



CHIJ Katong Convent
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PARENT LINK : FEBRUARY 2015

3 February 2015

Dear Parents & Guardians

Time flies and we are already into February of the new academic year. We have been kept busy enhancing student safety in partnership with the Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre and Moulmein-Kallang Town Council, Kolam Ayer Division; improving our complimentary shuttle bus service, canteen operations and other estate management works at Geylang Bahru Lane. We thanked parents who have affirmed our work, given us feedback for our continuous improvement and offered their assistance. Many events have also taken place and we are off to a good start as we witnessed the KC family working and learning together to become a stronger community. We are confident that this KC spirit will continue to spur us on to greater heights.

Secondary 1 Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Fair cum Meet - the - Parents Session (MTPS)

The Secondary One CCA Fair and MTPS took place on Saturday, 10th January. We shared the school's vision, mission and the school's provision of an all-rounded education for your daughters. The Head of Department for CCA and PE, Ms Priscilla Humphries, also briefed all about the CCAs in KC and provided a comprehensive account of LEAPS 2.0, the MOE grading system for CCAs. Part of the presentation in the hall also included a showcase of two Performing Arts CCAs, the Chinese Orchestra and Concert Band. Both were very well-received.

This was followed by a short but useful dialogue between the respective Form Teachers and the parents. Parents took the opportunity to understand better the shuttle bus service and academic expectations. After that, all were invited to tour the CCA booths which our students had prepared, to allow them to find out more about the various CCAs on offer. CCA leaders from all the CCAs were on hand to assist with general queries and at the booths with more information about their respective CCA.

Feedback was very positive and all found the sharing as well as the briefing on LEAPS 2.0 very informative and useful. They also enjoyed the tour of the CCA booths and interaction with the form teachers. We would like to thank all parents for joining us on that day.

Beginning of the Year Mass

Blessings to you as we begin 2015!

We started the year with Fr Simon Pereira celebrating Mass for our whole family here at Katong Convent. At the end of 2014, as Fr Simon went around blessing the school, he noted the beautiful areas and ample space we had at our holding site.

This year, at his homily, he invited the family here at Katong Convent to use our God-given abilities to do our best at our new home here at Geylang Bahru Lane. He also explained to us the significance of the “Bahru” for each of us – to start anew and with this spirit, the KC family can soar high. He also suggested that we refer to GB, the abbreviation for Geylang Bahru as “God Bless you”. So he asked for all of us to blossom and grow as we come daily to God Bless you Lane. And indeed, God will bless us every day!

Amidst the rush and bustle, it has been a really wonderful start to 2015 and we search deeper in ourselves for the spark of renewal of newness that Father spoke of.

Let us also never tire of doing good for others.

Parents, we ask for your continuous prayers for Katong Convent. The family that prays together, stays together!

Subject Information Sessions

On Saturday, 24th January, the Humanities department together with the Literature team, organised the Lower Sec Subject Information Session on the new Humanities Syllabuses (Geography, History and Literature) for the Lower Sec parents. The objectives of this session were to give parents:

- i. an understanding of the demands and expectations of the Lower Sec Humanities syllabuses;
- ii. an overview of the academic programmes which support teaching and learning of the Humanities, and
- iii. an understanding of the assessment components for the Humanities subjects.

In addition, in its effort to better support parents to guide their daughters in their academic journey and total well-being, the team also incorporated a short education and career guidance segment by Ms Debra Scully, our Education and Career Guidance Coordinator. The segment featured aspects of career guidance, different educational pathways and an overview of the ECG programme in KC.

The well-received attendance from parents, including their positive feedback and affirmation for the hard work put in by the team testified to the effectiveness of this platform for parents to deepen their understanding of the subjects.

The team would like to express its deepest appreciation to all parents who availed themselves for the session and looks forward to strengthen the collaboration with parents to co-create an enriching Humanities learning experience for the girls.

On the same Saturday morning, the Art teachers also conducted a coursework briefing to art students and parents of the graduating cohort. The briefing shared critical information concerning art coursework management and expectations, and the work involved in preparing our graduating students for the coursework component of the GCE N and O level examinations. Once again, feedback was positive as both students and parents left with a deeper appreciation of the demands of coursework management.

