



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



PARENT LINK : APRIL 2016

8 April 2016

Dear Parents & Guardians

Term 1 ended on a very uplifting note for all of us at Katong Convent. Among the many activities to deepen the school experience of our students, we successfully completed the training of our class committees, Values-In-Action and Information & Communication Technology representatives, organised the MTL Fortnight and various level camps, launched, for the fourth year running, the Intergenerational Learning Programme and held our Meet-the-Parents Session on the last Saturday of the term. Leveraging the more leisurely pace of the Mar holidays, our teachers also enriched the learning of our students and conducted workshops on Romeo & Juliet and the study of 3-D Art.

Our girls will continue to be busy preparing for various sports competitions and the mid-year examination. While we continue to do our best to look after their well-being, do encourage, support and guide your daughters / wards to manage their time wisely so that they are not unduly stressed as the examination dates draw nearer. We will end Term 2 with our Honours Day -cum- Founder's Day Celebrations on 27 May. More details will be provided nearer the date and we look forward to your support and participation in this key school event.

Meet-the-Parents-Session (MTPS)

This year's MTPS was conducted on 12 March. In addition to providing feedback to parents / guardians on your child's / ward's performance in the first term, the focus of MTPS was also to provide essential information to parents /guardians on post-secondary education pathways. As such, an Education and Career Fair showcasing different post-secondary institutions such as the Polytechnics, ITE, NAFA and others was held during the MTPS.

On the whole, the Meet-the-Parents-Session was well-received by parents and guardians. The school also gleaned useful learning points and feedback from all who attended the sessions. A big thank you to all parents and guardians for your support and for making the MTPS a meaningful and enriching experience!

Parents and Guardians, we truly believe in the power of your support and encouragement. Do challenge your daughter / ward and support her at the same time. Your daughter / ward will truly "bloom where she is planted".

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Mid-Year Examination

This will begin on 14 April for the 4N cohort and 5 May for the rest of the students. The examination coverage was uploaded on MC Online and the timetable was issued to your daughters in March and this week respectively. It is timely to remind our girls and parents of the examination policy regarding mobile phones. **Mobile phones are strictly NOT allowed** in an examination venue. If a candidate is caught with a mobile phone in her possession, even if it is not turned on, it will be construed as an attempt to cheat and she may be barred from all subsequent examinations. Do refer to our Student Journal for other examination guidelines and policies and help to ensure that your daughter adheres to them.

2. Humanities / NE Challenge

The annual signature programme of the Humanities Department known as Humanities/NE Challenge, made its 11th appearance this year. The event was organised on 5 March and a total of 14 schools took part this year. This year's theme of 'Past, Present and Future: The Changing Landscape of Asia' served to educate our young on the rich history and transformation of the region.

Riding on last year's well-received format, the Challenge was made up of two segments, the 'Amazing Race' segment and the crowd favourite quiz segment, 'Humanopoly'. The top 5 teams from the 'Amazing Race' segment automatically advanced to the quiz segment.

The 'Amazing Race' segment saw all 14 schools engaged in fierce competition at various stations around the school. Students took part in different tasks and answered questions based on Geography, History and Social Studies issues. A new addition this year, was the introduction of roving game masters for participants to approach and score additional bonus points. This further tested the effectiveness of the game plan adopted by each team.

The 'Humanopoly' quiz saw 5 schools battle it out in a game of strategy and wit, as they attempted to answer questions across the humanities subjects as well as current affairs. Some of the questions required students to have knowledge beyond what they have learnt in the classroom. It was heartening to see so many of them being able to answer those questions! They have shown great resolve and intellect through the quiz rounds and played the game strategies well to maximise their scoring chances! We congratulate all participants on their successful completion of this Challenge.

It is hoped that this signature programme of the department will be sustained and will continue to receive good support from schools. We would like to extend our gratitude to the team of teachers from the Humanities Department and ex-KCians for their active collaboration and relentless effort in conceptualising this year's Challenge as well as guiding the station masters and helpers. Special mention to Southeast CDC for their generous sponsorship as always and their trust in our ability to organise this event.

