

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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Our Centenarian

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SMESA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 18 April 2015 at 2:00 pm

Venue: IT Conference Room

St. Margaret's Secondary School

SMSS Sports Day

Friday, 13 March 2015

Venue: Yio Chu Kang Stadium

SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service

Friday, 17 April 2015

SMESA Speaker Series

Friday, 29 May 2015 at 9:00 am

Venue: St. Margaret's Secondary School Hall

A talk by Ms Michelle Wong



By WONG HOE ENG

A centenary celebration of an ex-student.

Lim Siew Har, Grace and her sisters, Gim Har & Cheng Har were students of the C.E.Z.M.S School in the 1930s.

While in school, Grace accepted Christ. Over the years, as she progressed along life's journey, she experienced the steadfast love, mercy and grace of the Lord whose unfailing loving kindness sustained and guided her safely through the war years and the ups and downs of daily living.

Her deep trust and faith have blessed her with health, strength and a peace that transcends all understanding and have enabled her to be energised by God's amazing grace.

On 20th Feb 2015, she celebrated her 100th birthday.

It was a joyful and memorable occasion of togetherness of family, happy fellowship of friends and a time of much rejoicing and thanksgiving and to top the day, she received a gracious birthday greeting from Queen Elizabeth of England.

Her great-grand children are in our church schools. Claire Wong is in St. Margaret's Primary and Joshua Wong is in St. Andrew's Junior School.

The Ex-students send our warmest wishes.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ Farewell, Mrs Marion Tan

Mrs Marion Tan left SMSS on 15 December 2014 to be the Principal of another secondary school. She was the Principal for SMSS for more than 10 years from 1 November 2004. Whilst she was the Principal of SMSS, she had rendered much assistance to SMESA and was ever willing to accommodate our needs. We wish Mrs Tan all the best in her new endeavour.

▼ Welcome, Mdm Lee Lin Yee

Mdm Lee Lin Yee, a youthful and energetic mother of three, joined SMSS on 16 December 2014. We hope to feature her in our next issue.

▼ Demise of Mrs Esther Lin Wo-Ling @ Yong Swee Ing

Mrs Esther Lin passed away on 11 October 2014 in Hong Kong. She was one of our founder members who initiated the formation of SMESA which held its inaugural meeting on 5 February 1949. A Memorial Service in her honour was held by her family on 29 November 2014 at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore.

▼ New Members

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

Life Members

Ms Ms Theingi Wint Wint Soe

Ms Tan Geok Yen

Ms Jessie Cheah Wun Sze

• SMPS 1988 • SMSS 1992

• SMPS 1996 • SMSS 2000

• SMSS 1990

SMESA TEA PARTY

SMESA held its annual tea party at the Learning Lab in St. Margaret's Secondary School on Saturday, 27th September 2014. The turnout for the event was good. We were delighted that Mrs Marion Tan, Principal, and Mrs Yip Wai Fong, Honorary member of SMESA and former Vice-Principal of the secondary school, were able to join us.

BY HO LIAN GEOK

A sumptuous tea spread of savoury, sweet and spicy foods tantalised everyone's taste buds. A workshop "Unveil Youthful Radiance Now" conducted by Carmen Ng, Head Beauty Trainer of BelleWave, was conducted during the tea party. Through a demonstration where Zarene Gardner, Associate Member of SMESA, volunteered to be the "model", we learnt the must-dos for taut, refined and lifted skin; powerful contour massage techniques for a flawlessly contoured, V-shaped face; smart sun protection for safe play outdoors; and skincare "must-haves" that are essential to one's beauty regime.

The event provided an opportunity for SMESA to engage current and potential members as well as to show appreciation to our stakeholders. We look forward to the tea party next year and hope to see you there!



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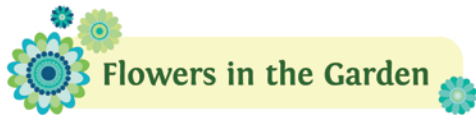
01 SMESA Members together with Ms Carmen Ng, Head Beauty Trainer of BelleWave

02-03 Ms Carmen Ng demonstrating contour massage techniques on Mrs Gardner

04 BelleWave products used at the workshop

172nd ANNIVERSARY DINNER

By JENNIE BEK



Flowers in the Garden

The "Flowers" are our students, present and past, and
The "Garden" SMPS and SMSS.

The pupils are "germinating";
The students "budding";
The young ladies "blossoming" and
The women "blazing with colours".

Our Principals are the Keepers of the Garden;
Our Teachers, the Gardeners and
Our Staff, the Helpers in the Garden.

