



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

PARENT LINK : MARCH 2022

8 March 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians

We are coming to the end of one academic term. Understandably, staff and students are looking forward to the break and spending some quality time with family members. We hope that you will help to guide your daughter/ ward to use her time wisely and meaningfully during this break to be ready for the varied learning experiences of Term 2.

Here is an account of some of the main school events which your daughter/ ward experienced from mid-January to end of Term 1.

Secondary 1 Level Camp

"Transition to Secondary School - The Beginning of my Journey to Excellence" was the theme for the Secondary 1 level camp held on 17 January. Recognising their recent transition from primary to secondary school, the camp was specially crafted to impart skills and knowledge for our students to start right and eventually to build their character and resilience, as they work towards excellence.

The students started the day with a hearty breakfast catered by the school. Our principal, Mrs Thong, introduced the growth mindset and shared on how achievements could be attained through purposeful engagement. Continuing along the same line, the school counselors provided useful tips on how to thrive in secondary school that included reaching out to others when in need and investing their time wisely. Through social skills lessons, students learned selected study skills and strategies such as time management. They also acquired knowledge on inter-personal skills to foster a deeper understanding of self, as well as to develop positive relationship building skills with others. The next part of the camp got students to explore the importance of building a positive community of learning as a class through hands-on activities, while also recognising their personal role as a team player in the class. To conclude the day, Year Head, Ms Lim, reiterated the idea of excellence which was not about seeking perfection, but striving to do their best in everything they do.

Lastly, we leave you with some takeaways from the students:

"Teamwork is very important and having a growth mindset can change your everyday life." – Aashna D/O Kannan (101)

"This session on growth mindset allows us to change our mindset. It reminds us that we are never too young to change something or make a difference to the world." - Ye Qinzhi (102)

"Speak at an appropriate tone and how to respect others even when you are angry." – Adilah Binte Abdul Razak (103)

"I got to know my friends better and learnt how to work with them. We played games that required teamwork and everyone's cooperation. We can put what we learnt into practice for example during work discussions." – Roshini Periasamy (106)

"I can do better in my exams by saying I will not give up and try my best!" – Huang Bo Yuu, Camenly (107)

ITE Experience

As part of the Normal Technical Education Career Guidance (ECG) programme, the Secondary 2NT students participated in the Virtual Experience ITE Programme on Friday, 21 January. The aim of this programme was to raise their awareness on the various ITE courses available at the three colleges (East/ Central/ West) and to enable the students to gain a better comprehension of the courses offered. This knowledge would then aid them in making informed choices for their future pursuit of post-secondary education. They also discovered how a "Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on" ITE education can help them advance their careers. The students gained deep insights in the one and a half hour session of the programme over Zoom and had a good dialogue with the ITE lecturers over the types of courses and programmes offered at ITE.

Concert Band Learning Journey

On 22 January, members from the Concert Band attended a special exclusive screening of "West Side Story" at Shaw Theatres Paya Lebar Quarter.

Directed by Academy Award winner Steven Spielberg, from a screenplay by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Tony Kushner, "West Side Story" tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love set against the background of New York City in 1957. Inspired by William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet", this re-imagined film version of the classic Broadway musical features a refreshed musical score written by Lenard Bernstein, and performed by the New York Philharmonic.

Music excursions have been a feature of the Concert Band since 2010 and this has enhanced the learning experience of the members tremendously. With learning journeys now allowed with a maximum of 50 pax, we are slowly and safely starting to provide this valuable learning experience for our band members again.

Entrepreneur Club

On 22 January, four students namely Katie Lee En Hui (404), Lee Dan Ning Meagan (404), Wong Yi Qing (405) and led by Priscilla Lin Zi'en (406), represented Katong Convent's Entrepreneur Club to participate in the Singapore JA Company of the Year Competition via Zoom.

The aim of this competition was to balance the business achievements of the team as a whole with the personal development of each individual member. It involved the team's ability to run a financially successful JA Company as well as to create an exciting product or service.

