



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : FEBRUARY 2020

3 February 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians

Time flies and we are already into February of the new academic year. Many events have taken place and we are off to a good start as we witnessed the KC family working and learning together to become a stronger community. We are confident that this KC spirit will continue to spur us on to greater heights.

Macbeth Workshop

Developed in-house for our Sec 3 Full Literature students, the Macbeth workshop took place over two afternoons on 6 and 7 Jan. It was a creatively designed workshop to entice students to engage with the text and plot, be familiar with Shakespearean language, and encounter a few key characters.

Through the use of performance pedagogies, students entered the world of a performance and had opportunities to explore the stage and act. Shakespeare's language can be intimidating and unfamiliar to students. The first activity was crafted to allow students to immerse themselves in his words. Every student received a card with a quote from the text. Students walked around the room and when they were told to stop, they read the line to the nearest person to them. They then exchanged the quotes and repeated the activity. Students were then grouped according to quotes from the same scene. The highlight of the activity was students independently deciding the order of the quotes and enacting the scene. The students' enthusiasm and motivation was seen in their creative enactment of the scene.

In the next activity, students were given a script with only the dialogue and they had to decide which character said which line and how they would enact the scene. Some decided to enact the scene in Modern English, while some enacted the scene in the original Shakespearean language. Through this exciting activity, students took on the role of the various characters and even a director. They immersed themselves with the language and after the various groups presented, they realised the differences between the scenes in Shakespearean language and Modern English. Students became more aware of the richness in the images used by Shakespeare and the rhythm and rhyme of the lines. Equally important, students began utilising their analytical and inference skills to make meaning of a script without the usual signifiers of character and stage directions.

As an extension of their learning in the workshop, students were tasked to create report cards for Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Students were given the autonomy to decide how they would like to design the report card and what aspects they would like to include. In the following week, students explained their design in the form of a presentation.



It was an experience unlike anything else for both teachers and students! More importantly, it made Macbeth more appealing and inviting for the students.

Secondary 1 Level Camp

Our Sec 1 students participated in a non-residential level camp themed ‘Starting Right’ on 15 and 16 January. Recognising their recent transition from primary to secondary school, the camp was specially crafted to impart skills and knowledge for our students to start right and be effective students in Katong Convent. Two sets of social skills, “Disagreeing appropriately” and “Using an appropriate voice tone” were also introduced to the students to develop positive relationship-building skills.

On Day 1, students learned the importance of discipline, ownership and self-motivation in achieving personal effectiveness. Selected study skills and strategies such as time management were also introduced to the students. They also learned inter-personal skills to foster a deeper understanding of self, as well as how to work better with others. To conclude the day, students explored the importance of building a positive community of learning as a class through hands-on activities, while also recognising their personal role as a team player in the class.

On Day 2, students and form teachers had class bonding activities at East Coast Park. Blessed with good weather, they had sumptuous food and fun games and enjoyed themselves tremendously. The programme culminated in the setting of class goals and motto, expressing the aspiration of the class to journey together towards excellence. It was indeed a meaningful process of self-discovery for the students, as well as a chance for their form teachers to get to know them better.

Secondary Two Level Camp

The Sec Two Outdoor Adventure Camp 2020 was held from 16 to 18 January at the MOE Jalan Bahtera Adventure Campsite. Based on the foundational works on the philosophy of outdoor education by Dr. Kurt Hahn, the KC PE department conceptualised an outdoor learning experience which challenged the students to move out of their comfort zone. This supported the development of students’ self-esteem and confidence using a natural environment. This 3-day-2-night residential camp was a signature programme specially tailored for the Sec 2 cohort, with a multi-pronged approach to achieve multiple objectives, especially those related to the school values as well as 21CC outcomes.

Activities of the camp were planned to maximise participation. Students were required to work in groups and as a class throughout the entire camp, to teach them the value of teamwork and to hone their problem-solving skills. The reflection sessions were facilitated by the form teachers and physical education teachers of each class. Activities conducted included rock wall climbing, low elements challenge, tower circuit, artificial caving, trekking at Sungei Buloh, abseiling, and a zip-line challenge. At the same time, time was also given for quiet self-reflection at the end of each day.

