

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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COMING EVENTS

- Visit to **Oasis Second Chance Animal Shelter**
Saturday, 10 September 2016
Time: 3.00 pm
Venue: 18 Pasir Ris Farmway 2
- Ceramic Leaf-Making Workshop cum High Tea**
Saturday, 24 September 2016
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Learning Lab, SMSS
Price: \$30 for Workshop
Free High Tea for members & invited guests

- Visit to **St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged**
Saturday, 8 October 2016
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Blk 341, Clementi Ave 5, #01-148

St. Margaret's 174th Anniversary Dinner
Wednesday, 16 November 2016
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: SMPS Hall
Price: \$40 per head (Order Form Attached)
Theme: Food, Fun & Fellowship
Dress code: Smart casual with polka dots

Church Service at St. Andrew's Cathedral
Wednesday, 16 November 2016
Time: 10.00 am

▼ St. Margaret's 174th Anniversary Dinner



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PRESIDENT WRITES...

Where Can I Help?

As I talked to our new alumnae and also not-so-new alumnae, I realised that not many know what we at St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association (SMESA) are doing. So I thought I would use this column to say something about our work, pending the forthcoming launch of our website.

The story of SMESA started sometime in the mid 1940's when 5 gutsy ex-students in their 20's decided that they wanted to stay connected with their schoolmates and alma mater. Our founding members were Chan Wai Han (Mrs Grace Tong), Gertrude Oh (Mrs Gertrude Song), Nellie Ang (Mrs Evelyn Chan), Fam Yin Oi (Mrs Lee Siew Choh) and Esther Yong (Mrs Esther Lin). Their daughters quite naturally attended St. Margaret's, several of whom have had been my classmates.

These ladies met and tried to put together a Constitution sometime between 1946 and 1949. The inaugural meeting was held on 5 February 1949 with 62 ex-students attending. In that year, the Committee had a jumble sale, a lunch at Cathay Restaurant, a dance party at St. Andrew's School Hall and a picnic at Lam Soon Villa - social activities to continue the bond they had.

Today, some 67 years later, we have built on the foundation laid by the 5 founding members, fulfilling our Mission to support current students, preserve our love for St. Margaret's and maintain the bonds of former students.

What Are We Doing?

SMESA support our alma mater by bringing back ex-students to share on life beyond school, giving talks on career opportunities in various professions and vocations, social etiquette and any subject of interest.

Our Job Shadowing & Internship Programme provides students with hands-on experience in a real work environment to discover their areas of interest and aptitude. SMESA Awards give recognition and encouragement to students for their achievements in, and service to the School. SMESA Bursary/Welfare Fund supports needy students. Our Youth members organise fun programmes for the students.

For ex-students to network and bond, we have tea talks, family activities, fund-raising activities and 'homecoming' on 16 November every year to celebrate the founding of our School.

Our outreach programme takes us to the homes of senior and pioneer ex-students, teachers and principals – to reminisce the 'good old days' over a cuppa with much laughter as we recall our many escapades in School. Our community involvement is with the elderly and the disadvantaged.

Where Can You Help?

Support SMESA for the benefit of our alma mater, members, ex-students and the community. You can take on lead roles to help SMESA grow into a vibrant alumni association. Remember, we have the distinguished privilege of being part of the Family of the oldest girls' school in Singapore!

In the busyness of our worldly responsibilities, we are often fearful of committing time for voluntary work. But you will be an invaluable help if you are able to commit a couple of hours each week or month for work with SMESA. Come and help brighten someone's day!

All Blessings,
Lee Soo Kwan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heritage Gallery @ SMSS

The Heritage Gallery at the Secondary School is undergoing renovations to revamp its set-up. Announcement will be made once it is ready for viewing.

SMESA Youth

It will be organizing an activity called " Escape Room" for students of the SMSS on 18 October 2016, and a workshop on Career Etiquette on 19 October 2016.

Professional Guidance Day

SMSS will be holding its Professional Guidance Day on 8 January 2017. Members who wish to share their expertise or work experience with the students may contact us at: smesa.sg@gmail.com.

Demise of Mrs Liza George



It is with a heavy heart that we wish to announce the demise of our former Principal, Mrs Liza George, on 8 September 2016. Our deepest condolences to her family. The late Mrs George was the Principal of SMSS from 1967 to 1990. Many of us who studied during her term remember her as a stern, strict but a kind lady. She was very fond of and dedicated to the School and even when she retired, she would make it a point to turn up for the School's anniversary dinners without fail. May she rest in peace.

