

## **Chairman's Report**

2014 being the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in our committee's two-year tenure was a year of consolidation for us as the committee implemented and fine-tuned initiatives started in 2013. Initiatives such as SAPTA Cares, aimed at helping our less privileged students reached out to boys in the SAJS Extend-A-Care programme. Our New Membership Programme for parents and teachers was fully rolled-out with each SAPTA member issued with a membership card.

As mentioned in my last report, one of the goals drawn up for 2013 was to involve more parents in our planning and decision-making. The committee set-out to accomplish this in 2 ways; the inclusion of representatives from various Parent Support Groups (PSG) in our monthly meeting and staffing our working sub-committees with a mixture of Executive and non-Executive Committee members.

2014 benefited greatly from this expanded composition. Successful projects organized by the various working sub-committees, such as our SAPTA Carnival, is a testimony of how the teamwork has generated great ideas and resulted in seamless execution of these projects. The added representations from various PSGs in our monthly meetings has also enabled SAPTA to gain a better pulse of how to support our Parents, Teachers and Students.

On behalf of the SAPTA Executive Committee (EXCO), it is my pleasure to present the St. Andrew's Parent-Teacher Association's (SAPTA) Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2014.

### **1. Highlights of 2014**

#### ***Student Welfare***

##### **A) Academic Scholarships**

SAPTA sponsored three scholarship awards (worth \$500 each) to the Top PSLE students from SAJS who crossed over to SASS at the Founder's Day celebrations. The scholarships were presented to: Chun Jun Han, Julian, Ganesh Mishra s/o Radhey Raman, Oon Chong Yi, Doran

##### **B) The Albert Goh Sportsman Study Programme**

With the close of 2014, we celebrate 6 years in which the Albert Goh Sportsman Study Programme has been supporting our time-starved sports boys. Today, the study programme in SASS is firmly established in each rugby and hockey player's schedule, it has produced good results, dramatically improved grades, several distinctions and many grateful parents.

As at 31 December 2014, the balance in funds for the study programme stands at \$28,928.51, including the \$6000.00 donated by SAPTA in December. However, invoices for Term 3 and 4 have not been included in the December balance. With the payment of these invoices, the balance available for 2015 would stand at approximately S\$16,500.00.

After many discussions among stakeholders, namely SASS, SAPTA, Rugby and, Hockey Representatives over the course of 2014, it has been decided that in order for it to be sustainable, the study programme will transition from a fully-subsidized to a co-paid scheme in 2015. The details of the new scheme will be finalized and announced by SASS during Term 1 of 2015.

### **About the Study Programme**

The programme that had its humble beginnings in 2008, continues to grow from strength to strength as it expands its subject offering and programmes.

In addition to the normal suite which includes Mathematics and English taught in classes differentiated by stream for Sec 1 to 5, the *Life through English* programme, targeting the Sec1-2 Normal Technical (NT) students, which started in 2012, continues to yield positive results.

Besides the study program proper, the *Internship Programme* continues to provide opportunities to Secondary 4 graduates to mentor and coach their juniors while earning an allowance as a facilitator.

In addition, *Ice Cream Saturday*, a pro-bono 3-hour programme conducted every Saturday is open to Secondary 1 to 4 sports boys and those under the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to practice mathematics at their own pace and competency. With personalised coaching from volunteers, boys are able to reinforce math concepts and skills in a stress-free environment.

SAPTA would like to thank E3 Discovery LLP who has been our education partner since 2009, and especially it's Advisor, Jordan Gue Kit Wan, an old boy and former Captain of the school, for his dedication in managing and evolving the study programme.

### **C) SAPTA Cares**



SAPTA Cares is a fund dedicated to support our most needy FAS (Financial Assistance Scheme) Boys. Born from a realization that there is a need for a sustainable fund to support our boys instead of raising funds on an ad-hoc basis, we launched *SAPTA Cares* in October 2013, in conjunction with Children's Day.

Funded each year with 50% of the profits from our annual SAPTA Carnival and 30% of all new Membership Subscriptions, it is our hope that this initiative will endure the test of time and reach out to our needy Saints for many years to come.

At the beginning of 2014, the SAPTA Cares fund had a balance of \$6,639.00. During the course of the year, the fund was used to support FAS boys in SAJS's Extend-A-Care Program. The Extend-A-Care Program extends a hand to boys who are in dire need of after school care due to their family circumstances.

