



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

PARENT LINK : TERM 2 2023

12 June 2023

Dear Parents & Guardians

Once again, our students had an exciting term participating in an array of activities - the National School Games, Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation, Sports Day, Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight, our signature Book and Music Week, learning journeys, ITE elective module, enrichment programme among others. We also closed the term joyfully celebrating Founder's Day Mass and Student Leaders Investiture together as one big KC Family.

We are happy to share with you an account of some of the main school events which the students experienced in the course of Term 2.

Lent and Easter Assembly 2023: Celebrating Reflection, Renewal, and Resurrection

On 28 February, a special assembly took place in the school hall, gathering non-Catholic students to learn about the history of Catholic schools and the liturgical calendar. The focus of the talk was on deepening the understanding of Lent and introducing a school-wide annual activity, "Angel and Mortal."

The assembly began with a presentation on the history and significance of Catholic schools, highlighting the contributions of Catholic schools to society and emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and respect for diverse beliefs within these educational settings.

Following the introduction to Catholic schools, the assembly shifted its focus to the liturgical calendar, with a particular emphasis on the season of Lent. They learned about the practices associated with Lent, such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, and how these actions promote personal growth and spiritual renewal in preparation for Easter.

To further engage the students in a school-wide activity, the concept of "Angel and Mortal" was introduced. This annual activity involves pairing students in their classes, with one student acting as an "angel" and another as a "mortal." The angel's role is to guide and support the mortal throughout the Lenten season, providing friendship, encouragement, and assistance in their personal and academic lives. Teachers and staff too were paired to participate in the activity.

The Catholic students and teachers meanwhile congregated in the Indoor Sports Hall for a solemn penitential service. The penitential service is a significant event during the season of Lent, where Catholics come together to reflect on their actions, seek forgiveness, and renew their commitment to their faith.

On Maundy Thursday, Parent Volunteers shared with the Catholic students the symbolism of foot washing rites. The students also had the opportunity to wash one another's feet, as a reminder of Christ's love and His commandment to love one another.

The whole school commemorated Easter with a Mass celebrated by Father Edward Seah on 11 April. The assembly was filled with joyous hymns and messages of faith and resilience. The students then went on to reveal themselves as angels to their mortals by exchanging gifts and notes of affirmation.

The Lent and Easter assembly fostered a sense of unity and community as a school. It encouraged compassion, forgiveness, and a renewed commitment to living a purposeful life guided by love and understanding, upholding our theme to love one another.

Honours Day

On 9 March, we celebrated Honours Day as a school, with a live audience in the hall as well as live streaming to Sec 1 to 3 classes. It was a heart-warming ceremony with staff, current Sec 2 to 5 prize winners, 2022 graduands, invited IJ Board Mentors, School Alumnae Association, Parent-Teacher Support Group members and parents in attendance to celebrate the achievements of all prize winners.

The programme began with the opening performance by our Choir, followed by the Principal's Address, Guest-of-Honour's Address, presentation of Academic Excellence Awards, musical interlude, and citations by teachers for all our Special Awardees.

A total of about 180 students from the 2022 cohort were affirmed and these included the following 6 recipients of our pinnacle Special Awards:

S/N	Name	Class of 2022	Award
1	Julianne Yeo Minn Yu	Sec 4/3	Blessed Barre Award
2	Jermaine Lim Jing Yuan	Sec 4/4	Sister Deirdre O'Loan Award
3	Gabrielle Marie Sunderaj	Sec 4/6	Marie Bong Literature Award
4	Yasmin Hannah Binte Mohamed Hardi	Sec 4/1	Minnie D'Rozario Sports Award
5	See Yu Qing, Charlene	Sec 4/6	Special Commendation Award
6	Ong Le Xuan Giselle	Sec 4/6	Sister Finbarr Award (Valedictorian of the year)

The IJ Long Service Awards and Partners in Education Awards were also given out during the ceremony. Immediately after the valedictory speech, our Concert Band put up a zestful performance.

The ceremony ended on a high note with a school cheer by the 2023 graduating cohort. All prize winners, invited guests and staff were treated to a reception. Many captured memories of the day against a specially-designed Honours Day photo backdrop. Once again, our heartfelt congratulations to all prize winners!

Orator's Trophy

Sana Azaharuddin (Sec 2/5) and Ervaline Loh Jia Ling (Sec 4/5) participated in the Orator's Trophy 2023. Orator's Trophy is an annual competition organised by ACJC where students develop their spontaneous oratory skills and establish confidence in public presentations. In the preliminary round, both Sana and Ervaline demonstrated an openness to feedback and a spirit of

excellence in their endeavours – they crafted 2 responses each, memorised them and video recorded their presentations.

