



CHIJKATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : JULY 2018

3 July 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians

Welcome back to Semester 2!

As the new term begins, we thank God for continuing to keep our staff and students healthy in body, mind and spirit, and giving our students the discipline and determination to excel in the face of many challenges as they continue to pursue their goals this semester.

Our teachers continued to make good use of the more leisurely paced June holidays to enhance the quality of our students' school experience. The graduating students came back for lessons in the first and last week of the holidays while many CCA groups organised camps and trainings. In the spirit of enhancing work-life harmony, the school has a policy of blocking out 2 of the 4 weeks of vacation time for both staff and students to spend some uninterrupted time with their families. We hope that all have had a good rest and are ready for the challenges ahead!

Farewell and Welcome

We bid a fond farewell to our allied educators, Ms Kee Ee Kheng and Ms Tang Yui Kay who have joined another school respectively and thank them for their past contributions to KC. We welcome two new allied educators, Miss GurSheran Kaur and Mdm Juhariah Bte Ahmad to our KC family.

We also extend a very warm welcome to our other new colleagues Ms Fam Hui Yuen (Music/Drama), Ms Lee Oi Leng (CL/Chinese Literature), Ms Li Ruxin (CL/Chinese Literature) and Mr Tan Tze Wei (PE/Mathematics) and hope that they will have a very fulfilling teaching experience in our school.

Post – Examination Programme

Social Studies Talk by NEXUS

The Humanities department organised a social studies talk on the continued relevance of Singapore's deterrence and defence policies for the upper secondary classes on 17 May. This was part of our partnership programmes with relevant organisations to provide our students with contemporary perspectives that would enrich their knowledge of current affairs, beyond what is already covered in the social studies syllabus.

Our speaker, who hails from Guards formation and MINDEF HQ shared with our students the geographical realities of Singapore's location and the policies behind our defence position. He also highlighted how the SAF had provided humanitarian and disaster relief to the region as part of raising the diplomacy profile of Singapore.

It was a good session as the girls were absorbed in the sharing from a current soldier well versed in the geo-political realities of Singapore.



Humanopoly Challenge

The secondary three students experienced a fresh spin on learning when they were invited to participate in the inaugural Humanopoly Challenge organised by the Humanities department.

Each Sec 3 Express and Normal (Academic) class nominated 5 representatives to battle out their wits and strategy plan in a 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire'-styled quiz. The participants had to answer a range of questions on geography, history, social studies and current affairs, pitched at varying difficulty levels that commensurate with the scores. Keeping things interesting and competitive were the features of 'steal' (where an opposing team could attempt to 'steal' an opportunity to answer a question which had been wrongly attempted and score the points instead) and 'lifeline' (where representatives could ask classmates in the audience for help to answer the question). A good mix of strategy, risk taking, smart use of collective strengths, and knowledge of Humanities helped determine the overall winner.

The competition was indeed a success judging from the positive response and high engagement of the students. Congratulations to all teams and especially to Sec 3/6, 3/5 and 3/3 for winning the top 3 positions respectively.

Shakespeare in the Park

In many of Shakespeare's tragedies, thunder and lightning are devices used to signify cosmic disorder and an upheaval of the natural structure. After over two years of waiting for *Shakespeare in the Park* to return to Fort Canning, the thunder and lightning storm that assailed the annual literary arts and drama excursion on 18 May indeed was an ominous portending of the events that unfolded that night.

Like the celebratory air of *Julius Caesar's Act 1 Scene 1*, the assembly of the secondary threes and almost 80 literary enthusiasts from the graduating cohort in the foyer before the event was similarly bustling with excitement and faint rowdiness. Fast food had been ordered, picnic baskets packed to the brim and insect repellent generously sprayed. Even the stern briefing on proper theatre etiquette did little to dampen the students' bubbling energy. Not even the grey skies or low hanging clouds.

Perhaps they had not studied Shakespeare's texts with enough dedication: bad weather is always a bad omen.

Yet like any well-made play, the arrival at the venue did not suggest any of the events to come. The students arrived early and were at the head of a queue that normally would stretch to the end of the park. The house opened and 320 KC students selected the best seats in the park for their picnic, close to stage.

The sky growled but went unnoticed under the merry opening of food packages and cheery laughter. The clouds turned greyer. At 710 pm, the first drops began to sprinkle the picnickers. This did little to dampen the spirits of the students who were well prepared with ponchos and umbrellas under which they huddled with delightful cosy-ness.