We sponsored the boarding cost for 3 FAS boys at St Andrew's House (SAH) Day Boarding Centre, including transportation cost for one, a Primary one boy. Our total expenditure was S\$7,660.00. With some donations coming in, we ended the year with a deficit of S\$79.00 in our SAPTA Cares account.

In December 2014, the fund was again topped-up with 50% of the profits from our October SAJS SAPTA Carnival amounting to S\$8,359.06 and 30% of total membership subscriptions amounting to \$5,602.20. A total of S\$13,961.26 was transferred to our SAPTA Cares account for use in 2015.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and teachers who have taken up SAPTA memberships and supported our fundraising activities. Your support has enabled us to make SAPTA Cares a reality and has made a difference in the lives of these very precious Saints we strive to help.

SAPTA stays committed to the Extend-A-Care program in 2015 and plan to expand our involvement beyond just financial support. Spearheaded by Belinda Bay, we intend to help strengthen the bond between Parent Volunteers (Befrienders) and the boys in the program by organizing more social and community activities.

## ***Teachers' Welfare***

### **A) Teachers' Day Celebrations**

This year, to mark Teacher's Day in SAJS, the various Parent Support Groups (PSGs) under the SAPTA umbrella and the Church of Ascension came together to organize a luncheon. SAJS Teachers were treated to a sumptuous potluck buffet accompanied by karaoke at the Lee Kuo Chuan Hall, beautifully decorated by parent volunteers. SAPTA would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Church, PSG's who sponsored the lovely spread and especially the effort of our organizers, Alvin McCully, Deborah Lee and Yvonne Pek.

We were also thrilled to be part of the SASS Teacher's Day celebrations. We were happy to be given the opportunity to sponsor the Breakfast Bar and the beautifully decorated CoE Room. SAPTA's Juliana Chiew and Lilian Tng worked closely with Mr Kevin Lune to plan the breakfast event.

### **B) Caring Teacher Awards**

Based on nominations from students, we were honoured to have been involved in the selection of the 5 Caring Teacher Awards for SAJS. For 2014, they were Mr Edmund Lee Jianfeng, Mr Vincent Lee Kar Leong, Mdm Lin Jingya, Mr Kevin Ng Min Keong and Ms Tricia Tork Hui Jia

## **Parents**

### **A) Parenting Seminars, Workshops and Events**

In partnership with the Church of Ascension, the Dads-For-Life event was held in January with father and son teams competing in an Amazing Race.

In February, SAPTA invited Mr Peter Ho, a top education success coach from MindChamps to conduct a workshop for Primary 5 and 6 parents and their sons. The workshop – *How to Inspire Your Students to be a Champion* focused on nurturing the right mindset for exams and life. This free workshop for which SAPTA members were given priority in booking was very well received and we hope to conduct similar workshops in the future.

Our annual Parents Learning Festival 2014 held on 29 March, was again a big draw with more than 100 parents attending. Taught by our very own SAJS teachers, parents were given insights and skills to support their sons in the subjects taught in school. SAPTA members received a 50% discount for this event.

### **B) SAPTA Membership Programme**

Having introduced our new Membership Programme in 2013, the working sub-committee for Membership got down to work this year. The back log issue of SAPTA Membership Cards to all existing members, new 6-year and 4-year members as well as SAJS and SASS Teacher members was fully completed by June.

The new merchants who joined our Merchant Programme in 2014 included Brainy Moves Pte Ltd, The Eyecare Initiative, e3 Discovery Education and Zalora Online Fashion Store. With their membership cards, SAPTA members enjoy exclusive treats and special discounts with these merchants who have partnered with us.

Our membership drive during the Primary 1 Orientation Day on 7 November brought in 99 new 6-year membership subscriptions (\$60.00) from among the 2015 Primary One parents.

Our membership drive during the Secondary 1 Registration in December brought in 57 new 4-year membership subscriptions from among the 2015 Secondary One parents. Parents whose sons crossed over from SAJS paid \$30.00 while new parents paid the standard \$40.00 membership subscription.

Total membership subscriptions for 2014 amounted to S\$18,674.00. However, this figure is the sum of 2013 and 2014 membership subscriptions as the previous year's (2013) subscriptions were only collected and taken into our financial accounts in February 2014.

