



C O R R I connections

2015 | Issue 2

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

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ENGAGED LEARNERS, ENRICHED MINDS

P E E R T U T O R I N G

The Peer Tutoring programme was initiated by the students of Secondary 2.8 back in April as a channel for them to contribute meaningfully to the community. The programme involves conducting weekly Math and Science tuition sessions for their juniors in primary 6. The class committee presented their proposal to our Principal, Mdm Mak. Upon receiving her approval, the students also met up with Mrs Eugenie Tan, Principal of St. Anthony's Canossian Primary School (SACPS), to iron out the details of the programme.

The inaugural session kicked off with a purposeful spirit despite the long day for both the seniors and juniors. Through the weekly sessions, the Primary 6 girls were able to grasp complex mathematical concepts better and many had positive feedback. Shalyn Ng (6 Prudence) proclaimed, "The programme has been helpful as I used to be weak in Math before attending this and I have already seen an improvement. My tutor is also dedicated and patient." Another student, Naomi Quentin (6 Prudence) expressed, "I found it easier to understand the concepts as it was presented from a student's point of view."

The Secondary 2.8 students have also benefitted from this experience – through fostering stronger bonds with their juniors and as well as with their peers in the course of working together. They also gained confidence and most of all experienced the fulfilment of helping others as summed up by Crystel Chia (Secondary 2.8):

"It was a great opportunity to help my juniors with their PSLE questions. Having gone through the PSLE myself, I understand the stress level and problems they're facing. I just want to help out whenever and wherever I can, to make a difference."

The programme has demonstrated that through the act of kindness, even the smallest bit of effort to help can make a great difference for the primary school students to improve in their work.

By Students of Secondary 2.8



Humanities Week & Racial Harmony Day – Gotong Royong

Held in conjunction with SG50 celebrations, the combined Humanities Week and Racial Harmony Day commemoration celebrates The SACSS *Gotong Royong* or Kampong Spirit to revive the vibrant kampong days. The event was held from 20 to 24 July. The main event, which was held during Wednesday's Common Lunch period, featured stalls selling traditional snacks such as dragon's beard, *muah chee*, honeycomb *popiah* and *ting ting* candy. There was free sampling of traditional biscuits as well as game stalls where students tested their dexterity playing kampong games such as *chapteh*, gasing and pick-up sticks. To add vibrancy to the event, students were encouraged to dress up in their ethnic costumes. Kampong trail cards were distributed to students who had to fill them with a series of stamps to win attractive prizes.

A cultural performance segment was also organised during the combined afternoon assembly on Thursday featuring an exhilarating Dikir Barat performance by the Malay NT students and teachers. Presented by the Humanities Department, the assembly performances culminated in an entertaining skit which emphasised the timelessness and relevance of the kampong spirit in today's context.

By Ms Fatin Afiqah



Defining the kampong spirit

- Developing friendships with neighbours
- Being thoughtful towards one another
- Embracing harmony



WORK ATTACHMENT

Twenty-three students from Sec 3NT were posted to various organisations for work attachment opportunities for three days in May. The postings were matched with the students' interests and aspirations. Following the completion of the work attachments, the girls had many pleasant and insightful experiences to share with their teachers and friends.

Undoubtedly the students enjoyed themselves and benefitted from the programme – with an enhanced awareness and understanding of the working environment. The exposure also gave our students a better perspective and a sense of purpose to work towards attaining their academic goals. Here is what our students had to share about the experience.

"In the course of my work attachment at the Canossian School for the Hearing Impaired, I learnt to be confident to confront and overcome challenges."

– Clarissa (Sec 3.1)

"At Bake-It-Yourself, I learnt that the job entails more than just baking – it's about being patient with people around and being a team player."

– Daphne (Sec 3.1)

"At SMILE Division Dental Surgeons I learnt much about the clinical protocol of wearing a mask, tucking my hair in a net, donning surgical gowns and having to be on my feet at all times."

– Aditi (Secondary 3.1)

"I enjoyed spending time with the children at Sparkle Tots Childcare, especially reading to them and overseeing them at the playground."

– Tiara (Sec 3.1)



There was also positive feedback from the mentors about our students during their attachment. Staff from St. Magdalene Kindergarten were impressed with Nadiah's (Sec 3.1) enthusiasm, positive attitude and her natural ability to relate well with the children whilst Jamie (Sec 3.1) impressed her mentor with her good command of English, her ability to come up with strong punch lines to promote a book sale and her helpful IT skills.

Career Education Programme

The SACSS Career Festival was held from 25 to 27 August to allow our students to identify their career interests and plan for the aspired educational pathways towards achieving their goals.



