



CHIJ Katong Convent
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PARENT LINK : JANUARY 2015

9 January 2015

Dear Parents & Guardians

Happy New Year! A new year brings new opportunities and aspirations and I hope it will bring you and your family peace, joy and good health!

On behalf of our KC Family, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new members of our Family – the parents and guardians of our new Sec 1 girls. As we settle into our new home in Geylang Bahru Lane in the next 2 years, we ask God for His continual blessings and are confident that together with your support, we will have two amazing years at our holding site.

At CHIJ Katong Convent, we believe in working closely with parents to give our girls a strong moral compass as they navigate the changes and uncertainties around them, and to develop their confidence and courage to pursue their dreams and create their own future. Parent Link is our monthly newsletter issued in the first week of the month where we communicate with parents our key school programmes and events, and celebrate the success of our girls. In our efforts to save more trees, we will continue to publish subsequent issues of Parent Link on the school website and print hardcopies only on request by parents. Do indicate your request in the attached reply slip.

We hope you will find the information useful and strongly encourage you to join our Parent-Teacher Support Group and be part of our team to create even more opportunities for our girls to explore, discover and develop their talents to enrich their school experience in KC.

(a) Thanksgiving Mass, 24 Oct 2014: Gratitude for a Year of Blessings!

We ended 2014 with Fr Simon Pereira celebrating Mass for our whole KC family at Marine Terrace. Father Simon, with his engaging ways and message of love, compassion and empathy, reached out to all students and staff, regardless of their religion.

During his homily, he had all of us think about finding the “Malala Yousoufzai” in each of us – we do not need to do great things, we just have to “unlock” the Malala in us to reach out and do something good for others. He also called for everyone to be grateful and affirm someone in the school for what they have done.

As a new year begins, let us take time to reflect and renew ourselves in 2015 as we, and our daughters become a year older, a year wiser.

(b) Farewell and Welcome

We begin the year by extending our heartfelt **'Thank You'** to the following teachers who have left Katong Convent and wish them all the best in their new endeavours:

- Mrs Sng Wan Ying who has retired after 35 years of dedication to the education service. We wish her a very happy retirement. Having spent 27 years in Katong Convent, she has touched the hearts of many students! It was heart-warming to see many ex-students (some with their own children) making a special trip back to Marine Terrace to bid a personal farewell to their beloved teacher.
- Ms Tan Ai Fen who has joined Bedok View Secondary School and
- Mr Terence Chia who has joined St. Patrick's School.

A special mention must also be made of our 2 long-serving vendors who have also retired:

- Mrs Shirley Lim and her husband, Mr Lim Poh Heng and
- Mr Tan Chew Yong and his wife, Madam Low Kar Nong.

We thank them for being an indispensable part of our KC family for so many years and wish them a very restful retirement.

We would like to extend our warm welcome to **Mdm Lim Siew Ping, our Vice-Principal (Administration)** who has served in the same capacity in Innova Junior College from 2010 to 2014. In addition, she has more than 20 years of experience working in multi-national corporations such as IBM, HP and in the info-communication sector in StarHub. With Mdm Lim's wealth of experience and her strong belief in the importance of developing our students today into leaders of the future, we are indeed privileged to have her with us!

We also welcome **Mdm Lim Bee Peng, Mrs Sandra Ezekiel, Ms Audrey Lee Jiak Peng** to the English Language department and **Mr Low Tian Hong** to the Humanities department. We wish them a very fruitful stay at KC.

(c) Appointment of Key Personnel

We are happy to announce the appointment of our Subject Head for PE **Ms Priscilla Humphries** as HOD, CCA/PE and our Subject Head for Art, **Mr Juraimy Abu Bakar** as a Year Head in the Student Development Team. Two new Subject Heads have also been appointed – **Mrs Algena Lim** for Discipline and **Ms Chew XiangWen** for Science. In addition, **Mr Alex Lim Kheam Soon** has been appointed Senior Teacher for Chemistry. We look forward to their contributions to Katong Convent.

(d) Some Key Programmes in 2015

Shakespeare (Romeo & Juliet) Workshop

In Katong Convent, the study of Shakespeare as a foundation for Literature has been a time-honoured tradition which has enabled our students to be discerning students who have a life-long passion for Literature. We hope to provide an exciting and thought-provoking introduction to and development of the study of the Shakespeare text for students at two critical milestones (namely, Secondary Two and the 'O' Level year) in order to groom passionate and proficient learners who appreciate the language and context of the Shakespeare text.