2. Romeo & Juliet Workshop

To introduce the Secondary Two students to the tragic world of Romeo and Juliet and the beauty of Shakespeare's language, the Literature Department conducted an afternoon of dramatic activities as a prelude to the study of the text.

Over the course of an afternoon, students were delighted by scenes of love and hate acted out by their very own teachers, immersed in a speed-dating activity to learn about the characters, and took part in the curation of an Instagram account to capture the mood and atmosphere of key moments in the text.

Devised and run by the Literature teachers themselves, the workshop aimed to give students an overview of the characters, themes, and plot of the play. More importantly, the workshop strove to enthuse students about the text and invite them to feel for the characters.

Indeed, by the end of the workshop, many compelling responses to the play and the characters were collected. As one student put it at the end of the workshop, "Romeo, you were very brave and fearless in your love for Juliet. You shouldn't have died."

3. Words Go Round

'Words Go Round', 2016, as part of the Singapore Writers' Festival, organised by the National Arts Council, provided a rare glimpse into the writer's mind and heart for a privileged group of Upper Secondary Literature students. As part of this initiative, KC was host to highly esteemed Singaporean writers on two separate occasions, allowing for an exchange and communication of ideas and emotions through discussion of the written word.

On 3 March, as part of their Literature lesson, Core Literature students in Sec 5/0 gave a warm welcome to Ms Jean Tay, award-winning creator of the acclaimed plays *Everything but the Brain* (2005, 2007) and *Boom* (2008). *Everything But the Brain* is currently being used as an 'O' and 'N' level English literature text in secondary schools. Her talk, "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Lose", provided students with an insider's look into Tay's motivation for writing the play, which tackles pertinent issues such as ageing in Singapore and dealing with loss, written from the lens of a Physics teacher, peppered with Tay's classic brand of humour. Tay shared personal anecdotes which opened up richer interpretations of the text, as students and Tay engaged in a lively discussion of the issues and characters in the play.

3N Literature students had an equally engaging time with a panel which included Mr Cyril Wong, editor of *Here and Beyond: 12 Stories*, an anthology of Singaporean stories which is also currently being used as an 'O' and 'N' level English literature text in secondary schools. He was joined by 2 other writers with stories in the text, Mr O Thiam Chin and Ms Suchen Christine Lim, whom students were highly excited to learn had been a KC girl herself! Students were privy to a rare reading of excerpts of both writers' stories in the collection, and the panel had a good time fielding and asking questions which came fast and furious from the students who had gathered to listen intently to what they had to say, and to add meaning to their own interpretations of the text.

Students appreciated this unprecedented opportunity to hear from authors of their Literature texts, and were enthusiastic to keep lines of communication open for future such sessions. As one student quipped after Tay's session, "Meeting [Tay] has allowed me to see the play as a collection of feelings and thoughts, and not just words on a page", boding a renewed interest in breathing life into their literature texts.

4. National Library Board Talk

Angled as an introduction to this year's Book and Music Week, themed 'Of This World and Others', KC girls displayed their enthusiasm in learning more about the world of dystopian fiction through an engaging talk conducted by Ms Sandra Ganapragasam from the National Library Board as part of the Assembly programme for all students on 7 March. Students were able to share their knowledge of the wide variety of classics and contemporary books they had read, and staff and students alike were impressed by the collective knowledge of books that KC students already had. Ms Sandra took this opportunity to leverage this keen interest by introducing three more series of books, and shared her own enthusiasm and thoughts on these books, as a fellow avid reader. It was gratifying to note the rapt attention of students, and the effects of the talk were in evidence even in the days after, as students could be seen toting some of the recommendations made as they walked around school with corresponding titles in their hands.

This certainly was a wonderful window into the upcoming offerings of BMW 2016 - into the world the books, and definitely far beyond, into other worlds.

5. Enhanced Art Programme (EAP)

The EAP Enrichment workshop was carried out during the March break for our S3 students. The study of 3-D works was adopted as the unifying theme (e.g. sculpture and installation) for the two-day workshop. The Art team conducted 4 modules revolving around this theme, ranging from an inquiry into 3-D art-making by Ms Koek Chwee Kim, image-production using image-capturing devices by Mr Mohamed Faizal B Mohd Hussein, an inquiry into creative digital imaging by Mr Ng Kuan Shin and a study of 3-D works for SOVA by Mr Juraimy Abu Bakar.

