



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : MARCH 2020

5 March 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians

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

Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Fortnight

This year, the Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) department had designated two consecutive weeks from 29 January to 14 February in celebration of MTL Fortnight. With a wide range of activities from cultural discovery to language exploration, students were provided with exciting opportunities to use mother tongue languages to gain better insights into the culture and traditions of the Chinese and Malay communities respectively. To create an immersive environment for the learning of MTL, specially curated activities targeted at different groups and levels of students were organised. School-wide workshops were also held after curriculum time. We hope that the MTL students had appreciated the enhanced learning experience by actively using mother tongue languages and knowledge of associated cultures well after the end of MTL Fortnight celebration.

Chinese Language (CL)		Malay Language (ML)	
Language Appreciation Programme			
Creative Writing Competition (For all levels)			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote MTL literary writing in school Provide students with a platform to express creativity and demonstrate the ability to engage in meaningful discussions on topics and issues related to language and culture. 		
Fun with Pronunciation (Sec 4) 口语课-多音字		Scrabble Competition (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the awareness of commonly-used polyphonic characters Appreciate the musicality in the tonal expressions of the Chinese language. 		Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the joy of learning Malay language through games Expanding students' vocabulary



Idiom-Based Stories (Sec 1,2 & all NT classes) 《成语故事》		Concrete Poetry Writing (Sec 1 – 4 NT)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the meaning and stories behind popular Chinese idioms. Able to illustrate the story behind each idiom through visual and /or performing art forms 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote creativity in writing poems Able to create concrete poetry based on the theme of Malay traditional music
How to be a good interviewer? (Sec 3) 《Yes 933 DJ 教你访谈技巧》		Traditional Malay Music and Games Workshop (Sec 1, 2, 4 & 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the techniques and preparation involved in conducting interviews. Able to conduct an interview as part of the research for their group project in Term 3. 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the history of traditional Malay music Know the rhythm and instruments of traditional Malay music Able to play a form of traditional Malay musical instrument
Cultural Exposure Programme			
Clay-making (Sec 1,2 & all NT classes) 《成语泥塑》		Malay Traditional Music Appreciation (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate the traditional art of clay-making Represent the idioms learnt in class creatively using clay. 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn and recognize different types of Malay traditional music (e.g. zapin, keroncong, dondang sayang) through hands-on activities Enrich students' knowledge through live music played using traditional musical instruments (e.g. gambus, komping, rebana) Expand students' knowledge and vocabulary on a variety of areas related to Malay traditional games

ITE Experience

As part of the Normal Technical Education Career Guidance (ECG) programme, the secondary 2NT students went to two ITE colleges in Term 1, namely College East on 6 February and College Central on 7 February for the Experience ITE Programme (EIP).

The programme is a learning adventure for secondary school students, specially designed to help them experience ITE and discover a “Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on” ITE education which can help advance their careers. The students were taken on a tour around the colleges to explore the various courses offered and to see the facilities at the various schools in the colleges. They also experienced the exciting learning environment at the ITE colleges and saw for themselves the wide range of Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) and student facilities available to ITE students. Some of the exciting programmes that were planned at ITE Colleges include opportunities to fly drones at the School of



Engineering, applying basic make-up skills to transform their classmate into a different person at the School of Business and Services as well as making popcorns at the School of Applied Food Science.

Library Writing Programme: Photowrite

On 10 February, the English department kicked off its first round of writing and speaking workshops to develop the potential students have in the two areas.

In the writing group, 19 secondary two and three budding writers gathered in the school library for "Photowrite", a workshop with poet and photographer Marc Nair on the pairing between the two art forms. The workshop explored how the visual and the written word can create meaning in a multimodal form. The workshop started with Marc sharing his photos, and discussing how images create ideas for writing poetry. Students experimented writing Haiku while looking at one of Nair's photographs for inspiration. Nair also pointed out the similar elements of photography and writing, as well as shared tips on composition and viewpoints. The students enjoyed walking around taking photographs of items both in the library and the rest of the campus after which they composed a hundred word personified essay and poem. Feedback on their compositions was given by Marc and their peers which helped them sharpen their writing. Many students were inspired to deepen their craft after this workshop.

Library Speaking Programme: The Art of Speaking

The speaking programme, designed for students with the potential and passion for the spoken word explored the art of speaking. As this was the first workshop in the speaking series, external vendors from WordForward Limited focussed on presentation skills and techniques. The session was engaging as students were given opportunities to practise public speaking techniques and view examples of good speeches so they are able to produce an impromptu speech.

