



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : TERM 3 2020

14 September 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians

In mid-March when we kick-started the usual process of gathering input from our colleagues for the April issue of Parent Link, little did we know that the weeks and months following would turn out to be what they had become. As part of the Circuit Breaker (CB) measures, students remained at home for Home-Based Learning and all activities grinded to a halt. All planned projects had to be reviewed to adhere to CB rules for the safety of our students and the community. For projects that were already in the final stages such as Project Lunch Box initiated by the Infant Jesus Youth Movement and 90 Ration Packs Drive undertaken by the Student Development Team as part of our 90th anniversary celebrations, we had to innovate quickly to think of ways to deliver the donations collected to the beneficiaries.

Following the return of all our students in the post-CB period on 29 June, we explored all ways to continue to deepen the school experience of the students through the usual signature events such as Student Leaders Investiture, Honours Day, National Day and Teachers' Day but in interestingly unusual ways. The teachers even managed to celebrate Youth Day with their students in a cosy breakfast session! Nothing was going to stop the KC community from making the year as vibrant as what previous years had been. This edition of Parent Link, covering events between mid-March to early September, is a recognition of the courage of the KC community to keep our spirits high in a most unusual year and a celebration of the latent talents as we materialise ingenious ways to keep ourselves connected and enriched.

Before School Closure

Project Lunchbox

In early February, one of the coordinating team members of Infant Jesus Youth Movement (IJYM), who is also a part of the IJ Asian Mission team, shared the plight of poor children in Laos that the mission was supporting. She explained how the children who received food at the schools run by the mission tried very hard to save the food to take them home to their families. They used plastic bags or whatever containers they could find and these were both unhygienic and bad for the environment. The IJ Asian Mission team launched a project to provide lunch boxes for the children who want to bring home their free lunch from school, to feed their families by mounting a lunchbox donation drive. Two IJ schools responded to this and our school was one of them.

Our IJYM girls wanted to contribute to make a difference and proposed this to the school as a donation drive project called Project Lunchbox. The CCA group appealed to schoolmates through a morning announcement and word-of-mouth, and to staff via email, to collect spare lunch boxes from our students and staff.

IJYM hoped that our school community would contribute to this worthy cause so that families in another land our IJ Asian Mission supported will be able to enjoy fresh food daily. The collection



was done over 2 weeks from 26 February till 11 March. The school was assured that the lunch boxes would make their way to school children in Laos later in the year by courtesy of the IJ Asian Mission team who will visit the Laotian schools with the donations.

At the end of the collection, IJYM thanked all in KC who supported Project Lunchbox, expressing gratitude for donations which came in many colours, shapes and sizes and filled 3 storage boxes. However, the IJ Asian Mission team subsequently informed us that they were unable to travel to deliver the lunch boxes donated due to travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 situation. The school was reassured that IJYM would be storing the donated lunch boxes till the team is able to deliver them.

Sustenance For Families Rations Wishlist (YWCA) Project

The Student Development Team had initially planned to pack and distribute 90 ration packs for 90 families in the vicinity of the school as part of our 90th anniversary celebration on 14 March.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we had to cancel the packing and distribution of the 90 ration packs. However, we did not want to shelf the project. Hence, as a school, we continued with the collection of all the items in the standard pack such as, white rice, cooking oil, canned sardine, canned baked beans, instant noodles, biscuits, milo, detergent powder and toilet rolls. We would like to thank all classes and staff who had generously donated the above items. Some of our parents also stepped in to donate some non-standard items such as adult and children diapers as well as milk powder. We are grateful for their generosity.

On 6 March, we concluded our collection and made arrangements with YWCA to dispatch the items to their centre for them to do the distribution. We would like to thank the NCDCC girls for helping to load the items onto the delivery vehicle.

Class Leaders Training

As we welcomed the new class leaders to the student leadership fraternity, a series of leadership training sessions were conducted to equip them with the values, qualities and skills needed to excel at their appointments.