New Members

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

Life Members

Ms Cheryl Tan Tse Ping
Ms Jacinta Ann Lourdes

- SMPS 1992 • SMSS 1996
- SMPS 1998 • SMSS 2003

TIT-BITS

Catch Up with our Youth Member



We caught up with Lee Mian Jun, a member of our SMESA Youth when she came back home for a break from her studies in New York, USA. We met on 12 August 2016 over curry at Muthu's Curry, Suntec City Mall. We chatted about the good old days where she contributed much help in its recruitment of the graduating students from SMPS. She had left, since then, for the USA to resume her studies. We hope she would help SMESA again when she returns after her graduation next year.

Joyous Birthday for Mrs Wong Sooi Loon, SMESA's Ex-President



Mrs Wong celebrated her 75th birthday on 3 September 2016. Some of us attended her birthday bash at St. Regis Hotel. Mrs Wong looks fabulous at 75. No wonder her daughter exclaimed that "she is 75 but looking 55 and acting 35"! Happy Birthday, Mrs Wong!



TEA WITH MRS PHYLLIS CHIN

On Monday, 25th July 2016, seven SMESA members visited Mrs Phyllis Chin, a former English and English Literature teacher from St. Margaret's Secondary School.

BY HO LIAN GEOK

Hale and hearty, Mrs Chin received us warmly at her residence. After some introduction, we, Bridget Choy, Ho Lian Geok, Lee Soo Kwan, Lee Yoke Kwang, Joyce Lee, Loh Geok Chin and Joy Quek sat down and began our journey down memory lane. For those who had been taught by Mrs Chin, the memories were even sweeter. Soo Kwan presented Mrs Chin with a copy of Voices of St. Margaret's. Mrs Chin remembered several of the students who contributed to the book.

A copy of our special 'Pioneer' notebook was also given to Mrs Chin who recalled the iconic St. Margaret's building at Mount Sophia.

The party adjourned to the dining table shortly after for a sumptuous tea spread of marble cake, mini chicken pies and agar-agar (prepared by Mrs Chin) together with rock buns and orange chiffon cake served with tea. The tantalising tea whet our appetite for tales of the good old schooldays. Soo Kwan regaled us with a colourful account of class antics. Joyce recalled how she and fellow participants on Sports Day were each fed a spoonful of glucose. Everyone described the teacher(s) they know, some with fondness and others with fear. What most of us remembered vividly was, without a doubt, the elegant Mrs Chin in cheongsam and her impeccable English.



It was wonderful to see Mrs Chin again, and comforting to know that she is well and happy. Despite the decades of "separation", the bond has not been broken. It was a heart-warming reunion that we know, will be the start of many more to come.

We had a jolly good time!

SMESA organises visits to ex-teachers every year. Look out for the announcements in our newsletter and website. You are most welcome to join us!

01 Mrs Chin (sitting on the right) having tea with SMESA's members



JOB SHADOWING AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME: OBJECTIFS CENTRE FOR FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

The Job Shadowing and Internship Programme (JSIP) of SMESA was established this year to position SMESA as a valuable contributor to the Career Guidance and Values-in-Action Programmes of SMSS in developing career paths for our students. The JSIP Subcommittee aims to secure long-term placement programmes from job attachment providers, thereby introducing students to various industries to discover their areas of interest and aptitude, as well as instilling in them a work ethic that emphasises discipline, commitment and integrity.

By HO LIAN GEOK

Brenda Tan Mei Lin and Shavon Tan Qin Hui completed a 4-day attachment (20 – 24 June 2016) at Objectifs Centre for Film and Photography. They were supervised by Ms Chelsea Chua, Manager (Marketing and Partnerships). The administrative duties assigned to them included compiling a directory of local filmmakers & photographers, categorising books on shelves by country, stock-taking of DVDS as well as observing staff conducting workshops for children. Brenda and Shavon also facilitated in an exhibition “Superhero Me”.

Although the students were assigned “seemingly minuscule tasks”, they learnt that “even the smallest things require the most meticulous effort and concentration”. And it was through these tasks that they learnt about resilience and responsibility. Their supervisor had positive comments on both of them for their attendance, punctuality, initiative, diligence, adaptability, ability to take instructions and communicate, courtesy and appearance. In their own words: “Overall, this has been a good and pleasant experience” (Brenda); “It has been a fruitful experience in Objectifs” (Shavon).