The student-centred approach will anchor on a 3-hour introductory workshop for Secondary 2 students and a 6-hour workshop for 'O' Level students to deepen the understanding of their corresponding Shakespeare texts. These workshops will be conducted by an experienced facilitator who specialises in the teaching of Shakespeare. Top of the demands placed on the facilitator is to serve the differentiated needs for the specified levels.

The initiative aims for students to gain confidence in and mastery of the language of Shakespeare, as well as timeless issues which are raised in the play. The workshops will serve as a starting point for the Secondary Two students, as an entry into the world and language of Shakespeare. Student feedback in the past few years have indicated that they are distanced by the language and they found its study intimidating. Through the workshops which are further strengthened in the teachers' instructional follow-ups, we want to develop confident individuals who will be able to access the

study of Shakespeare with ease and are therefore able to pursue their own learning agenda independently. Armed with this confidence and interest, the teachers hope to build on their analysis and sharpen their critical and creative response to the text.

Secondary Two Adventure Camp

The Secondary Two Adventure Camp will take place from 9 to 11 February at the MOE Jalan Bahtera Adventure Campsite. It will be helmed by the Physical Education department.

This year's level camp will be conducted in a significantly different way from previous years'. It is a response to the call by Minister Heng Swee Kiat for schools to "Do things better and Do better things" at the 2014 WPS. This camp has been conceptualized as a signature event for the Sec 2 cohort with a multi-pronged approach to achieve multiple objectives especially those related to 21CC outcomes. It is the belief of our school that enduring learning and endearing relationships come about through a common KC experience which students undergo with their cohort and teachers. It is also intentional to situate this experience in beyond the classroom in a non-academic domain to harness the potential of the co-curriculum to enrich the students' learning.

Almost all activities, debriefing sessions and facilitation will be conducted by the PE department and the Form Teachers. Teachers will move away from a chaperoning role to undertake full facilitation of the programme, and provide students with an opportunity for more in-depth and hence valuable reflection sessions. This gives students a chance to get to know their form teachers on a deeper level and vice versa to enhance teacher-student relationship.

During the camp, the PE department will incorporate elements of the new PE syllabus, specifically Outdoor Education which is very new to our students, as well as to conduct and help facilitate the reflection component of the camp activities, with a strong focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Developing Competencies for the 21st Century

Building on our INTEGRITY values (Integrity, Nobility, Teamwork, Excellence, Graciousness, Respect, Independence, Tolerance and Yeomanship), we strive to develop the character of our girls with our **Values In Action (VIA)** and **Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)** Programmes. This year's Level Camps and Book and Music Week would continue to provide opportunities for our girls to be imbued with the desired values of a KC Graduate. Students can also look forward to opportunities to participate in the school's internationalisation effort to build a discerning global citizen. In addition, we will enhance students' ability to problem-solve, innovate, and communicate through our academic subjects. The **Lower Secondary** will continue to undergo the **15-week IT Course** covering the use of the Learning Management System, Google Apps and Email provided by MCOonline, Web 2.0 tools, Cyberwellness, Excel, Photo-editing and Video-editing, all of which they will be able to apply in their Humanities coursework.

Cabin Club: Sec 1 – 4 NT Enrichment Programme

Since 2012, all our Sec 1 to Sec 4 Normal Technical students will have a specifically tailored enrichment programme, the Cabin Club, as part of their curriculum. This programme will focus on character development, social emotional learning competencies and the inculcation of values through service learning. It also aims to provide our Normal Technical students with life skills for their future. The feedback from both students and teachers has been most encouraging. This compulsory programme has been included in the timetable of the NT curriculum. However, some activities may require certain sessions to be extended past the official curriculum time. Parents will be duly informed of these extended activities via consent forms. Your child's attendance for these sessions will contribute towards their overall CCA attendance.

The above initiatives are part of KC's continuing efforts to put in place suitable programmes and activities tailored to the diverse interests of all our students. As the school year progresses, we anticipate the need for greater support and help from parents in the delivery of these programmes and activities. We look forward to working with you in the months to come.

(e) Communication Platforms

In our effort to forge an even more collaborative partnership with our parents and guardians, the school has instituted several communication channels. We would like to request every KC parent/guardian to acknowledge receipt of this January issue of the **Parent Link**. All students would return the acknowledgement by 15 Jan and for those with some queries and suggestions, our teachers will follow up with you. You can expect the monthly Parent Link to be published by the end of the first week of each month except for June, October to December when there are no issues. School Leaders are in attendance at the **monthly PTSG meetings** and details such as date, time and venue of the month's meeting are published in the Parent Link. We are in the process of collating the **email addresses of the subject teachers** of your daughter's class and will issue the hard copy to you to facilitate more direct communication between you and your daughter's teachers by mid-Jan. There could be changes along the way, so do refer to our **MC Online Portal** (<http://www.mconline.sg>) for the latest update (Please refer to your child's Student Journal 2015 page 79 for your User ID and Password for logging into the Portal). In addition, the **assessment guidelines** comprising types of assessment modes and weighting for the year will be uploaded on our MC Online Portal by 30 Jan for reference.