During the low elements challenge, students were required to work closely as a team and to think out of the box. Students also had to work together to support each other in order to get everyone safely to the other side of “a river” through walking on tight ropes and logs. Students were also offered the opportunity and choice to challenge themselves at the abseiling, zip-line, tower circuit and rock-wall climbing stations

Another activity which incorporated outdoor education skills was a 2-hour long trekking session at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore’s first ASEAN Heritage Park. The objective was for



students to experience an outdoor learning journey and make use of their orienteering and map-reading skills, while having fun. The students had to find the best route which covered the greatest number of stations. Students would take a “We-fie” (self-taken photo of a group of people) at every station as proof that they were at that check point. They learned more about the flora and fauna in the mangrove, fresh water and back mangrove of the nature reserve, and some even managed to capture images of large spiders, monitor lizards and the herons. Students were also told to look out for “Felicia”, the resident long-tailed macaque and her family.

Students also experienced navigating in teams through an artificial caving system. This activity worked on their teamwork as well as overcoming their fear of the dark. Students learned more about themselves and their friends after this activity.

To allow our students to try something that was out of their everyday experience, they were also given an opportunity to cook their own dinner outdoors on stoves and in mess tins. Despite the rain which required them to carry out their cooking under shelter instead of under the stars, the students clearly enjoyed themselves and finished all the food; some even asked for extra food to cook. Students also learnt humility and servant leadership during their meal duties, when they were taught how to set up the food trays for mealtimes, to serve food to their peers, and to assist in the washing up of all utensils and cleaning of the general areas after meals.

During the reflection segment at night, the form teachers, and physical education teachers for some classes, facilitated discussions and drew out learning experiences from the students in order to help them relate to other areas of their lives. Many students admitted that they surprised themselves at these stations, as they never thought that they would be capable of successfully completing these stations.

The camp fire night, as always, was the all-time favourite part of every Sec 2 camp. Our Vice Principal (Admin) Mr George Cheah lit the campfire to declare the start of the activity, and we had two lively and bubbly emcees, KC alumni who volunteered to help, who kept the crowd entertained and the energy levels high. Each class presented an item that they had been working together on, and even the teachers joined in the fun with a dance item of their own.

The students really enjoyed the camp, reporting in their camp reflection booklets that they had learnt much during the three days two nights away from home.

The camp brought out the best in the students, and the best campers of the camp were identified by their team spirit and positive attitude. These girls gave of their best during the camp activities and exemplified the PIER values. The Best Campers for the Sec 2 level camp were:

- Sec 201 – ARYANNA ZAHARA BINTE MOHAMED RAFI
- Sec 202 – ENG CHUI MEEN, NICOLETTE
- Sec 203 – NUR YADANAR OO BINTE MAUNG THET NAING OO
- Sec 204 – SOPHIE ANDREA BINTE ADAM FIEZAN
- Sec 205 – JOANNE LIN
- Sec 206 – SHANNON GOH YUXUAN
- Sec 207 – DELA VEGA LARA FRANCHESKA JOSON

And the top three classes for the camp were:

1st: 203/204

3rd: 201

These classes exhibited good sportsmanship and teamwork and also emerged tops in the camp activities such as trekking, cheering, meal duty and the campfire item.



On the other hand, non-campers had an equally enriching two days, over which they widened their exposure in varying domains, including the world of calligraphy, the literary arts, cooking, and researching and creating a prototype. There was deep learning, both of new skills and of each girl's untapped potential.

Secondary Three Level Camp

This year's Sec 3 Level Camp focussed on educating students to be effective facilitators in carrying out service learning projects with their allocated beneficiaries. In line with our school's 90th anniversary theme, 'Love never fails', it is hoped that by reaching out and serving the less fortunate in the community, we can inculcate the values of empathy and compassion in our students.

During the 2-day Service Learning Camp, students were taught the skills needed when embarking on a service learning (SL) project and about the needs of those they were going to serve particularly the elderly in the community and underprivileged children. Students were engaged in varied fun-filled activities that took them out of their classroom setting. Through the hands-on activities, the students also realised the complexities of interacting with the elderly and children to better equip them to plan their service learning projects.