6. Sec 1 Connect Camp

On Monday, 14 March, the school held a day-camp with the theme “Finding God” for our Secondary 1 catholic students. This camp was planned and run by our Catholic Activities Council Student Leaders and Catholic Peer Support Leaders from Secondary 2 – 4. There was much fun, fellowship and deepening of relationship with many God-filled moments of serenity, thoughtfulness and understanding. The students learnt about the 14 Stations of the Cross in a fun way with tasks to complete as a team. The Sec 1s also grew closer with their seniors and with each other. Along with many other activities that day, the Secondary 1s had a meaningful and fun-filled day, learning about themselves and learning about God.

7. Easter Monday Assembly

Over the course of the first week in Term 2, the school prepared for the final week of the Lenten season – Holy Week – with reflections on Holy Thursday and Good Friday by students as well as staff of the school.

Our preparation culminated on Easter, which was celebrated on 28 March as part of our afternoon assembly programme. Mr Jegathesan led the school in recalling the significance of Easter as a new beginning and a season of hope, despite the challenges we may encounter in daily life. He likened the holy octave of Easter, a new hope, to the rising of a sun; the dawn of a new morning and the end of cold in winter.

Our students proceeded to their classrooms in celebration of the festivities. Candies and small gifts were exchanged, as they participated in the ‘Angel & Mortal’ game. The girls also shared notes and simple letters of encouragement with one another to affirm the friendships in their lives. As we conclude the Lenten journey that started since Ash Wednesday, let us begin to continue striving in doing small things with great love.

8. MTL Intergenerational Learning Programme

Our MTL department embarked on their annual MTL Intergenerational Learning Programme. This programme aimed to (i) promote intergenerational understanding between students and the elderly aged 50 years and above; (ii) provide opportunity for students to interact and converse in their respective MTL; and (iii) extend a learning platform for the elderly to learn and apply IT skills. All four sessions were held in our school. To better prepare our students for their role as student teachers, soft-skills training were conducted prior to the start of the programme.

The CL unit collaborated with the Council for Third Age and Family Centre (a service by Fei Yue Community Services) to conduct IT lessons on **Photo-Video collage**. A total of 14 Sec 2 Higher Chinese students and 24 elderly participated in the programme, which involved students conversing in Chinese and teaching the elderly how to do photo editing through a mobile application ‘*Meitu Xiu Xiu*’. Subsequently, the elderly learned how to combine these enhanced photos with videos to create a video collage using a collage maker application. The theme for this year’s programme was “School Campus Life” and part of the programme entailed bringing the elderly on a short learning tour around our school campus to capture moments of authentic daily

school life. In the last lesson, the elderly did an oral presentation to showcase their work. One of the elderly had even gone the extra mile to specially dedicate a video to KC, capturing the wonderful learning experience he had! At the end of the day, students presented personalised cards and gifts to thank our elderly for their active participation. The elderly also reciprocated by giving treats and specially-made soaps to our staff and students.

Our ML unit, on the other hand, collaborated with Simei Briskwalking Group to conduct IT lessons on the use of the social app, Instagram. A total of 21 Sec 3 Express students and 20 elderly participated in the programme. Students had the opportunity to speak in Malay and partnered with the elderly to teach them applications of mobile app '*Instagram*' in their daily lives. The theme for this year's programme was "Malay Etiquette". The elderly learned how to record a short clip to capture basic Malay etiquette used in daily life. To showcase their work at the end of the programme, the elderly were taught to use hashtag on their Instagram posts. It was heart-warming to receive home-made traditional treats from the elderly in the last session. This programme was also featured in *Berita Harian* on 17 March to showcase our school's effort in encouraging lifelong learning amongst the elderly.

The MTL Intergenerational Learning Programme had indeed encouraged our students to become more self-directed and self-driven in problem-solving as they designed, led and fine-tuned the learning experience as a team to suit the learning style of the elderly. Through this programme, our students also gained an insight into the lives of the seniors, making it an invaluable learning experience for them!

