



CHIJ Katong Convent

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PARENT LINK : JUNE / JULY 2015

03 July 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back to Semester 2!

We would like to start the new term with heartfelt gratitude and thanks to God for bestowing His special blessings on CHIJ Katong Convent last semester. We thank God for keeping our staff and students healthy in body, mind and spirit, and giving our students the discipline and determination to excel in the face of many challenges as they continue to pursue their goals.

Our teachers continued to make good use of the more leisurely pace of the June holidays to enhance the quality of our students' school experience. The graduating students came back for lessons from 22 to 25 June while many CCA groups organised camps and trainings. In the spirit of enhancing work-life harmony, the school has a policy of blocking out 2 of the 4 weeks of vacation time for both staff and students to spend some uninterrupted time with their families. We hope that all have had a good rest and are ready for the challenges ahead!

Farewell and Welcome

We bid a fond farewell to Mdm Ho Su Siew our HOD MTL who has joined Dunman High as HOD ICT. We thank her for her contributions to Katong Convent and wish her all the best in her new endeavor.

We extend a very warm welcome to two new key personnel – Ms Ong MeiQing as HOD MTL and Mr Lawrence Koh as HOD Mathematics. With their wealth of experience and strong commitment to nurture our students to be the best they can be, we are certain that they will enrich the school experience of our students.

In addition, we welcome the following new teachers and hope that they will have a very fulfilling teaching experience in our school.

- Ms Daphne Chen LiLin (HY/Math)
- Ms Jane Chia Pei En (Geog)
- Ms Sangeerna d/o Palanivelu (Lit/ EL)

Celebrate and Rejoice

The last day of term, Friday 29 May was a special day for us at Katong Convent. Besides joining many other IJ schools to celebrate our founding by Blessed Nicholas Barre, we also kicked off our celebrations for the school's 85th anniversary.

Founder's Day Mass

The day began meaningfully with a Mass to thank God for our founder, our heritage and our school today. We were honoured to have Reverend Father Gerard Louis as our celebrant. In addition, Our IJ Sisters, Sisters Dierdre, Maria, Celine and Julia as well as several of our pioneer educators were also present to celebrate this special occasion with us. Father Gerard, of the Redemptorist Community here in Singapore always has a special place for Katong Convent. He shared with us that our Founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre was truly a beacon of hope and love for all underprivileged children in 17th Century France and remains the inspiration for IJ religious, staff and students, past and present to continue the legacy of education. Even as we leave the past behind, we take with us the teachings of Truth, Justice, Freedom and Love – the legacy of the IJ Story with us wherever we go.

Our Heritage

After Mass, the long-awaited heritage panels depicting the school's history in the East Coast area were unveiled. The wall-size panels describe clearly in pictures and words, the school's heritage in the area over many years. These panels now adorn the walls of the parents' waiting area, adjacent to the security guard post.

The rest of the day involved various festivities around the school. Besides having an hour-long recess, the students also completed their level mosaic murals depicting the four IJ values of Love (Sec 1), Truth (Sec 2), Justice (Sec 3) and Freedom (Sec 4 & 5). All students, staff and our key partners contributed to these 8ft x 8ft murals by placing and grouting the individual mosaic tiles and/or by contributing message tiles to the murals. These large, unique and colourful KC-personalised murals are displayed on the walls in Block T for all to enjoy. Students also tested their wits in an intra-school IJ crossword competition, and their art skills in a mini-mural colouring competition. Prizes for the most correctly-filled crossword and for the most beautifully-coloured mini-mural will be presented this semester.

KC Honours Day

The annual ceremony of recognising academic, character and leadership excellence in our students, as well as honouring partners and staff who have contributed to developing our students in 2014 was a befitting way to end the day of celebrations!

Formalities commenced with the school song, the Hymn to Blessed Barre and a prayer, led by our Senior Teacher, Mr John Jegathesan. The KC Choir performed their 2015 SYF set piece, a folk song called Dirait-On, following which, the KC Dance Club presented a contemporary modern dance piece entitled 'Forging Ahead'.

