FAREWELL SPEECH

FOR

NOOR OSMAN

Hello friends, family, students, teachers, administrators and distinguished guests. Today we celebrate the man and acknowledge the wonderful work and legacy of one of our best, Mark Quek. Hopefully, Mark is only **temporarily** hanging up his dictionary, thesaurus and incredible gift of caring, compassion and knowledge after thirty five years as an insightful teacher and the guiding light of our English program. I am fairly certain that Mark agrees that no matter where one is in life, the learning never stops. Thanks to Mark, I’m sure many you have a much deeper sense of the complexities of the English language, and in turn, a greater window onto the world because of that.

Although it’s been said that for every person who wants to teach, there are about thirty people who might **NOT** want to learn much, I don’t think that’s necessarily the case here!! (**Say this with enthusiasm and wait for the laugh**) Mark has been in the teaching service for thirty-five years, sharing his knowledge, wisdom and passion for life and knowledge with students in various schools, working in different capacities to spread the joy of discovery and understanding. He’s a real team player and his influence and inspiration go way beyond his classroom! He has been a member of the Music Interest Group conducting school music lessons. He has carefully and lovingly done the commitment garden for his class. He inspires us to look at the world in new and different ways through his love of beautiful things, and as he carefully and artistically participates in flower arrangement competitions, he does the same for all of those who meet him. His compassion and dedication have really motivated students to learn and grow, and I don’t mean just here at school. Think of how many people can now argue in English thanks to Mark’s devotion to the language!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

All jokes aside, Mark has planted many seeds of knowledge and understanding and has really had a tremendous effect on so many people in our community and ultimately throughout the world. We are saddened to lose such a positive influence in our daily lives, but Mark’s legacy is much greater than can be contained within this structure. (**Turn to Mark and say**) Congratulations Mark! May the next phase of your career be exciting, insightful and all you want it to be. We look forward to hearing about your new adventures and milestones and we guarantee you that we will all continue to be inspired by all that you’ve taught us!! We wish you all of the best that you might ever want! Thank you!!