

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



JUL-SEP

ISSUE #63

2022

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Announcements
- New Members
- SMESA's well wishes for SMPS and SMSS in the coming national exams
- SMSS Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day
- Visiting Senior Members of SMESA
- SMESA Family Scenic Walk
- 2 sisters' cycling trip from Penang

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 180th Anniversary Celebration (see poster on this page)
- SMPS Prize Giving Day – 16 Nov 2022

Note:



SMESA WhatsApp number has been changed to 8825 4620. Please save this number to continue to receive broadcast updates.



180
YEARS OF
Charity • Patience • Devotion
FOUNDED 1842

*Let our
Light
Shine!*

Come join us as we celebrate and give thanks for

St. Margaret's 180 years of Charity, Patience and Devotion.

Date : 16th November 2022

Time : 6pm

Venue : Cathedral New Sanctuary, St. Andrew's Cathedral

11 St. Andrew's Road, Singapore 178959

Please register your attendance via :
<https://tinyurl.com/SMS180>

Please join us in this thanksgiving service by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/SMS180>

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

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

	SMPS	SMSS
1. Valerie Chan Ruishan	1994	1997
2. Mak Helin	None	2016
3. Elizabeth Lee	None	2010
4. Charmaine Quek Wei Ling	1997	2001

SMESA MEMBERSHIPS

We offer both Life membership and Youth membership.

Do consider joining SMESA.

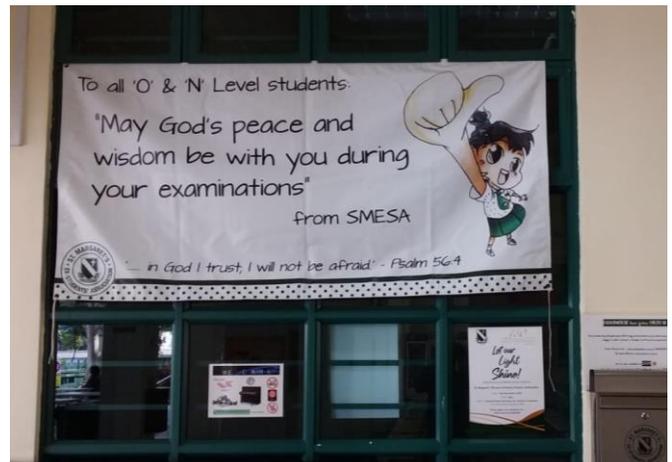
For further details, please visit our website:

<http://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>

CHEERING OUR GIRLS ON IN THEIR NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS!



SMESA sponsoring night snacks for our SMSS students preparing for their national exams.



SMESA wishing our girls doing the PSLE, O and N Levels the very best in their upcoming examinations!

SMSS Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day 2022

After two years of hosting the Annual Speech and Prize Giving Day online, SMSS finally resumed their 180th Annual Speech Day onsite on 22nd July 2022. The theme this year was 'A Celebration of Tenacity'. The Guest of Honour was the Right Reverend Dr Titus Chung, Bishop of Singapore.

The hall was filled with excitement from both current and ex-students present. Parents joined the ceremony online via Zoom.



180th Speech and Prize-Giving Day held in the School Hall



The Right Reverend Dr Titus Chung
Guest of Honour

The Valediction was delivered by Ms Leow Xin Yi who received the All-Round Student Award, winning the the Dean Dumper Trophy, the School Management Committee Medal and the Goh Foundation Ltd Award.



The Choir singing the Benediction



Ms Leow Xin Yi, Valedictorian



SMSS Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day 2022

(Reflections from Ms Leow Xin Yi, Valedictorian of Class 2021)

Reminiscing on the 4 years spent in St. Margaret's, my heart is filled with gratitude and happiness. Fond memories like the sea of polka dots during morning assembly and the heart-warming conversations I enjoyed with my friends during recess times, still remain vivid in my mind. Indeed, I would not have made it this far without all the support and love from everyone around me, be it my teachers or my friends.

I am truly grateful for all the opportunities I was given in St. Margaret's, which sparked my interest in areas I was not exposed to within the classroom.