9 Poly Experience - TP Sneak Preview

Some 74 graduating students attended the TP Sneak Preview at Temasek Polytechnic between 30 March and 1 April. This programme aimed to give students an insight into the various academic courses offered by the polytechnic and related careers which they may think of pursuing. On 30 March, 27 girls were at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences learning about Early Childhood Studies, Gerontological Management and Psychology Studies. In the meantime, some 21 girls went to the School of Business to hear more about the Direct Polytechnic Application (DPA) process including tips to write a good application and prepare for the DPA interview. They were treated to a tour and an unscheduled visit to the media studios with the help of a staff member of MediaBiz who is an ex-KC girl! Then on 1 April, another 26 girls attended the School of Design Annual Design Show which show-cased students' work in communication design, architecture, product design, fashion, photography, urban design and more. It is a show that is closely watched by the creative industry to spot the newest talents and freshest ideas. The programme included a talk about the school, various entry pathways and a portfolio review for the DPA exercise. It was indeed a good opportunity for the participants to deepen their awareness of courses offered by Temasek Polytechnic.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. B Division National Schools' Bowling Championship 2016

During the 23rd National Schools' B Division Bowling Championship 2016, our bowlers clinched the overall 5th position. The top four bowlers were Jana Tan Qiu Xuan of Sec 4/3, Nur Ermelia Bte Mohamad Taha of Sec 4/3, Audris Quek Han Xi of Sec 4/4 and D' Rozario Kathleen Anne also of Sec 4/3. Congratulations to all the participants for their good work!

2. Girl Guides: Wee Kim Wee (WKW) Challenge 2016 Preliminary Round

On 18 March, the following Girl Guides participated in the Preliminary Round for the Wee Kim Wee Challenge, a biennial competition that challenged them to exercise creative and critical thinking skills:

Team 1: Aliya Ram Prashad (Sec 3/4), Michelle Leong Hoi Hwa (Sec 3/2), Chloe Chew Xin Lei (Sec 2/3), Genevieve Marie Tan Jia Ling (Sec 2/3), and Soo Yean Lyn Chloe (Sec 2/2).

Team 2: Nadine Cheah Ywan Xyn (Sec 3/6), Swaminathan Narmatha (Sec 2/3), Panneerselvam Abirami (Sec 2/3), Liu Shutong (Sec 2/3), Liau Xuan Valerie (Sec 2/6), and Megan Meredith Law (Sec 3/6; as a reserve, and photographer of the event).

The Challenge allowed the Guides to showcase their culinary skills and to present their dishes with journalistic creativity. Specifically, the teams had to prepare two dishes within two hours, one of which was a surprise dish which recipe they received only on the day of the competition. The girls were required to also relate the significance of their dishes to the World Thinking Day 2016 theme "Connect". Both teams competed with other schools from the East Division, and although it was the first time that KCGG took part in the WKW Challenge, both our teams were victorious! Team 2 came in first place, and Team 1 came in third. The girls will compete in the finals which would be held in late May. We wish them all the best and are extremely proud of their efforts.

3. Girl Guides – International Camp

We are delighted to announce that the following seven girls from Katong Convent Girl Guides will be attending Flame 2016, an international Girl Guide camp held at Foxlease, Hampshire, United Kingdom from 23 to 29 July 2016. It is an excellent opportunity for the girls to engage with the international Guiding community and to forge new friendships with their sister guides halfway around the world! These Guides are Charmaine Odezza Lauchengco (Sec 2/2), Chong Sook Yee Amelia (Sec 3/6), Edylyn Ann Rodrigues Toh Jean Lyn (Sec 2/2), Genevieve Marie Tan Jia Ling (Sec 2/3), Shervon Yan Xue Wen (Sec 2/2), Shum Wei Tong (Sec 2/4) and Soo Yeon Lyn Chloe (Sec 2/2). Congratulations!

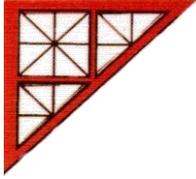
4. InfoComm Club

Kyna Lim Qi Yun of Sec 4/6 from Infocomm Club recently won a merit award in an Anti-Drug Video Competition 2016 organised by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB). Kyna aimed to raise public awareness about drug-abuse. She made a decision to animate the video instead of "acting it out" because she personally felt that more information could be shown through animation. Her hard work resulted in a videoscribe-animation which was both appealing and communicative. We congratulate Kyna on her award-winning work!

