

**ADDRESS BY MR NG YEOW LING, PRINCIPAL, WESTWOOD PRIMARY  
AT OUR FOURTH SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING DAY ON 18 NOV 2016, FRIDAY**

Mrs Julia Woo, Cluster Superintendent/West 8  
Our Guest-of-Honour

Mr Kenneth Lim  
Vice-Chair, School Advisory Committee

Mr Ruzaidie bin Dar Surnik  
Chairperson, Parent Support Group

Members of SAC, PSG, Partners & Our Esteemed Guests

Parents, Teachers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

1. Warmest welcome to our fourth annual prize-giving, thank you indeed for your presence. To our Guest-of-Honour, **Mrs Woo**, we are most grateful that you can join us in our celebration today. Besides our very supportive School Advisory Committee and Parent Support Group, our key partners are also here with us, including Mr Tan and his TYS team, Patsy and Pro-Teach Student Care team, Ms Gouri and MOE Kindergarten team, as well as partners from F-17 Football Academy, Westwood Secondary, and key CCAs. We also want to make mention the kind presence of our special guest, Ms Serene Goh, Schools Editor of ST Magazines, who is representing the Board of Trustees, Sing50 Fund. This organization has donated the Lang Lang baby grand to schools last year, and we are one of the beneficiaries.

**COUNT ON WESTWOOD, 4-EVER!**

2. This year's Prize Day theme "*Count on Westwood, 4-Ever!*" reflects our focus in instilling enduring trust from our stakeholders over the last four years; so that we can be ever counted on to discharge our duties well in realizing our vision of becoming a Positive School of Distinction. It is therefore apt we are also recognizing the contributions all our key partners have played, as well as

staff awards, in addition to celebrating key achievements among our pupils.

3. A school-based prize giving ceremony was held yesterday, and a total of twenty-four Excellence Prizes in PE, Music and Art, and close to ten Character Awards have already been presented to each of the levels, and we are proud of all prize-winners, including those who will be receiving various awards later. This year, we will also be presenting to 22 Primary 4 pupils the **MOE Edusave Awards for Achievement, Good Leadership & Service (EAGLES)**. Similar to the Edusave Character, Scholarship, Merit Bursary and Good Progress awards, awardees will be notified by post in late November to receive their cheque awards at the various community-based ceremonies.

4. On the staff front, we are proud to announce that from this year, besides the annual Outstanding Contribution Award, we will be giving out five Principal's Medallions to recognize our support and contract staff; all these are part of our ongoing thrust to broaden recognition of all the good work of Westwood staff. On behalf of all our pupils, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making things happen here in this family – *my heartiest congratulations to one and all!*

## **A YEAR IN REVIEW**

5. As we started 2016, we continue the good work that has been laid on during our pioneering years; we are very proud that with an enhanced team with more school leader, key personnel and staff joining the Westwood family, we have been able to put in place more learning opportunities and refine our programme and educational approaches to better meet our pupil needs. I will not be able to do justice to all these exploits, given the time we have today, hence I will only be highlighting some key accomplishments as a school, as examples of all that is going on day-in, day-out in the Westwood classrooms and beyond. You can continue to follow our school Facebook posts and

website updates on special moments of life in Westwood.

## **WESTWOOD STORY UNFOLDS: OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES**

### *Becoming an Exceptional School, a Positive Institution*

6. Our desire is to build an exceptional school here, to become a Positive Institution, inspiring the community to lead meaningful and engaged lives. Towards this end, we continue to strive for organizational excellence, with our staff and pupil venturing into new territories, for maximal impact.

7. We are proud that leveraging on the focus of Positive Education, we have been working out key initiatives for our Learning for Life (LLP) programme. To achieve Vision 2020, we now also have been conferred the Applied Learning Programme (ALP) by the Ministry of Education in April this year. Premised on our twin pillars of “**Positive Design and Positive Action**”, we are set to nurture our pupils to be future-ready, and anchor-steady. We shall be unveiling details of the new ALP progressively, and we are indeed very excited to see how this can bear fruits over the next few years.

8. The close working between our administrative support team led by Mr Humphrey Chin, and our professional teaching team led by Ms Tracy Tan, this year has also seen us clinching various school recognitions. We have been awarded the **Gold category for Sustained Toilets as Restrooms (STAR)**, conferred by Restroom Association of Singapore in upkeeping cleanliness and beautifying efforts of our school toilets, a whole-school approach has been adopted as part of VIA and student leadership programme. For environmental sustainability efforts, we have been recognized by Singapore Environment Council, and given the Schools Green Award **Orchid category**, having jumped more than 1 level of attainment from Palm award last year, by-passing the Hibiscus level! All these would not have been possible

without involvement by all pupils, both professional and administrative staff and our stakeholders' support, *thank you for making our dreams come true!*

### *Growing Thriving Staff*

9. As set out in our school's strategic plans over the next 4 years, our strategic thrust Staff Excellence focuses on 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*".