One example would be the Development of Talents to Serve (DOTS) programme the school offered. I had the precious opportunity to take part in several competitions through the programme, and together with the guidance of my teachers, I benefitted tremendously. One memorable competition I took part in was the "Create your own newspaper" competition in 2019 and 2020. The competition gave me the chance to work together with my teammates to design and write a newspaper article from scratch. Though we faced many challenges of having to use a completely new software to design our newspaper, it was such a fruitful process seeing our design get printed on an actual newspaper eventually. Such experiences allowed me to gain so much more than just academic knowledge, but more importantly, the intrinsic values of perseverance and open-mindedness.

(Continue on Page 6)

SMSS Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day 2022

(Reflections from Ms Leow Xin Yi, Valedictorian of Class 2021) – Cont'd from Page 5

One of the things I loved most about St. Margaret's was the people I had met there. The teachers dedicated an unimaginable amount of time to enrich our learning, and they were the ones who believed in us even when we found it hard to. I will always remember the little check-ins and encouragement from my teachers during the stressful national examination period, and it is these small acts of care that make St. Margaret's a place that I could call my second home. Not forgetting the close bonds I have forged with my friends, they were the ones who stood by my side despite the ups and downs of this journey. "How lucky I am to have something so special, that makes saying goodbye so hard." was a quote that I felt really deeply at the end of Secondary 4. From time to time, I still scroll through my photo gallery to reminisce on my secondary school days, and they always remind me of how immensely blessed I am with this group of friends and classmates who have been ever so supportive and encouraging.

I am extremely humbled and honoured to have received the Dean Dumper Award, and I surely could not have done it without the support of my family, peers, and the wonderful community of teachers and staff of the St. Margaret's family. They are the ones who have made my secondary school journey an unforgettable and enriching one, an everlasting memory that will stay with me even as I leave the portals of the school.

Last but not least, I would like to wish St. Margaret's all the best as she celebrates her 180th anniversary this year. May she continue to develop a Community of Learners who will be the Salt and Light of their communities.



Ms Leow with our SMESA President

Visiting Senior Members of SMESA

By Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata

Mrs Monica Lim

A group of us visited Mrs Monica Lim on 11 June 2022. We had lots of fun and laughter reminiscing the good old days at St Margaret's over a sumptuous lunch.



Mrs Wong Hoe Eng

"Happy birthday to you... Happy birthday to Mrs Wong," chorused a group of four from SMESA who visited Mrs Wong Hoe Eng on 25 July 2022 to celebrate her 97th birthday. This was an overdue visit.

Mrs Wong was amazing for her age. She was so lucid and her memory was so sharp. She said grace before the tea. Her heart of gratitude and her focus on God were evident in her grace. Over a sumptuous spread of tea consisting of cakes, pastries, sandwiches, fruit and tea, we reminisced about her past in the school – her days as a teacher, senior assistant, first Captain of the Girl Guides and the many other roles she had in the School including Chair of the Christian Fellowship. During the tea, she remarked several times, "This is the best birthday!"

(Continue on Page 8)

Visiting Senior Members of SMESA – Cont'd from Page 7

We went to bring cheer to her but we each left with a heart filled with joy and with her wise words ringing in our heads, "Stay close to God." The greatest influence in her life is certainly her relationship with God.

We truly appreciate her decades of involvement and contributions to St. Margaret's. She was a student from 1933 to 1941 and stayed in the boarding school as her family were Malaysians. She returned to her family in Malaysia when the Japanese Occupation broke out and came back to Singapore after the war. She was a teacher in the school from 1949 to 1980, serving as a Senior Assistant from the early '60s till her retirement. Besides being an alumni member for many decades, she continued her active involvement with the school, serving as a Parish Church Council representative at the School Management Committee from 1986 to 1999.



Those who went had the following reflections of the visit:

"I am actually wowed by how good Mrs Wong looks at 97. She kept reminding us she is 79 and not 97 and I agree with her. When I knew her as a student in the '70s, she always appeared stern to me but through several visits in the recent years, I have discovered her warmness and also her love for God and St. Margaret's School. At her age, I am amazed at her memory, how she could recall the dates and names of people in the school. I am just so glad to be able to celebrate her 97th birthday. She looks so radiant and joyful, always ready to welcome us. She loved the flowers and cake that we brought and thanked us profusely for making this one of the best birthdays. On behalf of SMESA, we wish her the best of health and may the Lord bless and keep her and shine His face upon her daily.