The first workshop saw the representatives of the Class Council engaging the Class Leaders in a few rounds of icebreakers, before sharing their leadership journey with them. Through these meaningful activities, the Class Leaders learnt the importance of developing effective communication skills and having a strong peer support network within the class. Clear expectations were then set for the Class Leaders through a discussion on their roles and responsibilities facilitated by the Student Leadership Committee.

The next workshop focussed on imparting practical techniques and strategies to the Class Leaders to aid them in handling conflicts and disagreements effectively. They were thoroughly immersed in the role play segment which required them to think about a possible difficult scenario that may arise in their classes, apply their learning from the training to address the situation, and present their proposed course of action.

CCA Leaders Training

Towards the end of Term 1, our new CCA Leaders were confirmed and ushered into their appointments by a training session organised by the Student Leadership Committee. Possessing a keen desire to learn, the CCA Leaders actively contributed to a brainstorming challenge to identify qualities and values an effective leader should possess, as well as the roles and responsibilities that come with a higher leadership position. Clear expectations were set and



upcoming opportunities to serve were communicated, providing the CCA Leaders with a better idea of how they are supported in their development as values-driven leaders who leave a positive impact on their communities. The training culminated in an exercise where the CCA Leaders crafted goals and commitments for their CCAs. These would serve as timely reminders and give them a sense of direction as they embark on their personal leadership journeys.

We wish our student leaders a meaningful adventure of learning and growth as student leaders in KC!

Post - Circuit Breaker

Student Leadership Board Elections

In the second week of Term 3, Jacelyn Loh of Sec 3/4, Nurhanie binte Saifi Akbar of Sec 3/3 and Heather Angie Khong of Sec 3/6 - head of the senior student council, CCA council and class council respectively - campaigned for the position of the Student Leadership Board president. The three candidates prepared e-posters, campaign slogans and speeches to publicise what they stood for and potential initiatives for the student body if they were elected president. Students and teachers at Katong Convent took part in the voting process after listening to the candidates' campaign speeches and calibrating on the most suitable candidate.

With the votes tallied, we welcomed Jacelyn Loh as the new president of the Student Leadership Board, and the remaining two candidates as the vice-presidents. Congratulations to all three students on their election to a new leadership position, and as they embark on their new responsibilities, we wish them a fulfilling year ahead!

House Captains Elections

A total of 15 candidates from the Secondary Three cohort were identified earlier this year by the PE department as potential House Captains for the term 2020/21. In Week 1 of Term 3, these 15 students were briefed by their respective House Masters on the roles and responsibilities of a House Captain, as well as the campaign timeline for the elections. The school was then introduced to the 15 candidates in Week 3.

The House Captains elections 2020/21 was held on 30 June during morning assembly. Each candidate delivered a recorded speech to their respective Houses, and voting was open immediately after the speeches were screened, and closed on 3 July. All students were invited to vote online via SLS, and all teachers belonging to the respective Houses also had an opportunity to cast their vote.

The results of the House Captains elections 2020/21 were as follows:

Barre House

Victoria Goh Sec 3/6
Yolande Ang Sec 3/6

Deirdre House

Sarah Elizabeth Tan Sec 3/4
Clarice Lim Sec 3/4

Finbarr House

Tiffany Mae Chee Sec 3/3
Low Keisha Sec 3/3



Mathilde House

Emma Soh Sec 3/5

Trisha Mahmood Sec 3/5

We would like to congratulate all elected House Captains for 2020/21, and look forward to their leadership at school events.

Student Leaders Investiture

This year's Student Leaders Investiture took place in a new format and comprised two segments. Part I sought to recognise the service and contributions by the outgoing student leaders, while part II was focussed on the endorsement of the incoming student leaders of 2020/2021.

