

Welcome Address by Mr Winston Hodge, Chairman, Singapore Schools Sports Council, at the Singapore Schools Sports Council 48th Colours Award Presentation and National School Games Closing Ceremony on Friday, 21 September 2018, 3.30pm at CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent.

Ms Sarah Pang,

Guest of Honour

Mrs Tan Chen Kee,

Divisional Director, Student Development Curriculum Division

Colleagues,

Awardees, and Parents,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome and Introduction

1. First, let me extend a warm welcome to Ms Sarah Pang. Sarah is a local professional tennis player. She picked up tennis at the age of 19 with the aspiration of turning professional. Eleven years later, she has successfully broken into the global sporting scene, becoming the only Singaporean tennis player who competes regularly on the International Tennis Federation Women's Pro circuit. However, Sarah's journey to becoming a professional tennis player has not been easy. Despite the challenges, Sarah is committed to give back to

the community by conducting tennis clinics and giving talks to motivate youths in schools.

Sarah's ultimate goal is to play on the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tour someday.

We wish you well as you pursue your dream. May it come true soon!

2. Thank you for taking time to join us this afternoon, Ms Pang.

Congratulations

3. Today, we are gathered to celebrate the closing of the National School Games (NSG) and the achievements of 8,782 student-athletes who will be receiving the Singapore Schools Sports Council (SSSC) Colours Award across 28 sports. Of these, 443 will be receiving the Distinction Award, and 51 will be receiving the Best Sportsboy or Best Sportgirl Award. The majority of the recipients are receiving their awards at their own school-based ceremonies.
4. To the Best Sportsboy and Best Sportsgirl Awardees who are with us today, my heartiest congratulations to you for your outstanding sporting performance this year and exemplary conduct within and beyond the competition arena. We hope you will continue to pursue your passion and continue to do Singapore proud, even as you balance all your priorities. May you also continue to be the role-model of excellent character as you pursue your dreams!

National School Games (NSG)

5. This year, more than 400 championships were organised across 29 sports by the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council (SPSSC) and the Singapore School Sports Council (SSSC) for close to 60,000 students. The quality sporting experiences of the NSG would not have been possible without the dedication, and commitment of members in the NSG organising committees and the student-helpers of both Councils. Lets' give

a round of applause to our Organising Committees and student-helpers for organising yet another successful year of the NSG!

Sports Is Everyone's Affair

6. It takes a village to raise a child. We believe that nurturing a student-athlete is everyone's effort. Parents, teachers and coaches play an important role in the children's sports experiences. They are important role models, and they play an important part to determine the quality of a child's sports experience. Our young athletes are able to uphold good character because their parents, teachers, and coaches have consistently modelled and reinforced ethical behaviours.
7. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the significant adults who have played an important part in instilling the right sporting values and beliefs in our young athletes; so that they understand the true meaning of 'Character in Sporting Excellence'.
8. Our athletes' sporting performance at the competition ground is often fuelled by the strong support and encouragement from those around them – schoolmates who make time to spectate and cheer at the games; teammates who offer encouragement and advice; parents who work closely with the teachers and coaches; and coaches who inspire and foster a growth mind-set in the young athletes.
9. Chloe Neo, a 14-year-old student from Raffles Girls' School, represented the Singapore Schools Gymnastics at the recent 10th ASEAN Schools Games (ASG) held this year. Chloe displayed extraordinary tenacity and courage in the face of adversity. Her steely resolve saw her rising up to the occasion to surpass her better competitors. With the support from her family and friends, Chloe overcame all odds to clinch the Gold medal in the Uneven Bars Apparatus category. She also attributed her success to her teammates who have become like a second family to her.

10. Kampton Kam, a 17-year-old Victoria Junior College student, represented the Singapore Schools Track & Field at the 10th ASG. Faced with stiff competition from his regional counterparts, Kampton rose to the occasion by motivating himself to fight on. His 2.10m jump record edged out his competitors and even broke the Under-20 Age Group record previously set in 2009! He attributed his Gold Medal win to the unwavering support from his family members who flew in to Malaysia to cheer him on. His father is also thankful for the support from Kampton's school, the Singapore Athletics Association, his coach, and the National Youth Sports Institute.
11. Ms Chua Siew Choo, a coach at Poi Ching school, is well respected by her volleyball students. A nurturing coach, she builds strong rapport with every batch of her students, and actively inculcates important values and life-skills in her students to develop them holistically. Under her coaching and guidance, the students exhibit grit and determination to perform their best. They have also become more caring and confident individuals who are not only motivated to do their best at the sport but also in other areas of their involvements within and beyond school.
12. I would like to see these become everyday stories. And I would like to see more of our young athletes show their appreciation to their parents, school teachers and coaches who have been positive role-models for them, and supported them.

ASIA and ASEAN Competitions

13. At this juncture, on behalf of the Council, I wish to thank my colleagues who have taken time to lead our Singapore Schools Sports Team at the 10th ASEAN Schools Games and the Asian School Sports Federation (ASSF) Badminton and Cross-Country competitions. Almost 200 students represented the Singapore Schools at the 10th ASG in July and the contingent bagged 51 medals. Our Badminton Team also did well at the ASSF

competition by winning 3 medals. Congratulations to our Singapore Schools Sports Teams!

14. I am glad these international competitions also provided opportunities for our athletes to develop new bonds of friendships and engage in cultural exchanges with our ASEAN and Asian friends, apart from pitting their skills against the regional best.

Conclusion

15. In conclusion, together with Mrs Lee Hui Feng, Chairman of the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council, we wish to extend our appreciation to:
 - Our Guest-of-Honour, Ms Sarah Pang, for gracing the occasion;
 - Mrs Pauline Wong, Principal of CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent and Chairman of the SSSC Colours Award Committee, and all her members and staff, for working hard to make the Colours Award Ceremony a meaningful event for our awardees;
 - All National and Zone Convenors, Organising Secretaries, teachers, coaches and games officials of both Councils, as well as our HQ colleagues serving as games advisors and staff from the National School Games Office, for your unwavering commitment in organising yet another efficient and safe NSG;
 - The National Sports Associations and other partners who have provided advice and support to our Council;
 - And last but not least, all parents, for the invaluable support that you have given to school sports and student-athletes.
16. As we close our National School Games for the year, let us cherish the memories and friendships forged, reflect on the lessons learnt, grow as better individuals and stronger athletes, and look forward to continuous years of sporting excellence ahead.
17. Thank you and I wish you all the best this coming holidays and at the next NSG!