Netizen March-on Netball Carnival

15 netballers participated in the Netizen March-on Netball Carnival organised by Sports Values on 14 March. During the competition, our netballers competed in four matches with the under-17 teams from various schools, experiencing robust competition and gaining valuable match experience. KC Netball demonstrated strong team spirit in cheering one another on during the matches and worked hard in applying their coach's feedback after every match to perform better. KC was awarded the 'Best Cheer' award, and Pitkar Adah Jiten from Sec 2/5 was selected as KC Netball's Most-Valuable-Player.

Open Mic

Equipped with visual communication strategies, these aspiring student emcees got into action quickly. They practised using effective body language, gestures, and eye contact to engage the audience in various contexts. Experimenting with icebreakers such as sharing jokes, the girls had an enjoyable time learning verbal communication and strategies to manage impromptu speeches. They walked away from the March session more confident and more ready to own the stage especially on Honours Day and Student Leaders Investiture.

The girls are looking forward to the next training session on crowd management in July and the training to become ambassadors at Gardens by the Bay. In addition, a team of girls are also gearing up for the Plain English Speaking Awards 2023 Competition taking place from June to August 2023.

Sports Day

We are thrilled to share the highlights of KC Sports Day that took place on 20 March at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). It was a memorable event which saw great enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and house spirit, and we couldn't be happier to have had our students be a part of it.

In the lead-up to the Sports Day, we witnessed the incredible dedication of our students. They practised their respective events during recess and after school, showcasing their enthusiasm and commitment. With the guidance and training from the PE teachers, teams were well-prepared for the various competitions.

The day began with an exciting opening ceremony featuring a flag relay by our House Captains and 3 School Leaders. It was an extraordinary moment, made even more special when our Principal announced the official start of Sports Day.

As the day kicked off with the 80m race, the air was filled with anticipation and excitement. The spectators, including proud parents cheered passionately for their respective Houses, eagerly awaiting the start of each race. The competitions proceeded swiftly, featuring events such as the 4 x 100m relay and the 8 x 50m relay.

One of the highlights was the 4 x 100m House relay, where two teams from each House represented their House in the race. Additionally, we witnessed an exhilarating long rope jump,

showcasing the skills of ten girls from each class. Accompanied by uplifting music, they mesmerized the audience with a two-minute countdown. The House cheers were another delight, with the House Captains leading their Houses to come up with creative, catchy, and high-spirited cheers.

Reflecting the collaborative relationship between parents and teachers, the last event was the 8 x 50m Inter-House Parents and Teachers Race. Each House formed teams consisting of a mix of parents and teachers. This event generated tremendous anticipation as students had the opportunity to cheer for both their Houses, their parents and teachers, who joined forces in the same team.

The day ended with a closing speech and prayer led by our Principal. Despite the fatigue from the day's activities, everyone departed in high spirits. Students rushed to the field to capture their precious moments before bidding farewell to one another.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all staff who were deployed for various duties and actively participated in the event. Their continuous support and commitment were invaluable in making the Sports Day a resounding success. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Parent-Teacher Support Group for their invaluable assistance in road marshalling and crowd control, as well as their participation in the relay race. Parents' encouragement and presence truly made a difference. We are also proud of our students' achievements and the positive sportsmanship they displayed throughout the event.

Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Fortnight

In this year's MTL Fortnight which took place from 20 March to 31 March, students had the opportunity to enhance their language skills and deepen their understanding of the associated cultures through a plethora of activities ranging from cultural discovery to language immersion.

We hope that students had fun participating in these specially curated activities during and outside curriculum time. May they continue to be inspired and encouraged to actively use their Mother Tongue languages in their daily interactions with others!

Chinese Language (CL)		Malay Language (ML)	
Language Appreciation Programme			
Creative Writing Competition (For all levels)			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promote MTL literary writing in school● Provide students with a platform to express creativity and demonstrate the ability to stimulate and engage in meaningful discussions on topics and issues related to language and culture		
Language Game (Polyphone) (Sec 1) 多音字游戏 Language Game (Word Chain) (Sec 3NT) 词语接龙游戏		Scrabble Competition (Sec 1 – 5)	

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the joy of learning Chinese Language through games Expanding students' vocabulary and knowledge of the polyphone 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the joy of learning Malay Language through games To expand students' vocabulary
Mandarin POP Music Sharing (Sec 3-5) 中文流行歌曲分享会		Kahoot! Quiz (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the joy of learning Chinese Language through Chinese songs. Expanding students' vocabulary while helping them appreciate how they are used to evoke strong emotions in some of their favourite songs 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand students' knowledge and vocabulary on a variety of areas related to the theme
Cultural Exposure Programme			
Tie-Dye Art Experience (Sec 1) 扎染 Han Costume Experience (Sec 2) 汉服文化		Bunga Manggar (Sec 1)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate the traditional art of tie-dye and Han costume Learn about the aesthetics and symbolism behind the Han costume 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expose and provide opportunities for students to learn about Malay wedding celebrations Hands-on experience making the Bunga Manggar, a traditional decoration used to usher the bride and groom to the wedding dais To understand the significance of Bunga Manggar in Malay weddings
ACM Tang Shipwreck Learning Journey (Sec 2) 参观“黑石号”展览(亚洲文明博物馆)		Bunga Rampai (Sec 2)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Journey to see the Tang shipwreck exhibition was a great introduction for the Sec 2s as they saw up close how Singapore played our part in the development of ancient trade Hear the ACM docents share stories of the exhibits and their cultural significance 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expose and provide opportunities for students to learn about Malay wedding celebrations Hands-on experience making the Bunga Rampai or flower assortment commonly given as a token of gratitude during special occasions like weddings To understand the significance of Bunga Rampai in Malay weddings

