



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : AUGUST 2017

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Dear Parents and Guardians

July was chock-a-block with programmes and significant events. It saw the entire KC family coming together to celebrate our all-time favourite, Book & Music Week from 12 to 14 July. Adding to the richness and diversity of our July experience was the presence of our international visitors from Fukuoka Futaba School (Fukuoka, Japan). In the meantime, two of our Girl Guides were at the 2017 Ayrwaves International Camp, Scotland from 26 July to 8 August. Another group of students spent a Sunday bringing their entrepreneurial ideas into fruition at Changi City Point Shopping Mall under the National Youth Business Challenge (NYBC) 2017. We are indeed glad that there are so many different opportunities for our girls to learn and to grow.

Welcome

We welcome Mr Ng Wei Sheng Timmy as SH/Information Management to Katong Convent upon the completion of his Masters Degree in Education. Mr Timmy Ng teaches Physics and Mathematics. Prior to joining Katong Convent, he had taught in various junior colleges. We wish Mr Timmy Ng a fulfilling stay in Katong Convent and look forward to his contributions to our school.

Book and Music Week (BMW)

Book and Music Week (BMW) is Katong Convent's signature arts programme. Initiated more than 40 years ago, it is an annual tradition celebrated, loved, and fondly remembered by each cohort of girls who passes through the gates of Katong Convent. As a festival that forges the identity of each KC girl and bonds students within classes, across levels, and together as one community, each BMW encourages our girls to step out of their comfort zone, step up to its challenges and onto the proscenium.

Returning to our revamped Marine Terrace campus, this year's theme *New Lamps from Old* evoked concepts of re-creation, renewal and regeneration. It exhorted our girls to make anew the familiar, to weave new stories from myths and legends, to light new lamps with the old, and to cast new light to share with others.

Pre-BMW activities

The preparations for 2017's BMW began immediately after the Mid-Year Examinations with a briefing for all class representatives and several in-class discussion sessions led by form teachers and teachers from the BMW organising committee. A series of art and design enrichment workshops were conducted to support the girls. On 16th and 18th May, the casual visitor that traversed the courtyard between the classroom blocks would have felt the buzz of creative activity in spite of the midday heat. Selected girls from each class learnt to create improvised lamps from found materials, headgears from corrugated boards, and batik drawings for an art installation. Students from our Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) also shared their expertise with Secondary One



and Two girls and taught them watercolour painting and hand-lettering, special effects face painting, and clay modelling.

Heralding the impending festivities, a pre-BMW Quiz took place on 4th July. You could hear a pin drop. Yes, the tense ten minutes during morning assembly saw a battle of vocabulary finesse as classes sought to chalk up class points by differentiating a noun from a verb, all while listening carefully to pronunciation over the public address system. That was what classes did, to show they had learnt something from their Vocabathon list to honour their commitment to well-wishers who had supported them in this fundraising project held in Term 1.

Opening Ceremony

The long-awaited arrival of BMW 2017 was announced by the deep and sonorous beats of taiko drums as the students, led by student leaders, carried out body percussion and clapped as if they were one unified percussion instrument to the rousing rhythms of the drums to welcome our Guest-of-Honour, the distinguished Ms Pooja Nansi, on stage. A KC alumna, Ms Pooja Nansi was the NAC-NTU Writer in Residence for 2015-16 and recipient of NAC's Young Artist Award in 2016, Singapore's highest accolade for arts practitioners under 35. She currently teaches Creative Writing at Nanyang Technological University. In her opening address, Ms Nansi shared with the girls her thoughts and reflections on her past experiences as a KC girl and how she engages with concepts of interpretations and adaptations in her work through activities such as blackout poetry.

After the heartfelt sharing by Ms Nansi, our Principal, Ms Chan, together with Vice-Principals, Mrs Goh and Mr Cheah, and our KC student leaders, President Evelyn Erike Tan (Sec 3/4), Vice-President Christine Ong Shu Hui (Sec 3/5), Secretary Ashley Huan May An (Sec 3/6), and Head Class Committee Jamie Low Jia Wen (Sec 2/6), enchanted our girls with their dramatic sand art animation performance in the darkened multi-purpose hall. Based on the history of the school, the captivating live performance with moving sand narrated the tale of a timeless KC girl who grows up together with a seaside convent, learning and making friends, and finding herself through a renewed sense of purpose in a "bigger, different, yet very much the same campus". The story of hope and rebirth was bookended by the angelic voices of the choir as they sallied into the hall, illuminated by flickering lamps, serenading the crowd with *Wherever You Are* by Gareth Malone & Military Wives.

As the opening ceremony reached its climax, Ms Nansi was invited back on stage to sign the BMW guestbook. Together with Ms Chan, Ms Nansi transformed the guestbook into the BMW lamp and lit it to symbolise the start of the BMW festivities. At this moment, the students also turned on their own handmade class lamps as the choir led them in singing *Pass It On* by Kurt Kaiser.

