



Coming Events

1) **SMESA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Date : Saturday, 24 March 2012
Time : 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Venue : IT Conference Room
St Margaret's Secondary School
Farrer Road

We hope you will join us at the AGM. To register, please contact us via email: enquiries@smesa.org.sg or telephone 65343058 (Pixie).

2) **We are celebrating 170 years this year!**

In celebration of its **170th Anniversary**, the School will be showcasing **a Musical** on the afternoon of **14 July 2012** at Kallang Theatre. The performers will be drawn from all the CCA Arts Groups from SMSS as well as SMPS Chinese and International Dance Troupes. Minister of Education, **Mr Heng Swee Kiat**, will be the Guest of Honour at the Musical. Ticket pricing has not been finalized.

As part of the celebration, SMPS will be having its **Family Day 2012** on **30 June 2012**. The net proceeds for the two events will be channeled to the Singapore Anglican Community Services.

To culminate its 170th Anniversary Celebration, the School will be holding a **Gala Dinner** at Marina Mandarin on **16 November 2012**. Our National President, **Dr Tony Tan**, will be the Guest of Honor.

We look forward to your support. More details will be provided at a later date.

Appointment Changes

Mrs Elsie Poey has left SMPS in December last year. Ms Pang Wee Mian has joined the Primary School as the new Principal. Ms Pang was formerly the VP of St. Stevens Primary School. In addition, Mrs Elaine Yeo was promoted to Vice Principal after VP Mrs Ng-Tee Sook Leng retired.

Our Members

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

Life Members

Lim Geok Kim	(SMPS 1971) (SMSS 1975)	Malarvilli Thyagarajan	(SMPS 1989) (SMSS 1993)
Lim Bee Lay	(SMPS 1979) (SMSS 1983)	Kate Loh Ting Shiuan	(SMSS 1990)
Mrs Christina Kenga	(SMPS 1983)	Tan Hwee Lee	(SMPS 1991)
Juliana Wati GunaRdi	(SMPS 1988) (SMSS 1992)	Michelle Lin Yiyi	(SMPS 1996) (SMSS 2001)
Cham Ser Yin	(SMPS 1988) (SMSS 1992)	Lan Shumei Brenda	(SMPS 1996) (SMSS 2000)
Piniwaty Agam	(SMPS 1988)		

Reports on Events

Garage Sales - 15 October 2011

Ms Hui Choon Wai



From Left :- Choon Wai, Ruby, Florence and Pixie

This year our participation at the Crossroads Garage Sale held at Cairnhill Community Club was yet another success. We managed to raise a tidy sum which has been placed into our SMESA general fund for the funding of our various activities. All the hard work such as running around to collect the items from members, storing the items and transporting them to the Club really paid off.

It was also hard work on the day itself as our volunteers, Ruby, Pixie, Florence, Soo Kwan and Bridget (including myself) had to work at high speed to meet sales that were happening even before we were ready. In fact we were even making sales outside the hall, before the hall was opened for us to set up our stall.

We really had a lot of fun and enjoyed the haggling that took place with our buyers.

SMESA would like to thank all our members and their friends for donating such good quality items to us for our garage sale. If you or your friends have any unwanted household items (no clothes please!) in good condition to donate, please contact us at enquiries@smesa.org.sg. Arrangements can be made for you to drop them off at SMESA's room at the secondary school or for us to collect the bulky items.

SMESA Bursary Awards -18 October 2011

Ms Pixie Ho



This year, we received 8 applications from needy students of SMSS for assistance to pay for their "N" and "O" levels examinations fees from SMESA Bursary Fund. The year's applications were fewer than the previous years.

A cheque for the disbursement of the fund was presented to SMSS Vice-Principal Mrs Yip Wai Fong on 18 October 2011 by SMESA President, Dr Lee Hoon Hwee during the School Assembly.



