



CHIJ Katong Convent
 3 Geylang Bahru Lane, Singapore 339626
 Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405
 Website: <http://www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg>



PARENT LINK : AUGUST 2015

5 August 2015

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. Our Student Leaders' Investiture reminded all of the honour and privilege of using our God-given talents to serve our community. On the national front, our students joined tens of thousands of their peers as they came together for the JOY Catholic SG50 Celebrations at the Singapore Indoor Stadium and Youth Celebrate! at the National Stadium. 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 Guides are having the time of their lives at the International Camp at Togakushi Girl Scout Centre, Tokyo, Japan while locally, another group spent a Sunday bringing their entrepreneurial ideas into fruition at Changi City Point Shopping Mall under the National Youth Business Challenge (NYBC) 2015. We are indeed glad that there are so many different opportunities for our girls to learn and to grow.

Book & Music Week 2015

Book & Music Week (BMW) is a highly anticipated yearly event which sees Katong Convent girls given the chance to shine with their talents! Founded by Mrs Marie Bong, former Principal of Katong Convent, BMW is a much-loved tradition in Katong Convent that is spoken of fondly by all who have lived and breathed the BMW experience while a student here.

The theme for this year's BMW was "*Places and Spaces: SG50 X KC85*" and we celebrated all things Singapore and Katong Convent past, present and future from 22th to 24th July. From the KC and SG heritage of yesteryears and the present as represented by the exhibitions and invited guests, to BMW traditions such as choral speaking, busking, debate and BMW Quiz, the KC family gathered together to be awed by the high standards that the school had achieved and is still achieving for herself in the areas of language, literature, literary arts and music.

Here are some highlights:

Opening Ceremony

The event was opened by a surprise entrance in the form of a thoughtful monologue by our Principal, Ms Chan, who paid tribute to the samsui women and their immense contributions in the building of Singapore. The audience was pleasantly surprised but were soon immersed in the thick of the action as they showed their appreciation through both applause and exclamations. She also paid a fitting tribute to our Guest-of-Honour, the distinguished Ms Angeline Yap, KC alumna from the class of 1975, whose poetry has been applauded both in Singapore and beyond.

Ms Yap rose to the occasion and shared her thoughts and reflections, including a fitting tribute to Mrs Marie Bong, in the form of her poem "simple". Ms Yap was then invited to unveil a mock-up of KC's latest anthology of works by members of the KC family, past and present, 85 x 85. She declared the BMW open by signing this.

The KC Choir then serenaded the audience with their angelic voices, as they sang both a Dravidian composition as well as *Lenggang Kangkong*. Sec 2NT then rendered a fusion dance, showcasing the grandeur of our main ethnic groups in Singapore. The first round of #OOTD (Outfits of Those Days) was opened by the Secondary 3 level who was tasked to present beloved Singaporean mascots, such as Sharity Elephant and the POSB Squirrel from the past 50 years. The occasion saw an unbridled flow of creativity in representing the various mascots which were lovingly handmade for the occasion. The Opening Ceremony drew to a close with a final dance item by the KC Dance team, who roused the school through their dance interpretation of Dick Lee's *Rasa Sayang*.

In Conversation with Ms Angeline Yap

The upper secondary students proceeded to the hall after the Opening Ceremony for a conversation with Ms Angeline Yap. Facilitated by Ms Michele Sim, the conversation touched on topics such as Singapore literature as well as Ms Yap's creative muse. Ms Yap and teachers were then welcomed to the Dance Studio, where further conversations continued over cakes and tea.

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. The lower secondary students had much fun catching on the spirit of performance as well. Judges were engaged. The audience was inspired. KCians' talents know no bounds.

On the first day, the Sec 3s started with their dance and song items. It was evident that many classes had put in effort, judging from the mass participation and snazzy choreography. The Sec 1s, 4s and 5s busked on the second day, and the seniors really set the bar high with their complex dance performances and passionate belting of songs with many interpretations of various Singapore and Katong Convent stories. The Sec 2s performed last, but their performances were by no means less engaging. A traditional BMW item, busking had the audience engaged, amused and inspired by on all the three days..

All classes were judged based on their participation rate and interpretation of the theme, and we are pleased to announce that for the Secondary 4 & 5 level, Sec 4/1, Sec 5/0 and Sec 4/5 attained the first, second and third places respectively. At the Secondary 3 level, Sec 3/3, Sec 3/5 and Sec 3/0 attained the first, second and third places, while at the Secondary 2 level, Sec 2/1, Sec 2/7 and Sec 2/3 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 1/4, Sec 1/3 and Sec 1/6 attained the top three positions, with special commendation for Sec 1/7. Congratulations, girls!

