

## **ADDRESS BY NG YEOW LING, PRINCIPAL, WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL AT INAUGURAL PRIZE-GIVING DAY ON 15 NOV 2013, FRIDAY**

Mrs Julia Woo  
Cluster Superintendent/West 8 and our Guest-of-Honour  
Mr Raymond Goh  
Chairman, School Advisory Committee

Members of SAC, Partners & Our Esteemed Guests  
Parents, Teachers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

May I once again warmly welcome you to our Inaugural Prize-Giving Day.

This morning is indeed a special gathering of all who have shared Westwood Primary's pioneering journey during her first year of operation. We are very honored by your presence. To our guest-of-honour, Mrs Woo, we are most grateful that you can join us in our celebration today. I hope that we will have a memorable time together.

### **WE ARE ONE**

The theme "*We Are One*" marks a significant milestone that our school is one-year-old. More importantly, it carries the powerful message of oneness - together with our partners and parents, we have worked hard to bring about a unique schooling experience for our pupils over the past one year.

Besides the Cha-Cha Welcome brought to you earlier by *Dancesports Academy*, one of our enrichment groups which has been set up only in Term 3 this year, the entire P1 cohort of 240 pupils will be sharing with you their learning during English STELLAR, PAL and Aesthetics lessons, and these showcases have been creatively strung together by our very own teachers in our in-house mini-musical production. These items are a portrayal of teamwork, confidence and exploration in our pupils, as part of the rich learning experience they have undergone at Westwood.

At the same time, we will be recognizing various pupil achievements and outstanding staff contributions, as well as showing appreciation to our partners.

### **A YEAR IN REVIEW**

We are very proud of what we have achieved as a school within this short period of time. As captured in the video presentation earlier, our pioneering team, with the strong support from our parents and partners, has risen to the

occasion to make a mark within our community.

We are heartened that many of our key programmes and initiatives, like our Values-in-Action project, TYS partnership with Hwa Chong Institution, initiated by Mr Tan Yong Soon and his friends, and others have been highlighted and featured in various MOE good practices sharing platforms. I would like to acknowledge TYS's adult mentors who have been volunteering in our schools, seated here today, they are Ms Lee Yuh Mei, Ms Low Whee Hooh, Mrs Wang Lee Chin, Ms May Kong and Mrs Lynn Chua.

We have also received positive media coverage and public reception to date. At the P1 Registration in July this year, there was an overwhelming response and we had to conduct balloting for our 207 vacancies of applicants all residing within 1 km of our school. We are therefore grateful for the support and trust we have received from the community.

## **THE WESTWOOD STORY**

The school is never about an individual, or a small team of school leaders, but a community of staff, parents, partners and pupils learning together, working together and growing together. As we look back at all Westwood has achieved over the last year, it gives us a renewed courage to move forward to realize our vision of becoming a positive institution to inspire our community to lead meaningful and engaged lives.

At this juncture, I would like to pay tribute to our School Advisory Committee, led by Mr Raymond Goh, Executive Chairman, Swiber Holdings Limited, who from day one has been our ardent supporter. In addition to providing moral support to cheer us on, the SAC has very quickly sprung into action to solicit corporate sponsorship in support of our school programmes, totaling some \$100K in SAC fund raised to date. Can I ask all of you to join me in showing our utmost appreciation to our SAC.

## **A BRIGHT FUTURE BEHOLDS**

Even as share the joy in our Anniversary Celebration this morning, let us also look ahead into what the future holds for Westwood Primary, as we outline our strategic directions for the coming years.

For the coming years, our first thrust Staff Excellence focuses on developing our staff to be "*First Class Teacher-Leaders and Community-Builders*". We have started on a very positive staff culture – at the recent MOE survey, our school climate has shown that our staff are highly engaged and aspire to do their best. We will continue to build our school as a professional learning

community, and to embrace our Teacher Belief that “*Every Individual is Talented and Unique and Has the Potential to Succeed*”.

Our second strategic thrust Pupil Excellence aims to nurture “*The Flourishing Child who is Future-Ready and Anchor-Steady*”. To ensure that our pupils are competent in multi-literacies with a global outlook, engaging in lifelong learning, and to contribute positively to the community, we will continue to focus on delivering a holistic curriculum both within and outside the classroom. We have been constantly amazed by our pupils’ talents. Despite their very young age, Megan, Nabila, Shariffah and Ying Phway took part in the National Day Parade VivaKids gym item. Our Wushu warriors, another of our enrichment group performed at Hong Kah Mid-Autumn Community Event. More recently, Alicia, Jody, Ruby, Truman and Wynne participated in WANA Dancesports competition, clinching a second position in a pair-event. Not forgetting, Truman and Yi Yong represented our school in this year’s SYF showcase with their wushu stunts and piano recital.

Finally, our thrust on School Excellence strives to achieve organizational excellence, with our staff and pupil venturing into new territories, while strengthening strategic partnerships with our key stakeholders and parents for maximal impact. We are most thankful for our very supportive parents, who have come forward to be part of our various school programmes, like our learning journeys, open house, outreach to pre-schools, and even made our first Teachers’ Day celebration such a special one. It is heartening to note that within this first year, close to 90 parents have been involved in our various school activities. Thank you mummies and daddies!

## **AFFIRMATION & RECOGNITION**

Our Prize Giving Celebration has also been uniquely conceptualized this year. The Organising Committee has taken the bold step to have all our pupils and some 480 parents seated here to be part of this special day.

At the same time, to recognize pupil excellence holistically, we have instituted 24 overall academic achievements awards, together with 24 achievements in PE, Art and Music, to recognize up to 10% of our pupils who have performed well in each of these two groups, in addition to our Character Awards. Our heartiest congratulations to all our prize winners today!

## **CLOSING**

Looking back at our first year of the Westwood journey, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving – seeing the pride and joy of our prize winners, and the

strong support we have, tells us we have done something right.

Even as we celebrate Westwood's first birthday today, we also remember one of our pupils, Syarah of 1 Teamwork, who was featured in the headlines of *Berita Harian* on Tue 5 Nov. Syarah has been afflicted with Kearns Sayre Syndrome that has hindered her development. Currently, she has to take medication and special supplements that cost about \$1000 monthly. We thank parents who have responded positive to our contribution appeal in support of the family – We thank all for your generosity, for those who wish to take part, the donation booth is at the back of the school hall.

All in all, I am personally very gratified by all the big and small things we have accomplished over the last year. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication by all our staff, and the partnership by Mrs Sarah Seow, Vice-Principal. Can you join me in showing our appreciation to all our pioneering staff of Westwood!

In closing, let me extend my deepest appreciation to one and all to be a part of this special occasion. May Westwood Primary continue to thrive and flourish, and become a place where learning is celebrated, where lives are touched and where dreams come true. Thank you.