

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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COMING EVENTS

SMSS Appreciation Tea

Date: Saturday, 13 Oct 2018

Time: 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.

Venue: SMSS School Hall

SMPS 176th Speech & Prize Giving Day

Date: Friday, 16 Nov 2018

Venue: SMPS School Hall

Guest of Honour: Ms Yeo Hwee Joo (alumni and ex-missionary)

St Margaret's 176th Anniversary Dinner

Date: Friday, 16 Nov 2018

Time: 6.30 p.m. (to be seated)

Venue: SMPS School Hall

Price: \$40 per person

Tickets: Contact the persons listed in the poster (appearing on this page); or log into <https://bit.ly/2xeVzbh> or www.stmargaretssec.moe.edu.sg for the Ticket Purchase Form

Visit to St Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged

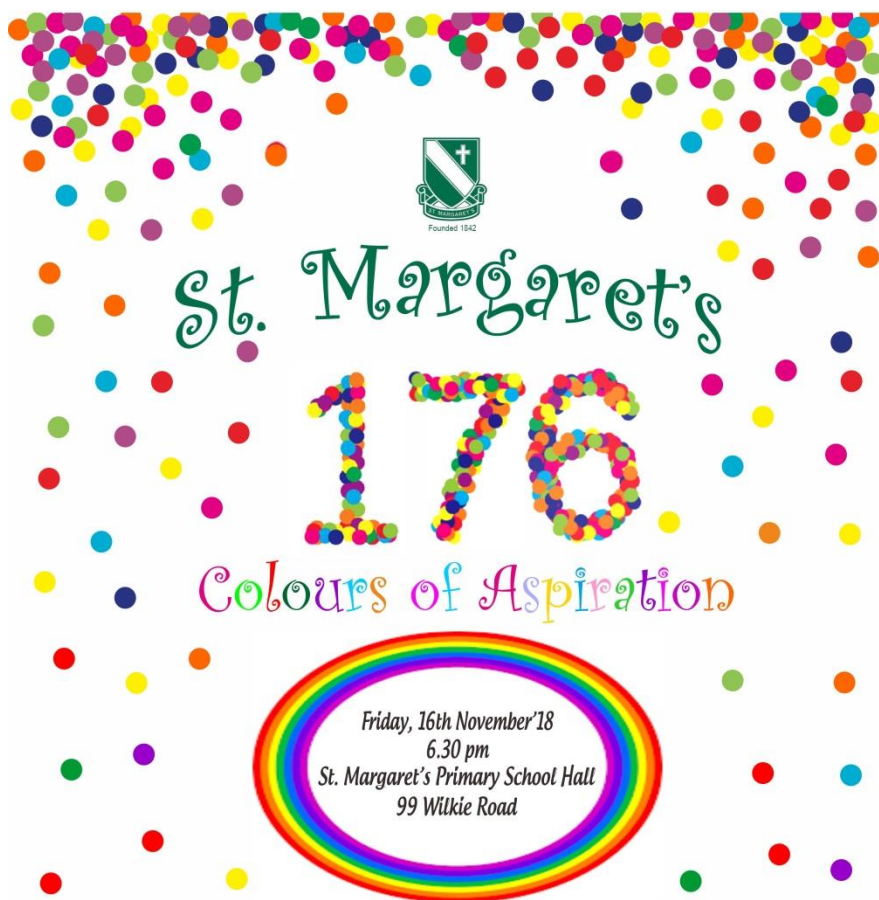
Date: Saturday, 24 Nov 2018

Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

Venue: Blk 341, Clementi Ave 5 #01-148

For enquires with regard to the above events, please e-mail us at smesa.sg@gmail.com

Come, join our 176th Anniversary Dinner!