All school circulars (with a circular number and signed by the Principal) will be uploaded on our MC Online Portal. The Art department will be organising a **Saturday dialogue** with parents to support the girls doing coursework for the GCE O and N level Exams. Later on in the term, the teachers overseeing the **internationalisation trips** will meet with parents to give them details about the various initiatives. Our form teachers aim to meet all parents at least once in the year so we hope that parents will continue to respond to our invitation to our **Meet-the-Parents Session scheduled at the end of Term 1. In addition, there will be subject information sessions organised in the course of the year, the first being scheduled on 24 Jan.**

While we take steps to enhance our communication with parents, we will also reach out to the girls to build our relationship with them. The **Year Head System** which started in 2011 serves as a culture-building platform to foster a sense of unity among the cohort and develop a love for the school community. Among other things, the Year Head monitors the academic progress and well-being of the cohort to help our students maximise their potential. The respective Year Heads are: Miss Gail Yap (Sec 1), Ms Siti Rawdah (Sec 2), Mr Juraimy Abu Bakar (Sec 3), Miss Angelita Tan (Sec 4/5) and Mdm Zakiah Bte Subahan (Sec 1 – 4 NT). Apart from the various class contact time, level meetings, level assemblies, level activities, school leaders and key personnel will be carrying out class dialogues especially with the graduating cohort to understand, support and guide our students to be the best they can be. In KC, we are committed to building A Caring School that Excels.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Safety of our Students

Since the beginning of Term 1, we have been reminding our girls to be conscious of and take responsibility for their own safety. We also conducted a safety briefing for all in the first week of school. The slides have been shared with all students via the digital signage system. Students were reminded to refrain from using mobile phones or other electronic audio devices when crossing the road as these will distract their attention away from looking out for their own safety.

Do remind your daughters to get all her things ready before reaching the school as we sometimes see them rushing after your car dangerously to retrieve whatever they have carelessly left behind.

We would like to take the opportunity to highlight the following for the benefit of all parents:

Traffic Flow

Safety measures to ensure smooth traffic flow within the school compound and the vicinity have been implemented. We seek the co-operation of all parents/ guardians who drive their daughters/ wards to school to observe the management of traffic in ensuring a safe environment for all our students.

Traffic into school

The school gate will be opened for parents/ guardians to drop their daughters/wards at the school's **designated drop-off/ pick-up point along the porch outside the General Office**. Please slow down and be careful as you negotiate the two-way lane on entering and leaving the school. Do observe the **speed limit of 15km/h in the school grounds**. We also appeal to you to observe the **one vehicular lane** when dropping your daughter/ward at the designated drop-off / pick-up point. .

Turning out to Geylang Bahru Road.

If you decide to drop your daughter/ ward off outside the school side gate, please continue driving down Geylang Bahru Lane and make a U-turn at the Kallang Basin Swimming Complex (please see the map below). This will help ensure smoother traffic flow along Geylang Bahru Lane during the morning peak hours when the school receives a steady stream of traffic of parents/guardians driving their daughters/wards to school. As there will also be students crossing Geylang Bahru Lane to get to the school, please follow the directions given by the school protection officers/staff so that students can cross safely near the school gate area.

We will continue to monitor and review the traffic situation in the new environment and respond accordingly if there is a need to.



Visitors' Movement at Holding Location

In view of the new environment, we will be enhancing our procedures for visitors to the school. Documentation proof to exchange for a visitor pass will be required for all visitors. The area located at the Security Post for visitors has been designated as the visitors'/ parents' waiting area. Parents/Guardians with prior appointments with the staff can report to our General Office immediately. **Access to all other areas of the school is permitted only to staff and**

authorised personnel. We would like to seek your co-operation to adhere to these guidelines in support of the school's duty and responsibility to provide a conducive environment for our students.

2. Student Journal

Every student has been given a complimentary copy of the Student Journal which contains important information about school matters. You may wish to go through the information in the journal together with your daughters so that they know what to expect during their stay here with us. In the spirit of collaboration, we have printed a separate copy of the rules and expectations governing attendance; attire and grooming; behaviour and information and communication technology for your special attention and acknowledgement.