Whose Room?

Ever thought that the classroom is a space that is all so ordinary? Well, for this year's Whose Room, the Sec 2s were given the herculean task of transforming their classrooms to various places in Singapore in the 1970s and 1980s. So, for three days, the secondary 2 level became the backdrop for nostalgia in the form of various venues such as the bus interchange, provision shop, hawker centre and more. The prize for the best presentation went to Sec 2/1 (Tanjong Pagar Railway Station), with Sec 2/3 (Provision Shop) and Sec 2/6 (HDB Home) clinching the second and third places.

Choral Speaking

Choral Speaking was targeted at Sec 1 and 3 students. Choral Speaking has been a long standing tradition of Katong Convent. It enables KCians to discover and unravel the rich musicality of poetry through choral recitation, affording a heightened appreciation for poetry. What better way to welcome the Sec 1s to KC than to imbue in them a passion for KC's legacy.

The preparation for Choral Speaking started in Term 2 Week 9, when participating classes were given a selection of poems from various Singapore poets. As a class working together in unity, they were tasked to devise their performance, keeping in mind the legacy of what Choral Speaking in KC is like.

The performances took place in two stages, once in an earlier preliminary round, and during the finals. Students were given an opportunity to display their proficiency at choral speaking by performing with their voices, movements as well as inspired props. Their camaraderie as a class as they displayed their mastery of pitch, pace and tone in their voices really brought the poems to life.

The teachers of the school were not to be trifled with as they too joined in the fun and performed Arthur Yap's poem – 2 Mothers in a HDB Playground – as a surprise performance. They were in full attendance as housewives, complete with eye-catching outfits. Their performance was met with a rousing applause and shouts of "encore" from the students.

The students displayed such a high level of excellence in performance with the judges awarding 3 winners with Sec 3/4 in the second runner up placing, Sec 1/6 in the first runner up placing and Sec 3/6 as the winner of Choral Speaking 2015. Overall, this segment of BMW has been an exceptional display of class spirit in the continuance of a true blue KC tradition.

Debate

This year, the Sec 3s were tasked to debate in three preliminary rounds which yielded two finalist teams. It was an inter-class affair, determined by drawn lots that saw the combined team of Sec 3/0, Sec 3/1 debate Sec 3/4 on the motion: *THBT the youths of today are less prepared than their parents to face future challenges*. Sec 3/5 debated Sec 3/6 on the motion: *THBT fast food should be sold in schools*. Sec 3/2 debated Sec 3/3 on the motion: *THBT teachers should be made to wear school uniform*. The finalists were Sec 3/6 and Sec 3/5 as they had the highest scores. Sec 3/6 proposed the motion: *THBT Singaporean youths are a 'strawberry generation'*. Again, in a tightly fought debate, Sec 3/6 was declared winner and the best speaker was Sarah Kai El-Hilo from Sec 3/5.

An old tradition continued, the debate segment was a resounding success, no debate about that.

#OOTD Parade

The #OOTD Parade, aptly titled Outfit of Those Days tapped on the SG50 theme, looking back on Singapore and Katong Convent's history. Each class was given free rein to respond to their icon, mascot, figure or personality assigned to them. Students were tasked to create an outfit that not only reflected heritage, but showcased their innovative spirit. Secondary 1 students explored Singapore icons such as Orchard Road, Ethnic Groups and the Singapore Girl while Secondary 2 students brought Singaporean historical figures such as Sir Stamford Raffles and Tan Tock Seng alive straight from the pages of their History textbooks. Secondary 3 students paraded their own interpretations of beloved Singapore mascots including Singa the Courtesy Lion, Water Wally and Smiley the POSB Squirrel, educating their fellow schoolmates about relevant campaign messages. The Normal Technical classes gave hilarious interpretations of Singaporean personalities, namely Fandi Ahmad (including an ode to his torch bearing stint with his son at the SEA Games), Liang Po Po and the Dim Sum Dollies. To round up the event as part of the closing ceremony, the Secondary 4 and 5 students wowed the audience with their own interpretations of Katong Convent icons. The girls fully embraced KC icons such as the spindle and a garland of marguerites which showcased their affinity and pride of being a Katong Convent daughter. The activity challenged students to be innovative problem solvers, as they not only had to present meaningful and accurate portrayals of characters but also to provide an informative and insightful commentary to accompany their presentation.