The rain beat harder. Night fell early. The artistic director led a still merry crowd in their usual ritual of chanting the rain away. It had worked for the past 10 years. There had never been a *Shakespeare in the Park* that had been rained out. It did not work this year.



Thunder rolled and lightning flashed. It was in such conditions Cassius and the conspirators had plotted to murder Caesar. It was in such conditions Calpurnia had nightmares of Caesar's death. It was in such conditions the students were told to pack up and seek shelter.

There was never more disappointment than that moment when plastic ground sheets were too waterlogged to fold properly, when bags of chips were made soggy, when the girls lined up in rows and trooped to the National Museum to seek reprieve from the anger of the heavens.

There is literary commitment and passion. But there is also safety and the well-being of the students. They understood, even as they stood dripping in the National Museum waiting for the buses to take them home and away from the literary experience they had so looked forward to.

No sooner was the last student packed onto the bus at 830pm, the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) chose to start the play. This moment of tragic irony and dramatic disappointment which the girls experienced would have made an excellent passage-based question!

Who would have thought that this year's literary arts and drama excursion would be a lived experience?

Yet more importantly, the students learned valuable lessons in resilience and working as a team as well as perspective-taking and dealing with disappointment. Many realised that besides the danger of sitting in a lightning storm, waiting out the storm to watch the show at 830pm would have resulted in the entire excursion ending close to midnight.

There were many tears but few complaints. The KC spirit of resilience shone through even as the students experienced a tragedy instead of merely watching one.

Imagine then the incredible turn of events, when the SRT offered to replace the missed experience with another show a week later. Given the circumstances, there was no obligation on SRT's part to provide a replacement show and the students were both moved by and grateful for SRT's generosity.

Spirits ran high when the students attended the show on Friday 25 May, revelling in the transformation of their literature text to embodied realness. Yet more than a deeper insight into their literature text, our KC students left the venue armed with the value of resilience and the joy of gratitude.

Arts Immersion Programme (AIP)

In the second year of its successful run, the post mid-year examination AIP was once again enthusiastically welcomed by the girls with a healthy sign-up rate. All the workshops held in the afternoons of 15 and 17 May were fully subscribed. 2018's AIP included drama, art and design enrichment workshops. Our girls learnt from professionals how to write a play and to create marbled effects on paper. Students from our Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) shared their expertise by conducting workshops on bullet journaling and stencil spray painting on canvas. Not only did the EAP girls discuss the typical methods to either organize notes or create colourful canvases, they also shared their personal experiences and interest in these forms of art and design. As part of providing diverse programming to cater to students' interests, the AIP saw girls signing up for introductory experiences with digital media such as digital speed painting and Scratch programming.

In anticipation of KC's signature arts festival in July, preparation sessions for the Poetry Alive and #OOTD (Outfit of the Day) segments of the upcoming Book and Music Week 2018 were also led by the BMW organizing committee during the AIP. Selected girls from each class learnt different



musical genres and how these can be infused into choral speaking. For #OOTD, to help the girls create interpretations that went beyond the literal, they were introduced to *Facets* as a theme and alternative ways to bring characters to life such as with the use of metaphors.

Learning to Sew

The Food and Consumer Education (FCE) department initiated a life skill programme to help secondary one students learn how to sew. The idea came about upon observing the challenges our students faced when they had to sew their own buttons or hooks on their belts. The three FCE teachers spent more than an hour in each class sharing the objectives and importance of learning basic stitching and sewing of press-studs and hooks & bars.

To ensure effective facilitation and safety in handling sharp objects like needles, all 3 teachers were deployed in each class. Students were first shown a video on stitching to provide an overview of what they would be required to do in that session. In smaller groups, they were then led through a step by step approach to learn to knot a thread, start a stitch, sew press studs, hooks and bars and end the sewing knot.

While students struggled with the sewing at first, what was encouraging was they took the sewing process seriously and did their best to apply the knowledge. We hope they would remember what they have learned and apply this learning in future.

Secondary Three Mathematical Modelling (MM)

Applying mathematics to real-world problems often involves modelling, where reasonable assumptions and simplifications are made so that problems can be formulated mathematically, and where mathematical solutions are interpreted and evaluated in the context of the real-world problem. The secondary three students were introduced to the mathematical modelling process, where they worked collaboratively in groups to determine the dimensions of a box to achieve the maximum volume, from a set of given conditions. The learning from this introductory experience laid the foundation for the students to embark on the MM Assessment Task this term, where they will work in groups to propose a mathematical strategy to determine the number of fruit loops in a given jar.