Organised by the Student Leadership Board, the theme for this year's investiture was 'The Gift of Love'. To them, being a student leader exceeds simply carrying out their duties and responsibilities. It is their belief that leadership means going above and beyond to show care, compassion and love for people around them, and they strive to do so by giving from their hearts unconditionally.

The celebratory event began with our Principal's opening address and her thoughts on the theme. She touched on the importance of service from the heart, the need to have sufficient love to sustain mission-driven calls, as well as a recognition that the love for others will be tested. This was followed by the presentation of our outgoing leaders, and a heartfelt speech by our outgoing president, Chua Yi Xuan Rachael of Sec 4/4, who reflected on the initiatives accomplished in the past year, as well as how the student leaders adapted to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 situation and rolled out the KC Self-Care Bingo Challenge to continue fostering healthy and meaningful relationships during the home-based learning period. She also expressed her gratitude to her fellow student leaders for their dedication and service to the school in striving for a stronger KC community spirit.

The second half of the proceedings took place a week later with the handover ceremony, which saw the outgoing president hand the student leadership plaque to the incoming president, Jacelyn Loh of Sec 4/4. This ceremony symbolises the transfer of responsibility and authority to the new Student Leadership Board.

Following which, Jacelyn Loh offered her thoughts on the gift of love. She encouraged the school community to practise self-love so that they will find it easier to pour their love into people around them. She then highlighted the significance of practising gratitude when we receive acts of care or generosity from others, where a little acknowledgement or simple gesture could strengthen our relationships with others. Additionally, she appealed to her peers to serve as beacons of light and positivity by taking initiative to reach out to others, believing that it will spark off a pay it forward effect, thus creating a more supportive and loving environment.

The investiture closed with the badge pinning ceremony and student leaders pledging to be a positive role model, leader and voice of the student body.

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

DEP Directing Workshop

As part of our continual bid to steep our students in both the performance practice and language of creative thinkers, award-winning theatre director and playwright, and KC's visiting artist under the National Arts Council Artist in Schools Scheme, Chong Tze Chien conducted a series of Directing Workshop for our upper secondary Drama Elective Programme students. Over the course of the



workshop, students were inducted into the role of the director and taught how to employ directorial devices of time, space, and actors to create their director's vision. Engaging with open scripts, Sidney Lumet's 12 Angry Men, and Hsiung Shih-l's Lady Precious Stream, students presented their own unique and vivid director's concept based on their interpretation of the plays. It was an inspiring session for the students who left the workshop with the knowledge and skill of applying directorial devices to create evocative theatrical experiences for their audiences.

Youth Day Breakfast Connect

In early term 3 with the implementation of safe management measures, a survey was conducted with the students on their return to school to ascertain their well-being. Students expressed that they were worried that they had little time to interact and catch up with their friends face-to-face. Arising from the feedback and with the objective to enliven the school experience for our girls during this period and inject some fun back into the students' school life besides studying, the school set aside time for students to connect over a meal as part of the Youth Day celebrations.

Hence on 7 July, students had a Breakfast Connect session with their classmates and form teachers for the first half hour of the day. Working together as a class, they planned and bought the breakfast of their choice, and partook their meal in class. The form teachers in some classes also planned fun activities such as Kahoot and charades for the students to take part in at the session.

It was indeed a refreshing start to Week 6 in Term 3 and students enjoyed the time spent with their classmates and form teachers as they bonded together over a meal whilst maintaining safe distancing.

Honours Day

On 4 August, Katong Convent commemorated Honours Day with all staff and students with a distributed ceremony that was held in the classrooms. Although we were not able to celebrate this event with students, parents, stakeholders and alumni in attendance this year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to celebrate the good work of our students in a ceremony held in their respective classes with their form teachers presenting the certificates to the students.

