



ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT

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St Margaret's Anniversary Dinner - 175 years of Glowing in His Glory

IN THIS ISSUE

St Margaret's Anniversary Dinner – 175 Years of Glowing in His Glory

President Writes

Announcements, New Members & Tit Bits

Reflection on Tour/Visit to MediaCorp

Best Wishes for SMPS Primary 6 Students

SMSS Appreciation Tea

Job Shadowing and Internship Programme

SMPS Speech and Prize-Giving Day

We Visited...

SMSS Post-Exam Activity

COMING EVENT

SMESA AGM

Date: 7 April 2018

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: IT Conference Room
SMSS, Farrer Road

Refreshments will be served. Do come and join us in this yearly affair and enjoy the cameraderie.

For enquires with regard to the above event, please e-mail us at smesa.sg@gmail.com

By: May Lim

2017 was a very special year as St. Margaret's celebrated her 175th anniversary. The anniversary celebrations started with the opening of our Heritage Gallery in February 2017, followed by the Homecoming and Green Dot Fun Fair in June 2017 and finally culminating in the anniversary dinner on 16 November 2017. We were extremely honoured to have President Halimah Yacob grace our gala dinner as Guest of Honour.

A short excerpt of the video, **A Flame Undiminished**, documented by SMPS was played at the dinner and it brought back precious memories for many.

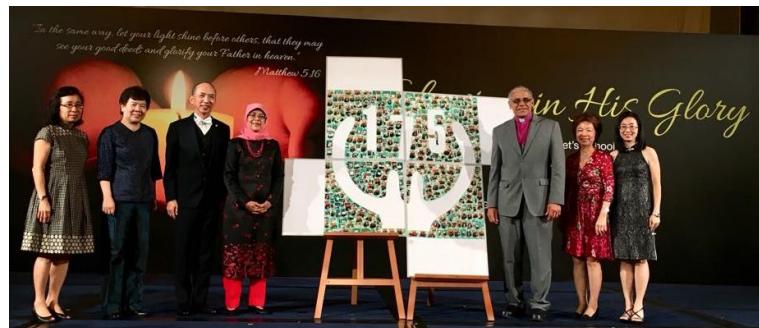
The following were some reflections from ex-students of St. Margaret's:

*"As I sang the school song at the dinner, I went back in time to my days at SMSS. Throughout the song, flashes of my school journey were recounted. From a naive student, I was nurtured into a confident professional and motivational speaker that I am today. :) - The power of the polka dots culture!" **Aneesha Reihana (SMPS, 1998 & SMSS, 2003)***

*"Grateful to be a part of the history of the oldest girls' school in South East Asia, celebrating with kindred ties and kindling new ones. A Grand Birthday, St. Margaret's!" **Irene Chia (SMSS, 1984)***

If you would like to share your memories of St Margaret's and/or thoughts on what St. Margaret's means to you, please send an email to: memories@stmargs.edu.sg

For all the ladies who came before us and the girls who will join the St Margaret's family from here on, may we all continue to glow in His glory!



President Halimah Yacob (Centre) with (From left) SMPS Principal Pang Wee Mian; Permanent Secretary (Education) Chan Lai Fung; Chairman, School Management Committee, Prof Lawrence Boo; Rt Rev Rennis Ponniah, Bishop of Singapore; SMESA President Lee Soo Kwan; SMSS Principal Lee Lin Yee

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St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240

www.smesa.org.sg

www.facebook.com/smesa1842

smesa.sg@gmail.com

Fax: (65) 6534 5127

PRESIDENT WRITES...

Reflections

The year 2017 was exceptional for St Margaret's as we celebrated our 175th anniversary, truly a milestone for the School as well as the history of education for girls in Singapore and perhaps the Region. At our several thanksgiving and homecoming events, we are reminded of the thousands of girls who have passed through the gates of St Margaret's since 1842 when Maria Dyer founded the School - to save young girls from being sold to slavery - to the school we are today – nurturing girls to be responsible and exemplary citizens. Besides receiving an education, our girls are taught certain important values in life - to love, to care and to be thankful. At the end of the school term, students are asked to reflect on the past year in school and also to pen thank-you letters to their teachers – this meaningful time for reflection and thanksgiving has become a tradition in school.