Mathematics Olympiad Training

Secondary two students who attended the training last year continued their learning from 28 February to 28 May 2018. Associate Professor Toh Tin Lam, Deputy Head Mathematics & Mathematics Education at the National Institute of Education helmed the training programme to challenge and stretch our girls' mathematical potential. Students had the opportunity to delve into mathematics beyond the syllabus, exploring concepts in algebra, geometry, and number theory. Besides learning new concepts, students honed their problem-solving skills by working on complex and challenging tasks.

The girls enjoyed solving the non-routine problems and working closely with their peers in groups, and appreciated Prof Toh's patience in guiding them.

Science Enrichment Programme

The post-exam science enrichment programme planned together with the Art department offered our students a variety of hands-on workshops ranging from crystal growing, soap and perfume making, to Scratch programming conducted by their science teachers. The introduction of visual programming language in Scratch allows the students to use fitted blocks to form codes like a jigsaw puzzle. Science was made fun and relevant when students explored abstract concepts of



crystallization and chemical changes using household essentials such as soap and perfumes. It was an enjoyable learning journey for everyone who participated in these workshops. Our girls had a fun time creating in the art studios, concocting in the science labs, and bringing home their creations.

Singapore Police Force Outreach

With the objective of educating our students on issues pertaining to safety and crimes, the Student Development Team leveraged our partnership with the Singapore Police Force to organise a talk for our secondary three students on 24 May. Our students had the opportunity to engage with our law enforcers on topics ranging from criminal dangers and risks that youths must guard against, types of criminal charges for typical youth crimes to how the police system works with schools, and other agencies to keep youths safe.

Secondary One Beach Clean up

During the post-exam week, the secondary one classes carried out a morning beach-cleaning along East Coast Park. This service was done with the aims of giving back to our community as well as to show appreciation to the many cleaners who keep the beach clean each day.

Guided by their teachers, the students used equipment provided by the Public Hygiene Council to pick litter from the sand and grass areas along the beach. It was an eye-opening experience for many of them to see the types and amount of litter found at the park, especially after the weekend. The activity enabled them to better appreciate the efforts of the park cleaners and also gave them a better understanding of park etiquette.

Celebrating our Heritage

To commemorate Founder's Day, the school embarked on a 2-week long celebration, imbuing each day with stories, quotes or bites of information about our IJ heritage as well as involving students in heritage activities. 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, Blessed Nicholas Barré. To actively engage students in knowing and celebrating our heritage, each class participated in a heritage puzzle which involved students exploring all the heritage spaces in the school to find the answers. It was an exciting activity which interested students in the IJ and KC story as well as got them pumped up as they raced to complete the puzzle.

In addition, the KC family was invited to name the 2 newest heritage alcoves in the school which were recently completed in early 2018 - the alcove in the canteen which showcases IJ missions of service around the world, and the alcove in the library gallery which showcases the school's rich arts heritage. Both students and teachers contributed interesting yet meaningful names for these special spaces in the school! The new names (and their creators) will be unveiled later in term 3.

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

Founder's Day Mass

The last day of term two beckoned us to recall and take stock of our KC journey. We looked back on the first semester as we commemorated the Feast Day of our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barré.



Considering our heritage, we were invited to contemplate on our experiences as a village in Katong Convent. Through the homily and reflection shared during the Eucharistic Celebration, Rev Fr Alphonsus Raj encouraged all students and staff to continue our history with this same attentiveness towards God's call, made since some three and a half centuries ago. He added that Blessed Nicolas Barré calls on each of us to follow Jesus in all His ways – that the life we live opens our hearts to see as God's view on us. It is through the KC experience, where Blessed Barré invites us to respond as Jesus would, in His lifetime. Let us continue to reflect: Would I grow in commitment and openness to recognising God's presence and His gentleness? Would I follow in the example of Blessed Barré, in seeking the light of Truth, Justice, Freedom and Love?

In our times of celebration and challenge, may we always lean on the prayers of one another, the angels, of our founder and protector, Blessed Barré.

Academic Awards Presentation

The Academic Awards Presentation was held on 25 May to recognise the achievements of our top secondary one to three performers in the 2017 examinations and to motivate students to excel in their studies.