Virtual Hong Kong Tour (Sec 3) 香港虚拟游		Bunga Telur (Sec 3)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the virtual tour of Hong Kong, Sec 3 students took a closer look at some of the streets in Hong Kong and saw how people in Hong Kong go about their daily lives, for example, ordering food in a local slang. This is very similar to Singapore's local kopitiam culture, which our students could relate to. Expose students to the Chinese language as they listened closely to the tour guide for clues to take part in the online Kahoot! games 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expose and provide opportunities for students to learn about Malay wedding celebrations Hands-on experience making the Bunga Telur, a traditional Malay wedding decoration that consists of boiled eggs decorated with artificial flowers and presented to guests as a token of appreciation for attending the wedding ceremony To understand the significance of Bunga Telur in Malay weddings
Discover Our Culture at Bukit Pasoh Road (Sec 1 to 4 HCL) 武吉巴梳路导览		Sirih Junjung (Sec 4/5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Chinese students made a trip to Bukit Pasoh Road and had a glimpse of how the early settlers from China built their lives in Singapore. Students were introduced to the various musical instruments and had hands-on experience at Song Leng Music Association. 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expose and provide opportunities for students to learn about Malay wedding celebrations Hands-on experience making the Sirih Junjung, a traditional Malay centerpiece arrangement that is usually displayed prominently at the wedding venue To understand the significance of Sirih Junjungi in Malay weddings

Applied Learning Modules (ApLM@ITE)

As part of Education Career Guidance programme, Sec 2/7, 3/7 and 4/7 attended a 3-day Applied Learning Module at ITE College Central, College East and College West respectively from 27 March to 29 March. The objective of the programme was to widen their knowledge of various career paths in various industries to prepare them for post-secondary education. Sec 2/7 went through the Dramatiques course, Sec 3/7 learnt about Beauty Artistry and Sec 4/7 underwent an Introduction to Restaurant Services course.

The Dramatiques course enables students to apply basic acting skills as well as assist in managing and executing various production activities leading up to a performance, including managing the lightings and sounds. This module is a taster-course to the Higher Nitec

Performance Production course and complemented the stage management lessons they had in Cabin Club.

The Beauty Artistry course gives an insight into the professional salon operations and covers the types, purposes, use and care of the various tools and products available. Students who have completed the course will be equipped with the basic knowledge and skills for skincare, makeup and nails techniques that will enhance their professional appearance which will help to create a unique image for themselves. In addition, it also serves as a taster-course for students who are interested to pursue Nitec or Higher Nitec in Beauty and Wellness (Management).

The Introduction to Restaurant Services course provides the students an overview of the Food and Beverage operations as well as an introduction to food service in a restaurant environment. Students were taught some ways of preparing and serving delicious and hydrating non-alcoholic drinks as well as setting up a table for the occasion with napkins and tableware. This course is related to Nitec and Higher Nitec in Hospitality Operations.

In addition, students will earn a credit point upon passing the practical assessment at the end of the module which can be used as part of their Elective Module requirements in ITE. They will also receive either an ITE Certificate of Participation or ITE Certificate of Achievement. These certificates can be added into their portfolio when applying for post-secondary ITE courses via Early Admission Exercise - an aptitude-based admissions exercise that allows students to apply and receive conditional offers for admission to ITE based on their aptitude and interest, prior to receiving their final GCE N(T) Level examination results. Such exercise allows ITE greater flexibility in selecting students based on a broader measure of criteria, other than academic grades, thus allowing a wider range of talents to be recognised.

KC Concert Band at Esplanade Concert Hall

On 29 March, our Concert Band made its fourth appearance at the Esplanade Concert Hall to mesmerise the audience with a full-length concert performance, Limelight. Limelight is a special concert series showcasing some of the best school bands and choirs in Singapore. The KC Band's outstanding achievements in the local schools' arts scene have given it the honour of being invited again this year by Esplanade to perform at Singapore's Esplanade Concert Hall. The band performed a repertoire of enchanting music pieces such as Spring by Randall Standridge, Paper Cut by Alex Shapiro and pop songs from Michael Jackson and Bruno Mars.