10. With very dedicated and passionate staff, we continue to transform our school premises into conducive learning spaces. Earlier this morning, we are honoured that Mrs Woo opened our **Room for Growth**, a staff space for mentoring and learning to take place. On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, we have arranged for faculty staff of the Institute of Positive Education from Geelong Grammar School, Melbourne Australia to spend two days with our management team and staff to further walk with us on this discovery journey in Positive Education, thanks to the generous sponsorship by our SAC.

11. Our **PSG celebrated their 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary** in May this year, and it was indeed a significant milestone for all, the dedicated team has done great exploits, having invited Pokemons to bring magical moments and joy to our pupils, as well as organizing Family Science and learning journey to Jurong Fire Station to reach out to parents. I will never forget the Zumba session they have put together, and that morning the entire hall you are sitting in turned into a mega fitness studio ☺ I am glad I survived the session, and hopefully lost some pounds (which I have since gained back).

12. Our partnership efforts both within and beyond continues to blossom. With **MOE MK**, we thank Ms Gouri for the opportunities for our pupils to take on leadership role to share learning, and jointly work on various projects,

during our Edible Garden week, and celebrations events. We are so proud that MK pupils were invited by MOE to performance at the MTL Festival earlier this year. With our community partners, we organized joint Mooncake Festival and Children's Day celebrations at Gek Poh Ville CC.

13. 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. Can you join me in putting our hands together for these superheroes of Westwood Primary! Thank you Team Westwood!

#### *Nurturing Flourishing Pupil*

14. We continue to be constantly amazed by our pupils' talents and accomplishments despite their very young age. We took part in the Singapore Youth Festivals in Performing Arts for the first time this year, and we are proud that our Chinese Dance, International Dance, and Choir achieved Accomplishment, whilst our Malay Dance achieved Distinction! We thank teacher teams, parents and instructors once again for the hard work and wish them even greater heights moving forward.

15. Our pupils have also taken part in various events, like National Photography Competition, Code for Fun Competition, as well as various arts and sports championships, we will not be able to name all of these today. I would however like to highlight two special teams. Wilfred Toh, Ong Zhi Xuan and Caspar Sim of 4 Confidence took part in Theory of Flight in the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition, and with the guidance of the Innovation Club teachers and their form teacher, they clinched the first prize presented at the Singapore Science Centre. On the literacy front, we have Wang Wan Ting of 4 Teamwork and Dai Xinruo of 4 Synergy clinching the first and second

prizes at a National Inter-Primary On-the-Sport Poetry Competition held at Teck Ghee Primary School.

16. What is worthy of mention, is Hannah Kok, 4 Teamwork spent her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday on Children's Day displaying her piano talent to bring cheers to Club Rainbow children at the National University Hospital during their lunchtime concert, while many other of her schoolmates would be having fun on that school holiday. We are indeed proud of all our pupils in celebrating their success and demonstrating a heart of gold in making a difference to the wider community. This is indeed the unique brand of a Flourishing Pupil, we desire to develop in all our pupils.

## **CLOSING**

17. Looking back at Westwood's journey this year I am personally very gratified by all the big and small things we have accomplished over the last year. The continuing success of Westwood does not happen overnight, but is a result of the collective hard work put in by our teachers and the steadfast support of our School Advisory Committee, partners and parents. We have done well in our first four years together. From 2017-2020, we shall update to WWPS 2.0 to do even better! On this joyous occasion, we congratulate our Westwoodians who are today's proud prize recipients. You have arisen from the ordinary to becoming extraordinary today. The recognition given to you on our Prize Giving Day must encourage you to do even better in school and in life.

18. My sincere thanks must go to all the staff. Your teamwork, passion and dedication is certainly second to none. Pupils, this is your day, to celebrate all that you have achieved and to be proud of what you have done. All I ask of you is that you continue to keep going to the best of your ability, have high

expectations and believe in yourself. But you must always remember behind your success lies the constant care and support from all your teachers, and your parents. So take this opportunity to thank them, show your appreciation for what they have done for you. To our parents and guardians, thank you for entrusting your sons and daughters to us and for your ongoing support. We want for your children exactly what you want as parents – the best and nothing but the best.

19. In closing, let me once again extend my deepest appreciation once again to all present for being part of this special occasion. Let's keep up the good work, and celebrate our shared successes together, so all can "Count On Westwood, Forever!"

20. Thank you.