

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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

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SMSS Student Council Commendation Service

Date: Friday, 20 April 2018
Venue: St Andrew's Cathedral

SMESA Speakers Series

Date: Tuesday, 22 May 2018
Time: 12 noon
Venue: SMSS School Hall
Speaker: Ms Jenny Chiam

SMPS Concert cum Green Dot Day 2018

Date: Saturday, 30 June 2018
Time: 4.00 p.m.
Venue: Kallang Theatre

SMSS Speech & Prize Giving Day

Date: Friday, 20 July 2018
Venue: SMSS School Hall

*(For enquires with regard to the
above events, please
e-mail us at:
smesa.sg@gmail.com)*



SMPS Concert Cum Green Dot Day 2018

St Margaret's Primary School is proud to present a concert entitled "**Yesterday Once More**". The concert, in celebration of the arts, will feature the school's performing arts groups that will be participating in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) in April. In addition, performances by different groups of pupils, including our lower primary pupils are included. The Guest of Honour for the concert is **Mrs Wong Hoe Eng**, who studied at the School in the 1930s and is an ex-teacher of the School.

Ticket Price:	Category 1:	\$40
	Category 2:	\$35
	Category 3:	\$25

Sales of Tickets: Please visit:

<http://stmargaretspri.moe.edu.sg/school-concert>

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PRESIDENT WRITES...



A Meaningful Journey

The past 3 years had been a meaningful journey for me. It was a time when I reconnect with several old friends and ex-students and met new ones in my quest to find supporters for our work at SMESA. It also gave me opportunities to meet a number of people from different professions and vocations - people who shared our vision to impart knowledge and experience especially to our students in our efforts to support the School in the holistic education for the children.

My life has been considerably enriched by several experiences during this journey. I was touched by the generosity of our members in their support of our activities by giving us their time and donations in kind. I was touched by the joy and smiles of the residents whom we visited at SAC Home for the Aged. I was particularly moved during one visit by the happy smile on a resident's face when she rediscovered her mobility skills after being persuaded to colour a picture. I was touched by the enthusiasm of the students when we visited them at the place of attachment under our Job-shadowing & Internship programme.

Life is about people rather than things. Frequently I walked away from visits or after an event, thinking we had given them only a couple of hours but our rewards are multiplied manifold. There were challenging times too but the experiences taught me to be always patient and to persevere.

When I took on the Presidency three years ago, my mission was to encourage more members to come forward to serve in our alumni association. There is much we can do for our members, our Alma Mater and the students and the community. New members will help bring forth new ideas. Three years on, I am extremely glad to report that several new members have come forward and agreed to be nominated for election to the Board at our coming AGM. I am confident that the new team will continue to make SMESA relevant and meaningful. *'Believe you can and you are half way there' by Theodore Roosevelt.*

May God bless the new team and the work we are doing at SMESA.

To God be all the praise and Glory!

Lee Soo Kwan

President

31.03.2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Newsletter, St Margaret's Connect

This is the first issue of our Newsletter published on a quarterly basis. We hope to bring up-to-date news of SMESA and the School to members. Do drop us a line at smesa.sg@gmail.com if you have any feedback regarding SMESA and the School.

Job-Shadowing Programme

SMSS will hold its job-shadowing programme from 18 to 22 June 2018 and another one from 05 to 30 November 2018. If members know of any organization who would take in students for short work attachment, please contact us at smesa.sg@gmail.com.

New Members

We welcome aboard the following new members:

	<u>SMPS</u>	<u>SMSS</u>
Jacqueline Chiang	2000	2005
Nanthini Gunasekaran	2000	2004
Liew Cheng May	1987	1991
Chua Yee Mei	1994	1998
Aaliyah Vani	1997	2001
Rachel Teow Chyuan Wei	1995	1999
Leong May En Amy	1998	-
Daphne Low	1989	1993
Alene Tay	1997	-
Sujatha Paramathayalan	1992	1996
Seraphina Teow	1997	2001
Lim Shi Man	-	2002
Rika Hidayat	1988	-

Corrigendum

We wish to correct the surname of Daisy at page 7 of our Newsletter Issue 44 under "Visit to Mrs Phyllis Chin", which should read as "Tai" and that Roland is her husband and not brother. We apologize for the errors.

TIT BITS

Chinese New Year Lo-hei

SMESA Board members held a *lo-hei* session for the Chinese New Year on 6 February 2018 at a Chinese Restaurant at Novotel Clarke Quay. The food was sumptuous. We had a great time doing something less serious together. We also celebrated our President Lee Soo Kwan's birthday. A special nonya birthday cake was made to celebrate the occasion.



Demise of Mrs Jasmine Saraswathy Balasingam

It is with great sadness for us to learn of the passing on of Mrs Balasingam on 9 March 2018 at age 90. She taught English, Art and Drama in SMSS from the 60s to the early 80s. She was a much loved teacher to many ex-students. Our heart and sympathies go to her family.

