

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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

JAN-APR
ISSUE #33
2014



IN THIS ISSUE

- Announcements
- SMESA Speaker Series - Dr Luisa Lee
- Janet Lim's Visit to SMPS
- 8-year old Pupil of SMPS casts in Local Chinese Musical "If There're Seasons"
- 'The Robe' - SMSS Charity Concert
- Garage Sale 2014
- SMSS Prefects' Commendation Service 2014
- Professional Guidance Day
- SMESA Annual General Meeting 2014

COMING EVENTS

- Green Dot Concert: "the m factor"**
Saturday, 2 August 2014 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm
Venue: Auditorium, SAJC Cultural Centre
- Teachers' Day Dinner**
Friday, 29 August 2014
Venue: Raffles Town Club
- St. Margaret's 172nd Anniversary Dinner**
Sunday, 16 November 2014
Venue: St. Margaret's Primary School Hall
More information on ticketing will be released in next issue of Newsletter
- Visit to St. Andrew's Home for the Aged**
Saturday, 23 August 2014
Meet at 2:00 pm at the Home at Blk 341, Clementi Avenue 5, #01-148



ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ Our New Members

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

Life Members

Ms Rebecca Tan En Hui	• SMPS 1996	• SMSS 2001
Ms Bock Teng Yee	• SMPS 1988	• SMSS 1992
Ms Janine Rachel Tan Wei Hsuan	• SMPS 1996	• SMSS 2001
Ms Sharifah Widad-Chong	• SMPS 1988	• SMSS 1992
Ms Janice Choi Poh San	• SMPS 1990	• SMSS 1994
Ms Caroline Seah	• SMPS 1979	• SMSS 1984
Ms Yai Yi Shin	• SMPS 1986	• SMSS 1990
Ms Fok Lai Chee		• SMSS 1972
Ms Ng Bee Leng		• SMSS 1972
Ms Doris Sim Bee Gol	• SMPS 1968	• SMSS 1972
Ms Wong Mei Har		• SMSS 1972

▼ Green Dot Concert: “the m factor”

In memory of the late SMPS Principal, Mrs Mary Cassim who passed away on 29 May 2013.

Date: Saturday, 2 August 2014
Time: 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm
Venue: Auditorium, St. Andrew's Junior College Cultural Centre
Ticket Prices: 2.30 pm show: \$10, \$15 & \$20
7.30 pm show: \$15, \$20 & \$25

Tickets are available at SMPS

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2014/2015

President

Dr Lee Hoon Hwee

1st Vice-President

Ms Lee Soo Kwan

2nd Vice-President

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Honorary Secretary

Ms Ho Lian Geok

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Hui Choon Wai

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Loh Geok Chin

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Bridget Choy Wai Fong

Committee Members

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

Ms Jennie Bek Poh Kiang

Ms Brenda Lan Shumei

Ms Jessica Rebekah Leong Wei Ling

Ms Joy Gillian Quek

Co-opted Members

Ms Jessica Grant

Ms Loh Geok Chin

Auditors

Mrs Monica Lim

Mdm Yeung Shun Yun

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Ms Ruby Lee Yen Kee

Members

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew

Ms Ho Lian Geok

Ms Jessica Rebekah Leong

Advisor

Dr. Lee Hoon Hwee

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240

www.smesa.org.sg

enquiries@smesa.org.sg

Fax: (65) 6534 5127



SMESA SPEAKER SERIES - DR LUISA LEE

Our speaker for the SMESA Speaker Series on 25 April 2014 at St. Margaret's Secondary School was ex-student Dr Luisa Lee. The SMESA Speaker Series was started some two years ago by alumni SMESA. The purpose of the Speaker Series is to bring ex-students back to the School to share their life's experiences and values important in life. We hope that these talks will give the students some glimpses of what life and the world are like after School and outside School.

By LEE SOO KWAN



01 Dr. Luisa Lee sharing her life's experiences with the students

After a brief introduction by VP Lee Soo Kwan, Luisa Lee took the stage and took the girls through her life's journey after School to the present. Besides the several leading positions she held in both the public and private sectors in the healthcare services, she headed projects like the successful Family Planning in the 60's and was principal investigator of several regional and international health projects. She was also a Major in the Singapore Armed Forces.