Almost 200 students from the 2019 cohort were affirmed and these included the following recipients of our pinnacle special awards:

Minnie D'Rozario Sports Award: Yew Kaiwen Jenna (Sec 4/7)

Marie Bong Literature Award: Sarah Zafirah Bte Noor Ashikin (Sec 4/6)

Special Commendation Award: Tharshini D/O Balasubramaniam (Sec 5/2)

Blessed Barre Award: Ramirez Chuan Marie Perante (Sec 4/4)

Sister Finbarr Award: Nicolette Joy Devrajan (Sec 4/5)

Sister Deirdre O'Loan Award: Charlotte Lee Jia Wei (Sec 4/5)

As 2020 is also the year Katong Convent celebrates its 90th Anniversary, the theme for KC's Honours Day was "Love Never Fails" - 1 Corinthians 13, to celebrate the love we put into our work and interactions with others.



The programme began with the Principal's address, followed by video presentations of the citations by teachers for all our special awardees. For the first time, we also had these awardees sent a video message to the current graduating cohort encouraging them to persevere in their studies and wishing them all the best for the coming exams. An item by a member of the choir and another by the concert band were also included.

In her recorded valedictory speech to fellow KCians, Charlotte Lee Jia Wei encouraged the current cohort to persevere and not to allow past failures define oneself; just like one's past achievements would not guarantee everlasting success and hence, one should not grow complacent either. We hope Charlotte and our KCians will continue to give nothing less than their best effort in everything they do.

The following awards would be given out at other suitable occasions in the later part of the year.

- 1) IJ Long Service Awards
- 2) KC Long Service Awards
- 3) Partners in Education Awards

A digital copy of the Honours Day programme booklet is currently available for download from our school website (Parents Login).

National Day Celebrations

On 7 August, the KC family celebrated Singapore's 55th year of independence. This year's celebration, in the context of the COVID-19 situation, took on a different level of innovation and creativity as we sought to bring National Day to the students while maintaining safe distancing measures.

Together, a Stronger KC: Observance Parade & Reflection

We began the first segment of our celebration during the morning assembly with a pre-recorded video of the observance ceremony. Our students from the National Civil Defence Cadet Corps, Girl Guides and the student leaders demonstrated their steadfastness in duty to the nation through their engagement in the ceremony. This was followed by the screening of the recollection video, highlighting Singapore's past, the contributions of our key leaders and the pioneer generation, and how we have overcome the challenges as one Singapore. The form teachers then conducted a citizenship and character education (CCE) lesson, focussing on what it means to be Singaporean and to consider the future Singapore that we would like to build.

Bringing the celebration to KC

All students received snacks and souvenirs, in anticipation of the second segment of the celebration. We held a virtual concert, featuring the CHIJ Katong Convent concert band with their rendition of Home by Kit Chan, followed by the choir's version of *We Will Get There* by Stefanie Sun. The students participated in a school-wide Kahoot! quiz, with the top 3 classes emerging victorious: Sec 4/7, Sec 2/4, and Sec 4/6. Next, we had the inter-house challenge where the students, in their classrooms, watched a live stream of representatives from their houses participating in traditional games such as skipping rope and chapteh.

KC Inter-House Sports Challenge 2020

In conjunction with the school's national day celebration, this year's KC Sports Day was replaced by KC Inter-House Sports Challenge. The event was livestreamed from the school's indoor sports hall to all classes, where students enthusiastically watched their housemates participate in the sports events from the class projection screen.



The event began with the emcee, Beatrice Bautista of class 4/4, introducing the House Captains taking the athletes' oath through a pre-recorded video. This year's event included a 90-second rule to commemorate Katong Convent's 90th anniversary. Excitement mounted as we started with the 90 seconds skipping rope challenge with the secondary one students. The live commentary by the emcee fired up the excitement for those who watched the event live in their respective classrooms. The next few events came fast and furious with participants from the secondary two, three and graduating cohort taking their turns trying to get as many skips as possible within the 90 seconds.

