



# 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



## Principal's Letter (April)

### 1. Saints Celebrate

#### A. Official Opening of SAJS Heritage Gallery

It was a joyous and memorable day on Thu, 14 Apr 2022. We are very honoured to have Mrs Wai Yin Pryke, Director at National Heritage Board and former principal of SAJS to officially launch the SAJS Heritage Gallery as part of our 160<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's Anniversary celebration. We are also honoured to have the Chairman of the St Andrew's Board of Governors, Bishop Titus Chung, SAJS Supervisor, Mr Gerald Lim, principals in the village – Mrs Dianne Seet, Mr Lee Han Hwa and Mr Tham Kine Thong and members of the board participate in the launch of the Heritage Gallery. Embedded in the heritage gallery, is the rich culture and history of St Andrew's. We are now better equipped to build a strong sense of pride and identity in our Saints.

With the heritage gallery, comes another ideal platform to nurture our Saints to be skilled communicators. At the official opening, we have trained the first four Junior Saints docents who have impressed our guests with their engaging and eloquent presentations. We will have more docents to share the pride and history of St Andrew's with other guests and younger Saints in time to come.

We would like to thank St Andrew's Alumni for their support, especially Mr Alvin Oon for being the emcee for the event and conceptualising and designing the St Andrew's Village 3D Model from scratch and Mrs Delia Oon for overseeing the production and craft. This 3D model is uniquely St Andrew's as it embodies the spirit of One Family Unbroken where it is put together with numerous small wooden blocks with names of our students and staff written on each block and coloured by them. Last but not least, we would like to thank President of St Andrew's Alumni, Mr Ronnie Chen for sponsoring the cost of the St Andrew's Village 3D Model on behalf of the SAJS Cohort 1970.



### 2. Strategic Thrust 1: Nurturing Holistic Thinkers and Skilled Communicators

#### A. Saints Learning Festival 2022 on 14 Apr

Immediately after the official opening of the heritage gallery, our Saints were engaged with the Saints Learning Festival (SLF) activities. Guided by the Educational Career Guidance framework, this year's SLF also follows the 160<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's Anniversary theme of "Keep the Flame Burning Brightly Ever." We invited old boys with professions that have been in existence for decades or even centuries such as policeman and medical staff to share with our Saints the qualities or skills which remain important through the years. We also invited old boys with interesting but noble professions such as environmentalists to inspire our Saints to be Stewards of the environment.



Mr Viknesh  
(Police Officer)



Mr Khairul & Mr Sivasothi, a.k.a. 'Otterman'  
(Environmentalists)



Mr Samuel Ezekiel (Nurse)



Mr Alvin Oon (Host)



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

#### **A. Value of the Month**

##### **The Value for April is Self-Discipline**

*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11*

***A Saint takes responsibility for his emotions and behaviour. A Saint also takes charge of his own learning and is self-directed.***

Extracting from the devotion that I shared with the Saints:

[slide 1] Good morning colleagues and saints. Today's devotion teaches us about the value of self-discipline.

[slide 2] On page 16 of your Personal Organiser, it is stated what we expect of a Saint when he shows self-discipline. It means: A Saint takes responsibilities for his emotions and behaviour.

[slide 3] Proverbs 29:11 teaches us the importance of self-discipline. Let us read together. "A fool vents all his feelings but a wise man keeps himself under control."

[slide 4] A fool is a person who behaves in a silly way without thinking or someone who is stupid. This verse tells us that someone who shows or releases all his feelings is silly but a wise person can take control of his actions and thoughts.

[slide 5] I am going to share with you the A, B, C and D of self-discipline. The first is A - **Awareness** – Self-discipline requires you to be aware of what you are thinking, feeling, doing and saying. What do you think, do and say when you are angry? Do you try to calm down or do you express your anger in the wrong ways which hurt others? Do you know how you normally react when you are upset or angry?