Luisa also shared with the girls the many challenges she had encountered through the years, the lessons and values learnt. She concluded her Talk with these words of wisdom:

- Live Life to the Fullest
- Time is Precious
- Know your Priorities
- Use your Opportunities
- Money is Not Everything
- Relationships are Important

▼ 10 Questions for Dr Lee

Professional Life

Q1. Was it your childhood ambition to be a doctor?

Actually, no. I kind of drifted into Medicine. However, I do remember that in answer to a question during the Senior Cambridge (now GCE "O" levels) Oral English exam that I replied that I wanted to be a doctor because that was the only career that I knew how to answer the question that I anticipated would follow, which is, "why?"

Q2. Why would you encourage the girls to become medical practitioners?

It is a fulfilling profession in which one can contribute to mankind in different realms – be it in public health, clinical practice, teaching or research. But it is demanding and at times requires self-sacrifice.



► 10 Questions for Dr Lee (Cont'd)

Professional Life (Cont'd)

Q3. How would you advise the girls with regards to their career choices?

It is important to know one's strengths and weakness – not only in terms of subjects studied but also one's personality, character, talent and interests. Today there are many more career choices and many new careers come on stream with advancement in science, technology and globalisation.

Q4. What values are important in guiding your career?

I think integrity is at the top of the list. Related to this is honesty – to oneself as well as to others. Adaptability to circumstances (but not compromising one's principles) and resilience. Today the latter two are becoming more important because change is occurring at an increasing pace. Empathy and respect is also important – "do unto others as you would them do unto you" – people you work with must be able to trust you.

Q5. Who is your role model?

I have various role models for different aspects of character and ability that I admired or aspired to emulate. These would include my parents for their pragmatism and non-materialism, one of my former bosses who never spoke ill of anyone and another former boss who was a great mentor to many who are now holding important positions in life.

School Days

Q1. How did you come to study at St. Margaret's Secondary School?

It happened that my previous school did not offer pure science subjects at Secondary 3 and I wanted to study Science so my parents arranged for a transfer to St Margaret's which offered these subjects.

Q2. What value(s) did you learn in school?

In St Margaret's, the Christian values were very much part of life.

Q3. Was there a teacher who inspired you?

Mrs Wong Hoe Eng who restarted the Girl Guide movement in the school when I joined, opened up many facets for personal development and inspired me to obtain my First Class Girl Guides badge within the 2 years of guiding – the several proficiency tests that I had to pass have stood me in good stead both in my career and domestic life. I also learned what impartiality means from Mrs Kon who was my Secondary 4 form teacher although she was never my subject teacher.

Q4. Did you and your classmates ever discuss your ambitions at that age and motivated one another to achieve them?

It is funny that you ask this because I think we were in an era when all we thought about was to pass exams... at least that was my perspective. At that time too, the careers open to us were mainly teaching, nursing, clerical work or go on to pre-university then decide what next. I do not remember discussing anything beyond the Senior Cambridge exams – this is why I say I "drifted" into medicine.

Q5. Are there memories of your schooldays that you still cherish?

Definitely. My days in St Margaret's were the best days in my student life as they were fun-filled and enabled me to experience so many different activities. I am glad that my parents were unconditionally supportive and/or not fully aware of how little time I was spending on studying. Being class monitor, member of the Debating team, Netball team, participation in an operetta with our brother and sister schools (St. Andrew's and St. Hilda's), the Girl Guides. The best part is the friendships formed - we still gather for a reunion whenever one of our classmates who has migrated, returns to Singapore on a visit.



JANET LIM'S VISIT TO ST. MARGARET'S PRIMARY

If you had read Issue 32 of our newsletter, you would have known that Ms Janet Lim is an ex-student of our school and author of the bestseller *Sold for Silver*.

By JENNIE BEK



01



02



03

Ms Lim visited St. Margaret's Primary School with her family members on 12 March 2014. They were warmly welcomed by a large contingent consisting of Ms Pang Wee Mian, Principal of SMPS; Mrs Elaine Yeoh, Vice-Principal of SMPS; Mrs Elsie Poey, former Principal of SMPS; Ms Lucilla Teoh, Singapore Anglican Community Services; Dr Lee Hoon Hwee, 1st Vice-President of SMESA; Ms Pixie Ho, 2nd Vice-President of SMESA; and SMESA members Mrs Wong Hoe Eng and Chan Lai Ching (Ms Lim's niece), SMESA board members, teachers and students of SMPS.