Of this sum, 30% i.e. S\$5,602.20 was transferred to the



fund.

### **C) Parent Support Group Conferences**

Members from our SAPTA Committee also had the opportunity to attend the South Zone Parent Support Group Conference organized by the PSG in Ai Tong School and MOE's COMPASS (COMMunity and PARENTs in Support of Schools).

The key topics covered at the conference were:

- Strengthening PSGs in Schools
- Leveraging social media to reach out to parents
- Strategies to promote Father's involvement in schools

Such conferences also gave us the opportunity to meet and interact with other Parent-Teacher Associations and PSGs. The groups who shared at the conference included Tampines Primary School PSG, Gan Eng Seng School PTA, Victoria School PSG and St Hilda's Primary School PSG among others.

## ***Fundraising***

### **A) SAPTA Carnival – Saints World Cup! (SAJS)**

The 2014 SAPTA food and fun fair was held on Children's Day, 2nd October. Timed just after the PSLE examinations, the theme for the carnival was *SAINTS WORLD CUP!* Although the World Cup was over in October, the theme was perfect, as the World Cup fever was still very much alive and many of our boys are ardent soccer fans.

Our organizing committee threw an unforgettable Children's Day party with lots of games related to soccer and exciting food stalls offering cuisines from countries that qualified for the 2014 World Cup.

On behalf of SAPTA, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to SAJS staff, all classes, PSGs and parents who contributed towards the carnival. Your ideas, your creativity, your hard work, donations and sponsorships have made this carnival a resounding success putting huge smiles on our Junior Boys' faces on Children's Day.

I would also like to thank my organizing committee, Tan Yan Kit, Belinda Bay and Stanley Ng for their leadership and superb project co-ordination.

Special thanks goes out to Saints FC, who took on the task of planning, organizing and managing all the soccer related games held in the school hall.

The 2014 SAPTA Carnival raised a total net profit of S\$16,718.12, of which 50% or S\$8,359.06 was transferred to the



fund for 2015.

## 2. Finances

Total income for 2014 amounted to S\$36,174.77, substantially more than the previous year as it included membership income for both years, 2013 and 2014.

As for income from our annual food and fun fairs, SASS' income from their food and fun fair organized in May 2014 did not come into SAPTA as in previous years, but was donated to the River Project, the building of the Indoor Sports Hall.

In April 2014, the committee decided to hire a part-time administrator as administrative duties became too much for committee members to manage in-house. The increase in Professional Fees – Audit/Admin under Expenditure includes the monthly salary paid to Juliana Chew, the SAPTA Administrator we brought onboard.

The committee also decided to donate S\$6000.00 to the Albert-Goh Sportsman Study Programme at year end as the S\$3000.00 per annum set aside for the SAA/SAPTA Sports Scholarships for 2013 and 2014 was not utilized for the scholarships.

We ended the year with a healthy balance sheet and a small surplus of \$306.35.

## 3. Acknowledgements

I am deeply honoured to work alongside such a committed and dynamic team. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to my Executive Committee Members, Co-opted Members, PSG/Club representatives in our midst, for their unyielding support and dedication. I would like to say a special thank you to my pillars, Vice-Chairman, Leroy McCully, Honorary Secretary, Desmond Ong and Amanda Lee, our Assistant Treasurer.

Special thanks also goes out to Mr Thomas Tham, Mr Roger Ng and Mr Shashidaran Kaneson for their steadfast presence as the school representatives in our EXCO, for their valuable feedback, their partnership, as well as their support of our programmes. Also a vote of thanks to Mr Jemmy Ong, our ex-chairman and adviser for his invaluable and readily available advice.

I would also like to thank our Principals, Mrs Lucy Toh and Mrs Wong Bin Eng for their unfailing support of SAPTA, and for being our champion when addressing parents in their respective schools.

Finally, our gratitude goes to St Andrew's Alumni for allowing SAPTA the use of a small office space in the Old Boys Room (Diocese Centre) to base our Administrator and also to house some of our Sportsman Study Programme classes.

Up & On!

**Sharon Naidu-Lim**  
**Chairman (2013 - 2014)**  
**St Andrew's Parent-Teacher Association**