

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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

MAY-AUG
ISSUE #37
2015



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COMING EVENTS

Visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged
Saturday, 19 September 2015, 2:00 pm
Blk 341, Clementi Ave 5 #01-148

St. Margaret's 173rd Anniversary Dinner
Monday, 16 November 2015
St. Margaret's Secondary School
Please see details in the poster

SMESA Christmas Party
Date yet to be confirmed.
Either on last Saturday of November 2015 or
1st or 2nd Saturday of December 2015, 6.00 pm.
Check SMESA Facebook for more details.
Contact: enquiries@smesa.org.sg
Open to all ex-students.



*St. Margaret's
173rd Anniversary Dinner*

**FROM US,
With Love**

Date: Monday 16th November 2015
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: St. Margaret's Secondary School Hall
111, Farrer Road, Singapore 259240
Dress Code: Smart Casual - Red & White

\$55 per person

Closing Date: 16th October 2015

Enquiries and Ticket Sales:
St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association
Jennie Bek
9184 9388
jenniebek@hotmail.com

St. Margaret's Secondary School
Lian Chuen Ann
6466 4525
lian_chuen_ann@schools.gov.sg

St. Margaret's Primary School
Dorothy Leong
6339 4247
dorothy_leong@schools.gov.sg

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



PRESIDENT WRITES...

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2015/2016

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Ms Ho Lian Geok

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SMESA Website, SMESA Tutors

The importance of communication cannot be denied. In the course of the year, there are fresh ideas, happenings and work in progress, which we may not be ready for reporting in our Newsletter. "President writes" aims to bridge this gap.

In recent months, we have been working hard on our new SMESA Website to improve communications between alumni members and students – former and current. Our history, coming events and a gallery of photographs to bring nostalgia to our readers are some of the subjects in the Website. We will also have a Business Directory and hope that many more ex-students will come forward to offer job-shadowing placements for St. Margaret's students.



SMSS is running a Night Study Programme at the School from 4.30 pm to 7.00 pm. In response to this meaningful programme, we have started SMESA Tutors. SMESA Tutors will be a pool of ex-students supporting SMSS in this Programme. We are looking for ex-students to volunteer their services towards this worthy project. Please do contact us if you can help the students. Let us know your preferred time(s), day(s) and subject(s). I look forward to hearing from you.

All Blessings,
Lee Soo Kwan

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ Opening of Aurora Butterfly Garden @ SMSS



SMSS has set up a butterfly garden called the Aurora Butterfly Garden at the corner of its Indoor Sports Hall. Its purpose is to promote biodiversity in the School.

Nine species of plants, each attracting their specific types of butterflies, were planted in this Garden. This Garden not only serves as a platform for students to learn scientific concepts in an authentic setting but also to promote students' appreciation and care for the nature as they visit the garden.

SMESA's President, Lee Soo Kwan, was honoured to be invited to open this Garden on 24 July 2015.

This project was carried out in collaboration with the NParks under the Community in Nature (CIN) national movement. The purpose of the movement is to connect and engage different groups in the community to conserve Singapore's natural heritage.

A group of SMSS students have taken up the role of SMSS CIN volunteers. This group participates in various outreach projects, including the recent Festival of Biodiversity at VivoCity on the last weekend of June 2015.



▼ New Members

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

Life Members

Ms Dew Wong Li-Yen
 Ms Liew Pei Juan
 Ms Joanna Tan
 Ms Cheryl Lee Mei Ling
 Ms Ermita Soenarto

- SMPS 1987 • SMSS 1991
- SMPS 1988 • SMSS 1992
- SMPS 1989 • SMSS 1993
- SMPS 1993 • SMSS 1997
- SMPS 1994 • SMSS 1998



SMPS GREEN DOT DAY 2015

St. Margaret's Primary School holds an annual carnival to raise funds. This year, it was held for the first time at the secondary school on 1 August.