Secondary 5 Retreat

The secondary five retreat was held on 11 February this year, unlike other years when this was carried out during the post-exam period. This programme was co-organised by KC's chaplaincy team and the Redemptorist Mission Team from Novena Church as a launch pad for affirmative school experience to kickstart and embrace their final lap as the Sec 5N cohort

The students were immersed in deep sharing in small groups and videos that challenged them to assess their own values and offer constructive feedback to their peers to lift each other. There were moments of deep contemplation and honest sharing by the facilitators who encouraged and inspired our students to develop their own strength in moving towards a positive outcome in life and a deeper appreciation of people around them.

Many students shared that they found the experience meaningful and relatable, and enjoyed the affirmation exercise at the end of the retreat. They also recommended that the same programme should continue for the cohort next year.

2D to 3D Art workshop with Dr. Wee Hong-Ling

Our school is pleased to have hosted Dr. Wee Hong-Ling in our Art studios as she conducted a workshop for our secondary three Art students on 11 and 13 February. A master ceramist, Dr. Wee brought with her a wealth of experience to share with our girls as she took them through a number of hands-on activities to help them understand how to transform 2D shapes into 3D forms. The three hours under Dr. Wee's tutelage was really enriching as the students did not just learn art but also about life and what it meant to be an artist for this New York-based Singaporean talent. Definitely time well spent!



Total Defence Day (15 February)

As Singapore grapples with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and with mass assembly suspended for now, this year's Total Defence Day commemoration in Katong Convent took a slightly different slant. Our girls were treated to a 26-min SG short film entitled: *SQ117 – Men Behind the Mask* in their own classroom. This thrilling documentary film on the hijack of SQ117 in 1991 gave students a glimpse of how Singapore responded to a hostage situation and how everyone played a part to ensure the safety of all passengers on board. In addition to the dramatic recollection of the incident, the film also documented interviews with some of the passengers on the plane and SAF commandos which provided students an in-depth understanding of the hijack and how Singapore successfully emerged from this challenge.

Following the short film, form teachers went through reflection questions with their students to identify the important qualities and attitudes that are vital to making a strong military force. Some teachers also took the opportunity to speak with their girls on the impact of the current COVID-19 in Singapore and the issue of panic buying by some Singaporeans.

During CCE lessons that week, the National Education (NE) reps of secondary two and three facilitated lessons on Total Defence Day, using the *The Straits Times IN (Special Edition) February* issue. Many did a marvellous job in engaging their classmates in reflecting on the 6 pillars of total defence by using activities recommended in *ST IN*. The teachers also complemented the students' lessons with the Total Defence Day lesson package provided by MOE.

In line with the commemoration of Total Defence Day, a Wipe-Down campaign was launched on 14 February in all schools to promote social responsibility, national resilience and personal hygiene. It was heartwarming to see students and teachers demonstrate active citizenship by practising the 4-step wipe-down routine during recess that day. It has since become a daily routine of the students in keeping their area clean after meals.

Girl Guides—World Thinking Day

Every year on 22 February, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world commemorate World Thinking Day. It is on this day (also the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden Powell who founded the Movement) that Guides around the world connect in spirit with other members of the Guiding Movement.

Over two weekly meetings, the Guides delved into the World Thinking Day theme of 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion' through various activities. They studied and drew inspiration from the lives of famous female leaders locally and abroad, and thought about how they can make a difference in their own communities. In a game where different patrols were given different limitations to achieve the same goal, the Guides learnt the difference between equity and equality; they also played a game called *Petit Poisson Rouge (Little Red Fish)* and understood what it means to display their strengths amidst discrimination, and the importance of being inclusive.

The essence of these activities, together with the significance of World Thinking Day and the renewal of the Guide Promise were recorded in a video; it was shown in all the classrooms after the delivery of the World Thinking Day message on 24 February. It is their promise, as an 84-member company, that they will strive to develop themselves to be more compassionate and empathetic members of our larger community.



In CHIJ Katong Convent, we are continuously looking for and providing opportunities for our girls to have a rich and fulfilling school experience that will enable the girls grow holistically to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We welcome parents in helping to source for or provide such experiential opportunities as well.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

ACHIEVEMENTS

Canoeing

14 canoeists took part in the annual Singapore Canoe Marathon (SCM) Under 16 12km race category held at the Marina Reservoir on 19 January. The SCM was a great opportunity for participants to enjoy the sport beyond short-course sprint races as the Marina Reservoir provided a scenic backdrop for this international event which consisted of paddling laps around the Marina Reservoir along with boat portage. Leading up to the event, the participants trained hard to improve their endurance and skills, and supported each other along the way. All canoeists finished their races with good timings, overcoming the sunny and windy conditions and their own fatigue. Special thanks to Ifa Adilah Dafinah Bte I (Sec 5/2), Lim Ying Xuan, Chloe (Sec 4/7) and Ilya Qairyna Bte Haminudin (Sec 2/3) for voluntarily coming for the event despite not racing, and contributing their time and effort into helping the team with their logistical needs.

