

Yiping Yu - Founders' Day speech to Senior School

Hi everyone,

“Remember, we, none of us, can live without leaving some mark.” This is one of my favourite quotes from Mother Emily.

As I sat down to write this speech the other night, I asked myself again the frequently asked question – what does it mean to be the Emily Captain? The story of Mother Emily has a really great impact on me, not because we are both coming from overseas, not because we're both born in November, we are both Scorpios, not because she's from Kilburn, like me!

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 England. 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 leave a “Yiping mark” that brings our community together, to be the person you feel comfortable to ask for help when you need it, 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 have a think about what mark do you want to leave behind, starting today and starting now. We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone, and founder's day is a perfect opportunity to start reflecting and improve what we do. You are all special in your own ways, which makes our school wonderful. Knowing who you are, recognizing your strengths and following your heart. You will make your unique mark by being yourself. The real you is the greatest thing to leave to the others.

In the end, I would like to thank you all. Thank you for being you and being unique, for leaving your special mark in the school that make us know that are so many amazing people around. Thank you for all the encouragement and support you give in this community which means no one is alone. Thank you for giving us a chance to meet you and make our lives richer and more exciting. Thank you for leaving your mark in each one of our lives 😊