Enquiries and Ticket Sales :

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

Ms. Lina Wee 82004000
linawee15@gmail.com

St. Margaret's Secondary School

Ms. Lian Chuen Ann 64664525
lian_chuen_ann@schools.gov.sg

St. Margaret's Primary School

Ms. Loh Wei Tiang 63394247
loh_wei_tiang@schools.gov.sg

Dress Code :

Smart Casual & Multi-Coloured

Price :

\$40 Per Person

Closing Date :

16.10.18

Organised by :

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association
Parents Teachers Association SMPS
Parent Support Group SMSS
St. Margaret's Primary School
St. Margaret's Secondary School

Friday, 16th November '18

6.30 pm

St. Margaret's Primary School Hall
99 Wilkie Road

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Ms Chew Siew Kheng

1st Vice-President
Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

2nd Vice-President
Ms Jennie Bek Poh Kiang

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Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

Assistant Honorary Secretary
Ms Hui Choon Wai

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Ms Brenda Lan Shu Mei
Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata
Ms Lee Mian Jun
Ms May Lim Yen Ling

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PRESIDENT WRITES...



Giving Back

When I joined the SMESA Board 2 years ago, I was asked by many of my friends as to what makes me consider volunteering to serve while I am still working full time. Some asked if there are any benefits and some even teased me that I must be bored with my life. Honestly, it's none of these reasons.

Serving voluntarily is all about giving back. I have left SMSS for several decades now and every once in a while, I will reflect on what I have learnt in my four years in the school and how the school has contributed to my life and achievement. As I looked at the history of St Margaret's, I marvelled at how Mrs Maria Dyer, in 1842, selflessly devoted herself to saving young girls from slavery and giving them opportunities in life. If not for her giving and sacrifice, these girls would have no place in society and many of us would not have learnt the values of Charity, Patience and Devotion. After realising how much I have gained and how little I have given back to St Margaret's after leaving school, I decided to at least devote part of my time to giving back to my Alma Mater. So here I am after 2 years of serving on the Board. I reap much joy from serving. It has been an enriching journey and I am so glad to be reconnected with my Alma Mater through my giving back.

There is much to give to our Alma Mater and I hope that all of you, young and old, can come forward as volunteers whenever needed or be a part of SMESA Board. There is always something we can contribute to our Alma Mater. Please speak to me or the board members or email us at smesa@gmail.com

It's more blessed to give than to receive; and this holds true for me. May God continue to bless SMESA and the St Margaret's family.

Chew Siew Kheng
President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Ms Pang Wee Mian!

Our heartiest congratulations to Ms Pang Wee Mian, Principal of SMPS, for being awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) on National Day.

Post-Exam Activity

SMESA will be conducting a post-exam activity with the SMSS students on 17 Oct 2018. Lee Mian Jun, a member of our Board, together with a team of helpers, will teach the girls how to make origami earrings.

Our Newsletter, St Margaret's Connect

In an effort to go green, we are sending our Newsletter to all members via e-mail. Therefore, please let us have your e-mail address if you have been receiving our Newsletter in hardcopy so we could send it to you via e-mail. You may forward your e-mail address to us at: Smesa.sg@gmail.com

New Members

We welcome aboard the following new members:

	<u>SMPS</u>	<u>SMSS</u>
1. Eunice Teo	2000	2004
2. Jessie Sie-Tho	1987	1991
3. Vanessa Ang	2010	-
4. Serence Chew	1990	1994
5. Jacqueline Phua	1996	-
6. Vidhya Maria Thomas	1988	1992
7. Irene Eng Kah Lin	-	1979
8. Leung Jieling	1995	1999
9. Fiona Lioe	2002	-
10. Tina Devi Manogarann	1995	2001
11. Anne Tan	1986	1991
12. Serena Tan	1989	1994
13. Teo Lai Shan	1997	-

TIT BITS

Having Tea with Chung Keng Oi

Soo Kwan together with SMESA members Alice Tan and Mary Soo caught up with Chung Keng Oi for tea on 2 August at the Chinese Swimming Club. Many of our members will remember Keng Oi, who has contributed much to SMESA. For decades until her retirement a few years ago, she had been looking after our financial accounts, ensuring that the required financial reports were ready for every Annual General Meeting. We want to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You!' to her.

We are extremely pleased to see Keng Oi looking hale and hearty as she had been absent from our activities for a couple of years. 'It was wonderful to see you again, Keng Oi!', say the trio. Do come and join us in our activities.



