



**VJC PRINCIPAL'S THANK YOU SPEECH @ OVA GALA**  
**DINNER (SUNDAY, 8 MAR 2009 AT RITZ CARLTON**  
**BALLROOM)**

Once again, a very Good Evening to Mr Dhanabalan, our Guest-Of-Honour, Mr Vernon Teo, President of the OVA Council, Council members, Mr Chiang Chie Foo, Vice-Chairman of the VEC/VAC, VEC/VAC members, all Victorians, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the staff and students, I wish to thank the OVA for the support you have given to the school since its beginning in 1984. Over the years, the OVA has put in place various initiatives to support the efforts of the school - scholarships for students to recognize both academic and non academic excellence, awards for good teachers who remain loyal and dedicated to their profession, and special events like the Victorians Day. Early last year, when Vernon and his council members learned that VJC is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, they immediately assured me that they would raise funds for the schools. Tonight's Gala Dinner is a solid quality outcome that would not have been possible if not for the commitment of the OVA and its members to the Victorian Family.

Yes, VJC has turned 25! On the year of our birthday, I take great pride to report that amongst the many outstanding achievements in Academic Value-Addedness, Aesthetics, Sports, and Physical Fitness, the Singapore Quality Class Award; the College has also been awarded the School Excellence Award, the apex award for Singapore schools, by the Ministry of Education, in 2007.

So Victorians, let's celebrate! VIVA LA Victoria, LONG LIVE Victoria is the theme. For those of you, who are interested in the aesthetics, do join us in any of the 11 concerts, musicals and drama presentations. The venue for all these performances, except for the Symphony of Voices by the Choir, is at the College's Performance Theatre. Our Choir will be performing at the Esplanade. As our gift to the fraternity, we will also be organising a Teachers' Conference focusing on social innovations and multi and inter-disciplinary studies as its theme. The celebrations will culminate in the Homecoming Dinner on our new soccer pitch on Saturday, 25 July 2009. His Excellency, the President of Singapore, Mr Nathan, has been invited to be the GOH.

By now, you would have been approached by VJC's students to part with your money to support some of these events. While fund raising is not the primary reason for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, as any street-smart Victorian would, we are seizing the opportunity. Additional funds are needed to maintain the 8 year-old Performance Theatre and to help needy students. With your kind permission for a commercial, let me suggest that perhaps one relatively easy way to help us in these lean times is to have just one special meal at any of the Jumbo Seafood restaurants and make payment in VJC vouchers anytime this year. With the generous support of a VJ parent, Mr Ang Kiam Meng, the boss of Jumbo Seafood Restaurants, 40% of all proceeds will go to the VJC Development Fund. May be you could consider using these vouchers for your corporate functions, as corporate gifts? If you did not bring enough cash or do not have a cheque book tonight, you could buy these vouchers at the Jumbo restaurants directly as you settle your bills.

With support from stakeholders like the OVA, together with the estimated 20, 000 VJC graduates out there; I am certain that VJC will continue to scale greater heights. The world of the future will continue to demand for innovative people with abundant energy to persevere and push the envelope. The current global economic crisis is indicative of the fact that a mere recognition of challenges in this increasingly complex and

integrated world is not enough. To adequately prepare present and future Victorians who pass through our portal, VJC needs a bold vision to reinvent and an openness to re-look at our “tried and tested” ways of doing things.

Tonight, once again, I sense the high energies that reside in Victorians. With your unwavering commitment to the Victorian Family, how could we not excel?

NIL SINE LABORE.