Engaging Our Girls in Artistic Creation

Busking

An unmistakable perennial favourite amongst KCians, the air was abuzz with much merriment amidst song and dance. The upper secondary students' experience in this area was apparent, and the younger students formed part of the rapt audience.

On the first day, the Secondary 4s and 5s started with their dance and song items depicting various enactments of literature texts of their choice. We met Singaporean Alice lost in her Wonderland, trident-bearing Frankenstein and Bollywood-inspired Peter Pan. Sec 5/1 belted out *Bohemian Rhapsody* to depict their retelling of *Hunger Games*. It was undeniable that they had an enjoyable time reinterpreting popular classics. The Secondary 2s also upscaled their versions, depicting legends and myths. We came across a musical on Medusa's vile world, Singaporean hawker King Arthur and a skit of tough competition of love suitors from *Odyssey*. It was evident that many classes had put in effort, judging from the mass participation and fervent choreography. The Secondary 1s and 3s performed last with their interpretations of classics and fairy tales respectively, but their performances were by no means less engaging. The audience was engaged, amused and



inspired by all the performances on all three days, and busking seemed like a practice that will continue for a long, long time.

All classes were judged based on their participation rate and reinterpretation of the various books, and we are pleased to announce that for the Secondary 4 & 5 level, Sec 5/1, 4/6 and 4/4 attained the first, second and third places respectively. At the Secondary 3 level, Sec 3/3, 3/5 and 3/6 attained the first, second and third places, while at the Secondary 2 level, Sec 2/3, 2/4 and 2/5 attained the first, second and third places respectively. Last but not least, amongst our newest members of the KC family, the Secondary 1 level, Sec 1/7, 1/3 and 1/4 attained the top three positions. Congratulations, girls!

Books Alive! Parade

With few rules, this year's Books Alive! Fashion Parade challenged teams from each class to create outfits (as well as a head gear piece—a new addition) that reimagined characters or settings of their selected texts. The Secondary 1s were given fairy tales, the Secondary 2s breathed new life into myths and legends while the Secondary 3s enacted literary canons. The graduating cohort was given free reign in text selection as well as interpretations, encouraging maximum creativity and innovation. Rising to the occasion, the girls put their minds (and hands) together and the results were spectacular! The crowd roared as each team sashayed down the runway, showcasing their creations. Sec 4/3's spooky reinterpretation of *Peter Pan* which saw our beloved boy turned into a vampire by Tinkerbell was well received, while Sec 4/5's version of *Goldilocks* who found herself transported to China where she met 3 fuzzy panda bears who aided her on her quest to find the perfect chair tickled the crowd.

After three days of intense judging based on interpretation, presentation, and commentary, three winners from each level were selected. At the Secondary 4 & 5 level, they were Sec 4/2 in first position, followed by 4/4, and 5/2 in third place. At the Secondary 3 level, Sec 3/4 came in first, followed by 3/3 in second and 3/2 in third place. Sec 2/5, 2/6 and 2/3 emerged first, second and third at the Secondary 2 level, while Sec 1/4 clinched the top spot at the Secondary 1 level followed by 1/5 and 1/7. Excellent job, girls!

Secondary 1 Book Trailer

A new BMW item since last year, this year's Secondary 1s presented the second edition of KC Book Trailers. Inspired by the concept of movie trailers, the Secondary 1s put up promotional skits to entice viewers to read their chosen book or story. In line with this year's theme, they chose to perform a critical scene from existing adaptations of fairy tales.

Working in small teams, they developed a script and performed live in the Black Box to an appreciative audience who cheered them on. The first prize went to Sec 1/5 (original adaptation of *Snow White*), while 1/7 (Adeline Yen Mah's *Cinderella*) and 1/2 (original adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*) won the 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

Secondary 2 Choral Speaking

Choral speaking has been a long-standing tradition of Katong Convent. It is through choral recitation that KCians unravel, discover, and savour the rich musicality of poetry. In accordance to this year's theme, the girls read with great enthusiasm poetry that re-interpreted classic myths and legends. Classes selected at random poems about legendary characters like Medusa, Minotaur, Achilles, and many others, to perform. Before they embarked on devising their performances, they researched on these characters to deepen their understanding of the poet's choice to re-present the figure in an alternative light.

After weeks of arduous rehearsals, the time to shine finally arrived. On the very first day of BMW, the Secondary 2s brought their poetry to life together as a class. The classes displayed their proficiency at choral speaking by performing with their voices, synchronised movements, and for



some, inspired props. As they displayed their mastery of pitch, pace, and tone in their voices, they breathed life into the words of the poems. The first prize went to Sec 2/5 (Meena Alexander's *Letter to Achilles*), while 2/4 (Muriel Rukeyser's *The Minotaur*) and 206 (Wendy McVicker's *Pandora's Getaway*) won the 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

This year, the choral speaking experience was not merely reserved for the Secondary 2s. Each level was challenged to use their voices and their bodies to bring life to a striking line from Muriel Rukeyser's poem *The Minotaur*, "Trapped, blinded, led; and in the end betrayed". The class leaders took the lead to gather their peers spontaneously when the challenge was issued to them in the hall and ensure that the line was delivered with gusto! The graduating cohort captivated us with their energetic and unified delivery of the line.