[slide 6] Next we have B – **Behaviour**. I want you to learn to differentiate between feelings and behaviour. A feeling is like feeling angry, happy, excited etc. There is no wrong when it comes to feelings. It is alright to feel angry, sad or frustrated. A behaviour is what you do and say when you are experiencing these feelings. A behaviour is an action and there are right and wrong actions.

[slide 7] With the right actions, you may get good consequences/results. With the wrong actions, you may get bad/negative consequences.

[slide 8] For example, I have seen how some of you intentionally hurt others by hitting, pushing them or throwing things at them because you are angry. Let me remind you that this is a very serious offence and is also a crime in Singapore. A person who intentionally hurts another person, or does something while knowing that they are likely to cause hurt to that person, can be found guilty of voluntarily causing hurt. Offenders can be jailed up to 2 years, or fined up to \$5,000, or both. So remember, you can choose your actions but you cannot choose your consequence. In St Andrew's Junior School, if you commit a serious offence, you may be caned.

[slide 9] Next we have C which stands for **commitment**. Commitment means a promise, a conscious effort to follow through on what you say you are going to do. Many times, when you are caught doing something wrong, I always hear you promise me that you will not do it again, however many times, many of still continue to do the wrong actions again and again. You need to show the commitment to do what is right, not just do what is convenient. Remember, commitment is what changes a promise into reality. When you are committed to do something, you accept no excuses and will do your best to deliver your promise.

[slide 10] Last, we have D which stands for **Do or Demonstrate**. Self-discipline is difficult and you have to keep practicing. Let us practice how to exercise self-discipline when we are angry. Let us learn to use the WATCH framework whenever you feel angry. Now I want all of you to show me your hand. Stick out your thumb and say W. W stands for words, Now stick out your index finger and say A. A stands for ask, Now the middle finger and say T. T stands for time, Now stick out your ring finger and say C. C stands for count and lastly, stick out your little pinkie and say H. H stands for hurt. First, use words to express how you feel instead of using physical force. Second, ask for help. Third, take time to calm down by taking 3 deep breaths and counting to 10. Lastly, remember to never Hurt anyone in your anger. Let's read the words together again - Words, Ask, Time, Count, and Hurt.

[slide 11] I hope that all of you will put what you have learnt into actions. If not, then you are NATO, No Actions, Talk Only. Let us remember the ABCD of self-discipline – awareness, behaviour, commitment and demonstration.

[slide 12] Let's pray. Our heavenly Father, we pray for all of us who at some point struggle with anger. We ask for forgiveness for our anger and pray that you would help us not to sin when we are angry. We pray for those who struggle with their anger and for your holy spirit to transform our hearts and heal us of our anger. We pray that we can forgive the people in our lives who have done us wrong and help us to transform our anger to love, and our resentment to respect. Bless us with compassion and may we be good and fair to one another. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

## **B. Singapore Book of Records participation**

SAJS provides different opportunities for our Saints to be developed holistically and to be community builders. This time, our P3 Saints collaborated with Potong Pasir Community Club, led by local artist, Ms Vijaya Mohan, to participate in a Singapore Book of Records in Rangoli Art. Our P3 Saints painstakingly designed 2400 pieces of ice-cream sticks which were put together to form the largest collage made in Singapore. This amazing artwork has earned its way into the Singapore Book of Records which is currently being displayed at Potong Pasir Community Club. All participating Saints also received a certificate for their amazing effort.





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

Our Saints are very blessed by the amazing support from our valued stakeholders. We are grateful to the old boys and parents who have taken time off to support us at the International Friendship Day and P4 Heritage Trail. They have enriched the learning experience of our Saints and they have given our Saint wonderful memories through their learning.

##### **A. International Friendship Day (IFD) on 12 April 2022**

International cooperation remains key in our complex world and Asia is the world's fastest-growing region. Thus, we aspire Singapore to continue its effort to facilitate closer economic, political, social, and cultural cooperation within ASEAN and in Asia. By recognising the importance of connectedness between our neighbouring countries, our Saints can then play an active role in fostering people-to-people ties, celebrate the region's diversity and vibrancy; and promote the spirit of friendship and collaboration. We are thankful to the team of creative and dedicated parents who volunteered their time and effort to help our Saints better understand the important role that they will take on in time to come. Thank you, parents, for the engaging and colourful IFD activities.







