

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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

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COMING EVENTS

- Teachers' Day Dinner**
Friday, 16 August 2013
Venue: Conrad Centennial Hotel
- SMPS Green Dot Day**
Saturday, 31 August 2013
Venue: St. Margaret's Primary
A mini funfair to be held from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm
- SMESA Popiah Party**
Saturday, 28 August 2013
Venue: Learning Lab, St. Margaret's Secondary
Members: Free • Non-members: \$10/person
- St. Margaret's 171st Anniversary Dinner**
Saturday, 16 November 2013
Venue: St. Margaret's Secondary School Hall
Form a table with your classmates and come join us for this annual nostalgic event.
For ticketing details, please see attached Purchase Order Form.
- Celebration of St. Margaret's Day**
Friday, 15 November 2013
Venue: St. Andrew's Cathedral
Church service to be held at 11am

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to welcome all new members of the Board and also thank all our old faithfuls who have shaped and supported SMESA through the years.

Our Secondary School held her 171st Speech Day on 26th July. Mrs Marion Tan reported the stellar performance of the School in all areas from the academia to the arts and CCA. The last "O" Levels examinations produced results that qualified 98.5% of our express stream students for JC/MI and 98% for Polytechnics. 72.9% of Normal students qualified for JC/MI and 84.7% qualified for Polytechnics.

In the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging 2013, all our eight participating teams received Distinction Awards. Bravo, SMSS!

The Primary School will hold her Speech Day in November. Our pupils produced excellent results in the last PSLE. The percentage of A/A* exceeded the national average in English, Mathematics, Science and Tamil.

We are proud of the schools. Congratulations!!

Coming up, Teachers' Day will be celebrated at the Conrad Centennial Hotel with the theme, *An Enchanted Pink Night*. We will be holding our annual St. Margaret's Day Dinner at the Secondary School hall on 16th November. Let's put on our hats and party!

Do come and catch up with the rest of the St Margaret's family.

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2013/2014

President

Dr. Lee Hoon Hwee

1st Vice President

Ms Lee Soo Kwan

2nd Vice President

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Honorary Secretary

Ms Ruby Lee Yen Kee

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Jessica Rebekah Leong

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Hui Choon Wai

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Jennie Bek Poh Kiang

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Ms Bridget Choy Wai Fong

Ms Ho Lian Geok

Ms Brenda Lan Shumei

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Ms Joy Gillian Quelk

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Ms Ruby Lee Yen Kee

Members

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Ms Ho Lian Geok

Ms Jessica Rebekah Leong

Advisor

Dr. Lee Hoon Hwee

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240

www.smesa.org.sg

enquiries@smesa.org.sg

Fax: (65) 6534 5127

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ Ministry of Education Service to Education Award

Dr Lee Hoon Hwee, President of SMESA, was awarded the MOE Service to Education Award at the St. Margaret's Secondary School Speech & Prize Giving Day on 26 July 2013. Hoon Hwee joined SMESA in 2009 and has been our President since 2010.

During her tenure as President of SMESA, Dr. Lee had, amongst other things, established the SMESA Speaker Series whereby ex-students who have excelled in their careers or fields of expertise were invited to encourage and inspire the secondary school students.

CONGRATULATIONS, Dr. Lee!



▼ Demise of Mrs Mary Cassim

Mrs Cassim passed away on 29 May 2013. She was the Principal of St. Margaret's Primary School from 1966 to 1987. Mrs Cassim was also an Honorary member of SMESA. Our heartfelt condolences to her family.



▼ Our New Members

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

Life Members

Ms April Lee Kim FOUNG Pickard
Ms Heng Hui Huang
Ms Irene Fong
Ms Michelle Cheng SOO Yuen
Ms Tay Soot Ching
Ms Jessica Wendy Grant
Ms Hong Yuet Ming
Ms Leena Rajan
Ms Pauline Phua
Ms Christina Tan Ling Ling
Ms Junezsa Elizabeth Wati Bataranata

- SMPS 1983
- SMPS 1983
- SMSS 1984
- SMSS 1984
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- SMSS 1985
- SMPS 1987
- SMPS 1987
- SMPS 1988 • SMSS 1992
- SMPS 1991 • SMSS 1995
- SMPS 1991 • SMSS 1996



SMESA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



01 By HUI CHOON WAI

We held SMESA's AGM this year on 20 April 2013 at the Secondary School IT Conference Room. We had a decent turnout of old and new members. After our President, Dr. Lee Hoon Hwee thanked the Board members who were stepping down after their year of service, formalities quickly swung into motion to vote in the new Board members.

After which, SMESA also presented the final cheque* of the \$58,606 which we raised for the Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS). This was presented to Ms Lucilla Teoh, Director, Corporate Communications, of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore.

The highlight of this annual event was, of course, the mingling and good "makan" after the formal proceedings. Refreshments were kindly contributed by members and the spread was delicious. There were familiar favourites that were requested every year and everyone looked forward to the new offerings to grow the favourites list!