Half of the ticket proceeds from this concert went toward supporting Esplanade's community engagement programmes which bring the arts to at-risk youth, the elderly, those with special needs and other underserved communities. The KC Concert Band hopes to continue with its efforts to entertain while at the same time be of service to the less fortunate.

Sec 1 Historical Investigation

From end March, the respective Sec 1 classes kicked-started their Historical Investigation project which required them to step into the shoes of historians to conduct an inquiry on the struggles of the British to maintain law and order during Singapore's colonial years. Through analysis of a variety of both primary and secondary sources, students developed their own conclusions on the inquiry question.

To further enhance the experiential learning process, the students were also brought to the National Museum of Singapore where they explored the exhibits that would support them in their analysis of the inquiry focus. With the museum's use of lighting and intricately designed settings,

the reflective atmosphere evoked a sense of wonder in the students as they interacted with the different artefacts and uncovered the attempts of the British and their impact on the state of law and order in colonial Singapore. The post-museum activities allowed for more collaborative learning as students would have to come together to analyse what they had seen and read to draw their own conclusions to the inquiry.

Articulation Prize Singapore

With enthusiasm and a deep appreciation for artistic expression, two of our visual arts students, Ilham Zahrah Binti Mohamad (Sec 3/3) and Nikole Law Sebourne (Sec 4/3) eagerly participated in the Articulation Prize Singapore art presentation competition, organised by National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum in conjunction with National Gallery, London. We proudly commend both students for their efforts. Nikole also reached the semi-finals with her own rendition of a gameshow styled presentation of artworks. Through their participation in the competition, the students not only gained valuable insights into the world of art but also contributed to the promotion and recognition of artists, fostering an environment of collaboration, appreciation, and artistic growth.

East Division Day

On 1 April, our KC Girl Guides Company participated in the annual East Division Day, where Guides from schools in the east division competed and showcased their talents and skills through various competitions. In line with Girl Guides Singapore's aim to develop Girl Guides as advocates of Sustainable Development Goals, the theme for the competitions was 'Our World, Our Peaceful Future'. The Guides explored the different issues and ways to achieve a more sustainable and peaceful future and presented them in the 11 competitions. We are pleased to share the following results which reflected our Guides' effort, creativity, resourcefulness and perseverance:

Toymaking (1st place)

1. Arasu Princiz Gandhi Contado (Sec 1/5)
2. Sum Yu Ting (Sec 3/1)
3. Palak Khetan (Sec 3/5)

Skit (Merit)

1. Lim Shi Min (Sec 1/3)
2. Lechelle Lee Yun En (Sec 1/5)
3. Nur Farhany Binte Abdul Hazim (Sec 1/5)
4. Marissa-Faith Heng Yee Yin (Sec 2/4)
5. Sivani Pramod (Sec 3/5)

Cultural Performance Exposure Scheme (CPES)

In conjunction with CPES (“文化随意门”计划), a MOE initiative to promote Chinese Language (CL) learning and to expose students to CL cultural performances, the CL Unit had arranged for the Secondary 3 Chinese and Higher Chinese students to watch a mandarin musical comedy entitled 《都是当兵惹的祸》 (*The Soldier & His Virtuous Wife*) on 6 April. This musical, staged by The Theatre Practice (实践剧场) and helmed by Mandopop artistes Joanna Dong, Calvin Soh and Ric Liu, featured a wonderful combination of witty wordplay, uproarious irreverence, traditional Yuan opera and contemporary pop music.

A total of 138 students attended the live performance at the Drama Centre Theatre and they relished this opportunity for a live performance since the pandemic in 2020. Prior to the show, students learnt about elements of a musical in class. They also debated over the protagonist's decisions and values as part of their post-show discussion in class. We hope students cherished this CL cultural appreciation opportunity and continue to find joy in learning the Chinese Language!

National Civil Defence Cadet Corps (NCDCC) Observance Day

Each year on 12 April, the NCDCC commemorates NCDCC Day. All NCDCC cadets and teacher officers donned their Uniformed Group (UG) uniform proudly throughout the school day to commemorate the establishment of NCDCC in 2005 and their key history and milestones.

As part of the special occasion, morning assembly was led by the executive members of the NCDCC cadets and the NCDCC parade contingent comprising all our cadets. Our Principal read the NCDCC Day speech from Commandant NCDCC and underscored our constant commitment to renew, refresh and reinvent. This was a meaningful message to our cadets as they continue their service to the Corp, the school and the wider community.

Writer's Lab

On 17 April, more than 25 budding writers from Sec 1-4 gathered together at the library after school for a playwriting workshop conducted by Jean Tay, an established local playwright.

The students learned some tips to overcome writer's block by using generative free writing to shape into either a play, a short story or poems. Jean taught the various structures that are found in plays and the difference between writing for page, stage and screen. She also shared about the elements of drama from Aristotle's poetics, which are important to add when writing a play. Students were taught different avenues to draw inspiration from namely, current affairs, history and observations. Jean shared many useful ideas to create characters by using timeline and milestones; what they are most afraid of and would like to keep as a secret. Students also enjoyed sharing with each other their characters' monologues that they created at the workshop.

