

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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SMESA Visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home (Outreach Programme) on 21 May 2022, Saturday

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMESA Legal Awareness Talk held at The Learning Lab, SMSS on 02 July 2022, Saturday at 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Notes :

We are resuming some of our activities and meetings physically so do look out.

Do you wonder if there is any law against ageism?



Do join us to find out more in

SMESA Legal Awareness Talk on

'Are we treated differently in law as we age?'

Date : 2nd July 2022 (Saturday)

Time : 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Venue : SMSS, 111 Farrer Road Singapore 259240
IT Learning Lab



Please register at QR Code.



St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

Have we wondered if there is any law against ageism? SMESA invites you to join us and find out more about aging and the law. As most of us have elderly relatives and friends, it would probably be very useful to learn what our laws have to say on the subject.

The talk will be led by SMESA Member Ruby Lee, Deputy Director of the SMU Yong Pung How Law School, with her team from SMU.

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



School Name Change effective 1st January 2023

We began as Chinese Girls' School founded by Mrs Maria Dyer in 1842. Over the years, we evolved to CEZMS (Church of England Zenana Missionary School) to St. Margaret's School and finally to St. Margaret's Primary School and St. Margaret's Secondary School. As the oldest girls' school in the Far East, we have developed a rich heritage throughout the 180 years, nurturing a community of learners with the school motto of Charity, Patience and Devotion and school values as our guiding principles.

To honour the legacy of Mrs Dyer and better reflect our shared historical identity and heritage, the schools will be renamed to "St. Margaret's School (Primary)" and "St. Margaret's School (Secondary)" respectively next year, from 1 January 2023. The effective date of the name change has been formally approved by the Ministry of Education and Diocese of Singapore.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

	SMPS	SMSS
1. Angie Bai	1999	None
2. Ragini Anpazhah	2001	2007
3. Debbie Chua Pei Shan	2000	2004
4. Wong Wen Si	1994	1998

SMESA MEMBERSHIP

We have both life membership and Youth membership available. Please consider joining SMESA by going to our website at <http://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>.

SMSS Student Council Commendation 2022

After 2 years of restriction due to Covid, the Student Council Commendation finally resumed this year at St Andrew's Cathedral on 22nd April 2022. The Student Council Commendation Ceremony recognised the contributions of our 2021/2022 batch of Student Councillors and formally welcomed the 2022/2023 batch of Student Councillors as they officially take on their leadership roles. The theme for the commendation was "Hope Alight" and Chaplain Revd John Lin delivered his words of encouragement to the students on their journey of service with the 3 principles: 1) Humility in Power, 2) Heart of Love and 3) Soundness of Mind. The outgoing Student Councillors were presented with service trophies sponsored by SMESA while the incoming Student Councillors were commended with pins from Right Revd Rennis Poniah. To end the commendation, the combined Council sang a song "Fires" by Matt Redman.

We wish the outgoing Student Councillors all the best as they prepare for their national examinations and for the incoming Student Councillors blessings and joy as they serve and bring hope to others.





SMSS Student Council Commendation 2022

(Reflections from both outgoing & incoming Student Council Presidents)

'Enriching' and 'Blessing' are two words I would use to describe my Council journey. Growing alongside my fellow Councillors and creating an impact through our actions as a Council has left me with fond memories and valuable lessons.

Leading the Councillors has been a true honour for me and my exco, we were blessed with the opportunity to see so many of our Councillors blossom into better students of good character and sound values.

To every Councillor, Commendation is one of the most important events. On that day we take a pledge to serve our school with love and care. As we sat in the cathedral, we witnessed our juniors stepping into their roles and it reminded me of how far my graduating batchmates and I have come and all that we have accomplished since our first commendation. Our years in Council will always have a special place in our hearts.

As my batchmates and I graduate, though a bittersweet moment, I am positive that the next batch will continue to serve and love always as they find new ways to let their light shine.



By Rachel Sonsun, Student Council President 2021/2022



My time in the Student Council has been one that is rather fulfilling. Having the chance to participate in numerous projects and serving the school through our duties has inculcated a stronger sense of responsibility in me, and I am grateful for opportunities like these where I am able to hone my leadership skills. Other than the things we do as Councillors, part of the reason I have enjoyed being part of Council thus far is because of the people who make up Council. I am really thankful that our school has such a supportive and warm family of Councillors. Even just hearing a simple "Hi!" from one of them in the mornings would be enough to make my day.

This year's Council Commendation was really special to me. It was my first time at St. Andrews' Cathedral, and it was the Commendation where I would be appointed Council President. The fact that I would be the Council President for the coming year had not sunk in then. Now, it has slowly settled in, but I am still adjusting to the new duties Exco and I will have to be responsible for. One other memorable moment during the commendation was bidding my graduating seniors goodbye. It was the last time we would see them in the context of Council, and it was really hard to see them go because they were really helpful and loving seniors who have taught me so much in my time in Council. Now that they have left, I have to admit that I miss them a lot. As Council President for the next year, my hope is that the Exco and I will be able to lead Council together, to help make meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of the students of our school, with the help and support of every Councillor.