Clockwise from front row, left : Keng Oi, Mary, Soo Kwan & Alice

Racial Harmony Day

The theme of SMSS Racial Harmony Day celebration this year was 'Diversity our Strength'. The school celebrated with various activities such as inter-house dance, fashion show and classroom activities. Students in secondary one and two had to come up with a tableau based on a theme while the upper secondary had to produce a poster featuring a recipe for Harmony in Diversity.

In line with the theme, there was a sale of traditional food of various races in the school canteen on 19 & 20 July 2018. These included kacang puteh, teh tarik, jelly cake, nyonya kueh, tutu kueh, muah chee, takoyaki, and Ramli burger. SMESA was glad to support the school in the celebration by assisting to man some of the stalls.



SMESA members manning the stalls

IN MEMORY OF MS MAY CHEW SIOK NEE Departed 14 July 2018

By : Tay-Lang Ren Jee Ranata

Ms Chew spent 41 years in St. Margaret's Primary School, joining the school as a teacher in 1963 and rising to the position of vice-principal in 1985 and a principal in 1988.

Grounded on Values and Firm Believer of Holistic Education

She was a firm believer in holistic education. The current mission statement of the school which affirms the nurturing of the whole being was crafted by her. In 2003, she introduced the school creed to further affirm the values that the school upholds. She was ahead of her time in many aspects. She succeeded in getting SMPS to function as a single-session school since 1986 so that various enrichment programmes could be carried out in the school in the afternoon. This would enable pupils to take up enrichment lessons such as tap dancing, ballet, organ playing, etc., in the school while their parents were at work. She also introduced harmonica to the music curriculum as she wanted every pupil to be able to play at least one musical instrument. She was ardent about speaking good English and initiated The Speaking English through Listening and Practice Project.

Ms Chew initiated the annual Founder's Day dinner since the school's 150th anniversary, calling it Gathering of the Clan. She wanted to provide opportunities for ex-students to meet at least once a year. Before trolley school bags were a feature in schools, she designed and introduced SMPS' very own trolley bag, making it the first trolley school bag in Singapore. She also started the newsletter 'Footprints' which captures events of the school.

Touching Lives / Gift of Compassion

Ms Chew's strong gift of compassion arose out of her caring deeply for people. Besides providing leadership for the school, she derived great satisfaction when pupils, teachers and even parents approached her for counselling. Through her influence, many of these came to embrace the Christian faith. One such example is Ms Yeo Hwee Joo. Ms Yeo shared that through Ms Chew's influence, she not only embraced the Christian faith but also became a missionary. "Ms Chew's dedication to teaching and her witness as the first Christian I met had made an indelible impression in my life," she added.

Outside school, Ms Chew found time to counsel ex-drug addicts and prisoners as she believed that everyone deserves a second chance. After her retirement, she started a school in Batam, Indonesia.

Ms Chew was grounded on strong values of charity, patience and devotion and she exemplified the school motto Charity, Patience and Devotion. Above all that she had achieved, she is remembered most for her great love and compassion and her ever reaching out to those in need. She has certainly left her footprints and a legacy of love and compassion.



Ms Chew (front row, centre) with Heads of Department in 2002

SMSS 176th SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING DAY

By : Lina Wee Mei Ling

The SMSS 176th Speech & Prize-Giving Day was held on Friday 20th July 2018. SMSS Principal, Ms Lee Lin Yee, kick-started the event with the Principal's report. Apart from sharing about the school achievements, she related a personal experience of her school days, how she landed a post of treasurer instead of a drum major or band conductor which she had hoped for. Little did she know that the experience as a treasurer would benefit her much later as a principal who is responsible for the accounts of the school. She also shared about the various activities the school has organised with the aim of cultivating in the students positive mindset, moral behaviour and good attitude so that they will be able to be better persons and be able to contribute to the community and serve God.