By LINDA LING

This is a good opportunity for the Primary 6 students to familiarise themselves in the Secondary School in anticipation of them joining the School in the following year.

SMESA had a stall selling tubs of aloe vera ice jelly and cups of fruit jelly. The cold jelly was very popular especially when the weather was so hot. The jelly also helped to cool the students down after their participation in the zumba and other games.

There were many gifts and games stalls to keep the young and old entertained. Parents and grandparents came to support their young ones in sports as well as zumba. Souvenirs with the school logo such as umbrellas, magnets, thumb drives, teddy bears and bags were available for sale.

Everyone had a great time with the variety of food and games, which brought back happy memories of their childhood. Meeting their former teachers was an additional bonus. It was a happy gathering for the clan once more.



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01/08/2015 09:49

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01/08/2015 10:13

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01-02 Fun with Zumba

03 Cool and refreshing jelly for sale

04 SMESA Jelly Stall



SMSS 173RD SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING DAY

The Secondary School's 173rd Speech and Prize-Giving Day was held on 24 July 2015. SMESA Board members were delighted to be part of the SMSS annual speech day. It was a special occasion with the Guest of Honour being Mrs Liza George who was the Principal during the times of many of the ex-students. Pioneer teachers also graced the event, making it even more memorable.

By THEINGI WINT WINT SOE

The ceremony began with the singing of the School Hymn, bringing memories to the ex-students who attended the event.

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

Top "O" Level, 2014 student was Yu Yuejuan. There were 81 students who achieved 5 or more distinctions for the "O" Level Examinations and 14 students who achieved 4 or more distinctions for the "N" Level Examinations. SMESA Awards for the Arts 2015 were presented to:-

- Pwee Zhang Qing, Joy - Chinese Dance
- Dogiparty Reshma Ishwarya - Indian Dance
- Nur Adriana Bte Abdul Rahman - Malay Dance
- Janelle Koo Kai Ning - Modern Dance
- Gabriela - Choir
- Kathleen Bu Rui Xuan - Drama
- Lam Yi Xuan - String Ensemble
- Chia Shan Ning Thelma - Symphonic Band
- Chen Hao - Creative Art Club

Congratulations Girls!

Mo Fei delivered the Valediction. The Guest of Honour, other guests and parents were entertained with songs and dances.



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SMESA SPEAKER'S SERIES

The SMESA Speaker's Series invites ex-students to share their experiences and journey after St. Margaret's, to give a glimpse of the exciting world outside - full of opportunities but also paved with challenges.

By HO LIAN GEOK

On 29th May, we were delighted to have Mrs Michelle Wong, a mediator in the State Courts, the Singapore Mediation Centre, the Community Mediation Centre and the Consumers Association of Singapore, as our fifth speaker for the Series on the last day of the first semester.

In citing her visit to St. Margaret's Chapel at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, Mrs Wong drew on the qualities associated with Queen Margaret - "charity", "patience" and "devotion", to highlight "patience" as a necessary trait of a mediator. She gave a broad overview of mediation where the options of litigation, arbitration and mediation were explained. Her talk highlighted litigation and mediation, where the latter seeks to turn the antagonism between two parties into collaboration by adopting the five styles in the Thomas-Kilman Conflict Management Styles model. The ideal solution of benefitting both parties can be achieved if their interests are met. It is this challenge of identifying the interests of the parties that confronts the mediator.

Mrs Wong pointed out that a mediator would need "common sense, good listening skills, a sense of humour, an ability to deal in an even-handed manner and with feet firmly planted on the ground". For the "infinite patience" required in mediation work, she suggested that perhaps a St. Margaret's alumna, who had been inculcated with the value in school, would make a good mediator.

Our students have, no doubt, learnt much about the art of mediation after the speaker's presentation. Other than minimising money, time and emotions expended, the importance of avoiding conflict translates into reduced hostility, healing and/or restorative effects and morality and/or civic duty. Mrs Wong ended her talk by exhorting the students to do what would make them happy and to be the best that they could be in what they chose to do.