By Sandra Lim, Student Council President 2022/2023

SMESA Speaker Series – Ms Renita Chua

(Continued at page 6)

Ms Renita Chua was invited back to SMSS on 1st April 2022 as a SMESA Speaker.

Ms Renita Chua graduated from SMSS more than 3 decades ago in 1990. She was an active student in SMSS and has served as the Girl Guides Company Leader, Swim Team House Captain, a school debater and a prefect. She is also a Dean Dumper Trophy awardee. She has more than 20 years in the finance industry and has worked in many countries and many companies. She is currently the Head of Bancassurance and Digital Direct, Group Distribution, in Singlife , Aviva.



Ms Chua recollected her memories and is grateful for her teachers, friends and the pastoral care she received at St. Margaret’s. After more than 30 years, the school motto of “Charity, Patience and Devotion” still remains the guiding principle in her own life.

Ms Chua says she is convinced that it “only takes a light, to get the fire going”. Just as St. Margaret’s was the light for her, she wants “to be the light for others”.

GLORY BE TO GOD!

ST. MARGARET’S

For charity, patience, devotion,
 God's be thanked,
 These qualities St. Margaret's offers,
 We wish our school ever grows.

1989-1990

Renita Chua
 THE DEAN DUMPER TROPHY AWARDEE
 FOR HER SERVICES TO THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

THANK YOU!

1990 1st COY SOUTH COMPANY LEADER & PRESIDENTS' GUIDE AWARDEE

1991 DEAN DUMPER AWARDEE



SMESA Speaker Series – Ms Renita Chua

(continued from page 5)

Reflections from Sec 3 students

By Celine Ong Shu Lyn, Sec 3-5

It was an honour to be given the opportunity to interview an alumna of St Margaret's Secondary School, Ms Renita Chua. Through this interview, Ms Chua walked us through her time in St Margaret's and I found myself sharing her sentiments too. One experience she shared with us in particular really struck a chord with me. Ms Chua had a teacher who was there to guide her in her years of schooling. Her teacher's unconditional support and understanding had impacted her greatly. It made me realise the lasting impact people and all that you have experienced in school can have on you. Certain events such as being a part of student Council and people in St. Margaret's have shaped her into the person she is today. Overcoming hardships while in school has allowed her to better cope with difficulties she faced in the workforce. From this interview, I have gained a deeper appreciation for my school and feel a stronger sense of pride for all the virtues that we stand for. I have very much been enlightened by the stories Ms Chua has shared with us.

Reflections from Sec 3 students

By Megan Tan Hui Xin, Sec 3-3

The interview with St. Margaret's alumna, Ms Renita Chua, was very informative and I thoroughly enjoyed her sharing. Her stories were very interesting! She shared that her experience in St. Margaret's included being in the student Council and The Debate Club which I found to be extremely relatable as I myself am a member of The Debate Club. Her sharing gave me a fresh perspective on the impact of school and what an immense, important role it plays in our lives.

I am glad she decided to give this talk to the students. She was also a pleasant person and although I was nervous about asking my questions, Ms Chua was so pleasant and kind to talk to that all my fears were allayed. I think this sharing was very helpful for the current St. Margaret's Secondary School students as we learnt much about the practical implications of our school motto of Charity, Patience and Devotion.

I am sure the students have gained profound knowledge of how they can apply these values in their lives even after they graduate from school! I definitely did!

Ms Chua also spoke about how her teachers inspired her. I felt that it was quite touching to see how teachers play such a salient role in our school lives. This reminded me of how we students are so fortunate to have such great teachers! Without a doubt, I am most grateful to them.

SMESA Annual General Meeting 2022

On 23 April 2022, we conducted our annual AGM virtually for the third time since the Covid-19 restrictions in early 2020. We hope to be able to conduct it physically in 2023. We received in total 127 proxies out of 601 life members and this exceeded our required quorum of 15% to begin the meeting. We had in total 30 members who participated in the Zoom meeting. The President gave a welcome address followed by presentations of 2021 AGM minutes and reports. Finally a new Board was elected for a 2 year term instead of the usual 1 year term from previous constitution. SMESA constitution was amended and approved by members during AGM held on 17th April 2021 and approved by ROS on 25th August 2021.



