

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**SMESA visit to St. Andrew's
Cathedral Home for the Aged
(Christmas Party)**

Saturday, 14 December 2019
at 10am-12pm

**SMESA MEMBERS' TEA PARTY
(Mary Kay Make-Up)**

Saturday, 11 January 2020, SMSS
The Learning Lab at 2-4pm

SMESA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 28 March 2020, SMSS IT
Conference Room at 2-4pm

**SMPS Charity Golf
(School Building Fund Raising)**

Wednesday, 29 April 2020,
at Tanah Merah Country Club
(Details to be advised)

For enquiries to the above events,
Please e-mail us at smesa.sg@gmail.com

St. Margaret's 177th Anniversary Celebration – A Lunch

By Brenda Lan

It is a tradition for us to celebrate the St. Margaret's Founder's Day every year on 16 November and this year was no exception, even on a Saturday.

The theme for this year was 'With a Grateful Heart' and lunch was arranged instead of a dinner so that we could be with our alumnae, friends, parents and teachers who came to support, and can then rest over the weekend. Some of our guests came dressed in motifs of the hearts. We had a beautiful heart-shaped flower arch photo booth enjoyed by many photo lovers. For the door-gift, each guest was given a tin can of cookies and a heart-shaped brooch, beautifully made by SMESA member, Lina Wee. Guests mingled freely to catch up with ex-teachers, principals, colleagues, old classmates and friends over a sumptuous sit-down lunch.

The School Hymn was played to commemorate the start of the event. Ms. Chew Siew Kheng, President of SMESA and Chairperson of the 177th Anniversary Organizing Committee, gave the opening speech, followed by Reverend Timothy Chow, who recounted past events and gave the opening prayer before the lunch commenced.

This year, SMESA was delighted to invite and host SMESA Youth members (who have recently graduated) and some SMSS students from the Students Council. This was made possible by the courtesy of SMESA members who have sponsored their seats. We hope to keep in touch with all the graduates after they leave their alma mater in the hope that they would join the SMESA Youth currently led by Ms. Lee Mian Jun.

The program that afternoon included lively performances from students of SMPS and SMSS, two table game trivia. Reverend John Lin from St. John's Chapel delivered the closing prayer before the event ended with the School Song. We hope to see many more ex-students and alumnae joining us in next year's anniversary celebration on 16 November 2020.



177th Anniversary Organising Committee
Members



Performances from both SMPS &
SMSS students

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2019/2020

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1st Vice-President

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

2nd Vice-President

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Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

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SMSS Students' Journey (Class of 2019)



Tjong Jia Ning
Class : S4-4

To me, the highlight of my SMSS journey has undoubtedly been all the friendships I made. Through my four years, I met a group of friends who taught me that friendship truly is magical. My friends were there for me at my highest and my lowest points in my life. Without them, I will not be who I am today.

My time in SMSS was definitely one worth looking back on. I have learnt a lot about myself that made me the person I am today. It may not have been an easy journey, but I know I've grown to be a mature young adult grounded by my school values. I am deeply grateful to SMSS for that.



Nur Khadijah Afreen Bte M J S
Class : S5-2

My journey in SMSS was definitely not an easy one, but with the help of a strong, supportive community around me, I have grown so much and I am proud to be a St. Marg's girl. I have been presented with so many opportunities to learn and grow not only as a student but as a leader. These opportunities were not only presented in Upper Secondary, but from the moment I stepped into the school as a Secondary One student. I have learnt many valuable skills through my day-to-day interactions with teachers and classmates and the many developmental workshops organised by the school.

Seeing my schoolmates work hard and lead by example has inspired me to do likewise. SMSS has encouraged me to do well, but also to do good. This is something that I will definitely remember. In SMSS, I have been encouraged to do well academically, but also to do good to those around me, through the many Values in Action (VIA) programmes that I have participated in. The past four years have shaped who I am today. I have learnt that I should not strive for perfection, but for excellence and virtue. Thankfully, I have not walked this journey alone, but alongside my schoolmates and teachers, whose encouragement and understanding has allowed me to make SMSS my second home.

My four years in St. Margaret's Secondary School will be one experience that I will never forget. Both the friendships forged as well as the experiences have been one of a kind. From Secondary One to Secondary Four, I have had many opportunities to get to know new people, take up leadership roles and learn about the importance of serving others and the school in a variety of ways such as VIA, taking part in kindness movements in our school and much more. Though there were trials that I faced in different areas of my school life, it has taught me the true meaning of what friendship is. With support from my friends, I managed to pull through and overcome those trials. St. Margaret's is a place where I find support and encouragement from both the staff and students. It was really like a second home to me from Secondary One to Four. I will definitely miss the people, school events and the energy our school has.



