

Yiping Yu – Founders’ Day speech to Junior School

Hi everybody,

Just thought I should introduce myself first. My name is Yiping and I am the only Yiping in our school. Also, I am the Emily Captain for 2019. Now what actually is Emily Captain? Before I answer that question, I would like to tell you more about myself.

I came from China two and a half years ago, English is my second language. Coming from a totally different school culture was a real challenge, but I really enjoy the new environment here and all the wonderful friends I’ve made. The most importantly, I am fitting in to this wonderful community. I bought mom vegemite when I went back during the holidays, and really enjoyed the moment she thought it’s Nutella and put a whole spoon in her mouth as her first vegemite experience.

As I sat down to write this speech the other night, I asked myself – what does it mean to be the Emily Captain? Mother Emily has a really great impact on me, not because we are both coming from overseas and not because we’re both born in November, we are both Scorpios.

The impact on me is really about what Mother Emily stood up for – compassion, kindness, her care for the sick and dying, her respect for justice and her sense of equality which led her to help the forgotten working poor in London. Her dream was one of inclusivity, courage and hope. Opening schools in Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and our school in 1926 had vision which gives us voice today.

As Emily Captain, it means to help, to include and to support. It means to use the power of kindness to bring our community together, to be the person you feel comfortable to ask for help when you needed, to always support you and have your back at any time, and to let everyone feel the inclusion and the sense of belonging within our school.

Standing here today, I am encouraging everyone to be kind to each other, and never forget the power of your words and actions, no matter how small. We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone, and today, founder’s day, is a perfect opportunity to start reflecting and improving upon ourselves. A smile in the hallway, a hand when somebody needs help or just a simple “How are you” “Are you Okay” or “How can I help you?” Spread your kindness to your friends, teachers, family members or neighbours, because sometimes you don’t know that your small action might just lighten someone’s whole day.

Let’s try something different right now. I want you to turn to the person sitting next to you with a big smile, give them a high five or a hug. Thanks everyone. Now I would like to ask you all to say thank you to your teachers with a big smile as well. Thank you all for being kind today. Remember the power of kindness. And I hope you have a wonderful founder’s day today. Thank you 😊