

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



JUL-SEP

ISSUE #67

2023

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



181st Anniversary

Be Connected
Honouring the Past. Embracing the Future

Thursday, 16 November 2023

6.45 pm

Registration commences at 6.00 pm
Guests are requested to be seated by 6.30 pm

St. Margaret's School (Secondary)
111 Farrer Road Singapore 259240
Dress Code: Casual
Price: \$50 per person
Closing Date: 16 October 2023



<https://for.edu.sg/sm181>

IN THIS ISSUE

- SMESA's offer of condolences to former teachers
- SMESA's well wishes for SMS(P) & SMS (S) for upcoming national exams
- SMESA's well wishes for Mrs Wong Hoe Eng
- SMS(S) Student Council Commendation
- SMESA Legal Awareness Talk
- SMESA National Day celebration at St. Andrew's Cathedral Home
- SMESA Quarry Walk
- SMS(P) PERI Upgrading Project Updates

UPCOMING EVENT(S)

- 181st Anniversary Dinner (see poster on this page)

**All SMESA Newsletters will be distributed in soft copies.
Hard copies available upon request only.**

CONDOLENCES

SMESA is deeply saddened by the passing of Mrs Helen Thambiah and Mrs Bull-Wong Yew Yin who were former teachers of St. Margaret's School. Our hearts and prayers are with their families.



NEW MEMBER(S)

We welcome aboard the following new member(s) :-

	SMPS	SMSS
1. Natasha Zhao	1998	None
2. Daphne Ang	2013	None

SMESA MEMBERSHIPS

We offer both Life membership and Youth membership.

**For further details, please visit our website:
<http://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>.**

Mrs Wong Hoe Eng's 98th Birthday



SMESA wishes Mrs Wong abundant blessings! May the Lord bless you and keep you in good strength each and every day.

Cheering Our Girls On!



SMESA sponsored night snacks for our SMS(S) students preparing for the national exams.



SMS(S) Student Council Commendation 2023

On 30 June, SMS(S) held its Student Council Commendation Ceremony at St. Andrew's Cathedral, welcoming the new batch of student leaders as well as commemorating the contributions of the outgoing batch to the school. During the event, the Student Councillors performed a touching rendition of the song entitled 'Send Me' using sign language, reminding one and all of what it takes to be a servant leader.



In deep appreciation of their leadership and dedicated service, the outgoing Student Councillors were presented with service trophies sponsored by SMESA.



SMESA Legal Awareness Workshop

By Lee Soo Kwan

No one knows when one could lose mental capacity. We have read or perhaps know of cases where a person's welfare was put at risk when the person's mental capacity is affected. Pre-planning for such an eventuality, which could be completely unexpected, is important.

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document that allows a person, aged 21 years and above (the Donor) to appoint one or more trusted persons (Donees) to make decisions and act on the Donor's behalf if and when the Donor lacks mental capacity in the future. The Donor decides on the power to be granted to the Donees. This could be on personal affairs only, property affairs only or both personal and property affairs. Where specific or customised powers are to be conferred to the Donees, a lawyer will be required to draft the requirements.

As we are being encouraged to seriously consider drawing up a LPA, SMESA Legal Awareness Committee organised a 2-day workshop for members of the St Margaret's Family (SMESA, the Schools, PTA, PSG and the School Chaplaincies). As a further encouragement, the Government has extended the waiver of registration fee for Singapore Citizens to 31 March 2026.

Families and friends of members of the Family were also invited to the workshop. Besides learning more about LPA, the workshop was planned to help our participants in the appointment of their Donees through to submission to the Office of Public Guardian (OPG) as required under MSF regulations. The workshop was led by SMESA Member Ms Ruby Lee, Deputy Director at SMS Pro Bono Centre, supported by students from SMU.



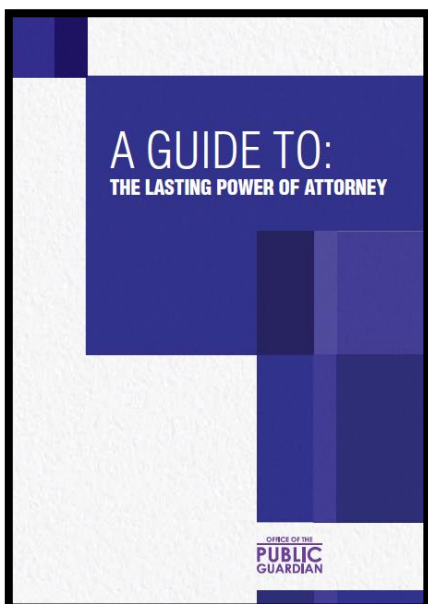
SMESA Legal Awareness Workshop

- Cont'd from Page 5

Part 1 of the workshop on 3 June was a talk on mental health and how we can be prepared for any unfortunate event affecting our ability to take care of ourselves.

Part 2 of the workshop was held on 1 July where SMESA members and practising lawyers Ruby Lee and Pixie Ho were in attendance, on pro-bono basis, to assist members and friends to appoint their Donees, to certify the LPA Forms and submit them to OPG.

The workshop was a good opportunity for us to get to know the families and friends of our members over a simple tea after the serious work was done.