The Guest of Honour, Lee Soo Kwan, gave a speech on 'Making Good Choices'. The choice we make, whether good or bad, will impact our lives. She recounted the choice her late sister made after she was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. She chose to stay active and continue to lead as normal a life as she could. By God's strength and grace, she managed to get a student care centre started and see the children learning and playing at the centre through till her last days. Her choice impacted her in that she felt extremely fulfilled. It brought her much joy when she received messages and hundreds of paper cranes to cheer her when she was in hospital. Another real-life story Ms Lee shared was about a former drug addict's choice to read the Bible while in prison. This choice impacted his life and resulted in him making a complete turnaround. He is now happily married with a wonderful family. Ms Lee reiterated that when one makes a choice, one must think of the consequences as we have to live with the consequences of our choices. Good choices beget good consequences.

In between the prize giving, the performing arts CCA delighted the audience by showcasing a Chinese fan dance, Malay drum dance and a choral rendition. The programme concluded with Rev. John Lin leading the closing prayers, and the School Choir singing the Benediction.



SMESA Immediate Past President Soo Kwan (Photo on left)
SMESA President Siew Kheng (Photo on right) presenting prizes



VISIT TO ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL HOME FOR THE AGED

By : Fern Ling Chettle

I went with my aunt, Pamela, and her SMESA members to the St Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged on 21 July 2018 to conduct some activities for the elderly folks there. It was extremely touching to see how much they enjoyed creating the mini flags of Singapore and how excited they were to sing the National Anthem. They waved their flags as they sang along. Some requested for old popular Hokkien and Cantonese songs which they had sung when they were younger. It was delightful to see them singing and dancing and displaying pride towards their country and also reminiscing their younger days. Seeing their smiles indeed made my day!



Bringing cheer to the elderly



REFLECTION ON "BIRD CAGE MAKING" ACTIVITY

SMESA held a bird cage making session with the SMSS Library Committee on 15 August 2018. Old books were turned into decorative bird cages. The following is a reflection from Velouria Soh, Head Librarian:

"The activity was very interesting and useful as we made use of our old books from home and made them into something so pretty to display as decoration or gifts instead of just throwing them away.

It also did not take us that much time or effort to transform old books that we have read before into beautiful bird cages, though it might be back aching but the results turned out to be very nice."



Bird cages galore!





SMESA TEA AND PILATES WORKSHOP

By : Pamela Kwan

SMESA organised a Pilates Workshop on neck and shoulder pain on 18 August 2018 at the SMSS Sports Hall. During the one-hour session, Priscilla, the Pilates instructor, taught the participants the technique for releasing tight muscles, stretching and strengthening them. Everyone enjoyed the workshop and bonding over tea.

A participant, Magdaline had the following comment:

"The workshop helped me better understand the importance of good posture. Slouching and carrying heavy backpacks are causes of pain in our neck and shoulders. This workshop is very useful as we learnt how to release tightness in our muscles by using a massage ball and also doing stretching exercises to strengthen our neck and shoulders."

Another participant, Angie, commented:

"It was a session not just to loosen the tense muscles but also to spend quality time with family and friends."



Strengthening of muscles



We had fun!

TEACHERS' DAY HIGH TEA

By : Jenny Koh Kah Noi

On 30 August 2018, St Margaret's Primary and Secondary School staff, management and alumni members came together to celebrate Teacher's Day! Teachers were treated to high tea held at Concorde Hotel. The theme for the celebration was Superheroes and many came dressed as Wonder Woman, Batman, Superman, The Incredibles and even Princess Leia. It was a thrill seeing these superheroes come to life. Many were busy taking pictures with each other, mingling and chatting and showing off their costumes.

The Parent Volunteer group did a great job organizing and running the event. In between the scrumptious food, fun games such as People Bingo and Newspaper Search kept everyone on their toes and in a frenzy as they scrambled to play the games and win prizes! The entertaining, interactive and engaging session left everyone with broad smiles on their faces!

The highlight of the afternoon was the Best Dressed Competition. Because of the high standard of creativity with their outfits, there were three winners instead of just one for the individual category - Wonder Woman, Thor and Deadpool. The Super Mario Brothers and their princesses, won Best Dressed for the group category. Lastly, what's a superhero without a villain? The group of ladies who dressed up as Poison Ivy stole the show with their emerald green dresses and striking auburn hair!

The fun-filled celebration left everyone with smiles on their faces. The celebration proves that our teachers are superheroes indeed!



Our teachers Our superheroes!