This year, we saw a total of 180 awards given out to 119 students in the presence of many invited parents and guardians, staff and students to celebrate their achievements. The presentation ended with each awardee and their parents/ guardians receiving a special refreshment pack. They then proceeded to the school library for a photo taking session to mark this significant event.

Congratulations to all awardees. May God continue to guide our staff and students in their journey of excellence with the true IJ spirit.

Student Leaders Investiture

The Student Leaders Investiture was conducted on 25 May to recognise the service and contributions made by the outgoing student leaders, as well as to acknowledge and confirm the incoming leaders of 2018/2019.

Organised by the Student Leadership Board, the theme for this year's investiture was '*Beyond Self*'. The theme was significant to the leaders because of the understanding that leadership is not only about the individual, but going beyond the limits of oneself and extending a helping hand to the community - within and outside of Katong Convent.

The celebratory event began with Ms Chan's opening address and her thoughts on the theme. All leaders were encouraged to serve, following in the footsteps of our founder, Blessed Nicholas Barré. This was followed by the acknowledgement of the outgoing leaders, and heartfelt speeches by both the outgoing president, Evelyn Erike Tan of Sec 4/4, and incoming president, Charlotte Lee of Sec 3/5. A new initiative introduced this year was the recognition of the incoming leaders of 2018/2019, who walked down the aisle collectively to the cheers of their peers. This symbol of unity was further emphasised on stage with a meaningful pledge by the leaders, to be positive role models, leaders and voice of the student body. The investiture culminated with the singing of the IJ song, *Hold On To Our Dreams*, reminding the school of the IJ spirit and our roots.

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

Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Events – Post Exam and June Holidays

The post exam period and June Holidays was a busy time for the ECG team with multiple ECG events taking place for the upper secondary students.



For the graduating cohort, the focus was on providing first hand insights into the post-secondary education pathways and admission exercises, reflecting on their performance in the mid-year examinations and articulating plans to achieve their goals. Programmes included a structured review of their results and next steps, assembly talks by the ITE, Temasek Polytechnic and Catholic Junior College, as well as a series of targeted workshops for students interested in applying for the early admission exercises and direct school admission.

In addition, there were also many opportunities for the upper secondary students to explore their various interests more deeply. This included three Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs) conducted by Temasek Polytechnic on design, hospitality and psychology. KC students also attended P.L.A.Y. at the National Gallery, an early childhood outreach event organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP). At this event, our girls had the opportunity to interact with pre-schoolers and NP students over hands-on art activities.

Through all these programmes, we hope that students will continue to seize the available opportunities both within and outside of KC, to learn more about their strengths and interests, the vast range of education and career opportunities available to them, and how to get to where they want to go.

Details on some of the programmes are highlighted below.

Graduating Cohort Mid-Year ECG Review

The form teachers of each graduating class facilitated a session where students had the opportunity to evaluate their mid-year examination performance against the aggregate scores of post-secondary courses they were interested to pursue. This was a helpful mid-point check for students to articulate their reasons for selecting their respective course choices and commit to strategies they could put into practice in the semester ahead. Students who would like individual consultations with the ECG Counsellor to discuss their plans further are welcome to drop her an email at bong_siew_yin@moe.edu.sg to arrange for an appointment.

Early Admission Exercise (EAE – for ITE and the polytechnics) and Direct-School Admission (DSA – for the junior colleges) Application Workshops

These special admission exercises allow students to be recognised for their non-academic aptitudes and gain admission into the ITE, polytechnics or junior colleges prior to the N- or O-Levels. With applications opening from the end of May, the school organised a series of workshops to support students in the application process.

The ECG Counsellor Ms Bong Siew Yin conducted the workshops on ITE EAE and DSA JC application. For the former, the 4NT students were given tips on what to include in their personal statement. Their English teacher, who also happened to be their form teacher, creatively set students a functional writing task where the context given required students to do a write-up to apply to a course of their choice. Talk about real-world applications of what is done in the classroom! Similarly, for the DSA JC session, most students had a go at a mock interview, where they sharpened their response skills.

The polytechnic EAE session was conducted by Mr Eric Wee from Corporate Communications and Ms Patricia Tay from School of Business, Temasek Polytechnic. The order of the day was the purpose, requirements, application process, timeline and how to set up a portfolio for an EAE application. The girls who attended were clear about the courses of their choice and had the opportunity to draft and receive feedback on their 600-character supporting statement. Two ex-KC girls were also present and shared about their experiences on the application process and polytechnic life.