We are happy to have new members on the Board and I hope that members will take the opportunity to get to know the new Board members by attending our activities in the coming year.



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01 Dr. Lee Hoon Hwee presenting the cheque to Ms Lucilla Teoh

02 Voting in of new Board members at the Annual General Meeting

*As part of our 170th "Blessed To Be A Blessing" celebrations, we raised in excess of \$250,000 for the SACS.



SMSS PREFECTS' COMMENDATION SERVICE

SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service was held at St Andrew's Cathedral on 19 April. The Right Reverend Rennis Ponniah, Bishop of Singapore, officiated the Service, assisted by Reverend Barry Leong, the School Chaplain and Deaconess June Tan.

BY LEE SOO KWAN

The Service commenced at 2.30 pm with the singing of the beautiful and inspirational hymn, *Be Thou My Vision* as the prefects, new and graduating, entered the Cathedral.

As the Service progressed, the feeling of honour and responsibility was very much felt by all at the Service especially when the incoming prefects were called to receive their badges of office. In receiving their badges, they pledged that they would 'by example and devotion help to lead and serve the School and uphold the good name of the School at all times' and to 'wear it in the service of God and of St Margaret's Secondary School'. The many parents/ grandparents present watched their daughters/ granddaughters with much love and pride, at the same time knowing the responsibilities their loved ones are taking on their small shoulders.

Deaconess June Tan encouraged the girls with her sermon on wisdom and quoting from Ecclesiastes 12:1 '*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth*'. She shared her personal journey with God – from knowing God in her childhood days, to slipping away from God (and going through a difficult period in her life) and finding God, our Creator again. Alleluia! Her life was then back on track! Deaconess June reminded us of the importance of our youth foundation and how it could impact us for the rest of our lives – strong or weak. Remember our Creator in our youth!

As in past years, the incoming prefects wore white ribbons on their hair and the graduating prefects wore green ones. I think this is a lovely tradition. Every prefect received a token of appreciation, the SMESA School Service Award, which was sponsored by SMESA.

The Service ended with the recessional hymn *Give of Your Best to The Master*, a most inspiring hymn reminding us that 'Jesus has set the example' and we are to give our best to the Master and give the strength of our youth. I left the Service praising God for our prefects.

01 Prefects singing *Be Thou My Vision* as they processed into the Cathedral

02 Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah officiating the Service and presenting the SMESA School Service Award to an outgoing prefect



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Parents, grandparents and guests were invited to a tea reception after the service. Principal Mrs Marion Tan and Vice-Principals, Mrs Yip-Chang Wai Fong and Mr Tan King Ming were there to meet all the guests. It was a wonderful time for fellowship and bonding. Representatives from the School's partners, SMESA and PSG were present. SMESA was represented by Pixie Ho and Lee Soo Kwan.



YOUTH WING RECRUITMENT TALKS



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Primary School

BY LEE MIAN JUN

Lee Mian Jun, Youth Representative of SMESA gave the annual recruitment talk to pupils of St. Margaret's Primary School on 15th July 2013. The cartoon-themed presentation was well received by the Primary Six girls as Mian Jun shared about SMESA and her time in SMPS. The 30-minute talk ended with the girls buzzing with excitement over the similarities they could draw between themselves and the speaker seven years their senior.

Secondary School

BY BELINDA BAY

Being at the school grounds brought back nostalgic memories of my high school days in St. Margaret's Secondary School. As I looked down from the stage, my heart felt an overwhelming love for the "O" and "N" level girls. My job today was to ensure that these girls continue to stay within our family.

Apart from the general introduction of myself, I made it a point to flash a picture or two of my days at SMSS in the 1980s. I spoke about the activities SMESA Youth Wing have organized and how if anyone on the floor would like to acquire some skills on organising activities, joining us would give them a good platform to start.

I stressed to the girls that "once you are a St. Margaret's girl, you will always be a St. Margaret's girl because we are one family unbroken". Whichever path they choose, whoever they turn out to be, we want to continue to be in touch with them. Thus, I encouraged them to say "YES" to being an alumna of St. Margaret's.

- 01 Primary Six students enjoying the cartoon-themed presentation
- 02 Lee Mian Jun sharing about SMESA's Youth Wing and her experience in SMPS
- 03 Belinda Bay encouraging Secondary 4 and 5 students to be a part of SMESA's Youth Wing

I shared with them about my experience of how I didn't make it a point to keep in touch with the girls at St. Margaret's or even join our ex-students' association because I was young then and it never crossed my mind that "staying in touch" would come to any use. In a twinkle of an eye, who would have thought that I would start a family and have a daughter? I went into a panic attack frantically looking for SMESA so I could ensure a spot for my girl. My advice to them today was, why not take up membership now than later because you never know when it will come in handy.

