

**ADDRESS BY NG YEOW LING, PRINCIPAL, WESTWOOD PRIMARY AT
OUR SECOND SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING DAY ON 14 NOV 2014, FRIDAY**

Dr Amy Khor, Member of Parliament for Hong Kah North
Our Guest-of-Honour and our honoured grassroots representatives

Mr Raymond Goh
Chairman, School Advisory Committee

Mr Ruzaidie bin Dar Surnik
Chairman, Parent Support Group

Members of SAC, PSG, Partners & Our Esteemed Guests

Parents, Teachers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

1. May I extend our warmest welcome to you at our second School Prize-Giving Day. We are indeed most honoured to have Dr Khor joining us this morning, after having completed our second year of operation.

2. It is of course a most timely opportunity to have Dr Khor here, given her unwavering support for us since the inception of Westwood Primary. For some of our pioneer parents and staff, including SAC members like Mr Raymond Goh, Mr Tan and Mr Sitoh, you would remember Dr Khor's presence at our soft launch on 18 June 2012 at Gek Poh Ville Community Club.

I thought it would be interesting to share with all our soft launch publicity trailer to catch a glimpse of how Westwood was conceived, also as way to look at whether we've kept to what we have set out to do, our promise to the community, given what we have done over the last two years – so here's the short publicity trailer for your viewing pleasure.

3. I am pleased to inform you that Dr Khor has also agreed to grace our official opening next year, sometime in early July, and we cannot appreciate

her enough for her strong belief and partnership for what we do. Can I invite us to once again put our hands together to thank Dr Khor for making such a personal commitment to journey with Westwood Primary as we grow from year to year! On this note, I am thankful too for the presence of many of our partners seated here, including Mr and Mrs Tan and their team of adult mentors from TYS programme, Mr Fandi Ahmad and Mr Mizra of F17 Academy, Patsy and Patrick of Pro teach, Shih Koon and Alex of VivaKids, Irene and Diana of Minchamps, and Jennifer of Westwood Secondary; I trust that we will all have a memorable time together this morning.

WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER

4. This year's Prize Day theme "*We're In It 2-Gether*" marks yet another significant milestone that our school is now two-years-old. More importantly, it carries the powerful message of unity and togetherness – working alongside with our partners and parents, we have worked hard to bring about a unique schooling experience for our pupils over the last two years.

5. At the same time, we will be recognizing various pupil achievements and outstanding staff contributions, as well as showing appreciation to our partners. This year, we also held a school-based prize giving ceremony for Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils yesterday, and a total of 24 Excellence prizes in PE, Music and Art, and close to 10 Character Awards have already been presented to the two levels respectively, and we are proud of all prize-winners, including those who will be receiving various awards later.

ANOTHER YEAR IN REVIEW

6. As we started 2015 this year, we have built on the good work that has been laid on during our pioneering year, and we are very proud that with an

enhanced team with more key personnel and staff joining the Westwood family, we were able to put in place more learning opportunities and refine our programme and educational approaches to better meet our pupil needs. At the same time, we continue to enjoy the strong partnership which has been nurtured among key stakeholders, while forging new ones, many of whom we will be recognizing them for their contribution today.

7. At the P1 Registration in July this year, there was again an overwhelming response and we had to conduct balloting for vacancies of applicants all residing within 1 km of our school. This demonstrates the unwavering support and trust we have received from the community.

THE WESTWOOD STORY UNFOLDS

Growing Thriving Staff

8. As set out in our school's strategic plans over the next 5 years, our first strategic thrust Staff Excellence focuses on developing our staff to be "*Ethical, Innovative Teacher-Leaders and Collaborative Community-Builders*". We continue to nurture a very positive staff culture, building up our school as a professional learning community, and embracing our Staff Belief that "*Every Individual is Talented and Unique and Has the Potential to Succeed*".

9. With very dedicated and passionate staff, we continue to transform our school premises into conducive learning spaces. We are very proud of our Outdoor Experiential Learning zones now near completion for pupils to explore authentic learning with the use of engaging pedagogies. Our art-scape with various visual art murals has brought much vibrancy to sensitize our pupils to the aesthetics and love for the arts. At the same time, we have installed various holistic health facilities and visuals as well as ICT spaces to promote holistic development of our pupils.

10. This is not to mention the various special rooms which we have or are in the process of setting up, including the Science Labs, new ICT lab, MTL rooms, and others, all with the focus to provide state-of-the-art facilities for learning and teaching to take place with maximal impact.