KC's very own JA Company, Empowomen was thus formed in 2021 with the vision of creating a convenient and caring society for women and the mission of embracing womanhood while promoting the importance of being confident, inclusive and innovative. The company created and mass produced a unique period care package which consisted of a bottle of specially formulated period stain remover, "Stayn" and 2 round cotton pads packed into a drawstring pouch, sewn out of recycled fabric.

On the day of the competition, the company's representatives presented their business ideas and company report while displaying their product at the virtual trade fair booth. Their efforts paid off when their product was selected as the "Most Promising Product/ Service". The team has learnt a lot from this journey and would like to thank their mentors and teachers for the help rendered throughout the preparation stage and on the competition day.

Art Activities

Singapore Art Week

Taking full advantage of the return of learning journeys, Secondary 3 students eagerly ventured out to view exhibitions in conjunction with Singapore Art Week 2022 on 25 January.

The 3NA Art students visited two exhibitions, 'Everything Light Touches' and 'The Same Side of the Moon Always Faces Earth', at The Arts House where a curator's tour offered them a deep dive into the artists' works and processes. Meanwhile, 3E Art students were over at DECK on Prinsep Street to view the exhibition 'Time Present Time Past', an exhibition highlighting the disappearing art form of Chinese Opera. Set in a temporal space on a traditional opera stage, the girls learnt about the Chinese Opera tradition in Singapore, as well as how artists spent time interacting and researching with opera troupes before making art works that were exhibited in the space. It was really an eye opener for the girls to view six very diverse art works of various media that provided a multi-sensory experience.

Our Art teachers also put up an SLS Art guide for Singapore Art Week so that our Upper Secondary Art students would not miss out on the many other Art events that happened over that period of time. It was very encouraging to see many of our Sec 4 Art students using the guide on weekends to visit some of these Art spaces with their friends and family.

Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) Milestone Experience

The first of two milestone experiences for Sec 3 EAP students in 2022 came in the form of an online ZOOM Artist interaction session on 28 January. A total of six artist sessions were made available for EAP students across nine schools to choose from. Each of our students had the opportunity to listen to two artist sessions that included artist experiences ranging from various design fields to animation and art directing.

These artist sessions were designed to expose our students to possible art & design pathways to careers in the creative arts industry; and in doing so hopefully inspire them to explore their own areas of interest in order to identify the knowledge, skills and values they aspire to develop through EAP. Our girls definitely learnt a lot as well as gained much insight into the way the

creative industry works. It looked like we may already have some aspiring designers and animators after the sessions.

Art Coursework Briefing

Our annual Art coursework briefing for parents and students of the graduating cohort was held on Saturday 29 January. Despite the early start at 9 am on a weekend, the session was well attended by many of our parents who were eager to understand more about Art coursework and how they could effectively partner the school to support their child in the journey ahead. It was a good time of teacher-parent interactions as parents got to meet with the teachers teaching their child and establish an understanding of the demands and timeline of a coursework. It was a fruitful time of knowledge exchange. We would like to take this opportunity to again thank all the parents who attended the session.

Debate Association Debating Championships (DADC) 2022

KC Debate took part in the DADC 2022 that was held over the weekend of 29 and 30 January. This highly competitive national competition was held over three qualifying rounds that pitted schools of equivalent division status against each other to decide entrants through to the semi-and final rounds. All the rounds were conducted via the Zoom platform and it was indeed an enriching experience for our debaters competing in the silver division to engage their opponents virtually.

Katong Convent fielded debaters Megan Teh (305), Noor Aaliyah Ford (401), Amber Dachlan (405), Qaeela Jae Brewton (403) and Ashvithaa Ramesh (406) who worked well under pressure and as a team. The team progressed to the finals after beating their opponents in the three qualifying rounds and faced Assumption English School in the finals, clinching the position of 1st runners up by a close margin. Qaeela Jae Brewton was 5th Best speaker, Ashvithaa Ramesh was named the 7th Best Speaker, Megan Teh was 10th Best speaker.

