elderly residents in the Tiong Bahru area to help clean up their homes and to interact with them. At the same time, our JC2 students collaborated with Central Singapore CDC to launch a social advocacy project called 'Giraffes Singapore' which honours compassionate risk-takers and people who have the courage to stick their necks out for the common good. Our Saints fanned out to various locations in Singapore to spread awareness of the Giraffes Singapore movement and gather inspiring stories of 'Giraffes of Singapore' – that is, Singaporeans who had 'stick their necks out' for others.

Another example of our students' passion in service is evident in their championing of environmental causes. Edric Wong, President of the College's Environment Club, led his peers in raising awareness of key environmental issues amongst the student body and empowering them to do the right thing. Key initiatives included the 'No Food Waste Days Movement', the 'Keep Singapore Clean Movement', as well as off-campus activities like World Water Day, Youth Environment Day, Green Wave 2015 and ASEAN+3 Youth Environmental Forum. In recognition of their environmental initiatives, the Singapore Environmental Council has awarded the Lotus Green Award (Sustained Achievement) to the College for the 9th year running.

We are also proud to announce that Edric Wong has been conferred the 2016 HSBC-NYAA Youth Environmental Award in recognition of his leadership, commitment and contribution to the environment and nature conservation in Singapore; he is one of five recipients of this prestigious national award. As part of the award, the winners would go on a fully sponsored overseas trip to the Andorran Pyrenees, an independent principality situated between France and Spain in the scenic Pyrenees mountains to work alongside Catalan Scientists on Wildlife and Climate Change. Unfortunately due to his A Level Examinations this year and his National Service obligation, he is unable to go on this trip. The NYAA Council will keep the overseas place for him when he completes his National Service. He will then travel with the winners of 2019 on another Earthwatch study trip.

Earlier this year in February, we unveiled the 'Jacob Ballas Story' which has been set up at the Grandstand of our College's sports stadium. It is a memorial celebrating the life, work and philanthropy of Mr Jacob Ballas, an old boy and an important benefactor of our St Andrew's Family of schools. Mr Ballas' life truly exemplified the school's vision of 'A Servant Leader who Bring Life to the Nations'. While his formative years were lived through difficult circumstances, but when he did attain success, he was committed to helping others to attain it too. In all his work, Mr Jacob Ballas used the lessons from his humble beginnings, and later, his wealth and influence in service to the highest call - to invest in young people and the institutions that nurture and groom them. His largesse extended to the wider community in and beyond Singapore and as far afield as Israel. This memorial – the Jacob Ballas Story, serves as a testament and an inspiration to all our students in the generations to come, of what one man can do, despite all odds, and to stand and be counted as a servant leader; to pave the way so that others may succeed. Mr Jacob Ballas life truly exemplifies what it means to be a servant leader and a community builder, and as such, at SAJC we see it as our responsibility to continue to nurture successive generations of community builders and servant leaders who would serve well in the coming days.

Our College's signature student leadership programme fulfils just this purpose. In the past five years our staff and students in the St Andrew's Village have collaborated closely in the development and implementation of the 12-year student leadership programme that spans the junior school to the junior college. This synergy has led to three successive St Andrew's Student Leadership Summit – ChrySAlis, organised by our teachers from the three St Andrew's schools for the benefit of not only students from our Village but also students from our affiliated Anglican schools, the South 5 cluster of schools and beyond. This year saw a total of 290 participations spanning an age group from 10 to 18 years old. I am proud to share that the student leaders from our Student Council, House Council, Saints Advocate served well as leaders who facilitated the team activities. They also helmed the Summit's signature outreach programme – the Amazing (G)Race, where participants headed out to community spaces and advocated for causes they were passionate about. Through the keynote panel discussion and many concurrent workshops, our student participants got up and close with prominent social activists, social entrepreneurs and local NGOs and were very much inspired by their work in the various aspects of the community. This annual Summit has continued to provide the breadth and depth of learning and experiences for our students to understand what it means to be a servant leader who exemplifies the 4 Qualities

of a Saint – namely Exemplary Character, Holistic Thinker, Skilled Communicator and Community Builder. We are indeed thankful to the Wong Tim Wah Fund and the Ching Foo Kun Fund which have supported the student leadership programmes in the Village.

SAJC is proud to be part of the Anglican Character, Thinking and Service (ACTS) Leadership Academy together with Anglican High, St Andrew's Secondary School and St Margaret's Secondary School. The ACTS Leadership Academy seeks to provide a total curriculum that will stretch our students' potential to be 21st century servant leaders. Our four schools have successfully completed the first phase of this signature programme – which included training a core team of teachers and weaving critical thinking skills, intellectual virtues and standards into the academic curriculum of various subjects. While our four schools may be developing at different pace along this shared journey, over the past four years we have grown much closer together as an Anglican family of schools as we share expertise and endeavour to provide our students with an excellent quality Christian education. I am happy to share that St Hilda's Secondary and Christ Church Secondary have also recently joined the ACTS Leadership Academy. As one of the four pioneer schools in ACTS, SAJC have started to share our journey, knowledge and experiences with our newer members.

In phase two of ACTS, we have expanded the critical thinking component of ACTS beyond the academic subjects into our co-curricular, significantly in our student leadership programmes. At the same time, we have also integrated the critical thinking component of ACTS into our College's Student Leadership Competency Assessment Tool (CAT); this is a self-assessment tool administered to all our students with the aim of increasing their awareness of the competencies of a servant leader, and to guide them in the development of these competencies. The ACTS is still in its formative years, and as it continues to take root and permeate into more aspects of our total curriculum, we hold true to the belief that many years from now, our students will mature into 21st century servant leaders and active citizens who are ready to inspire and to serve responsibly, selflessly and wisely towards the betterment of society.