Like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/SMESA.sg>

SMESA Speaker Series – Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching

What is my Internal GPS? - 18 October 2011

Ms Ho Lian Goek

Success is not about results, power or wealth; success is who you are as a person

- Mrs Chua Yen Ching

The second speaker in the Series, Mrs Chua Yen Ching, is Principal of Northlight School at Dunman Road, whose mission is to be “a choice school of youth prepared for life and living”. SMESA is proud to introduce an alumna of both St. Margaret’s Primary School and St. Margaret’s Secondary School to the girls with an inspiring talk about acquiring a fulfilling life through self-awareness.

As an introduction, Mrs Chua recounted her father’s firm belief in the importance of a good character. “If you receive a C for your subjects, I will teach you; if you receive a C for your character, I will whack you”. Naturally, he sent his daughter to St Margaret’s, where good values are taught. At Hwa Chong Junior College, she performed well for the “A” Level Examination to gain admission to Faculty of Medicine but chose instead to pursue a degree in Science in preparation for a teaching career, that eventually saw her starting out as a teacher at Dunman Secondary School. Over the years, she was appointed Head of Department (Science) at Dunman; Vice-Principal of Tanjong Katong Girls’ School; Principal of Zhonghua Secondary School; Principal of Shuqun Secondary School, and Deputy Director of Curriculum Planning at Ministry of Education.

In 2006, Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ling was picked, for her zeal in helping students who have difficulties coping with their studies, to head Northlight School where the curriculum is designed to help students who repeatedly failed the Primary School Leaving Examinations, with an emphasis on character development.

An engaging speaker who “toyed with props” such as colorful strings and a flexible frame to demonstrate her points, she regaled the audience with humorous anecdotes of her school, and showed video clips of two pupils who managed to overcome their learning problems, Mrs Chua certainly made our girls (and SMESA members too!) listen with rapt attention.

The talk was peppered with Mrs Chua’s wonderful sense of humor; to impress the four essentials of a wholesome life on the girls’ memory, she proudly declared that “success to significance”, “mission-oriented”, “sound character” and “striking a balance” translated into the acronym “S.M.S.S.”, to the delight of the audience who instantly recognized the association to their school. That she is an experienced educator who understands the teenage psyche cannot be denied when she chose to play a video clip on the visit by a well-known footballer to Northlight School. The sight of Luis Nani of Manchester United immediately sent our girls sighing and screaming!

To conclude the session, Mrs Chua dramatically held up a square frame to her face with this piece of advice to the audience: **“In encountering a problem difficult to resolve, reframe the problem”**, and hey presto, the square frame turned into a round frame in the blink of an eye!

For everyone present in the school hall, this was definitely a talk one was glad not to have missed...

Many thanks, Mrs Chua, you have made my day!

N.B. SMESA Speaker Series invites former students who have “been there, done that” to share their life experiences*. If you are keen to participate in the Series by delivering a lecture or recommending your ex-classmates to do so, we would love to hear from you!

St Margaret's 169TH Anniversary Dinner – 16 November 2011

Ms Pixie Ho

The celebration of the School's 169th Anniversary culminated in a dinner at St Margaret's Primary School Hall on 16 November 2011.

There were 366 members of the St Margaret's Family comprising the principals, staff, teachers, parents, present and ex-students of both the Schools, and members of St John's Chapel and Chapel of Christ the King as well as friends and family members attending this Dinner.

The food arranged by the Organizing Committee chaired by SMESA's 2nd Vice-President Pixie Ho with the help of representatives of the Primary and Secondary Schools, members of the PSG and PTA was well enjoyed by all who attended the function. It was also the first time that we introduced a new style of dining by having dessert buffet in a 8-course sit-down dinner. The food was fabulous, cheap and good! Well, if you have missed it, wait for the 170th Anniversary Dinner which will be on a grander scale. Look out for it.

The guests were entertained by the lively performances from students of SMPS and SMSS. The students from SMPS did the Chinese Dance and the Modern Dance whilst SMSS Choir did a repertoire of songs and SMSS String Ensemble played some catchy tunes. As all good things must come to an end, so was our celebration of the School's 169th Anniversary. I would say that most of those who were present that night left the SMPS School Hall with a satisfied stomach.