The Primary School proudly showed the celebrated visitors around the school and especially the Heritage room. A tea reception and dialogue session was held at the Library Instructional Room so that the visitors could freely mingle. Ms Lim was charming and everyone enjoyed the dialogue session. 2nd Vice-President of SMESA, Ms Pixie Ho presented Ms Lim with a souvenir hand towel which was embroidered with the words '171st Anniversary of St. Margaret's School'. Ms Lim graciously signed several copies of her book 'Sold for Silver' and donated them to the school library.

01 Ms Lim with Principal Ms Pang (standing extreme left), VP Mrs Yeo (standing extreme right) and SMPS students

02 Ms Lim autographing her book

03 Ms Lim with Principal Ms Pang, Ms May Chew and SMESA members

The visit ended with a short performance by the school choir at the school hall, attended by the whole school. The choir filled the hall with their angelic voices as they sang the school song, creed and hymn which touched the hearts of all who were present. Reverend Steven Seah closed the event with a prayer and blessed Ms Lim and her family. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Ms Lim as a token of appreciation. Group photos were taken before bidding farewell to Ms Lim and her family.

*Ms Lim was recognized by the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations in their inauguration of the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame on 14 March 2014.



8-YEAR OLD PUPIL OF SMPS CAST IN LOCAL CHINESE MUSICAL “IF THERE’RE SEASONS”

Nadine Bastienne Bek Gotsmy (麦娜宁), an eight-year-old pupil of Primary 2 Devotion at St Margaret's Primary School (SMPS), was one of the child performers in the Chinese musical "If There're Seasons" 《天冷就回来》 by The Theatre Practice - (实践剧场), a leading bilingual theatre group in Singapore known for presenting quality productions.

By JENNIE BEK

Written by acclaimed Hong Kong playwright Raymond To (杜国威) and featuring *xinyao* songs composed by renowned Singaporean songwriter Liang Wern Fook (梁文福), the musical was directed by Kuo Jian Hong (郭践红), Artistic Director of The Theatre Practice co-founded by Kuo Pao Kun (郭宝崑) and Goh Lay Kuan (吴丽娟). "If There're Seasons" had a successful run of 28 shows at the Drama Centre Theatre from 3 to 27 April 2014.

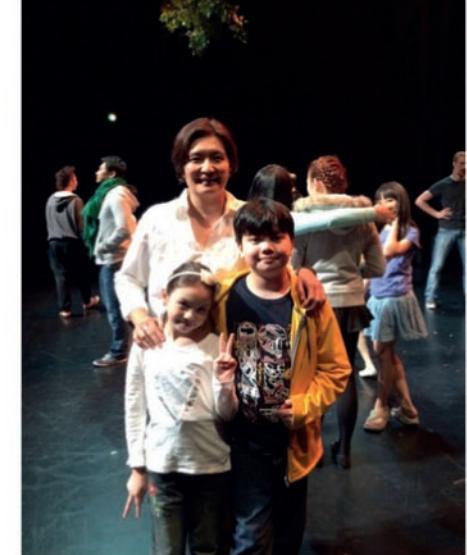
Nadine played the role of little Millie in the classroom scene in Act 2. She sang and danced to a medley of *xinyao* songs and also sang solo for part of the song "YOYO Folk-Song"- 摆民谣. She also appeared in a dialogue scene with the lead actor, George Chan. Lim Kay Siu, another veteran Singaporean character actor, also performed in this musical.

Nadine shared her experience with the school during the morning assembly on 19 May 2014. "I enjoyed my time rehearsing for the play. I had to learn the steps to four dances and I had a small speaking part to memorise too. When I was practising, I never felt tired as I enjoyed myself a lot. I like to sing and dance. I had to put in extra effort to complete my homework after each rehearsal, but I did not mind doing so. From this experience, I learnt that I need to put in effort and work hard in order to be good at something. If I had a choice, I would like to perform in another musical again."