Eleanor Teo Yan
Class: S4-2

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Farewell Message from SMSS Principal Mdm Lee Lin Yee

Dear friends at St. Margaret's Ex-Students Association,

When I was asked by President Ms Chew Siew Kheng to do a write up of my journey at St. Margaret's Secondary School, I was honestly unsure of what I could write. After all, five years flew by in the blink of an eye. It was a privilege and honour to be able to lead St. Margaret's Secondary School for the last five years, and I thank all the wonderful stakeholders like SMESA for your patience as I got to know the school and all of you.

I am grateful to SMESA for the wonderful support you have given to St. Margaret's School, whether primary or secondary. For SMSS, we have partnered in many programmes and activities that have benefitted the girls in the last five years and beyond. One of my fondest memories would be the preparation for our 175th anniversary. It was truly a year of non-stop excitement for the school as we made our mark in the Singapore Book of Records, launched the Memories website, had an amazing fun fair and a well-attended anniversary dinner. In each of the activities, SMESA played such a big part in making the celebrations possible and it was heartwarming to see the entire St. Margaret's community come together as one.

Besides the annual anniversary celebrations, SMSS has worked closely with SMESA on a number of other programmes like SMESA Speakers Series, Work Attachment Programmes and post-exam activities. The close partnership between SMESA and SMSS has allowed the Work Attachment Programme to be one of the most comprehensive among secondary schools, with a wide range of professions that students can opt for. A more recent partnership with SMESA is the mentoring programme where volunteers from SMESA engaged our students who needed a listening ear and a role model who could give them advice. This year is the first year of the programme and I am sure the students benefitted from it.

It is a joy to have SMESA's presence in the school. The students get to see their seniors giving back to the school, and this will leave an indelible mark on them on the importance of giving back to their alma mater. It is also very generous of SMESA to allow St. John's Chapel to use the SMESA Room to minister to our students. Such a sense of community is what makes St. Margaret's feel like home, and many will attest to how they feel the warmth and welcome when they enter the school.

I now hand over the baton to Ms Linda Lim, who will certainly continue the strong partnership between the school and SMESA. May SMSS continue to do well and do good, and may the Lord continue to bless and keep everyone at St. Margaret's. To God be the Glory!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

	SMPS	SMSS
1. Nettie Tan	2001	2005
2. Amanda Lim Qian Wen	2002	None
3. Ng Hui Wen	1996	2001
4. Sharon Tan	None	1993
5. Chong Lay Hwa	None	1976

PERI-Upgrading at SMPS (Support Our PUP)



The Ministry of Education (MOE) has been upgrading primary school infrastructure to support holistic education and the use of engaging teaching methods.. As such, facilities like Subject Based Banding Rooms, Learning Support Rooms, Indoor Sports Hall (ISH), Dance Studio will be provided in PERI Upgraded schools.

SMPS will be undergoing PERI Upgrading in 2020. It is also timely for SMPS to upgrade her infrastructure as the school was last upgraded almost 20 years ago in 1999 under PRIME (Programme for Improving Existing Schools). SMPS will need to raise S\$1.26million but the figure is expected to rise to include some non-standard items to support teaching and learning.

"Support Our PUP" (PERI Upgrading Project) is the tag line coined by the fundraising committee. The school will embark on various fundraising activities to raise funds for this project the next two years.

To kick-start the fundraising, SMPS held its mini-Funfair on 6 July 2019, helmed mainly by the staff and students and strongly supported by SMC, SMESA and PTA (Parent-Teacher Association). The fund raised, which surpassed the school's target by 25%, was an encouraging start.

To facilitate the extensive two years' upgrading which involves demolition and rebuilding, the school will be moving to a temporary site at 2 Mattar Road (previously Macpherson Primary School) on 18 November 2019.

We would like to thank the many hearts and hands that come together to raise funds and contribute towards providing a better and more conducive learning environment for our girls. We look forward to your support and would like to appeal to you to donate* generously to the building fund to "Support Our PUP". Your donation will go a long way to benefit future generations of SMPS students.

(* Cheque can be made payable to 'St Margaret's Primary School' or you can contact SMPS General Office at 6339-4247 for assistance)

St. Andrew’s Cathedral Home for the Aged (Outreach Programme)

By Pamela Kwan

I have been volunteering at this home for the past 2 years with the SMESA Board. Over the course of these visits, we have built a strong bond with the residents at the Home. They are always so happy to see us and are thankful that we take time off our busy schedules to pay them a visit, planning all sorts of activities and buying snacks for them.

They are very grateful for our efforts. One of them even commented, “你们都很有爱心。我们也很感动，觉得温暖。*(All of you are so caring. We too are really touched and feel so much warmth.)*”

That really made my day.