We should count our many blessings for we are blessed with loving families and good friends. Our journeys may not always be smooth. Often, we tend to focus on the disappointments of yesterday. But we should instead refocus on the meaningful lessons we received from our experiences.

I am thankful for many things in my life; my loving family, the close friends I have made through the years, my years in St Margaret's, the lessons I learnt when I started my career in a then male-dominated business, the many challenges I faced in my job travelling to new markets in emerging economies with all the uncertainties, my work with children and volunteers after my retirement and, of course, my work at SMESA. The mountains climbed and valleys walked through have enriched my life in so many ways. I thank God for His mercy and grace in protecting and directing me in all situations. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank SMESA members, staff and teachers of the schools, PSG and PTA for their sterling support of SMESA in 2017, especially for the 175th Anniversary Dinner.

As we reflect on 2017 and move into 2018, may we continue to stay true to our commitments even though time may have changed the course of things. In the midst of our busy lives, do sit back and reflect on all that we are doing from time to time. Perhaps there is a need to refocus our priorities?

I thank God for His Blessings and all Glory be to Him!

Wishing everyone a Blessed 2018!

Lee Soo Kwan
President



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Newsletter, St Margaret's Connect

We have been publishing our Newsletter on 3 issues per year. We have now decided to publish it on a quarterly basis to keep members abreast of news.

Professional Guidance Day

SMSS held its Professional Guidance Day for its "N" and "O" levels graduating students on Friday, 5 January 2018. Speakers, some of whom are ex-students of the School, from various professions and industries such as banking, civil defence, clinical psychology, dentistry, medicine, forensics, human resources, early childhood education, fashion design, law, nursing, business intelligence and analytics, technology start-up, trade union and veterinary science were invited to share their experiences with the students.

New Members

We welcome aboard the following new members:

	<u>SMPS</u>	<u>SMSS</u>
Wong Wan Chee	1994	2000
Kanno Chitra	1976	1981
Yeo Tammi	1995	1999
Prabha Vythilingam	1994	2000
Lily Widiawaty Tan	1993	-
Lynette Lioe Li Shen	2001	-
Sangeeta Razu	-	1990
Lee Mian Jun	2006	-
Gail Ong Chui Ling	2000	2004
Ashley Tay Shu Ren	2005	2009
Chan Eugenia	1994	1998
Koh Wee Qian Sherlyn	2007	2011
Hidayat Imelda	1985	1989
Chua Yee Chien	1999	2002

TIT BITS

Congratulations!

Our heartiest congratulations to the following students for receiving, from the Guest of Honour Ms Mingtse Chen Ouw, the following Awards sponsored by SMESA at the SMPS Prize-Giving Day held on 16 November 2017:



Raisya Rihana Binte Muhamed Zulkifli,
All-Round Achiever 2016 Award



Jacintha Jane Fernandez, St Margaret's Prize 2016

"Congratulations!" to all the Prefect Captains of SMPS for receiving the Service Award sponsored by SMESA.



SMESA President Lee Soo Kwan presenting the Award to Amber Romeike, Head Prefect 2017, at the SMPS Prize-Giving Day



REFLECTION ON TOUR/VISIT TO MEDIACORP

By : Lee Mian Jun

On 16 September 2017, fourteen of us, together with some friends and family, were led on a tour of the new Mediacorp campus. The tour was set up as a backward travel through the production processes of media, mainly television. As we 'travelled' through the TV screen and camera lenses, we were brought to the modelled sets of *The Little Nyonya* and *118*. The entire tour was very interactive. How better to understand the TV production process than to be involved in the acting itself? The children giggled as they were instructed to pass tea, fan the faint, and yell for help, and even our President Lee Soo Kwan could not resist giving it a try!

