

17 SEP 1986
PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Communications & Information, City Hall, Singapore 0617 · Tel. 3307269 / 3307270 / 3307271

86-HKL-15

Release No.: 26/SEP
03-3/86/09/12

**SPEECH BY MR HO KAH LEONG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION), AT JURONG TOWN PRIMARY
SCHOOL'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY & TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS
AT THE SCHOOL, CORPORATION DRIVE
ON FRIDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 1986 AT 5.00 PM**

Jurong Town Primary School began functioning 20 years ago and almost from the start it came under heavy pressure for admissions. So great was the demand that some classrooms in the nearby secondary school had to be borrowed by the primary school. When other schools in this industrial town were completed and started functioning, this enormous demand for places gradually eased off. However, because of its commendable performance at the Primary School Leaving Examination, conducive learning environment and good discipline of pupils, it has become one of the popular schools in Jurong area and there is still demand for places in it.

This record could not have been achieved, without a loyal, supportive and diligent corps of staff. It is therefore only right that we are gathered here today to honour the members of the staff, especially those who have served the school well over a period of time. The extent of a school's success depends not only on the wise and able leadership of the school principal and administrators but also on the diligence and loyalty of its teachers. The leadership of the school is to be commended for organising this function with the strong support of the School Advisory Committee which has also served the school well since its formative years.

As this is essentially a gathering of teachers, I would like to suggest to teachers that their main efforts in the classroom should not be confined to enabling children to pass examinations. The aim should also be to instil love for learning and desire for excellence in whatever task is undertaken. Our pupils need to be taught the thinking skills so that they will be able to think logically and creatively in dealing with any problem. Teachers should arouse curiosity in knowledge and interest in reading and exploring. Children are different. They have different IQs, different aptitudes and different family backgrounds. They learn in different ways and at different paces. Therefore, teachers need to be flexible in their teaching approaches and patient in dealing with pupils.

To enable them to meet the new challenges in education, teachers need to have a keen interest in up-grading themselves professionally, eg attending courses, seminars, reading books and journals, sharing ideas with colleagues and carrying out school-based projects.

Thank you very much for inviting me to this function and allowing me the privilege to speak to you. Please accept my belated wish to all of you for a Happy Teachers' Day. May I also wish the school every success in its future endeavours.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

