



ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT

A Publication of St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

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2015



► St. Margaret's 173rd Anniversary Dinner

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COMING EVENTS

SMESA Chinese New Year Lo hei

Thursday, 11 February 2016

Price: Cost-sharing

Open to all ex-students

Contact: enquiries@smesa.org.sg

Visit to

St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged

Saturday, 1 March 2016, 2.00 pm

Block 341, Clementi Ave 5 #01-148

SMESA AGM

Saturday, 9 April 2016, 2.00 pm

Details in our Facebook and next issue



01



16/11/2015 20:21

03



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16/11/2015 18:18

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16/11/2015 18:34

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By MONICA LIM

It was a haze free evening as guests streamed into the hall to celebrate St. Margaret's 173rd Anniversary. The dress theme was red and white and many came fashionably dressed in those colours. Ms Lee Soo Kwan, President of SMESA, in her opening address to welcome the guests, also thanked the Principals, the Vice-Principals and staff of both schools for their dedication in instilling in their young charges the qualities of charity, patience and devotion which are the hallmark of St. Margaret's 173 years.

(Cont'd on Pg 3)

01 The Dinner Organising Committee

02 Members of SMESA, PSG & PTA singing their hearts out to the diners

03 Performance by SMSS International Dance Club

04 Performance by SMPS Harmonica Band

05 The School pioneer teachers enjoying themselves

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2nd Vice-President

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Ms Brenda Lan Shumei

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PRESIDENT WRITES...

Reaching Out

If I am asked to describe the work we at SMESA are doing, I would say it is all about Reaching Out. It is reaching out to our members and all ex-students (who have yet to be members); our ex-teachers and principals; our alma mater and the community. A dictionary defines Reaching Out as an act 'to show somebody that you are interested in them and/or want to help them'.



At the recent St. Margaret's 173rd Anniversary Dinner, we were delighted to be able to reach out to several students, teachers, principals and staff – current and former. We dedicated this year's celebrations to our pioneer teachers, principals and staff – the ones who laid a solid foundation for our School - with our theme for the evening 'From Us, with Love'. It was truly heart-warming to see them enjoying the reunion with their students and knowing that they were remembered.

We have been reaching out to our students who are graduating this year. With the help of Principal Lee Lin Yee and her staff, student representatives were appointed to be links to the cohort. Discussions are in progress to plan activities for 2016.

Last but by no means least, we continue to reach out to our ex-teachers and principals, and the community, especially the less fortunate and those in their advanced age – to let them know they matter and are loved. We are frequently touched at the end of our visits when asked 'Please do come again soon!' It takes only a couple of hours of our time, but it brings so much joy to those we visited and, more so, a wonderful feeling inside for all of us. Spanish cellist and conductor Pablo Casals once said 'The capacity to care is one thing that gives life its deepest meaning and significance'. Let's all try reaching out to someone through SMESA activities in the coming year!

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed New Year!

All Blessings,
Lee Soo Kwan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ New SMESA Website

Our new website will be launched soon.
Look out for further announcement in our Facebook.

▼ SMESA AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 9 April 2016 at 2.00 p.m. at the Secondary School.
Do come and join us in this important event for a time of fellowship and camaraderie.
Details will be released later in our Facebook and next issue of our Newsletter.

▼ New Members

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

Life Members

Ms Joan Choo Yea Ping
Ms Esther Lee Siew Neo
Ms Irene Peh
Ms Vanessa Yap Kim Noi

- SMPS 1977 • SMSS 1981
- SMSS 1976
- SMPS 1997 • SMSS 2001
- SMSS 1981

St. Margaret's 173rd Anniversary Dinner

(Cont'd from Pg 1)

The pioneers of the school, some of whom were students who later became teachers of the school, were presented with a souvenir book. Professor Lawrence Boo, Chairman of the School Management Committee, in his speech urged the students of the school to join SMESA so that the link with the school will not be lost.

Before dinner, grace was said by Revd Barry Leong followed by the singing of the School Hymn.

During the eight-course dinner, the students of both the Primary and Secondary schools entertained the guests with a potpourri of songs and dance items. The Primary School harmonica band played two songs and the dancers performed an international dance entitled "Unstoppable Growth". The Secondary school also presented two items: "World of Dolls" and "The Rainbow Connection". These items affirmed the school's reputation for having won awards for dances in the past school competitions. There was also a Best Dressed Contest which was awarded to the following persons:

SMPS Category: Mrs Karen Wong and Mrs Samantha Heng
SMSS Category: Mdm Siti Noryani and Mrs Vimi Rethinam
Others Category: Mrs Saedah Alkaff and Mrs Cecilia Peralta

For the finale, the school partners, PTA, PSG and SMESA, presented a song item: "To Sir with Love".