### **B. Applied Learning Programme – P4 SAV Heritage Trail on 22 Apr 2022**

After a 2-year break, the P4 Heritage Trail is back in its physical form. The personal experience at the respective venues of the village and the in-person interaction with the ‘storytellers’ are valuable experiences that we would not want our Saints to miss. We thank our storytellers – Mr Ronnie Chen, Mr Michael Lim, Mr Adrian Ang, Mr James Lee, Mr Georgie Lee and Mr Vincent Lim for spending the day in the village with our P4 Saints. Through the personal stories from these loyal old boys and other interesting anecdotes shared, our Saints have certainly developed a greater sense of pride and identity.



## C. Other communications with parents

### i. Early Breakfast before Flag Raising

With the easing of SMM, the restriction of students intermingling has been lifted. With this, our Saints can once again have their breakfast in the canteen before flag raising. With effect from next Monday, 16 May 2022, our canteen vendor will be serving food at the canteen between 6.45 am and 7.10 am. Our Saints should finish their breakfast by 7.10am and proceed back to class for the silent reading programme by 7.15am.

### ii. e-Parent-Child-Teacher Conference (e-PCTC) on 26 & 27 May 2022

PCTC remains an important partnership platform for home and school to harness our effort in empowering our Saints to take ownership of their learning and growth. Together, we celebrate the learning of our Saints and affirm their commitment towards character building. The details for the online registration for the e-PCTC has been sent to parents via Parents Gateway. We look forward to have 100% participation from you and your child.

### iii. Teaching our Saints to be good steward of money

The school noted the increasing trend of Saints coming to the office to borrow money for a variety of non-urgent reasons such as for stationery and t-shirts. Some students are also beginning to take advantage of this convenience and the kindness of the system where we look into the well-being of our Saints. As part of caring for our Saints and developing their character, we want to ensure that our Saints learn to exercise self-discipline and responsibility and not form the habit of borrowing money and spending beyond their means. Henceforth, the General Office would stop the loan of money to our Saints. If our Saints have no money for food and need to eat, they can come to the General Office and we can provide them some biscuits. All other purchases such as stationery can be deemed as not urgent which they can purchase the next day.

### iv. Mask-off Provision for P1 & P2 Teachers teaching Language/Literacy Lessons

To support the early language development of younger students, MOE has made mask-off provision for P1 & P2 teachers teaching language/literacy lessons. Please be informed that teachers may remove their masks specific to the tasks that help the students learn better during language/literacy lessons. For example, a teacher can unmask to allow children to see the shape of his/her lips when articulating speech sounds. Rest assured that teachers will continue to adhere to prevailing safe management measures like wiping down after lessons and keeping mask on when the teacher is moving around the classroom.

## D. Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Remarks
<b>TERM 2 Week 8</b>		
9.5.22	P4 and P6 SA1 EL Paper 1 & 2	
10.5.22	P4 & P6 SA1 Science	
11.5.22	P4 & P6 SA1 MT Paper 1 & 2	
12.5.22	P4 and P6 SA1 MA Paper 1 & 2	
13.5.22	PAL & CCA (16)	
<b>TERM 2 Week 9</b>		
16.5.22	<b><i>Vesak Day (Public Holiday in-lieu)</i></b>	
17.5.22		
18.5.22		
19.5.22		
20.5.22	PAL & CCA (17)	

Date	Event	Remarks
<b>TERM 2 Week 10</b>		
23.5.22		
24.5.22		
25.5.22		
26.5.22	End of Term Service Parent-Child-Teacher Conference (PCTC) (2.15pm – 5pm)	<b><i>Last Day of Term 2 Dismissal @ 1.30pm</i></b>
27.5.22	ePCTC (8am – 5pm)	

Up and On!

With warmest regards,

Ms Patsy Neo  
Principal