Students were also brought to East Coast Park where they had a picnic and played games with their classmates and form teachers. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves because not only did they have fun, the games and activities helped to foster class bonding as well.

In the Make-a-Gift section of the camp programme, the students made gifts for their beneficiaries, as a token of appreciation after their SL projects. Each class was given the freedom to let their creative juices flow and paint anything suitable as gifts for the beneficiaries. The students showed great teamwork and discipline in accomplishing the task, and all classes were able to complete the gifts during the allocated time.

In all, the camp achieved its objectives and was well received by staff and students alike. It is with such positivity that KC hopes to leave a significant impact on the community that we serve.

Secondary Four and Five Level Camp

Careers Day (Day One)

"Every Second an Opportunity, Every Inch a Learning Space, Every Interaction an Enriching Experience" was the theme of Katong Convent's Careers Day this year, organised for the Sec 4 and 5 students on 16 January. The objective of Careers Day was to enable students to have the opportunity to explore their education and career interests by listening to professionals from various work backgrounds and attending learning journeys hosted by organisations of various industries.

The school had the privilege of hosting Dr Judy Sng (Senior Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, National University of Singapore) as the keynote speaker to start the programme and set the context for the students. Following this, students attended two breakout sessions that they had selected from a list of ten career talks including accountancy, early childhood education, healthcare and journalism. Students had the opportunity to listen to and ask questions about the realities of each career and the skillsets, educational qualifications and dispositions required for each job. Our ECG counsellor, Ms Kate Choo, then conducted an engaging and informative session on interview skills and gave numerous tips on how one should conduct herself in an interview.



In the afternoon, the entire cohort travelled out of school for their learning journeys to various organisations, including McDonald's Singapore, Mediacorp, National Gallery, PARKROYAL, Supreme Court and the S.E.A. Aquarium, just to name a few. Students were given a tour of these organisations and many gleaned insights into the industry and jobs available as they interacted with the hosting staff.

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

"I used to think that Mediacorp was all about the entertainment industry but now I know there are other related job opportunities as well." – Riona Rai (402)

"Before Careers Day, I used to think that there was only a fixed path to pursue if you take certain subject combinations, but now I think that there are many opportunities and many more doors are open for everyone regardless of what you studied." – Faith Khoo Chyi Hui (403)

"Before Careers Day, I used to think that I was only interested in one type of occupation. But now I think that the breakout sessions and the learning journey provided me with more options and possible careers of my interest that I could pursue." – Nuraidora Hitalia Binte Aidil (405)

"Before Careers Day, I used to think that psychology was mostly clinical psychology. But now I think that the field of psychology is complex, made up of a myriad of things I didn't know was related to psychology previously." – Caitlin Tay Puay Eng (406)

"I used to think that a lot of jobs were boring but now I realise each career is multifaceted in itself with many opportunities and work progression." – Nurul Atiqah Bte Zaidi (501)

The organising team is very grateful that we were able to invite so many speakers and organisations to come on board through the enthusiastic support from industrial partners, alumni and personal contacts of KC staff.

Sec 4 Retreat (Day Two)

After an exciting careers seminar and learning journeys on the first day of the level camp, our Sec 4s embarked on a day of recollection on 17 January. Known also as School Missions, the retreat was co-organised by KC's chaplaincy team and the Redemptorist Mission Team from the Novena Church. The sessions focussed on making positive choices towards a good outcome in life, drawing strength from their faith and themselves and developing confidence to move forward together as a class. The students were immersed in videos that stimulated the mind yet tugged at heartstrings, as they experienced moments of deep contemplation and honest sharing by the facilitators.

The highlights for many of the students were the t-shirt-writing and the teacher sharing sessions during the Toast for Change. The former involved students writing personal messages of love and encouragement on each other's t-shirts which had been gifted to them while the latter involved the form teachers and students sharing their words of encouragement to their own class.

The retreat was an extremely touching and befitting way to start the year on a positive note to support and encourage our graduating cohort in moving forward towards a meaningful and enriching year in KC.

