

PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR HO KAH LEONG, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (EDUCATION) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR JURONG, AT THE ANNUAL PRIZE PRESENTATION AND CONCERT OF BOON LAY GARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER '82 AT 4.00 PM

It gives me great pleasure and honour to be here this afternoon to join you in celebrating your Annual Prize Giving Day.

Boon Lay Garden Primary School started functioning five years ago. Of course, five years is relatively a short period of time in the history of a school. However, within this short span of time, Boon Lay Garden Primary School has made its presence felt in the community it serves. The increase in the number of classes from 27 in 1977 to 48 today, bears testimony to the popularity of the school among parents in Boon Lay and nearby constituencies.

On this appropriate occasion, I am happy to see parents who have taken time off to join in this important event of the school. Your presence here this afternoon is an indication of your positive interest in what your children do in school. This is as should be considering the large sum of money that has been spent on education in terms of manpower and better teaching facilities. I am sure you share with me the belief that your keen interest in the education of your children will go a long way in complementing the work of teachers in this school. The school and home should work harmoniously to ensure that the school children not only do their best to pass their examinations but also become good citizens. With your continuing strong support the school will be in a better position to put your children on the right track to become healthy, mentally-alert teenagers, better-prepared to meet the challenges of adult life.

It is rather sad to note that until today there are still some parents who harbour the belief that educating a child is the sole responsibility of the school. This is far from right because teachers cannot be the only people to bear influence on the learning habits and /2.

habits and character-training of the children. The influence of parents on their children in their formative years is equally, if not more, important. For this reason, you have a vital role to play in the education of your children. The teachers in this school want to help your children to do well. They only seek your co-operation and understanding so that they can do their job better.

It is naive to believe that the school is perfect. No school really is. But with co-operation from all concerned with the education of children - the school administrators, teachers and parents - I am confident that Boon Lay Garden Primary School will exceed our expectations in the years ahead. In this connection I would like to congratulate the School Advisory Committee for its active involvement in the development of the school. It is heartening to note that the school can depend on the SAC for moral and financial support. With continued support from the SAC the school will no doubt be spurred to strive for better results in all fields of endeavour.

Finally, let me congratulate all the prize winners today for their fine achievements. The hard work that they have put in has not been in vain. It is our sincere hope that all pupils in this school will study just as hard so that they will be better-prepared and equipped for their next level of instruction.

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