Book and Music Week

The vibrant atmosphere of creativity and talent filled the air as the annual Book and Music Week (BMW) unfolded, bringing together students from various disciplines to showcase their artistic prowess. This year's BMW was a captivating celebration of music, dance, visual arts, and poetry, as students eagerly stepped onto the stage to share their passions with the enthusiastic audience. Our theme for this year was "all the eye (i) cannot see". Using this as a starting point, students had to explore the creative possibilities of what the eye cannot see: be it using their different senses to create or to bring about a different perspective to the audience. The presence of external speakers and performers further enriched the students' BMW experience and further sensitise students to refreshing perspectives.

Across the three days of festivities, each class took ownership of their assigned events by presenting different arts-based presentations and performances, based on different creative prompts assigned. Certain activities ranged across the entire school, such as the busking event, where each level presented a performance of their choice based on a story or character. Furthermore, each class also had an opportunity to participate in *Get Ready with Me*, a character-inspired fashion parade where they designed and created outfits for characters of their chosen text.

This signature arts festival not only showcased the incredible talents of the students but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and appreciation for the arts within the school community, inspiring the next generation of artists to explore and express their creativity.

Social Studies Issues Investigation

The Humanities department organised an experiential learning experience for our Secondary 3 students to the Urban Redevelopment Authority's (URA) Singapore City Gallery on 15 May as part of their Social Studies Issues Investigation project. Examining the inquiry question, 'Has the government made effective decisions regarding land use in Singapore?', students interacted with the gallery and exhibits to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in planning for land use in Singapore. We are confident that our students can better appreciate how prudent decision-making and good governance bring benefits to Singapore to make it 'a great city to live, work and play in'.

As a follow-up from this trip, they collaboratively analysed and discussed an article with case studies of land use in Singapore, evaluating the merits and trade-offs incurred and deciding if the decisions made were justifiable.

Art Learning Journey

As an Enhanced Art Programme School, KC Art Department takes pride in offering our Art students rich learning experiences both within and outside of the classroom. On 16 May, our Sec 3, 4E and Sec 1 DSA (Visual Arts) students took a trip to National Gallery Singapore to spend an afternoon immersed in art.

Our girls visited three exhibitions: 'See Me See You: Early Video Installation of Southeast Asia', 'Living Pictures: Photography in Southeast Asia' and 'Liu Kuo-Sung: Experimentation as Method'. Teachers served not as guides, but as facilitators, leading discussions and raising questions to help students view the exhibitions through a lens of curiosity and critical inquiry. These exhibitions were specially selected to expose our girls to a wide range of artistic media and processes, including video, sound, sculpture, photography and non-traditional forms of painting. This variety mirrors the approach in our Art curriculum, where we encourage our girls to venture out of their comfort zones by experimenting with different tools and techniques to amplify their artistic voice.

As a bonus, some of our girls managed to catch a few of their O-Level SOVA (Study of Visual Arts) artworks in the exhibition 'Siapa Nama Kamu? Art in Singapore since the 19th Century.' The first time encountering an artwork in the flesh is always a magical experience for students, and we are glad to have been there with them for this milestone!

Performing arts-based learning (PABL)

We are pleased to bring you an exciting update on the recent PABL event "How Rhythm Works" that took place on 16 May. Our students visited the prestigious Yong Siew Toh Music Conservatory and witnessed the mesmerizing Metropolitan Festival Orchestra in action!

Under the skilled guidance of the esteemed music conductor, Dr. Tony Makarome, the event offered an interactive session that delved into the captivating world of rhythm. Our students actively participated in the session, gaining a deeper understanding of how rhythm works through familiar folk tunes like "Geylang Sipatu" and "Chan Mali Chan." This exposure left a deep impression on their minds and nurtured their passion for music.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Parent-Teacher Support Group and the accompanying teachers who made this event possible!

Shakespeare in the Park

It has been five years since Katong Convent last attended that fateful performance of Julius Caesar at 2018's Shakespeare in the Park -- a performance that was dramatically rained upon and saw students huddled under picnic mats and programme booklets, wet but spirited. Perhaps, it was the magic of the play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, that ensured that the Sec 3 Literature and Drama Appreciation Excursion on 19 May was a truly bewitching experience. Under the stars with the high squeaks of bats winging overhead, the students watched spellbound as the four lovers traipsed across Athens, wandering among the audience as they searched for their true love, getting in the most ridiculous situations that evoked roars of laughter. It was a fitting close to the term and the students left, euphoric at the beauty of drama and the craft of Shakespeare's language.

