



# ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT

A Publication of St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

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## COMING EVENTS

**SMESA Singalong**

Saturday, 2 July 2016

Time: 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

RSVP to smesa.sg@gmail.com

**SMSS Speech and Prize Giving Day**

Friday, 22 July 2016

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: School Hall

**SMPS Concert - Almost Fairy Tales**

Saturday, 13 August 2016

Time: 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Venue: Kallang Theatre

Tickets: \$40, \$35, \$25, \$20

Contact SMPS at Tel: 6339 4247 for tickets

**Visit to**

**St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged**

Saturday, 8 October 2016

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Blk 341, Clementi Ave 5, #01-148

## ▼ SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service



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BY LEE SOO KWAN

The sun shone brightly on 15 April for SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service at St. Andrew's Cathedral. The service started at 2.30pm with the singing of the beautiful hymn, Be Thou My Vision. As the hymn was sung, the prefects, new and graduating, entered the Cathedral with Principal Lee Lin Yee accompanied by Bishop Kuan Kim Seng who was officiating the Service and Revd Barry Leong, the School's Chaplain.

The sense of honour and responsibility was felt by everyone during the service, especially when the incoming prefects were called to receive their badges of office and to wear them 'in the service of God and of St. Margaret's Secondary School'. Parents/ grandparents watched their beloved daughters/ granddaughters with great pride, yet knowing the responsibilities their loved ones are taking on their small shoulders.

(Cont'd on Pg 4)

01 SMSS Prefects with Bishop Kuan Kim Seng who officiated at the Prefects Commendation Ceremony.



## SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2016/2017

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# PRESIDENT WRITES...

## We Are Family

We had our AGM on 9 April. It was an AGM which, I felt, received true blessings and tremendous support. It was an AGM where we needed a quorum to vote on the amendments to our constitution, the most important of which was to admit our graduating students as Youth members.

It was a good turnout of members and ex-students. Those who could not come appointed their proxies for the meeting. We had a quorum. It was a great AGM.

At the tea after the AGM, several guests, including Principal Lee Lin Yee (SMSS), Vice-Principal Alison Ang (SMPS) and our Associate Members joined us for a time of fellowship. It was a time to catch up, a time to find out, a time to reach out. Before leaving, several of them said to me, 'Call me when you need help', 'Let me know ...'.

Walking through the canteen on my way to the AGM, I met Mrs Lucy Seet, Subject Head (Literature) at SMSS and her daughter, Dawn, who graduated from SMSS in 2011. When I mentioned to Dawn that we hoped more of our younger ex-students would come forward to support our work in SMESA, she agreed to do so without hesitation.

Principal Lee is always looking out for ex-students and very supportive of SMESA. Knowing that we would need large screens for a function later in the year, she messaged me the contact details of a company. Principal Pang Wee Mian and her staff at SMPS helped us when we were looking for information to honour our pioneer teachers and principals for our 173<sup>rd</sup> anniversary celebrations last year.

On a more personal note, when Mum went home to be with our Lord earlier this year, several members of the St Margaret's extended family messaged me or came to be with us during our time of loss and grief.

Yes, the love, care, concern and support we have for one another whether in times of joy, sadness or need make us truly ONE FAMILY. Family is not always blood. It is the people we care for and cherish in our lives.

All of us who walk through the gates of St Margaret's are truly blessed with such a Family - whoever we are, whatever we are. Someone once said, 'Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts'. We love them all! We call on all ex-students to connect with us at SMESA and 'Rejoice with your family in the beautiful land of life' as Albert Einstein had said. That's St Margaret's!

All Blessings,  
Lee Soo Kwan



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ▼ SMPS Concert



Featuring performances by the performing arts' groups of SMPS, as well as the Primary One and Two pupils, *Almost Fairy Tales* will bring you on a journey through real and imaginary lands. Are the characters doomed or will they escape their fate? Attend the concert to find out!

## ▼ New Associate Members

Our Constitution permits us to invite parents of current and past students of the School who have rendered valuable services to the School to join SMESA as Associate members. Welcome Samantha Lee and Jesamin Koh to our Associate Membership.

Samantha had served PSG for 7 years in various portfolios such as Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. She helped the School to plan and organise various activities such as the Teachers' Day Dinner and the School's Appreciation Tea for its partners.

Jesamin had served PTA for 10 years. She assisted the School Library, Science Lab, Art class and CCA activities and also took charge of student workshops. She also helped in organising many activities for SMPS such as the Green Dot Day, Children's Day and Teachers' Day celebrations.

## ▼ New Members

We welcome aboard the following new members! We look forward to seeing you at our activities during the year.