Gracing the occasion as Guest-of-Honour was Mdm Dahlia Zainuddin, a former student and currently, a Radio Trainer and in-house Capabilities Development Coach with MediaCorp Pte Ltd. Ms Zainuddin who has had an illustrious career in broadcasting since she joined the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation radio station in 1989 encouraged the students in the audience to seize all learning opportunities provided by the school to uncover their talents and interests, just as she did years ago.

A total of 163 students were affirmed and we are especially proud of our special awardees:

Sharmaine Lee Pui Fong of Sec 4/3 (KC INTEGRITY Award)
Fiona Prapta Utama of Sec 4/6 (Marie Bong Literature Award)
Enriquez Roxanne Rose Zulueta of Sec 4/4 (Minnie D'Rozario Sports Award)
Cheryl Tan Shu Ping of Sec 4/5 (Blessed Barre Award)
Amanda Che Wee Bing of Sec 4/4 (Sr Finbarr Award)

In her valedictory speech to fellow KCians, Amanda Che encouraged the current cohort to persevere as 'there is nothing too difficult if you put your mind to it'. She also reminded all that 'good character leads to good attitudes, which in turn determine how far you will go in life'. We hope Amanda and all KCians will continue to give nothing less than their best effort in everything they do.

The school also recognised the excellent service and support of our partners from CCA groups, VIA projects, PTSG and Young Adult Leaders in adding value to our students' all-round development. Mrs Dorothy Francis, President of the KC Alumnae, presented the Partners-in-Education awards to these recipients.

18 staff also received their long service awards. It was our privilege to have Mdm Doreen Yip, Honorary Treasurer of IJ Board of Management, present the IJ and MOE Long Service Awards and MOE Outstanding Awards (OCA) to our staff.

For their contributions in organising and overseeing school activities and events, 5 staff team and 3 individual staff members received the MOE Outstanding Contribution Awards. The MOE Outstanding Awards (OCA) were presented to the following:

Team Award

Book and Music Week Team
Family Day Committee
Humanities Department
PRIME Committee
'Always Present in School' Team

Individual Award

Ms Sherry Tan
Mr Lim Kheam Soon
Ms Geraldine Xu

KC honours and congratulates all prize winners. May God continue to guide our staff and students in their journey with the true IJ spirit.

Inter-class Games Carnival

This event was organised as part of the new PE syllabus, which encourages schools to provide students with an opportunity for mass sports participation and competition. On 22, 25 and 26 May, after the mid-year examinations, the KC PE department organised the Inter-class Games Carnival, where the different levels, from Sec One to Three, got a chance to put the games skills that they had been learning during PE lessons to good use. Every class competed in the following sports: football (Sec 1), softball (Sec 2) and handball (Sec 3).

Besides the games, students also participated in various carnival-like activities on that day, and some even won themselves some mini prizes. The results were as follows:

Sec 1 (Football) 1st: Sec 1/1 2nd: Sec 1/2
Sec 2 (Softball) 1st: Sec 2/6 2nd: Sec 2/2 3rd: Sec 2/7
Sec 3 (Handball) 1st: Sec 3/1 2nd: Sec 3/2 3rd: Sec 3/3

Secondary Three Retreat

At the Retreat, our Sec 3 students finally had the precious opportunity of looking inside themselves in reflection and sessions which probed the deeper meaning of life, the love of family and the support of friends. The rush of daily activities ill-affords us the time and space to just reflect and make meaning of all that happens around us. Amid the laughter and games that the students played at the sessions, the sessions also allowed students to connect once again to what is really important and life-giving – time to grow from within and to also find the strength to overcome obstacles along the way.