Here are some reflections from the students:



“It really started the year on the right track since everyone highlighted their goals for the class and began the year on a sweet and wholesome note, which I think will really motivate everyone to push through this year”.

“The toast for change really involved everyone and all of us sang the song in one united voice, which really touched me and reminded me that this will be the class that I will spend my time with until graduation. I truly feel grateful”.

“It was a fruitful experience for the Sec 4 students as we continue to grow and seek to soar in our final year in KC”.

Sec 5 Polytechnic Experience (Day Two)

While the Sec 4 students had their retreat, the Sec 5 girls embarked on a learning journey to Nanyang Polytechnic on 17 January for direct exposure to a post O-level option. The girls were given a choice between visiting the School of Business Management or the School of Health Sciences for a tour.

The visit started with Mr Kevin Roberts from the Communications and Outreach Office, and a lecturer in Organic Chemistry sharing the nuts and bolts of polytechnic education including the different learning and assessment methods, myriad demands, exciting opportunities like work attachments, CCAs and overseas stints. The girls also learned about the Early Admission Exercise (EAE) targeted at those who are very clear about their course of choice and who will use interest, aptitude, passion and achievements to support their application.

The girls were then treated to a tea break, after which they toured the schools they had selected earlier. At the School of Business Management, the girls learned about the different diplomas offered. This included Accountancy & Finance, Banking & Finance, Common Business Programme, Food and Beverage Business, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Mass Media Management, Sports & Wellness Management. The school runs their own F&B outlet as part of the diploma, in conjunction with students from the Diploma in Food Science & Nutrition from the School of Chemical & Life Sciences. The girls visited the Media Hub where the students shared their publications & projects. They were brought to the Media Control Centre as well as the Media Studio, both of which boast industry-standard equipment. The girls learned that media students have worked with Mediacorp on projects. In fact, the video segment of the 2019 NDP was produced by NYP students.

At the School of Health Sciences, the girls visited training wards in the School of Nursing where they were confronted with the smart mannequin, a mechanical patient which could be programmed to react as a person would, including having co-existing medical conditions. Being in the learning-viewing rooms gave the girls a taste of how poly students learn the theory, observe practices and then use their learning in their own hands-on practice in the learning ward / treatment room.

All too soon, the visit ended and the girls came back to KC where they completed feedback to evaluate the learning journey, and a reflection of their experiences. The girls found the LJ a valuable experience where they were able to see what hands-on learning means. They had the opportunity to hear from the poly lecturers on what to consider in selecting courses. They felt that it was a morning well spent and some even thought the visit was too short.

Learning Journey to Singapore Art Week

Our upper secondary and DSA Art students visited the Bugis/ Bras Basah Arts District on 14 Jan to partake in the Singapore Art Week festivities. Over the course of the afternoon, our students visited 4 art sites and experienced diverse art forms, from traditional fine art, to photography, to



contemporary installation and multimedia, from both local as well as international artists. This included visits to galleries hosting the 2020 Singapore Biennale. It was a very enriching experience for our students as some of the artists were also on hand to talk about their work. Apart from the wide variety of visual stimuli on display, students also got to soak in the rich atmosphere surrounding the Waterloo Street area which was busy with shoppers browsing the stores lined with Chinese New Year goodies. It was definitely a wonderful treat for the senses on a very fruitful afternoon.

Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) Combined Schools Milestone Experience – LaSalle College of the Arts

Sec 3 EAP students this year had a chance to experience first hand how studying in an art school was like in the inaugural EAP Combined Schools Milestone Experience at LaSalle College of the Arts on 30 Jan. Tailored specifically for EAP students, this LaSalle experience introduced Art students from all EAP schools, including our own KC girls to life in LaSalle. Students attended a 3-hour introductory workshop in a course of their choice conducted by LaSalle lecturers in a fun-filled afternoon of art making. Ranging from photography to fashion and body movements, our students also collaborated with students from other EAP schools to make art and experience how a tertiary institution would conduct their lessons. It was certainly an eye-opening and enriching way to spend the afternoon.

Arts and Culture Programme

The Arts and Culture Programme turns three this year!