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We welcome ex-students to offer stints in their organisations; your effort in designing a programme that develops skills and inculcates values in our girls will be fulfilling for you and rewarding for them. Do get in touch with us!

The job attachment was made possible by Ms Wahyuni Hadi, a Director of Objectifs Centre for Film and Photography. An alumna of SMPS and SMSS, she was the sixth speaker of our SMESA Speaker’s Series in 2016. Our appreciation to Yuni for contributing to her alma mater!

01 Lee Soo Kwan (extreme left) and Ho Lian Geok (extreme right) with the 2 interns

02 The 2 interns, Brenda Tan Mei Lin and Shavon Tan Qin Hui



SMPS GREEN DOT DAY: “ALMOST FAIRY TALES”

This year's Green Dot Day was a concert presentation titled “Almost Fairy Tales” organized by the school with the objective of showcasing the girls' work in performing arts. It was held at the Kallang Theatre on 13 August 2016 (Saturday) at 4.00pm. As in the past years, the PTA volunteers assisted the girls in drama training, make up/hair do and costume.

By JENNIE BEK

The concert paid special tribute to Miss May Chew (Principal of SMPS from 1987 to 2003) who was the Guest of Honour for the occasion. Miss Chew served at SMPS for more than forty years. As Principal, Miss Chew was committed to fulfilling the dreams of the early missionaries – to provide a balanced holistic education at St. Margaret's. Through her fifteen years as Principal, Miss Chew found joy in seeing changes in the pupils over the years and in knowing that she had a part to play in moulding lives.

The Emcees made a remarkable introduction to the item “An Almost Fairy Tale”. The girls entertained the audience with their fluent mix of dialects and Singlish which was well received by the audiences.

Choir graced the theatre with their angelic voices accompanied with cheerful move. Chinese, International Dance, Brass Band and Harmonica Ensemble was performed by the upper primary girls.



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Our youngest performers, the Primary 1, recited 3 nursery rhymes – ‘Old Mother Hubbard’, ‘Hickory Dickory Dock’ and ‘Three Little Kittens’. Primary 2 was all dressed up in ballet attire adorned with beautiful wings as they danced gracefully on the stage.

Our budding young artistes, dancers, musicians whisked up a great performance and were well applauded by the audience, comprising principals, teachers, staffs, parents and relatives.

We are so proud of them and are already looking forward to the next concert soon!



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- 01 The 5 main offenders (L-R: Cinderella, Prince Char Mee, Goldilocks, Snow White & Jacky) of Almost Fairytale Land
- 02 The SMPS Choir filled the theatre with their angelic voices
- 03 The 5 main offenders of Almost Fairytale Land seeking an audience with the King not to banish them
- 04 The audience at the concert



SMSS 174TH SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY

SMSS's 174th Speech and Prize Giving Day was held on 22 July 2016. SMESA Board members were invited to attend. The Guest of Honour was Reverend Joshua Sudharman, who is the Chairman, Education Board of the Diocese of Singapore.

BY BRIDGET CHOY

The ceremony started with the singing of the School Hymn, which was very nostalgic for the ex-students and ex-teachers who were present.

The Principal, Mdm Lee Lin Yee, proudly announced the achievements of the students both academically and in CCA.

Top "O" Level, 2015 student was Juang Yah Ru who scored 9 distinctions. There were 74 students who achieved 5 or more distinctions for the "O" Level Examinations and 3 students who achieved 5 distinctions for the "N" Level Examinations. SMESA Awards for the Arts 2016 were presented to the following:-

- Cassandra Yeong – Chinese Dance
- Prajwala Kanakesh – Indian Dance
- Nurlily Hanee Bte Rasdeen – Malay Dance
- Charmaine Luo – Modern Dance
- Naomi Prem Lim – Choir
- Rebecca Fong Xianshi – Drama
- Tan Kwang Qi – String Ensemble
- Farah Nabilah Bte Jamaludin – Symphonic Band

Heartiest Congratulations, Girls!

Dogiparthy Reshma Ishwary delivered the Valediction.

The Guest of Honour, guests and parents were entertained with songs and dance.



