

# ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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## **UPCOMING EVENT(S)**

- SMESA New Members' Get-Together – 27 January 2024, to be held in SMS(S). Save the date! Details to be released later.

**SMESA Newsletters will be distributed in soft copies. Hard copies are available only upon request.**



SMESA wishes all a Christmas filled with love, joy, and cherished moments. May the magic of the season bring warmth to your heart and happiness to your home.

## **MESSAGE FROM MS. CHEW SIEW KHENG, SMESA PRESIDENT**

Dear fellow SMESA Members,

We are seeking new members to come forward to serve on the Board. We do not need special skills, only willing hearts to give back to our alma mater, and to connect the alumni and the community. We meet once a month for an hour or so and take breaks in June and December.

If you are interested, please reach out to me at 98713165 to arrange for a chat or tea before end of January 2024 as our next election takes place at the next AGM in April. Looking forward to catching up with some of you soon. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!



## **NEW MEMBER(S)**

We welcome aboard the following new member(s) :-

		<b>SMPS</b>	<b>SMSS</b>
1.	Felice Lim Yan Hwa	None	2011
2.	Koh Sze Lin	2007	2011

### **SMESA MEMBERSHIPS**

**We offer both Life membership and Youth membership.**

**For further details, please visit our website:  
<http://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>.**

## St. Margaret's 181<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner

### Be Connected, Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future

By Juliana Tenggara

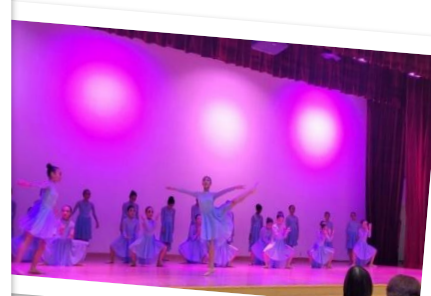
It is with immense joy and gratitude that we share the highlights of St. Margaret's 181st Anniversary Dinner. The celebration took place at SMS (Secondary) on 16 November 2023. Truly homecoming since the COVID-19 pandemic, the air was filled with excitement and nostalgia as alumni, staff, and friends of the school gathered to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the shared experiences that bind them together across generations.



## Joyous Reunions



The attendees were treated to a sumptuous dinner as well as mesmerising performances by students from the SMS (Secondary) String Ensemble, SMS (Primary) International Dance, SMS (Secondary) Chinese Dance and Malay Dance CCAs. A Collective Memory Project, entitled 'Set Apart', featured interviews of staff and ex-students, underscoring the enduring values and sense of community that define St. Margaret's. The audience was reminded of the school's role in shaping not just academic minds but also fostering character, resilience, and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world.



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## St. Margaret's 181<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner

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As the anniversary dinner concluded with the singing of the school song, there was a palpable sense of excitement for the future of St. Margaret's. The event served as a catalyst for renewed commitment and support from the community, ensuring that the next chapters in the school's history are as impactful and meaningful as the preceding ones. Here's to 181 years of excellence and the promise of many more to come!

## Christmas Celebrations at St. Andrew's Cathedral Home

Reflections from Mrs Linda Sandosham

As an octogenarian, I rarely venture into new or enriching experiences anymore. However, on a recent visit to St Andrew's Cathedral Home (SACH), I could not help but be moved by members of St Margaret's Ex-Student's Association (SMESA) who brought Christmas cheer to the residents of the home. As an ex-teacher, I was privileged to be able to join SMESA on that visit for their special Christmas programme with the residents of the home. At the same time, it was a great opportunity, I thought, to meet with ex-students, some of whom I had taught years ago.



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## Christmas Celebrations at St. Andrew's Cathedral Home

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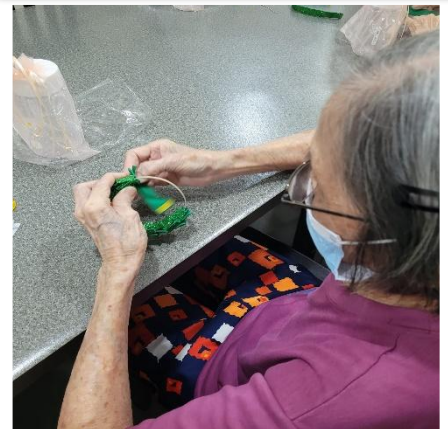
The morning's programme began with an opening prayer by SMESA member Ms Suraja, followed by Siew Kheng, the President of SMESA, giving out Christmas gifts to the residents of the home.

SMESA members present, happily pitched in as needed as well as to distribute mini musical instruments like castanets, shakers, bells all made of plastic for the carol singing that followed. It was like being back in a classroom with kids posing questions and teachers explaining things. But this was far more sedate and orderly than a classroom of young students!

Before the carol singing started, Ms Suraja gave a short message on the meaning of Christmas, with translation to Mandarin by fellow member, Ms Jenny Koh. The carol singing might have sounded like a cacophony of noise to any choir leader, but to me, it was joyful singing with the accompaniment of musical instruments. I was heartened to be in the midst of people who, by their singing and playing of the instruments, were in a way praising God.

The final part of the programme was the craft activity which, though challenging, turned out to be successful. Each resident with the help of SMESA ladies produced a pretty little Christmas wreath to hang on the home's Christmas tree. It seemed to give the residents a sense of pride having produced their own little decoration for the tree.

The morning's programme ended with a lot of happy noise and chatter as we said our 'goodbyes' and the residents their 'thank yous'. You could not but feel the sense of appreciation and acceptance of all who had been part of the programme.



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**St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association**

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240  
 www.smesa.org.sg  
 www.facebook.com/smesa1842  
 Email: smesa.sg@gmail.com  
 Fax: (65) 6534 5127  
 WhatsApp only: (65) 8825 4620

**SMS(P) – PERI-Upgrading Project Updates****Fundraising updates  
(Nov 2023)**

Target to raise =  
\$3 mil

Amount raised so far =  
\$2.36 mil

Amount to be raised =  
\$640K

Refer to SMESA Newsletter Issue #67 for the Principal's message and donation details.

**The Bear Wore a Swimsuit  
by Dr. Susie Baboo Samuel**

Dr. Susie is an ex-student of the St Margaret's School and belongs to the Senior Cambridge Class of 1962. Her memoir *The Bear wore a Swimsuit* is dedicated to Miss Isabel Lau, Mrs Phyllis Chin and Mrs Sushila Appadurai Cherian her English teachers and Mrs Martha Holloway the Principal.

The author royalty is pledged by a tripartite agreement between the author, the publisher and the beneficiary to The Banyan, a NGO registered in Chennai that offers comprehensive health services to mentally disturbed destitute and homeless women rescued from the streets.

*The Bear wore a Swimsuit* is published by Vitasta Publishers and is available on [Amazon.sg](https://www.amazon.sg).