10th Student Council Presidential Elections

The nominations for the president of the 10th Student Council began as early as April 2015. Rounds of interviews were conducted, extensive teacher feedback gathered, and peer nominations carried out; all of which culminated in the elections for student council president on 23 May 2015. Both the

student body and the teaching staff voted, and Saleema Noor Sarah Bte Z of Sec 3/3, and Emma Koh of Sec 3/6, emerged President and Vice-President respectively. Backed by a fresh and ready committee, and guided by the wisdom and experience of the 9th Student Council, Saleema and Emma stand in good stead to lead and represent the student body as the incoming President and Vice-President.

Secondary Two Compulsory Arts Excursion – Shakespeare in the Park: The Tempest

Dark clouds blotted out the sky that 22 May afternoon, looming low and ominous on the horizon. A tempest certainly seemed to be brewing to the dismay of our secondary twos, a predication that seemed doomed to come true when a smattering of rain threatened to dampen even the most buoyant of hopes. Blessedly, the skies cleared as the students trooped up the waiting buses, armed with picnic mats and all manner of assorted snacks.

An enchanting time was promised, and despite the play being not only unfamiliar, but also one of Shakespeare's most complex and thought-provoking, the students found their evenings utterly transformed. Believed to be the last play Shakespeare wrote alone, and written in a style different from his others, *The Tempest* was a magical cauldron filled with mythical creatures both villainous and ethereal, family betrayals shocking enough to rival any Korean drama, and comedy that ranged from the witty to the physical.

Despite not understanding all the nuances proffered by Shakespeare's lyrical language, the students laughed at all of Trinculo and Stephano's ridiculous antics, shrank at Caliban's horrifying hideousness, sympathised with Ariel's pathetic plight, and gushed at Miranda and Ferdinand's budding romance.

Many have interpreted Prospero's constant allusion to theatre, especially his final exit as he renounces all magic, as Shakespeare's oblique farewell to the stage. Yet the sight of the 2000 students from various schools packing Fort Canning Park that day showed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Shakespeare is clearly alive and in our midst.

Humanities Learning Journey to Sri Lanka

A total of 29 excited students together with six teachers gathered at Changi Airport Terminal Two bright and early on the first Saturday of the June school vacation to embark on a Humanities learning journey to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka was the chosen destination because it offered students an authentic learning experience as they explored a country that had hitherto been only known from the pages of their Social Studies textbook. The country's varied environment also provided opportunities for students to engage in the field-study of Geography and History.

On the first day, we took a 7-hour journey north towards the Jaffna peninsula to visit the training camp of the Liberation of Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE). Students were able to see first-hand the remaining evidence of the destructive civil war, an array of weapons the group was able to purchase, modify and even midget submarines that were used by suicide bombers against government forces. It was indeed an eye-opener to see the destructive forces that opposing sides used against each other in their three-decade struggle.

The same afternoon was spent on individual subject studies. The Geography students were tasked with beach studies such as measuring beach gradient and effects of waves, as well as weather studies where they measured temperature and relative humidity of the area. History students were given observational tasks on issues related to governance as they combed the beach for evidences of cleanliness, maintenance and even the provision of facilities such as shops and wash-points. The tasks were related to skills such as proving their viewpoint or argument via direct observational evidence, cause and effect connections as well as change-and-continuity sequences. The live environment yielded a more direct relevance leaving a lasting impact on the students.

Every stop provided different stimulus for students to examine cross-disciplinary issues. Visits to the tea producing highlands, geological formations such as waterfalls and rock formations, spectacular mountain ranges and even tourism-related sites all came together to provide learning opportunities not available within the confines of the classroom. At the various sites, teachers-in-charge facilitated the teachable moments to help students make connections with the subject matter in the textbook. In addition, de-briefing sessions were conducted each night to provide the time and space for students to think and reflect on their observations and learning points and share their thoughts with the group.

There were also precious life-skills opportunities as the girls learnt to be independent and to live together as one community in the seven days of being with each other. Friendships were forged and strengths and weaknesses discovered as they encouraged and pushed each other to accomplish what they set themselves out to achieve.