Chew Siew Kheng

(Continue on Page 9)

Visiting Senior Members of SMESA – Cont'd from Page 8

Those who went had the following reflections of the visit:

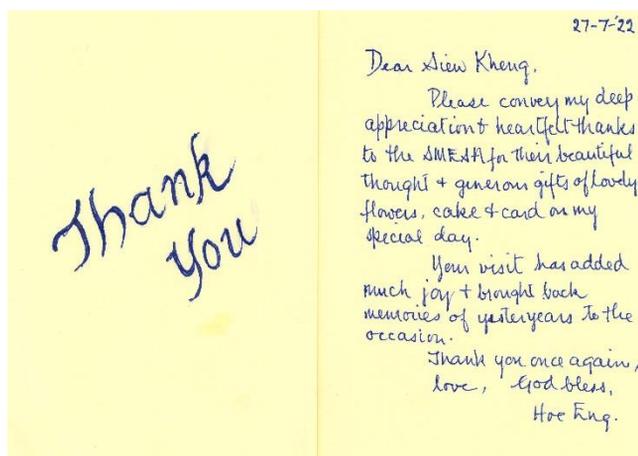
"It was truly a joyous occasion, celebrating with Mrs Wong Hoe Eng her 97th birthday! She was dressed beautifully for the occasion, complete with lovely necklaces! She was all smiles and said, "This is one of the best birthday celebrations". She simply loved the flowers we brought, so we took several pictures with them.

She is such a remarkable lady; her memory is as good as ever before, keeps herself fully informed of all that is happening in the world, ever gracious, ever hospitable. A God-loving and God-fearing grandmother, she advised her grandchildren, "Stay close to God and God will stay close to you." When I returned home, I called her and she said, "I am a little tired but happy. Thank you all again for the lovely afternoon".

A very Happy Birthday, Mrs Wong and may you experience the Lord's Amazing Grace and Wondrous Love every day of your life."
Lee Soo Kwan

"It is an afternoon tea to remember. Mrs Wong is very disciplined and meticulous."
Joy Gillian Quek

"It's truly my joy to see her and celebrate her 97th birthday. When I asked her for her secret of staying so gracious and well, she had this advice, "Stay close to God!" I would certainly heed her godly words of wisdom. May she continue to glow for the Lord."
Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata



SMESA Family Scenic Walk

By Olga Bessarab



SMESA

Family Scenic Walk

Saturday, 20 August 2022 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association (SMESA) celebrates 180th Anniversary of the St. Margaret's School with a family scenic walk from Gardens by the Bay to Marina Barrage.

- **Meeting Point:**
Bayfront MRT (Exit B)
- **End Point:**
Marina Barrage

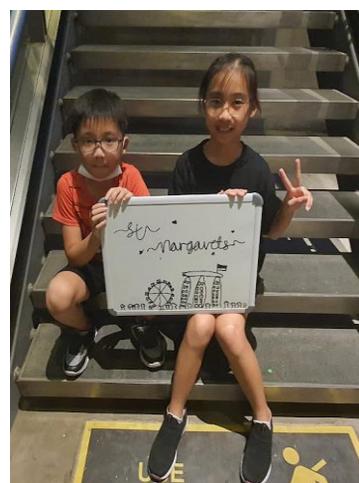
SMESA organised a scenic family walk to celebrate 180 years since the founding of St Margaret's School. SMESA invited fellow members and their families to a leisurely stroll -- starting from Gardens By The Bay to Marina Barrage and culminating with a family picnic on the lively green turf.



SMESA Family Scenic Walk – Cont’d from Page 10

The turnout was impressive; 23 adults and 12 children mingled at the meeting point, faces alight with excitement, anticipating a day of nostalgia and reconnection, and forging new friendships under a canopy of botanic bliss.