After intense judging during the BMW week, 3 winners from each level were awarded the top three positions in each level. At the Secondary 4 & 5 level, they were Sec 4/2 in the first position, followed by Sec 5/0 & Sec 4/5 sharing the second position, and Sec 4/4 in third place. At the Secondary 3 level, Sec 3/4 came in first, followed by a close fight by Sec 3/5 in the second placing and Sec 3/0 in third place. Sec 2/5, Sec 2/4 and Sec 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 Sec 1/1 in second and Sec

1/6 in third place. Sec 4/7 came in in first position, followed by Sec 2/7 and Sec 3/7 in second and third respectively for the NT classes. Great job, ladies!

BMW Quiz

To enable mass participation, fun and to end the BMW on a high note, the quiz was organised bingo style this year. The sustained screams, cheers and energy level in the hall were palpable. All 5 categories of questions - Pop Songs, Classic Literature, Popular Fiction, SG50 and KC85 - were educative, yet fun. Seating the classes in a compact fashion enabled classes not only to discuss but also collaborate in activities before and after the quiz (like Sec 4/2's 'flash mob' during the #OOTD and bhangra segments).

Celebrating the Talents of our N(T) Students

Our Normal (Technical) students were very privileged to be given the opportunity to showcase their natural and raw talents during the recent BMW based on their involvement with Cabin Club, the Co-Curricular Activity designed for N(T) students within school curriculum time.

Sec 2/7 presented a fusion dance representing dance from the Chinese, Indian and Malay ethnic groups. The dance showcased nifty and elegant moves while bringing to life the intricacies of these art forms. With perfect timing as well as corresponding facial expressions, it is no wonder that the dance was the focus of a rapt audience who kept their attention trained on the dancers from beginning to end. Throughout the rehearsals and performance, the girls learnt the importance of good teamwork and trust amongst themselves.

Meantime, on the last day of BMW, Sec 1/7 showcased their musical talent by moving their hands along with percussion instruments of the major ethnic groups in Singapore. The girls were very open to learning this as part of their Performance Module in Cabin Club. Kudos to mastering the instruments and beats in such a short space of time!

Sec 3/7 rounded up the N(T) performances by presenting a comedy skit entitled "Oh Singapore" in the form of a TV programme. With their candid expressions, they entertained the crowd with their presentations of three typical local situations namely a day on an MRT train, friendly rivalry amongst hawker stalls owners and the different perceptions that tourists have of Singapore, as shown in reactions to encounters with durians. It was a good performance considering that the girls had very little exposure to drama performances on stage and it definitely gave them more self-confidence as they now realise that they have hidden talents. The girls enjoyed the learning experience very much indeed and have grown to love theatre work and productions.

For most of us, the performances are over. However, for the students, they will now reflect on their performances and learning journey so as to articulate school values associated to their experiences such as tolerance, teamwork, independence, respect as well as excellence and ensure that the values are transferred to their daily practice. Several times during the whole process leading to the performances, they met with various challenges and obstacles which required them to be adaptable and innovative in solving the unforeseen problems that arose. Thankfully, with the constant support and encouragement from the teachers-in-charge of Cabin Club lessons along with the respective trainers as well as the efforts from the form teachers and co-form teachers, the girls overcame them all, put their best foot forward and proved that they are indeed an amazing bunch of girls! At the same time, the experiences have enabled them to become more confident individuals who truly believe that each and every individual is naturally talented and that with the right skills, attitude, discipline as well as proper guidance and instruction, they will shine even brighter than diamonds.

BMW Memory Kit: Reflection Booklet

A means to consolidate learning over the 3 days and beyond, your daughter had a valuable opportunity at pulling together her own learning over the BMW preparation and celebration proper. Many heads were bent over in intense concentration as students pored over their thoughts and learning in creative artistic and literary expressions, as they made decisions on their favourite experiences and more.

Building My Singapore: Lego Activity

As a special activity for SG50, students explored creating their own spaces and places in Singapore in groups for the Lego activity as part of *Building My Singapore*. Students were given an opportunity to appreciate Singapore's journey by gaining awareness about Singapore's heritage from a young age, as well as take ownership in shaping the spaces they shared with others in Singapore's landscape. Many beaming faces could be seen at the end of the activity, as students showed off their masterpieces to each other and explained the symbolism behind their creations.