Moving Forward

KC has done well in the 2014 GCE O & N Level Examinations and we aspire to continue this good work through the dedication and hard work of our teachers and close collaboration with our parents. Registration for these examinations for our current Secondary Four and Five students will be conducted in February. We have been working with our girls to strategise their approach towards this major challenge. For our girls to excel in the national examinations, it is important to ensure full attendance, completion of homework, daily self-study and self-discipline. Coursework questions have been released for Art, Drama, Elements of Business Skills and Food & Nutrition and students are expected to spend regular time and effort to complete the coursework on time.

Teachers of these subjects are constantly concerned about girls being absent from lessons set aside for the coursework. It is during these lessons that teachers are able to guide our girls from design to the delivery of the product. For this reason, we seek your help in ensuring that your daughter comes to school regularly and to support us in our journey towards excellence. *If your daughter is unwell on the days set aside for coursework, she would need a valid medical certificate to do the coursework missed outside of the allotted curriculum time.* A summary of the critical deadlines is provided in Table 1 on page 3.

Finally, as we prepare to usher in the Year of the Goat, let me take this opportunity to wish all bountiful blessings and a fulfilling year ahead. Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan(Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. 2014 GCE O Level Results

In the 2014 GCE O levels, our Sec 4 Express cohort did very well with 81.7% eligible for JCs, 100% passes in 9 subjects and scored distinctions above the national average in 11 subjects. Subjects that achieved more than 25% distinctions were English Language (33.3%), Combined Humanities (38.7%), Biology (47.9%), Chemistry (52.6%), Science (Bio/Chem) (40.9%), Science (Phy/Chem) (62.5%), Higher Chinese (54.5%), Chinese (31.4%), Drama (60%) and Literature (55%).

Our Sec 5 cohort scored 100% passes in Chinese and Geography and achieved distinctions over the national average in Combined Humanities, English Language and Geography.

2. CA Week and Meet-the-Parents Session

The Common Test Week will be held from 24th to 27th February. The EL and MTL CA will be conducted on 13th February. The schedule has been issued to students.

We have also scheduled a Meet-the-Parents Session on Saturday 14th March from 9 am to 1230 pm to discuss your child's/ward's progress. Representatives from the various Institutes of Higher Learning will also be present to share what their institute has to offer to our girls. Do remember to keep the morning free to meet with us. The details of the meeting will be issued to you soon.

3. Coursework Schedules for Art, Drama, EBS and F&N

Table 1: Summary of Deadlines for Sec 4N, 4E & 5N Coursework

Subject (Teacher i/c)	Coursework Deadlines
N Level Art Coursework (Mr Juraimy Abu Bakar)	Completion Date: Thursday 16 July, 1800 h
O Level Art Coursework (Mr Ng Kuan Shin and Ms Koek Chwee Kim)	Completion Date: Friday 7 Aug, 1800 h
O Level Drama Coursework	Completion Date: Thursday 23 July, 1800 h

(Mr Owen Tan)	
N Level EBS Coursework (Mrs Judy Goh)	Completion Date: Wednesday 15 May, 1800 h
N Level F&N Coursework (Ms Nurhana Bte Achmad)	Completion date: Friday 24 April, 1800 h
O Level F&N Coursework (Miss Nufail Bte Mahmood)	Completion date: Friday 31 July, 1800 h

4. PE Programme – Outdoor Education Component

The KC PE department has been very active in fully implementing the new PE syllabus 2014 during PE lessons. A major change to the syllabus is the inclusion of an Outdoor Education component, and in January this year, the department has taught three such lessons, on the topics of hazard identification, orienteering/map-reading and basic outdoor cooking. As Geylang Bahru is a new site to our students, we thought it was apt to include the lesson on hazard identification, to teach our lessons to recognise and mitigate possible hazards in any environment. Relocating to a new site was also the reason why the orienteering/map-reading lesson was particularly useful, as students were not only taught the important skill of map-reading, but they also got a chance to get to know the new school environment better. Lastly, basic outdoor cooking was introduced with the intention of getting the students who were unfamiliar with this activity to set out of their comfort zone and try something new. This was especially beneficial to the Secondary Two students who would go on to an extended version of this activity during their upcoming Level Camp from 9 to 11 Feb 2015. Feedback from the students for the Outdoor Education component was good, and students not only learnt useful skills, they also thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the same time.

5. Art Education Programme - Art Stage

On 23rd January, accompanied by 4 teachers, 85 students under the Enhanced Art Programme visited the Marina Bay Sands Convention and Exhibition Centre to attend the Art Stage 2015 Exhibition. Our students underwent a customised programme that allowed them to appreciate art from the perspective of an artist, dealer and collector conducted by the organiser.