### Life Members

Ms Jenny Lee	• SMSS 1981	Ms Jinny Kok Yin Ying	• SMPS 1995	• SMSS 1999
Ms Susan Merahwati Wijaya	• SMSS 1981	Lee Zhuoxin	• SMPS 1995	• SMSS 1999
Ms Irene Tan Ai Leng	• SMSS 1984	Cheryl Lum Shuyi	• SMPS 1995	• SMSS 1999
Ms May Lim Yen Ling	• SMPS 1989	Ms Zandra Yuen Wai Yin	• SMPS 1996	
Ms Tina Chia Lay Ling	• SMPS 1982	Ms Vanitha d/o Paneerselvam		• SMSS 1998
Ms Winnie Teo Hwee Li	• SMPS 1988			
Ms Karen Teo Mei Ling	• SMPS 1988			
Ms Vivian Tham	• SMPS 1989			
	• SMSS 1995			



## SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service

(Cont'd from Pg 1)

The graduating prefects each received the School Service Award Trophy, as a token of appreciation, which was sponsored by SMESA.

Guest Speaker, Julie Hiramine from The Generations of Virtue Ministry, Colorado, spoke on 'Being Godly Leaders' and the three attributes of 'being courageous and doing your best', 'servant leadership' and 'having grace', with a reminder 'to do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God'. This is the refrain from "You Have Shown Us" by Martin Smith & Paul Baloche, sung by the prefects during the Service.

The Service ended with the recessional hymn Give of Your Best to The Master, an inspiring hymn reminding us that 'Jesus has set the example' and we are to give Him first place in our hearts, give our best to the Master and give the strength of our youth.

At the tea reception after the service, proud parents, grandparents and prefects had a meaningful time of fellowship with guests, Principal Lee, Vice-Principal Tan King Ming, representatives from the School Management Committee and School partners. SMESA President Lee Soo Kwan was present.



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01 SMESA President Lee Soo Kwan with Prefect Charlotte and her parents, Mr & Mrs Loy.

## SMSS CHARITY CONCERT: CHARITY • PATIENCE • DEVOTION

"Charity • Patience • Devotion" that was the title of St. Margaret's Secondary School's concert held on 1 and 2 April 2016 at the School Hall.

BY PIXIE HO

It was a biennial charity concert performed by the students from its Performing Arts Co-Curriculum Activities, namely, String Ensemble, Choir, the Malay, Chinese, Indian and Modern Dance troupes and English Drama.

Mr Wong Siew Hoong, Director-General of Education, was the Guest-of-Honour on the occasion. The School also invited residents from 3 blocks of flats at Ghim Moh which the School has adopted, to attend the Concert.

The School would be donating the proceeds of the Concert to the North West Student Support Fund of the North West Community Development Council. The Fund is for helping "to provide upstream education and development programmes to increase the social mobility of students from low income families".

Principal Mdm Lee Lin Yee, in her message for the Concert, penned that the School "continue to live out the school motto which our founders exemplified by action." She further said that "Today's concert allows... our students to use their talents to serve others."

When the curtains came down on those 2 evenings, it was a rousing applause for the students for giving such a sterling performance!



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01 Arrival of Guest of Honour Mr Wong Siew Hoong

02 The English drama group

03 Sitting in the front row, some of the guests from the 3 Ghim Moh flats which the School has adopted.

04 Modern Dance

05 Chinese Dance troupe



# SMESA SPEAKER SERIES

We were delighted to have alumna Ms Wahyuni Hadi return to be the 6th speaker in our SMESA Speaker Series on 22 January 2016. Her topic was, "Creating your own benchmark for success". It was a frank and inspiring sharing of her educational journey and career milestones, where she encouraged the girls to follow their heart and pursue their passion.

By LEE HOON HWEE

Yuni, as she is known to her friends, enrolled in St. Margaret's Primary School in 1983, and graduated from St. Margaret's Secondary School in 1992. She is a film producer, author and curator specialising in the management of film and media projects.

She was the co-producer of *Ilo Ilo*, the first Singapore film to win the prestigious Camera d'Or at the 66th Cannes Film Festival and winner of four Golden Horse Awards. Including Best Feature Film.

She has been Executive Director of the Singapore International Film Festival since 2013. She has been a senior programmer at The Substation, where she created milestone film programmes, and was Editor of its arts publication *Substance*. From 2010 to 2012, she curated the dance film section of the Singapore Arts Festival.

In 2010, Ms Hadi was named one of Female Magazine's "50 Most Inspiring Women" and in 2014, she was the winner in the Arts and Media category of the "Great Women of Our Time Awards" organised by The Singapore Women's Weekly.



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## 10 Questions for Ms Hadi

### Professional Life

#### *Q1. Did you dream of becoming someone famous?*

I don't think we had the consciousness of today's kids back then of what fame is. We didn't have YouTube stars and access to celebrities on a daily basis. In my early teens, I joined the editorial team because I dreamt of being a writer. I also wanted to be a poet and dye my hair blue.