(Left-Right) Joy, Jenny, Lina, Siew Kheng, Pamela, Jesamin



First craft – 12 Chinese Zodiacs (paper cups)



Teaching residents to stick animal face on paper cups
(12 Chinese Zodiacs)



Second craft – Puzzle pieces

SMPS Leadership Awards / Annual Prize-Giving Day

By Chew Siew Kheng

The last week of school for SMPS was filled with recognitions for students leadership and achievements as well as the graduation of P6 students. On 11th November, the CCA leaders, monitresses and prefects were recognized. On 12th November, a farewell was organized for the primary 6 students and SMESA was given the opportunity to share and encourage them to join the SMESA Youth to stay connected with St. Margaret's family after graduation.

Finally, on 15th November, which was also the last day of school, SMPS had their annual Speech & Prize-Giving day to celebrate the academic achievements of students as well as long-service awards for staff and teachers. The Guest-of-Honour was Ms Julie Kwong, an ex-student of SMPS.



PTA Service Award recipient
Mdm Lee Chin Chin receiving award
from SMC Member Ms Lee Soo Kwan



Prefect Captain – Heidi Pong Wey
receiving award from
SMESA President Ms Chew Siew Kheng



Guest of Honour for Annual Prize-Giving Day,
Ms Julie Kwong,
ex-student of SMPS



One of the recipients receiving
the Leadership Award



Deepavali celebrations by P6 Students



SMPS Graduation Talk

1.(Reflections by Heidi Pong, 6 Patience)

The journey in SMPS has been a long and fruitful one with many challenges as well. I still remember the very first time I came to SMPS when I was still in kindergarten for the orientation. That was when I met my friends whom I treasure very much. The events in St Margaret's Primary are uncountable and I don't even know where to begin.

Many people have been by my side throughout the journey and I am very grateful for each one of them. I remember many things clearly but many teachers of mine who have left the school as well as those still in the school have made an impact to my life. To me, all lessons I had with my teachers were always fun and educational. I loved the types of lessons we had from Primary 1 to Primary 3 where it was way, way lighter than the upper-primary work. Yet, I enjoyed every lesson. I especially remember the events that happened from Primary 4 to Primary 6. The Primary 4 camp was one of the best camp experiences I had and I loved all the activities we did there.

In Primary 5, the Malacca trip and NE show are two of the highlights. I also remember the feeling of achievement when I was appointed as the Prefect Captain of 2019. Although the school year has come to an end, the impact St Margaret's Primary has left on me is greater than any of the challenges I have faced. I will always keep St. Margaret's Primary School in my heart and I will make sure to come back and visit the school, even if it is located at 2 Mattar Road.

Thank you to all my teachers, friends, school leaders as well as my family for journeying with me.

SMSS Graduation Talk

By Irene Fong Wei Wei

Speaking to the graduating students at St Margaret's Secondary School on 30th September 2019 about SMESA brings back memories of myself when I was at that age.

With fond memories, I shared about the little naughty things we did being the only class with 19 girls. However, the school motto Charity, Patience and Devotion St Margaret's has shown us has made us successful in all our ways.

I then shared what SMESA does, including school events we participated, awards we sponsored and the anniversary dinners we organised to give the students a better understanding of SMESA. It is also through SMESA that we connect the dots and we share our life experiences and friendship.

We hope to see the graduands come forward to join SMESA Youth and remain connected with our Alma mater.

2.(Reflections by Rhea Sharma, 6 Patience)

My years in St. Margaret's Primary School has definitely been an exceptionally special experience. The wonderful friendships that have been forged would always be cherished. Throughout the years in SMPS, there have been both ups and downs. However, I can safely say that I loved every second spent in SMPS.

There are thousands of awesome things to say about SMPS. But my favourite part of SMPS is no doubt the people – my friends, amazing teachers, dedicated staff etc. Without my friends, school life would have been boring. We go through both bright and dark times together. I will never forget how ecstatic my class was after PSLE!

Next, I have to mention the caring and passionate teachers who have touched my mind. The teachers have always stood by our side through good and bad times. I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank Ms Sharon for her unwavering support! I would also like to show my appreciation to all the other teachers for 'sacrificing their lives' to teach us.

In the end, SMPS is like my second home. Even as I graduate, SMPS will remain close to my heart.

Thank you.



SMPS – Our SMESA President giving her talk to primary students



SMSS – Our SMESA Secretary giving her talk to secondary students instead

SMESA QR Code made by Brenda Lan

SMSS Post-Exam Activities (K-POP WORKOUT)

By Lina Wee

Needless to say, the Sec 3s had a blast time after their exams with K-POP Workout and games organised by SMESA. Even the teachers are enjoying themselves sitting at a corner moving their arms to the rhythm of the music. Here are the reflections from the Sec 3 Students :-

1) Joey – Sec 3 / 5

I like that the instructors could hype us up even though we didn't know the dance and they were enthusiastic.

2) XiuYu – Sec 3 / 4

We had fun and interaction with our friends.

