

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



MAY-AUG

ISSUE #43

2017

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COMING EVENTS

Visit to Media Corp

Date: Saturday, 16 Sept 2017

Time: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

Meeting place: MediCorp Reception

Charges: \$15 (Adult)
\$12 (Student)

Children 4 years & below not allowed

SMESA Zumba Workout

Date: Saturday, 7 Oct 2017

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Beside SMSS Sports Hall

Charges: Free for Members
\$10 (Non-Member)
\$5 (Child below 12 yrs)

175th Anniversary Dinner

Date: Thursday, 16 Nov 2017

Time: 6.00 pm. Registration
7.00 pm. To be seated

Venue: Island Ballroom,
Shangri-La Hotel

Price: \$135 per person

Tickets: Contact persons listed in the Ticket Purchase Form attached.

To all PSLE, "O" & "N" Level Students:

"May God's peace and wisdom be with you during your examinations"

from SMESA



'..... in God I trust; I will not be afraid' - Psalm 56:4

Come, join us!

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

Glowing in His Glory

175 years of Charity, Patience, Devotion

St. Margaret's 175th Anniversary Dinner
Theme: Glowing in His Glory, 175 years of Charity, Patience, Devotion
Date: 16 Nov 2017
Time: 7pm
(Registration starts at 6pm, guests to be seated by 7pm)
Venue: Island Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel
Dress Code: Formal
Price: \$135/Person

For Ticket Sales Enquiries:
St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association | Ms Jennie Bek, 91849388, jenniebek@hotmail.com
St. Margaret's Secondary School | Ms Lian Chuen Ann, 64684525, Lian_Chuen_Ann@schools.gov.sg
St. Margaret's Primary School | Mr Leo Chee Wai, 63384356, Lee_Chee_Wai@schools.gov.sg

Closing Date: 16 October 2017

Organised by:
St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association
Parents Teachers Association (SMPS)
St. Margaret's Secondary School
St. Margaret's Primary School

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

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2nd Vice-President

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Ms Ho Lian Geok

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Bridget Choy Wai Fong

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Ms Jennie Bek Poh Kiang

Ms May Lim Yen Ling

Mrs Lang-Tay Ren Jee Renata

Ms Sara Liew May Lei

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PRESIDENT WRITES...

Tell Your Story

Since the beginning of time, storytelling is used to communicate experiences and values from one person to another, from one generation to another. We recall pictures of tribes of old sitting around a fire sharing stories. Christian teaching and values are often told in parables. When we are young, our parents tell us fairy tales to teach us important life values – what is right and what is wrong.

Telling your story is also a way to communicate to others who we are and what we do – to inform, to encourage, to amuse, to change behaviour, to connect.

SMESA had a New Members' Get-together on 8 July. As it was a small intimate gathering, our new members freely share their stories on their journey after St Margaret's and what they are doing today. We learn of their interests and passion and they hear what the members at SMESA are doing and our vision. During the two hours, a general sense of community and common purpose emerged. Our new members began to offer their know-how and experience to support the work of SMESA. What a rewarding conclusion to the Get-together!

I too recall our visits to ex-teachers as part of our Outreach Programme. They are storytelling times. Our teachers enjoyed reminiscing their days in St Margaret's, recalling happy times, not so happy times and the problems we the students gave them! For us it was also confession time for some of our escapades. It is so heartening to see our senior teachers laughing and by the time we leave, we are inevitably asked to visit them again soon – another rewarding experience!

All of us have at least one story to tell about our years in St Margaret's. Your story could be an inspiration to others, or an encouragement or simply bringing a smile to someone. As part of St Margaret's 175th Anniversary celebrations, a dedicated website has been set up to capture all your stories – whether told in words or pictures. Do send in your stories or pictures to memories@stmargs.edu.sg and be a part of this special Memories website which will be shared at our 175th Anniversary Dinner on 16 November at the Shangri-La Hotel.

Share your story with us!

Lee Soo Kwan
President



New
Members'
Get-together
on 8 July
2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

175th Anniversary Dinner

St Margaret's School will be holding her 175th Anniversary Dinner at **Island Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel** on **16 November 2017** at **6.00 pm** at **\$135 per person**. Further details relating to the Dinner are on the Ticket Purchase Form attached to this Newsletter.

Purchase of Dinner tickets is to be made using the Ticket Purchase Form. Please complete the Form as required and submit it together with payment directly to any of the person from **SMPS, SMSS or SMESA** listed in the Form who will issue you the Dinner tickets. The **Closing Date** for ticket purchase is **16 October 2017**.

Memories of St. Margaret's

In celebrating its 175th anniversary, the School is asking ex-students to send in your fond memories of your time with St. Margaret's. The School would love to have your photos (with captions) and stories which the School would like to feature on a dedicated website for all to enjoy. Please spread the word round to your classmates and schoolmates of this. Please send in as many photos and stories to memories@stmargs.edu.sg.