5. A*STAR's Science Award

As part of A*STAR's continuous efforts to nurture and groom young and promising scientific talent for the R&D, A*STAR has extended outreach programmes and awards to all secondary and junior college students in Singapore.

Charlene Renae Seah and Sonia Isabella Luqman Quek from Sec 3/6 represented our school and were awarded the A*STAR Science Award as they have shown a strong aptitude and interest in Math and Science. Together with awardees from other schools, both of them will be participating in a 3-day Research Exposure Programme which aims to provide hands-on and valuable research experiences. They will also have the opportunity to attend talks and seminars organized by A*STAR in the field of Science and Engineering. Well-done, Charlene and Luqman!



OUR GIRLS, OUR FUTURE



CHIJKATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

Email : kcptsg@hotmail.com

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

Next PTSG Meeting

We wish to highlight that there is a change of date for the 3rd PTSG Meeting. Details of the next meeting are as follow:

Date : Saturday 16 April 2016
Time : 9 – 11 am
Venue : AVA Theatre (Level 3, above the Hall)

Light breakfast and hot drinks will be served from 0830 onwards. There will be a subject sharing session (Science and Mathematics) for parents of Secondary 1 students from 1000 – 1100.

Please also note that there will be a talk organised by **Family Matters @School, Navigating the Teen Years from 1100 – 1300**. Details of the talk can be found on the following page. Please register for the talk if you are interested to learn more about how you can help prepare your child to be successful teenagers.

We look forward to seeing you there!

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PTSG Parents

Tricia Boey and Christine
ptsg.kc@gmail.com

PTSG Teachers

Mdm Zakiah (Sec 3 PTSG i/c)
zakiah_subahan@moe.edu.sg

Sec 1 PTSG Level Reps :

Alicia Lee and Fiona Kwa

Mrs Karen Jalleh (Sec 4 PTSG i/c)

karen_jalleh@moe.edu.sg

Sec 2 PTSG Level Reps :

Junne Yeo and Chrislyn Liau

Mdm Raudah (Sec 1 and Sec 2 PTSG i/c)

raudah_hussain@moe.edu.sg

Sec 3 PTSG Level Reps :

Yap Chin Mee and Teresa Mak

Sec 4 and 5 PTSG Level Reps :

Lorraine Khoo and Christine



FAMILY matters!

Family Matters @School

Navigating the Teen Years

Most parents are deeply concerned about their teenager's future. The chances of your teen succeeding in navigating this increasingly challenging world increases with intentional preparation. Your interaction with your children can build them up or tear them down.

This interactive seminar, based on research on Teen Wellness, focuses on the qualities that characterise successful teenagers and how you can prepare your children.

Content:

- *Research on Teen Wellness*
What kinds of families do successful teens come from?
- *A Vision of the Future*
Beginning with the end in mind
- *Building Resilience in Teens*
Fostering strength, hope and optimism in your children

Venue: CHIJ Katong Convent, AVA Room Level 3

Date: 16th April 2016, Sat Time: 11am – 1pm Fees: Free!

(Light refreshments will be served)

About The Trainer – Edwin Choy

Edwin Choy is a certified Solution Focused Therapist and also an approved supervisor of SF Therapy with the Canadian Council of Professional Certification.

Edwin founded the Centre for Fathering in 2000 and has designed and conducted impactful and successful father-child experiential bonding workshops.

Edwin has developed and conducted numerous solution focused coaching/counselling workshops for teachers, parents and civil servants. He has conducted numerous Parents as Coach training for schools which he created and has received excellent reviews on. He has also conducted a number of coaching sessions for teachers, including team coaching and workshops on how to motivate students. Edwin also supervises SF trainee therapists including some from MOE.

Edwin has delivered 2 workshops for Excel Fest organised by MOE.

*If you are interested in registering, please email glenn.familymatters@gmail.com. Please include your name, contact number, child's name and class. **For logistic purposes, kindly register by 6th April 2016.** Please note that in the event that this workshop is under-subscribed, it may be postponed. Thank you.*