01

01 Nadine as 'Little Millie' in the musical "If There're Seasons"



03



01



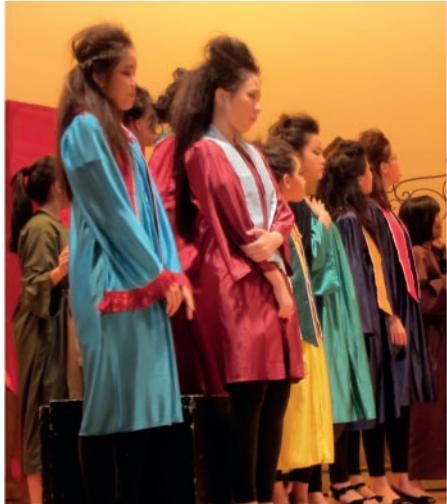
02



04

01-02 Nadine played the role of "little Millie" in the classroom scene of the musical "If There're Seasons" – shown in the photo with lead actor George Chan and Cast A children performers
(Photos provided by The Theatre Practice)

- 03 Nadine and her brother Marcel with Kuo Jian Hong, Artistic Director of The Theatre Practice
- 04 Nadine and her brother Marcel with renowned Singaporean songwriter Liang Wern Fook



01



02



03



04



05

‘THE ROBE’ SMSS CHARITY CONCERT

On 4 April, the students of St. Margaret’s Secondary School put up two magnificent performances at the school hall. The concert, ‘The Robe’, is part of an ongoing programme championed by the School since 2006.

By LEE SOO KWAN



04/0

07



04/04/2014 16:13

06

Initially, the concerts were conceptualised as an arts education programme to develop confidence in students by showcasing their talents. The School subsequently incorporated the concept of charity as part of its objectives for the biennial concerts – charity, care and concern being the School's values. In line with the Schools' objectives, the School hopes to nurture the students to be active and caring citizens.

In her message for the concert, Principal Mrs Marion Tan said:

'Held since 2010, the Biennial Concert is joyous and meaningful because it shares with others our blessings and gifts of song, dance and drama as we raise funds for charitable causes. In 2010, proceeds went toward the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children of the Spastic Children's Association of Singapore; in 2012, toward the ministry of the Singapore Anglican Community Services and this year, proceeds will go toward the work and ministry of the St. Andrew's Autism School.'

'The Robe' is based on the parable of The Good Samaritan which demonstrates love in action. In 'The Robe', two complete strangers came quietly forward to help a candidate for the position of Mayor of Royal Town after she was disqualified when one of the other contenders instructed her supporters to steal her robe. Beautifully performed, the story illustrates what being compassionate, caring and kind mean – even when it means going out of your way and facing great difficulties. We must always remember to '... Walk in Love' (2 John 1:6).

The many dancing and singing talents of the students were delightfully woven into the concert. I believe the School's special guests, the children from St. Andrew's Autism School had a wonderful time. They were enjoying the songs and dances, and captivated by the acting and the myriad of colours on the stage.

The Guest of Honour, Mrs Diana Chin, Principal of St Andrew's Autism School, graced the event. Staff from St. Andrew's Autism School, parents, PSG and SMESA members and other well-wishers were also at the event. It was a performance enjoyed by all, judging from the conversation after the concert!

01-04 Scenes from the production

05-07 Our talented performers captivating the audience with the myriad of colours on stage



GARAGE SALE - 3 MAY 2014

By SEOW WENYI

The annual Garage Sale started off with a bang with customers surrounding our stall even before we unpacked our stocks! Our much sought after stocks were donations from members of St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association (SMESA). These donations were collated throughout the year for this event.

Pixel Ho and her husband, Pang Kwok Peng, Ho Lian Geok and I manned the stall, while members of SMESA, Sharifah Widad-Chong and Pamela Kwan, came down to lend us a hand. They brought us more stocks to replenish the fast depleting goods we had for sale. Even then, they were quickly snapped up.

Miss Indranee Rajah, Member of Parliament representing the Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency, had graced the event. Line dancers and Taiji performers added to the festivities.

In spite of the hot weather, there was a large crowd bustling and bargaining away. Before we know it, the Garage Sale had come to an end. It was a tiring yet fulfilling event. We managed to raise a tidy amount which would be used to fund other activities of SMESA.



SMSS PREFECTS' COMMENDATION SERVICE 2014

By PIXIE HO

The annual Prefects' Commendation was held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on 11 April 2014.