Sandwich Making (Lower Sec)

For BMW this year, we introduced a new item, Sandwich Making Competition which was held on 22th July. It was an intense half an hour during which the individual teams had to assemble their most nutritious and appealing sandwich with pre-prepared ingredients. When time was up, each team made a presentation to the panel of judges.

Talentine The Stars

The Stars 2015 was conceptualised as an opportunity for KC students to step out of their comfort zone, embrace their talents and share them with the masses as effective communicators. The auditions saw over 20 acts of distinct variety participating, from Pop and Lock artistes, to classical musicians, K-Pop dancers and soulful R&B singers. The judges of The Stars were truly impressed by the immense quality in talent and decided to put through 4 individual acts, Iva, Celeste Wong, Sarah and Hadirah as well as 5 group acts, *Frozen Popsicles*, *Dancers not Movers*, *Miss4*, *Siren Crew* and *Cat & Glenice* to the finals.

At the finals, which was held in conjunction with KC's first ever Family Night, the audience was in for a treat as our student emcee, Denise Tan of Sec 5/0, masterfully guided them through a starry night of talent and finesse. The contestants really put on unbelievable performances, with some teachers in the audience even expressing astonishment at the hidden talents of some of the students they teach. Indeed, because of the high level of talent, our teacher judges who took on famous characters like The Terminator, Mr. Unbelievable and Barbarella on stage really had their work cut out for them.

After much deliberation, the final two winners from each category were announced to much fanfare. In the Individual category, Celeste Wong was the first runner up with Sarah El-Hilo as the winner. *Dancers not Movers* were the first runner up with *Siren Crew* as winners in the Group category. The evening of The Stars, closed with the participants, judges and teachers singing the finale song, Jessie J's *Flashlight*, reminding ourselves never to stop pursuing our talents, always seeking to shine brightly like the stars they are.

Exhibitions

Art

The exhibits were pieces of work produced for the 2015 mid-year examination which had '*Celebrating 50 years of Singapore Art*' as the theme. The works produced were presented as a mural design proposal that melds the design of several illustrious artworks by at least 3 local artists. The artworks featured were those that were completed between 1965 and 2015. Students were also allowed to integrate into their design symbols and iconography that represent aspects of Singapore and/or National Gallery Singapore.

"Dim Sum Dollies, History of Singapore Part 2" exhibits

The exhibits showcased a range of landmark events in the history of Singapore in the last 50 years. These boards showed images with accompanying notes that were taken from the Straits Times photo files.

Performances by Secondary 4 Drama Elective Programme and Dramatic Arts Society (Odyssey of the Mind) students

11 students from the Drama Elective Programme presented excerpts from the plays that they have been working on in class as part of the busking festivities of BMW. The students were also joined on stage by Dramatic Arts Society (Odyssey of the Mind) students. Their performances were a remarkable show of effort and talent and served as a mirror of social issues, reflecting the challenges faced by

humans in different places and spaces. With the use of minimal props and costumes, the performances truly showed raw acting talent as their interpretation of the plays were brought to life before the audience's eyes.

External Performances

The Scape Invasion Tour

Staff and students were given a taster of local music as the SCAPE Invasion Tour took to the stage of KC. An outreach programme that seeks to showcase made-in-Singapore bands and musicians, emotions ran high as the girls and some teachers sang along to the tunes of local bands The Summer State and headliner, Gentle Bones. The performance was hosted by DJ Kimberly from 987fm, who certainly injected more than a touch of fame and celebrity madness to the event. The girls were also introduced to the music scene of Singapore by West Grand Boulevard's Syed Hyder as well as encouraged to ignore negative prejudice and to always support local talent. The musical performance finally cumulated in a wefie with the school audience, creating a memorable experience for the students.

Gamelan Express by Asmaradana Gamelan

This is an imaginary musical train journey through the Malay-Archipelago. The audience was treated to a range of tuneful popular traditional gamelan music that is commonly used in various situations i.e. for processions, celebrations, dance performance and for an orchestral accompaniment to a wayang kulit theatre performance.

Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony began with foot-tapping tunes from two solo performers from the KC Band. The Infocomm Club worked hard behind the scenes to put together a video of precious moments from the BMW, eliciting cries of recognition and applause from students as they relived the excitement of the 3 days in those few moments on screen. This was followed by an inspired take on KC history by the Secondary 4 and 5 students, who took on the challenge of interpreting KC Icons such as Blessed Barre, Mrs Marie Bong and even symbols such as marguerites and the spindle, and presented these to the school population, to much applause. Emotions rose to a high during the BMW Quiz, where all classes participated, BINGO-style. High spirits were evident when an external Bhangra performance made their entry down the aisle of the school hall, and everyone joined in with the dance moves enthusiastically. Just when everyone thought BMW had sadly drawn to a close, students and teachers alike were treated to a surprise item, KC's Teachers' Edition of a Bhangra dance, which was received with much enthusiasm.