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE DAY

By : Ho Lian Geok

Professional Guidance Day was held on Friday, 5th of January, 2018. 20 presenters, which included ex-students from various walks of life, gave an overview of their jobs to our girls who are sitting for their "N" and "O" Level examinations at the end of this year. These professionals are from the fields of banking, business intelligence and analytics, civil defence, clinical psychology, dentistry, early childhood education, family medicine, fashion design, forensics, human resources, law, missionary faculty, nursing, paramedicine, technology start-up, trade union and veterinary science.



Ms Dawn Bey – Fashion Design



Ms Toh Hwee Tin – Trade Union



Ms Rachel Chai – Forensics



Dr Suraja Raman – Missionary Faculty



Ms Genevieve Lim – Civil Defence

SMESA assisted SMSS in getting speakers for this annual event which is part of the school's Education and Career Guidance Programme. We encourage ex-students to contact us if they are able to give a presentation to offer insights into their professions. This will help our students in planning for their post-secondary education.

Garage Sale - 25 March 2018

By : Hui Choon Wai

After a long hiatus, SMESA ran its garage sale stall at Bukit Timah Community Club on 25 March 2018.

We sold pre-owned and pre-loved items kindly donated by our members and friends. The most popular items on sale were handbags. These were sold as soon as they were displayed. Our next door stallholders also bought things from us. For instance, a vendor who sold wedding souvenir at his stall, bought a pair of wedding tea-cups from us to be resold at his stall. SMSS Principal Mdm Lee Yin Yee came by our stall and showed her support.

Compared with our previous garage sales, the crowd was thinner and sales were slower at this location. As such, the sale proceeds collected were much less than before. As before, the sale proceeds go to SMESA's General Fund. The unsold items were donated away.

Thanks to our members, Pixie, Joy, Lai Ching, Ren Jee and Choon Wai who helped out at the stall.



Our Garage Sale Stall



Our members (L-R), Lai Ching, Pixie, Ren Jee & mother & Choon Wai



Mdm Lee dropped by at our stall



A picture with SMSS Principal Mdm Lee in the centre



Let's have tea - By May Lim

An appreciation tea was hosted on 10 March for Alumna Awardees and new members. SMESA President Ms Lee Soo Kwan gave a brief introduction and update of SMESA's work followed by the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation and plaques to our members who partnered SMESA in support of our alma mater, a tour of the Heritage Gallery and fellowship over tea. We are heartened by the turnout of members and the support received. We look forward to connecting more ex-students to our Polka Dots!

Below are some comments from our new members:

"The Tea Appreciation was a good way to introduce us to SMESA and the activities organized for alumni. It was great to see the affinity that some of the alumni has for the school." - **May Liew (1987 SMPS / 1991 SMSS)**

"It was my first time meeting members of SMESA. I am very proud to be part of this alumni. It has definitely brought back many fond memories of my time in St Margaret's. I am looking forward to participate in any other future activities." - **Bettina Kam (2004 SMSS)**



Attendees at the Heritage Gallery



A group picture of the attendees



Soo Kwan presenting a plaque to Pixie



Attendees listening to Soo Kwan's presentation



Let's have tea Cont'd



SMESA 2nd VP Chew Siew Kheng (on the right) and some members enjoying the food



Soo Kwan presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Louisa Lee



Attendees at the Heritage Gallery



Extract from our First School Magazine
published in 1951

St. Margaret's School Magazine

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St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Assn.
c/o St. Margaret's School,
Sophia Road,
SINGAPORE, 9.
2.4.51

Ex-Students Assn. says "Hello"

We hope readers of our First School Magazine will be interested to know that we are still in existence. Here's our short but active history:

- 5th Feb. '49—
Inaugural Meeting.
65 Ex-students present.
Interim Committee formed.
- 12th Feb. '49—
Interim Committee Meeting.
Draft rules and regulations drawn up.
- 19th March—
Ordinary General Meeting.
Election of office-bearers 1949.
President—Miss J. Kilgour.
Vice-President—Mrs. Lee Siew Choh.
- 23rd April—
Committee Meeting.
- 7th May—
Association exempt from Registration.
- 4th June—
Jumble Sale at St. Margaret's School.
Association helped in food and at stalls.
- 25th June—
Lunch — Cathay Restaurant in honour of Miss J. Kilgour M.B.E.

26th July—
Account opened at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

30th July—
Dance held at St. Andrew's School Hall,—Woodsville.
Chairman—Miss E. Yong.
Secretary—Miss Ng Ah Chan.
Net profit \$2300.60.
\$1000.—donated to School Building Fund.

20th Aug.—
Committee Meeting at Mrs. J. Gaw's home.

28th Aug.—
Picnic—Lam Soon Villa—in grateful thanks to members of Sub-Committee and helpers at the dance.

4th Feb 1950—
Annual General Meeting.

This is what we hope to do this year.

1. A dance.
2. A picnic.
3. Christmas Social gathering.

All Ex-students please note:—

Objects. of the Association are:

- (a) To foster a spirit of friendship and mutual co-operation among its members.
- (b) To preserve the love for the Alma Mater.
- (c) To co-operate with St. Margaret's School and render whatever assistance as may from time to time be required for the advancement of the School.