



Newsroom

Message from the President



Dear fellow SMESA members,

I hope this finds you well and in good spirits.

An event-filled year has passed. This year SMESA celebrates her 49th year of serving her Alma Mater.

15th April marked our inaugural **SMESA Speaker Series**. This talk was started to bring back illustrious ex-students to speak on their areas of expertise or topics that are of help and interest to our girls.

In bringing together ex-students, we hope to inspire our girls to greater heights by giving them an opportunity to meet and hear from their forerunners who have made achievements in their respective fields. In raising the profile of ex-students, we hope to also raise the profile of the school and of SMESA. Our inaugural speaker was none other than our former SMESA President, Dr Anamah Tan. Dr Tan has had a long and illustrious career spanning five decades. She is a renowned lawyer well respected for her role as a champion of oppressed women.

On the 3rd of June, 10 ex-students from 8 different walks of life came back to share their work experience at the **Professional Guidance Day** program for the graduating classes. The speakers covered Engineering, Aviation, Healthcare, Law, Logistics, Media, Christian Missions, Public Relations and Journalism. This annual event is one where ex-students can truly add value to the graduating classes by sharing their real life experiences in the working world. I hope to invite more ex-students to come back to contribute. If you would like to make a contribution in the lives of our young ones, do drop us an email at enquiries@smesa.org.sg with your name and field of work. From a school survey, girls are especially keen on jobs relating to psychology, counselling, hospitality/IR, finance and design.

SMESA also participated in various charitable outreach events to help raise funds and also to expose our girls to the plight of those less fortunate than themselves. In the year ahead, we look forward to making more headway into creating opportunities for our girls to have direct contact with the less privileged.

Next year is the 170th anniversary of our Alma Mater. The theme of the celebration is '*Blessed to be a Blessing*'. I have been appointed the Organizing Chairman. It is my hope that the anniversary will be more than just a time of celebration. I hope it will be a time for St Margaret's Schools girls to reach out to the community in practical service. As such, the twin pillars of the anniversary would be *Celebration* and *Charity*. I hope you will form a table with old friends for a reunion and also support our charitable efforts as well. Spread the word around and we can all have a grand homecoming!

Before that, I look forward to seeing you this year on November 16th for the 169th **St Margarets' Day Dinner**. This will be held at the Primary School at Sophia Road. 2011 is a significant year as it marks 150 years of St Margaret's School at the Sophia Road location!

Have a blessed year ahead.

Dr Lee Hoon Hwee

Coming Events

Date	Events	Remarks
1 Sept (Thur)	Teachers' Day Dinner at Swissotel Merchant Court	
16 Nov (Wed)	St Margaret's Day Dinner at SMPS	
28 Nov (Mon)	SMSS Prom Night at Marina Mandarin	
18 Oct (Tues)	SMESA Speaker Series – 2nd Series Speaker : Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching, Principal of Northlight School Topic : What Is My Internal GPS? Venue : SMSS Hall Time : 1pm.	
3 Dec (Sat)	Gathering of the Clan (High Tea)	

If you are interested in any of the above events, please e-mail us at: enquiries@smesa.org.sg or call 65343058 (Pixie).

Our Members

New Members

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

Life Members

Ling Moi Lin	(SMPS 1969, SMSS 1973)	Bek Poh Kiang (Jennie)	(SMSS 1984)
Wee Jee Jane	(SMPS 1984, SMSS 1988)	Susan Price (Ow Siew Shan)	(SMSS 1989)
Liew Cheng Ee June	(SMPS 1986, SMSS 1990)	Tan Yin Fun	(SMSS 1991)

Ordinary Members

Phua Sze Sze	(SMPS 1977, SMSS 1981)
Yeo Poh Kee	(SMSS 1989)

Reports on Events

Opening and Dedication Ceremony of Indoor Sports Hall and Multi-Purpose Room at SMSS – 8 April 2011

Pixie Ho



The Secondary School Indoor Sports Hall and Multi-Purpose Room were opened on 8 April 2011 by **The Most Rev Dr John Chew**, Bishop of Singapore.

Donations to top up the Government grant for the construction of the Indoor Sports Hall and the Multi-Purpose Room were received from Mrs Wong Sooi Loon (an ex-student and SMESA Past President) and Mrs Lee Choon Guan Trust Fund belonging to the family of Mrs Irene Chua (an ex-student and SMESA member).

Mrs Wong Sooi Loon, SMESA Past President, at the opening of the Indoor Sports Hall.



(From L-R): Mr Keith Chua and Mrs Irene Chua (Family members of Mrs Lee Choon Guan) , Mrs Wong Sooi loon, Mrs Marion Tan, Professor Lawrence Boo, The Rev Dr John Chew



Dance routines and sports performance by the students

SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service - 10 April 2011

Monica Lim



In his speech at the Opening Ceremony, The Most Rev Dr John Chew said that the School was indeed very blessed to have ex-students giving back to the School.