Singapore International Festival of the Arts *We Will Slam you with our Wings* Installation

It was with great excitement that the Sec 4 Drama Elective Programme students received the invitation from the Singapore International Festival of the Arts to take part in a site specific performance and venue takeover within the installation site for the opening of the audio-visual installation *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS* by Australian artist, Joanna Dudley.

The artist, Joanna, planned a unique experience, tailoring the most relevant and fitting programme for our students. Drawing on the techniques used to create *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS*, she guided the girls to create vocal compositions and choreograph movement while collaborating and directing one another. As another element of the workshop, each student also helped create another's portrait sitting in front of one of the original backdrops used in the filming of *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS*. By artistically directing each other and sharing visions, they decided how to portray their own narrative of power and had a series of self-portraits to take home.

The performance on 20 May was well received by the audience and the students had indeed put their best foot forward. Joanna wanted to include the student's individual talents into the piece such as acrobatics and singing to add a personal flair to it. She gave the students artistic freedom when it came to thinking of Power Poses for the performance and this helped them to actively contribute to the creating process as they brainstormed ideas together. The experience was a great opportunity for the students to apply what they were taught in the classroom, such as working as an ensemble. With the guidance of Joanna Dudley, the students put up an awesome performance.

Founder's Day

This year, our school embarked on our Founder's Day journey 2 weeks early through the playing of IJ songs in the morning before morning assembly and a Singapore Council of Women's Organisation (SCWO) exhibition on influential IJ and KC women. The final week leading to Founder's Day also saw each day's morning reflection focused on a particular tenet of the IJ and KC story such as the motto and values to strengthen our understanding and appreciation of our heritage, while the daily noon prayer focussed on a novena to our founder, Fr. Nicholas Barre.

On 24 May, the school began celebrations with a thanksgiving mass to pray for all IJ schools and the wider IJ family. Fr Venus Colaco from the Church of the Divine Mercy celebrated the mass. To actively engage students in knowing and celebrating our heritage, the lower secondary classes completed heritage puzzles which involved students roaming to several heritage spaces in the school to find the answers. It was an exciting activity which got students interested in the IJ and KC story as well as got them pumped up as they raced to complete the puzzle. The upper secondary classes had dedicated time to visit the SCWO exhibition and reflect on the women who inspired them. The graduating cohort also managed to visit the school Chapel to learn more about the venue and the significance of certain artefacts and processes. During the 2-hour long heritage segment, all classes also had time to come together to sing IJ songs like 'Caritas' and 'Hold on to our dream', building camaraderie and the IJ spirit. In addition, to seal the IJ bonds forged, every class went around to various locations in the school to take their class photos with their form teachers.

All these purposeful activities and experiences serve to not only strengthen each IJ girl's understanding and appreciation of the past, but also to instill in her a sense of fortitude and humility to prepare her to be a role-model among women for the future.

Student Leaders Investiture

Held also on 24 May and organised by the Student Leadership Board, the theme for this year's investiture was "Going Beyond Oneself", which centres on stepping out of one's comfort zone and putting others' needs before ours.

Staff and students gathered in the hall to witness this significant event. The first segment sought to recognise the service and contributions of the outgoing student leaders, while the second focussed on the endorsement of the incoming student leaders of 2023/2024. A Zoom link was also provided for family members to witness this event virtually.

The celebratory event began with our Principal's opening address followed by the presentation of our outgoing leaders, and a speech by our outgoing president, Segarra Tanya of Sec 4/4. She reflected on the initiatives accomplished in the past year, and thanked the team of people behind her for their dedication and service to the school. She also expressed her heartfelt thanks towards all who played a part in her leadership journey.

The second half of the proceedings began with the handover ceremony, which saw our principal, handing the student leadership plaque to Tanya. Thereafter, Tanya handed the plaque to the new incoming president Liann Falsado of Sec 3/6, to symbolise the transfer of responsibility and authority to the new Student Leadership Board.

The final segment witnessed the badge pinning and student leaders pledging to be a positive role model, leader and voice of the student body. The investiture ended with a live performance put together by the student leaders themselves. They exhibited incredible groove as they captivated the audience dancing and singing to the song 'Treasure'.

It was indeed a meaningful milestone for our student leaders on their leadership journey.

IJ Student Forum

The Founder's Day commemoration continued into the afternoon of 24 May with the IJ Student Forum organized by the IJ Board at CHIJ Toa Payoh Primary, Barre Hall. Eighty of our student

leaders participated in this meaningful forum where students learned from IJ alumnus: Ms Jacqueline Loke, Ms Evelyn Louis, Ms Teo Jin Lee, Ms Rachel Teo, Ms Mathilda Ho and KC's very own alumni, Ms Nadia Samdin.

All renowned in their field, the speakers offered much depth and insight as they shared authentic life lessons with the students and teachers, their experiences contributing to society, and motivated the audience with possibilities that lie ahead for them. They certainly made Father Nicholas Barré proud as they remained Simple in Virtue and Steadfast in Duty and left a mark for the students to emulate!