In all, our experience in Sri Lanka has opened the eyes of students and teachers to the natural beauty and the wonderful people whom we encountered along the way. Eyes have certainly been opened, and in process, minds too as we came away more appreciative of a country and people whom we first read about in our books.

Educational Visit to Fukuoka, Japan

On 30 May, five students – Roxanne Leong (Sec 2/2), Narumi Yiu (Sec 2/4), Erin Lee (Sec 2/5), See Kai Ning (Sec 2/6), Chan Pei Ee (Sec 3/4) and a teacher, Ms Nufail Mahmood, participated in a school exchange programme to Japan. The destination was Fukuoka Futaba School, our sister IJ school located in Fukuoka, Japan.

The objectives of the trip were to strengthen ties with our sister school in Japan, and also to increase our girls' awareness of other cultures around the world. This is part of the school's programme to nurture our girls to be discerning citizens of the world by the end of their four or five years with us.

The students were given the opportunity to stay with host families for four nights, and attended school everyday together with their host sisters. The teacher was given a chance to conduct a cookery lesson and observed how lessons were conducted. Throughout the experience, everyone experienced school life in Japan, including their daily culture and traditions. Over the course of the next few days, our students and teachers were given a glimpse of a typical school day in Fukuoka Futaba. The learning was rich for both schools, as we shared with them the similarities and differences between the two systems. They also had the adventure to go sightseeing and ate delectable Japanese dishes, such as sushi, udon and ramen.

This trip was definitely an enriching and unforgettable experience for all the participants involved, including the Japanese host families. Through this experience, our girls have grown in maturity and learnt how to interact effectively with people from other cultures. The students and teachers are grateful for this invaluable learning opportunity. It was a heartwarming and tearful goodbye, but we look forward to welcoming our Japanese friends with open arms when they visit us in late July.

Education and Career Guidance

Nineteen students chose to use their June holidays differently by attending two to five-day programmes at two polytechnics in areas of individual interest or curiosity. It gave them the opportunity to experience the teaching and learning methods as well as the environment and facilities at the polytechnics. These personal experiences were invaluable in giving a glimpse of life at polytechnics which could not be obtained from reading brochures or taking virtual website tours. These opportunities gave the girls personal experiences and information that will help them in making education and career decisions.

2-Day Attachment at Nanyang Polytechnic.

Thirteen girls from Sec 3 and 4 attended three different attachments for exposure to courses in which they expressed interest.

Two girls were attached to the School of Health Sciences on 10 - 11 June, learning about the healthcare sector and how training must dovetail into the areas of need. This is a growing sector in both in-patient and home-care. Two girls were hosted by the School of Interactive and Digital Media on 15 - 16 June, learning about how the non-print media can be interactive to engage target audiences and achieve their objective. Fast-paced development in technology drives this industry. Nine girls chose the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, trying to find out more about their interest in the sciences and the industries into which they may feed on 17-18 June.

Visiting Nanyang Polytechnic gave the girls an opportunity to experience what polytechnic education entails. While they were teamed with other secondary school students in their programmes, polytechnic students would be housed in the neighbouring rooms and our girls could see the various aspects of a polytechnic experience.

Advance Elective Modules (AEMs) at Temasek Polytechnic

AEMs are a special opportunity for secondary school students to learn more about a course in which they are interested. It gives them exposure to the course and their investment in time and participation at the course is documented for future applications to the polytechnic. The girls are teamed with students from other secondary schools and learn to work together at the AEM. This gives the girls an opportunity to experience polytechnic life, specific to a course with a project to complete within a time-frame.

Media Production and Presentation

Four girls from Sec 3 and 4 attended this from 2 - 5 June. The programme included exposure to both radio and TV production and preparing a short presentation which needed to be recorded on a hard drive.

