

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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COMING EVENTS

SMESA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 12 April 2014 at 2:00 pm

Venue: Learning Lab, St. Margaret's Secondary

Janet Lim's Visit to St. Margaret's

Wednesday, 12 March 2014

Ex-student and author of Singapore's first bestselling autobiography, *Sold for Silver*

SMESA Speaker Series

Friday, 25 April 2014 at 12:50 pm

Venue: St. Margaret's Secondary School Hall

Speaker: Dr. Luisa Lee, ex-student, medical doctor and public health specialist.

SMSS Professional Guidance Day

Friday, 28 March 2014

SMSS Charity Concert, "The Robe"

Friday, 4 April 2014 at 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Venue: St. Margaret's Secondary School Hall

The concert is based on the parable of the Good Samaritan & will feature our performing arts groups. Proceeds from the concert will be donated to St. Andrew's Autism School. Tickets can be obtained from the school.

SMPS Green Dot Concert

Friday, 8 August 2014

Venue: St. Andrew's Junior College Hall

Details will be released in the next issue.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We begin 2014 with good news from both schools. They report stellar results in the 2013 PSLE, "N" and "O" levels examinations.

In the 2013 PSLE, our girls exceeded the national average in percentage of A and A* in English, Science, Chinese and Malay.

In the Normal Academic (NA) examinations, the school's distinction percentages were significantly higher than those of the national in most subjects. 98.6% of girls qualified for the Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme.

In the Normal Technical (NT) examinations, our students performed commendably. The school's distinction percentages were higher than those of the national for most subjects.

In the "O" levels examinations, the school's percentage of students scoring distinctions exceeded the national average in 16 of 21 subjects offered! 99.1% of Sec 4 Express students qualified for JC/MI or Polytechnic. 89.8% of Sec5 Normal students qualified for the same.

We congratulate the schools and thank God for His grace in blessing our alma mater. We also thank all the management and staff for their hard work. May the good Lord bless them and their families.

SMESA will be holding our AGM on the 12th of April at 2pm at SMSS. Do come and support your alumni association. This is a great way to give back to the school and bless the younger generation. We look forward to seeing you.

At this point, I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Board of 2013/14 who have worked hard and cheerfully to make 2013 an enjoyable and successful year.

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2013/2014

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Dr. Lee Hoon Hwee

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2nd Vice President

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Ms Ruby Lee Yen Kee

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Lim's Visit to St. Margaret's Schools

Janet Lim, an ex-student and author of bestseller "Sold for Silver" will be visiting St. Margaret's Schools on 12 March 2014.

Miss Janet Lim, in her autobiography, shares her inspiring story of how education transformed her life. Miss Lim was sold for \$250 as a 'mui tsai' ("female slave") to a wealthy man in Singapore. It was fortunate for her that sometime in 1932, because of criticism of the 'mui tsai' system, an ordinance was passed to protect them from ill-treatment amongst other things. The ordinance also decreed that no new 'mui tsai' could be bought or sold, and the existing ones had to be registered.

Miss Lim and another 'mui tsai' in the same household took advantage of the sentiments and planned to run away. Ran away the other 'mui tsai' did! Having done that, she sought help from the officials to rescue Miss Lim. Both of them were later sent to the Poh Leung Tuk Home for girls where Miss Lim was selected by Miss Kilgour and Miss Lane to study English at CEZMS.

Miss Lim was subsequently trained as a nurse at St. Andrew's Mission Hospital and in 1954, she became the matron of the Hospital, its first Asian matron. She will be honoured by SCWO in their Hall of Fame on 14 March 2014.



SMESA Speaker Series - Dr. Luisa Lee

The Speaker in our next SMESA Speaker Series is Dr Luisa Lee who will be speaking to the students in SMSS on Friday, 25 April.

Dr Lee, a former student of St. Margaret's Secondary School, is a medical doctor and public health specialist who received her MBBS in 1972 and MSc (Public Health) in 1976 from the University of Singapore. A Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, she has had an illustrious career, holding several leadership positions both in the private as well as the public sectors, including CEO of Woodbridge Hospital/Institute of Mental Health and CEO of Tan Tock Seng Hospital.



Since November 2009, she has been the President/CEO of then Singapore Health Partners Pte Ltd, now known as The Farrer Park Company Pte Ltd - the owner-developer of Connexion which comprises Farrer Park Medical Centre, Farrer Park Hospital, One Farrer Hotel & Spa and the Owen Link shops.