As the walk progressed, the children participated in our little game of ‘Spot the Sculpture’-spotting a number of exquisite artworks peppered throughout the Gardens. The towering rock formations in The Chinese Garden were the first to win them a prize, followed by the lions flanking the Indian Garden. Faint aromas of delicious spices wafted through the air, mingling with the sounds of shouts and laughter. It was truly an afternoon to remember.



(Continue on Page 12)

SMESA Family Scenic Walk – Cont’d from Page 11

Rain threatened at every step of the way, but the Lord was faithful and watched over us as we made our way across the Gardens, finally arriving at the impressive expanse of concrete that was home to Singapore’s 15th reservoir and largest water catchment area.



While the rain did eventually catch up with us, a tropical storm which sent forth a shower that wove itself into a rhythmic din; the group was undeterred, setting up picnic mats in the sheltered areas and biting into their MacDonald’s meals with gusto. While we didn’t manage to picnic on the green turf, but there was something cosy and comforting to sit together. We were safe and dry as the rain poured around us, a St Margaret’s family unbroken, a shining green dot in the mist.

SMESA wishes St. Margaret’s School a happy 180th; may we continue to let our light shine!



2 sisters from St Margaret's cycle 800km from Penang to S'pore to mark school's 180th anniversary

Source: STOMP, Ong Su Mann, 12 July 2022

What did you do during the June school holidays?

Two sisters, Gehna and Tareena Chandna from St Margaret's Secondary School, cycled 800km from Penang to Singapore to commemorate their school's 180th anniversary this year.

Why Penang? Because that is the resting place of Maria Bausum, better known as Maria Dyer, the British missionary who in 1842, founded the Chinese Girls' School in Singapore. The school is now known as St Margaret's Secondary School.

On June 19, Gehna, 15, and Tareena, 14, paid their respects to their school's founder at the Protestant cemetery in George Town, Penang, before setting out on their epic journey, accompanied by Stomper **Dheeraj**, who is their father.

They cycled through small towns, fields and plantations as they avoided the highway as much as possible, Dheeraj told Stomp.

He said: "We stayed in small budget hotels along the western coastal route as these small hotels allowed us to keep our bicycles in the lobby overnight.



(Continue on Page 14)

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2024

President

Ms Chew Siew Kheng

1st Vice-President

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

2nd Vice-President

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Honorary Secretary

Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Hui Choon Wai

Honorary Treasurer

Ms A Vani Aaliyah

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Kalavathy d/o Suppiah

Committee Members

Ms Lee Soo Kwan
Ms Brenda Lan Shu Mei
Ms Juliana Tenggara
Ms Susan M. Wijaya
Ms Lee Mian Jun

Co-opted Members

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew
Ms Olga Bessarab
Ms Azzah Fariha
Ms Joy Gillian Quek

Honorary Auditors

Ms Bridget Choy
Ms Adeline Sng

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman

Ms Juliana Tenggara

Editor

Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata
Ms Azzah Fariha

Layout Artist

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Advisors

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew
Ms Lee Soo Kwan
Ms Chew Siew Kheng

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240

www.smesa.org.sg

www.facebook.com/smesa1842

Email: smesa.sg@gmail.com

Fax: (65) 6534 5127

WhatsApp only: (65) 8825 4620



2 sisters from St Margaret's cycle 800km from Penang to S'pore to mark school's 180th anniversary – Cont'd from Page 13

"We would start cycling around 7am until 1pm or 2pm daily. After which we went around exploring the town we stopped at. That was to relax our minds as well as make us excited to cycle to the next town so that we could explore more new places.

"We ate at makeshift stalls along the old highway and enjoyed lots of local food. We replenished our water bottles by stopping at petrol kiosks."

It took them 12 days to reach Singapore and they ended their journey at St Margaret's Secondary School at Farrer Road on June 30.

Dheeraj called it a "priceless feeling" to have completed the "gruesome" 800km ride.

Link to original article:

<https://stomp.straitstimes.com/singapore-seen/2-sisters-from-st-margarets-cycle-800km-from-penang-to-spore-to-mark-schools-180th#&gid=1&pid=1>