Perfume-Making Workshop

The Science department conducted a Perfume-Making Workshop on 25 May to encourage curiosity for Science in our students and bring the learning of Science beyond the classroom!

Students learnt more about the history of perfumes and how they are made. They even had a go at making their own perfume using orange peel, rose petals and jasmine flowers! Through this hands-on learning experience, they witnessed for themselves how scientific knowledge is relevant in real world applications. Should they decide to pursue a career in the perfume industry, some of them may well end up producing the next Chanel No. 5!

Singapore Mathematical Olympiad (SMO) Training and Competition

The Sec 2 students who attended the training last year continued their learning from 6 February to 29 May 2023 over Zoom. The training programme seeks to challenge and stretch our girls' mathematical potential as they delved into mathematics beyond the syllabus, exploring concepts in algebra, geometry, and number theory.

The girls also honed their problem-solving skills by working on complex and challenging tasks to prepare for the SMO competition on 30 May 2023. Beyond the experience of competing, the girls enjoyed solving non-routine problems and working closely with their peers in groups.

PROGRAMMES SPANNING TERM 2 and SEMESTER 1

Parent Engagement Webinars (Term 2)

Graduating cohort

A webinar for the graduating cohort parents and guardians was conducted on 22 March where the Principal shared student experiences over the course of Term 1, as well as the key milestones for the students for the upcoming year. Our Education and Career Guidance Counsellor (ECGC), Ms Kate Choo gave an overview of post-secondary progression pathways and the timeline for the upcoming admission exercises such as Direct School Admission (DSA-JC) and Early Admission Exercise (Poly EAE and ITE EAE). The school counsellor also shared practical strategies that parents could employ to deepen parent involvement in supporting the mental and social well-being of their child as they gear up for the national exams.

Graduating cohort Meet-The-Parents Session

To further strengthen our home-school partnership, we invited parents of the graduating cohort for the Mid-Year Meet-the-Parents session on 24 and 26 May to provide them the opportunity to

meet subject teachers and discuss ways to support the students in achieving their desired results. The school hoped that the strong home-school partnership can facilitate more positive outcomes for the child and with parental involvement at home, it could further help to deepen the child's learning, as they prepare for the national exams.

Sec 2

The webinar for Sec 2 parents took place on 22 April. Our Principal shared on the KC school experience and curriculum matters while the Year Head shared some concerns which students have expressed in their check-in survey, as well as tips for parents to support the child in managing their emotions. The Subject Options Team leveraged the webinar to conduct briefings on the Upper Secondary Express and Normal Academic subject options. Next term, the Normal Technical (NT) students would have a separate session with the ECGC to understand how the NT subjects articulate into their post-secondary pathways.

Arts and Culture (Term 2)

Term 2 was a wonderfully exciting and productive time for the Arts Advocates which began with the management of KC's signature Arts Festival, Book and Music Week. With new roles including the arts advocates as programme representatives and judges, BMW saw a whole new level of student involvement. The executive committee also took charge of conceptualising and directing the rollicking opening ceremony which saw the involvement of our principal in the role of the Queen of Hearts.

All too quickly BMW was over, and the leadership interviews of our incoming executive committee took place, seeing the emplacement of Dylan Francis as Creative Head, Tasha Pereira as Publicity Head, Kayley Liu as Production Head, Faith Wee as Programming Head, Mariam Irfan, Ilham Zahrah, and Coco Lee as Presidents. We wish them all the best in their new appointments.

The term ended with a bang with the Arts Advocates attending the Singapore International Festival of the Arts and having the privilege of speaking to festival director Natalie Hennedige to find out how an arts festival is run even as they plan their own arts and culture festival for the end of the year!

GEAR-UP Programme (Semester 1)

The Guiding & Empowering students for Affiliation and Resilience to Unlock their Potential (GEAR-UP) programme in KC has benefited various groups of students in Semester One. The school has identified students who would benefit from various customized programmes and has organised activities such as cookery lessons, archery, art & craft and team building activities for them. Two other unique programmes that we have organised for the Gear-Up students include the Watercolour Resilience Workshop and the Barista Mindset Resilience Training.

Watercolour Resilience Workshop

To promote mental wellness, the school invited a trainer from the Singapore Association for Mental Health to conduct a watercolour workshop which seeks to build resilience in students by using art as a medium. Using watercolour to express their thoughts, students explored the topics of self-worth, safety in relationships, self-care and things they value in life. It was a meaningful time of contemplation for our students as they had uninterrupted quiet time on 6 afternoons in a busy Term 1 to allow their creativity to flow along with their thoughts.

