

**ADDRESS BY MR NG YEOW LING, PRINCIPAL/WESTWOOD PRIMARY
AT SCHOOL OFFICIAL OPENING ON 4 JUL 2015, SATURDAY**

Dr Amy Khor, Member of Parliament for Hong Kah North
Our Guest-of-Honour; all grassroots representatives

Ms Theodora Tan
Zonal Director, Schools/West, Ministry of Education

Mrs Julia Woo
Superintendent, Cluster W8 and cluster colleagues

Mr Raymond Goh
Chairman, School Advisory Committee, and members of SAC

Mr Ruzaidie bin Dar Surnik
Chairman, Parent Support Group, members of PSG

Our partners & esteemed guests

Parents, Teachers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

WELCOME AND APPRECIATION

1. May I extend our warmest welcome once again to you at our School Official Opening. We are indeed most honored to have Dr Khor, our guest-of-honour, and Ms Theodora Tan joining us this morning to grace this special occasion for the school.

2. It is of course most apt to have Dr Khor to officiate our school opening, given her unstinting support for us since the inception of Westwood Primary. Many would have remembered Dr Khor's presence at our soft launch on 18 June 2012 at Gek Poh Ville Community Club, and even at our Prize Presentation Day last November.

3. On this note, I am thankful too for the presence of many of our partners

seated here, including our SAC members, Mr and Mrs Tan Yong Soon and their team of adult mentors from The Young Speakers (TYS) programme, the F17 Academy faculty, Patsy and Patrick of Pro teach Student Care Services, Mr Victor Pok and his VivaKids staff, and many others. Today we are also happy to welcome back Mr Tan Chee Chuen, Senior Head/Project Development and Management, MOE, and CPG Consultants Choon Hwee and Anthony, who worked tirelessly to put up this impressive school building during the design and construction phase. Also in our midst we are honored to have Jurong pioneers to share our pride and joy as part of SG50 celebration. I trust that we will all have a memorable time together this morning. Together with our SAC, can I invite you to once again put our hands together to thank Dr Khor, and all our key stakeholders for making such a personal commitment to journey with Westwood Primary as we grow from year to year! Thank you.

OUR SHARED PURPOSE: *THRIVE & FLOURISH @ WESTWOOD*

4. Our theme “THRIVE & FLOURISH @ WESTWOOD” for the official opening is our rallying call for a unique education experience for our pupils, to prepare them well for the future, as well as to make a difference in their community . From the outset, we have explored how Positive Education can guide us in developing schoolwide learning and teaching practices, in designing our curriculum and in shaping our overall school culture. To this end, we developed a THRIVE framework focusing on nurturing positive relationships, promoting positive emotion, cultivating a growth mindset, fostering mindfulness, building resilience, and increasing appreciation of character strengths in self and others, i.e. for all to FLOURISH!

5. Our shared purpose and dream remains to become a positive school of distinction, and with Positive Education as our foundation, to have Westwoodians fulfil our school’s vision of “inspiring our community to lead

meaningful and engaged lives”, and develop a love for learning that will take them beyond learning in school, to learning throughout life.

6. It is therefore fitting that in Singapore’s Jubilee year, we celebrate the official opening of Westwood Primary as a promise of our nation’s future – a future that is premised on our commitment to provide our young with the best education possible, so that we together can continue to build a *thriving and flourishing* Singapore!

OUR CELEBRATIONS: KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

6. Over this short two and a half year period, we have built on the good work that has been laid on during our pioneering year, and we are very proud that we have an enhanced staff team, and with the strong support by my Vice-Principal, Ms Tracy Tan, who is also the overall I/C for this Official Opening celebration, we have been able to put in place vast learning opportunities and design programme and educational approaches to best meet our pupil needs. At the same time, we continue to enjoy the strong partnership among many stakeholders, including our parents, while forging new ones, as we grow from strength to strength each year.

