

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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SMESA AGM 2024

SMESA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, 27 April 2024, at our familiar setting in St. Margaret's School (Secondary). The AGM buzzed with heartwarming stories, exciting school updates, and a touch of mindfulness!

Our SMESA President, Ms Chew Siew Kheng, opened the AGM by extending a warm welcome and expressing her deepest appreciation to the attending members. Following this, Ms Suraja led us in an opening prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness in guiding SMESA through 2023.

Ms Chew delivered an inspiring President's Report for 2023. She shared heartwarming stories of the SMESA's support for our alma mater, and the association's outreach efforts.

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UPCOMING EVENT(S)

- 182nd Anniversary Celebration Lunch – 16 November, to be held in SMS(S). Details to be released later.

SMESA Newsletters will be distributed in soft copies. Hard copies are available upon request only.

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SMESA AGM

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Ms Chew highlighted SMESA's various initiatives, including the SMESA Speaker Series, and the association's support at the SMS(S) Professional Guidance Day and Work Attachment & Job Shadowing Programme. Ms Chew also proudly presented updates on the schools' achievements, including the SMS(P) PSLE 2023 Results, as well SMS(S) N & O Level Results. She also highlighted the ongoing efforts to support the PERI Upgrading at SMS(P).



The meeting concluded with the election of office bearers for the term 2024/2026, setting the stage for another fantastic year ahead.

The AGM was not just about business; it also featured a fun Zentangle activity led by Corina. We had a great time partaking in the Mindfulness activity, followed by enjoying a time of food and camaraderie, catching up with other members.



Thanks to all members for making the AGM a memorable and enjoyable occasion. Here's to another year of friendship, support, and shared experiences!

(Written by Ms Hazel Peh)

Presenting SMESA Board Members 2024 - 2026



ST. MARGARET'S EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Board Members 2024/2026



1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
Lee Mian Jun



PRESIDENT
Chew Siew Kheng



2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
Natasha Zhao Ai Zhu

OFFICE BEARERS



HON. SECRETARY
Irene Fong Wei Wei



ASST. HON. SECRETARY
Hannah Loh Yun Lei



HON. TREASURER
Lenny Riyanti



ASST. HON. TREASURER
Lina Wee Mei Ling

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Lee Soo Kwan



Pamela Rachel Kwan
Ka Foong



Brenda Lan Shu Mei



Susan M Wijaya



Juliana Tenggara

HONORARY AUDITORS



Pixie Ho Pik Yew



Hui Choon Wai

CO-OPTED MEMBERS



Olga Bessarab



Joy Gillian Quek



Hazel Peh Huiqi

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

No	Member	SMPS	SMSS
1.	Parmmeet Kaur	1999	2003
2.	Loy Wen Lin	2003	-

SMESA MEMBERSHIPS

We offer both Life membership and Youth membership.

For further details, please visit our website:
<http://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>

SMESA Speaker Series 2024

Ms Trudy Zhang (Class of 2003)

This year's SMESA Speaker Series was held on 3 May at SMS(S).

The girls had the privilege to hear from **Ms Trudy Zhang (Class of 2003)**, Founder & Creative Director of Poptsie Paper Co. Her journey, weaving creativity and compassion, left the audience spellbound. From her exquisite designs to her role as Senior Corporate Communications Officer at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Trudy's stories illuminated the strength and resilience of the human spirit, especially during the challenging times of COVID-19.



Student Reflections

"I FEEL INSPIRED TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO WORK HARD TOWARDS MY GOALS NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT MAY BE AFTER HEARING FROM MS TRUDY ZHANG. I LEARNT THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE EASILY DISCOURAGED BY SETBACKS IN OUR LIVES BUT INSTEAD CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR DREAMS AND GOALS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE FULFILLMENT IN OUR LIVES."

(FROM GENEVIEVE, SEC 4)

"I LEARNT TO BE A MORE PERSEVERING PERSON BECAUSE MS TRUDY ZHANG DID NOT GIVE UP AND SHE GOT HER DREAM BUSINESS AND FLOURISHED WELL. I ALSO WANT TO BE A MORE COMPASSIONATE PERSON, AND NOT ONLY SYMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS, BUT DO SOMETHING FOR THEM TO MAKE THEM FEEL LOVED AND WORTHY."

(FLORENCE ONG, SEC 1)

SMS(S) 182nd Speech and Prize-Giving Day

St. Margaret's School (Secondary) celebrated its 182nd Speech and Prize-Giving Day on 17 May 2024. As a first-time attendee of the event, I immediately sensed the buzz of excitement and joy from students, teachers and parents alike upon walking into the school gates. We were greeted by polite student leaders who lined up along the route to the school hall.

