

Principal's speech on 7-9-2026

Topic: *With Grace, We Cherish*

Good morning, everyone! As said on the first school day, this year, our school's theme is "With Grace, We Cherish". I'd like to elaborate it with a story.

In 1464, the famous Italian sculptor Donatello was contracted to create a great stone statue. He found a massive piece of white marble at a quarry in Carrara in the Alps. He began carving the rough shapes of the lower limbs, body, and clothing. However, in 1466, Donatello passed away, leaving the block unfinished, and the stone was left neglected.

Later, people brought the famous Leonardo da Vinci and other famous sculptors to see the massive stone, but unfortunately, they had no interest in it, feeling it was not a good material for carving. All they saw were the stone's flaws, and none of them could see its strengths.

Over 30 years later, in 1501, a 26-year-old young sculptor discovered it, marvelled at its beauty, and said to it, "I am going to set free the angel trapped inside this stone." Thus, this young sculptor spent only four years carving a world-famous masterpiece in the history of art, named the "Statue of David." This sculptor was the renowned Michelangelo.

Dear boys and girls, what can *you* learn from this story?

I think this story tells a valuable truth: everything has both strengths and weaknesses, but the outcome is vastly different between a grateful person, who sees the strengths in others, and an ungrateful person, who only sees the weaknesses in others.

Ungrateful people only know how to focus on the other party's flaws to nitpick and complain, resulting in nothing getting done. Conversely, grateful people always think from the perspective of the other party's strengths, ultimately releasing their potential and advantages to achieve great success like Michelangelo and the Statue of David. So, boys and girls, who do you want to be, a grateful person or an ungrateful person?

Dear all, let's try our very best to be grateful people by focusing on the good side, or the strengths of ourselves and the people around us. You will start to be more positive, to cherish the love from your parents, teachers and friends, etc.

Here is the teaching from the Bible, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Yes, God really wants us to be thankful in all situations. Though it is always easier said than done, but if we can do it, we will be very positive in our lives.

And, before we pray, let's remember the saddest news recently. I'm referring to the massive flash flooding in the Nepal-Tibet border region on Aug 26. Up to now, the number of death in Nepal has risen to over a thousand, with around 4,000 people still missing. Let's pray for them.

Dear Heavenly Father,

First, we'd like to pray for the victims of the tragedy. May comfort and peace surround all those who have lost loved ones in the flash floods. May those missing will be rescued miraculously. May your love to be with the Nepali.

Second, thank You for loving each one of us. Please help us to be a grateful person who always looks at the good side of ourselves and others. In this case, we are able to build a more positive image of ourselves and others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Here are a few more reminders from me.

Dear students, I know that most of you have been working very hard, and I sincerely hope that you:

1. Take care of yourself

This is the foremost thing you must do. Remember you do the best and God do the rest. At times you've to learn to let go. Take regular breaks when you need them. Stay consistent and diligent!

2. Set clear goals

Setting clear goals for yourselves is very important. Take actions and work towards them bit by bit, every day, until you finally reach them. With God's grace and companionship, we can keep going and achieve our goals one day.

3. Reach out for help

As I said on the first day of the school year, if you need help, do not be afraid to voice out your concerns. Reach out to teachers, friends, and family members for assistance.

This concludes what I've to say today. Thank you!