

Principal's speech on 4th-5th September, 2025

With Hope, We Persevere

Good morning, everyone! It's wonderful to see all of you gathered here today. We are here to learn and share together!

This year, our school theme is "With Hope, We Persevere." This phrase means that with hope in our hearts, we can persist through challenges. It's not just about our studies—it's also a way to approach life.

Let me start with a story from Journey to the West (《西遊記》), one of the four great classical novels of Chinese literature.

Just in case you cannot remember, it tells the tale of the monk Tang Seng and his companions as they travel westward to bring back sacred scriptures. Along the way, they face countless trials and adventures. Also, over the past two years, our Drama Night has focused on this remarkable story.

Most of you probably know some of the famous characters, like Sun Wukong (the Monkey King) and Tang Seng (the monk). But today's story is not about them. Instead, the spotlight is on the White Dragon Horse - the faithful horse that carried Tang Seng throughout the journey.

The White Dragon Horse traveled with Tang Seng to obtain the scriptures.

And this horse became so renowned that people called him "the best horse in the world."

This fame made all the donkeys envious. So one day, a hardworking donkey—frustrated at his lack of progress—approached the White Dragon Horse and asked, "What's your secret to success?" The White Dragon Horse replied, "While I was on my journey to obtain the scriptures, you weren't idle either. You worked hard, perhaps even harder than I did. But I took every step toward a clear goal—traveling tens of thousands of miles. Meanwhile, you stayed in the mill, going in circles without making progress."

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

- (1) Success is not just about how hard you work but about the direction you are heading.
- (2) Hard work and perseverance are essential, but without a clear goal, your efforts may go to waste.

As we begin this school year, I want you to think carefully: What do you want to achieve this year?

Take time to reflect. Your class teachers will likely ask you this as well.

Just like the White Dragon Horse, if you set a clear, achievable goal and persist step by step, you'll have a much greater chance of reaching success. Try not to be like the donkey. Hard work alone is not enough if it isn't leading you anywhere. Instead, be like the White Dragon Horse: stay focused on your journey, take each step with purpose, and keep your eyes on the destination ahead. Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for loving each one of us.

Please help us set clear goals and take small, consistent steps toward them every day.

When we feel lost or weak, grant us the courage and strength we need.

For YOU are our hope and our strength.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.