The event ended on a high, with loud cheers as our Vice-Principal then rounded off the BMW festivities, cheering the efforts of both students and staff in celebrating KC's strong heritage in the English Language, Literature and the arts, with a focus on integration this year with National Education, and other subjects, including History, Social Studies, and Mathematics. It has been a truly memorable experience for all!

Academic Fun Day

15th July started out just like any other day - with a twist. As students and teachers filed into the hall for morning assembly, there were excited whispers and nudges as it became evident that teachers from the EL department were not quite the same that morning. They were dressed as characters from various fairy tales and nursery rhymes, with the sole purpose of bringing to life these colourful characters, from page to stage, in a manner of speaking.

It was a fun-filled day as students and staff alike responded to the likes of Peter Pan and Tinkerbell, Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty (after his unfortunate fall), Little Boy Blue, Little Miss Muffet, Puss in Boots, the infamous trio of Blind Mice, Esmerelda, the Witch, Pocahontas, Snow White, Red Riding Hood, the Queen of Hearts, Rapunzel, as well as the Wizard.

It was definitely a good opportunity to bring the subjects of English Language, Literature as well as Drama to life. Which department will be next, one wonders?

Exchange Programme with Fukuoka Futaba School (Fukuoka, Japan)

The second leg of our exchange programme with Fukuoka Futaba School in Fukuoka, Japan took place from 30th July to 3rd August. Having spent a meaningful and enriching time in Fukuoka in June 2015, our 5 KC students, together with the school were happy to welcome 5 students and 1 teacher from our sister IJ school, Fukuoka Futaba School (FF).

The students were hosted in the homes of our KC students and spent the days learning with their buddies and experiencing the rich culture of Singapore. It was an activity-filled and invaluable experience for both KC and FF as the students managed to rekindle friendships fostered in June and had the opportunity to share about their lives, friends as well as local traditions in Singapore. The FF teacher gleaned many insights into the teaching practices in Singapore after observing several lessons in KC and she is keen to explore newly learnt ideas back in FF! There was rich learning for both KC and FF students and staff and we were all pleasantly surprised at the similarities between the 2 schools and cultures. With all great times, the farewell was sad for all but the friendships that were strengthened during the one week will enable the learning to continue beyond borders of school and country.

Student Leaders' Investiture

This year's Student Leaders' Investiture, held on 20th July, took a different turn with a warm and celebratory vibrancy, a concept that was the brainchild of the 9th Student Council president, Samantha Yap of Sec 4/5.

Katong Convent's annual Student Leaders' Investiture is not only a time when we instate the succeeding batch of student leaders, but also when the school celebrates and honours the student leaders' successes, and service to the school. More importantly, the Student Leaders' Investiture is an event almost entirely run by student leaders themselves. Conceptualised, organised, and ran by the 9th Student Council Executive Committee with its teachers playing only an advisory role, this year's investiture shone as testimony to continual improvement, innovation, and teamwork. The speeches by both the 9th Student Council president, Samantha Yap and the 10th Student Council president, Saleema Noor Sarah alternately touched and inspired the student body. The cheers of the students as their leaders walked down the hall echoed the resounding affirmation of the good work of leaders past, and trust in leaders tomorrow.

We would like to thank the graduating Councillors, CCA Leaders, RHYAs and Class Committee members for serving the school in their various capacities, providing leadership in their respective areas of influence to define the experience of their peers. We also congratulate the 10th Student Council Executive Committee and the new CCA Leaders in their recent appointments, wishing them well as they take on the challenge of leading and serving their community.

Youth Celebrate!

On 27th July, 76 students and 4 of our teachers were at the National Stadium to celebrate Singapore's 50th anniversary. The Guest-of-Honour was Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who officiated the event that also marked the official opening of our National Stadium. The night was an electrifying spectacle of talent showcase by students from the various primary and secondary schools, and the pre-university institutions.

It was a symbolic moment for our youths, inspiring them - as our PM aptly put it - to make the most of what they have, stretch their limits, help one another, with fellow citizens as one Singapore team and show the world what Singapore can be.