Over the 3-day event, career booths were set up to shed light on the career options available and provide students with information about the intricacies of identifying their interests and potential. A series of career sharing forums was also organised for the Secondary 3 and Secondary 2 students on 25 and 27 August respectively. The invited speakers from different sectors including media, tourism, IT and banking shared on the aptitudes and qualities required to do well in their industry as well as touched on the current gaps and projections for the next five years.

There was also the opportunity to hear from alumni members who spoke with the students during the career forum on their pathways – after graduating from SACSS to pursuing further education and making a mark in their career.



Elsie Wee (Sec 3.6) commented after listening to a talk by MediaCorp Radio DJ Carol Smith, **"I learnt how to laugh at myself and I gathered a few tips on how to get better at public speaking"**.

By Ms Nurul Aliah Mohd Ali and Mr Roland Lim



By Ms Daisy Tan



ART-MATH TRAIL

The Life Arts and Mathematics Departments collaborated to create the Art-Math trail. The project began with the creation of ceramic tiles featuring Greek symbols that are also part of the Mathematical lexicon. The creative tile-making process challenges our students to compose their work of art using symbolism, textures, form and colours.



The completed tiles will be installed to form a visually compelling outdoor experiential Math learning trail where students solve puzzles and engage in games relating to Mathematical concepts. Even as the design of the trail is currently being fine-tuned, the potential of the installation being used as a post exam activity is being considered as well as making it an ongoing project that can be thematically extended to incorporate shapes – another focus common to both Art and Mathematics disciplines. The interplay of the shape of things to come is evolving with new interactions and vigour.

By Ms Dawn Lam

LANGUAGE ARTS WEEK – HIS STORY, HER STORY, OUR STORY



The Language Arts Week 2015 was held from 20 to 24 of July. This year, the activities were focussed on celebrating local creative works as part of the SG50 celebrations, hence, the theme His Story, Her Story, Our Story.



The critically acclaimed film *Ilo Ilo*, produced by local writer-director Anthony Chen, was screened as part of the event. Also organised was a book fair featuring titles published by Ethos Books, an independent boutique publisher of literary works by Singapore writers, to expose our students to Singapore Literature.

This year's Literature Symposium was held on 22 July. The symposium featured two distinguished speakers from the National Institute of Education who made time to conduct the insightful sessions for the Secondary 3 Pure Literature and Literature Elective students. Dr Dennis Yeo captivated the students with his sharing on Singapore Literature while Dr Patricia Wong guided the girls in deepening their

understanding of their Literature text, *The Joy Luck Club*.

Like in the previous year, a sharing session conducted by two teachers and five JC2 students from St. Andrew's Junior College was conducted for our Literature students from the graduating classes. The sharing covered understanding and approaching the Unseen component of the Literature paper. To align the sharing with this year's focus, a poem entitled *Postcards from Chinatown* by local poet Terence Heng was selected for analysis.

Other fringe activities held included the Spelling Bee and Language Games, intended for students from Secondary 1 and 2.

By Mrs Jannine Kuah

THE INAUGURAL SCIENCE WEEK

– Getting SACSS Students Excited About Science

The inaugural Science Week was held from 8 to 15 July. Aligned with the theme of the week-long event, Bringing Relevance to Science, novel and fun activities were organised to allow the students to apply the scientific knowledge learnt during lessons and to better relate this with their daily living as well as to inspire them to pursue Science related studies for their post-secondary education.

During Science Week students from the Secondary 3 Express classes were tasked with working on project-based group assignments relating to Everyday Science. The groups then set up booths to present their Science projects which were then graded by the teachers using a Performance-based rubric. Secondary 1 students who were invited to attend the presentation also contributed to the grading by casting their votes for the most popular projects.

There were also interactive games booths to engage the student population in the competitive games to win prizes.

Speakers from other organisations were invited to conduct career talks for the Secondary 4 and 5 students to raise their awareness of career opportunities available. Ms Tricia Seetoh from the Singapore Chemistry Industry Council

(SCIC) shared with the students on the career paths while NTU's Associate Professor Lim Yeow Khee who is also President of the Singapore Institute of Aerospace Engineer (SIAE) and Managing Director of the LYK Aerospace (S) Pte Ltd shared with the students about the growing aerospace sector.

The Secondary 3 students who are currently working on their Science Research Projects conducted a sharing session on their experience with the lower secondary Science Research Programme (SRP) students.

Jet'aime Perfumery conducted a Perfume Workshop for 20 students who were accompanied by their mothers. The workshop also served as a bonding session for the girls and their mothers as they engaged in the hands-on session to create a unique fragrance. Two Science educators from The Singapore Science Centre awed the lower secondary students with a Mixology Show that featured the art of creating small-scale pyrotechnics and vivid visual effects through chemical reactions.

The encouraging response during the inaugural event has indeed raised the awareness of Science and created a sense of wonder and excitement in the students.