Secondary 3 Whose Room?

The Secondary 3s were challenged to transform their classrooms to re-create the rooms belonging to the various characters existing in the texts of the 18th and 19th century. After analyzing adaptations of original texts such as Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and many more, the students designed their classrooms to emulate the elements and features of places distinctive to their chosen character.

Prior to the visits by all the classes from the other three levels, the Secondary 3s put in great effort to ensure that their converted rooms went beyond the interpretation to be eye-catching and intriguing. The room installations amplified and retold experiences of their characters and drew heightened emotions from the audience who visited. After much deliberation, the judges conferred the prize for best presentation to Sec 3/5 (Elizabeth's Room, based on the modern movie version of *Pride and Prejudice*) for showcasing the feminist side of the character in a modern setting. The second prize was awarded to Sec 3/4 (Viola's Room, based on *She's the Man*, the movie adaptation of *Twelfth Night*) for depicting the interests and personality of the chosen character. Sec 3/1 (Macbeth's Room) was awarded third place for presenting the battle that goes on in Macbeth's mind through the room's setup.

Secondary 3 Debate

Apart from Whose Room?, the Secondary 3s were tasked to engaged in the oratorical arts over three preliminary rounds in the week prior to BMW. It was an inter-class affair, determined by drawn lots, that saw Sec 3/6 debate 3/2 on the motion: This house believes that (THBT) our parents and grandparents had happier childhoods than us. Sec 3/1 debated 3/5 on the motion: THBT social media do more harm than good. Sec 304 debated 3/3 on the motion: THBT students of today are less resilient than those of previous generations. The best speakers from the preliminary rounds were Stewart Nadine (Sec 3/6), Elizabeth Wee (Sec 3/5) and Goh Sze Ying (Sec 3/4).

The finalists who went on to compete during BMW were Sec 301 and Sec 3/6. Sec 3/1 proposed the motion: THBT pre-21st century classics are more impactful than present day novels. After a riveting debate that drew much excitement from the audience, Sec 3/6 was victorious, with Stewart Nadine (3/6) named as the best speaker.

Secondary 4 & 5 Flash Fiction

Taking *New Lamps from Old* to the next level was our graduating cohort who strove to rewrite a piece of fiction in a mere 45 minutes. Flash fiction — a competition where students are tasked to generate short, pithy, insightful pieces of prose and poetry in limited amount of time, reaped fruitful results of generous new work. In rewiring canonical stories, myths, and fairytales, our graduating cohort provided new slants and perspectives, getting readers to look at age-old narratives, beliefs, and practices with different lenses. Our first prize winner of the Flash Fiction event, Vivienne Hoh (Sec 4/4) gave a chilling retelling of fairytale romances with the old nursery rhyme, *Ring a Ring o' Rosie*, its repetitive structure reinforcing the narratives we find impossible to escape, while Lee Qing (Sec 4/3) came in second with the ambitious questioning of the sorrows of young Werther in her



rendition of the canonical *Sturm und Drang* German poem. In third place was Jemima Thomas (Sec 4/2) who relooked the fairy tale of *Beauty and the Beast* to see sinister undertones of an enmeshed abusive relationship.

Celebrating the Talents of our N(T) Girls

Under the guidance of two external trainers, Sec 3/7 students performed a movement piece, an adaptation of *Medusa & the Pandora Box*. The girls contributed significantly to the production as they created the storyline and co-choreographed some dance movements.

Through this production, the students were able to apply the theories they learnt in Cabin Club. The modules included stage and production management such as understanding the role of stage managers, managing lighting and sound, and designing sets and costumes. The students enjoyed the experience as they learnt how patience, perseverance, teamwork, and effective communication were critical in producing a high-quality performance. At their performance, we witnessed their confidence and exuberance on stage and were astounded by the eloquence of the lead narrator and vivacity of the actresses. This experience has deepened their learning and piqued some of the students' interest in pursuing ITE courses such as NITEC in Electrical Technology (Lighting and Sound) and Higher NITEC in Performance Production.

Deepening Our Girls' Music Experiences

Katong Convent's three-tiered E3 approach—Experience, Enrich, Extend—guided the design of music experiences for our girls at BMW 2017. Not only did all of our girls have the opportunity to perform a musical piece en masse, we were also blown away by the phenomenal performances of our talented girls at The Stars.

Body Percussion (Experience)

"Chest snap snap chest lap stomp stomp!" What better way to start BMW than by creating percussive sounds with our human body, the ready-made instrument that everyone possesses? Body percussion was a participative way to explore musical elements such as rhythm, timbre and tempo in a fresh way, allowing us to internalise the rhythmic skills.