Fundamentals in Hospitality and Tourism Business

Two Sec 4 girls attended this from 2 - 8 June. The programme introduced them to the hospitality industry and included a field trip to a tourist attraction to broaden their understanding.

Malay Language Seminar Exhibition

Our Malay Language Unit was recently invited to put up an exhibition at the annual Malay Language Seminar organized by the Malay Language Centre Singapore. With the theme 'Nurturing Politeness, Refining Language', our booth was one of the only two school participants (the other being Raffles Girls' School) at the seminar.

At the June 4 seminar, Malay Language teachers from primary to junior college level attended the event as we showcased our secondary one learning journey to Katong. Together with four secondary three student docents namely Aisha Bte Shamsudin (Sec 3/3), Tatiyana Emylia Bte Hermanto (Sec 3/3), Nurhana Bte Shamsul (Sec 3/4) and Nurin Amirah Bte Abdul Razak (Sec 3/5), the girls were on hand to share their experiences with Guest-of-Honour, the Minister of Education, Mr. Heng Swee Keat. He also met our Malay Language teachers and was pleased to note that beginning and very experienced educators worked synergistically in Katong Convent to enhance the teaching of Malay Language.

The exhibition opportunity was a very precious precursor as our unit prepares itself for a larger scale showcase at the upcoming Mother Tongue Symposium in August. With feedback shared and queries fielded on the challenges of organizing a level wide learning journey, delineating learning objectives and producing supporting materials, we are now even more confident to share our continuous journey in promoting teaching and learning of Malay Language.

Girl Guides

Katong Convent Girl Guides had our annual camp under canvas from 2 - 4 June. During the camp, the Guides honed their skills in doing outdoor cooking, gadget making and tent pitching. The Guides also had a great time completing their Total Defence badge and various proficiency badges such as the artist badge and the traveller badge. As part of their Total Defence badge work, the Sec 3 Guides and Patrol Leaders spent ample time organising and implementing the activities at Fort Canning Park. Using a series of fun, hands-on activities, it helped all the Guides internalise the Total Defence message, as well as increase their commitment to the defence of Singapore.

Badminton

KC Badminton Team organised a Primary School Badminton Tournament during the June holidays on 22 June for Primary 6 students. 16 participants from several primary schools such as Tao Nan Primary and Raffles Girls' School signed up for the competition. The objective of the tournament was to provide an opportunity for primary school badminton players to find out more about our KC Badminton Team as well as to foster friendships across the various schools' badminton players.

We expect Semester 2 to be just as busy and enriching for us at Katong Convent and we continue to look forward to your invaluable support as we nurture our girls into KCians with the essential 21st century competencies.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Run Up to the GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations

Our graduating classes will be busy with the run up to the GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations. The Oral Examinations for Mother Tongue Language started on 2 July and that for English Language will begin on 6 July. To prepare our graduating classes, we will continue with structured lessons from 3.15 pm to 4.45 pm on Tuesdays, 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm on Fridays from Week 1 to Week 8. This will be a mixture of remedial sessions and revision clinics to prepare our girls well for the national examinations. Some Art coursework consultations have been scheduled on several Fridays from 4 pm to 5.30 pm. We have issued the details about the structured lessons to your daughters.

2. Changes to Term 3 Timetable (TT)

In view of the public/ school holidays and mass school programmes in Term 3 that would lead to uneven number of curriculum days, the school would be implementing replacements for some of the 3 affected curriculum days as indicated:

15 July – to carry out Thursday's (even week) timetable
21 July – to carry out Friday's (even week) timetable
28 July – to carry out Friday's (even week) timetable