The event concluded with Mdm Lee Lin Yee, Principal of SMSS, presenting a St. Margaret's teddy bear to Mrs Wong as a token of appreciation.

■ Past Speakers

- Dr Anamah Tan
Women's Rights Issue (15.04.11)
- Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching
What Is My Internal GPS? (18.10.11)
- Ms Marjorie Chu
How To Live (08.03.13)
- Dr Luisa Lee
Sound Bites for Life (25.04.14)



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01 Mrs Michelle Wong on "Mediation"



TEACHERS' DAY DINNER 2015

The Teachers' Day Dinner was held on 28 August 2015 at the M Hotel Ballroom. The theme was "Red/White With a Grateful Heart". It represents the years spent by the teachers in educating the future citizens of Singapore.

BY BRIDGET CHOY



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It was like the first day of Chinese New Year. We were like the "Red Sea". Most of the teachers and committee members were dressed in red/white theme. It was befitting the joyous mood of the occasion, especially because Singapore is celebrating SG50 this year.

The event was sponsored by SMC. It was organized by PTA and assisted by PSG and SMESA. A photo booth, beautifully set by PTA, was used by the teachers for their photo sessions.

The PTA prepared a lovely heart-shaped SG50 bookmark and a food voucher were given to everyone as a door gift.

The MC selected a few teachers to play charades. They revealed the teachers' hidden acting talent, which resulted in peals of laughter from the audience.

Three teachers were selected to enact a political rally. They had to make impromptu speeches on topics given by the audience/MC. They spoke on transporting children to schools on free aeroplane rides, giving \$2,000 per month to mothers to have babies, etc. Some of the teachers will make good politicians when they retire from the teaching profession!

There was a treasure hunt too. Teachers from each table had to produce 10 items (a plaster, sunglasses, safety pin, 5-cent coin, medication, e.g. tiger balm, belt, watch with black strap, red lipstick, Popular membership card and perfume). There was much excitement and running around as each team tried to get all the required items before rushing to the stage to present their prized possessions.

There was a quiz on historical facts concerning Singapore where the teachers from each table had to write their answers before handing them to the President of SMESA and Chairperson of PSG to mark their answers.

In between all the above activities, Bingo was also conducted. It was a fun-filled evening where our childhood games were played once more. Our appreciation to SMC, PTA, PSG, SMESA, SMPS and SMSS for organising this event.

God Bless and Happy Teachers' Day.

01 SMESA Board members and Rachel Lim Siew Min, an ex-student (standing: 2nd from left)

02 SMC members (L-R): Lee Hoon Hwee, Irene Chua, Moey Kit Ming (SMPS VP) and Tan King Ming (SMSS VP)

03 Cheers! Teachers having a great time at the photo-booth



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

On 16 May 2015, some members from St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association ("SMESA") visited the St. Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged ("Home").

BY JOY SIA



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SMESA brought *char siew pau* for the 20 residents and three staff members of the Home. After chatting with them during the tea, we organised a sing along session. We sang "To God Be The Glory", "Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built For Two)", "Michael", "If You Are Happy" which included actions like clapping hands and stamping feet. Quite good exercise for everyone after the tea session. Some popular Chinese songs were also sung.

This was followed by SMESA member Suraja telling the Old Testament bible story of Naomi and Ruth. The residents also participated in an *origami* session. Some made aeroplanes, boats, frogs, cranes, balls, etc. It brought back happy memories for most of the residents. Everyone enjoyed the session, which was full of laughter and smiles.

Before we left the Home, every resident was given an *ang pow*, which was contributed by Board members from SMESA.

We experienced such joy ourselves although our objective was to bring some cheer to the residents of the Home.

01 SMESA members and the residents

02 An enjoyable day for SMESA members at the Home

03 Fun with *origami*

04 The pretty *origami* works