Besides TV production, we were also brought to view the various news offices from above – which looked very impressive. We even got to pretend to be newscasters as the crowd watched and cheered us on. As we neared the conclusion of the tour, we waved at some disk jockeys from the viewing corridor across their studios, and ended the tour with commemorative photos in radio booths and a magazine cover page frame.

Aspiring actresses



BEST WISHES FOR SMPS PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS



A banner was put up at the Primary School conveying our wishes to the students who were taking the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE).

From left : Pamela (Staff), Sally (Operations Manager), Siew Kheng, Soo Kwan and Lee Chee Wai (Staff)

SMSS APPRECIATION TEA

To honour the contributions and support of its partners in education, the Secondary School hosted an Appreciation Tea for its partners in the School Hall on 14 October 2017. SMESA's Board members were invited to the event. Guests were given some craft work (arranged by the students) to do and were also entertained with music played by the students.



SMESA Board members at the tea



JOB SHADOWING AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017)

By : Ho Lian Geok

It was a good year for our Job Shadowing and Internship Programme; we are indeed grateful to the mentors who contributed time and effort to guide SMSS students on an enriching learning journey.

Central Chambers Law Corporation (27.11.17 – 1.12.17)

Azina binte Abdul Nizar (3/4) and Chua Sher Min (3/5)

Confucius Institute, Nanyang Technological University (20.11.17 – 1.12.17)



Michelle Choo Sing Yee (3/5) and Lee Hui En (2/1) with Ms Angela Yang

Singapore Red Cross Society (20.11.17 – 1.12.17)



Chen Jia Shin (3/5) and Charanya Ghandhidass (3/3) with Ms Chua Lay Theng and Mr George Tai

Ho & Associates (20.11.17 – 24.11.17)



Jamie Dong Jia Qi (3/5) and Jovianne Tjinuardi (3/4)

National Archives of Singapore (National Library Board) (13.11.17 – 24.11.17)



Kayla Kang (3/3) and Zephia Gonzales (3/4) with Mrs Kiang-Koh Lai Lin and Ms Christabel Khoo





**Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay
(13.11.17 – 17.11.17)**



Caeley Chow Li Ying (3/5), Sandrine Sam Shi Rui (3/5) and Srinivasan Gayathri (3/5)

**Food, Drinks & Allied Workers Union (NTUC)
(16.11.17 – 29.11.17)**



Nerissa Ng (3/6) and Natalie Pang Wei Lin (3/1) with Ms Wong Yui Min

While SMESA continues to source for job shadowing opportunities, we also encourage ex-students to host our girls in their workplace or connect us to organisations willing to do so. Hope to hear from you!

SMPS SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING DAY

SMPS held its Speech & Prize-Giving Day on 16 November 2017. Ex-student Ms Mingtse Chen Ouw, Legal Manager with City Developments Limited, was the Guest of Honour. In her speech, Ms Chen encouraged the girls that in all things they do, they must (i) try, (ii) work hard, and (iii) persevere. We do not necessarily succeed at everything the first time but by trying, working hard and persevering, 'slowly but surely, we will find our strengths, get better and better and eventually become good and proud of what we do'.

During the prize-giving ceremony, parents beamed with pride and smiles as their daughters were called to the stage to receive their prizes. Amongst the recipients were Raisaya Rohana Binte Muhamad Zulkifli and Jacintha Jane Fenandez who received the SMESA sponsored awards - All-Round Achiever 2016 and St Margaret's Prize 2016 respectively.

Principal Ms Pang Wee Mian together with staff and teachers hosted a tea reception for the parents and guests. President Ms Lee Soo Kwan was present at the event. It was, as always, a wonderful time for fellowship and bonding. Several parents shared their own experiences when they were in St Margaret's.



Ms Pang Wee Mian, Principal of SMPS, takes the Guest-of-Honour, Ms Mingtse Chen Ouw on tour at the Heritage Gallery



WE VISITED ...