Beyond supporting students on the application process, more critically, these sessions gave students the opportunity to think through and clarify their reasons for wanting to apply to the various courses.

For more information on the special admission exercises, parents may wish to refer to the following websites. (Please note that application for 2019 entry has closed for ITE EAE and DSA for some JCs. Application for polytechnic EAE had closed on 27 June 2018.)

ITE EAE – <https://www.ite.edu.sg/wps/portal/eae>

Polytechnic EAE - <https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg> and respective polytechnic websites

DSA junior college – <https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-jc/overview> and respective college websites

Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs) at Temasek Polytechnic

In June, a total of 62 students attended AEMs in Temasek Polytechnic to explore possibilities in the fields of hospitality, psychology and design. AEMs are 30-hour courses in applied topics conducted by polytechnic lecturers and geared towards enhancing the learning experience of students. Students taking these AEMs may participate in field trips, hands-on projects, discussions with industry practitioners and various challenging competitions. AEMs are also reflected in the School Holistic Report Card. Students may use their participation in AEMs as evidence of interest and aptitude to apply to the polytechnics through the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE).

AEM on Fundamentals of Hospitality and Tourism Business

Students were exposed to the vibrant and ever changing tourism industry in Singapore and beyond. They learnt about the structure of the industry, key players and tourism business operations through classroom activities. Other topics included global and current trends and issues such as impact of tourism development. The highlight of the course was the fieldtrip to Sentosa. Students thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they competed against one another in small groups to complete an Amazing Race where they learnt more about the tourist attractions on the island. Students were also brought on an insider's tour of Siloso Beach Resort as they learnt how the eco-resort commits to protecting and conserving the environment while incorporating elements of the natural habitat to enhance the experience of their guests.

AEM on Psychology and Applications

Students were introduced to an understanding of psychology as a scientific study of mental processes and human behaviour. They were also given the opportunity to explore the different types of specialisations and careers in psychology.

AEM on Ideas for Design

Ideas for design are fast catching up in the world we live in and we are constantly confronted with design in our surroundings. Students were introduced to many ideas related to design like form, shape depth, tone, texture, composition and colour. This facilitated students' understanding, appreciation and application of design concepts. Students were brought on a fieldtrip to National Botanic Gardens for creative exploration of ideas for their final product. Through the rigorous learning and design process, the 19 students produced beautiful and meaningful poster designs on plywood.

All in all, the three AEMs not only gave students a peek into polytechnic life, they also allowed students to gain rich insights into the respective fields. For many students, this experience strengthened their determination to pursue the respective areas in the future.



Enhanced Art Programme: Digital Mural Painting Workshop

Over the holidays, our secondary three Express and Normal Academic Art girls were guided through three days of Digital Mural Painting workshops on 24, 28 and 30 May. The sessions were organised and led by our Art teachers, in collaboration with Mr Jimmy Ling who is trained in digital illustration. Having worked as an art director producing commercial graphics, illustrations and concept artwork for local and overseas companies, he shared with the girls his technical knowledge and life experiences as a designer and illustrator.

Meant as an authentic task, the girls were challenged to design and create a site-specific, large-scale mural for the entrance to their Art Studios. To address the challenge, the girls had a pre-session exercise where they conceptualized murals that addressed the function and intended vibes of their learning environment. Extending the painting modules which the girls completed in Term 2, the girls were further supported by digital painting workshops where they were introduced to digital art, a widely used art medium in applied arts. They were inducted into Adobe Photoshop, fundamental skills and techniques in digital painting and subsequently, explored character, creature, or environment design with the use of tablet and stylus.

During the sessions, the girls also learnt how to work as a production team. Mimicking the structure, work flow and processes typically found in commercial design production houses, the girls were assigned roles to work towards the creation of a singular life-sized digital artwork. The girls were identified and also self-organized themselves as character designer teams, environment illustrating teams, and a core design and stitching team. The sessions provided the girls with an opportunity to experience how a professional design team might collectively work towards the completion of an assignment in a short period of time. The stitching team is still in the process of polishing up the final artwork, in preparation for print production. The Art department looks forward to the final installation and presentation of another student artwork on our campus.