Congratulations to our debaters who had worked very hard to achieve this success.

Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Fortnight 2022

This year, the MTL department had designated two consecutive weeks in celebration of MTL Fortnight from 25 January to 11 February. With a wide range of activities from cultural discovery to language exploration, students were provided with exciting opportunities to use Mother Tongue languages to gain better insights into the culture and traditions of the Chinese and Malay communities respectively. To create an immersive environment for the learning of MTL, specially curated activities targeted at different groups and levels of students were organised during curriculum time. We also took the opportunity to showcase one of our KC student contestants (Wu Zi Yan from 305), who came in third in the 'My Story' Mandarin Oratorical Competition 2021. This competition was jointly organised by the Promote Mandarin Council and NoonTalk Media Company.

It is hoped that MTL students will appreciate the enhanced learning experience by actively using Mother Tongue languages and knowledge of associated cultures well after the end of MTL Fortnight celebration.

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 schoolProvide 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.		
《My Story》 Mandarin Oratorical Speaking Competition finals (Sec 1- 3) 讲华语运动《我的故事》华语演讲比赛		Scrabble Competition (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ignite the joy of learning Chinese Language through exposure to Mandarin Language gamesExpand students' vocabulary	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote the joy of learning Malay Language through gamesTo expand students' vocabulary
Film Appreciation of “The Reunion Dinner” by Anthony Chen (Sec 4-5) 《回家过年》短片赏析		Escape Room Online Interactive Game (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand the cultural significance behind Chinese New Year traditions.Appreciate how Chinese New Year celebrations evolved over the years in Singapore.	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To expand students' knowledge and vocabulary on a variety of areas related to the theme
Cultural Exposure Programme			
Red Packet Lantern Making 红包灯笼 (Sec 1) Paper Cutting 剪纸 (Sec 2) Umbrella Painting 伞画 (Sec 3)		Batik Painting (Sec 1) Wau Batik Painting (Sec 2) Coaster Weaving (Sec 3) Basket Weaving (Sec 4/5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Appreciate lantern making using red packets.Learn about the aesthetics and symbolism behind paper cutting and umbrella painting design.	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide opportunities for students to learn and try the art of making Malay handicraftsTo expand students' creativity in designing and introducing their personal style to the handicrafts
Reading Programme (Sec 3 Express) 《大家来过节》线上导读活动			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand the festive celebrations and the cultural significance of Chinese, Malay and Indian New Year practices.Promote a love of reading in Chinese Language		
Bubble Tea Making Appreciation (Sec 4NA/NT) 泡泡茶与茶文化赏析			

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about the traditional tea culture and origin of bubble tea.• Appreciate the bubble tea making process through hands-on experience	
Mandarin Pop Song Appreciation (Sec 4E5NA) 中文词曲分享会		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote joy of learning Chinese Language through Mandarin pop music.• Deepen the appreciation of Mandarin songs and its associated meaning• Allow students an opportunity to show love and encouragement to their classmates through song dedication	

Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebrations

The Chinese New Year (CNY) theme for this year was 《新春送祥瑞，福虎赠吉祥》，Roaring into the year of the Tiger. Prior to the day of celebration, all classes participated actively in the interclass CNY classroom decoration competition to spruce up their classrooms according to the theme. Secondary 2 to 5 classes also demonstrated their creativity in making videos to greet the KC community with CNY wishes. As the day of celebration drew nearer, Chinese instrumental songs were played before morning assembly to get everyone into the festive mood.

On 31 January, all staff and students watched the hybrid concert comprising live and recorded items, jointly put up by the MTL department, Chinese Orchestra, Choir and Chinese Drama Club.