3. Special Programmes for Week 0 – 5 (2 Jan to 8 Feb)

Date	Time	Activities
Fri 02 Jan	0800 – 0930 h	Beginning of Year Mass
Wed 07 Jan	0745 – 0800 h	Temperature-Taking Exercise
Sat 10 Jan	0830 – 1215 h	Meet-the-Parents Session for Sec 1 Parents CCA Fair
Fri 23 Jan	1415 – 1700 h	EAP Art Excursion
Sat 24 Jan	0900 – 1100 h	O Level Art Coursework Briefing for parents and students Lower Sec Subject Info Session
Mon 26 Jan	1440 – 1700 h	Class Comm Training 1 ICT Reps Training 1
Tues 27 Jan	1440 – 1730 h	Geographical Investigation – Botanic Gardens (classes as scheduled)
Thur 29 Jan	1440 – 1730 h	Geographical Investigation – Botanic Gardens (classes as scheduled)
Mon 2 Feb	1440 – 1700 h	Class Comm Training 2 ICT Reps Training 2
Tues 3 Feb	1440 – 1700 h	Historical Investigation (2NA)
Thurs 5 Feb	1440 – 1700 h	MTL Learning Journey (classes as scheduled) Historical Investigation (classes as scheduled)
Sat 7 Feb	0900 – 1600 h	Humanities / NE Challenge

4. Continual Assessment

For 2015, there will be a Common Test Week for all from 25 Feb to 3 Mar. A schedule will be issued to your daughter by the first week of Feb. The progress report for Term 1 will be issued on the last day of the term on 14 Mar. Parents will be invited to meet the teachers on 14 Mar. Details about these parent –teacher meetings will be issued nearer the respective dates.

5. The Concert Band

The 40-strong Concert Band made its debut performance at the newly refurbished Victoria Concert Hall on 12 November. Under the baton of guest conductor Dr Brad Williamson, Director of Bands at The University of Wyoming, the band performed a repertoire which included Capriccio on Three Japanese Children Songs by Yo Goto and Les Misérables by Claude-Michel Schönberg.

On 18 November, the annual Year-End Parents' Concert was held in the school hall at Marine Terrace. This special concert is a platform to showcase and celebrate the achievements of our young musicians in the past year. All secondary 1 and 2 members each performed a solo piece for their parents. The evening ended with a performance of full ensemble pieces put up by the entire band.

13 members from the Concert Band took part in the 2nd Youth Band Festival organised by the Wind Band Association of Singapore. Over two hundred young musicians from all over Singapore

auditioned for this highly selective festival. Successful applicants attended intensive rehearsals and workshops spanning a total of four days from 13 to 17 December at the National University of Singapore. The participants were mentored by Mr Masanori Fukuda, Music Director at Senzoku Gakuen College of Music (Japan). All participants attended masterclasses and recitals conducted by professional musicians from the Windstar Ensemble. A Finale Concert was put up at Esplanade Concert Hall on 18 December with a programme of challenging wind band repertoire.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. 2014 GCE N Level Results

Last year, our Sec 4 Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) girls performed well in the GCE N Level Examinations. With the eligibility criteria for Sec 5N set at an ELMAB3 (English + Math + Best 3 subjects) aggregate of ≤ 19 points, 87.5 % of our Sec 4N(A) girls qualified for Sec 5N. This is 13% above the National of 74.6%. We will continue to do all we can to help our girls realise their dreams.

Our Sec 4N(A) girls achieved 100% passes in English Language, Chinese Language, Geography, Art, A Mathematics, Food & Nutrition, Malay Language and Tamil Language. Subjects that achieved more than 25% distinctions were English Language (30%), Literature (33.3%), Chinese Language (27.5%), Mathematics (48.8%), Combined Humanities (37.5%), Geography (54.2%), Science (35%), A Math (50%) and Art (25%).

Our Sec 4N(T) girls did better than the National performance in terms of % distinctions for the following subjects: Basic Malay (35.7%) and Elements of Business Skills (39.3%). Heartiest congratulations to all the girls and teachers. We wish all the girls every success in their future endeavours.

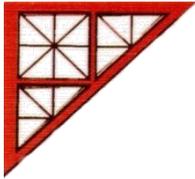
2. KC Girl Guides

Good news from KC Girl Guides!

At the Girl Guides East Division Day Zonal Competitions held on 8 November 2014, our Guides did our school proud by clinching three Gold, three Silver and one Bronze awards out of the eight competitions:

- The Bronze award for Mini Gadgets Competition entitled "Tie Me Knot!"
- The Silver award for Dance Competition entitled "Make a Change!"
- The Silver award for Dessert-Making Competition entitled "Butterflies!"
- The Silver award for Fashion Show entitled "Make a Statement!"
- The Gold award for Cheerleading Competition entitled "Shout it Out!"
- The Gold Award for Scrapbook-Making Competition entitled "Our Journey"
- The Gold award for Toy Making Competition entitled "Be Different!"