Over the three days, the KC family of students and teachers were led through a series of scaffolded steps to gradually master the rhythms. At the closing of this year's BMW, the student councillors led the entire school, including the school leaders and teachers, in a mass body percussion performance of the 90s hit, *That Thing You Do*, sounding a reverberating end to BMW 2017.

Concert Band (Enrich)

The KC Concert Band performed two tunes, *Someday My Prince Will Come* from the beloved *Snow White* movie, and also *Cool Rock*, a song from the Netherlands. The audience sat enthralled by their musical virtuoso before being invited to accompany the band. The surprised KC student community led the percussion as they backed the band in performing the upbeat and lively *Cool Rock* tune, resulting in a splendid musical collaboration! Rocking your body to your favourite song took on a whole new meaning this BMW. Now, everyone can truly be part of the music!

The Stars (Extend)

The Stars was conceptualised as a student-led initiative by student leaders for KC students to step out of their comfort zone, embrace their talents, and share them with the whole school! The auditions saw many potential singers and dancers amongst the KC girls!

Organised by the Student Council, the finals featured performers that were not just confined to their CCA groups but showcased talented individuals from all areas of school. After much deliberation, Niki Ashleya (Sec 4/3) with her ukulele performance of *I Don't Know My Name* clinched the top spot, and Jeanette Hui (Sec 2/4) who wrote and performed her own song, coming in a close second. Valent Ting (Sec 3/5) came in third with her rendition of *One Last Time* by Ariana Grande.



Our teacher judges, Mr. Juraimy and Ms Phua, were certainly impressed by the display of immense talent from the contestants!

Inspiring Our Girls with Arts Practitioners and External Performances

BMW Unplugged: Pooja Nansi

Our Secondary 4 and 5 girls were treated to a poetry-song recitation by Ms Pooja Nansi. Ms Nansi took to the stage in the library and sang two songs while infusing them with her poems. Besides reading many of her published poems, she also shared with them her inspirations and the possibilities of pursuing a career in writing. Ms Pooja's candid responses, warm personality, and wise advice garnered rapt attention and affirming nods from the audience.

Regeneration Through Design Speaker Series: Scene Shang

Jessica Wong, co-founder and designer of Scene Shang, a Singaporean lifestyle, furniture, and home decor company, shed insight on how the theme of *New Lamps from Old* is an actual consideration in her work: paying ode to the old while giving a nod to the new. Jessica shared how she has fused Asian heritage with contemporary urban designs, embracing the best of two worlds, old and new, to create heirlooms for modern living that entice and intrigue, surprise and delight.

Regeneration Through Design Speaker Series: Elementary Co.

Sharing the background on their co-founding of Elementary Co. and the marketing and branding work they do through reinterpretations and appropriation, alumni Charmaine Seah-Ong and Aarika Lee spoke about the intricacies of creating brand names and what it means to remain relevant in an evolving world. Their presentation also included insights on the careful thought processes behind the glitz of campaigns such as those of JW Marriott Singapore South Beach Hotel and Resorts World Sentosa. It was an engaging and enjoyable experience for our eager girls.

***SCAPE Invasion Tour**

With headlining act: M1dl1fe (formerly known as Take Two) and featured, up-and-coming act: HubbaBubbas, the school was treated to the passion and reinvention of Singaporean music as SCAPE Invasion Tour took to the stage of KC. With Wu Jian Ping from the National Arts Council talking about how he has been part of the growing and nurturing of Singaporean talents and the witty humour of emcee Audrey, the school thoroughly enjoyed the infectious beatboxing of HubbaBubbas and the soothing tunes of M1dl1fe.

The Art of Dancing Mathematics by Arts Fission

Showing students and staff that Mathematics need not be confined to the classroom, and that instead can be relooked to recreate dance, Arts Fission surprised and entertained the audience with their performance, *The Art of Dancing Mathematics*. The performance began with exploring the fundamental concepts of geometry, multiplication, and repetition in a high-energy contemporary dance performance. Basic mathematical concepts of scale, measurement, repetition as well as the play of shapes in geometry, like how points connect to lines and unfold to frontal and sagittal planes that make up a cube were all transformed into building blocks of dance-making. The dancers also demonstrated how the study of angles in the play of directions, reflection, rotation, translation and enlargement refracted through the kaleidoscope of contemporary dance could be morphed into performance material.

Pop-up Stores for Browsing

Books-to-Go by Ethos Books

One of the lasting objectives of BMW is to expose our girls to as many types of written texts as possible so as to cultivate in them a love for reading. This year, KC invited Ethos Books, a local literary publisher, to select and facilitate readings of poems written by contemporary Singaporean writers. From an Yeat's inspired poem titled *A Big Pile of Bak Chor Mee* by Tse Hao Guang to Ann Ang's *Let Me Buy You An HDB Flat*, the girls were stirred by the wittiness of the poems and their



peers' brave recitations on the soapbox. Ethos Books also invited the girls to view a specially curated selection of literature written by Singaporean authors in their pop-up bookstore.