 By Ho Lian Geok, SMESA Board Member

This beautiful poem was specially composed by Ms Ho Lian Geok, our SMESA board member, to commemorate St. Margaret's 172nd Anniversary Dinner, held at the St. Margaret's Primary School on 16 November 2014 – a Sunday. The theme of the dinner was 'Flowers in the Garden'. The school hall was beautifully decorated with floral decorations and balloons. Each table was dressed with a variety of flowers on a recycled bottle or vase. The guests were welcomed at the hall entrance with an artistically-designed photo booth specially set up by PTA members in the dinner committee. Every guest was given a door gift, a floral coaster printed with the school's logo and the words '172nd Anniversary'.

This is a yearly event organized by SMESA (St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association). The response was good and we had 275 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.

Most of the guests were dressed in floral attire, with floral necklaces, ear rings and head accessories, all in line with the floral theme! The guests were treated to a sumptuous meal of Chinese, Muslim or Vegetarian cuisines. The guests had a great time mingling with one another and catching up with their former classmates, teachers and principals. Some ex-students took this golden opportunity to have their annual get-together too!

The guests were also entertained by the lively performances from students of SMPS and SMSS. There were Chinese dances, music on string instruments and singing from the school choir. To wrap up the evening, the Schools' Partners (namely SMESA, PTA and PSG) performed a medley of songs with lyrics relating to the floral theme. The lyrics were nicely composed by Ms Zoe Lee, the pianist of the Chapel of Christ the King.

To thank the guests for dressing up for the theme, the organizing committee selected 6 best-dressed guests and welcomed them on stage to receive their gifts for the 'Best Dressed Awards'. Once again, it was a memorable evening with good food, fun and laughter!



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We hope you will not miss next year's 173rd Anniversary of the St. Margaret's Schools. Do save the date in your calendar – 16 November 2015 (Monday)? 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 Secondary School. We look forward to seeing you at the dinner!

01 SMESA Members at the beautifully decorated photo booth.

02 Jennie Bek, Pixie Ho and Rose Tan with some of the School ex-boarders who published the book "Lest We Forget".

03 The Schools' Partners (SMESA, PSG, PTA) performing a floral-themed medley of songs

04 Chairman of dinner committee - Jennie Bek with her former Chinese Language Teacher - Mrs Chong



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05 Dinner committee members with Dr Lee Hoon Hwee - President of SMESA and Ms Pang - Principal of SMPS

06 Ex- student Fang Wei with her former teacher - Ms Lim Ai Kiok, who also taught her daughter at SMPS

07-10 (Clockwise from Left) Performances by: SMPS Choir, SMSS String Ensemble, SMSS Choir, SMPS Chinese Dance

SMPS PRIZE GIVING DAY

At St. Margaret's Primary School's Prize Giving Day, held at the School Hall on 14 November, Principal Ms Pang Wee Mian talked about 'cultivating the spirit of thankfulness'. She had shared with us that during the year, Primary 6 pupils were asked to reflect over the years they had been with St. Margaret's and write to their teachers their reasons for being thankful.

By LEE SOO KWAN

This was a wonderful reminder to the young girls. In today's world of busy-ness, we often forget to be thankful for the love, care and concern we receive from those who love us and care for our well-being.

Ms Pang also reminded us to always thank God for St. Margaret's noble and rich heritage and for His love and faithfulness over the years. St. Margaret's will always be our pride and joy.

We are also to be thankful for those who came before us, who have laboured, and for the benefits from which we have reaped. Ms Janet Lim and Mrs Mary Cassim were specially mentioned. Ms Janet Lim, in her book 'Sold for Silver', wrote about how she was sold to a rich towkay as a *mui tsai* and was rescued and boarded at CEZMS. In CEZMS, she received an education which prepared her to be trained as a nurse. Janet Lim eventually became the Matron of St. Andrew's Mission Hospital. As she felt that she had been so blessed, she wanted to be a blessing to others and the proceeds from her book were largely given to help needy children.

Mrs Mary Cassim was Principal of SMPS for 21 years. Her pupils fondly remembered her to be a gentle, kind and understanding person. They have learnt much from her.

Ms Pang also thanked all her staff and school partners for their love and support for the School.

Guest of Honour Ms Sum Chee Wah gave an inspiring speech, sharing her belief on what is important in life. She told the audience that her years in St. Margaret's had shaped her to be the person she is today. She experienced care and support. She recalled her young days in St. Margaret's and her appointment as one of the three teacher-helpers when Ms A K Lim was her teacher. This has led her to decide on a career in teaching. Starting as a Biology and Chemistry teacher, at age 33, she was appointed the principal of a secondary school, then the youngest principal ever appointed in Singapore. She later served in the Ministry of Education in various portfolios. Ms Sum is currently Advisor to Preschool Education at the Early Childhood Development Agency as well as MOE.