To find out more about LPA:

<https://www.msf.gov.sg/what-we-do/opg/lasting-power-of-attorney/what-is-a-lasting-power-of-attorney>



SMESA Quarry Walk

By Melody Ho

On 22 July 2023, members of SMESA went on an exciting outdoor excursion to the Singapore Quarry @ the Bukit Timah Reserve. Members met early at Hillview MRT to embark on a 90-min leisure stroll to the Singapore Quarry and back. Many participants turned up with their families and friends. The participants ranged from a 1-year-old toddler (an adorable son of an ex-student) to a 75-year-old ex-student. Everyone was geared in their exercise attire, excited and beaming with broad smiles as we met for the first time.

We were blessed with good weather making the walk most enjoyable. As we scaled leisurely up the Wallace Trail to the Singapore Quarry, we spotted many insects, birds and even monkeys in their natural habitat. Everyone walked at their own pace absorbing the positive ions the surrounding provide. There were much laughter, small chit-chats and smiles exchanged amongst the participants as we walked on.



SMESA Quarry Walk

- Cont'd from Page 7

Soon, we arrived at the pit stop, a granite quarry surrounded by a lake filled with tons of big and little fishes. The quarry boardwalk was sunny, breezy and beautiful, a good break spot for water and photo opportunities alike. We spent some time walking around the quarry boardwalk and had our group photos taken.

We ended the walk at a good brunch establishment for some amazing crispy pratas and teh tarik. The walk ended where both our tummies and bodies felt recharged and happy. Looking forward to more organized events by SMESA, where the spirit of friendship ties bind all those who are in St Margaret's School family.





National Day Celebrations at St. Andrew's Cathedral Home

On 2 August, a group of SMESA members went to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home (SACH) to celebrate National Day with its residents. We brought along handheld National Day flags so that residents can wave along as they sing the National Day songs. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the craft activities planned for the morning, where they got to decorate pre-assembled photo frames and paste polaroid photos of themselves taken on the day. The programme ended with a yummy chiffon cake baked by one of the SMESA members. It was indeed a morning meaningfully spent when we could bring some joy and cheer to the residents.



SMS(P) – PERI-Upgrading Project Updates

From SMS(P) Principal, Mrs Ko-Tan Li Ling

Construction Status

The journey for SMS(P)'s school building upgrading project has been an eventful one. The School started its Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) Upgrading Project in 2020 after the tender was called in 2019. It had to come to a halt amid the Covid pandemic.



By May of the year, the Ministry of Education (MOE) together with the School announced to its stakeholders that the initial plan to complete the project by December 2021 was now delayed by one year. This was in alignment with the many construction projects nationwide as manpower supply (mostly foreign workers) was greatly impacted with travel restrictions. The disruption created a further delay when the main contractor fell prey to financial adversity during the pandemic.

The new contractor was subsequently engaged and the School was scheduled to start operations at its permanent site at 136 Sophia Road in January 2024 upon the completion of upgrading works by December 2023. However, the prolonged wet weather conditions from end 2022 to early 2023 had delayed the works on the permanent site. The wet conditions had slowed down the progress of the upgrading work as extra precautions and measures needed to be taken before continuing any structural work at the site.

Due to this delay, the school will continue to operate from the current holding campus at 2 Mattar Road until December 2024 and commence the new academic year in January 2025 at its upgraded campus. In April 2023, the School communicated this change to the board members of the School Management Council, staff, students, parents and stakeholders.



SMS(P) – PERI-Upgrading Project Updates

- Cont'd from Page 10

Construction Cost

The cost of construction had also increased several folds following the need to engage the new contractor in the midst of the pandemic. It had escalated with the supply chains dented by severe shortages of raw materials and manpower.

Even with the various MOE grants accorded, the School still has to raise at least S\$3.1 million, being its share to cover the construction cost. More fund is required to finance the different facilities as well as to provide for stringent security and safety related measures.

During the Covid years, the plans to organise big events for fund raising were hampered as the government authorities were strict with safe management measures like safe distancing and crowd control. Post Covid saw a different concern. Given the current global economic uncertainties, reaching out to corporations for big sum donations can be a challenge.

Not to be discouraged and with faith in God's provision, students and staff explored alternatives and are paying forward - planning events like concert performances, sports jamboree and sales of souvenirs to contribute to the building fund. The support from the alumni and parents also contributed to the efforts.

By God's grace, we have passed the midway mark in our fundraising efforts and will continue to appeal to everyone's generosity to make a donation to the School Building Fund. Any possibility of financial support from any source or advice would continue to be appreciated.

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SMS(P) – PERI-Upgrading Project Updates

- Cont'd from Page 11

Those who are keen to make a donation to the School Building Fund can do so via PayNow to the school's **UEN** or by scanning the school's **QR code** below. We need the donor to reflect name & contact number as our office will follow up to check on admin and/or tax receipt matters. Tax receipt is issued only for donation sum of \$100 & above.

Provide your contact number and Name**Our Appreciation**

We are grateful to all the well-wishers who continue to keep the School in their thoughts and prayers.

Above all, we thank God for His love, His provision and His protection. We look forward to the completion of the construction and the fruition of the project handover. With much excitement and anticipation, we return to God's school for St Margaret's at 136 Sophia Road.