By Dr Yap Ann Teck

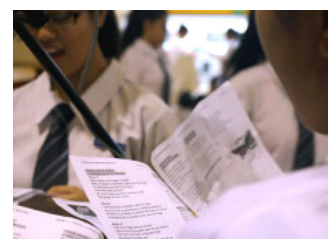
Catholic Activities Council (CAC)

The CAC 2015/16 Student Leaders in the Prayer Ministry, Music Ministry, Logistics Ministry and Legion of Mary were commissioned on 10 July 2015. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the celebration of the Feast of St. Anthony's Mass.



The CAC Student Leaders underwent a 3-day leadership retreat facilitated by the Redemptorist Mission Team to deepen their call as Canossian Servant Leaders. Like St. Anthony of Padua who preached the Word of God and lived a life of love and service, our Student Leaders are reminded that they are stewards of God and play a paramount role in making Jesus known and loved.

Apart from preparing for the school-wide masses, CAC Student Leaders also serve the school community through the following platforms – leading daily prayers, hymn singing on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Quiet Time on Wednesdays and leading the reflections during St Bakhita's Feast Day and Easter celebrations as well as assisting during Holy Thursday with the Stations of the Cross and Washing of the Feet activities. The Student Leaders also play a significant role during the school's annual Catholic Awareness Week and initiate fellowship sessions for both Catholics and non-Catholics through games, the singing of hymns and sharing of the Word of God. They also serve as facilitators at the Secondary One Catholic Camp and Combined Lenten Retreat for our affiliated primary schools.



In the process, the CAC Student Leaders learn to share their faith to live the way, the truth and the life.

By Ms Sharon Yu

MEDIA RESOURCE LIBRARY – Expanding the Repertoire



The school library serves to provide students access to information and ideas – a fundamental need to being successful in today’s information and knowledge-based society. Research has shown that students with access to a well-supported school library programme score higher on reading assessments.

Efforts to meet increasing demand to better support the school’s curriculum is ongoing to expand the library with an addition of more than 1000 new titles. The non-fiction titles added include books on famous people in history. Books on a wide variety of categories such as cookery, art, photography, costumes and make up, gardening and plants, drama, hobbies and craft, music and movies have also been acquired to cater to diverse interests. An array of fictional genres – ranging from murder and mystery to fantasy and historical fiction – has also been included. A periodicals section, offering titles from Reader’s Digest to the Food & Travel magazine, is also being set up.



Besides the expansion of the library’s collection, other improvements include a mobile cart with laptops to support the ICT needs and to provide students with easy access to a computer. Going forward, the library is also evaluating the option of offering e-book lending.

The dedicated stalwarts at the Media Resource Library



Mr Rama Over the years he has helped to monitor the girls when they do their homework in the library and tutored those who struggle in English with their reading. The girls find his familiar presence reassuring and he has come to be a positive role model to our students. Mr Rama finds the time spent at the library meaningful and fulfilling and is motivated by the students’ well-grounded demeanour and has this to share: **“The girls are cheerful, respectful and well-behaved. They greet me whenever they see me in the library and often consult me about the books they should read.”**

Mdm Heng She oversees the operations of the library and mentors the student librarians on the running of the library. She also facilitates book loans and ensures that the books are returned on time to the library. She also assists in managing events held in the library – such as creative writing workshops, literary circles and arranges the sale of tickets for movie afternoons during the annual Language Arts Week.

By Ms Kamala Kausikan and Ms Justina Foo



Language and Cultural Immersion Programme

From 6 to 9 June 2015, a group of twenty-six students accompanied by four teachers went on a Language and Cultural Immersion Programme in Bali, Indonesia. As the programme was a collaborative effort between the Malay Language Department and the NA/NT Department, the composition of students included those of other ethnic groups besides Malay students.

During the 4-day/3-night stay, the students had the opportunity to immerse in the Balinese culture. Besides soaking up the sights and sounds from the colourful streetscape, the group also visited many interesting sights. These included the Green Camp, RumahDesa, Tanah Lot, the Kintamani Volcano as well as a local orphanage as part of the trip's VIA (Values in Action) programme.

At the Green Camp, students learnt to play the traditional drums, went leaves hunting and learnt to make a chocolate sauce. The students also attended a Recycled Art Workshop where they were taught how to create amazing works of art using newspapers and rubber tyres.

At the RumahDesa, the students were exposed to the traditional Balinese House and Community Life and immersed themselves in kampong activities including planting padi in the paddy fields, riding a cow, extracting coconut oil and making kites. They also relished the variety of Balinese cuisine such as the Balinese satay served in the Megibung tradition.