Garage Sale: New Uses from Old Things

In the spirit of this year's theme, a mini garage sale was also set up to promote the practice of reducing waste, reusing, and recycling. Teachers and staff were invited to donate pre-loved items which were then sold to the KC community at nominal prices. The staff dug up things lying around their homes: Cute things like soft toys, delightful things like a brand-new set of Beatrix Potter titles, pretty things like patterned post-its. And who can resist those \$1 earrings and a \$15 brand-new 10000 mAh power bank? All funds raised were donated to the School Building Fund.

Closing & Reflection

The all-time favourite BMW Quiz brought an adrenaline-charged ending to BMW. Pumped by the pre-BMW Quiz, the girls were ecstatic as the classes competed to BINGO. We will probably have to rename our BMW Quiz and call it BMW Bingo, for that is what our girls are calling it. As classes put their heads together to select their best answers, loads of excitement were generated as classes were quizzed on the old names of new names; old stuff with new uses; old buildings with new looks, and old classics of new adaptations. The sustained screams, cheers and energy level in the hall were palpable. It was both a fun and educational experience.

At the Secondary 1 level, Sec 1/3, 1/6 and 1/4 attained the first, second and third places, while at the Secondary 2 level, Sec 2/6, 2/2 and 2/5 attained the first, second and third places respectively. At the Secondary 3 level, Sec 3/1, 3/6 and 3/7 were first, second and third respectively. Amongst the Secondary 4/5 level, Sec 5/1, 4/6 and 4/3 attained the top three positions.

All things good must come to an end. To recap the three days of memories, our Infocomm students and teachers were irreplaceable. Their keen eye for detail, expertise with their equipment, and daily efforts were instrumental for the creation of a beautiful video that captured the energy and creativity of BMW, creating a joyous lasting memory for all to look back on. The girls laughed and cheered as they watched their favourite moments of the last three days flash by.

Finally, re-inventing how reflection could be carried out, all classes took part in "The Big Re-Draw". Each class was given a seven metres long roll of paper to collaboratively fill with visuals and reflections on their favourite BMW experiences. Students together with their teachers bonded over doodles, hand-lettered captions, class photographs and heartfelt reflections as they etched their memories on paper. Furthermore, students were also given sheets of paper on which everyday objects and prose passages were arranged. Instead of merely penning down their thoughts at the end of each day as reflection, students were challenged to regenerate meaning by drawing on the object or discover a poem in the prose passage by blacking out what was irrelevant. This process of reflecting discovery was then completed when students transformed their reflection sheet into an origami fortune teller.

BMW 2017 ended on a high note with all the students involved in the cleaning-up of their classrooms as well as the common areas outside their classrooms. Armed with rags and brooms, they cleaned the windows, corridor railings and swept the floors, as they physically and mentally prepared to return to school on Monday.

Evening Programmes: The Arts Presentation

As dusk fell and the fanfare from BMW 2017 began to dissipate, the curtains for the evening programme were lifted as our girls and their family members were invited to the Arts Presentation. The presentation showcased works from KC's niche arts programmes: Drama Elective Programme (DEP) and Enhanced Art Programme (EAP). Accompanied by the soothing music performed by soloists from KC's Concert Band, the audience enjoyed an evening of delectable artworks and



scintillating performances as we reluctantly bade goodbye to BMW 2017 and look forward to 2018's.

DEP Showcase

The Drama Elective Programme Showcase was held over two days on the 13th and 14th of July, respectively as matinee and evening shows. Held at the newly revamped Blackbox, the audience was treated to a visual spectacle as the graduating batch of DEP students presented their self-devised pieces which explored themes on Family, Social Media, Life and Death. The performers namely Keisia Urquhart, Clarice Chung, Bethany Ng, Aisyah Ibrahim, Joanne Fong, Shanais Yuen from Sec 4/3 and Wendy Li from Sec 4/4 took the audience on an emotional journey of exploration and introspection. The showcase was also a platform for the Secondary 3 drama students to learn more about the workings of technical theatre, for example how to manage the lights, sound and set of a performance. They were indeed an asset to the success of the show, ensuring that every scene was as gripping as it could be.

Art Exhibition

Opened by Vice-Principal Mr Cheah, the first art exhibition at the new library titled *Once Upon A Time* featured artworks—ingenious class lamps and dramatic fashion headgears—created by our Secondary One to Five students for the BMW festivities. The gorgeous and heartfelt class reflection done during The Big Re-Draw by Sec 4/2 was also put on display. Besides these BMW-related pieces, the exhibition also showcased selected artworks by the Secondary Three students of the Enhanced Art Programme, their urban sketches and journals which depicted their creative explorations since the start of this year.

