



# CHI J KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

## PARENT LINK : TERM 4 2023

23 November 2023

Dear Parents & Guardians

All too soon we have come to the end of the year. This is our last issue of Parent Link for 2023. As the year draws to a close, we look back to celebrate our successes, review our programmes and plan ahead for 2024. We thank God for His special blessings on CHI J Katong Convent this year and pray for His continued grace.

In this Term 4 issue, we have featured events chronologically from early September to mid-November to give you a sense of what students continued to experience in school. Our students had an exciting term participating in enrichment activities, learning journeys maximizing their potential and serving the community. We also closed the academic term strongly with a Thanksgiving Mass as one big KC Family. Students and teachers continued to be back in school in the following 3 weeks to prepare for our Open House on 17 November. It was a most joyful day welcoming prospective Sec 1 students and their parents.

### **All Singapore Secondary Mathematics Competition**

The objectives of this competition were to stimulate greater interest and enrich students' knowledge in Mathematics, and to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their talent in mathematical knowledge and skills through solving competition questions.

This year, a total of 736 students from 77 secondary schools participated in the competition. We are pleased to congratulate Kerris Lau Yi Ting from Sec 2/7 who was ranked 15th in the Lower Secondary (Individual) Category.

### **EL Extended Curriculum: Gardens by the Bay Ambassador Programme**

24 students were trained to be ambassadors of Gardens by the Bay as part of the school's English language extended curriculum. Equipped with knowledge of the Garden, students applied their learning and hosted both local and foreign visitors confidently during the September school holiday weekends.

### **KC Awards Ceremony**

On 26 September, our school hosted a memorable KC Awards Ceremony to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students across all levels. The event was a resounding success, and it was heart-warming to see our students shine in the spotlight as we acknowledged their hard work, dedication, and achievements throughout the year.

The KC Awards Ceremony was a wonderful occasion for our school community to come together, reflect on the accomplishments of our students, and foster a sense of unity and pride. The

enthusiasm, talent, and dedication of our students left everyone in awe, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

We believe that this recognition would serve as an inspiration to all students, encouraging them to strive for excellence in their studies, personal growth, and CCA involvement.

Once again, congratulations to all the award recipients, and many thanks to our entire school community for making the KC Awards Ceremony a memorable event.

### **Book Club**

On 16 October, members of the Book Club had the privilege of visiting the newly inaugurated Punggol Regional Library. They were accompanied by students from the After-School Engagement (ASE) programme, along with their teachers.

Located in Punggol, Singapore's latest public library offers an expansive and handicap-friendly environment across its five floors. Noteworthy features include Braille texts, phonic readers, and assistive technology devices available throughout the library, designed to aid individuals with disabilities in various tasks. This visit left a lasting impression on the girls, fostering their appreciation for Singapore's commitment to inclusivity and broadening their perspective on the role of libraries.

This learning journey strongly aligns with our school's values and mission, emphasising our commitment as a caring institution. The outing effectively heightened the girls' awareness of how we can build a more caring and inclusive society.

In the end, many of the girls could not resist borrowing books from this remarkable library, and they were granted the time to do so, further enriching their experience.

### **GEAR-Up Post Exam Activities**

In the post-exam period in October, another group of our girls also visited the Punggol Regional Library and learnt how the design of a public library could play a part in building an inclusive community. They saw how the library used modern technology to engage and serve people of different ages and needs. Besides this, students also enjoyed the hands-on workshops on Interior Design and Graphic Design conducted by South-East CDC. They were taught to draw a 3-D version of their dream house and used the given materials to do up design elements for their graphic design work. They also went for a learning journey to Gardens by the Bay, visiting the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest, followed by a picnic at Marina Barrage.

Ending the year with a bang, they were treated to a pizza party on the last day of school to celebrate friendships forged.

### **Experience ITE Programme**

Our 3NA students would be reaching their next key education stage in 2024. As part of education and career guidance (ECG), our girls can look forward to a slate of customised experiences to help them discover that there are many education pathways worth exploring.

Apart from talks by the polytechnics and the junior colleges next year, the 3NA girls participated in the Experience ITE Programme (EIP) on 25 October this year. The EIP is a learning adventure

for secondary school students, specially designed to help them discover a “Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on” ITE education which can help advance their education and career pathways. Students had the opportunities to try out a variety of hands-on projects that challenged their creativity and helped them understand the application of the skills and knowledge that ITE students learn. They were also able to experience the exciting learning environment at the ITE colleges, as well as see for themselves the wide range of co-curricular activities and student facilities available to ITE students.