11. In terms of designing curriculum and delivering learning programmes, all our staff aim to provide student-centric, values-driven education in all we do, many of our pupils would have related to you the memorable experiences they would have had during the course of the year, like the Arts Fiesta, English Fiesta, Learning Journeys, and CCA and enrichment involvements. At the same time, we continue to inculcate the values of gratitude and community-spiritedness through various Values-in-Action opportunities to serve the needs of others and to take care of the environment. Moving forward, to prepare our pupils for Primary 3 next year, we are working on the Science programme, Inter-disciplinary Project Work and Swimsafer as new initiatives they will be experiencing.

12. All these would not have been possible without the hard work, positive belief and 'can-do' attitude of the Westwood Teacher-Leaders and Community-Builders, as well as the strong support from our Admin and Support Staff. They go the extra-mile, often doing things beyond the call of duty. Besides the care and guidance for their pupils, they also believe in role-modelling what we want our pupils to become, and recently took part in the Community Void Deck Art Painting to serve the neighbourhood. We will be acknowledging the special contributions by some of them later too. For now, can you join me in putting our hands together for these superheroes of Westwood Primary! Thank you Team Westwood!

Nurturing Flourishing Pupil

13. 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 recently revisited our Student Outcomes and integrated our THRIVE Framework for Positive Education, to realize the new outcomes for pupils to be “Confident Person, Self-Directed Learner, Compassionate Leader” but also added two more new attributes, namely “to be a Trustworthy Friend and a Positive Person”. This will be the unique brand of our Flourishing Westwood Pupil, we desire to develop after they have completed their education journey with us in school. We seek your partnership and support to work with us to make this a reality.

14. We continue to be constantly amazed by our pupils’ talents and accomplishments despite their very young age. To name a few, Kendra Chua of 2 Diligence emerged runner-up in a Paper Planes Creative Writing Contest this year. Ong Sze Kee of 2 Teamwork clinched 3rd Prize for a Spelling Bee Competition held in Hong Kah Community. Our pupils’ writing talents have also been captured in a compilation “Facets of Life” which was published by our English Department and presented to all pupils this year. In a recent Universal Design Inter-Primary Art Competition organized by BCA, 1 Confidence Mohamed Raihan’s work was featured in the commemorative booklet. In the sports arena, Gideon Lee of 2 Diligence put on a wushu showcase at this year’s Singapore Youth Festival at the Gardens by the Bay. Together with his classmate, Truman Chia, they represented Westwood and participated at the 10th National Primary Schools Wushu Championship for the first time. At the same time, our football boys also took part in a Fandi Ahmad Friendly Cup organized by F17 Academy, while our Choir presented singing

items on 1 Nov at Gek Poh Ville Community Singing Festival “That Singing Feeling”, and Dr Khor was also present at the event.

15. Under the guidance by their teacher, a team of 4 Malay Language pupils won consolidation prize in a Malay Language Folklore Competition, while another group of 6 DanceSports pupils took part in Chingay Colours of Fabric showcase. This CCA group also took part in WANNA Dancesports Competition head last Saturday.

Becoming an Exceptional School, a Positive Institution

16. Our desire is to build an exceptional school here at Westwood, to become a Positive Institution to inspire the community to lead meaningful and engaged lives. 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.

17. We recently engaged our School Advisory Committee to envision what Westwood can become as we grow from strength to strength. A half-day retreat was held to provide a strategic platform for our school management team to discuss these matters with our SAC members, also in light of our School Official Opening which has been scheduled for early July next year.

18. We have done well over the next two years, but the best is definitely yet to be. We are proud that leveraging on our focus of Positive Education, the Ministry of Education has recognized our efforts in this area, and conferred us the Learning for Life Programme scheme mid this year, which provides for additional resource support to build our niche area on community service and student leadership. We have put together a “**Vision 2020**” rallying call, to become a recognized Positive Institution in Year 2020, which is the school’s 8th

year in operation, that we can be recognized in the area of delivering Positive Education as a unique brand of learning. We shall be unveiling details of this Vision at our Official Opening next year as a milestone of our school journey, and we are indeed very excited to see how this can bear fruits over the next few years. I would like to take this opportunity to garner all your support in this regard, let's work as a team to realize this Westwood dream of ours – for as our theme this year says, "We're in it together!" Thank you!

CLOSING

19. Looking back at Westwood's journey from 2013-2014, 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. In particular, I am personally very gratified by all the big and small things we have accomplished over the last year. In partnership with Ms Tracy Tan, my Vice-Principal, and together with my team of staff, we strive to continue this good work, and look forward to greater years ahead with all.

20. In closing, let me extend my deepest appreciation to one and all present here, to be a part of this very special occasion and undertaking. May Westwood Primary continue to thrive and flourish, as we look ahead to discover what is in store for us together. Here is wishing all a memorable time at our Prize Giving Day. Thank you.