Recounting their contributions to the KC's Arts scene, KC's Arts and Culture advocates organised an information session for their schoolmates to understand what the A&C programme entails during the assembly on 21 January. Creatively presented as an on-location news broadcast, the A&C advocates passionately shared their experiences as arts advocates and leaders. Conceptualised, written, and directed by the students themselves, it showcased the various A&C advocates hosting projects, event planning engagements in, and outside school over the past three years.

This information session was further enriched by our guest panel that comprised local arts scene artistes and managers, such as Marc Nair (award winning poet and photographer), Marianne Chang (Head of Business of Bandwagon), Charlene Shepherdson (visual poet, creative educator and community organiser) and Carolyn Oei (arts management lecturer in NAFA) who shared their vibrant experiences negotiating the arts ecosystem. The school population posed challenging questions that reflected their true concerns on career paths in the local arts scene and its survivability. It was an interactive and meaningful session for the student population to have a glimpse of the evolving local arts landscape in Singapore and how their own talents and passions may find a place in it as a fulfilling career.

Lunar New Year Celebration

CHIJ Katong Convent welcomed the year of the Rat with a series of joyful activities. From 20 Jan, a collection of cheerful Chinese music was played every day before morning assembly to get everyone into the festive mood. The school celebrated the annual Chinese New Year concert on the 24 Jan, with the combined efforts of the Mother Tongue department, Chinese Orchestra, Chinese Drama Club and KC Choir.

The Chinese Orchestra opened the concert with four beautiful festive songs, followed by our Principal's sharing of her hopes and wishes for the school in the new lunar year. Chinese Drama



Club took the stage and performed a skit named “鼠 你最漂亮!” (You Are Most Beautiful!). Our two Masters of Ceremonies got everyone excited with some informative and interesting quiz questions. Students who answered these questions correctly were given some interesting prizes. Vice-Principal, Mrs. Goh took the opportunity to recite the whole Chinese zodiac cycle in the Hokkein dialect. KC Choir also performed two songs, their first at a New Year Concert in many years, and received thunderous applause. The hall celebration ended on a high note with a lion dance performance, which was very well received by everyone.

It was a vibrant event, involving staff and students from all ethnic groups in the celebration with a view to deepen inter-cultural appreciation and understanding. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our parents, students and staff members a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year!

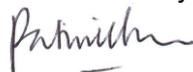
Lunar New Year Values-in-Action Experience

To usher in the Year of the Rat, all classes organised class parties and enjoyed an hour of food, drinks and lots of festive cheer. In line with our school’s 90th anniversary theme: ‘Love never fails,’ the Upper Secondary classes showed their love and care for the community by having special guests for their class parties: Sec 3 classes invited the school’s cleaners and administrative staff while the Sec 4 and 5 classes played host to the senior citizens from GoodLife! in Marine Terrace. In addition to presenting these guests with Chinese New Year goodie bags and serving them a delicious spread of food, our girls also spoke with these elderly, listened to their sharing and sang with them to a medley of songs. Our guests truly enjoyed themselves and it was gratifying to see both students and guests finding fulfilment and joy in the activity. Gong Xi Fa Cai to all our guests!

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

2019 GCE O Level Results

In the 2019 GCE O levels, our Sec 4 Express cohort did well with 76.4% eligible for JC progression, 100% passes in 13 subjects and scored passes above national passes in 21 subjects. Subjects that achieved more than 25% distinctions were Art (29.4%), English Language (39.5%), Geography (31.8%), Mathematics (50.3%), A Math (81.3%), Chemistry (30.2%), Biology (27.8%), Physics (35.3%), Combined Science (Bio/Chem) (41.8%), Combined Humanities (SS/HY) ([30%], Combined Humanities (SS/Geog) [37.3%], E Lit (53.1%), Malay Language (25%), Tamil Language (50%), History (44.4%) and Drama (33.3%).



Our Sec 5 cohort scored 100% passes in Art, Literature and Malay Language and achieved passes above national passes in Art, Combined Humanities (both SS/Geog and SS/Lit), English Language, Mathematics, Literature and Malay Language.

We are glad that our students had put in their best effort to bloom where they were planted and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

