

## **Chairman's Report 2015**

2015 was the 1st year in our committee's two-year tenure, and we are blessed to have received overwhelming support from our parent volunteers and also the teaching and administrative staff of both SAJS and SASS. This has contributed to our continued success in achieving the various outcomes and implementing our various initiatives that was started by the previous committee.

Such initiatives key include SAPTA Cares, aimed at helping our less privileged boys and also reaching out to boys with challenging family backgrounds or situations in SAJS through the Extend-A-Care programme has continued to achieve amazing results. Our New Membership Programme for parents and teachers that was fully rolled-out in 2013 also saw new membership signups for the Primary One and Secondary One parents.

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 2015.

### 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: Lum Sheng Isaac, Ong Xiao Zhong Nathaniel, Foo Sheng En, Joel and Lee Guang Han Jordan.

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

With the close of 2015, we celebrate 7 years where the Albert Goh Sportsman Study Programme has been supporting our time-starved sports boys. Today, the study programme in SASS is firmly established not only in each rugby and hockey player's schedule, but also for FAS students in other CCAs. It has produced good results and dramatically improved grades which also includes several distinctions and many grateful parents in the process.

We are, however, now faced with the challenge of obtaining additional funding to continue the program beyond 2015. SAPTA is working closely with SAA to solicit the additional funds required and we are hopeful for a good outcome.

##### C) SAPTA Cares

SAPTA Cares is a fund dedicated to supporting 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 an initial balance of \$6,639.00. We are proud to announce that as of 31 December 2015, through the tireless efforts of the Committee and the support of some parents and Old Boys, the SAPTA Cares Fund for SAJS stands at \$32,031.95 while the SAPTA Cares Fund for SASS stands at approximately \$20,000.00. Special thanks must be given to Adrian Ang for his continuous efforts to approach Old Boys and parents to donate generously to this fund.

SAPTA continues to stay committed to the Extend-A-Care program in 2015 and had planned numerous activities spearheaded by Belinda Bay, with the help of dedicated parent volunteers. The boys were able to strengthen the bond between Parent Volunteers (Befrienders) in the program through these social and community activities.

### **Teachers' Welfare**

#### A) Teachers' Day Celebrations

Just like 2014, 2015 also marked Teachers' Day in SAJS with the various Parent Support Groups (PSGs) under the SAPTA umbrella and the Church of Ascension came together to organize a luncheon in recognition of the efforts and hard work put in by the teachers. SAJS Teachers were treated to a sumptuous potluck buffet accompanied by a special bonding session conducted by a DJ engaged by SAPTA at the Lee Kuo Chuan Hall which was 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.

Special thanks must also be given to a parent, Patrick Koh and the group of parent volunteers that organized a special breakfast for the Teachers of SAJS.

We were also thrilled to be part of the SASS Teachers' Day celebrations. We were happy to be given the opportunity to sponsor the traditional lunch buffet that was organized by SASS.

#### 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 2015, they were Mrs Angela Lim, Mr Sean Chng, Mrs Ong I Gwen, Mrs. Lynette Wong and Mdm DaphneTan.

### **Parents**

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

Our annual Parents Learning Festival was held in March, and again it was a big draw with more than 150 parents attending. Taught by our very own SAJS teachers, parents were given insights and skills to support their sons in all the subjects taught in school. SAPTA members received a 50% discount for this event. SAPTA will continue to organize this

event in the coming years as the event can pick up some of the skills from the teachers which can provide them with some of the necessary skills to coach their sons at home.

#### B) SAPTA Membership Programme

There were no new merchants who joined our Merchant Programme in 2015. However, with their membership cards, SAPTA members continue to enjoy exclusive treats and special discounts with existing partner merchants.

Our membership drive during the Primary 1 Orientation Day brought in new 6-year membership subscriptions (\$60.00) from the 2016 Primary One parents.

Our membership drive during the Secondary 1 Registration in December also brought in new 4-year membership subscriptions from the 2016 Secondary One parents. Parents whose sons crossed over from SAJS paid \$30.00 while new parents paid the standard \$40.00 membership subscription. The number of new members have reduced in SASS as the intake has reduced for all secondary schools across Singapore.

#### 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 St. Hilda's Primary School and Dads for Life.

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 Rugby Cup! (SAJS)

The 2015 SAPTA food and fun fair was held on Children's Day, 5<sup>th</sup> October. Timed just after the PSLE examinations, the theme for the carnival was SAINTS RUGBY CUP! In conjunction with the Rugby World Cup held in 2015, the theme was perfect, as St Andrew's is traditionally a rugby school and with the rich history, the Rugby World Cup fever was still very much alive and many of our boys and their fathers especially the old boys are also ardent rugby fans.

Our organizing committee threw an unforgettable Children's Day party with lots of games related to Rugby and food stalls offering sumptuous food adopted and sponsored by a huge group of parents.

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, dedications, 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, Adrian Ang, Tina, Jean and Yvonne Pek for their leadership and superb project co-ordination.

Special thanks also go to Saints Rugby PSGs, who took on the task of planning, organizing and managing all the soccer related games held in the school hall. They also took time off from work to be present on the day to ensure the success of the event.

The 2015 SAPTA Carnival raised a total net profit of S\$24,143.00 of which 50% was transferred to the SAPTA Care fund for 2015.

This year, we are also organizing and planning for the SASS "Feed the Boys II" Food and Fun Fair on the third week of May which will be just before the mid-year school holidays. On behalf of the SAPTA committee, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support, donations and efforts of all parents as we managed to put together a highly successful Food and Fun Fair at very short notice.

The theme was in conjunction with the SEA Games organized in Singapore and souvenirs and tickets to some of the football matches was sponsored by the SEA Games organizing committee. We would like to give special thanks to the parents who helped us coordinate for the sponsorship. We managed to raise \$14,339.00 out of which 50% was transferred to the SASS SAPTA Care fund for 2015.

## 2. Finances

Total income for 2015 amounted to S\$63,922.57 which was substantially more than the previous years of 2013 and 2014. In April 2015, the committee hired Jean, to replace Juliana as the part-time administrator to manage administrative duties for committee members. We ended the year with a healthy balance sheet and a surplus of \$8449.21 out of which \$4,200.00 each was transferred to the SAJS and SASS SAPTA Care fund, leaving a small surplus of \$49.21 in SAPTA account.

## **Acknowledgements**

I am deeply honoured to have been able to work alongside a committed and dynamic team who often went far beyond the call of their respective duties to carry out the tasks to ensure the success of the events and all for the benefit and welfare of our boys.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to my Executive Committee Members, Co-opted Members, PSG/Club representatives in our midst, for their unyielding support and dedication. I would like to reserve a special thank you to my Vice-Chairman, Alvin McCully,

Honorary Secretary and Assistant, Adrian Ang and Tina Chan, our Treasurer and Assistant Yen Ni and Yvonne Pek.

I would also like to thank Messrs Thomas Tham, Roger Ng and Shashidaran Kaneson for their steadfast presence as the school representatives in our EXCO, valuable feedback, partnership, as well as their endless support of our programmes. Also a vote of thanks to Ms Sharon Naidu, our ex-chairman and adviser for her continuous guidance and 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 the 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.

We are eagerly looking forward to 2016 and will continue with the same zeal and energy displayed in 2015 and continue to grow from strength to strength.

Up & On!