KC Concert Band

On 24 Jun, the KC Concert Band put up a joint concert with West Winds - Band of the Bukit Batok Community Club. In this concert, the audience was treated to a delightful programme of wind band music that included popular pieces such as *The Seventh Night of July* by Itaru Sakai and *Korean Folk Rhapsody* by James Curnow.

Led by its resident conductor, Mr Philip Tng, West Winds aims to bring music to the community by promoting an awareness and appreciation of band music. This concert is part of the West Winds Community Series, where her musicians would visit a school and share their love and knowledge of music with the younger school musicians before working on a joint performance. Prior to the concert, a combined rehearsal was held on 27 May. In addition, various instrumental workshops were also conducted by the adult musicians from West Winds for the student musicians of the KC Concert Band.

3NA Shakespeare Workshop

On 25 June, the 3NA full literature students took part in KC's annual upper secondary introduction and immersion into Shakespeare's words and world. This year, students were drawn into Macbeth's world of darkness with the introduction of the play through the scene of the three witches meeting. Staged by the Dramatic Arts Society students, this resonated with the audience and piqued their interest in *Macbeth*. The two and half hours workshop delved into the play's main characters and introduced students to the themes of the play. Focusing on the impressions of the main characters and the roles of the witches, as well the idea of persuasion, students were given an insight into the play's main concerns. Despite being initially intimidated by Shakespeare's



poetic language, the 3NA students nonetheless left the workshop with a new sense of understanding and a desire to learn more about the play.

We expect Semester 2 to be just as busy and enriching for us at Katong Convent and we continue to look forward to your invaluable support as we nurture our girls into KCians with the essential 21st century competencies.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

ACHIEVEMENTS

Community In Bloom @KC

Our return to Marine Terrace provided an opportunity for the school to envision our new spaces. On the first day of the school year 2017, the school leaders planted the Katong Tree as a symbol of new beginnings in our upgraded campus. Besides planting of the Katong Tree, the school has also planted another species that is significant to the IJ community - the 'Pisang Raja' tree. This had been first planted in the garden of the Community House in Bukit Timah by the IJ Sisters who had generously shared the harvest with the IJ schools. Over time, the tree has become a common sight in the gardens of several IJ schools. In the spirit of continuing this, three saplings were taken from Convent of our Lady of Good Counsel at Cooling Close and planted in our community garden. The 'Raja' banana trees have since flourished and the first comb was presented to Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong when he officiated at the school's opening ceremony on 24 March this year.

KC's Heritage Garden, with the Katong Tree as its centre piece, also situates the Grotto of Mother Mary and the statue of the school's founder Blessed Nicholas Barre. Over the past one year, the Garden comprising mainly spice and vegetables has been blessed with luxuriant growth and a bountiful harvest. Plants like mint, roselle, lady's finger, brinjal and basil are grown in plots made of recycled wooden pallets which have been modified by the teachers for the purpose of this community garden. Compost and coffee grounds (donated by parents) are used as we strive to be environmentally friendly and innovative in our gardening endeavour. Some of the plant labels were made by our D&T staff with materials left from D&T lessons. Another section of the school grounds has been used to plant fruit trees such as mango, banana, papaya, chempedak, jackfruit, guava, pineapple and even durian. While some have borne fruits like the mango and papaya trees, others will need time to mature.

Several teaching and non-teaching staff from different departments took up gardening plots. Students and parents in the PTSG have also joined in the venture. Students have also helped with the maintenance of the garden – watering, weeding, planting and fertilizing. Gardening has truly engaged the whole school.

In March 2018, NParks encouraged the school to participate in the Community in Bloom Award 2018. Although the school has just embarked on this gardening journey, we decided to give it a try nevertheless. We are pleased to have achieved the Gold Band in this competition! A big thank



you to all staff, parents and students who have helped to make our community garden our favourite corner for reflection and rest.

IgnITE Skills Challenge

A group of students from Sec 3/7 and 4/7 took part in the IgnITE Skills Challenge, one of the few national competitions organised by ITE for 'N' level students. Seven teams went through the preliminary rounds in April at ITE East and West after undergoing the training sessions facilitated by the ITE lecturers prior to the competition. Out of the seven teams, four teams made it to the final rounds which was held at ITE College Central on Wednesday, 23 May 2018.

The students who participated were as follows:

Goodbye to Pain challenge provided the students with the skills to learn the functionality of body parts and sport movements as well as allowed them to prepare and practise the art and steps of ankle-taping (Kinesio TapingR), a rehabilitative taping technique that facilitates the body's natural healing process which supports and stabilises the musculoskeletal system.