The Inter-House Sports Challenge was made even more special with the inclusion of a traditional event: Chaptah for 90 seconds. The chaptah event was the most eagerly anticipated event of the day, as not only were the participants unfamiliar with the game, it was the most closely contested game. In the lead up to the chaptah event, participants were intensely practising to keep the chaptah up in the air as many times as possible in their designated waiting area before the challenge started. Once again, the secondary ones started the chaptah event first, with many revealing their hidden talent in playing this traditional game. The inter-house sports challenge ended in high spirits as all participants knew they had done their best for both their class and their house.

Winners of the Inter-House Sports Challenge:

Skipping

Sec 1 Xie HuiYi Sec 1/3 (Mathilde)

Sec 2 Germaine Poh Kar Min Sec 2/3 (Deirdre) and Lianne Loke Sec 2/1 (Mathilde)

Sec 3 Perez Ma Hazina Tuazon Sec 3/6 (Barre)

Grad Cohort Charmaine Liew Sec 4/6 (Mathilde)

Chaptah

Sec 1 Joelle Kwok Jai Min Sec 1/3 (Mathilde)

Sec 2 Nur Farasofea Abdullah Sec 2/7 (Deirdre)

Sec 3 Charlene Wong Sec 3/4 (Deirdre)

Grad Cohort Jermaine Gan Sec 4/1 (Deirdre)

The results from the completed events leading up to the Inter-House Sports Challenge (90sec plank, combined broad jump, 90 sec skipping and 20m run) were combined with the results of the chaptah and skipping challenges on the day itself, with House Deirdre emerging as the overall champions.

Everything We Are: Together a Stronger Singapore

After the sports challenge, our students continued the celebration with a virtual Escape Room game played as a class. They had to answer 15 questions about Singapore or the school, in order to obtain the code to unlock the escape room. The national day celebration concluded with the screening of the national day video, consisting of well wishes by the school staff followed by this year's NDP theme song, Everything I Am. The upper secondary form teachers continued with a final component, reiterating the theme for this year's national day celebration: Together A Stronger Singapore.

Despite being unable to physically gather as a KC family due to safe distancing measures, we remain united in the appreciation of how far we have come as a nation, and how we can progress in the future!

Donation Drive For IJHCC

When school resumed in Post-CB Phase 1 in early June, IJYM looked for opportunities to support organisations and individuals, knowing that some sectors were more severely hit than others in this



pandemic. Our natural choice was IJHCC. We reached out and enquired about support needed. Because of safe distancing, we could not visit nor offer hands in their joy pack services. IJYM then mounted a donation drive for household and personal care items from a wish list for them.

We worked this into our eCCA sessions when it began in early July. It was mounted over two and a half weeks from 29 July to 14 August. The IJYM girls drafted appeals, made morning announcements and uploaded the Donation Drive for IJHCC slides onto our digital announcement platform. They set up donation boxes in convenient locations for the items. Every day, the IJYM girls collected the items for consolidation. By the end of two weeks, there was a sizeable stash of household and personal care items.

Once the donation drive ended, the items were sorted, counted & boxed. It filled 5 boxes and 6 bags. There was also a bagful of soft toys hand-made by our Vice-President, Keira Lim's mother. We then had to arrange to transport the items to IJHCC. The Outreach and Events Coordinator at IJHCC, Mrs Trina Yap, a mother of 2 KC girls, readily suggested that she could pick the items up when delivery times were trying to be arranged.

It was a meaningful few weeks for the IJYM girls who, even with their personal adjustments, could think to support others amid the pandemic. Their hearts were moved and hands mobilised to collect everyday items that many of us take for granted but are so needed to run households. These items would go a long way in helping the beneficiaries of IJHCC, some of whom may have fallen on even more difficult times during this pandemic with jobs lost and opportunities drying up. In line with the theme for the year, Taking off my Shoes, our girls have indeed overcome their discomfort in appealing for and collecting donations and risen above their personal struggles to reach out and support others who would need more.

