

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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UPCOMING EVENTS

SMESA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 17 April 2021 at 2pm

SMESA Legal Awareness Project (Talk on 'PDPA')

(Postponed until further notice)

SMESA visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged (Outreach/Chaplaincy Programme)

(Visits subject to further advice from the relevant authorities)

Note :
Due to COVID-19, all events are postponed until further notice.

For enquiries to the above events,
Please e-mail us at
smesa.sg@gmail.com

Dear Members

Please take note of the announcement below and we need your participation. Do look out for your AGM package to be despatched to you soon, either via email or normal postal mail. If you do not receive it by end of March 2021, please email us at smesa.sg@gmail.com.

A graphic featuring a yellow sticky note pinned with a red pushpin to a dark green background with light green diagonal lines. The sticky note contains the following text:

Important Announcement

SMESA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Date : 17th April 2021
Time : 2.00pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

At the bottom left of the sticky note is a small circular logo of the St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association. At the bottom right of the graphic, below the sticky note, is the text 'St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association' next to a larger version of the same circular logo.

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2020/2021**President**

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A Warm Fellowship with Monica Lau, our Senior Member

By Jennie Bek

24 Jan 2021 Sunday - It was a fun filled and heart warming fellowship afternoon. In view of Covid-19 safety measure, we managed to gather 7 current and ex-board members of SMESA to visit one of our senior board members Monica Lau. It was a pot luck party with a wide variety of yummy Asian dishes... eg. dry mee siam, rojak, tahu goreng, satay, popiah, curry puffs, salad, fruits, agar agar, etc.

Monica was an ex-Board Member and had supported the School in many ways and was a prayer member of St Margaret's Secondary School. She was very well liked and respected by the board members. At her golden age of 88 years old, Monica is very vibrant and her voice is full of energy! She shared with us many fond memories of her school days at St Margaret's Secondary School.

She remembered her Principal and Teachers who had taught her. The school system at that time was different from current days. The students who graduated from school seems to be restricted on the careers they chose. Most common occupations were clerk, nurse or teacher. She recalled that if the student failed in one school, she would not be allowed to be promoted in another school. It was compulsory for all students to pass English subject.

She had taught the St Margaret's Primary School students Bible studies under "moral education" every Friday which is part of the school curriculum. She educated them on the right moral values. The students were multi-racial of different religions and beliefs.

The conversation led the members to exchange their stories on how they chose to go to St Margaret's Secondary instead of other schools.

While sipping tea, we hummed along the various hymns from St Margaret's school days. It seems that those hymns had never changed throughout the years. Couldn't imagine our ages spanned across 40s to 80s!

It was a memorable afternoon with so much sharing and laughter. It was indeed a great opportunity to meet up during these challenging times for a blessed time of fellowship and to reminisce the good old days. We could not wait to organise another visit.



SMSS SEC 1 STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS



Dharshini D/O
Balasubramaniam
(Sec 1-4)

When I first came to SMSS, I was excited because I had secured a place in my dream school. However, I also felt quite nervous as I was not sure if I was able to make any friends. However, these fears were unfounded. From the very first day of school, I have many positive experiences. I made some good friends in my form class, Mother Tongue class and CCA. The staff and teachers here are really helpful, kind and caring.

I am impressed by the school's rich history and strong culture.

I really enjoy my lessons. My teachers are always ready to help whenever I have a problem. After adjusting to the new school environment, I feel more relaxed and feel a sense of belonging to St. Margaret's Secondary School.



N Keerthna D/O
Narayanan
(Sec 1-7)

I was nervous and excited at the same time when I first joined SMSS. Some positive experiences I had here so far include making new friends and taking part in activities organised by the orientation facilitators.

I am very impressed by the school's history. I was surprised to know that there was a time capsule in the parade square and am interested to find out what is inside.

One of the activities I enjoyed during the orientation was archery as it was fun.

I think the teachers and staff here are kind and nice, especially my form and subject teachers. Now that I have adjusted to the school, I am enjoying myself. I feel comfortable here as I know that my new friends and teachers would be there to comfort me when I feel down or need help.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

	SMPS	SMSS
1. Ashley Evangeline Tay YinZhu	1996	None
2. Amelia Wong	1996	2000
3. Debbie Hoon ShiHui	1996	2000
4. Grace Teo Hui Ling	2001	2006
5. Serene Tan Mei Ling	1997	None
6. Tan Yan Yu	1999	2003



Anya Chew (Sec 1-1)

Before I joined SMSS, I felt anxious as I had heard many seniors and relatives talk about how secondary school life was going to be more stressful with more homework and tests. However, all these worries disappeared when I participated in the orientation activities during the first three days of school.

Our facilitators were very friendly, kind and patient with us as they introduced us to our new school environment. These helped us to make new friends easily. Our teachers were also understanding and forgiving towards us. They understood that we needed time to adjust to a new schedule.

I was impressed with how serious the school was on temperature taking. We have to take our temperature even though it is time for dismissal! This also showed me how united the school was in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

I really enjoyed myself during the school and House cheer sessions. The cheers were fun to do and easy to learn. I feel that such events build the St. Margaret's school spirit and remind us that we are all part of one big family where no one is left behind.



Aafina Putri Wibiyanto
(Sec 1-6)

I was from Queenstown Primary school. I felt really nervous and anxious on my first day at SMSS because I did not know what to expect in this new environment.

Once in the school, I was really impressed by the size of the school because it was much bigger than my primary school, so much so that I almost got lost!

When I first entered my new classroom, I noticed that everyone seemed to know one another well because most of them were from the same primary school. I felt lonely and kept looking forward to the last lesson. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the Secondary One Orientation Programme and had fun playing the games and activities. From there, I made new friends. I also enjoyed the CCA fair because I was able to see the different kinds of CCAs offered by the school.

It was indeed a positive moment when I was accepted into the CCA of my choice. I also have really good form teachers and always enjoy their lessons.

Now that I have adjusted to school, I look forward to coming to school to meet my new friends. I am close to them and feel comfortable with them. We always go for recess together or spend time together after school.

SAC Home For The Aged (Outreach Programme)

By Chew Siew Kheng

St. Andrew’s Cathedral Home for the Aged has been a home SMESA partnered with and served for many years. Over the years, it has grown very dear and close to our hearts as we used to visit once every quarterly to fellowship with the residents over snacks and some activities. We have been restricted from visiting since early 2020 due to Covid-19 and we miss spending time with the residents there. We were told by Margaret, the centre’s director that the residents do miss us very much.

On 4th February 2021, a very small group of us made a trip to the home to present them with a little hamper of Chinese New Year goodies. We could only peep through the windows and have a glimpse of them. They were excited to see us and they waved to us. We were just as excited to see them. We were told they spend most days watching live stream videos or have virtual meetings with their virtual visitors. Thank God they are still able to connect with the outside world while remaining safe in the home.

We are hoping we can go back to the home as soon as possible to resume our activities and to fellowship with them. Meanwhile, we pray that God will continue to bless and keep them safe and in good health.



From left to right :
Suraja, Siew Kheng & Joy



From left to right:
Joy, Margaret, Siew Kheng & Suraja



CNY decorations on the window grill



CNY goodies before wrapping



Voila ! CNY goodies after wrapping



CNY greetings card from SMESA