6. Training for Class ICT Reps

This was carried out on 26th January and the students learned how to set up the desktop/laptop/ visualiser in the classrooms and special rooms, how to toggle between the computer and visualiser, how to take care of ICT equipment such as the LCD projector, how to do simple trouble-shooting, fault reporting and the resetting of passwords, default password on MCOonline and SSOE Windows.

7. Training for Class Committee

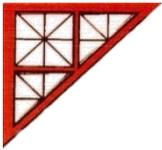
On 26th January and 2nd February, class committee student leaders underwent 2 training sessions underpinned by John Maxwell's 5 levels of Effective Leadership. Students were introduced to the basic principles of leadership as well as taught specific skills catered to the needs of the respective levels. Some of the topics included basic classroom management, team dynamics and peer mediation skills. Hands-on activities were conducted to further strengthen what they had learnt, allowing them to practise these skills using real life scenarios. With the skills garnered via the training, these student leaders will aim to lead their classmates with responsibility and resilience through the various platforms provided throughout the course of the year.

8. Speak! Ventures Debate Championship 2015 (SVDC 2015)

SVDC 2015 was held over the weekend of 24th and 25th January at Pioneer Junior College. 32 teams from across all three Divisions of the Secondary School debate circuit participated.

It was the first time for KC Debate team to participate in this competition. This competition was jointly organised by Speak! Ventures and Debate Association (Singapore). This is a preparatory tournament for the Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championship (SSDC) which served as a good tournament experience for the team. The KC team members were Kayleigh Hoggard (Sec 4/6), Afreen Alam (Sec 4/6), Cacherel Ong (Sec 4/6), Ong Hui Wen (Sec 4/4) and Charlene Lee Shi Hui (Sec 3/6).

Kayleigh Hoggard (Sec 4/6) and Ong Hui Wen (Sec 4/4) were chosen to be one of the top 20 Speakers in the Silver Division. The first round was a prepared speech round and Team KC beat Springfield Secondary School. The next 2 rounds were impromptu rounds where the team members were given an hour to prepare their speeches. Team KC beat the Singapore American School in Round 2 and Kayleigh Hoggard was chosen as the best speaker for both the prepared speech round and impromptu round. In the last impromptu round however, KC lost to Catholic High School (the defending champions of last year's SSSDC).



OUR GIRLS. OUR FUTURE

PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

Email : ptsg.kc@gmail.com

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



1st PTSG Meeting of 2015 – Welcome & Introduction

We kicked off the year with our first meeting on Saturday, 24th January. Our Principal, Ms Patricia Chan shared her background and experiences prior to joining the school and her plans and vision for the school. Ms Chan also shared with parents the MOE Parents in Education website and reiterated the importance of PTSG as a collective body of parents working with the school in building trust and moving towards a common goal to improve the learning and development of our students.

Plan for PTSG Meetings – School + Parent Segments

Parents were introduced to the PTSG committee of teachers and parents and were informed of key dates in the first semester of the school year. These dates will be updated again in the second semester. In 2015, each PTSG meeting will comprise a school segment and a parent segment. The former segment will involve subject information sessions helmed by various departments beginning with the Humanities department in January, the Science department in February and the Math department in April. Parents keen to find out more about the different subject syllabus, better understand the subject and how to help their daughters with the subject are invited to attend these sessions. The latter segment helmed by parents will involve discussions on workshops and events by parents and for parents. These will serve as rich opportunities for networking and bonding amongst parents.

PTSG WhatsApp Groups

The KC PTSG WhatsApp Groups will continue in 2015 and have already expanded to include some new Secondary 1 parents. These groups are a great way to stay in touch and keep abreast of news, activities and developments so we welcome all parents to join! Please contact Tricia or Christine if you wish to be part of the parent network and be added to the KC PTSG Whatsapp groups.

Parent Activities

The KC PTSG is keen to organise activities to encourage networking amongst parents as well as parent-child bonding. Ideas that were surfaced include tennis and archery for fathers and daughters, self-defence and beauty workshops for mothers and daughters and hobby workshops for parents. If you are keen to embark on any of these activities or have an idea or recommendation, please let the PTSG committee know.

Parents' Help Needed for School Programmes

Some upcoming events which require active parent partnership and participation are:

Reading Programme for Selected Sec 2-3 students

- Objective: Provide opportunity to practise EL reading and comprehension skills
- All materials will be provided by the school
- 1 parent: 2-3 students
- 1 hour per week
- Mondays: 2.30 – 3.30pm, Tuesdays: 4 – 5pm or Thursdays: 4 – 5pm

Career Talks With Graduating Students

- Objective: Interest and Inspire the Sec 4 & 5 students and help them learn about the world of work.
- 1 hour only
- Day and time is flexible so please let us know when you are available!