Story Challenge Assembly

The pandemic and its accompanying safety measures has resulted in theatres all around the world being closed and many arts events suspended or cancelled. Yet the arts is a crucial aspect of life, both to society at large, as well as to KC. The arts is a means to connect communities, providing affective shared experiences through which issues may be discussed. Given the importance of the arts, arts practitioners have been exploring ways the arts may be shared, even while we are apart, leveraging digital platforms to create new spaces for communal experiences.

Week 11's assembly was thus a treat and a novel one with The Theatre Practice bringing their mind-bending, fast-talking madness of the Story Challenge to our students via video. Ensuring that the performance retained the liveness and community of traditional theatre despite digital mediation, the actors sought student participation by asking them to contribute themes and story conditions in the weeks before. The actors were then given a mere five minutes to create each story before recording their improvisation for our students.

In the Story Challenge, the actors took familiar stories and gave them a new twist, re-imagining popular media like Stranger Things, TikTok, And Crash Landing on You. The students were also privy to the creation process of the improvisation as they learnt how stories could be created structurally and physically.

The pandemic may have brutally altered our lives, but as shared by Mrs Lena Siau, our CCE HOD during a morning reflection, change can spur creativity and growth. This may be unprecedented times, but it will also engender unprecedented inventions.



DEP Viewpoints Workshop

“Every move you make, every step you take” can qualify as a deliberate choice on stage! Over three sessions, the Secondary 2 DEP students were engaged in a workshop led by local professional theatre practitioners from Nine Years Theatre. The students explored various ways of creating shapes, gestures and movement in time and space. Their creativity was contagious! Students kinaesthetically responded to each other’s creations and the process generated many plausible storylines that wowed the audience. As mentioned by a student, “I realised how much we overlooked the concept of space and shape! But now, I have learnt to pay close attention to these small details and apply them when acting in a play!” Space and time have now taken on a different meaning for these budding actors.

Teachers’ Day Celebration

The theme adopted by the Student Leadership Board (SLB) for Teachers’ Day this year, ‘Nurturing through Love’, aimed to recognise and appreciate the immense care, time and love provided by teachers so that students may develop holistically. It is undeniable that teachers go beyond what is required to ensure that students are developed to fulfil their potential. Through the events of the day, the SLB hoped to show their appreciation for all the staff of KC for always going the extra mile for them.

The day started off with a class party where teachers were treated to a hearty breakfast specially prepared by the students. Different classes had special activities planned for their teachers to enjoy as they interacted with one another. Following which, instead of the traditional concert in the hall, everyone remained in their classrooms for the e-concert. Highlights of the concert included a special performance by two Arts and Culture girls, Rania Soleha Maria Gannon of Sec 4/1 and Manini Allegra Mina of Sec 4/2, as well as an awards ceremony designed to entertain the teachers. A Kahoot! quiz got the students very involved and excited to show off how well they knew their teachers, and everyone had a good laugh at a surprise dance item by the teachers which rounded off the concert.

Teachers’ Day this year may have been celebrated differently but was still filled with the same spirit and celebratory atmosphere as before. The student leaders committed a lot of time and effort in preparing the gifts for the teachers - a tote bag specially designed by the SLB. As part of the collaboration with Heartware Network on the “We Love Our Teachers” project, the teachers and staff were also blessed with a simple gift of an apple.

A heartfelt thanks to the team of student leaders, as well as the teachers, for working with them to make the celebrations memorable!

The celebration continued after the students had been dismissed for the day. The second segment helmed by our Staff Well-Being Committee (SWC) is something our staff looks forward to each year and every year, the SWC would go to great length to organise a day of fun to mark this special day. Not only was this year no different, we were even more determined to put whatever gloom aside to mark the occasion with joy. In the week leading to the day of celebration, staff responded enthusiastically to the invitation to post photographs on the CHIJKC Staff Workplace portal to know each other better. It was a heart-warming experience as we took in what our colleagues have generously shared with us about what they enjoy doing outside their work hours and work environment.