The Chinese Orchestra opened the concert with the all-time CNY classics 《迎春花》 and 《拜年》 and Mandarin pop song 《听见下雨的声音》，accompanied by the poetic Chinese ink painting backdrop. Our Principal, Mrs Thong, ushered in the jubilant mood as she shared her CNY wishes for the school in Mandarin and presented attractive prizes to the winning classes for the beautifully decorated classrooms amidst thunderous applause and cheers from the classroom block. With safe management measures in place, the Choir gracefully performed their first at a CNY concert, unmasked with their melodious vocal renditions of CNY favourite 《大地回春》 and lively Chinese folk song 《凤阳歌》. Encouraging everyone to connect with their loved ones during the festive season, Chinese Drama Club presented a skit entitled 《爱的直播!》 Love on Air. The interactive Kahoot quiz remained a favourite among students and our emcees got everyone excited in answering the informative and interesting CNY related questions.

The school celebration ended on a high note with the KC tradition of class representatives presenting mandarin oranges to their teachers. It was a vibrant celebration, involving all staff and students from all ethnic groups in the celebration with a view to deepen cultural appreciation and encourage bonding.

Our girls did not forget to serve the community while ushering in the Year of the Tiger. The Secondary 1 classes helped to further enhance the festive atmosphere by decorating the school compound with recycled ornaments. The Secondary 2 students reached out to the community in spreading the festive cheer by preparing goodie bags for the elderly in Goodlife! It was heartwarming to see our lower secondary classes eagerly participating in these activities!

The upper secondary classes too showed their love and care for the community by preparing goodie bags and well-wishes cards. Secondary 3 classes presented their goodie bags to the school's cleaners and administrative staff while the Secondary 4 and 5 classes presented their goodie bags to our canteen vendors and security officers. The graduating cohort also made cards for the healthcare heroes in some nursing homes and hospitals in Singapore to show encouragement and appreciation to these healthcare heroes during the pandemic.

Class Leaders & Class Committee Training

This year's class leaders and class committee training took place on 12 February over a hybrid of platforms. Some had face to face training and others over Zoom platform, all aimed to train and equip the in-coming leaders to be confident in their roles and responsibilities.

Class Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Training

A new group of Class Leaders were introduced to their community of leaders whom they could get support from. Learning about their roles and responsibilities and coming together to brainstorm possible solutions for various scenarios and issues helped them to be aware of some of the qualities and skills to hone in their new position. Younger leaders posed good questions and seniors gave insightful advice. There was a convivial spirit of learning together; all in the spirit of building their confidence to lead their classes in the year ahead.

Peer Support Leader (PSL) Training

An integral part of the school's effort to support student development, PSLs were trained and equipped with tools and strategies to help, bond and influence their peers. During the workshop, students were given opportunities to role play and brainstorm ways to build class unity to promote a culture of care and inclusiveness within the class. They certainly benefitted from the workshop and this would be the first of many more workshops to come. We reminded our PSLs to look out for small opportunities to reach out to every member of their class - "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." — Sally Koch

Environment Representative Training

Class Environment Reps were briefed about their roles and responsibilities as well as the school's ongoing environment efforts via the Zoom platform. The importance of conserving resources and reducing wastage in KC, particularly using less plastic was emphasised. The Environment Reps are expected to be the green champions for their class - helping to ensure not only the cleanliness of the physical environment but to also promote a sense of stewardship in their classmates.

Sports Captain Training

The newly appointed Sports Captains were formally inducted through a training session to conduct warm up, manage the class and equipment as well as basic first aid. They were also briefed on their role of assisting PE teachers in organising, leading and motivating the class towards achieving lesson objectives in class. Their influence extends beyond the class as they play a big part in creating a vibrant sporting environment in school through their contributions to sports and house events.

Values in Action (VIA) Representative Training

The VIA representatives were reminded of their roles and how they can guide, as well as support their classmates in their VIA journey. The training ended off with a Kahoot quiz which helped reiterate the important points and clarify any misconceptions.