Behind all the enriching programmes and the distinctive college experience that SAJC provides for its students lie a forward-looking, competent and collaborative team of teachers. The growth of our students to become men and women of exemplary character and servant leaders would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our

dedicated staff who have been steadfast in their zeal and commitment to making a difference in the lives of their students. As we celebrate and give thanks for the accomplishments of our students, we are also celebrating the success of our teachers and non-teaching staff for their faithful service to the College. Please join me in honouring our teachers and support staff.

While we bade farewell to a number of our staff members, I would like to welcome new staff members who have joined us between January and June this year. At the same time, we congratulate 27 of our staff members who were promoted to a higher educational grade this year. We are also very proud to share that 2 of our teachers have been awarded National Day Medals in 2015. Mr Roland Lee was awarded the Commendation Medal for commendable performance and conduct, and devotion to duty in the education service. Mdm Venkatram Indra received the National Day Long Service Award for her faithful and outstanding service in education. At the same time, 8 of our non-teaching staff received the SPRING Singapore-Public Service Division Excellent Service Star, Gold and Silver awards in recognition of their contribution and excellent service by going the extra mile for our students and teachers.

Our Deputy Principal 2, Mr Kevin Pang left our College to pursue a Master's programme at the Harvard Graduate School of Education last September; our Deputy Principal 1, Ms Patsy Neo is currently attending a 9 month 'Leaders in Education Programme' at NIE. We want to thank both of them for the significant contributions they had made during their time with us at SAJC. We are glad to see them back again this afternoon to join us on College Day. We also want to welcome a new Deputy Principal, Mrs Koh Chern Ee, who has joined us in January this year.

At this point in time, it would be remiss of me not to make a special mention and acknowledge the contribution of a very important person, who had in the past eight years been with our College, and who had seen the College, its staff and students through thick and thin, and saw the College through its journey towards excellence. This person is none other than our former Principal, Mrs Lee Bee Yann.

During her eight years as principal at SAJC, Mrs Lee had put in place a number of key programmes and initiatives that have benefitted both staff and students within SAJC and amongst our Anglican family of schools. She played an important part as a prime mover

in the creation of the Anglican Character, Thinking and Service (ACTS) Curriculum, a collaboration between the Diocese Board of Education and our Anglican schools.

To achieve the vision of every Saint a servant leader who brings life to the nations, Mrs Lee oversaw the conceptualization of the Anglican Student Leadership Framework. The ChrySALis Leadership Conference, the Saints Model United Nations Summit, and the residential leadership programmes are some of the College's signature endeavours under her watch as Principal. Mrs Lee also presided over the establishment of the St Andrew's Hall which seeks to provide a 'Home away from home' experience for our international students, hosts visitors from our overseas exchange schools and supports the residential leadership programmes for our Saints.

Mrs. Lee strongly believed in having a first-class teaching force where the staff continually strives to improve their pedagogical practices to enhance student learning. Under her leadership teachers familiarized themselves with the latest in educational pedagogy and research through overseas exposure and by attending workshops and conducting research in order to be at the forefront of education for the benefit of our students.

As Mrs Lee takes on her new role as Principal of the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours, and to let her know that she will continue to have a special place in the hearts and minds of the staff at SAJC.

SAJC is grateful for the unstinting support of the parents under the leadership of Mrs Chan May Ping who was the chairperson of the 4th Parents Support Group EXCO. Besides serving the College in promoting staff and student welfare by providing food during the non-Night Study nights and Sports Carnival, the PSG has in the past two years intensified their efforts in meeting the needs of our Saints. We are now pleased to welcome the parents of our 5th PSG EXCO led by Mr Michael Wong. The new PSG EXCO is actively looking to expand and reach out to more parents through new programmes and activities to support the needs of both parents and the College community.

This is indeed a day of thanksgiving as we look back and reflect on the unfailing mercies and manifold blessings that God has so unreservedly endowed us. We are grateful and blessed for the unwavering support of our Bishop Rennis Ponniah, the Board of Governors, Alumni, parents and friends of St Andrew's without whom, we would not have

come so far. Led by Mr Tan Soo Kiang, the Board of Governors has been proactive mentors in supporting and guiding us forward towards the vision for SAJC. We are truly blessed to be in a community who loves and cares for one another.

Finally we proclaim that God has been faithful and we behold His abundant grace and blessings towards us all the time. We continue to look to Him for wisdom and guidance in this work that He has entrusted to us, as we believe that He shall lead us 'Up and On'!

Now it is my pleasure to introduce our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Ong Chong Tee. Mr Ong is a true blue Saint. He spent his entire formative years in the St Andrew's Family of schools between 1964 and 1978 – starting from Ascension Kindergarten, to the Junior and then the Secondary School, before progressing to St Andrew's Junior College as the pioneer batch of SAJC students at the Malan Road campus in 1978. He graduated with an Honours Degree in Chemical Engineering from the National University of Singapore in 1985.

Appointed as the Deputy Managing Director in charge of Financial Supervision at the Monetary Authority of Singapore on 1 September 2013, Mr Ong oversees the regulation and supervision of all banking, insurance and capital markets entities as well as the policy, risk and surveillance group. Mr Ong has held many senior management positions responsible across various roles at the MAS for the past 30 years. He is currently a Board Member of the Housing & Development Board. He has also previously served on the Boards of a number of government statutory boards and advisory panels of our tertiary institutes. Mr Ong was also a Director at the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office. He was awarded the Public Administration (Gold) Medal by the President of Singapore in August 2007.

I am sure we will be blessed by Mr Ong's practical wisdom and vast experience. Without further ado, may I invite Mr Ong to give his address.