Our school was also involved in the recent Youth Celebrate! and official opening of the Sports Hub on 26 July in other ways. Miuki Denise Murakami from Sec 3/0 was selected to represent our school at the Youth Celebrate! Record Setting Feat (Swimming) which was held at the OCBC Arena. Chiara Lim of Sec 4/6 was also selected by MOE to represent our school at a reception for VIPs on the same day. Prior to this day, three of our students, Saleema Noor Sarah from Sec 3/3, Elizabeth Ng from Sec 3/0 and Valerie Ong from Sec 3/2 were part of the team representing the East Zone schools cluster in the frisbee Jubilee Cup. Well done girls!

Sec 1 Historical Investigation (HI) write-up

As part of the Historical Investigation process, all Secondary Ones this year, went to the National Museum in July/August where they have to question, gather, select, examine sources, and construct their responses to the HI question, 'How was life different for the various people in colonial Singapore before World War Two?'

Prior to the trip, students had been guided in class to understand the inquiry question and investigate the specific aspects of the different communities during British colonial rule. Teachers also demonstrated ways to gather primary sources from the various portals – online research, library research, and the field trip to the museum. Specific guidelines had been provided to help students examine selected sources and respond to the inquiry question effectively. Finally, students had to demonstrate their understanding of the inquiry question by applying relevant information gathered from multiple sources, including the field trip to the museum, to form conclusions. Sec 1 Express students had been tasked to present their findings in an online piktochart while the Sec 1 Normal Academic students had to present theirs in an online blog.

This historical task serves to develop an understanding of how the different communities of people adapted and maintained their own unique cultures and heritage in a multi-ethnic society. Students can also better appreciate the rich cultural diversity of the communities that lived in Singapore during the 19th and 20th centuries. Through the identification of similarities and differences in the lives and experiences of the various communities, students would also have a good understanding of people who led different lives and different experiences even when they lived in the same place during the same period in history. Also, by working in groups to complete the HI end-task, it promotes learning from peer, and provides students the platform to role-play as young historians.

Nurturing Effective Communicators

Methodist Girls' Secondary School Youth Under-14s Debate Challenge Shield 2015

On 11th July, Lydia Lee (Sec 1/2), Mabel Yeong (Sec 1/5), Christine Ong (Sec 1/6), Joan Faith Ong (Sec 2/3) and Caresse Chng (Sec 2/4) represented the school in the Methodist Girls' Secondary School Youth Under-14s Debate Challenge Shield 2015 for Division 1 schools. The aim of this competition was to foster the development of youth debaters through robust and rigorous competition. It tested the budding debaters on their ability to prepare and react to arguments on the floor through both prepared round and impromptu rounds. The theme for this year was Circle of Life. The format followed was that of the modified World School's Debating Championships, as practised in the Julia Gabriel's Secondary Schools Debate Championships and it was good exposure for the debaters to be involved in this competition. KC was up against Methodist Girls in the prepared round and Raffles Girls' Secondary School and CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School in the impromptu rounds. It was truly a good experience for the students.

29th YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards (PESA) 2015

The YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards (PESA) is an annual event organized by YMCA of Singapore and supported by MOE and Speak Good English Movement (SGEM). Into its 29th year, YMCA PESA provides a platform for pre-school to polytechnic students to sharpen public speaking skills and build self-confidence. YMCA PESA is the largest English language competition held in the ASEAN region and Liyana Adnan (Sec 3/3) represented our school in the upper secondary category while Isabel Arken (Sec 2/4) took part in the lower secondary category. The students had the opportunity to own their stories and in the process improvise it. It was indeed a good learning opportunity for them.

S. Rajaratnam Storytelling Competition

On 24th July, the Debate and Oratorical Society participated in the annual S. Rajaratnam Storytelling Competition. Our members, Cheryl Arun (Sec 1/6) and Mabel Yeong (Sec 1/6) represented Katong Convent. Both girls agreed that the experience that they had was extremely positive. Not only did they make new friends out of their fellow competitors, they learned that storytelling is not just about standing on a stage delivering a story. They had to keep their audience at the edge of their seats from start to end.

Students' Gift to Singapore: 'SG50 Reflections: Our Hopes and Memories (HOME)'

HOME, a commemorative e-book, is a SG50 birthday gift to Singapore from all primary, secondary, junior college, special education school students who had contributed their reflections. Through videos, photographs, artwork and poems, students reflected on our past 50 years of nationhood as well as their aspirations for Singapore as we look to the future with confidence.