The visual feast was further complemented by several mini art installations that were tucked into various sections of the library for the curious browser to discover. Reviving the settings in *Alice in Wonderland*, one of the installations depicted the Mad Hatter's world. Mixing wonky coloured tea sets, psychedelic batik napkins, and dainty finger food together for a small tea party, all guests to the exhibition were invited to the refreshments as they viewed the artworks.

Elective Module

Our Secondary 2NT, 3NT and 4NT students underwent two NT Elective Modules from 27th June to 30th June namely *Floral Magic* at ITE College East and *Social Media Content Development* at ITE College Central. Both modules are STEM-related modules (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Upon completion of Floral Magic, students would be able to perform beautiful floral arrangements and bouquets while Social Media Content Development module would enable to students to perform digital image manipulations, create simple animations using appropriate software, develop a simple social media content to deploy at various platforms while at the same time be educated on proper social media etiquette. Students who have done well in the respective modules to attain the ITE Certificate of Achievement, earned themselves a credit unit point (for Elective Modules) that could be used when they enrol themselves in ITE courses in the future.

9th ASEAN Schools Games (ASG) – Katong Convent's involvement

Our school was recently involved in the 9th ASEAN Schools Games which took place in Singapore from 13th to 21st July 2017.

The 9th ASG was organised under the auspices of ASEAN Schools Sports Council (ASSC), with the objectives of promoting ASEAN solidarity among our youth through school sports, providing opportunities for school athletes to benchmark their sporting talents in the ASEAN region and for our school athletes to interact and engage in cultural exchange within ASEAN.

KC, as the national convenor for the National School Games Tennis Championship, had the honour of leading the working committee for the organisation of the tennis championship for the 9th ASG. With strong support from MOE Physical Sports and Outdoor Education Branch (PSOEB) and



members from the National School Games Tennis Sub-Committee, representatives from the KC PE Department organised and ran the 5-day tennis tournament at Tanglin Academy (Turf Club Road). The tournament saw top youth athletes from countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia and host country Singapore participating in both the team and individual events.

The school's involvement in the 9th ASG also extended to spectatorship, where we provided our students with the opportunity to witness top youth sporting talent in action. From 17 to 19 July, a total of 41 girls from the track & field and badminton CCAs were spectators at the ASG athletics competition and badminton matches. This being a once-in-six-years opportunity, it was indeed a rare and eye-opening experience for our girls to witness, in person, their sport being played at a high level.

All Singapore Secondary Mathematics Competition For Normal Course Students

On 20th July, six of our girls represented our school to participate in the above competition. The objectives of this competition are to stimulate greater interest and enrich students' knowledge in Mathematics, and to provide an opportunity for Normal Course students to showcase their talent in mathematical knowledge and skills through solving competition questions. Before this competition, the girls went through a trial run of an online quiz comprising a series of high-order thinking questions that stretched their problem-solving skills to the limit. The selected girls who had laboriously attempted the challenging Mathematical questions were Chan Li Ting Phoebe, Giulia Sky Suhandinata, Joelle Lee Qi Yi from Sec 2/2. Representing the Normal Technical course were Cecilia Low Hui Hui, Seow Ning Fei Joey and Ong Tze Lynn from Sec 2/7.

These girls have certainly gained a valuable experience from their participation in this competition.

Racial Harmony Day

21st of July in Singapore is commemorated as Racial Harmony Day across all schools. Many would choose to invite students to dress up in ethnic clothes and conduct special lessons to raise awareness among students of the need for constant vigilance to protect and more importantly promote racial harmony in multi-racial Singapore.

Katong Convent elected to commemorate this special day with a joint project between the NE Committee and its Parent-Teacher Support Group. Working in tandem, the joint task-force mounted a sale of traditional food during the day with an additional objective of raising money for the School Building Fund.

Parents were supremely enthusiastic and suggested a wide variety of food, ranging from roti prata, putu mayam, various form of kachang in traditional paper-cone containers to the Singapore signature dish of chili-crab, albeit modified for a school environment. A conscious decision to ensure affordability and maximum enjoyment was to price every item at a very affordable 50cents to \$1.

The parents' hard work started a day earlier when they, along with the NE representatives of Secondary 1 and 2, as well as Secondary 3 student councillors, spent the entire afternoon of the 20th of July preparing the canteen to become a food bazaar, complete with traditional signs.

Students looked forward to the day with great anticipation. During the 3 recesses, they swarmed and swamped the large group of parents who had laboured on the 20th and 21st of July to get everything ready. They were kept busy with a steady stream of students who could not get enough of the special traditional goodies which they found both irresistible and affordable.

The event was a roaring success as over a period of under 2 hours of recess time, the parents sold out almost all their items and managed to raise well over a thousand dollars for the School Building Fund. Anecdotal feedback from both parents and students indicated that everyone involved enjoyed



the day tremendously. The parents were enthusiastic over helping the school and ensuring that all the students had a great time while the students commemorated Racial Harmony in a truly Singaporean way, with traditional food to spice up their recess on this special day.