7. At the P1 Registration Exercises last three years, there has been overwhelmingly positive response, and we now have to conduct balloting for vacancies of applicants residing within 1 km of our school. This demonstrates the unwavering support and trust we have received from the community and the general public, which is a strong affirmation for the brand of education we are delivering here at Westwood Primary.

8. More specifically, we are most honored to be recognized by the Ministry of Education, for additional resourcing, in support of our Learning for Life

Programme (LLP) last year, to grow our niche area in community service and pupil leadership. This April, we are proud to be inaugurated as the first overseas Institutional Member of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA), outside of Australia. We thank Dr Lim Lai Cheng, Research Fellow at SMU who is also council member of IPEN (International Positive Education Network) for advising us on this journey thus far. Seeing some of these early fruits of our labour tells us we have done something right, and will only serve to motivate us to propel forward with a renewed sense of determination and teamwork to make better things happen for our charges as we take our rightful place in the educational landscape, both locally and regionally.

9. Together, we trust that with the programme we have lined up for you, as well as the souvenir magazine and video clippings you will be brought through, that you can experience first-hand the vibrancy, creative talents and energy this Westwood community possesses as a way for us to thank you for your belief and support you have rendered us as a new school carving out for ourselves the destiny and joy we can all share together!

OUR GRATITUDE: *Setting Up The Young Student Programme Book Prize*

10. In commemorating our Official Opening and as part of SG50, we think it meaningful for our school to contribute something to the community. To this end, we put together a set of Westwood mascots, comprising 6 dolls of Westwood pupil and character strengths, as souvenir gifts for our staff, pupils and partners to order while the profits to be pledged as donations to the Singapore Children's Society. Our Student Care Services team has separately also embarked on a fund-raising drive among their pupils and parents to break a Singapore Book of Record in June. We are very proud to announce that some \$15,000 has been raised to be donated to our beneficiary. We thank all for the strong support and for giving to a good cause, and we are

also honored to have Dr Agnes Cheang from SCS joining us today!

11. As we go about doing our small part, little do we know that we in turn would be richly blessed in return. Since the school started, The Young Students (TYS) Programme, spearheaded by Mr and Mrs Tan, seated here with us, has helped provide quality support for lower primary pupils from low income households, in partnership with Hwa Chong Institution and Ngee Ann Poly.

12. To continue motivating pupils from low income households and to remind them about their experience in the TYS Programme during their P1-2 schooling years, the TYS team has recently proposed to the school to set up a Book Prize for our pupils from P3 to P6, comprising two prizes of \$100 each to be awarded annually for each level from P3 to P6 pupils who are on Financial Assistance Scheme and who have done well academically and are of good conduct, starting this year.

13. The adult mentors have pulled together a sum of \$9,000 to support this Book Prize for the next 12 years. We are pleased to announce the setting up of TYS Book Prize at our official opening today, but more significantly, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to TYS for all they have done for Westwood pupils.

IN CLOSING

14. Overall, Westwood Primary has much to celebrate and rejoice. We have done well over a short time, but the best is definitely yet to be. *Vision 2020* will be our next milestone, which is the school's 8th year in operation, for us to be recognized as a Positive School of Distinction, and we are indeed very excited to see how this can bear fruits over the next few years.

15. Looking back at Westwood's journey from 2012, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving – seeing the pride and joy of all present, we are most grateful for the strong partnership and involvement by each and all. There is a Chinese saying ‘不忘初心，方得始终’ , as an inspiration for us pioneers to always keep our first dream, and in the end we will receive what we have set out to do and more.

16. In closing, let me extend my deepest appreciation to all present today - to be a part of this very special occasion and undertaking. As we continue to hold dear to our shared purpose of growing a Thriving and Flourishing Westwood and Singapore, may we continue to taste the success and fruits of our labour, as we work as one, as we together keep our hope to make our dreams a reality, for a better community and future we can all share.

Thank you once again.