New Members

We welcome aboard the following new members:

	<u>SMPS</u>	<u>SMSS</u>
1 Dawn Hu	1992	1997
2 Tan Chek Juay Geraldine Joy	1987	1991
3 Wee Mei Ling Lina		1982
4 Eng Mun Ching Becky	1987	
5 Siew Chau Min Sarah		2001
6 Chan Si Ying Clara		2005
7 Chiam Quee Fung Mary-Ann	1978	1982
8 Chiam Quee Siang Catherine	1977	1981
9 Angie Reddy	1979	1983
10 Audrey Jaunita Hartha Reddy	1978	1984
11 Nicolette Ng	2001	2005
12 Ng Si Min Nathalie	2004	2008
13 Lai Sok Mun	1989	1995
14 Ang Wee Lin	1987	1991
15 Lisa Wong	1993	1997
16 Chong Wei Shan Priscilla	1994	1998
17 Tan Huali Pamela	1996	2000
18 Agnes Ho Jia Ying	1995	1999
19 Koh Wee Ping Samantha	1999	2006
20 Phauleen Teo	1988	
21 Bettina Beverly Kam		2004

TIT BITS

Congratulations to Lee Soo Kwan, SMESA President !

Our heartiest congratulations to our President, Lee Soo Kwan, for being awarded with the **SMC MOE Service to Education Award, 2017** at the **SMSS 175th Speech and Prize-Giving Day** on 21 July 2017.



Soo Kwan receiving the award from Rt Rev Rennis Ponniah, Bishop of Singapore

Visit to Mrs Thambiah

Our President, Lee Soo Kwan, 2nd VP Chew Siew Kheng and Joy Quek visited Mrs Helen Thambiah, SMSS ex-teacher, on 21 August 2017. Mrs Thambiah had just celebrated her 97th birthday on 10 August 2017, and thus the visit was very timely. She was so delighted to see them.

She was teaching in the School from 1943 to 1958 during Ms Nora Inge's time. At 97, she is very gutsy and could still remember very well her students and church friends when they were reminiscing the good old days. When Joy gave her the book: *Lest We Forget*, she could recognise the people featured in the book.



From back, clockwise:
Siew Kheng, Joy, Mrs Thambiah, Soo Kwan

SMESA HIGH TEA – FUN WITH HANDICRAFT : 13 MAY 2017

SMESA's members and their families had a whale of a time on Saturday afternoon, 13 May 2017, crafting doll houses and bird cages from thick old books and folding simple towels into bunnies under the tutelage of Ms Swan Ping and her daughter, her assistant. Here are some of the comments made by the children who participated in the activities:

"It was an enjoyable experience as it allowed me to make use of old books and turn them into something beautiful. It also taught me how to be patient when doing things. I feel satisfied that I have completed a thick book of about 250 pages." - **Marcel Bek Gotsmy (13 years old)**

"I had an enjoyable time learning how to craft a house from a book. It taught me to have patience as the folding process took a long time. I was very happy with the end result as my hard work finally paid off. I think that it was a fruitful experience as I learnt how to recycle old books." - **Alexia Song (13 years old)**

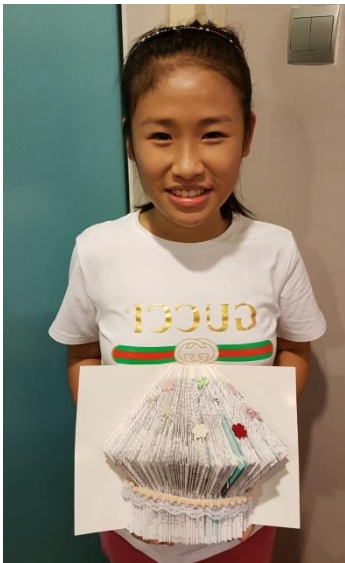
"I think that it was a very enjoyable experience and I learnt to be more patient while doing the craftwork. It turned out very nice and I'm super happy. Thank you SMESA for organizing this event." - **Ashley Song (15 years old)**

"The handicraft was fun! Learning book folding art was very useful as we can use unwanted old books and turn them into amazing paper sculptures. It also taught us to be patient." - **Nicole Kwan (14 years old)**

"I had lots of fun making the bunny especially with my mummy! I can't wait to buy the materials and make little bunnies for my family and friends!!" - **Zaara Kaur (6 years old)**