3. July Highlights

Date	Event
Monday 29 Jun to Friday 3 July	4NT Elective Module
Wednesday 1 July to Friday 3 July	Science Practical Assessment
Thursday 2 July to Tuesday 14 July	O Level MTL Oral Examination
Thursday 2 July	Temperature-taking Exercise
Saturday 4 July	JOY Catholic SG50 Celebrations at the Singapore Indoor Stadium
Monday 6 July to Monday 13 July	Start of N Level EL Oral Examination
Wednesday 15 July	O Level MTLB Oral Examination
Monday 20 July	Student Leaders' Investiture
Tuesday 21 July	Commemoration of Racial Harmony Day O Level MTL / MTLB Listening Comprehension Examination. <i>All CCAs, remedial and structured lessons will be suspended.</i>
Wednesday 22 July to Friday 24 July	Book & Music Week <i>All CCAs, remedial and structured lessons will be suspended.</i>
Friday 24 July	BMW Family Night - please refer to circular sent to parents on 28 May
Sunday 26 July	Youth Celebrate at the Singapore Sports Hub
Monday 27 July	Youth Day Holiday
Tuesday 28 July to Monday 3 August	Start of N Level MTL / Basic MTL Oral Examination
Tuesday 28 July	Historical Investigation (Sec 1NA)
Wednesday 29 July to Thursday 30 July	Photo-taking for 2015 KC Annual
Thursday 30 July	Historical Investigation (Sec 1/3 and 1/4)

ACHIEVEMENTS

SEA Games 2015

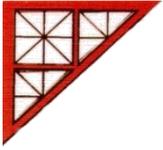
The recently concluded SEA Games provided much excitement for us here in KC. Not only were our students, and all Singaporeans for that matter, able to catch some of the region's best athletes in action, we are very proud that some of our **KC alumnae**, as well as one of our current students, were also competing in the SEA Games.

In the Cycling event, we had Dinah Chan Siew Kheng, who graduated in 2002. She came in 3rd in the Women's Individual Time Trial Finals. We also have Samantha Teo Ming Li, the Captain of the Women's Rugby 7s team, who did Singapore proud by leading the team to a Silver medal. Samantha graduated in 2006. In the Women's Floorball team, which took home the Gold medal, we have four of our ex-KC girls: Felicia Lim Pei Ting (class of 2008), Gracia Sengutuvan (class of 2009), Jowie Tan Hui Ying (class of 2008) and Natalia Clare Wee Yuning (class of 2010).

And more recently, we have Christie Chue of Sec 3/1, who was part of the Silver medal-winning 4 X 200m freestyle relay team. Christie also represented the nation in the following swimming events at the SEA Games: 200m Freestyle and 200m Breaststroke.

Last but not least, we also had KC representation in the form of May Ooi, who graduated in 1993, and was invited to be one of the sports presenters for the SEA Games. May, who was a swimmer in KC, also once represented the nation in various swimming events, such as the SEA Games and even the Olympics! May is currently a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) champion.

We are so proud of all our KC girls, both past and present. Well done everyone!



OUR GIRLS. OUR FUTURE

**CHIJ KATONG CONVENT
PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP**

Email : ptsg.kc@gmail.com

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



BMW Family Night 2015

As mentioned in the letter to parents in May, the school, together with PTSG is organising a Family Night of fun and family-bonding on Friday 24 July 2015 from 5.30pm - 9pm. There will a host of fun activities for the family including a family movie-screen, themed photo-taking booths, talent time performances as well as a scrumptious buffet dinner and movie snacks! The KC85 EZ Link card will also be launched on that day.

Tickets are priced at \$50/pax and will be sold by the PTSG members in weeks 2 and 3 of the new term (July 6 - 16). Parents who can spare an hour or two in the day time, either during recess periods from 9-11am or after school from 2-3pm, and would love to help in the sales of Family Night tickets, please do let the PTSG know immediately.

We hope to see you and your family at BMW Family Night 2015!

PTSG Meetings in Semester 2

The dates of PTSG Meetings in the second half of the year are as follows:

July 11
August 22
September 26

Next PTSG Meeting
Details of the next meeting are:

Date : Saturday 11 July 2015
Time : 9 – 10.30 am
Venue : AVA Theatre
A light breakfast and hot drinks will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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