Our New Members

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

Life Members

Ms Goh Hui Ming Katherine

Ms Liang Chengmei

Ms Jane Lim Puay Yuen

Ms Hong Yuet Mei

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

Ms Linda Mah Leng Jee

Ms Hashina Parveen d/o Anwar Ali

Ms Alicia Tsao Wen Hui

Ms Chia Hui Min

Ms Indrawati Prajogo

• SMPS 1980 • SMSS 1984

• SMPS 1983 • SMSS 1997

• SMPS 1984 • SMSS 1988

• SMPS 1985 • SMSS 1989

• SMPS 1985 • SMSS 1989

• SMPS 1988

• SMPS 1994

• SMPS 1995 • SMSS 1999

• SMPS 2002 • SMSS 2006

• SMSS 1984

ST. MARGARET'S PRIMARY SPEECH & PRIZE GIVING DAY

St. Margaret's Primary School held its Speech & Prize Giving Day on 15 November 2013. The School was very proud to have its own ex-student, Dr Chong Shin Yuet, Senior Consultant, Department of Anaesthesiology, SGH, to be the Guest of Honour. It was a nostalgic trip for Dr Chong having been able to be connected with her alma mater.

By PIXIE HO

- 01 Principal of SMPS, Ms Pang Wee Mian with the Guest-of-Honour, Dr. Chong Shin Yuet
- 02 Reisha Lee Min, recipient of the St. Margaret's Prize
- 03 Choong Han Jun, recipient of the All Round Achiever Award



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Prizes for students who top in the Academic subjects and CCA were given away by the Guest-of-Honour. The other Special Awards were presented to the following students:

Top CCA Achiever Award

Chia Min-Fon Pascal

The St. Margaret's Prize

Reisha Lee Min

SMC Scholarship Awards (Academic Excellence)

Reisha Lee Min
Gabriella Teh Jia Yi

SMC Scholarship Awards (Sports Excellence)

Shannon Grace Tan Ern (Netball)
Tamara Tan Ann (Tennis)

All Round Achiever Award

Choong Han Jun

Congratulations Girls!
Victoria Ong Shu Yee, Head Prefect 2013, delivered this year's Valediction. The Guest-of-Honour, other guests and parents were entertained with songs and dances at the event.



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SMPS GREEN DOT DAY

This year's Green Dot Day was scheduled to be held on 6 July 2013. However, due to the bad haze that affected the whole of Singapore, the event was pushed back to 31 August, 2013, when the air quality was good again for outdoor activities.

By JOY SIA



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Unfortunately, our collection was less than anticipated and we only realized that the cups that we had used to serve the corn were larger than the ones used previously. We were not aware till much later and hence each serving was much larger!

Our apologies on the short fall and we trust that it will be much better in the years to come.

The Annual event was held at the St. Margaret's Primary School and the theme was adapted from the Amazing Race Concept.

SMESA had a special student ambassador from the secondary one cohort. Ms Carmen Leong volunteered to help us man our store and she sure was a welcome assistant as we had an overwhelming response for our delicious offerings! She was very cheerful and ever so helpful. We enjoyed her company and hoped that she enjoyed ours too. From the photographs taken we think she had a good time as she was always smiling!

As usual, Hui Choon Wai did most of the buying of corn (10 kilos) and the transportation of the rice-cookers and utensils while Joy Sia helped to purchase the disposable cups and spoons needed for the stall to sell cooked corn. Brenda Lan, Jessica Leong and Pixie Ho were kept busy selling and serving up the cups of delicious hot corn.

We were ready to sell the corn as early as 8 a.m, and were pleasantly surprised to have customers even before the fair was officially opened. The corn was so popular that we were sold out before closing time.

01 SMESA members at our cup corn stall. (From Left: Joy, Pixie, Jessica, Brenda and Carmen)

02 Teams preparing to set off for the Amazing Race

SMESA POPIAH PARTY

By HUI CHOON WAI

We held our SMESA Hi-Tea this year at SMSS. We had a very good turnout from our members and also our core partners.

The event started with a talk by Ms Melodie Tay, an officer from the Office of Public Guardian who spoke about the Lasting Power of Attorney. The Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document made to appoint the persons to take care of one's welfare and property affairs in the event of future mental incapacity. This was a very informative talk and the audience was interested to find out more. Numerous questions were raised from the floor at the end of the talk.

After the talk, we got down to the serious business of wrapping and eating the popiah and kueh pie tee. Through the combined efforts of our members who put all the ingredients together, the popiah was very good. The turnip filling itself was prepared by three separate members and it was fun to try the different flavours. Each had their distinct taste but were all yummy.