Some of the activities conducted include manipulating numerical codes on a programme to control a flying drone from the School of Electronics and Info-comm Technology, and taking on different roles within small groups to design, model and choreograph a catwalk for a fashion design show using available costumes and props (like cosplay) from the School of Business and Service.

The students had an interesting day indeed!

### **Thanksgiving and End of Year Mass 2023**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)  
Indeed, there was much to be thankful for the many gifts and blessings we have received this year. To commemorate the end of the academic year, we gathered as a school community, to celebrate our end of year and thanksgiving Mass, which was celebrated by Father Edward Seah, Spiritual Father at the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary and served by the Secondary 1 Catholic students.

The readings were from Romans 7:18 – 25 and Luke 12:54-59. Father Edward in his homily, reminded us to be cognisant of good and evil as we face challenges and temptations in life. He emphasised that God's love for us should guide our actions and how we live and treat others. He illustrated God's love through the care given by members of the school community and called on students to lead with love and make a conscious decision to always strive for good.

The school community then prayed for staff, students, and teachers of KC, as well as our parent volunteers who have helped to grow the faith of our lower secondary Catholic students in the Catholic Connect programme. There were also prayers for families, and the last, least and lost in society.

At the end of the Mass, Father Edward, then prayed for our Vice-Principal, Mrs Goh Bee Hoon who is retiring this year. It was a prayer asking God to bless her with good health, joy and peace as she embraces a new rhythm of rest and engagement with life. We wish Mrs Goh well and thank her for the extraordinary love and commitment to Katong Convent.

### **Girl Guides - The GIRL Adventure**

The GIRL Adventure is an international leadership programme piloted by Girl Guides Singapore. Company Leader, Megan Anne Lim Xiangyun (Sec 3/5) was selected to participate in this programme in Hong Kong from 3 to 6 November 2023 with 25 other Girl Guides, Young Adults and Adult Leaders. She had the opportunity to enhance her leadership skills through outdoor and international experiences, explore and learn Guiding values while making a positive impact on others, and foster understanding and trust among members from diverse cultural, geographical and socio-economic backgrounds.

### **Girl Guides – Share Learn Grow**

We are pleased to announce that Patrol Leader, Vimalraj Viveka (Sec 3/5) was selected to represent Girl Guides Singapore at an international forum: Leadership Development in Guiding in Brunei Darussalam from 22 to 27 November. Together with 5 other Girl Guides, Viveka would be exchanging and sharing ways Girl Guides can advocate Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations while learning about diverse cultures within the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Republic Polytechnic Food and Beverage Entrepreneurship Competition**

On 3 November, Tiffany Ting Jie Ning (Sec 3/6) and Kyra Lee (Sec 3/5) from Entrepreneur Club participated in the finals of the 4th edition of the Republic Polytechnic Food & Beverage Entrepreneurship Competition 2023, organised by the School of Hospitality, with the theme “**Zero Food Waste**.” A total of three teams from three schools qualified for the finals.

The task required participants to prepare ingredients, cook and plate their dishes within an hour. The scenario given to them was that they were a home-based business who wanted to expand their business with a focus on zero food waste. In proposing to partner with a trendy café, they were required to sell **one** innovative and unique zero food waste menu item after which they were required to pitch their sales presentation, highlighting the appeal of the menu items as part of their efforts in convincing the café owners to partner with them. This was then followed by a question and answer session with the judges with vast experience in the food industry.

The team did themselves proud by winning 2nd runner-up in the Food and Beverage Entrepreneurship Competition 2023. Well done!

### **I-LEAP**

From 7 to 10 November, our 3E Art students participated in the Incubation-Lab Enhanced Art Programme (I-LEAP) workshop. I-LEAP is an annual EAP milestone programme organised by the MOE Arts Education Branch, that brings Secondary 3 students from all 9 EAP schools together for 4 days of designing, making and collaborating.

Hosted by Nanyang Polytechnic, students had the invaluable opportunity to work in small groups with a mentor from various art and design fields. The 2023 edition featured classic, ever-popular workshops like animation, but also tapped into relatively new arenas like motion design and filmmaking. For the duration of I-LEAP, our girls stepped into the shoes of real world artists and designers, immersing in a rigorous and authentic creative process marked by new friends and experiences.

I-LEAP ended on a high and we cannot wait to see what new adventures I-LEAP 2024 will bring!

