

With perseverance, we soar high

Good morning, teachers and students. This year, our school theme is “With perseverance, we soar high”. To echo this school theme, I have shared with you a number of people who are good examples of perseverance. We can really learn a lot of good lessons from them. They include Thomas Edison, Michael Jordan and Steve Jobs. Today, let me give you a brief summary of the deeds of the three great men, so that we can learn more about perseverance and hard work.

As a role model of perseverance, these people share several similarities and characteristics. Firstly, all of them have faced a lot of difficulties in their life time. They were almost beaten by great challenges. For example, Thomas Edison was nearly deaf; he could hardly hear anything. But can you imagine Edison is the inventor of the recording machine? Michael Jordan has also faced a lot of difficulties. He shared that he had missed more than 9000 shots in his career. He has also lost almost 300 games. He has failed over and over and over again in his life. Similarly, Steve Jobs also faced a lot of difficulties. In 2003, he discovered that he had cancer. He died in 2011 following a long battle with cancer.

The second similarity of the above people is: they have overcome difficulties and challenges, and they are successful in their career. For example, Thomas Edison was the father of inventions, and examples of his inventions include the light bulb, motion pictures, recording machine and X-ray machine. Edison had 1,093 U.S. Patents and 2,332 patents worldwide. Michael Jordan is extremely successful in the field of basketball. He is in fact regarded as the greatest basketball player of all time. He made NBA of the United States popular around the world in the 1980s and 1990s. Michael Jordan has also gained a reputation for being one of the best defensive players in basketball. His unbelievable leaping ability earned him the nickname Air Jordan. His individual accomplishments include six NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards, and nine All-Defensive First Team honors. Similarly, Steve Jobs had overcome a lot of difficulties and was extremely successful in his career. Steve Jobs was a successful inventor, designer and entrepreneur. He was the founder of Apple Computers. Under his guidance, the Apple Company introduced a series of

revolutionary technologies, including the Macbook, iPhone, iPod and iPad.

Then comes the third similarity of the above people. All of them emphasize the importance of perseverance, the “never give up spirit” and hard work. And this is in fact the major reason for their success. Thomas Edison’s famous wise sayings on perseverance and hard work include: First, “Never get discouraged if you fail. Learn from it. Keep trying.” Do not give up. Second, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." In other words, even when Edison failed 10,000 times, he didn’t think that he had failed; he just thought that he had learned 10,000 ways that didn’t work. Third, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." In other words, when we give up, it is really a great pity, because if we persist and take one more step, we’ll walk into “success”. Fourth, "There is no substitute for hard work." Nothing can substitute for hard work. Even talent cannot substitute for hard work. Similarly, Michael Jordan was successful because he also emphasized the importance of perseverance and hard work. His famous wise sayings include: First, “I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.” Second, “I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come.” Third, “Be true to the game, because the game will be true to you. If you try to shortcut the game, then the game will shortcut you. If you put forth the effort, good things will be bestowed upon you. That's truly about the game, and in some ways that's about life too.” Similarly, Steve Jobs says, “Sometimes when you innovate, you make mistakes. It is best to admit them quickly, and get on with improving your other innovations.” In other words, keep on trying and never give up.

In conclusion, boys and girls, learn from Thomas Edison, Michael Jordan and Steve Jobs the importance of perseverance and hard work. With perseverance, we soar high. In the Bible, Romans Chapter 5 Verses 3-4, Apostle Paul says, “suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (羅馬書 5:3-4 「患難生忍耐，忍耐生老練，老練生盼望」). In other words, Apostle Paul focuses on the importance of perseverance. Perseverance can produce good character, and good character can produce hope. With such a hope, we are not afraid and we can work with strength and power.