PTSG Values in Action (VIA) Projects

Parents are encouraged to organise VIA activities with their daughters and amongst parents. It will be a meaningful way to spend time together and serve the needy in the community. If you have any queries on VIA, please contact Ms Cheryl Anne Lim, HOD/Partnerships.

Next PTSG Meeting

Details of the next meeting are:

Date : Saturday 7 February 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 (Parent Reps)

Tricia 98357747

Christine 97527974

Theresa 93877674

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PTSG (Teacher Reps)

Ms Cheryl Anne Lim

Mdm Zakiah Subahan

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FAMILY matters!

Discovering the Five Love Languages for Teenagers And Developing Better Communication Techniques

This talk seeks to help you understand and rediscover your child and equip you with tools to develop and enhance your love for your child. Discover your child's love language and learn how you can keep the `emotional tank' full.

Topics include:

- Learn about the Five Love Languages and its significance
- Discover your child's love language
- Techniques in giving the right love language
- Better understand the physical, emotional and cognitive changes experienced by adolescents
- Develop effective communication techniques with your child



Venue: CHIJ Katong Convent

Date: 7th Feb 2015, Sat Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm Free!

Closing Date for Registration: 5th Feb 2015

Speaker's Profile

Johnny Ong has conducted numerous workshops in schools that focus on parenting, as well as on student development. To date, he has conducted workshops and talks on various topics in more than 50 schools. His company, *Johnny Ong Peak Performance*, is a program partner with the Ministry of Social and Family Development Family Matters @ School Programme.

He left the corporate world in 2007 after 20 years in senior sales management roles in various multi-national companies to pursue his lifelong passion of writing, speaking and training. Johnny's training methodology effectively combines first hand insights and theoretical concepts in a light-hearted, yet informative manner. He is also a certified Extended DISC consultant.

He is the author of **How To Be A Hero Dad:70 Quick and Essential Tips For Being The Best Father For Your Kids**. He also authored the personal development book **Don't Live Your Life in One Day** (available in 14 branches of the National Library)

*If you are interested, please email to lorraine.familymatters@gmail.com. Please include name, contact number, child's name, class and number of persons attending in the email. **For logistic purpose, kindly register by 5th Feb 2015**. Thank you!*



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FAMILYmatters!

LOVE THEM. TALK ABOUT SEX.

How To Talk To Your Teens About Sex

Synopsis

How to start talking to your teens about sexuality?

What our teens think about sexuality may surprise you, but what they are doing sexually may surprise you even more.

Very often parents put off talking to their children about sexuality, believing their kids are too young. Or parents may be tongue tied and uncomfortable when it comes to talking to their kids about sex. Yet, research shows that when parents engage their children in this topic, the likelihood of their children engaging in pre-marital or risky sex behaviour drops significantly. If your teen doesn't hear about it from you, she will hear it from someone else who may not have her best interests at heart. YOU are the critical element to your teen's sex education.

This talk will give parents an overview of the Youth Sexuality scene in Singapore. It also discusses key issues in youth sexuality and also gives tips on how parents can engage their teens in this important phase of their growing up years.

Parents will be better equipped to talk and help their teens in the areas of sex and healthy relationships.

Venue: CHIJ Katong Convent

Date: 14th Mar 2015, Sat Time: 9.30am - 10.30am Free!

Closing Date for Registration: 6th March 2015

Speaker's Profile

Nicolette Gnoh's personal mission in life is to be a mentor-coach to children, youth and young adults. She has a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language & Literature. She is an Associate Trainer and Family Life Educator with Filos Community Services. Nicolette's past work experiences involved being a speech and drama trainer to early learners as well as a Centre Manager in charge of the operations of an infant care, childcare and student care centre. Currently, Nicolette conducts character and life skills programmes in both Primary and Secondary schools. She conducts Sexuality Education life skills approved by the Health Promotion Board as well as the Ministry of Education.

Nicolette and her husband are parents to two adult children and a pre-schooler.

*If you are interested, please email to lorraine.familymatters@gmail.com. Please include name, contact number, child's name, class and number of person attending in the email. **For logistic purpose, kindly register by 6th Mar 2015**. Thank you!*