We look forward to seeing you at the 170th Anniversary Dinner which will be held at Marina Mandarin on 16th November 2012.



The guests enjoying their dinner



SMPS girls performed a Chinese Dance



SMPS girls performed a Modern Dance



SMSS Choir did a repertoire of songs

St Margaret's Primary School Prize Giving Day - 18 November 2011

Ms Pixie Ho



Guest of Honour Mrs Tan Shook Wah



Ng Wei Ling, Emily, winner of SMESA All-round Achiever Award

St Margaret's Primary School held its Prize Giving Day on 18 November 2011 at the School Hall. The School had very kindly accorded the highest honour once again to an ex-student. Hence, Mrs Tan Shook Wah, an ex-student of SMPS and a Director of MINDEF, was the Guest of Honour.

Mrs Tan Shook Wah reminisced the good old days when she was a student of the School and those good teachers such as Ms A K Lim, who had taught her and moulded her into what she is today.

The Guest of Honour, other guests, partners of the School and parents were entertained by student performers. Excellent Academic and CCA Awards and other awards were presented by the Guest of Honour and SMC Vice-Chairman Dr Lee Hoon Hwee (who is also SMESA's President). The events were keenly watched by proud parents.

This year Top PSLE Award was received by Shang Mengge and the Top CCA Achiever was presented to Angelina Lim Xue Ning.

SMESA sponsored the following Awards (comprising a \$50 voucher and a plaque or certificate):-

- a) **St Margaret's Ex-Students' Association (SMESA) All Round Achiever Award (2010)** to an outstanding student for being an all-round achiever. Year 2010 winner was Ng Wei Ling, Emily.
- b) **St Margaret's Prize** to student(s) who went to SMSS and had attained the highest PSLE aggregate score among the cohort. The winner was Natasha Ng.

SMESA School Service Awards (comprising a trophy and certificate) were also presented to 48 P6 Prefects for their service to SMPS. The Awards were presented by SMESA's 2nd Vice-President, Ms Pixie Ho on 15 November 2011.

Congratulations to all the winners!

SMSS Prom Night 2011 - 28 November 2011

Ms Lee Soo Kwan

Prom Night 2011 was held at Marina Mandarin on the 28 November. The more than 200 girls who turned up at the Vanda Ballroom were beautifully gowned and looking very elegant and certainly with a 'Touch of Class' which was the theme for the evening. Their teachers were perhaps surprised how their girls seemed to have grown overnight into such lovely young ladies. There was much singing, dancing and games and of course prizes to be won. Highlight for the evening was the Prom Queen Contest and this year, the girls chose their Prom Queen in the Final Round of the Contest.



Dalreena Poonam Gill was Prom Queen 2011 and Sharminii A/P Jaya Prakason was 1st Runner –up and Ariella Lim Jin En, 2nd Runner-up. Dalreena was also the Winner of the 'Best Dressed'

During the course of the evening, we talked to several of the students on their feelings about Prom Night. They were very excited about the event and it was something to look forward to after their examinations

Apparently much thought was given on planning what to wear, what hair-style to have, etc, etc. For many of them, looking for their party dresses was a great part of the fun and many found unbelievable bargains. When we heard that some of their dresses cost less than \$30 or \$50, we looked at them with some disbelief. With an accessory or two, their overall appearances were cleverly and beautifully transformed.

All the girls looked chic and elegant. One of the girls told us that she borrowed the gown from her sister and the evening purse from her mother! We were amazed by the resourcefulness of the girls. The evening ended with a Sing-along. There was much hugging and quite a few tears when the evening was drawing to a close. The girls behaved extremely well that evening and we believe everyone had an evening of fun, lots of laughter, fellowship and bonding.



Seating (L to R): SMSS VP Mrs Yip Wai Fong, PSG Chairman Mrs Marjorie Tay, SMSS Principal Mrs Marion Tan, SMESA President Dr Lee Hoon Hwee.