The Sports Hall was named "Mrs Lee Choon Guan Indoor Sports Hall" and the Multi-Purpose Room annexed to the main Sports Hall was named " Wong Boon Thong Multi-Purpose Room " after the name of Mrs Wong Sooi Loon's late father-in-law

At the Opening Ceremony, guests were entertained by the students on some dance routine and sports performance in the Sports Hall. There was also a tour of the Sports Hall being conducted for the guests.

On the same day, the guests were also invited to join the students for the Sports Carnival where games such as bowling and archery were featured.



"Wong Boon Thong Multi-Purpose Room" named after Mrs Wong Sooi Loon's late father-in-law.

St. Margaret's Secondary School Prefects' Commendation Service was held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Friday, 10th April 2011. The nave of the Cathedral was filled by excited students, parents and supporters of the School. The service began with the singing of "**Be Thou My Vision**" as the prefects dressed in their smart uniforms marched up the aisle followed by the Teacher-in-Charge, the Principal Mrs. Marion Tan, the School Chaplain Rev. Barry Leong and finally Archbishop John Chew.

The Rev Dr John Chew presented **SMESA School Service Award** trophies, donated by SMESA, to Tan En, Head Prefect for 2010-2011

The School Choir sang the Singspiration songs and the Chaplain said a short prayer

The Head Prefect for 2010-2011, Tan En, read the prefect charter before her speech in which she thanked all for their support and encouragement to her and her team of prefects. She spoke about putting others before self and quoted words of encouragement from Jeremiah 29.

The incoming Head Prefect, Bianca Tay Ying Tze, in her address quoted Mark 10:45 on service to others as she look to God for strength and help in carrying out her duties.

Archbishop John Chew presented the prefect badges to the incoming prefects and **SMESA School Service Award** trophies donated by SMESA, to the outgoing ones.

The Scripture reading was taken from 1 Corinthians 13, the famous passage on “Love”. The message was given by Pastor Laura Chan.

She used the acronym **SMSS** to share four points.

Stand in God’s steadfast love

Mentor the generation after

Serve the School; and

Save by Grace.

The service ended with the singing of the anthem “Cantate Domino” by the School Choir and a special song by the newly elected prefects.

SMESA Speaker Series – Inaugural Speaker, Dr Anamah Tan on Women’s Rights are Human Rights - 15 April 2011

Dr Lee Hoon Hwee

The idea of bringing back illustrious members of our alumni to speak to our girls was birth last year. My hope is that bringing back ex-students would inspire our girls to see the achievements of their forerunners and thereby be inspired to dream their own dreams. The whole series aims to bring back ex-students to inspire current ones. At the same time, we also want to raise the profile of SMESA and St Margaret’s.



Dr Anamah Tan, our inaugural speaker of our SMESA Speaker Series.



The SMSS girls listening earnestly to Dr Anamah Tan Speech.

We are pleased that on the 15th of April 2011, we had our inaugural speaker address our Secondary School girls on the topic: **“Women’s Rights are Human Rights”**. This was delivered by Dr Anamah Tan, an ex-student of both the Primary and Secondary School. She is a women’s rights activist and an advocate for gender issues, particularly domestic violence and poverty eradication.

A renowned lawyer, she is the Immediate Past President and Adviser to the **ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO)** and was elected President of the **International Council of Women (ICW)**. ICW is the first international women's organization.

Dr Anamah Tan told her young audience that “the most powerful document that enshrines the legal sanctity of Women's Rights is the **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**. Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, CEDAW has, to date, been ratified by 186 member states of the United Nations. That accounts for not less than 95% of the world agreeing with the principles enshrined in the articles of CEDAW – almost universal affirmation to empower women and girls in the global drive to eliminate poverty, achieve social justice and stabilize the world's population”.

Dr Tan concluded with some eye-opening statistics

- Women are responsible for 2/3rds of all hours worked but earn only 10% of the world's income.
- Approximately 70% of the people living in absolute poverty are women.
- 25% of women are raped during their lifetime.
- 25% to 75% are regularly beaten at home.
- 10% to 50% have been physically abused (depending on the country).
- Over 120 million women have undergone female genital mutilation.
- Women have less access to education than men.
- Women account for 2/3rds of the world illiterate adults.
- Girls account for 2/3rds of the children without any access to education.
- Only 12% of parliamentary seats worldwide are occupied by women.

All in, a very informative and educational talk. It brings us great pride to see one of our very own St Margaret's alumnus rising to leadership not just locally but also regionally and even internationally, helming the International Council of Women. Truly, an inspiration !

Next up, we will have **Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching, Principal of Northlight School** to address our girls. It promises to be an inspiring talk. Do come by to join us. Please refer to the **Coming Events** for details.

SMESA Annual General Meeting – 16 April 2011

Pixie Ho

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 16 April 2011 at the Secondary School. As usual, we did not have the quorum when the meeting convened at 2.00 p.m. It had to be adjourned and resumed half an hour later.

The meeting was chaired by our President, Dr Lee Hoon Hwee. She thanked all those who were present and also all who had helped in the running of SMESA. In her opening address, our President informed the meeting of the preparation for the celebration of the School's 170th Anniversary next year and also the launching of SMESA Speakers' Series, the first of which was carried out on 15 April 2011 and the next targeted in October 2011. The speaker for the first Series was Dr Amanah Tan who spoke on **Women's Rights are Human's Rights**.