The outgoing and incoming prefects began the ceremony by entering the Cathedral in procession to the singing of the hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*. The Prefects looked so smart in their green jackets over their school uniforms with their hair tied neatly and traditionally in green or white ribbons, as they walked down the aisle of the Cathedral. The green ribbon signifies the outgoing Prefects while the white, the incoming ones.

Deaconess Bessie Lee delivered an enlightening sermon on "Grace" to the students. The Head Prefect delivered an endearing speech to her classmates and the audience.

The Badge of Office was presented to each Prefects by The Right Reverend Rennis Ponniah, Bishop of Singapore, who officiated the Service. When receiving the badge, each Prefect was reminded by the Bishop of her responsibilities and duties in wearing the badge. Each outgoing Prefect was also presented with the SMESA School Service Award (a trophy sponsored by SMESA) as a token of appreciation of her service to the School.

The ceremony ended with a tea reception for parents, family members, school personnel, representatives of the partners of the School and invited guests.





PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE DAY

SMSS held its Professional Guidance Day on 28 March 2014. The objective of the event is to provide guidance to its graduating students on the many career options available to them, so that they will make informed choices in this very important aspect of their lives.

BY PIXIE HO

SMSS held its Professional Guidance Day on 28 March 2014. The objective of the event is to provide guidance to its graduating students on the many career options available to them, so that they will make informed choices in this very important aspect of their lives.

A poll was conducted amongst the students on what profession and/or work areas interest them most and the following 8 fields were selected. We then invited professionals from the selection fields to share their experiences and answer their questions.

- **Psychologist**
(by Ms Lorraine Boudville)
- **Pre-School Teacher**
(by Ms Rachel J Tan)
- **Specialist in Crime Scene & Forensic**
(by Ms Rachel Chai)
- **Musician**
(by Ms Jennifer Ng)
- **Nursing**
(by Ms Goh Eng Pin)
- **Journalism**
(by Mr Patwant Singh)
- **Medical Social Work**
(by Ms Eileen Sheng)
- **Legal Profession**
(by Ms Pixie Ho)

I shared my work as a lawyer and spoke to 3 groups of students (about 40 students per group) for 45 minutes. The students were excited when they came into the classroom and were eager to learn more about the legal profession and what a lawyer can earn. They were mostly influenced by the legal dramas shown on TV. However, their spirits were dampened when I told them that the legal profession is unglamorous, serious and onerous. I enlightened them on the qualifications and qualities that one has to have in order to be part of the profession. I also told them about the wide scope of work that one can undertake when one has a law degree. I also shared with them the kind of legal work I do and my job experience.

SMESA is pleased to note that at this year's event, 4 ex-students, namely, Ms Lorraine Boudville, Ms Rachel J Tan, Ms Rachel Chai and myself volunteered to share our work experiences with the students. We are also grateful to Mr Patwant Singh, who has no connection with the SMSS at all, for making time to share his work experience as a journalist.

We hope that more of you out there would come forward next time to help the students by sharing with them your experience at work!



01



02



03

01 Panel of speakers

02 Ms Pixie Ho speaking on the Legal Profession

03 Ms Rachel Chai speaking on Crime Scene & Forensic



SMESA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Learning Lab, St. Margaret's Secondary School on 12 April 2014.

By PIXIE HO



As there was no quorum, the Meeting was adjourned for 30 minutes. When it was resumed half an hour later, serious matters in the Agenda were conducted and followed by the election of the office-bearers for 2014/2015.

The following persons were elected in their respective positions:-

President:	Dr Lee Hoon Hwee
1st Vice-President:	Ms Lee Soo Kwan
2nd Vice-President:	Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew
Honorary Secretary:	Ms Ho Lian Geok
Assistant Honorary Secretary:	Ms Hui Choon Wai
Honorary Treasurer:	Ms Loh Geok Chin
Assistant Honorary Treasurer:	Ms Bridget Choy Wai Fong
Committee Members:	Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong Ms Jennie Bek Poh Kiang Ms Brenda Lan Shumei Ms Jessica Rebekah Leong Wei Ling Ms Joy Gillian Quek

Mrs Monica Lim and Mdm Yeung Shun Yun were elected as Auditors.

AGM is not only about discussing serious business in the Agenda but also a time for members to meet up, enjoy the company of old friends and of course, scrumptious food, prepared and contributed by all present at the Meeting. These were precisely what we had at the AGM.

Do join us for the wonderful fellowship and glorious food next year!