

**TWGHs. S. C. Gaw Memorial College**  
**School Closing and Prize-giving Ceremony (2013-2014)**  
**Address by Ms Christina Gaw, Independent Manamger**  
**9<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.**

Dear Principal Tang, Teachers, Students and Distinguished guests,

It's my honour today to be speaking to you all and sharing my thoughts about the vision our family as donor has for SC Gaw Memorial College.

I have four children of my own, and my elder son is particularly interested in reading about Greek Mythology. Often time, our family dinner table discussions allude to the lessons learned from some of the legends. One of which I remember fondly as lifelong lesson for my children is Helen of Troy. The story beings with a young Trojan price called Paris who stole Helen, the most beautiful lady and wife of the Greek lord Troy. The Greeks became very angry and gathered a force of ships to attack Troy, and the Trojan War begins...

The legend has it that the fighting lasted for 10 years. Ultimately the war concluded with an idea from a Greek hero, who told his people to build a wooden horse, big enough to fit soldiers inside. Once the horse was completed, the Greek soldiers left Troy, leaving the wooden hose on the seashore. The Trojans were overjoyed, thinking that the Greek forces had left, and they dragged the horse into the city of Troy, thinking it to be a gift from the Greeks. When night came, however, the Greek soldiers inside the Wooden Horse jumped out of the horse and Troy was burnt to ashes.

This story is a legend in many households around the world and its moral theme has a deeper meaning – which is not to take things for granted at face value especially when dealing with strangers and the unknown. However, I also have my own interpretations from this lesson learned and I would like to share these thoughts with you today.

This story also tells us that using force is not the answer to unresolved conflicts. Knowledge and skills are the tactics helping the Greeks to win the war. There is certainly a leader in the pack who

had a strong sense of leadership and charisma to influence his subordinates to follow his idea of using the Wooden Horse. This has shown that good interpersonal skills and leadership skills, observing what's happening around the world, are very important skillset to acquire during your secondary school years. These knowledge and skills will take you far in life as you build up your own character traits during the important adolescent years in secondary school. It is with these interpersonal and leadership skills that you acquire that will enable you to establish important relationships with people from all walks of life in the future. Through daily compelling and fascinating conversations with people around you, you will gain more empathy and be able to inspire those who respect you for who you are and what you are able to achieve. That is also the reason why our school, under the leadership of Principal Tang and capable teachers, has developed a wide range of activities to nurture more leadership quality from our students.

Leaders should have excellent collaboration and problem solving skills. Knowledge and valuable experiences are the lubricants to strengthen your skills. Knowledge from disciplinary subjects is important, but experiences gained from extra-curricular activities are indispensable part of student leaders. To all students, I truly believe that you should cherish every moment and opportunity SC Gaw Memorial College and the teachers have provided you with. Secondary school education is the critical period as each of you will be equipped with different kinds of knowledge and skill set for your future positioning in the society as your own character shapes up. At the same time, it is also the place to unlock your potentials so that you can understand more about yourself for better future planning. Our College, under the leadership of Principal Tang is working hard on this to foster your development to the fullest.

Steve Jobs is also a household icon these days especially for those who have computer maniacs at home, and the one quote I always like to share: Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower, and our school is certainly making the headway in the aspects of curriculum and activities to develop more leaders, and for that, I am ever so proud to be involved in a school that has the right aspiration for our youngsters who are future pillars of our society. Thank you