Team 1 – Supercalifragilistic from Sec 4/7

Siti Nuraisyah Bte Mohamed Faizal
Ching Shin Lu
Tara Chapman

Team 2 – PXM from Sec 4/7

Nur Herdiawati Bte Mohamad H
Teo Wan Tong Nicole
Phua Pei Xuan

Circuit Tinkering challenge provided students with the skills to demonstrate the basics of electronics through fun and engaging activities and encouraged them to explore various basic electronics circuits with hands-on practice on paper circuit as well as soft circuit. This challenge also ignited the creativity within the students when designing and creating a 2D art work based on a given theme, hence integrating both the sciences and art.

Team 1 – The Golden Blazers from Sec 4/7

Hershey Coleen Ramos
Dhya Aaliya Bajera Abdul Aziz
Nur Aiviena Bte Rafizal

Team 2 – The Miracle Managers from Sec 4/7

Chai Xin Fang Cheryl
Suzanna Kamaz Bte Azman
Nur Shafiqah Bte Saharudin

Team 3 – Red Chilli Spice Girls from Sec 4/7

Raihanah Bte Mohd Ghaus
Kendra Chan Yunru
Felicia Goh Wan Ling

Mad Mocktail Strikes Again! challenge provided the participants with the knowledge and concept of layering liquids of different density as well as introduced them to the techniques involved in mocktail making.

Team 1 – Mighty Mocking Jays from Sec 3/7

Ruth Tay En Qi



Alyssa Nadia Bte Mohamed Sani
Ong Tze Lynn

Team 2 – Scarlet Stars from Sec 3/7

Dhriti Jenibelle D/O Sivakumaren
Fun Jun Ting Felicia
Ng Faustine

Our heartfelt congratulations to the teams which qualified for the finals namely **Supercalifragilistic, PXM** and **The Golden Blazers** from **Sec 4/7** and **The Mighty Mocking Jays** from **Sec 3/7!**

The students had indeed outdone themselves to reach this far. We hope their achievements will also inspire many more students from the Normal Academic or Normal Technical course to join in future IgnITE Skills Challenge organised by the ITE Colleges.

Build Your Own Business (BYOB) Game Board Challenge

Twelve students participated in a POA competition on 24 May. This nationwide competition was organised by Republic Polytechnic's School of Management and Communication. The game board challenge required students to immerse themselves in a simulated game play of building their own business in different economic situations and applying accounting concepts during the competition. The students were required to prepare a cash book capturing their business transactions during the game and thereafter present an accurate financial statement reflecting the profits made.

The students were engaged throughout the competition and found the challenge both exciting and fun whilst applying skills and concepts learnt in POA to the competition. Out of 37 teams who participated in the competition, Katong Convent clinched 5th placing and the girls were proud of their achievement. Congratulations to Kee Ning Pearlyn, Lacaste Ruth Ernestine N, Cheryl Arun, Darlene Darma, D Kiara Juanita Morton R and Zenia Michelle Neo Yia Qi (all from Sec 4/4), Chrestella Vasya Basuki, Renee Nicole Lee Ting and Kriya Namu (all from Sec 4/3), Rene Lee Jia Yi, Ruqaiyah Azhar Katib and Nur Fatima 'Afifa Bte M R (all from Sec 3/4).

Live On (EZ Link Card) Design Competition

In May 2018, Cabin Club collaborated with National Organ Transplant Unit (NOTU), Ministry of Health to participate in the **Live On (EZ Link Card) Design Competition** as part of their Creative Arts Module.

The main objective of this competition was to provide a platform for early awareness on understanding the implication and benefits of organ donation and transplantation. The organisers envisioned that early infusion of this topic would allow youths to be able to make an informed decision with regard to organ donation when they eventually turn 21. Through the different mediums of visual art, youths can then engage and improve their parents', elders' or the community's awareness towards the benefits of organ donation.

Before designing their art works, the students went through a sharing session on organ donation and transplantation, deepening their understanding of the human anatomy. They also watched and listened to recipients' and donors' stories and videos to gain insights to impact of organ failure to empathise and be more compassionate towards patients with such conditions.

