



ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT

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SMSS 176th Speech & Prize Giving Day

Date: Friday, 20 July 2018
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: SMSS School Hall
Guest of Honour : Ms Lee Soo Kwan
(SMESA Immediate Past President)

Visit to St Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged

Date: Saturday, 21 July 2018
Time: 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Venue: Blk 341 Clementi Ave 5
#01-148

SMESA Tea & Pilates Workshop

(Neck & Shoulder Pain)
Date: Saturday, 18 August 2018
Time: 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Venue: SMSS Indoor Sports Hall
Charges: \$15 per person (member)
\$20 per person (non-member)
Register:
<https://goo.gl/forms/e2Dp6B1pXv1vUOii2>
(see page 4 for more details)

Teachers' Day High Tea

Date: Thursday, 30 August 2018
Time: 2.00 to 5.00 pm
Venue: Concorde Hotel, Orchard Road
Price: \$50 per person

Talk on Lasting Power of Attorney

Date: Saturday, 22 September 2018
Time: 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Venue: SMSS

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

EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES!



Harmonica Ensemble playing the Hungarian Dances

SMPS Concert Entitled 'Yesterday Once More'

St. Margaret's Primary School held a concert on 30 June 2018 in Kallang Theatre. Mrs Wong Hoe Eng, whose association with SMS goes a long way, graced the occasion. She was a student at SMS in the 1930's after which she served as a teacher till her retirement in 1980. She then served in the School Management Committee. In a video presentation of her, Mrs Wong reminisced about her memorable time with the school.

The theme of the concert was 'Yesterday Once More'. A grandmother was recounting to her granddaughter, Genevieve, her various experiences in her past which had helped shaped her character of resilience. She also shared about previous school concerts featuring extra-curricular activities which became the springboard for the concert items to be showcased in this year's concert.

The concert items elicited a sense of nostalgia among the more senior audience as songs of yesteryears rang through the concert hall, be it in the Primary 1's energetic and vibrant coordinated dance or the Primary 2's ethnic fusion drums. The school choir, with their angelic voices, gave their rendition of a potpourri of multi-lingual songs. In the song 'Little Red Dot', written with a local flavour both literally and figuratively, they sang about traditional foods such as ice-kachang, chilli crab, nasi ayam, appam, ham jin beng and sambal belachang, putu mayam and chicken rice.

Every item presented, be they the harmonica ensemble, the band's items or the graceful Chinese and International dances, indeed transported the audience to 'Yesterday Once More'.

When asked what he thought of the concert, Marcel Bek, whose sister performed in the choir expressed, "I like how the concert showcased the CCAs along with a skit to show us what went on in the school in the past and present. I also like how concerts have a way of bringing people together." (see more photographs of the concert at page 8)

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2018/2019

President

Ms Chew Siew Kheng

1st Vice-President

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

2nd Vice-President

Ms Jennie Bek Poh Kiang

Honorary Secretary

Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Hui Choon Wai

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Jenny Koh Kah Noi

Committee Members

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Ms Brenda Lan Shu Mei

Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata

Ms Lee Mian Jun

Ms May Lim Yen Ling

Co-opted Member

Ms Susan Wijaya

Auditors

Ms Bridget Choy Wai Fong

Ms Adeline Sng Yoke Peng

Immediate Past President

Ms Lee Soo Kwan

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Editor

Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata

Layout Artist

Ms Chitra Kannoo

Advisor

Ms Lee Soo Kwan

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PRESIDENT WRITES...



The Journey Begins

As we journey into another year we will encounter new challenges but there is hope because God promises never to leave us to walk this journey alone. He is the Good Shepherd who has led St. Margaret's School faithfully for the last 175 years and He will continue to lead and guide us as we journey into the 176th year. So let us embark on this journey together and as we begin, let us also remember Philippians 4:13 " - I can do all things through Him who gives me strength", a verse chosen by the SMSS Student Councilors this year.

It has been almost 40 years since I graduated from SMSS and as I look back, those 40 years have been the most wonderful years of my life. SMSS has given me so many opportunities and taught me so many life values which carried me through till today, especially the school motto 'Charity, Patience & Devotion'. It was truly in the sound walls of SMSS that I learned steadfast love and devotion to one another. This was also when I made many true and lasting friendships.

It has been a joy and honor to be part of SMESA and to be able to give back to my Alma Mater. The 175th Homecoming celebrations last year were truly heart-warming and I wished that more ex-students had come and join us in the celebrations.

In the past 175 years, many girls have come through our Alma Mater. It is my hope to see many more young and old ex-students reconnect the dots of St Margaret's through SMESA. Do come and join us in the many activities we have during the year - craft workshops, talks, family outings, visits to our ex-teachers and many more. The grand finale for the year will of course be our Founder's Day dinner on 16th November.

Our activities for the school include the SMESA Speaker series - bringing back ex-students to share their journeys post St. Margaret's with the students, and the SMESA Job-shadowing and Work Attachment Programme - partnering the school with organisations/institutions that can offer work opportunities for the students during their June and November holidays. If you can host our students in your workplace or connect us with organisations willing to do so, please do contact us.