ST. MARGARET'S EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Board Members 2022/2024



1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
Pamela Kwan Ka Foong



PRESIDENT
Chew Siew Kheng



2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
Lina Wee Mei Ling

OFFICE BEARERS



HON. SECRETARY
Irene Fong Wei Wei



ASST. HON. SECRETARY
Hui Choon Wai



HON. TREASURER
Vani Aaliyah



ASST. HON. TREASURER
Kalavathy D/o Suppiah

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Lee Soo Kwan



Lee Mian Jun



Brenda Lan Shu Mei



Susan M Wijaya



Juliana Tenggara

HONORARY AUDITORS



Bridget Choy



Adeline Sng

CO-OPTED MEMBERS



Pixie Ho Pik Yew



Olga Bessarab



Joy Gillian Quek



Azzah Fariha

SMSS Education & Career Guidance Fair

By Fiona Wee , an invited speaker of the ECG Fair

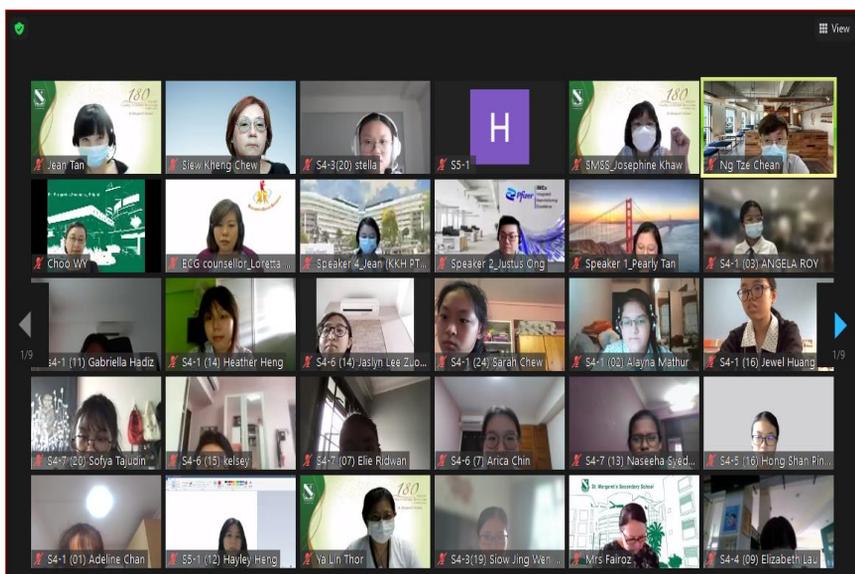
I am a finance and accounting professional and graduated from St Margaret's Secondary in 1979! Although my core training is in finance, I have been able to leverage my core skills and broaden my skills beyond finance into project management, technology, Human Resources, consulting and other areas. I was happy to be able to share with the current students how one's choice of study is only the foundation and starting point of one's career journey. Most important is for one to keep an open mind and be curious and embrace change.

I have very fond memories of the secondary school days where I formed friendships that have lasted till this day. However living overseas now has limited my ability to contribute to my alma mater. But thanks to my very close friend Ms Chew, who is the current president of our alumna, I had the opportunity to share my career journey virtually with our current students! I would appreciate the opportunity to participate in similar programmes and hope the girls gained as much out of listening to us as we did preparing and focusing our thoughts on how we could best share with everyone.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!



Fiona Wee
Class of 1979





SMESA Board Meeting cum Fellowship after Meeting

SMESA Board has resumed their face to face meeting on 7th May 2022 after more than 2 years of Covid restrictions.



(Back row): Siew Kheng, Joy, Irene, Juliana, Choon Wai, Pixie
(Front row): Soo Kwan, Bridget, Pamela, Mian Jun



(L-R): Pixie, Soo Kwan, Bridget, Siew Kheng, Irene, Joy

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2024

President

Ms Chew Siew Kheng

1st Vice-President

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

2nd Vice-President

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Honorary Secretary

Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Hui Choon Wai

Honorary Treasurer

Ms A Vani Aaliyah

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Kalavathy d/o Suppiah

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 Ms Brenda Lan Shu Mei
 Ms Juliana Tenggara
 Ms Susan M. Wijaya
 Ms Lee Mian Jun

Co-opted Member

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew
 Ms Olga Bessarab
 Ms Azzah Fariha
 Ms Joy Gillian Quek

Honorary Auditors

Ms Bridget Choy
 Ms Adeline Sng

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SMSS Visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home

By Jenny Koh

It was the first time since the pandemic started in early 2020, that the St Andrew Cathedral Home (SACH) allowed visitors. On 21st May 2022, a group of six SMESA ladies visited the residents to cheer them up with dumplings, homemade cakes, fruits and handmade combs.

The residents were very excited and welcomed us eagerly as they have missed our visits for a long time. The programme started with a story of the dumpling festival and its origins followed by worship songs which the residents enjoyed so much. With castanets, bells and shakers, the residents followed the lively actions and singing, making rhythms with their instruments and singing praises to God.

Each of them was presented with a lovely resin comb hand made by our creative Board Member Lina.

After prayers and some interactions, the residents had dumplings for lunch and we could see they were really enjoying the special treat. It was a joy and blessing to be able spend a meaningful morning with the residents in SACH.