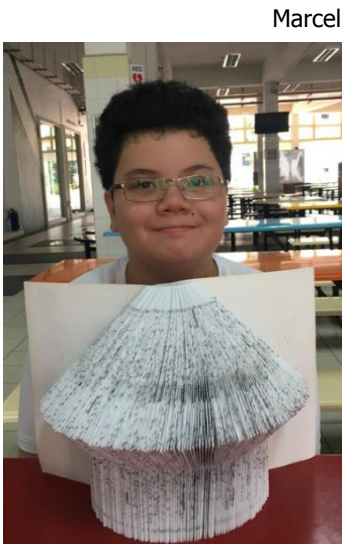
L to R: Ashley and Alexia



Nicole



Zaara



Marcel

SMESA'S VISIT TO ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL HOME FOR THE AGED : 20 MAY 2017

By : Joy Quek

It was our privilege to visit the St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged on 20th May, 2017. Being a Mother's Day weekend, we arranged for the residents to make paper flowers as an activity followed by a sing along session. We thank Mrs Margaret Lim, Supervisor, for having us for the afternoon.

When we arrived at the Home, we were surprised that the Home was under renovation. As such, there were no tables available for our activity. We quickly organised ourselves by using chairs as tables and everyone was happy to do the activity.

Ms Swan Ping (our Craft Instructor) taught us how to make paper flowers which we had to mount onto twigs to make them look like stalks of flowers. Swan Ping's daughter, Zun Yee was of great help in getting the double sided tapes ready for us to use to stick the flowers onto the twigs. The act of twilling the paper into a flower shape and mounting the flower onto a twig was simple and yet challenging. For this activity, each resident was provided with a pair of scissors, a twig and a paper pattern of a flower and petals to cut. Everyone was enthusiastic in getting the flowers onto the twigs. The outline of the flower and petals had to be cut and -double sided tapes were used to mount the flower and petals together to make the stalk of flower. When the stalks of flowers were gathered together they looked like a bouquet of flowers.

We could make more than one flower but we had time only for one flower for each resident. The residents enjoyed the activity immensely as it was something different. After everyone had completed their stalks of flowers, we had a sing along session. Jennie and Pamela led the sing along session with the rendition of Chinese songs with some of the residents participating. Everyone also participated as we sang "Jesus Loves Me This I Know".

The residents also had their tea snack in between the flower making activity. Pamela Kwan donated Chinese sponge cake for the resident's tea snack.

We had to leave the Home at 4.00 p.m. as it was time for the residents to have their dinner. We left the place with some photos taken with the residents and all present.

We would like to thank the following members who helped in the activity, namely Ho Lian Geok, Jennie Bek, Pamela Kwan, Loh Geok Chin and Joy Quek. Your presence had made a difference to the residents in the hot breezy afternoon.

We look forward to more participants for our future visits and be on a look out for our next visit on 14 October 2017.



175th ANNIVERSARY GREEN DOT & HOMECOMING FUN FAIR : 3 JUNE 2017

Stalls by SMESA

By : Chew Siew Kheng

After months of preparation, the 175th Anniversary Green Dot & Homecoming Fun Fair was held on 3 June 2017. It started at 9am on a bright and cheery morning. All the SMESA volunteers arrived early donning their newly designed SMESA T shirts to ensure that all the stalls were properly setup. SMESA put up 5 stalls namely Snacks, *Achar* & Dried Shrimps *Sambal*, 175th Anniversary Memorabilia, Caricature and 2nd hand books. All the 5 stalls were extremely well received and were sold out except for a few leftover books.

I would like to quote from the Principal Mdm Lee Lin Yee of St Margaret's Secondary School who gave her wholehearted support to this event :

"Our 175th Homecoming & Green Dot Funfair was a huge success (at least I was told by others). We had a great turnout – very likely more than the 4,000 expected though we never did a count. It was encouraging to see our alumni return and catch up with their teachers. We also had overwhelming response for our Open House that it was down to standing space which the people took up for the non-SMPS session."

I was also told that the last time we had a fun fair in school was more than 10 years ago. This was indeed a good occasion to celebrate our years of heritage. It was definitely a day well spent and I was personally glad for this opportunity to reconnect with old friends, current and ex students and teachers.

SMESA Café

By : Jenny Chiam

Our founder, Maria Dyer, would be smiling at all the strong women of character & capabilities that St Margaret's has been cultivating and continues to cultivate. It was a pleasure and a privilege to meet and chat with all the wonderful women who dropped by the SMESA café which was part of the 175th Green Dot and Homecoming Fun Fair held on June 3rd 2017. We met with an incredible array of women, some with dreams in the making as they head off to higher studies and others working on new dreams in their second half of their lives. We had the honour of meeting women who clearly qualify for a master in the field of child development & human relations to women who have parallel careers as diverse as finance, all aspects of security and singing. Many who signed up to become members of SMESA also offered graciously to help. It was clear that all understood the secret of life i.e. all that we have and are is a gift of grace to be shared. A big thank you to all who visited and a very warm welcome to our new members from our SMESA Board. We will be reaching out soon and look forward to seeing you at our future SMESA events.