On the day itself, to adhere to safe management measures in light of the global pandemic, we gathered in groups of 5 to dine and stay connected through a teleconference. After the Principal’s opening speech, awards and affirmation, staff was engaged in an amazing race to know the school, its people and history better. The event ended with a “Guess the Song” game and a virtual



dance item. The Katong Convent staff has role-modelled once again that with resilience and some creativity, we can make the best out of every situation.

Education and Career Guidance (ECG)

ECG involves equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills and values to make informed decisions for successful transition to post-secondary education.

ECG counselling

In light of the COVID-19 situation, the school has adopted the provision of remote ECG counselling services between March and July to meet the needs of the students. For example, in view of the special admission exercises for the graduating cohort, our ECG counsellors, Ms Kate Choo and Ms Debra Scully provided ECG counselling to the students via email and teleconferencing platforms. A live google document was also created to update the graduating cohort on online workshops and events conducted by post-secondary institutions and organisations. A series of lesson packages was also released on Student Learning Space (SLS) to equip interested students with the necessary skills and knowledge as they prepare for the early admission exercises.

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

More than 90 students in the graduating cohort applied to post-secondary institutions including the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Junior Colleges (JCs) and Polytechnics via the special admission exercises this year. These exercises allow students to apply for admission to post-secondary institutions based on their non-academic aptitudes prior to the N- or O-Levels. To ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff amidst the COVID-19 situation, ITE, JCs and polytechnics conducted selections for DSA and EAE largely via electronic means including interviews, performance tasks, aptitude tests and/ or portfolio submissions over online platforms in KC or at home from June to August. On-campus selection proceeded for a few selected courses in ITE and the polytechnics like nursing, where the selection process could not be meaningfully replicated in a remote manner.

PFP talk for Sec 401 and 402 students

On 17 August, students from Sec 401 and 402 attended a talk on the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP). It was hosted on a live platform with Mr Lau Yan Moh, a lecturer from the School of Mathematics and Science at Singapore Polytechnic. PFP is a one-year programme that offers a practice-oriented curriculum taught by polytechnic lecturers, to better prepare polytechnic-bound Normal (Academic) students for entry into the relevant Polytechnic Diploma courses. PFP students are given provisional places in diploma programmes, subject to them passing all modules in the one-year PFP. Students were informed about the requirements of entry to PFP and heard what the programme entails. They also learnt that PFP involves attending bridging courses in preparation for the relevant polytechnic diploma, learning research and presentation skills and participating in life at the polytechnic. Students benefitted from Mr Lau's talk, which revealed snippets about PFP and polytechnic life. They also appreciated the candour of the lecturer in sharing his experiences leading PFP students and some students took the opportunity to clarify questions about post N-level routes.

Arts Bites

In these uncertain times, when the community may no longer gather to partake of live communal arts experiences, KC's Arts and Culture team has curated the Arts Bites series. This series of short presentations is targeted at our lower secondary students during pre-morning assembly to ensure that they continue engaging with the arts. Aimed to cultivate an appreciation for the arts, this series offers manageable nuggets of information regarding the various art forms. For our inaugural series, the team has tied in this year's Book and Music Week's theme of "For the Love of



Shakespeare” to explore areas of art and culture during the time of Shakespeare. By introducing students to diverse areas of music, visual, and literary art, fashion, and makeup of Elizabethan England, students would be better able to access and appreciate the literary and dramatic works of Shakespeare.

Reading Programme

The introduction of the reading period for Lower Secondary students from 7.30 - 7.50 a.m. each weekday (except Wednesday which is dedicated to Arts Bites) this term has been a welcome addition, as there is nothing stronger than a community of readers reading English and Mother Tongue language books together to give a sense of purpose and meaning in doing so.

Our KC family tapped on this opportunity to 'Read for Books', by taking part in the aptly named charity drive, organised by the National Library Board which ran from 11 to 26 July.

