

Speech Day

Vote of Thanks

by Albert Lam, Head Prefect

(27 November 2007)

Mrs. Yip, Bishop Tsui, Members of the School Council, Ms Mau, Teachers, Parents, Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow students, Good evening.

Thank you to all of you for joining this annual celebration of St. Mark's School. Your presence today is a great source of motivation to our students of St. Mark's.

I, on behalf of the school, would like to congratulate all graduates and prizewinners for leading the way in attaining many great accomplishments. Your work and achievements are recognised and honoured by every member of the school. Thank you for bringing these distinctive, delightful gifts which assure us that you all will join hands to meet the emerging challenges and will continue to contribute towards making yourselves and St. Mark's more dynamic, responsive and sensitive to the future demands. Thank you for bringing the achievements of the school as united whole.

Sir Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Every student would like to express our heartfelt thanks to St. Mark's for her stewardship, support, vision and commitment. What the students gained from the school, including the Principal, teachers, staff and schoolmates, is no less than that from a giant. We are grateful to all the people who make us so extraordinary and who grace the hall with such amazement. They help us realise that we cannot have the rainbow without the rain, and that with every closed door, another opens. For that, teachers are the beacons who empower us to make the wind favourable to our journey and help us set sail to reach further academically and culturally. The opportunity of collaboration between teachers and students creates this harmonious and efficient environment that nurtures us for the society. Thank you teachers for your valuable contribution, guidance and encouragement that have given a new impetus to our work. At the same time, let us not forget that Rome was not built in a day. Many have dedicated your energy and time to shape St. Mark's as a reputable school. Our gratitude must also be extended. St. Markans shall always live up to the expectations.

For once, we all looked the same. We all had our white shirts, grey trousers or blue

cheongsams. Even though we may look the same now, it is our differences that make us who we are. Each one of us is of immense value. "Only those who risk going to far can possibly know how far one can go." *T.S. Elliot*, an author, reminded us not only what the trailblazers can accomplish, but also we can blaze a trail in different perspectives. This year, St. Mark's School continues to provide opportunities for students to strive for excellence. Apart from strong academic performance, students are encouraged to be caring, serving and creative. The concerns are obvious. Teachers and parents have cared and served us wholeheartedly. There are no greater ways than passing this torch of caring for and serving others both in school and in the society. St. Markans live up to the school motto "STRAIGHTWAY" by actively participating as well as serving with care immediately. We are enthusiastic about living the spirit of a true St. Markan with creativity and courage to carve out a niche at the same time. Once again, we would like to thank the school for developing us into all-round young adults. All ready to face the challenges ahead.

The end of secondary school is just the beginning of the next step. Today is just the first of many great accomplishments we hope to achieve in our lives. We will succeed along with the support St. Mark's that has given us to keep our motivation in line. It is hoped that our dreams will take us to the corners of our smiles, to the highest of our hopes, to the windows of our opportunities, and to the most special places our hearts have ever known.

I would like to thank again Ms Mau, teachers, staff and fellow students for the blessing of education that we have. We will continue to take up responsibilities and act immediately. Thank you to all of you for your sharing of our joy. It is this treasure which will keep the memories of this Speech Day alive.

Thank You.