Books galore at the SMESA stall



SMESA Café

SMSS 175th SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING DAY : 21 JULY 2017

By : Brenda Lan

The Secondary's School's 175th Speech and Prize-Giving Day was held on 21 July 2017. SMESA Board members were delighted to be part of this annual SMSS speech day. This year, Bishop Renniss Poniah was our Guest of Honour.

The ceremony began with the singing of the School Hymn, bringing back memories to the ex-students who attended the event. The school principal, Mdm Lee Lin Yee, then proudly announced the achievements of the students both academically and in CCA. She also shared her experience as a secondary school student struggling with the Chinese language and how she persevered to get a better grade through taking Chinese Literature as one of her O-Levels subjects.

The Top GCE O-Level student in 2016 was Reisha Lee Min (S4-4). There were 68 students who achieved 5 or more distinctions for the O-Level examinations and 5 students who achieved 4 or more distinctions for the N-Level examinations.

Congratulations to students who received the SMESA Award for the Arts in 2016:

- Choir - Natasha Isabelle Putri Vilaire (S4-5)
- Chinese Dance – Loh Yue Sheng (S4-3)
- Symphonic Band – Chin Yen Yee, Jamie (S4-6)
- Malay Dance – Nur Hafizah Garnell (S4-8)
- Modern Dance – Felicia Ong Sing Yi (S4-6)
- Indian Dance – Kopparthi Tanusri (S4-5)
- String Ensemble – Olivia Law (S4-5)
- Drama Club – Goh Siying (S4-3)

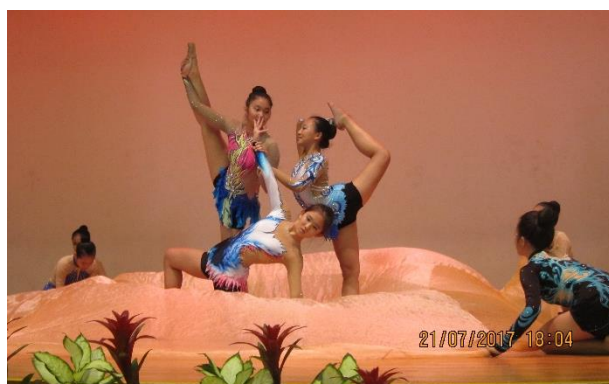
Gloria Chan Wan Bing (S4-6) received the SMESA Trophy for the Head Prefect Award for 2016 and delivered the valediction.

Our SMESA President, Ms Lee Soo Kwan also received the SMC MOE Service to Education Award for 2017.

The Guest of Honour, other guests and parents were entertained with songs and dances by our students.



Soo Kwan presenting the SMESA Award for the Arts



Dance Item by students

JOB SHADOWING AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

By : Sara Liew

Secondary (3) students Jemima Phua and Moola Venkatesh Ashwini did an internship at a law firm Central Chambers Law Corporation from 19 to 23 June 2017. We append their write-ups of their experiences from the internship.

"During my internship at Central Chambers, I learnt a lot of new things. This experience was very meaningful. Our colleagues were very nice to us. Whenever we faced difficulties in performing certain administrative tasks in the office, they would always help us by giving us clear and specific instructions on how to perform the tasks and would patiently repeat the instructions until we understood. The work that was assigned to us was not very challenging so we could handle it. I learnt how to use the printer and a typewriter. The most interesting part was going to Court. I learnt about the different types of Courts in Singapore and what lawyers do. I am very grateful for this opportunity. I am very sure that I can use the skills acquired in the future. I feel that this experience has given me a clearer view on what I want to do in the future. Moreover, it has helped me to develop both my skills and my character."

~ **Ashwini**



Jemima and Ashwini (3rd and 4th from L) at Central Chambers

"During my internship at Central Chambers, I was tasked with administrative work e.g. filing, sorting and typing. Mundane work it might seem, yet I had learnt many useful organisational skills and Microsoft Word skills. I even learnt how to use a typewriter! I was also incredibly blessed to be given the chance to follow the lawyers to a Supreme Court hearing. The Court hearing was very different from what I had imagined. It was a fascinating experience and an eye-opener for me. This work attachment has significantly broadened my horizons. I am extremely grateful towards Central Chambers for giving me this internship opportunity."

~ **Jemima Phua**

TEACHER'S DAY 2017

By : Tay Ren Jee

On 30 August 2017, teachers of both SMSS and SMPS were treated to a sumptuous high tea at the Grand Ballroom Salon of Sentosa Golf Club. The teachers also enjoyed the live music and organized games. The School Management Committee sponsored the event for teachers and the Parent-Teacher-Association of SMPS organised it.