Our Lower Secondary girls supported this initiative for four days from 13 to 17 July, as part of our school's 90th anniversary, themed "Love Never Fails", to showcase a love for reading and the less privileged, and how our school community can have a wider impact through reading together, both in English and Mother Tongue Language books.

The initiative aimed to raise 1000 books for the less privileged, where a donation of 1 book would be made to selected beneficiaries for every 10 people who read for 15 minutes. Over the qualifying period of multiple reading sessions, a total of 1887 count resulted in the contribution of 188 books. Well done, Lower Secondary cohort!

Parents and Guardians, as we move into the final term of the year and the students focus their attention on their preparations for the end-of-year and national examinations, stay tune for our post-exam plans and see how the KC family plans to come together to honour our tradition of Book and Music Week and the arts. As encapsulated in this year's National Day theme, Together A Stronger Singapore and in the words of PM Lee Hsien Loong in Parliament on 2 September, '..... COVID-19 will be the occasion for us to do better, emerge stronger, and become more united.....' we hope that the KC community will similarly look back at this momentous year with pride and confidence that we have become better, stronger and more united.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

ACHIEVEMENTS

MOE History Challenge



In July this year, one of our students, Kirthiga D/O Narayanan of Sec 3/3, participated in the MOE History Challenge 2020. The MOE History Challenge aims to engage students in the disciplinary aspects of History where students can demonstrate their knowledge of the subject and apply conceptual understanding across different historical periods. Participating students had to sit through an SLS-designed quiz comprising multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

Students who performed well in the quiz would qualify for the History Talent Development Programme (HDTP). We are proud to announce that Kirthiga has been offered the opportunity to participate in the HDTP where she would gain greater exposure to widen and deepen her historical knowledge, concepts and skills through various platforms. The school would like to congratulate Kirthiga on this achievement and for her immense effort at reading various history-related books to well-equip herself for the competition. May this be an inspiring success story for others to follow her footsteps to grow their passion in their chosen field.

National Schools Online Debating Championships (NSODC) 2020

KC Debate took part in the inaugural NSODC 2020. The semi-finals and finals were held on 1 Aug. This highly competitive national competition was held over four qualifying rounds that pits schools of equivalent division status against each other to decide entrants through to the quarters-, semi- and final rounds. KC Debate was competing in Division 2. All the rounds were conducted via the Zoom platform and it was indeed a new experience for the debaters to engage their opponents virtually.

Katong Convent sent in debaters Natalie Sarah Wan En Joshua (Sec 1/3), Noor Aaliyah Ford (Sec 2/1), Amber Dachlan (Sec 2/6), Qaeela Jae Brewton (Sec 2/6) and Ashvithaa Ramesh (Sec 2/6) who worked well under pressure and as a team. They faced Tanglin Trust School (Teams A and B), Tanjong Katong Girls' School and Maris Stella High School in the semi-finals. The team progressed to the finals and faced Tangling Trust School (Team A) to win convincingly.

We are very proud of our debaters who have worked very hard to achieve this success.

Unit Overall Performance Award (UOPA) 2019

The National Civil Defence Cadet Corps (NCDCC) Unit Overall Performance Award is an annual evaluation of the overall performance of the school unit and active involvement of both cadets and teacher officers conducted by HQ NCDCC.

NCDCC is pleased to inform that we have obtained a Silver for UOPA. This award affirms the achievements and efforts made by our cadets in 2019.

Cadet Achievement

NCDCC is also pleased to inform that our cadet and Unit Sergeant Major of 2019/2020, Warrant Officer Cheng Ying Charmaine of Sec 4/2, has attained the SCDF-NCDCC Pinnacle Badge, the highest accolade given to the most outstanding cadets so that they may be role models of excellence for others to emulate. A total of 40 cadets are awarded this prestigious badge this year. These cadets displayed exceptional leadership qualities and have made extensive contributions to their units and HQ NCDCC at the national level.