The enjoyable evening ended with the singing of the hymn "To God be the Glory" and the School Song. The closing prayers were said by Revd Steven Seah, who also prayed for what happened in Paris recently.

The guests left the hall with a souvenir mug of the school ending a fulfilling evening for all.

Special thanks must be given to the members of the dinner committee for their work in making this sold-out dinner a success.



SMSS APPRECIATION TEA

The Secondary School hosts the annual Appreciation Tea to thank all partners for their unfailing support, contributions and assistance rendered to the School in carrying out its programmes, activities and co-curriculum activities effectively and efficiently.

By PIXIE HO

The guests were entertained by none other than the Vice-Principal, Mr Tan King Ming, who played the piano and Florence Hou from St. John's Chapel who gave a demonstration on balloon sculpturing. A slide show of the students' co-curriculum activities was also shown. The guests were mesmerised by Mr Tan's piano recital and had a great time with the balloon sculpturing and fabulous food.

Representatives from St. John's Chapel, SMESA and PSG were present. Nine members from SMESA, namely, Pamela Kwan, Ho Lian Geok, Bridget Choy, Hui Choon Wai, Pixie Ho, Brenda Lan, Linda Ling, Loh Geok Chin and Dorice Cheong attended the function.



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01 Vice-Principal Mr Tan King Ming playing the piano

02 A slide presentation of co-curricular activities carried out by students

03 SMESA members

04 Fun with balloon sculpturing



SMPS 173RD SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING DAY

St. Margaret's Primary School held its 173rd Prize Giving Day on 19 November 2015 at the school hall.

By JENNIE BEK

This is a special day for all the prize winners and special award winners. It began with the Flag Raising Ceremony, followed by the Opening Prayer and Principal's Report by Ms Pang Wee Mian, the school principal. Ms Pang shared the school theme for 2015 and 2016, that is, "Cultivating a Thankful Heart". She also shared about appreciating the school's rich heritage and our partners – PTA, SMESA and parent volunteers.

The Guest-of-Honour was Dr Tan Puay Ling, an ex-pupil of SMPS, who is now Consultant at Infinity Hand Wrist & Reconstructive Surgery Centre. She shared with the audience on her schooldays.

Academic Awards were given to students from Primary Two to Six.

Other awards were:

- Good Progress Award For Chinese Language (for pupils from Primary One to Six)
- Special Awards 2015
- Top PSLE Award 2014
- All-Round Achiever 2014
- Top CCA Achiever 2015
- SMESA-St. Margaret's Prize 2014 – see below
- SMC Scholarship Awards : Academics Excellence 2014
- SMC Scholarship Awards : Sports Excellence 2014
- SMC Long Service Awards For Staff (10 years)

- MOE Long Service Awards For Staff (5, 10, 15 or 25 years)
- SG50 Commemorative Coin Set (more than 50 years of service) awarded to Miss Lim Ai Kiok
- PTA Service Awards
- P6 Prefects Service Award 2015 presented by Miss Lee Soo Kwan, President of SMESA

The SMESA – St. Margaret's Prize was given to the pupil from the 2014 cohort who had attained the highest PSLE aggregate score and went on to attend St. Margaret's Secondary School. The prize went to Sneha Audrey Peter from 6 Patience.

The audience was entertained with performances by the students from the Gymnastic and International Dance. The ceremony ended with the Dismissal Hymn and Closing Prayer. All the parents and pupils were invited to light refreshments thereafter.



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01 Guest of Honour Dr Tan Puay Ling delivering her speech

02 SMESA President Lee Soo Kwan presenting the Prefects Service Award 2015

03 Performance by International Dance club



JOB-SHADOWING 2015

Three SMESA members opened the doors of their establishments to students from St. Margaret's Secondary School for their job shadow programme. Six students served their 8-day internships at Mrs Wong Sooi Loon's office at Kenetics Innovations Pte Ltd, two students went to Ms Sara Liew's law office at Central Chambers Law Corporation to learn about law practices and one student job-shadowed Ms Pixie Ho from M/s Messrs Ho & Associates.

BY PIXIE HO

The students' stints in these offices were short, but gauging from their reflections, the learning experience was tremendous.

The following are the students' reflections:-



01

▼ Xiao Chengxin says...

"The work attachment at Central Chambers Law Corporation (CCLC) gave me the opportunity to gain exposure in the law industry. I attended court sessions and meetings with clients besides assisting in the binding/filing rooms. There is a considerable amount of preparation before the lawyers attend court sessions. The lawyers and staff at CCLC are friendly and approachable of the nature of their job. I will remember the work experience at CCLC although I was there for five days from 16 to 20 November 2015."