### **Humanities Trip to Vietnam**

With the re-opening of borders, our Humanities team seized the chance to organize a learning experience to Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Vietnam after a hiatus of 3 years due to the Covid pandemic.

32 excited students, accompanied by 5 teachers left Changi Airport for the bustling streets and

sites of HCMC on 6 November which became our borderless classroom with its blend of history, geography and social studies in the real world context. Students visited sites that reflect Vietnam's history, learned how the country protects its fragile ecology and felt the palpable energy of its economy and manufacturing capabilities.

This overseas learning journey has expanded our students' horizon and sowed the seeds of a discerning citizen of the world. Our student exchange programme with a local secondary school promoted interaction between students in Singapore and Vietnam and facilitated a deeper understanding for each other's culture. Prior to the trip, students also participated in the Inaugural Singapore-Vietnam Forum (SVSF2023) conducted over 2 online sessions to connect with peers from Vietnam.

Our students experienced camaraderie, personal growth and a deeper appreciation of the real world beyond textbooks. The students returned home on 10 November, certain that though tired, they would not have missed this 5-day learning journey for anything else.

### **Dreams Set Sail – Graduation Lunch**

On 14 November, the Class of 2023 was treated to a Graduation Lunch that was specially planned for them. Having gone through ups and downs together, the girls have emerged stronger and grown closer as a class and a cohort. The Graduation Lunch gave them the opportunity to get together and reconnect after the national examinations. It was a wonderful time to reminisce and create new memories with the live performance, photo booth, class videos and dedications, fun Class Awards and the scavenger hunt! Students received a beautiful KC cardholder and lanyard and thoughtful gifts from the PTSG.

'Dreams Set Sail' encapsulates our desire for the girls to set sail towards their dreams and aspirations, navigating the sea of life with determination and courage. As they embark on this exciting new adventure in their life and embrace the unknown, we hope they bring with them the KC spirit and keep it burning bright.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! All the best and may your dreams come true!

### **Open House**

On the afternoon of 17 November, KC staged our annual Open House! Besides the Principal's talk that was complemented by a student sharing, the Open House also featured CCA booths, a combined performing arts showcase, sports demonstration sessions and even a live floorball match in our Indoor Sports Hall. It was our joy to share all things wonderful about KC, and for all visitors to experience the warmth and camaraderie of the KC family. It was also a valuable opportunity for our students to come together to proudly showcase their interests, skills and talents. We look forward to welcoming next year's Sec 1s into an exciting new chapter of their school life!

### **Arts Advocates End-of-Year Arts Festival**

In the past five months, our dedicated arts advocates from Sec 1 to 3 had been working in collaboration with Bedok Library and Diverse Abilities Dance Collective (DADC) performance group to curate an exhibition that transcends the boundaries of traditional art display as part of their End-of-Year Arts Festival.

Focused on shedding light on the challenges faced by differently abled individuals and celebrating their unique strengths, the team embarked on a journey that not only highlighted artistic prowess but also ignited conversations about inclusivity and empowerment. The first phase of their collaboration involved engaging with local performance group DADC to understand their nuanced experiences and challenges faced by differently abled individuals. This allowed our arts advocates to approach their research and outreach programming in an inclusive manner that ensured the exhibition would be a true representation of the diverse narratives within the community. The exhibition was curated at Bedok Library, and our arts advocates conducted their live programming on 18 and 19 November.

Their programming included a children's book read (Can Bear Ski?) about a bear with hearing impairment, a puppet play about challenges faced by animals who are differently abled and a Q & A session to delve into our audience's perceptions, experiences to challenge their preconceptions pertaining to people within the differently abled community. Though the live programming concluded on 19 November, the exhibition will continue to be on display in Bedok Library and various other NLB libraries for a month. Beyond our students' success in the execution of the live programming and the exhibition, we hope they were able to spark conversations about the importance of inclusivity in the arts, prompting local communities to reassess their perspectives on differently abled individuals through the transformative power of the arts.

In CHIJ Katong Convent, we are continuously looking for and providing opportunities for our girls to have a rich and fulfilling school experience that will enable the girls to grow holistically to meet the challenges of tomorrow. It has been a fulfilling term of growth for the KC family and we welcome parents and guardians to continue to help source for or provide experiential opportunities for our students.

We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the parents and guardians for entrusting us with your girls' education and for the continued support you provide. Your partnership in our students' growth is truly invaluable.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

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