The stories spanned five decades of Singapore's history and covered five themes - Culture & Celebrations, Defining Moments, Faces of Singapore, Memorable Spaces, and Progress & Achievements. Katong Convent's contribution was the establishment of the first department of geriatric medicine in 1988 in Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) to cater to the growing number of elderly people in Singapore. The need for specialised care for the elderly became a matter of key national importance after the publication of the landmark Report on the Problems of the Aged in 1984. It was found that Singapore's demographics were changing drastically, and it was predicted that by 2030, around one-third of our population would be 60 years old and above. Our KC alumna, Dr Carol Tan Yean Eng was one of the pioneers in this area and we had the privilege of featuring her in this project.

The SG50 HOME e-book was launched by President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam at Presbyterian High School on 29th July. The SG50 HOME e-book is available to the public. Readers can download the e-book for free by searching 'SG50 HOME' in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Readers may also view a web version of the e-book at www.SG50HOME.sg. You are invited to refer to the link at <http://www.sg50home.sg/first-department-of-geriatric-medicine.html> to view our contribution.

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
30 Jul – 3 Aug	Visitors from Fukouka Futaba School
6 Aug	*National Day Celebrations-cum-Sports Day. Students will be dismissed at 11 am
7 Aug	SG50 Public Holiday
11 Aug – 28 Aug	Health Check
10 Aug	National Day School Holiday
11-12 Aug	GCE 'O' Level CL/ML (SP) Oral Examination
11 – 19 Aug	*Sec 4NA / NT Preliminary Examination
13 – 27 Aug	GCE 'O' Level EL Oral Examination
17 – 21 Aug	*Sec 1-3 Common Test Week. CCA will be suspended.
25 Aug	GI to Geylang Bahru (Sec 2/3 and 2/4)
27 Aug	GI to Geylang Bahru (Sec 2/1 and 2/2)
28 Aug	Issuance of Sec 4NA / NT Preliminary Examination Results Start of Sec 4E/5N Preliminary Examination – Science Practical Concert Band Recital (ABRSM) for Parents

31 Aug – 23 Sept	*Start of Sec 4E/5N Prelim Examination (Written)
31 Aug – 2 Sept	Study Leave for Sec 4N
1 Sept	GI to Geylang Bahru (Sec 2/5 and 2/6)
3 Sept	Issuance of Progress Report (Sec 1-3) Issuance of EOY Examination (Sec 1-3) timetable Teachers' Day Celebrations. School will be dismissed at 12pm
4 Sept	CCA Stand-down Teachers' Day Holiday

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

2. Character Awards – Invitation for Nominations

Nominations for the Character Awards (School Values, SHINE and MOE Edusave Character) are now open!

Sec 4 and 5 Nominations

Opening Date: 3 Aug 2015

Closing Date: 14 Aug 2015

Sec 1, 2 and 3 Nominations

Opening Date: 21 Aug 2015

Closing Date: 4 Sep 2015

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: Integrity, Nobility, Teamwork, Excellence, Graciousness, Respect, Independence, Tolerance and Yeomanship; 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.

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

The pinnacle of the Character Awards is the MOE Edusave Character Award. In March 2012, the Ministry of Education announced the new Edusave Character Award (ECHA) to recognise students for demonstrating exemplary character and outstanding personal qualities through their conduct. It aims to re-balance the basket of Edusave Awards, to provide greater recognition of students with good values and character, and to signal emphasis on holistic education. The ECHA is intended to send a strong message that character and values are no less important than academic achievements and recognise outstanding students in every school who can inspire others to be role models of exemplary conduct.

Please refer to page 34 of our Student Journal for other details about the various school-based awards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Goh Chok Tong NextGen Outstanding Student Leader Award

The Goh Chok Tong NextGen Outstanding Student Leader Award was launched in 2010 by Marine Parade Leadership Foundation to recognise students who have demonstrated leadership in school

and / or community services. Student councillors and CCA leaders from the graduating cohort, who displayed leadership qualities and created an impact to the wider school community through their services were nominated for the award.

We congratulate three of our student leaders on receiving the Goh Chok Tong NextGen Outstanding Student Leader Award 2015:

- Denise Dannii Tan Shin Ting (Sec 5/0)
- Gladys Tan Shi Xuan (Sec 4/4)
- Samantha Yap Jing-Yi (Sec 4/5)

Our three recipients have consistently exhibited a deep awareness of the responsibility entrusted upon them and served the school community with great humility as servant leaders. Well done!