Mrs Phyllis Chin

On 11 September 2017, Lee Soo Kwan, Chew Siew Kheng, Louisa Lee, Bridget Choy, Pixie Ho, Daisy Tay and her brother Roland visited Mrs Chin. It was the 2nd time that SMESA's members had visited her. Mrs Chin was delighted to see us. Over a sumptuous array of cakes, sandwiches, curry puffs, pastries and others (We also brought along some cakes and curry puffs), Mrs Chin related her teaching career to us which spanned over 30 years starting with her teaching in Penang 2 years after graduation. We had a good time talking about our good old days.



From left : Soo Kwan, Mrs Chin and Louisa

Ms Grace Boon Siat Moy

Joy Quek, Ho Lian Geok and Joyce Lee visited Ms Grace Boon Siat Moy on 22 November 2017. Ms Boon who is now 89 years old, was a boarder in St Margaret's School in the late 1930s to 1951. She completed her schooling after the war and went to the Teachers' Training College (from 1951 to 1957) to be trained as a specialised kindergarten and Primary 1 school teacher as she loves young children. At that time, Ms Jessie Kilgour and Ms Norah Inge were her school principals whom she was very proud of.

She told stories about how she was reprimanded by the principals for not doing what was right and learned lessons from them. She also proudly remembered being taught by the missionaries in the School to love and be kind to one another and not to speak evil of others. She had carried these lessons throughout her working life. She has retired since 1983 but is volunteering at St Hilda's, ministering to the students there.



From left : Lian Geok, Ms Boon and Joy

St Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged

We have planned to visit this Home regularly (at least twice a year) as our community project. The visit on 28 October 2017 was the 2nd visit for the year. Joy Quek, who is in charge of this project, arranged the visit and organized the activity for the residents.

For this visit, the activity was making bunnies from colourful towel handkerchiefs. There were 21 residents at the Home and our members Lee Soo Kwan, Chew Siew Kheng, Pamela Kwan, Suraja Raman and Joy Quek were at hand to help out with the bunny making. Each resident was given a towel handkerchief with the colour of their choice. Soo Kwan showed the residents a sample of the bunny and demonstrated step by step how it was done. The residents were very excited. It was a breeze for some of them in folding the towel but a challenge for fixing the eyes, nose and whiskers as the accessories (which were sponsored by Pamela) were too small for their not so nimble fingers. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the bunny making.



SMESA members (standing, from left) Suraja, Siew Kheng, Soo Kwan, Joy and Pamela with the residents

After the bunny making, they were given a picture of Santa Claus to colour and a reindeer puzzle to complete. Our members also sang Christmas carols with them. It was indeed an enjoyable day for the residents.



SMSS POST-EXAM ACTIVITY

SMESA organised a Post-Exam Activity (craft workshop) for the Secondary 2 students on 26 October 2017. SMESA's members conducted 3 sessions with about 40 students in each session making candlestands from plastic spoons and "bird cages" from books.

The following were the reflections from the students who attended the workshop:-

Candle Making

The students generally found the workshop interesting and fun as they got to learn about upcycling.

The common challenge amongst the students was about the glue gun (not quite able to control it and many students had to share one glue gun – so they needed to wait). They also found cutting the spoon challenging as the spoon broke easily or it was hard to cut it.

They learnt to share resources. They also learnt to be patient while piecing the cut pieces together and waiting for the glue to stick the pieces together.

They look forward to teaching their family members how to do these crafts. They were grateful for the friendly and patient SMESA members who were there to guide them.



Bird Cage Making

The students generally also found the workshop interesting and needed to tap on their creativity and imagination.

The challenging part was that they had to fold many pages of the book. So some of them found it monotonous after a while but they finally got to the end product. They were proud that they had persevered. Some said their estimation of things, such as how much to cut in the pages to fit in a bird, was not so good as they were unsure as to how much to cut.

They were grateful for the many SMESA members who helped them along but some students mentioned that, after a while, they could not hear the instructions as the group was noisy.