The students were briefed about the cultural etiquette of the Balinese people and were mindful of this as they engaged with the children during their visit at the orphanage. The children enjoyed the meaningful activities and games conducted by the visitors whilst the gifts of toys, books and clothes brought cheer. *"The Bali Language and Cultural Immersion Programme was an enriching one. I learnt the importance of other-centredness so that we do not unwittingly show disrespect. Bali is such a wonderful place to be in... from the rich culture and lifestyle of the Balinese people to the awe-inspiring calmness of the natural scenery. The tantalising food is an experience to behold."* – Siti Aisyah (Sec 3.3)



By Mdm Suzana Mohamad Nor

Reading Club Immersion Programme Taipei and Taichung

During the June holidays, twenty-four Secondary 2 and 3 students, accompanied by three teachers, embarked on a 7-day/6-night Reading Club Immersion Programme in Taipei and Taichung. The programme aimed to cultivate a love for reading and allowed our students to immerse themselves in a Chinese Reading Programme conducted by secondary schools in Taiwan as well as to develop global awareness and cross-cultural skills.

The programme included reading sessions conducted by an author, an introduction to illustrated books and a tour of a publishing facility to attain a behind-the-scenes perspective into the book publishing processes. School visits were also organised for our students to Ming Dao Middle School, Hui Wen Middle School and Keelung Shengxin High School where the students were introduced to the reading and writing of poetry and engaged in discussions on societal issues with their peers and widened their perspectives in the process.



During the trip, our students were introduced to a form of artwork using aluminium drink cans. Other cultural activities facilitated included releasing traditional sky lanterns, visits to cultural sites such as National Palace Museum and Chiang Kai Shek Cultural Park. The trip was a fulfilling one as attested by the reflection. *"This trip has helped me to expand my general knowledge and improve my command of the Chinese language significantly."* – Shermane Ng (Sec 2.7)



By Ms Shona Chow



SG50 Building MySG – Reflect, Celebrate, Inspire

To commemorate 50 years of Nation building, the Ministry of Education presented to each staff and student a specially commissioned Lego set that can be used to construct models of three iconic Singapore landmarks, namely the historical Cavenagh Bridge, Singapore Changi Airport's control tower or the spectacular supertrees at Gardens by the Bay.



Students were brought through a recollection of Singapore's history and some of its landmarks. They then formed small groups to construct infrastructure that will meet the needs of a future Singapore. In the process our student groups displayed:

- **Can-Do Spirit** – through visualising where nothing is impossible
- **Other-Centredness** – by focusing on the needs of the people
- **Responsible Individuality** – through working towards preserving a multi-religious and multi-cultural society
- **Resilience** – by completing the project despite the constraints of limited time and resources
- **Inquiring Mind** – by exploring the building of treehouses as a greener option to HDB blocks.

Through the CORRI qualities, we aim to inspire students to visualise a new chapter.

By Mr He Junhao

Upgraded Heritage Gallery



As part of the project to commemorate 135 years of Canossian presence in Singapore and to celebrate the official opening of the renovated campus, plans were drawn up to upgrade the Heritage Gallery. The school received a grant from National Heritage Board which was used for publishing *Carità* – the 135th Anniversary Commemorative publication, producing the musical, 'The Canossian Spirit' and refurbishing the Heritage Gallery.

The refurbishment of the gallery at the secondary school was undertaken in consultation with Sister Christina and Sister Janet – in particular on the architectural aspects of the Middle Road Campus. The enhancement work on the Gallery was completed in mid-August 2015.

A combined launch of the SG 50 publication, *Metaphorically*, was held jointly with the official opening of the Heritage Gallery on 31 August 2015. The aim of the trilingual publication, *Metaphorically*, was not only to showcase the literary and art creations of fellow Canossians but to also commemorate the milestones our school and nation have achieved. As such, we felt that it was timely and apt to hold this book launch in our newly refurbished Heritage Gallery to mark the timeless nature of the Canossian values and ethos. The gallery

located at the primary school accurately captures the historical milestones which are significant constant reminders of the rootedness we must preserve in the Canossian education, while this refurbished gallery aims to discover the talents and vision for the future.

Objectives of the refurbishment included:

- Acknowledging the work of the Sisters and the Alumni
- Enhancing the experience with the use of technology
- Maximising the use of the space and incorporating added versatility
- Emphasising the school values and CORRI qualities
- Incorporating aspects of the present and future

The guests included Ms Asmah Alias, Senior Assistant Director, Education and Community Outreach, National Heritage Board, Ms Drizzle Poh, Assistant Director, Arts Education, Arts and Youth, National Arts Council, Sister Louisa, Supervisor, Canossian Schools, members of the Canossian Alumni Association and Canossian Co-Educators. With the launch of the Gallery on such an auspicious month, SACSS has marked yet another day in history.

– By Mrs Monica Menon

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