I invite all of you to follow our social media and website for regular updates of our activities. I hope to be able to connect with some of you in person at some of our activities. Until then, God bless and keep you in His loving care.

Siew Kheng



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

We welcome **Chew Siew Kheng** who was elected as SMESA's new President at our AGM on 7 April 2018. See *President Writes* at page 2 of this issue of our Newsletter. We also wish to thank **Lee Soo Kwan**, for her unstinting effort in steering SMESA to where we are today for the past 3 years as our President.

Our Newsletter, St Margaret's Connect

In an effort to go green, we will be sending our future issues of Newsletter to you via e-mail. It is nicer to receive our Newsletter in soft copy as it is in colour. Those of you who have been receiving the hardcopy of our Newsletter, please help us to go green by giving us your e-mail address. You may send your e-mail address to us at: smesa.sg@gmail.com

New Members

We welcome aboard the following new members:

	SMPS	SMSS
Sheryl Lim	2009	2012
Lenny Riyanti	1993	1997
Shen Yu Ping Elaine	1993	1997
Corrinne Quek	1993	1997
Eunice Teo	2000	2004
Jessie Sie-Tho	1987	1991
Vanessa Ang	2010	-
Serene Chew	1990	1994
Jacqueline Phua	1996	-
Vidhya Maria Thomas	1988	1992
Irene Eng Kah Lin	-	1979

Demise of Mdm Fam Yin Oi Kathleen



**Fam Yin Oi Kathleen
(Mrs Lee Siew Choh)**

It is a great loss to SMESA on the passing on of **Fam Yin Oi Kathleen (Mrs Lee Siew Choh)** on **20 April 2018**. Fam Yin Oi Kathleen was one of the founding members of SMESA. She, together with the following ex-students founded SMESA in **1949**:-

- (1) Gertrude Oh (Mrs Gertrude Song)
- (2) Nellie Ang (Mrs Evelyn Chan)
- (3) Esther Yong (Mrs Esther Lin)
- (4) Chan Wai Han (Mrs Grace Tong).

Mdm Fam was elected as the Vice-President at SMESA's 1st AGM held on 19 March 1949. In the first year of SMESA's existence, she organised a jumble sale, lunch at the Cathay Restaurant, dance at St Andrew's School Hall to raise money for the School Building Fund, and picnic at the Lam Soon Villa.

Our deepest sympathies to her family for the loss.



TIT BITS



Makeover room with SMESA Board Members:

L-R (seated) Pixie, Siew Kheng, Soo Kwan, Susan Wijaya, Jenny Koh and Lina
 L-R (standing) (Choon Wai, Irene Fong, Pam, Mian Jun and Brenda

MAKEOVER AT SMESA ROOM

By Lee Soo Kwan

For some time now, we have been wanting to give SMESA Room a facelift. Finally, we had this done during the June school holidays.

The morning of 5th June saw a small team of members from SMESA Board removing old furniture and other 'barang-barang' which have since served their purposes. Then came the painter cum cleaner who gave us a great helping hand!

SMESA Room now has a fresh coat of paint! The floor is cleaned and polished! AND the fan looked almost new after getting a good cleaning! Walking into the Room after the makeover, we were greeted by the smell of fresh morning dew – which drew smiles on the faces of the members who were there.

The Room is now also home to two new cabinets with display shelves. On these shelves are some of our memorabilia, reminding us of memorable events and activities through the years.

Do come and visit SMESA Room when you are next in SMSS for a SMESA activity.

We would like to thank Principal Lee Lin Yee and VP Sandra Toh for their invaluable support on this 'makeover' project, without which we would not have completed this so expeditiously. We also thank Mr Thinakaran Arumugam who helped to supervise the work and in particular, to Mr Suma who did the painting, cleaning and polishing. This is another example of the true St. Margaret's spirit – helping and working together!

All praise be to God!

GET AHEAD WITH NECK AND SHOULDER PAIN

Come and join us for a Neck and Shoulder Pain Workshop presented by an experienced and trained Pilates instructor, Priscilla Phua followed by fellowship over tea.

About Priscilla Phua :

- BodyTree Academy (BTA) Certified Pilates Teacher
- BTA Pilates Matwork Teacher
- Fletcher Pilates® Qualified Teacher
- BTA Movement Anatomy™ (Biomechanics & Pathologies)
- Pelvic Floor Health & Dysfunction (The Center for Women's Fitness)

This workshop explores the symbiotic relationship between spinal mechanics, shoulder girdle mobility and its importance in addressing neck and shoulder issues with the following demonstrations:

- 1) How to address tight muscles through myofascial release and stretches.
- 2) Learn exercises that help to strengthen relevant muscles.
- 3) Proper postural alignment.

When : 18th August 2018

Time : 2-4 pm

Where : St Margaret's Secondary School
 (Indoor School Hall next to basketball court)
 111 Farrer Road Singapore 259240

Cost : \$15 for SMESA Member and
 \$20 for Non- SMESA Member

Closing Date of Registration : 31st July 2018

- ** Limited to first 50 pax only
- ** Come in sports attire and bring a floor mat or bath towel.