It was an enjoyable afternoon spent amongst the company of good friends.



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01 Having fun with homemade popiah and kueh pie tee

02 Dr. Lee, President of SMESA presenting a token of appreciation to Ms Melodie Tay

03-04 Participants listening attentively to the talk on The Lasting Power of Attorney



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ST. MARGARET'S 171ST ANNIVERSARY DINNER

“Mad about Hats!” was the theme for the 171st Anniversary Dinner, held at the St. Margaret’s Secondary School on Saturday, 16 November 2013. It is a yearly event organized by SMESA.

BY JENNIE BEK

The response was overwhelming and we had 340 members of the St. Margaret’s Family comprising the principals, staff, teachers, parents, present and ex-students of both the Schools, and members of St John’s Chapel and Chapel of Christ the King as well as friends and family members attending this dinner.

The school hall, as well as the centre piece on each table were decorated with different types of hats and head gears. Most of the guests came with their personalized exquisite hat/head accessories! Some even have their own hat theme for each table. While the guests walked around showing off their hats, they admire and comment on each other’s creations, creating a very lively and energetic atmosphere.

The guests were entertained by the lively performances from students of SMPS and SMSS. The dances were International, Modern and Chinese and there were songs from the Acapella group. To close the event, there was a surprise “Coolest Hat/Head Gears Contest’ whereby four guests were selected by the organizing committee and welcomed on stage to receive their gifts. It was a memorable evening with good food, fun and laughter! Every guest received a souvenir hand towel embroidered with the school’s logo and ‘171st Anniversary’ wordings.

If you have missed this year’s celebration, not to worry! Save this date in your calendar – 16 Nov 2014 (Sunday). Do start to connect your SMPS and SMSS classmates and form a table or two for this year’s anniversary celebration which will be held at St Margaret’s Primary School.

We look forward to seeing you at the dinner!



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- 01 The SMESA team with our fanciful headgears
- 02 Jennie Bek with SMSS Chinese teacher, Mrs Chong
- 03 Ms Elizabeth Joseph and Reverend Bertram Cheong from St. John's Chapel with their balloon hats
- 04-10 Ex-Students and guests all dressed up in cool and fanciful headgear
- 11-12 Performances by the International and Chinese Dance groups



SMESA

JOB SHADOWING 2013

Every year since 2004, 2 students from SMSS would job-shadow me at my law firm, M/s HO & ASSOCIATES. This year, Grace Chong and Lu Chun E (both Secondary 3 students), were selected to job shadow me.

BY PIXIE HO

They were given light duties such as typing of letters, completing of vouchers and forms, collection of documents and letters and photo copying. They followed me when I attended court and they were allowed to sit in and listen to the various cases and also to observe how lawyers conduct their cases. They also had the opportunity to observe accused persons, plaintiffs and defendants interrogated and the judges making decisions and giving out judgments.

I also briefed the students on some basic laws so that when they sat in the courts to listen to the cases, they would have some inkling of what was going on.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the Court sessions. They have the following to say of their stint with me:-



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01 Grace Chong and Lu Chun E together with Ms Pixie Ho

Grace Chong said that “in job-shadowing Ms Ho, I got to learn about what exactly a lawyer does as well as the many different terms used in law. I also got to know the different types of courts in Singapore. This work attachment has created more awareness in me about what the government does to enforce various strict laws on the society to maintain law and order. I also learned about the rules in Wills making, distributions of the deceased’s estate who dies with or without Wills and about family disputes and other family matters.”

Lu Chun E stated that “During this work attachment, I really learnt a lot of new things, like for instance, knowing the different types of courts in Singapore, seeing what the insides of the various Courts were like and how the cases were being conducted. I think it was a great exposure for me. I also learnt the various terms used in Wills, like when a person is called an Administrator or an Executor. The situations encountered by the deceased’s family members when the person dies with or without a Will. This helps me to understand that making a Will is really very important and it helps me to decide to make a Will in the future for my children. I also learnt that divorce does not equal to nullity of marriage and that divorce matters take place in the Family Court. This work attachment also taught me that people can apply for Personal Protection Order when he or she was beaten by the spouse or family members. This is very helpful as I can suggest it to someone to apply for one if he or she needs it. I also learnt that in civil matters, the parties are called Plaintiff and Defendant and in criminal matters, they are called Prosecutor and Accused. I aspire to be a policewoman and my stint with Ms Ho would be very helpful in my future career.”