The President's Report and the Youth Wing Chairman's Report highlighting the activities which SMESA and the Youth Wing organized or participated in for the Year 2010 were presented. SMESA's accounts were also presented and accepted by the meeting.

After all the reporting had been done, names were nominated for the election of the office-bearers. The elected office-bearers and the appointed officers are listed at the last page of this newsletter. The best part of the Annual General Meeting has always been the *makan time*. Everyone brought or bought their favourite food to share at this annual affair over a cup of tea and camaraderie. If you were not present during our last AGM, I do hope that you will make an effort to join us at the next AGM.

SMPS Family Day - 21 May 2011

Jacquelina Ho



SMPS held its Family Day on 21 May 2011. The highlight of the day was the screening of the movie, TANGLED. It was a Disney movie that was loosely based on the German fairy tale "Rapunzel" by the Brothers Grimm.

The day started with a food carnival. SMESA set up a stall selling yummy Cod Fish Snack and Steamed Sweet Corn.

Since this was our first time selling steamed sweet corn, it was quite an experience, peppered with a good dose of anxiety. We started out by steaming the corn in both an electric steamer and a rice cooker. After a while, we realised that it took a mighty long time for the electric steamer to steam the sweet corn and that the rice cooker was in fact doing a better job. Hence, with presence of mind, we immediately embarked on the brilliant strategy of appointing the rice cook as the dedicated steamer and down-grading the electric steamer to a mere 'keep warm' facilitator.



(From L-R): Sara Leong (SMSS student), Florence Neo, Hui Choon Wai, Jacquelina Ho, Joy Quek, Pixie Ho at the SMESA Stall.

Yes, we started off fumbling, but after a few tries we were already experts in preparing steamed sweet corn. We sold the sweet corn with salt, butter or just plain. The aroma of the corn was so good that it attracted a lot of customers. Even well before the end of the food carnival, we had sold everything. It was a success and an experience for us. All in all, we made \$214.30 from our sales of Cod Fish Snack and our fabulous, yummy tasting Steamed Sweet Corn.

The Grand Finale of the evening was, of course, the screening of "TANGLED" in the SMPS school hall.

SMSS Professional Guidance Day - 3 June 2011

Ruby Lee

St Margaret's Secondary School organized yet another inspiring event for both the students and the ex-students who participated. The Professional Guidance Day forms part of the Career Guidance Programme which seeks to give the graduating students more information about the professions they are interested in and provide insights on the realities of the workplace.

On 3 June 2011, a troop of ex-students whose professions range from medicine to media to religion descended upon the unsuspecting students who are graduating to give them as much information, and as objectively as possible to enable the students to make good and informed choices on this very important matter. The planning and organization of the event were well thought through. Each student will have a chance to attend 3 sessions, each session lasting for about 45 minutes. The plan was also not to have too large a group at each session to enable all the students to participate in the question and answer sessions. The students were also given the option to dress in office attire to give them a sense of occasion.

The 10 ex-students who participated were briefed on what topics to engage the students on. We were to give the students an idea of what it takes to do what we do in our respective fields, and to inspire the students, if possible! We spoke on our own career paths, and the personality traits required to be in that profession. We encouraged the students to ask all the questions they always wanted to ask about the profession but never dared to.

Most of the students were smartly dressed in office attire and appear to dress in accordance with the professions they are interested in. There were quite a few in the legal sessions wearing the appropriate black suits, white blouses and court shoes! The sessions were generally lively and the questions interesting and reflects the ambition of the students. Many were keen to know how long it takes to reach the top of the profession (e.g. how long does it take to be a judge, a CEO?) and whether there is work life balance in the profession. The students were engaging, and appeared to have enjoyed the sessions. Speaking from the point of view of one ex-student who participated in the sessions, I most certainly enjoyed the interaction and the dialogues with the students.



Pixie Ho and Ruby Lee (seated) sharing their experiences in the legal profession.



The students enjoying the talk.

YOUTH WING AGM - 29 January 2011

Lee Mian Jun



Youth Wing members with SMESA members, (second row, from L-R) Pixie Ho, Lee Soo Kwan, Dr Lee Hoon Hwee and Vivian Ang

This year, our Annual General Meeting was held on the 29th of January, at 1.30pm at the St. Margaret's Secondary School IT Resource Room. There were a total of 15 attendees; amongst them the Primary and Secondary School Head and Assistant Head Prefects. After an opening prayer by Ms Lee Soo Kwan, our advisor for term 2010-2011, we started by introducing Youth Wing to the new members of our family. The Chairman's Report and Treasurer's Report were also presented.

After all the reporting had been done, office-bearers were elected. The elected office-bearers and the appointed officers are listed at the last page of this newsletter.

Corrigendum:

In the Newsletter No 24, on Page 5, in the article **SMESA Interviews – Anamah Tan**, the name of the Principal mentioned in the last paragraph, should read as *Ms Norah Inge*.

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