Experience ITE Programme

As part of our Educational Career Guidance (ECG) programme, the secondary 2NT students went to ITE College West for the Experience ITE Programme on 21st July. The programme is a learning adventure for secondary school students, specially designed to help them experience ITE and discover a “Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on” ITE education which can help advance their careers. The students were taken on a tour around the college to explore the various courses offered and to see the facilities at the various schools in the college. They were also able to experience the exciting learning environment at ITE College West and see for themselves the wide range of Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) and student facilities available to ITE students. The highlights of the programme were the fun hands-on activities such as smelling and naming different spices at the School of Hospitality, controlling robots using mobile devices at the School of Engineering and experiencing virtual reality through an integrated video game using nerf guns at the School of Electronics and Info Comm.

Exchange Programme with Fukuoka Futaba School (Fukuoka, Japan)

Our annual KC-Fukuoka Futaba Exchange Programme commenced on 26th July with the arrival of our IJ sisters (nine students and one teacher) from Fukuoka Futaba (FF) School in Fukuoka, Japan.

The FF students were hosted by nine of our very own Secondary 2 students – Venus Chong (Sec 2/1), Liza Sonnie Yeo Mae (Sec 2/3), Charlotte Lee (Sec 2/3), Sarah Zafirah (Sec 2/4), Lauren Joy Sing (Sec 2/5), Kayla Mae Seow (Sec 2/5), Desiree Ayako Decker (Sec 2/6), Carolyn Ong (Sec 2/6) and Cecilia Low (Sec 2/7) during their 5-day stay. Besides attending daily lessons with their KC host sisters, the FF students also experienced the sights, sounds and tastes of Singapore together with their host families. The FF teacher was hosted to local delights and delicacies by KC teachers and also observed several lessons throughout her stay in order to better understand the teaching and learning practices in KC.

While it was a sad farewell for all, the students were happy to look forward to September when the KC students will make their way to Fukuoka and be hosted by their FF host sisters. It was a rich academic and cultural exchange for both KC and FF and the experience certainly promoted international friendship and understanding between both schools.

Student Leaders’ Investiture

The Student Leaders’ Investiture was conducted on the 31st of July to recognise the service and contributions of our outgoing student leaders as well as to endorse and confirm the incoming leaders of 2017/2018. Organised by the Student Leadership Board, the theme of this year's investiture was ‘Fer Aiguise Fer, Iron Sharpens Iron’. Indeed this year's saw a commitment by the student leaders to be leaders who cared about the community, actively seeking to support and sharpen each other towards excellence. A warm and celebratory atmosphere was apparent during the investiture, as the student body expressed their support for their peers who have been appointed as their representatives and voice.

Our Principal, Ms Chan opened the investiture with her thoughts on the theme, challenging our student leaders to lead by example towards a more gracious and caring community in KC. This was followed by a heartfelt speech by our outgoing president Nurul Iffah of Sec 4/3, who thanked the school for the opportunity to serve and grow as a leader. She also acknowledged the integral support of the student body and how her successes were not the result of her own effort but the collaborative work of many who served with her. Following that, Evelyn Tan of Sec 3/4, the incoming President of the Student Leadership Board took to the stage to share her thoughts on the



theme. She encouraged the incoming student leaders to lead by example, serve wholeheartedly and with humility. She also stressed the importance of falling back on the strength of others when facing challenges, in a community that cares and seeks to sharpen each other. The investiture then closed with the leaders pledging to be a positive role model, leader and voice of the student body.

This Investiture was indeed a meaningful pit stop for our students on their leadership journey.

As we move further into the month of August, we take this opportunity to wish everyone 'A Very Happy National Day'.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. August Highlights

Date	Event
1 Aug	External Safety Validation
31 July – 4 Aug	*Sec 1-3 Common Test Week. CCA will be suspended on 2 Aug
1 Aug – 4 Aug	GCE 'N' Level MTL Oral Examination
8 Aug	*National Day Celebrations. Students will be dismissed at 1045 am
10 Aug	National Day School Holiday
11 Aug	*Start of Sec 4E/5N Preliminary Examination – Science Practical
11 – 25 Aug	Sec 4E/5N Preliminary Examination
14 – 28 Aug	GCE 'O' Level EL Oral Examination
18 Aug	Issuance of Sec 4NA / NT Preliminary Examination Results
30 Aug	Issuance of Progress Report (Sec 1-3) **Issuance of EOY Examination (Sec 1-3) timetable **Teachers' Day Celebrations.
31 Aug	Teachers' Day Holiday

* A school circular had been issued with the relevant details respectively.

**A school circular will be issued in due course.

2. Sr Deirdre O'Loan Award

Introduced this year, the Sr Deirdre O'Loan Award is a special award presented by the IJ Board of Management in honour of Sr Deirdre O'Loan to carry on her legacy in education and in service of others, as well as her belief in every child and her potential.