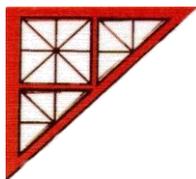
2. Entrepreneur Club at the National Youth Business Challenge 2015

Entrepreneur Club girls did the school proud again by winning the Silver Award and the Most Attractive Display Award at the recent National Youth Business Challenge 2015 held on 5 July at Changi City Point Mall. This achievement continued our record of winning these two awards five times in the six years of our participation.

This competition was jointly organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic School of Business and Accountancy and Changi City Point Shopping Mall. A total of 20 teams from different secondary schools participated this year. In this competition, students had to sell environmentally friendly products at Changi City Point Shopping Mall for one day, from 10am till 8pm. The objective of this competition was to give students first-hand experience to run a stall in a shopping mall and exercise their entrepreneurial skills.

The winning team members were Chin Rui Yek (Sec 3/1), Amira Qaliesha Bte Syed Rasool (Sec 3/4), Sophia Man Whuai (Sec 3/5) and Ho Jie Yi (Sec 3/7). The girls demonstrated good teamwork, strong salesmanship and creativity which won the judges' hearts.

Well done, Entrepreneur Club girls!



OUR GIRLS. OUR FUTURE

CHIJKATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

Email : kcptsg@hotmail.com

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



PTSG Meetings in Semester 2

KC is indeed blessed to have a group of enthusiastic parent volunteers who devote their time, effort, creativity and other talents or skills to ensure meaningful partnership programmes with the school. At the first PTSG meeting in semester two on Saturday, 11th July, a total of 11 parents attended and discussed the organisation of the BMW Family Night, participation of PTSG in the National Day celebrations on Thursday, 6th August and the tentative themes and programme for the Teachers' Day Celebrations on Thursday, 3rd September.

During the meeting, the parent volunteers confirmed the deployment of manpower for the snacks stalls on BMW Family Night, suggested ideas for the decorations to be aligned with the movie theme, Night at the Museum 3 as well as sponsored prizes for the Talentime winners. They also brainstormed ways to boost the sale of tickets so as to encourage greater participation of parents and their daughters alike including having Whatsapp chat groups for individual classes. In addition, some parent volunteers committed themselves to sponsor and set up SG50 snack stalls for the National Day celebrations. We look forward to the spread of snacks such as muah chee, kacang putih, coloured wafers and others which will be sold during recess on that day. Also, as part of the annual PTSG programme, they will collaborate with the Staff Welfare Committee to organise the Teachers' Day Lunch celebrations.

Do look out for more information on the confirmed theme for the event.

If you would like to participate and join in the fun, working together with the school on such projects, do attend the next meeting as given in the details below. Family Matters@ School will also be releasing a list of programmes for this semester. More details will be given on the school website.

BMW Family Night 2015

The school held its first ever BMW Family Night on Friday 24th July 2015. BMW has been a well-loved KC tradition where we celebrate the literary arts. This year, BMW closed with a Family Night in commemoration of the school's 85th anniversary. The BMW Family Night presented opportunities to strengthen family bonding while raising funds for the new KC building. Entrance to the evening was in the form of one of two newly-minted special edition KC EZ-Link cards, each with a stored value of \$10.

The highlights of the night were a sumptuous buffet dinner with much to feast on including live stations, various snacks, photo and memorabilia stalls set up by the PTSG and Alumni, The Stars talentime finals where individual students and student groups performed their masterpieces, and a screening of the movie, Night at the Museum 3. For the first time in KC, The Stars finals and the movie were screened in both the Hall and the Canteen for the comfort of different viewers.

The night was filled with fun and enjoyment and many went home tired but utterly satisfied. To this effect, we want to express our deepest appreciation to the parents of the PTSG who gave their all to plan, promote and take this event to new heights! We are especially grateful for all the time and effort spent in selling the BMW Family Night tickets during the many days of recess in school, decorating the school like a natural history museum (including a self-made dinosaur!) and creating an amazing ambience for the night, sourcing for, sponsoring and selling items at the snacks stalls, and most of all, for being wonderful partners in this fund-raising and family-bonding project. Thank you, parents!

Next PTSG Meeting

Details of the next meeting are:

Date : Saturday 22 August 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.

PTSG Parents

Tricia
Christine
ptsg.kc@gmail.com

PTSG Teachers

Ms Cheryl Anne Lim lim_su_ying_cheryl@moe.edu.sg
Mdm Zakiah Subahan zakiah_subahan@moe.edu.sg