Adjust & Try Again: Barista Mindset Resilience Training

The school partnered Bettr Academy in conducting a 5-session barista course for students in the last two weeks of May. Through learning knowledge of barista skills and techniques, students developed interpersonal communication skills to build positive relationships with teachers and peers, as well as built resilience by learning to challenge negative thoughts and reframe perceptions. The course culminated in a coffee presentation at the final session, where students worked together in teams under pressure to brew coffee for invited guests - our principal, their parents and friends. It was an enjoyable and fruitful experience for our students as they learned valuable skills and bonded with their school mates.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS (NATIONAL LEVEL)

Puan Noor Aishah Gold Award 2022

The KC Girl Guides company was presented the Puan Noor Aishah Gold Award for work done in 2022. The Puan Noor Aishah Award is a prestigious award presented to Brownie and Guide companies that have fulfilled the criteria set by Girl Guides Singapore. To win this award, Guides or Brownies must participate actively in the unit, divisional and HQ activities, serve the community wholeheartedly, and be self-directed when it comes to levelling up their guiding skills and proficiency; Guiders, who are the teachers-in-charge of the company, have to organise the activities for the weekly meetings, and on top of that, be active contributors in divisional and HQ meetings and activities. This award will serve as a motivation for us to continue to do our best, and to train future-ready leaders. The company would also be organizing our annual Girl Guides camp from 29 May to 1 June.

National School Games (NSG)

Students and teachers at KC demonstrated immense dedication and hard work in preparing for NSG 2023. They invested significant time and effort to excel in their respective sports. 6 Sports and Games Co-curricular Activities (CCAs) participated in the NSG this year. Their collective efforts and dedication to their respective sports have not only contributed to individual achievements but also strengthened the overall sports culture in KC.

Badminton: The students committed themselves to rigorous training schedules to prepare for the NSG, honing their skills and improving their gameplay. The level of commitment showed their determination to perform at their best during the NSG.

Bowling: KC bowlers participated in the championships and displayed perseverance, teamwork, and excellent bowling skills. We are proud to announce that Lim Li Ning Mildred from Sec 3/2 and Oh Elizabeth Johanna from Sec 4/6 clinched the fourth place in the doubles event.

Canoeing: Similarly, the canoeists put in tremendous effort despite facing various challenges. They trained and competed in unfamiliar waters and coped with inclement weather conditions that sometimes caused delays. Despite these obstacles, the canoeists persevered and gave their all in every race. We would like to congratulate Jorune Repsyte from Sec 2/1, Saanvi Lundia and Jasmine Yap Qin Wen from Sec 2/3 and Keesha Mahmood from Sec 2/6 for finishing 3rd in the C division K4 - 500m race.

Floorball: The B division floorball team embraced the opportunity to represent school with enthusiasm. They underwent arduous skills-focused training and played matches that required mindful time management. Throughout the tournament, they displayed high spirits, camaraderie, and sportsmanship, reflecting their dedication to their sport and pride in representing their school.

Netball: The netball team showcased grit and determination during their matches. They faced tough opponents but never backed down, consistently striving to perform their best and earn victories. Their hard work during training was evident in their performances on the court.

Track & Field: The track and field athletes battled unfavorable weather conditions and the pressure to surpass their personal bests. Each athlete accepted the challenge with good cheer, embracing the opportunity to grow and learn from their experiences. Through the immense competition, Micole Wee Purida Nantaleya from Sec 2/1 emerged 2nd runner-up in the 1500m race.

Non School-based Sports: In addition to our school-based sports CCAs, KC also supported students in various non school-based sports such as Golf, Fencing, Wushu, Swimming and Taekwondo. These student athletes gained meaningful experiences competing in the NSG. It also gives us great pleasure to share that Megan Tsu Sze Yin from Sec 4/5 brought home the gold medal in the Taekwondo Kyorugi B Division Girls Poom Belt Under 56 kg Category. In Fencing, Nabihah Raiedah Binte Mohammad Fadly from Sec 3/2 won a silver and a bronze medal in 2 different categories. Well done, girls!

Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation (SYF AP)

The SYF Arts Presentation (AP) is a performance and benchmarking platform that offers opportunities for continuous learning and improvement through feedback from industry professionals. It is also an opportunity for our students to showcase their hard work and talent, while inculcating discipline and perseverance in our students. The Performing Arts CCAs in KC remain an important part of the school's focus on the Communicative, Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA), and the SYF AP afforded the school an opportunity to showcase the vibrancy of our Performing Arts CCAs. All six of our Performing Arts CCAs, Choir, Chinese Drama, Chinese Orchestra, Concert Band, Dramatic Arts Society and Modern Dance, participated in the SYF AP this year. We are proud to announce the following SYF results for our PA CCAs:

Chinese Drama: Certificate of Commendation

Chinese Orchestra: Certificate of Accomplishment

Choir: Certificate of Distinction

Concert Band (Brass Ensemble): Certificate of Distinction

Concert Band (Percussion Ensemble): Certificate of Distinction

Dramatic Arts Society: Certificate of Distinction

Modern Dance: Certificate of Distinction

Congratulations and well done to our students and teachers!

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.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.