3) Sarabelle – Sec 3 / 3

It was energetic and fun and allow us to interact with our friends.

4) Bricia – Sec 3 / 4

It was engaging and good with different kind and style of workout.

5) Narcisse – Sec 3 / 5

It was very fun to do it with friends and very engaging.

6) Vy – Sec 3 / 4

It was fun as I was able to interact with my friends.

7) Marissa – Sec 3E4

I found it fun that we could interact with friends outside our classes even though the instructions were too fast to follow.

8) Nicole – Sec 3 / 5

I found it nice to do some DIY of my own and it was quite easy to follow the steps to make the bag.

9) Pritika – Sec 3 / 3

We got to engage with all of our classmates, but some people did not want to do it.

10) Jia Qun – Sec 3 / 2

It provided us with an opportunity to expose ourselves with a new genre of dance.

11) Alyssa – Sec 3 / 3

It was a fun experience carrying a new dance and doing it with our friends. It bonded us as a whole as there was a lot of fun and laughter.

12) Atirah – Sec 3 / 5

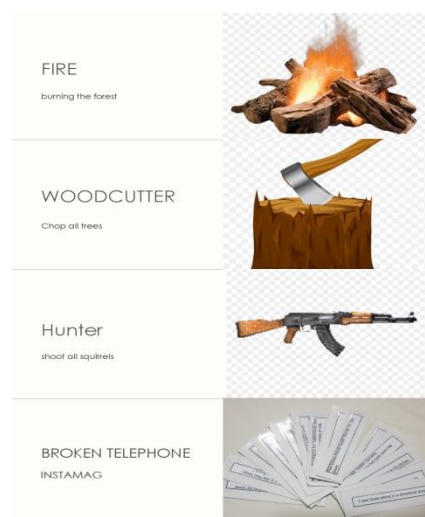
It was an enriching session. I managed to bond with my friends and yet to know more about my classmates.

13) Sunjushre – Sec 3 / 5

It was an enjoyable session as we managed to learn new dance steps and have a good time with our classmates.

14) Hannah – Sec 3 / 3

It was a really fun way to de-stress after exams as we all just enjoyed the music and attempted to dance along. It was a really enjoyable time spent with our classmates.



SMSS Appreciation Tea

By Kalavathy D/O Suppiah

On 12th October 2019, SMSS hosted a Partners Appreciation Tea for her partners, including SMESA Board members for leading and contributing to the many successful events and activities.

To express her gratitude, the volunteers received a certificate of appreciation along with a commemorative SMSS thumb-drive as a humble way of thanking all volunteers for their service and unwavering support.

As a start, two students from the SMSS String Ensemble showcased their talents on the violin and cello. Guest speaker, Ms Sakina from 'Everything Green' was invited to share the benefits of organic microgreens and how to include them in our daily meals. We were also each presented with a Microgreen Grow Bag that contained potting mix and an organic, GMO-free seed pack.

There was a splendid array of traditional local food such as kueh pie tee, laksa, carrot cake, fried bee hoon, gado-gado, dim sum and a variety of beautifully decorated cakes.

SMSS Principal, Mdm Lee Lin Yee, gave a closing speech and prayer to end the session.



(L-R) An Epic pose from Jesamin, Susan, Lina, Mian Jun, Brenda with a beansprout in our mouth



Ms Sakina demonstrating how to pot GMO-free seed in a pack

SMPS Appreciation Tea

By Lina Wee

We are glad to be invited to the SMPS Partners' Appreciation Tea for our partnership in the Green Dot Day Mini Fun Fair. This was also a great opportunity to bond and enjoy the sumptuous tea as a truly unique St. Margaret's family.

The event also showcased the students' talents. SMESA Board Member Lee Soo Kwan, had this to say :-

"I am always very pleasantly surprised by the many talents of our girls and today, their artistic talents. The 'Thank You' poster caught my eyes as I entered the Library and Cher Lang (teacher liaison), with much pride, explained that the posters were all done by the Primary Ones. The paintings and other works of art in the Gallery by the P6s were also amazing; they were lovely, meaningful pieces of work.

Alexis' work on "Fishing out your stresses" and Heidi and Kylie's "Samsui Woman and God's Rainbow Covenant" really spoke to me. Alexis' painting was emanating peace and tranquility, reminding us to move to still waters for a time of renewal and recovery, while Heidi and Kylie's work reminds us to be always thankful and grateful to our 'forefathers' and to God for His promises to us. I could go on and on!

May they continue to paint and 'build' and have as much joy and fun as we have admiring their works!"



(L-R) Joy, Vani, Siew Kheng, Pamela, Cher Lang, Lina, Soo Kwan, Li Ling, Wee Lee, Pixie



Creative arts done by primary students with just an initial 'dot' on the paper