Heartiest congratulations to all the KC Girl Guides!



OUR GIRLS. OUR FUTURE



CHIJKATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

Email : ptsg.kc@gmail.com

PTSG website hyperlink @ <http://www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg>

So long 2014 & Hooray, it's 2015!

With the start of a new school year, KC PTSG extends a warm and hearty welcome to all Sec 1 students and parents! The Sec 1 Registration Day on Monday 22 December 2014 was a great first opportunity for some of us to meet you and give you an idea of what the KC parent-school partnership is about.

Why your role in PTSG is important

Whether you have an hour a week or just an hour a month to spare, the time you give tells your daughter that *her education is important to you*. Children whose parents take the time to be involved usually *do better at school*. You will have a better idea how to help with studying and homework because *you're familiar with the classroom, the teacher, and what's being taught*. Being in the school also *allows parents to have a positive influence on students* other than their own daughter, *instil values*, and speak to school personnel about troubling issues.

UPCOMING PTSG EVENTS in 2015

Looking forward to 2015, some activities and events that parents can help out in include:

Reading Programme for Lower Secondary Students

This helps students weak in English. Parent volunteers are needed to guide students through selected reading materials and practise oracy skills with them.

Values in Action (VIA) Opportunities

As part of role-modelling service to the community, parents can organise and carry out VIA activities together with their daughters. There are many VIA opportunities such as organising CNY parties at elderly care centres, bringing the disadvantaged out to places of interest, serving food to the needy, etc. This will enable a rich and meaningful VIA experience for the students and at the same time, earn them the necessary VIA hours.

Career Talks

We encourage parents to share about their vocations/ jobs or source speakers from a wide variety of sectors to help students gain insights into different job choices and career prospects. This is especially meaningful for the upper secondary students.

Work Attachments

During the June and November vacations, Sec 3 students can sign up for work attachments at a wide variety of places for periods of up to 2 weeks. These include the Singapore Zoological Gardens, Awfully Chocolate, Gelato cafes and even film and media events.

Parents' help is needed to source for companies and organisations to host our girls. Work attachments are valuable in instilling values such as resilience, independence and hone skills such as communication and literacy and are very much enjoyed by our girls

School Events

Parents' help is often needed to support key school events such as fund-raising events or school celebrations. Parents may be needed to organise, manage and seek sponsors for the events and more details will be provided as the event dates approaches.

Our PTSG EXCO of 2015

Ms Tricia Boey
Ms Christine Tay
Ms Theresa Tan

SCHEDULE FOR 2015 PTSG MEETINGS

Monthly PTSG meetings are held on Saturday mornings from 8.30 - 10am. The PTSG meeting is a platform for the PTSG committee to address parents and plan/update on upcoming events. It is also a good platform to network with parents of the same class and level and discuss issues of mutual concern or interest.

Each meeting will be paired with updates from the school; this could be curriculum or academic updates such as new syllabus sharing by subject teachers, or event/ policy updates by school leaders. Please note the schedule for 2015:

- 24 Jan
- 7 Feb
- 18 April
- 16 May

1st PTSG BREAKFAST MEETING

We will be sharing more of our work with you during the first PTSG meeting in January. Details of the meeting are:

Date : Saturday 24 January 2015
Time : 8.30 – 10 am
Venue : AVA Room (Level 3). Please use Staircase A1.
A light breakfast and hot drinks will be provided.

All parents are warmly invited to attend. We certainly look forward to knowing you better and working closely with you so that the years ahead will be meaningful, productive and joyous!

FAMILY MATTERS @ SCHOOL

Family Matters @ School is a family life education effort by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to bring schools and PTSGs closer through family life programmes that help them better connect with the children. For parents, Family Matters @ School organises Parenting talks, workshops & parent-child bonding games and activities. These may take place on weekday afternoons or Saturday mornings. For students, Family Matters @ School organises workshops on Motivation, Cyber-wellness, Time Management and Financial Literacy, etc.

Some talks and activities planned for 2015 include:

Boosting Teen's Self-Confidence & Self-Esteem
Teen's Sexuality & Relationship Issues
Effective Couple Communication
Dialogue in the Dark
Archery Tag

KC's Family Matters @ School representative is Ms Lorraine Khoo.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please note our contact details below. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

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