Please register at

<https://goo.gl/forms/e2Dp6B1pXv1yUOi2>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata



The St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association Annual General Meeting was held on 7th April 2018.

The outgoing president, Lee Soo Kwan, began the meeting with a prayer, after which she shared SMESA's vision and road map for the coming year. She also expressed gratitude to outgoing board members, especially to Ho Lian Geok for ten years of contribution to SMESA. She encouraged members to come forward to serve and to make SMESA more meaningful and relevant.

The following members were elected to the Board at the Meeting:-

President:	Chew Siew Kheng
1st Vice-President:	Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong
2nd Vice-President:	Jennie Bek Poh Kiang
Honorary Secretary:	Irene Fong Wei Wei
Asst. Honorary Secretary:	Hui Choon Wai
Honorary Treasurer:	Lina Wee Mei Ling
Asst. Honorary Treasurer:	Jenny Koh Kah Nai
Committee Members:	Pixie Ho Pik Yew
	Brenda Lan Shu Mei
	Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata
	Lee Mian Jun
	May Lim Yen Ling
Honorary Auditor:	Bridget Choy Wai Fong
Honorary Auditor:	Adeline Sng Yoke Peng

The newly elected president Chew Siew Kheng thanked the immediate Past President Lee Soo Kwan for her commitment and service to SMESA. She shared that SMESA would continue to connect the dots and she encouraged members to participate in the events specially organized for them.

The meeting ended with Monica Lim thanking the outgoing board members for their unstinting contributions and committing the newly elected board members to the Lord in prayer.

When asked how they feel about coming on board SMESA to serve, the following new board members expressed the following:

By God's grace, my mission has now extended to my alma mater as a treasurer in the SMESA Committee. I trust God to guide me and give me strength. I am grateful and excited for the opportunity, and hope to serve to the best of my ability. – Lina Wee Mei Ling.

Serving in SMESA is a way of giving back to the School. I am proud to be an ex-student of the School – Irene Fong Wei Wei.

I have always seen it as my duty to serve and give back to the St. Margaret's community since I was twelve! – Lee Mian Jun

SMSS Student Council Commendation Service

By Chew Siew Kheng

This year's Student Council Commendation Service, formerly known as Prefects Commendation, was held at the St Andrew's Cathedral on 20th April 2018 at 2.30pm. The ceremony was held to recognize the service of the outgoing student councillors and to commend the incoming ones. The verse for this year's commendation was taken from Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

The programme consisted of singing of hymns, the outgoing president's valediction and the incoming president's address. Reverend Rennis Ponniah presented the badge of office to each incoming student councillor. It was heartwarming to witness the exchange of hugs.

Reverend David Lee delivered the exhortation after which the school choir and the outgoing councilors rendered a lovely anthem entitled "Torrents of Summer" and a meaningful song "When the Fight Calls" respectively. It was a memorable and meaningful ceremony.



Student Councillors flanked by Lee Soo Kwan (left) and Chew Siew Kheng (right)



Outgoing Student Councillors with their tokens of appreciation given by SMESA



SMESA SPEAKER SERIES – “*Breakthrough*”

By Lina Wee

An ex-student, Ms Jenny Chiam, was invited to give a talk at the SMESA Speaker Series for the upper level students on Tuesday, 22 May 2018. In her topic, “*Breakthrough*”, she shared some of her life experiences of courage, flexibility and risk taking.

Jenny started with describing the challenges she faced when climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Despite facing many obstacles such as altitude sickness, she completed the climb within 7 days. Prior to the expedition, Jenny was involved in rigorous swim training for a full year.

She then spoke about her stint as a volunteer Zookeeper at age 16. Although she had no experience, Jenny landed the job and got a chance to work with many different animals. As she was also fascinated in genetics, this exposure gave her the opportunity to learn and do research at the Singapore Zoological Gardens.

Jenny next revealed that she was inspired by her Grandfather, to whom she looks up to as a role model and a risk taker. Although her family were mainly in the medical field, it was he, who advised her to take up 'Finance' as he felt that it was another avenue where she could help other people.

Jenny wrapped up by reflecting on her days at St. Margaret's Secondary School where she was the Swimming Captain, a Girl Guide and a Prefect. All these experiences helped prepare her to 'Be a Leader' 'Be Prepared' & 'Be Kind' as a person.

Quote of the Day : "I have no special talents, I am only passionately curious." Albert Einstein.



Jenny Chiam delivering her talk.



(L-R) Lee Kar Hiang (teacher), Irene Fong, Lina Wee, Soo Kwan, Rosalind Khoo (teacher), Siew Kheng and Jenny Chiam

SMPS Concert "Yesterday Once More"

(continue from page 1)



Brass Band



Ethnic Fusion Drums by Primary 2



Grandma at her birthday party with her family and friends



The cast of Yesterday Once More



International Dance – Fan Dance



Guest of Honour – Mrs Wong Hoe Eng (in the front centre flanked by SMPS Principal Ms Pang Wee Mian (extreme right), her family and SMESA's members