▼ From Ashmita Gupta...

"My experience in Central Chambers was a fruitful one. I attended a court session and reflected on how different a court case is in reality as opposed to what has been portrayed in dramas.

It was an unforgettable experience. I learnt to use the binding machine, printer and photocopying machine, equipment which students do not use daily. The five days of job shadowing gave me a better idea in considering the choice of law as one of my career options in the future. I am grateful to be selected for the job attachment, and would recommend others to apply for such opportunities."

01 Xiao Chengxin and Ashmita Gupta

02 Cherilyn Teng with Pixie Ho

03 The 6 students with Mrs Wong and her staff



From Cherilyn Teng Kai Min...



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During the 23 November 2015 to 27 November 2015, I was privileged to be able to go to Ho & Associates, a law firm, for work attachment. During the 5 day period, I had an eye-opening experience. I got to learn about the different kinds of legal services; and be able to attend meetings Ms Pixie Ho had with her clients and attend court trials at the three courts in Singapore. I picked up quite a few new words during the attachment, and Ms Pixie Ho made sure I understood them and were able to spell them correctly.

I learnt that time management is very important. There are always deadline which lawyers have to follow closely to. Work will keep piling up if one were to drag them. Hence, I learnt that keeping up with your work is important. Also, being a lawyer is not very easy, apart from attending trials, you need to do a lot of paper work, and meeting clients which could also last for hours. A lawyers' job is what I would call tedious, a client's case could last years. Sometimes a lawyer needs more time from the court to file Affidavits, documents, etc.

This work attachment taught me that behind all the glamour and high salary which a lawyer might earn, there is a lot of hard work and time being put into the work. I would like to thank the school and Ms Pixie Ho for giving me the opportunity to job shadow a lawyer and learn what is behind the scenes.

Trisha Teo Kye Shuan reflects that...



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St. Margaret's Secondary School has been very active in exposing their students to various worklife enrichments, one of which is their Work Attachment programmes. From 11th to 20th November, six girls from St. Margaret's Secondary School went on an 8-day internship programme at Kenetics Innovations Pte Ltd, a company specialising in Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). Established in 2002, its rapid growth over the last 13 years provides a rich insight into the RFID industry for the SMSS girls.

Kenetics Innovations designs and develops a wide range of RFID products, such as the New On Board Bus Equipment (NOBEs) and the card readers for all Singapore MRT stations. Kenetics is the first Singapore company which has developed the hardware for the present fare system for all buses and MRT stations for LTA.

Over the course of the eight days, they experienced first hand the important skills needed to ensure the smooth running of the company and also ensure that the best possible products are delivered to their clients. The girls had to learn how to manage their time effectively and learn not to waste resources. Pasting gaskets onto the inner surface of the Bus Card Validators (BCV) is an extremely intricate process and patience as well as perseverance proved to be highly useful in allowing this task to be completed properly.

On top of taking part in the production process, they were also involved in some of the administrative aspects of the company which include accounting and printing. Through this, they have also learnt useful I.T. skills which would definitely aid them in their future work life.

The girls were brought to the Land Transport Authority's (LTA) gallery which showcased Singapore's formative years in land transportation as well as future endeavours of the industry.

What made the experience extra special was the sharing session with SMESA's past President who is also the Executive Director of the company. Taking time out of her busy schedule, she imparted life skills needed in the working life based on her personal experiences. It was an exceptionally enriching and meaningful session for the girls and her continued love for teaching definitely radiated out of her disposition.

The six of them feel very privileged to have had this opportunity and would definitely recommend this programme to their peers.



VISIT TO ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL HOME FOR THE AGED

On 19 September 2015, some members from St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association ("SMESA") visited the St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged. SMESA bought some egg tarts for the residents. We had a sing-a-long session with action songs, and Chinese songs performed by Pamela Kwan and Jennie Bek.

By JOY SIA

Our visit was made around Mid-Autumn Festival, therefore, we showed the 21 residents how to make simple lanterns as demonstrated by Lee Soo Kwan & Pamela Kwan. We made lanterns from the ang pow envelopes distributed to them. They had to be cut, folded, glued with double-sided tape and stapled to shape into lanterns. Ribbons, tassels and flowers were used to decorate them.

It was very interesting to see how the various lanterns were carefully made by the residents and SMESA members (including Jennie's two children, Marcel and Nadine).

We also chatted with the residents and sang some songs for them.

Helping the residents make lanterns was a delightful experience, especially when we see their smiling faces. What a fun-filled afternoon for the residents and us!



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01 Residents making lanterns from ang pow envelopes

02 Residents posing with their finished lanterns