National Education (NE) Representative Training

The NE representatives met the NEW committee members over the online platform to be inducted into their roles and responsibilities. Students reflected with the use of padlet on what they thought their role would be as an NE rep. There were interesting responses such as being involved in International Women's Day but all knew that their role was aligned with developing a culture of active citizenship in their class.

Besides assisting the school in the commemorative events such as National Day celebrations, NE reps had been challenged to set up an NE corner in a section of their class noticeboard. They would be responsible for putting up relevant news articles and create an awareness of issues that would be of interest to their peers.

Chinese Drama at Huayi Chinese Festival

This is the second time that KC Chinese Drama seized the opportunity to watch a Huayi Chinese Festival commissioned play at the Esplanade Theatre. This time round, home-grown company Nine Years Theatre's original work "Between You and Me" commanded our full attention during the 13 February matinee show as drama between a mother and her three daughters played out on stage revealing hidden family secrets and strained relationships. Our CCA students were indeed fortunate to turn up as live audience as compared to last year's Huayi Festival that catered more for an online audience. Through this play, our students learnt more about family ties and how the family could be brought closer together amidst tension and conflicts. This learning journey widened their exposure to Chinese drama and all aspects of an excellent stage performance.

2022 Writer's Lab 1: What's the Write Way? Playwriting and other Literary Pathways

It was perhaps highly appropriate that our first Writer's Lab of the year was held on Valentine's Day, celebrating our love for the literary and dramatic word. To share that love, we had Sarah Zarifah, class of 2019, full literature and drama student, and Youth winner of the T:>Works 24-Hour Playwriting Competition in 2020 and 2021 return to talk about her love for writing in all genres, with a special focus on the play genre. Entitled What's the Write Way? Sarah took students from

the Writer's Lab and Drama Elective Programme through a journey of why and how she writes, navigating the different genres according to the message she has and explaining how structure and genre articulate and reflect the writer's intent.

What was particularly enjoyable was when Sarah screened her award-winning script, *The Correspondence*, unpacking the method and devices of her approach, shedding insights in the how and way of the play. The session rounded off with the students trying their hand at playwriting through a series of writing exercises that helped students develop characters, situations, and conflicts.

It was a privilege to have an alumna return to help develop the next batch of CPVA students and the students were most enriched and inspired by the workshop!

Book Club

The English Language, Literature, and Drama Department launched Book Club to promote the love for reading. During sessions led by teacher facilitators, selected students will read, formulate opinions and discuss ideas. Through exposure to an array of texts including works by Roald Dahl and resources from magazines and newspapers, students will discover what types of texts interest them most. We believe that when they discover a genre that excites them, they will be motivated to read more to explore ideas in depth.

In the first Book Club session, beyond identifying story elements such as plot, characters, and setting, we studied a character's motivations, the relationships between protagonists and antagonists, themes and more. Students worked on understanding an author's purpose and drawing their own conclusions, formulating personal responses to reading. These discussions were presented in a way that was accessible to students, giving them the space to uncover the story independently and as a team.

For the subsequent Book Club sessions, through purposeful discussions, students will be encouraged to push themselves and grow as readers and learners!

Environment Matters

The theme of KC's environment efforts this year is '*Less Plastic is Fantastic*'. We are working hard to reduce the use of plastic as a school population. In 2021, we started this effort by encouraging the use of reusables (e.g. containers, bottles) every Wednesday. This year, since the beginning of February, the canteen has stopped using single-use plastics in the form of plastic straws, cutlery, cups and bags for takeaway food items. The only exceptions are freshly cut fruit which will be placed in plastic bags for hygiene reasons, and homemade drinks which will be poured into sealed cups once a week. We thank our canteen vendors for supporting us in this environment journey and we seek parents' support to encourage your daughters to do their part for the environment too - encourage them to use their own reusable straws and containers if they have to take away food from the canteen for example.