Standing (L to R): PSG Mrs Betty Chai, Bridget Choy (SMESA), Pixie Ho (SMESA) Lee Soo Kwan (Prom Night Committee Chairman), PSG Mrs Susan Tan.

SMSEA Job Shadowing 2011

Ms Pixie Ho

In collaboration with SMSS in its Career Guidance Programme, our members, **Sara Liew** (from **Central Chambers Law Corporation**) and **Pixie Ho** (from **Ho & Associates**) each took in 2 students to be attached to their law practices for Job-Shadowing stints in November 2011.

The students gained invaluable experiences in their job-shadowing stints and have written the following articles to share their experiences:-

From Natalie Low Jia Wen (Sec 3E -2011):-

"When I first heard of this work attachment, I was very excited at the idea of job-shadowing a lawyer and observe her working at such close proximity.

Having been attached to Ms Ho, I felt that I have learnt more than I expected. After the work attachment, I feel more knowledgeable about the law world in Singapore. Ms Ho had very kindly set her work aside to bring us to the different courts in Singapore – the High Court, Family and Juvenile Court and the Subordinate Courts. I felt so privileged to be able to go to such places. We were also able to sit in and listen to many different cases, and to watch how the whole proceedings took place.

I felt very happy when I was able to help Ms Ho in mundane chores like photocopying documents and simple administrative duties, as I felt it was the least that I could do to help her. I also learnt more from the cases that she handles, making the Courts rounds and observing the happenings around me.

This work attachment was very satisfying. I have learnt a lot from the experience. It really opens up my eyes to everything around me. I would recommend that if you ever have this opportunity for such an experience, take it and enjoy it as you'll start to see many things differently and feeling more educated and more observant about things around you".



Tiffany and Natalie at Ho & Associates

And from Tiffany Ong (Sec 3E - 2011):-

"This job shadowing experience has brought me many new memories, useful lessons and allowed me to be able to explore new things. I would describe this experience as a memorable and thrilling one. Through this experience, I have learnt a lot from Ms Ho in terms of the law aspect as well as good moral values.

There were also some light moments when Ms Ho told us jokes and stories about some cases, which were very hilarious. Furthermore, the best part of this work attachment was having the chance to visit the various courts. I loved going to the courts because it was a whole new exposure to me. I feel that this experience is very valuable though the duration was a little too short.

This opportunity is very hard to come by. Not only did I get to learn from a REAL lawyer but also get to visit REAL courts in Singapore. I feel that through this learning experience, it has widened my horizon and also increased my level of interest in this occupation. In addition, the experience has made me more confident and convinced of what I want to be when I grow up. My current ambition is to become a psychologist or a lawyer. or maybe both! But I feel that being a lawyer would be more interesting as you will be in contact with different people with different backgrounds, races and problems".

Unfortunately, SMESA is not able to obtain on time the write-ups from the other two students attached to Sara Liew. However, we are certain that they would have also enjoyed their job-shadowing stints with Sara Liew.

From **Facebook**, we had a request to locate a former student of our School. Below is the request to us.

I would like to seek your kind assistance to help locate a former student of your school. In 1979, I was then serving in the RSAF based in Tengah Air Base, Choa Chu Kang Road, where I met a St. Margaret Secondary School Sec-4 Student named Ms Lim Boon Poh, then living near the Tengah Air Base. I always remember Ms Lim as a very smart, nice and courteous girl, but unfortunately after I left the RSAF, I lost contact with her, and later her former residence was resettled for development.

It has been a very long time ago, and I often wonder how and where is Ms Lim, and I would like to catch up with her, and would be most grateful if your association can most kindly help me to enquire if any of your former students from Secondary-4 Class of Year 1979 can kindly help me to locate and put me in touch with Ms Lim Boon Poh. Your kind assistance would be most greatly appreciated. - Lim Eng Soon

Unfortunately, we are not able to trace the whereabouts of Ms Lim Boon Poh, as she is not a member of SMESA. If any of you is in contact with Ms Lim Boon Poh, please ask her to contact us.

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