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Ms Sum also shared 'some of the important things in life' – there is life outside the classroom, reach out to those in need, make time for others, be sensitive to the needs of others; and on the personal side – pay attention to your interest, understand your strengths and weaknesses, experience many things, deepen bonds with family and friends.

She concluded by saying that Charity, Patience, Devotion are qualities to guide us when we leave St. Margaret's.

01 (L-R) Lee Soo Kwan with Ms Sum Chee Wah (GOH), Ms A K Lim & Principal Ms Pang

02 Lee Soo Kwan giving away to a recipient of SMESA Prefects Service Award

JOB SHADOWING 2014

Two Secondary 3 students, namely, Amanda Loh Ming Huei and Chloe Theresia Ng from SMSS came to job-shadowed me at my legal firm for 5 days from 1 to 5 December 2014. Although it was a short stint, the time they had spent with me was a full-packed one.

By PIXIE HO

I took them to the various courts such as the Family Justice Courts, the State Courts and the High Court to observe the various cases being heard at these courts. They also sat in to observe my attendance with clients and the work that I did in the office. They also helped me to carry out some clerical work.

Before leaving my office after the stint, they shared their job-shadowing experience with me as follows:-

From Amanda Loh, she says:-

“Being able to work with a lawyer is really fun and exciting. At first, I was expecting a strict and stern mentor, but actually she was very kind and cheerful. She patiently guided and taught us, and making work fun as well. Being able to work with a lawyer was an eye-opener for me. It was not as glamorous as I have thought it would be. In fact, it was a tough, strict and onerous job that requires a lot of patience, honesty and integrity. I was really intrigued on how the courts system works. Being able to go and see the three courts really excited me and I learnt a lot from the experience. Overall, this work attachment was meaningful and fun. It has further inspired me to become a lawyer.”



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And from Chloe Ng, she shares the following:-

“Working with Ms Ho has been a really enriching experience. Throughout these 5 days, we followed Ms Ho to the Family Justice Courts, State Courts and High Court, and she explained the court procedures very patiently in each of the 3 courts in Singapore. We also learnt about handling several cases, namely, probate matters, sale and purchase of property, family matters, etc. I have truly enjoyed myself those 5 days as I get a first-hand experience on what being a lawyer is like. After this work experience, I am even more encouraged to be a lawyer to help people who need my help. I am extremely thankful for this experience to job-shadow in M/s Ho & Associates.”

01 Amanda and Chloe at M/s Ho & Associates



ST. MARGARET'S THANKSGIVING DAY 2014

As our anniversary date, 16 November, was on a Sunday (when St. Andrew's Cathedral has back-to-back services), we held our Thanksgiving service on Friday, 14 November. Students, teachers and staff from both Schools and partners of the Schools filled the Cathedral.

By LEE SOO KWAN

The service, led by SMPS Chaplain, Revd Steven Seah, commenced with the singing of the School Hymn. The lyrics remind us of God's unfailing love and mercies on St. Margaret's and for us to be faithful to Him and 'To serve and love always'. Singing the School Hymn is truly uplifting!

The Scripture, read by SMPS Principal, Ms Pang Wee Mian, was taken from Deuteronomy 32:7 and 8:7.

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, He set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of sons of Israel."

SMSS Chaplain, Revd Barry Leong, in his sermon, said that 'we are to remember' those 'before us' and what they had done for us. As is sung in our School Hymn, *"They reap not where they laboured, We reap what they have sown;....."*

History is important, so that we know where we stand. We are to respect our 'forefathers' and replicate what they had done. What we have today is the fruit of the labour of those before us and we are to return what we have received to the next generation and generations to come.

In their familiar sweet, melodious voices, SMSS Choir gave a wonderful performance of 'Look At The World' by John Rutter and 'When You Believe' by Stephen Schwartz.

'Look At The World' tells us of the many wonderful gifts God blesses us with -

"Every good gift, all that we need and cherish. Comes from the Lord in token of his love."

We have much to praise and be always thankful to our Lord!

In 'When You Believe', miracles there will be -

*"There can be miracles, when you believe
Though hope is frail, it's hard to kill
Who knows what miracles, you can achieve
When you believe, somehow you will
You will when you believe."*

We also thank God for all His wonderful works in our lives when we believe in Him!

With these words still ringing in our ears, the service concluded with the singing of the School Song, closing prayer and blessings by Revd Steven Seah.