We are proud to share the good news that one of the students from Sec 4/7, Nur Herdiawati Bte Mohamad Hermi has been shortlisted as one of the **Top 30 Award Winners** in this competition. She will be receiving her award on 14 July 2018 at Star Loft, Star Performing Arts Centre. Her art



work will be displayed at the ceremony itself and printed as well as formed part of one of NOTU's collaterals, promoting organ donation.

In Herdiawati's description of her art piece, the heart in the centre represents the strong love that binds humanity when a donor donates his organ to those in the community with organ failure. The design also shows the different organs that can be donated such as the cornea, stomach, liver, kidneys and heart. In fact, she feels and believes strongly that organ donation and transplantation is indeed the way to save someone's life. With her family's permission, she shared how her father had donated part of his liver to her elder brother who was born with a liver failure. The transplant was indeed a success to both her family members and they are now healthy and living a very meaningful life. The liver transplant was indeed the best gift her dad had ever given to her elder brother allowing him to live on and have a second chance in life.

In addition to the EZ Link Card Design competition, the students from Cabin Club had also folded stars that will be placed in glass jars, to be given out during Donor Appreciation Ceremony 2018 to donors' families, in honour of the donors' live-saving gift.

Wee Kim Wee Challenge

On 23 June, Katong Convent Girl Guides participated in the Finals of the Wee Kim Wee Challenge, a biennial cooking competition that challenges them to exercise creative and critical thinking skills. The representatives were Shannon Siew-Tong Odermatt, R Vesallachi, Shay Tang Zhuo Min (all from Sec 3/5), Teh Jing Yi Racheal (Sec 3/4) and Amelia Gay Min (Sec 3/3).

The girls were challenged to cook three dishes within two and a half hours-- a local dish from Mrs Wee Kim Wee's cookbook, a dish from one of the Western Hemisphere countries, and a fusion dish which combines traits of a local dish and a dish from a country in the Western Hemisphere. After which, the girls were required to share the significance of their dishes to the World Thinking Day 2018 theme: "Connect, Grow and Impact".

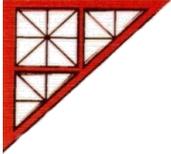
Our team put up a strong performance, plating their culinary creations elegantly and articulating their concepts eloquently amidst intense competition from the other finalists. The girls began this journey with little culinary experience and much uncertainty. Since signing up for the competition in February, they had put in much time and effort in training and conceptualising every detail to give their best performance in the competition. It has been a rich learning journey for them and we are proud of their growth in confidence and culinary skills.

Environment Matters!

KC won a Merit Prize in the Youth for the Environment Day (YED) Climate Action Challenge 2018. It was a national competition opened to all educational institutions organised by the National Environment Agency, with a total of 5 prizes (including two Merit Prizes) given out. Our winning entry can be viewed on Instagram with the hashtags #climateactionSG and #yed2018. You can also view other environment photos by the school at #kc_YED.

KC has also embarked on the use of less plastics this year, beginning with the drinks stallholder issuing straws upon request only and teachers using their own mugs for drinks during school events. All classes are also involved in the recycling of paper and plastic, an on-going activity which was implemented more than 5 years ago.





CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

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OUR GIRLS. OUR FUTURE

Celebrating Racial Harmony Day with PTSG

To celebrate Racial Harmony Day on 20 July 2018 (Friday), PTSG will be setting up special food booths in the canteen selling yummy traditional food during recess. Menu items include Mini Mantou with Chilli Crab Gravy, Putu Mayam, Prata with Curry, Old School Snacks, Air Batu and more! This is a much-loved event by students and proceeds from the sales will go to the school.

For the exciting day, PTSG will need help from parents in 2 ways:

1) *Parent volunteers to help on Friday 20 Jul*

- Parents should be available in 2-hour shifts from 7.30am to 12.30pm

2) *Donations of food items for the food booths*

- Appealing for 2-4 packets of the following items to be delivered to the Security Guard Post or General Office before Tues 17 Jul

Frozen Plain Prata (Any brand)



Frozen Mini Mantou (Any brand)



Old School Snacks – Rainbow Iced Gem Biscuits, Biscuit Piring Wafers, Wheel Crackers, Ice Lollies, Sugar Nuts/Kacang Puteh and Crab Flavoured Snack (Available at neighbourhood wholesale snack shops)



Frozen Putu Mayam Packs (Available at Mustafa)
Cooking Oil (Any brand)



Frozen French Fries(Any brand)

Parents can contact Rowena or Christine if you can help in either way.



Contact Details

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

Chairpersons		Teachers	
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