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- 01 SMESA members at the ceremony
- 02 SMC Chairman, Prof. Lawrence Boo presenting a SMESA Arts Award
- 03 Performance by the Modern Dance troupe
- 04 Performance by the Indian Dance troupe
- 05 Guest-of-Honour, Rev. Joshua Sudharman, presenting the All-Round Student (2015)/ Dean Dumper Trophy, School Management Committee Medal & Goh Foundation Ltd Award to Dogiparthi Reshma Ishwary



TEACHERS' DAY DINNER 2016

The Teachers' Day Dinner was held on 26 August 2016 at the Four Point Hotel by Sheraton Singapore. The celebration, sponsored by SMC, organized by PSG and assisted by PTA and SMESA.

By BRIDGET CHOY

The atmosphere was bustling with passengers going on one of the cruises. The teachers and committee members were dressed in sailor/ stewardess/ captain outfits, some were dressed as pirates while others were in "Tai Tai" refinery, much befitting of our theme, Cruise Soiree! Most were in hues of blue/white/striped gear and a creative group of teachers who have kept up the motto of re-cycling and wore self-made Sailor Caps!

An artistically pop up photo booth with huge anchors made by gluing hundreds of corks, fishing nets, sea shells, star fishes, sea weeds and champagne bottles created a stunning background for all the Instagram worthy shots! The door gifts comprised a packet of multi -coloured polo sweets tied by an anchor and a facial voucher.

Table game was a packet of straws with three minutes given to construct a structure that is high and can be held together, without falling apart. There were some potential architects among the teachers who built a tall structure which stood upright and that table won them a prize.

The MC played different songs and we had to guess the country of origin of those songs. Participants were all very sporting, they sang/danced according to the different songs from the various countries.

Prizes were given to the table with teachers who dressed best in the "nautical" theme. The table with teachers who put on the creatively made caps from re-cycled paper also won a prize.

Nine teachers, seven ladies and two gentlemen, were selected to go on stage so that the audience can vote for the two best dressed candidates by the claps that they received. The two winners were dressed as pirates.

An enjoyable evening, filled with much fun and laughter. It was befitting that these hardworking teachers could let their hair down and enjoy the evening. Our appreciation to SMC, PSG, PTA, SMESA, SMPS and SMSS for organising this event.

May all Teachers always find Great Blessing in inspiring our next generation!

God Bless!



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01 Teachers trying to build the tallest structure with straws

02 Cruise Soiree for the teachers!

03 Teachers had to limbo rock to earn their dinner!

04 The "tai-tais" participating in the best-dressed contest

05 Pirates at the Cruise Soiree

06 The teachers at the Cruise Soiree

07 The "Sirs" with their lady colleague at the Cruise Soiree



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

Mother's day was approaching soon and what better way than to bring some cheer to the folks at St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged.

By MAY LIM

First up was to get everyone to practise motor skills by folding paper flowers, which we have Jesamin giving us the demonstration. Soon, everyone was busy folding paper flowers, painting it pretty and finally adorning it with little tags of 'Happy Mother's Day'!

Next was entertainment, which we have Michelle, who crooned Cantonese Oldies that earned us lots of brownie points with her awesome voice!

Snacks was smiley pies, which never fails to delight the residents as most of them are on strict diet due to health reasons. Thus, it is an occasional indulgence for them.

We are always thankful for members who took time out to join us to spend time with these residents, which mean so much to them!

We look forward to have YOU join us at the next visit!



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SMESA SING-A-LONG

On 2 July 2016, members of SMESA's board gathered at Manekineko Karaoke in Marina Square for an afternoon of songs and laughter.

By LEE MIAN JUN

In a large room filled with young and not-so-young, members and their families sang to their hearts content, we even had some who crooned to the tunes of The Beatles while others grooved to ABBA! Free-flow drinks provided by the venue, was of much help to quench the thirst!

As English, Chinese and Cantonese singing took the stage, two hours passed as quickly as the microphones were passed around the room. Even the children of some of the members joined in the fun with songs by Adele and John Legend!

The afternoon concluded with members taking fun and cheeky photos in front of the karaoke lounge. Who knows, with all the beautiful singing, we might just be grooming SMESA's very first Singapore Idol contestant!



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01 Lee Soo Kwan with the residents of the Home

02 The Sing-A-Long crooners posing for a picture outside the Karaoke Lounge