#### *Q2. Has your career path progressed as planned?*

I could have never known there was such a job as being a film curator. It's not something we were exposed to. In my late teens after I started studying in Lasalle College of the Arts, I did a lot of part time jobs and internships available to students and that gave me a lot of exposure to what kinds of jobs were out there. I did stints with an ad agency, a museum, helped in a conference. Those were all great ways to learn and also helped with extra pocket money.

#### *Q3. How would you advise the girls about making career choices?*

I mentor many young female interns and I try to encourage that confidence to find their strengths, work on their weaknesses and find an environment where they can be their best selves. Be open to trying new things if you are not sure what you want to do. In our Asian society, it's also good to learn how to speak up and learn to navigate a difficult situation. Don't be afraid of failure as there's always a lesson to be learnt and have the courage to pick yourself up to try again.

#### *Q4. What drives you to achieve your career goals?*

We had a time in the 70s and 80s where we didn't really have any Singapore films, so I don't take that for granted. I'm a proud promoter of local talents and have been dedicated to building an audience through film literacy programmes. This is the only way we can have a future for Singapore cinema.

#### *Q5. Who is your role model in your field of work?*

When I just graduated from Lasalle College, I wanted to work at the Jim Henson Company and wrote to them. I really value people with originality and heart. On the local front, theatre doyen Kuo Pao Kun has inspired me as well.

### Schooldays

#### *Q1. Did you choose to attend St. Margaret's Secondary School?*

I came from SMPS so it was an obvious choice for me. This has allowed me to have the same friends since I was 6 years old.

#### *Q2. What are the values you learnt in St. Margaret's that have guided you so far?*

I would say that I learnt more from some individual teachers and I felt connected to an environment that valued creativity and self-expression so I think I sought that kind of space out in ECAs like the English LDDS.

#### *Q3. Which teacher(s) left an impression on you?*

My Lit teacher Ms Lo and head of English LDDS Ms Noraini (who's still teaching at SMSS) had a lot of life in them and showed me a glimpse of life outside the classroom. They were excited to be teaching us and were always full of joy. That kind of enthusiasm is very contagious and inspiring to a teenager.

#### *Q4. Were you and your classmates eager to share about your ambitions?*

We didn't have as much exposure to the different careers available to you back then and much of the talk was about which school/ JC one would go to.

#### *Q5. Is there an unforgettable incident (or several incidents) that make(s) you cherish your schooldays?*

When I was in Sec 4, there was a day where teachers wore uniforms and students wore normal clothes. It may have happened only once or twice but it was really fun and somehow allowed teachers to show more of their personality so we got some insight into who they were - I have lots of photos from that day and remember it fondly.

01 Ms Hadi flanked by Principal Mdm Lee Lin Yee (on the right) and (L-R) Dr Lee Hoon Hwee, Pamela Kwan, Theingi and VP Mrs Annie Lim.

02 SMSS graduating students attending the talk.



# SMESA AGM 2016

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the IT Conference Room, St Margaret's Secondary School on 9 April 2016.

By BRIDGET CHOY

As there was a quorum, the Meeting started at 2.15 p.m. Serious matters in the Agenda which included the proposed amendments to the Constitution were conducted and followed by the election of office-bearers for 2016/2017.

Amongst other things, the proposed amendments to the Constitution is to admit a new category of membership, called the Youth Membership. The purpose of creating this membership is to provide an opportunity for the graduating students to be bonded with the School as soon as they have finished their education in the School

After the serious business in the Agenda were dealt with, we had fellowship with old and new members amidst delicious food.

It was indeed pleasant to see senior members such as Dr Luisa Lee, Letticia Chan, Dr Anamah Tan, Mary Soo and many others whom we have not met for many years attending the Meeting. We were also grateful that SMSS Principal Mdm Lee Lin Yee, SMPS VP Ms Alicia Ang, teacher Ms A K Lim and our Associate members, Marjorie Tay, Betty Chai and Jesamin Koh came for the fellowship.

Do join us for the fellowship and sumptuous food next year!



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01 President Lee Soo Kwan conducting the AGM



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02 R-L: Bridget Choy, Marjorie Tay, SMESA President Lee Soo Kwan, SMSS Principal Mdm Lee Lin Yee & Betty Chai

The following members were elected in their respective positions:-

President:	Lee Soo Kwan
1st Vice-President:	Jennie Bek Poh Kiang
2nd Vice-President:	Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong
Honorary Secretary:	Ho Lian Geok
Assistant Honorary Secretary:	Hui Choon Wai
Honorary Treasurer:	Chan Lai Ching
Assistant Honorary Treasurer:	Mary Soo Poh Hua
Committee Members:	Choy Wai Fong Bridget Ho Pik Yew Pixie Brenda Lan Shumei May Lim Yen Ling Joy Gillian Quek Monica Lau Loh Geok Chin Vanitha d/o Paneerselvam Theingi Wint Wint Soe Yong Mee Lan Tay Ren Jee Renata
Honorary Auditors:	
Co-Opted Members:	