

We refer to the reports, "Aiming for the bottom is no way to go" in the Straits Times, 29 March 2010, "SJI far from being elitist, says principal" in the Sunday Times, 28 Mar 2010 and "SJI to meet on its future and intake" in the Straits Times, 24 March 2010 as well as the forum letters by Lee Seck Kay and Jason Salim in the Straits Times, 27 Mar 2010. The Board of Governors would like to take this opportunity to clarify the mission and direction of the school.

SJI is not elitist and does not aspire to be elitist. But, SJI does aspire to be a Catholic school of choice to both Catholic and non-Catholic boys. As a school, SJI is proud that it is serving a wider range of academic abilities than most other top schools. In fact, this year, about 10% of the intake had PSLE T-scores of less than 230 and they were admitted on appeal based on non-academic factors and achievements. Contrary to misconceptions that have arisen in the recent discussions, about 40% of our intake comes from our affiliated primary schools, with about 20% of our intake coming from SJI Junior alone. Furthermore, Catholic boys form about 25% of the intake.

SJI is an inclusive school and will continue to welcome boys from other schools and backgrounds who seek a balanced and holistic education that develops character, so that they grow up to become "men of integrity, men for others".

In positioning for the future, SJI would like to achieve a good balance between attracting a fair share of high ability boys and other boys from both affiliated and non-affiliated primary schools. With a wider range of academic abilities, SJI is able to provide a diverse and rich learning environment in which every boy is inspired to develop to his fullest potential, regardless of his academic abilities and specific talents.

SJI has been a Gold Value Added school since 2005, a Band 1 school since 2008 and was one of only two recipients of the MOE School Excellence Award in 2009, the pinnacle award for educational excellence. But, most of all, SJI is very proud that it has produced graduates who readily serve the disadvantaged of society and have a natural disposition to care for "the last, the lost and the least".

Underpinning SJI's repositioning is its quest for innovations in its educational programmes to reinforce its mission and sustain its focus on all-round excellence in education.

SJI has introduced the Josephian Programme for high ability boys as well as those who have specific talents in certain areas. The programme is also suitable for gifted education students who have chosen the O level route.

SJI also seeks to develop in our boys, character and care for their less fortunate fellow men. For example, under Project Scubilion, all Secondary 3 boys spent 8 afternoons over 8 weeks reaching out to "the last, the lost and the least". This experiential component of the Religious and Moral Education programme allows our boys to put into practice all that they had learned in class.

To develop innovation and creativity, we have introduced the Harvard Art-Science Programme where Secondary 3 boys are given the opportunity to combine creativity from the Arts with the scientific approach for the development of new products and

services for the market. A team of our boys had presented their project at Harvard University, alongside peers from the Boston schools. In order to achieve our aspiration of serving a wider range of abilities, SJI is discussing with MOE the offering of an Integrated Programme stream.

The Board of Governors is pleased with the interest and passion that this issue has sparked in our alumni. It shows that they care very much for the school. We would like to assure the alumni and the public at large that SJI will continue to welcome all students who value an SJI education. SJI will continue to provide a balanced and inclusive education that emphasizes academic excellence and yet celebrates the diversity of its student body.

Noel Hon  
Chairman  
SJI Board of Governors