To be presented to an individual outstanding student in the graduating cohort, the criteria includes

- Values: pioneering spirit (able to move into unknown), self-initiating, selflessness, perseverance, academically sound, anchored in faith, problem-solving ability, overcoming adversity,



resourcefulness, resilience, communication, cooperation, community involvement, compassion, love for learning.

- Demonstration of values at school and community level.

3. Character Awards – Invitation for Nominations

Nominations for the Character Awards (School Values, SHINE, Sr Deirdre O’Loan and MOE Edusave Character) are open from 1 August to 14 August.

We would like to invite the public, parents, coaches, instructors, KC staff and students to participate in this nomination. Nomination forms may be obtained from our General Office or downloaded from the school website. Please submit completed nomination forms to our General Office.

The nominee should be a KC student who demonstrates one or more of the following qualities:

- IJ Values. She demonstrates clearly aspects of IJ Values: Promotion of Truth, Justice, Freedom and Love; and/or
- School Values. She demonstrates clearly aspects of School Values: Perseverance, Integrity, Excellence and Respect; and/or
- A high level of Civic Responsibility. She is concerned about issues in the community or issues faced by others, initiating action to address these issues to improve the lives of others, and being committed to make a positive difference; and/or
- Qualities associated with Resilience. She has persevered despite facing difficult circumstances (e.g. financial problems, family issues, health issues etc.), and managed to overcome the odds and still do commendably well in academic and non-academic domains; and/or
- Breakthrough in Behaviour. She has made significant positive behavioural change and has managed to sustain the good behaviour.
- Pioneering Spirit. She showed the gumption to make a difference and go beyond the status quo, forming partnerships to effectively steer the course towards the goal.

The nominee should also be a consistent good role model in her conduct (exemplary behaviour and actions) and attitude.

Please refer to page 32 of our Student Journal for other details about the various school-based awards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Concert Band

On 1st July, the KC Concert Band put up a performance at ONE KM Shopping Mall. As part of the island wide celebration of the Singapore Youth Festival, the concert band was invited by the Arts Education Branch to perform at the SYF Celebrations 2017 @ the Malls. During this performance, the concert band performed a repertoire of light and popular music for chamber ensembles.

On 4th July, the KC Concert Band took part in the 1st Nanyang International Music Competition held at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. The band was represented by 3 small ensembles at this competition. All three ensembles did the school proud.

CHIJ Katong Convent Concert Band Ensemble 1
2nd Prize (Junior Category, 7 players)

CHIJ Katong Convent Concert Band Ensemble 2
3rd Prize (Senior Category, 11 players)



CHIJ Katong Convent Concert Band Trio
3rd Prize (Senior Category, 3 players)

Rene Lee (Sec 2/4) from the Concert Band auditioned successfully to perform with the PhilClarinetts of the Philharmonic Winds on 7th July at the Victoria Concert Hall. Entitled The Seventh Night of July, this concert featured music for various combinations of clarinet ensembles. The highlight of this concert was the performance of Kiki's Delivery Service by a 50-strong clarinet choir.

2. Entrepreneur Club

For the ninth year running, the Entrepreneur Club participated in the National Youth Business Challenge (NYBC) organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic held on 16th July at Changi City Point Mall. Once again, the Club is happy to announce that we have done the school proud by winning the Most Attractive Display Award and the Silver Award. We were impressed by all the participating schools' creative effort in producing and repackaging recycled merchandise and selling Earth-friendly products. Joint partnerships with global reputable brands like StarBucks were also evident in some of the schools' effort to introduce Earth-friendly merchandise.

Our school was represented by the team comprising Charmaine Koh (Sec 2/6), Gracee Ng Yun Lin (Sec 2/6), Eva Loy (Sec 2/6) and Rachel Lee Jia-Xin (Sec 2/5). The proceeds from the day's sale were subsequently donated to the School Building Fund. Well done, Entrepreneur Club girls!

3. Swimming

At the recent Commonwealth Youth Games held in Bahamas, Christie Chue of Sec 5/1 won a Gold for the 50m Breaststroke event and a Bronze for the 100m Breaststroke event. Christie has also been selected to represent Singapore at the SEA Games to be held in Kuala Lumpur. Congratulations, Christie!

4. Little Athletics Western Australia (LAWA) - Track and Field Championships 2017

We are very proud to announce that one of our track and field athletes, Gwendolyn Therese Lim of Sec 3/1 was selected to represent the Singapore Schools team at the Little Athletics Western Australia (LAWA) - Track and Field Championships 2017 in Pahang, Malaysia from 6 – 10 July 2017.

This prestigious competition is a collaboration between the 25th Majlis Sukan Sekolah-Sekolah Malaysia (MSSM) and the Singapore Schools Sports Council (SSSC). Gwendolyn went on to do KC proud once again when the 4 X 100m relay team that she was part of came in 2nd during their race, and won for Singapore Schools the silver medal, with a timing of 50.6 seconds. Well done, Gwendolyn!

