

Parent's Testimony – Awards and Graduation Celebration – 25 July, 2015

Good evening, Mrs Boey (Founder), Mrs Valluvan (Principal), supervisors, fellow parents, guests and students, it is my pleasure to be invited to speak. My name is Siew Pheng and I am the mother of Damien Wong who is one of the graduates today. I asked my son what I should speak on and he very helpfully drafted for me a 5-point outline and a reminder to keep it short. :-)

1st: When I first signed up my son in the school

Damien joined VLCS from an international school in 2011. We had not heard of VLCS before his enrolment but through God's grace, we were led to VLCS. The first year was very difficult for Damien, and I believe also for his supervisors. Damien kept very much to himself, drew a lot, and did in one year what he would later do in a term. He argued with his classmates and challenged his supervisors. He had difficulty integrating into the new school.

2nd: How it seemed from a parent's perspective

As a parent, whenever our child is having difficulty, it is also a difficult time for the parent. Mrs Valluvan gave me a book to help me pray during this difficult period, a book by Stormie Omartian with the title: The Power of a Praying Parent. Thank you Mrs Valluvan! I also joined the Parents Prayer Group and together with other parents, we prayed over our children and the school. We also prayed a lot when the school had to relocate from Upper Aljunied Road.

3rd: What it was like being with your child through the years

I have personally witnessed the dedication of the supervisors and believe that VLCS is truly a school that cares a lot for our children. Here I will have to specially thank Mrs Liah who has helped Damien tremendously in all his years in VLCS. Mrs Liah, thank you very much! Somehow, through God's design, and luckily for Damien, whenever Damien moved to a higher grade, Mrs Liah would follow him.

I have seen the power of the ACE programme. It allows the child to achieve success through his/her own efforts, by setting goals and reaping the rewards. There is no tuition required. The most powerful part of the programme is that it is God-centred and focuses on character building. I believe these are what benefit our children the most!

4th: How your child has grown through the years

Slowly but surely, Damien has changed. Last year, Damien received a special award for "most improved" student. Character traits cited are available, committed, cooperative, submissive and responsible. Damien has made some good friends in school and he communicates openly now. We are of course very happy with the transformation in Damien.

5th: How you feel about your son currently graduating

Needless to say, we as parents are very proud of Damien. Damien has been volunteering in school after he completed the programme in March. He has been accepted into Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, one of the top 5 universities in Canada. This is a testament to the school and the ACE curriculum!

Thank you once again Founder, Principal and Supervisors for what you have done for Damien.

Finally, most important of all, To God be the Glory!

Thank you.