The school also continues with our collection of plastic bottles, paper and e-waste for recycling purposes. Clean plastic bottles can be deposited in the recycling bins in the canteen, while paper

and e-waste items such as batteries, wires, non-bulky electronic appliances can be deposited in the school's general and e-waste bins, located in the lower foyer.

Upcoming environment activities to look forward to include an assembly programme, World Water Day and Earth Day celebrations as well as green art workshops for environment reps.

Geographical Investigation (GI)

To help the Secondary 3 Full Geography students understand the dynamism of coastal processes over space and the interaction of human and nature in the unit 'Should coastal environments matter?', they embarked on a coastal GI at East Coast Park where they measured wave characteristics, observed how beach materials are transported along the coast and also how the presence of human management structures altered coastal processes. This fieldwork engaged students in an authentic manner, enabling them to conduct a geographical inquiry of the different coastal processes at work in Singapore.

Similarly, the Secondary 3 Elective Geography students embarked on a weather and climate GI where they were tasked to investigate if different places within a small area (e.g. school compound) experienced different temperatures. They went to the different sites around the school to observe, measure, record and analyse the weather data collected. This geographical inquiry allowed students to uncover how variations in temperature across different places are affected by familiar local environmental factors such as the installation of air conditioners, grassy school field or the asphalt car park.

Through all these GI experiences, students not only had the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of what they had learnt during their Geography lessons in class but they also managed to practise and hone GI-specific skills such as data collection, analyses and presentation. Their exposure to GI enabled them to develop an affinity for the environment as well as a sense of space, place, environment and scale; key concepts that underlie the Secondary Geography syllabus.

Arts and Culture Workshop

The Arts and Culture team started brainstorming activities that could be done for the Book and Music Week (BMW) with the multidisciplinary theme; At First Light. To spur passion in our Secondary 1 to 3 Arts Advocates, vice-presidents Audrey and Anya shared their live, pre-COVID BMW experiences way back when they were in Secondary One. Filled with excitement of the various events, the Arts Advocates were inspired and committed to bring the same level of energy to BMW 2022. With their mentor groups, they began brainstorming and visualising what BMW 2022 could look like. Each group began unpacking different perspectives of light, from reflection to colour, space to technology, to conceptualise BMW event activities.

In the second half of the session, the Arts Advocates were introduced to the fundamentals of events management as well as the types of arts festivals in Singapore. Armed with new knowledge and possibilities, the Arts Advocates explored ways to showcase KC's CPVA edge while connecting to the community at large. We cannot wait till the next session to crystallize the arts festival!

Ash Wednesday Mass

Be reconciled to God

"This is a gracious time. This is a time for reconciliation, for harmony, for togetherness, this is not a time to be divided and separated. " This was Father Eugene Vaz's opening line in his homily as he celebrated Ash Wednesday on 2 March in the school hall with fifty Catholic students and teachers.

Ash Wednesday signifies the start of the Lenten season, which is the solemn remembrance of the forty days Jesus fasted in the desert before his Crucifixion. Father Vaz went on to elaborate the three pillars of Lent which are alms giving, prayer and fasting. Firstly alms giving helps us to think of people who are less fortunate than us, not just in terms of material needs but also in terms of need for companionship and to recognise and reach out and be friendly with them. The second pillar is prayer where in order to respond to people's needs we need to have a prayerful life. Prayer is connectedness to God and the more we spend time with God we become like God in being loving and kind like him. In order to carry out alms giving and maintaining a prayerful life, we must fast. We must fast by caring less about ourselves and not be self-centred. Fasting makes us look at others and the more we look at others the more we can build a world of goodness.

Father Vaz then proceeded to sprinkle ashes on our heads. The ashes remind us to repent and return to the Gospel life. During the prayers for the faithful, we prayed for the situation in Ukraine and for world leaders to work for peace.

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. We welcome parents and guardians in helping to source for or provide such experiential opportunities as well.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



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Principal

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