I ended my speech by closing off with a prayer of blessing to each girl.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "for I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." May my prayer come to pass for each and every student who were at the hall.



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Professor Lawrence Boo, Chairman of School Management Committee (SMC), began the ceremony by welcoming all present. He was very pleased to see the parents of students, who would be receiving prizes for their achievements academically and in their co-curriculum activities, gracing the occasion even though it was held on a weekday. He believed that this showed their support of the School.

He announced the appointments of two new Vice-Principals, Mr Tan King Ming and Ms Annie Lim, and the retirement of Vice-Principal, Mrs Yip-Chang Wai Fong who had served the School for 5½ years.

Next, Principal Mrs Marion Tan enlightened the proud parents, ex-students, staff and guests with a presentation of what the School and the students had achieved and attained in these three areas: Learning Thrust, Character and Aesthetics Developments. She also mentioned that five students achieved 8As, 13 students scored 7As, 31 scored 6As and 12 scored 5As in the GCE "O" Levels Examination, making it a total of 61 students who achieved 5As and above.

SMSS SPEECH & PRIZE GIVING DAY

The Secondary School held its 171st Speech & Prize Giving Day on 26 July 2013 in the School Hall. Lee Hoon Hwee, President of SMESA, Bridget Choy, Jennie Bek and I represented SMESA in attending the ceremony.

By PIXIE HO



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The Guest of Honour this year was none other than our very own ex-student from SMPS, Ms Kok Lee Kwang. She is the Deputy Director & Principal of Juvenile Homes cum Head of Education, Ministry of Social & Family Development.

Ms Kok spoke of the uniqueness of mission schools and that our girls were privileged to be in one of them. She also spoke of the power of scriptures and Christian songs, and shared with us some Christian songs and scriptures she had learnt whilst in schools (she also studied in a Christian Secondary School). She said that they had moulded her character and she had also found solace in them. She ended her speech by mentioning the heartbeat of our founder, Mrs Maria Dyer, i.e., *"To start a school for the education and nurture of these girls, that each may develop in body, soul and spirit, and be trained in righteousness to become a woman of God and be equipped for every good work."*

The presentation of prizes to the students followed Ms Kok's speech. The top student for GCE O'Level 2012 was Tay Jingyi, and the All-Round Student 2012 was awarded to Luk Ching. The Ex-Students' Association Trophy for Head Prefect was awarded to Bianca Tay Ying Tze and the SMESA Awards for the Arts (for Chinese Dance, Indian Dance, Malay Dance, Modern Dance, Choir, Drama, String Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Creative Art Club) were presented to Liew Siying, Shivangi Sharma, Hanna Dianah Bte Kamal, Pee Baoyu Vanessa, Lin Yuqi Eunice, Shereen Begam, Lai Jing Yi Vicky, Nataly Wijono and Arianna Toto, respectively.

Special prizes were also presented and Dr Lee Hoon Hwee, President of SMESA, received the Service to Education Award as a member of the School Management Committee. Congratulations, Hoon Hwee! The Valediction this year was delivered by Luk Ching, the All-Round Student 2012 recipient.

Finally, the ceremony ended with performances by members of the Chinese Dance, the String Ensemble and the Choir.

01 Bianca Tay Ying Tze receiving the Ex-Student's Association Trophy for Head Prefect

02 A recipient of the SMESA Award for the Arts

03 Luk Ching receiving the All-Round Student 2012, Dean Dumper and SMC Trophy Awards.

04 Performance by Chinese Dance

05 Ms Kok Lee Kwang delivering her speech



PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE DAY

I had enjoyed being part of the Professional Guidance Day two years ago so much so that when Pixie Ho asked me if I would like to give a talk with her again on 20 March 2013, I readily agreed.

BY RUBY LEE

As usual, we were greeted by excited students in the school hall, all eager and expectant. The joy and wonder on their faces when they saw us, ex-students and volunteers receiving our welcome, and thank you gifts energised me already.

The talks were very professionally organised. We were escorted to the rooms where the equipment were all set up for us. We were also provided with food and drinks! Pixie and I were pleased to have spoken to three batches of students. They were eager, curious and at the same time, anxious about their future. We were happy that the groups were not too small such that the students would feel intimidated, but not too large for the students to be able to speak up.



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Pixie and I gave the students an insight of being a lawyer, and the various options available to a student who undertakes the study of law. Many of the students were interested in law studies, and other law-related careers.

Although I was exhausted by the end of the three sessions, I would not hesitate to participate in the event again next year.

It was heartening to see speakers from other professions and walks of life, taking time to share their work experiences as well, such as Ms Vernetta Lopez and Mr Patwant Singh.

01 Lawyers Pixie Ho and Ruby Lee sharing their experiences on the legal profession

02 Local celebrity Vernetta Lopez sharing her experience as a Radio DJ, Actress and Wedding Planner.

03 Principal Mrs Marion Tan sitting with the speakers in the Hall.