The theme for the event this year was *Where Hearts Flourish and Blossoms Unfold* - and it was clear why. Besides the students receiving their awards for their stellar academic achievements, guests were also treated to the enthralling sights and sounds of the school's Band, Chinese Dance, Malay Dance, and Choir performances, showcasing how our students have grown and bloomed through their time in the school. It was also especially heartwarming to hear the roaring cheers when staff members were awarded Long Service and Outstanding Contribution Awards as the school community came together to celebrate the achievements of not just their students, but also their staff.



As the Most-Improved Student in the GCE-O Level Examination, Top GCE-O Level Examination, and All-Round Student/ Dean Dumper Trophy Recipient in 2023, Valedictorian Ms Clara Chua expressed her appreciation and highlighted significant moments in her educational journey in her speech. The evening concluded with a sumptuous dinner in the canteen with the celebratory bustle of proud parents/teachers and students alike. To God be the glory!



SMS(S) 182nd Speech and Prize-Giving Day: Valedictorian Speech

Ms Chua Hsin-Wen Clara, Valedictorian of Class 2023, began by reminiscing about her fond memories at St. Margaret's, expressing gratitude for the support and lessons she received.

She acknowledged the significant influence of the school on her personal growth, transforming from a timid girl into a confident individual. She extended heartfelt thanks to various groups:



- ✧ **Parents and Family:** For their unwavering support, sacrifices, and encouragement, particularly in her interest in running.
- ✧ **School Leaders and Teachers:** For their dedication, commitment, and efforts in creating a nurturing learning environment, providing holistic education, and preparing students for their O-level examinations.
- ✧ **Other School Staff:** Including cleaners, canteen vendors, security guards, and administrative staff for ensuring a conducive study environment.
- ✧ **CCA Mates and Teachers-in-charge:** Specifically, the Girl Guides, for helping her develop leadership skills, confidence, and discipline, and for the support from her fellow Exco members.

In her speech, she continued to express appreciation for her classmates, highlighting the camaraderie and support they provided each other through challenging times. She wished them success in their future endeavors and encouraged the graduating class of 2024 to manage their anxiety, maintain a balance, and believe in their abilities during their preparation for national exams. She emphasized that grades do not determine personal value.

The speech concluded with best wishes for St. Margaret's continued success in nurturing future generations.

SMS(S) Student Council Commendation Ceremony

On the 24th of April, St. Andrew's Cathedral was the setting for an unforgettable afternoon, where the atmosphere was imbued with joy and pride as the Student Council members showcased their dedication and leadership.

The Student Council Commendation Ceremony was a highlight of the day, beginning with a captivating choir performance that set a harmonious tone for the events to follow. The audience was enthralled as the choir's melodies filled the cathedral, creating a perfect prelude to the commendations.

Throughout the ceremony, the Student Councillors took the stage to express their heartfelt gratitude. They acknowledged the unwavering support of their parents, teachers, and friends, who have been the pillars of their journey. Their words of appreciation highlighted the collective effort and encouragement that have been crucial to their development as leaders.

A particularly moving moment of the ceremony was when the Councillors performed "Write Your Story" using sign language. This performance was not only a visual and auditory delight but also a profound reminder of the essence of servant leadership. The lyrics of the song resonated deeply with everyone present, echoing the qualities of empathy, dedication, and humility that the student leaders embody.

In deep appreciation of their leadership and dedicated service, the outgoing Student Councillors were presented with service trophies sponsored by SMESA. We, at SMESA, extend our blessings and best wishes to the incoming student leaders. May the Lord guide them as they serve the student body with integrity and passion!



SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2024**President**

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Ms Lee Mian Jun

2nd Vice-President

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Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Hannah Loh Yun Lei

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Lenny Riyanti

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

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Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata

Layout Artist

Ms Juliana Tenggara

Advisors

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Ms Lee Soo Kwan

Ms Chew Siew Kheng

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**SMS(P) PERI-Upgrading Project
Donation Appeal**

Support is greatly appreciated to help complete this important Project.

The project began in 2020 but was halted due to the COVID pandemic and the contractor's insolvency. A re-tender increased the Project costs from \$24.5 million to \$54.4 million. Although the School had raised sufficient funds for the original costs by 2021, the re-tender's increased costs now require the School to raise an additional \$3.2 million, with \$1.84 million still needed.

As of April 2024, \$2,783,236 has been raised, leaving a **shortfall of \$412,000** to meet the commitment to complete the Project by June/July 2024.

Donations can be made to the School Building Fund via PayNow using the school's **UEN T07GS5013E** or by scanning the provided QR code. Please include name and contact number for administrative and tax receipt purposes. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a tax receipt, and all donations will benefit from 2.5 times tax exemption against income tax.



Provide your contact number and Name