



# CHI KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405

[www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg](http://www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg)



**PARENT LINK : JANUARY 2020**

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Dear Parents & Guardians

Happy New Year! A new year brings new opportunities and aspirations, and I hope it will bring you and your family peace, joy and good health!

On behalf of our KC Family, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new members of our Family – the parents and guardians of our new Secondary 1 girls. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our girls will continue to bloom where she is planted, learning and growing under the tender ministrations of the KC staff, as one big KC family. We ask God for His continual blessings and are confident that together with your support, we will continue to nurture the KC girl, giving us a renewed hope for the future; that the best is yet to come.

At CHI Katong Convent, we believe in working closely with parents to give our girls a strong moral compass as they navigate the changes and uncertainties around them, and to develop their confidence and courage to pursue their dreams and create their own future. Parent Link is our newsletter where we communicate with parents our key school programmes and events, and celebrate the success of our girls. In our efforts to save more trees, we will continue to upload issues of Parent Link on the school website. You can expect the issues to be out by the **second Friday** of each month except for June, October to December when there are no issues. We will leverage Parents Gateway platform to alert you once we have uploaded the respective issue on the website. We hope you will find the information useful.

## **Closing The Year – Always Serving, Always Seeking**

### *Thoburn Cup*

KC Debate continued 2019's debating season with Thoburn Cup 2019 that was held on Saturday, 26 October. This highly competitive national competition was held over three qualifying rounds and pitted schools of equivalent division status against each other to decide entrants through to the quarters, semi- and final rounds.

Katong Convent fielded debaters Amber Dachlan (Sec 1/6), Qaeela Jae Brewton (Sec 1/6), Tan Xinni Gwyneth (Sec 2/6), Keris Lim Zhuo Yan (Sec 3/4) and Nethelynn Yang Xuan (Sec 3/5) who worked well under pressure and as a team. Even though we did not proceed beyond the first round this year, we were glad that our debaters have learnt the finer points of debating in this competition.



### *Girl Guides' Annual Camp*

After the end-of-year examinations, the KC Girl Guides Company swung into action in preparation for the annual 4-day-2-night camp which began on 4 November. The Guides busied themselves with planning for outdoor cooking, the 'She Solves' badge work, a hike and campfire! Although the sky threatened to rain every now and then, that did not dampen the Guides' spirits. Throughout this camp, the Guides learnt a few photography tricks, how to reduce trash and single-use plastics while camping, how to set up an outdoor fire pit, how to prepare a meal and cook it, and how to appreciate nature. More importantly, the Guides displayed personal leadership, resilience and teamwork. The highlight of the camp was the campfire. We invited past Guiders and bade farewell to Ms Sangeerna who was a KC Guide, a unit helper, and from 2015, the Captain of the KC Girl Guides Company.

This camp was supported by several seniors who have graduated and have chosen to take time out from their busy schedules to assist and bring cheer to their juniors. It was a good reminder to the Guides that they will always be connected to and are part of the KC Guiding family, which is part of a larger Guiding movement worldwide!

### *Floorball Camp*

The end of 2019 was a busy yet fruitful time for KC Floorball. Our annual camp was held from 13 to 15 November. The main objectives of the camp were to improve the physical fitness of the players, foster team bonding and hone the leadership skills of the student leaders. As such, the camp was largely planned and implemented by the CCA leaders with some guidance from the teachers-in-charge. The camp sought to strengthen the bond of the members through activities within and beyond the sport of Floorball. Traditionally, KC Floorball Camp kicks off with an inter-school friendly tournament. This year, Tanjong Katong Girls' School, Springfield Secondary and St. Margaret's Secondary School were invited for a Floorball Challenge and KC Floorball earned top placing in both the 'B' and 'C' Divisions. The KC team also had the opportunity to try out Bubble Soccer, Dragon Boat, tour the Sports Museum at the Kallang Sports Hub, hike 10 kilometers to the MacRitchie Tree Top Walk and organise a barbeque with alumni teachers and family at East Coast Park. The student leaders demonstrated their prowess in designing games for a good mix of fun and learning for all participants, while taking care of their safety and well-being. The Floorball team thoroughly enjoyed themselves and forged firm friendships with one another. The camp achieved its objectives and was well received by the students, who now look forward to conducting and participating in another camp in 2020.

### *Dramatic Arts Society Camp*

Dramatic Arts Society held a 2-day camp in school on 14 and 15 November 2019. The camp included a visit to NTUC Health Senior Day Care (Silver Circle) – Fengshan. The DAS girls performed a skit that was situated back in the olden days. They included songs from the 60s and gave out kacang puteh, which brought back fond memories for the elderly as they listened, laughed and munched their ways through the skit.

On the second day of the camp, the students learnt and deepened their vocalization skills with Ms Fanny Kee, an actress and a trainer for drama. The upper secondary girls ran the camp smoothly exercising leadership skills, planning and executing activities, like the Amazing Race and Scavenger Hunt that bonded the DAS team together.

### *Academic Learning Journey to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

For the third consecutive year, the Humanities and Art departments jointly organised an overseas educational experience for some students to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. For six days, these



students were to extend their understanding of the humanities and art not replicable in their everyday classroom, to see how real life cuts across academic boundaries.

To maximise their learning experiences, each learning group comprised students with subject-specific skills that they used at appropriate points to lead the learning as conceptualised in the customised learning journey (LJ) booklet. The design of this overseas experience was specially curated by the teachers on this trip to cover a broad swathe from history to cooking, and economic development to diplomatic directions.

For the history-related sites, students were brought to the War Remnant Museum and Chu Chi Tunnels to appreciate the horrors of war and the ingenuity of the Vietnamese and their struggle for independence. Additionally, we visited a preserved shophouse that served as weapons cache for weapons smuggled into the city from the Chu Chi Tunnel.

New highlights of this year's trip included a visit to the Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park and the Singapore Consulate in Vietnam. For the former, it showcases the good economic cooperation between the two countries and how valuable our Singapore brand is as a proxy for reliability and efficiency. While for the latter, students were given an insight by the consular officers from the Singapore mission in the city, into the functions and purpose of our overseas missions, followed by a Q&A session. It was fascinating to see how fellow Singaporeans advanced the interests of our country in a foreign land and our students took the opportunity to quiz the officer with countless questions.

To live up to our niche in the Communicative, Performing and Visual Arts, students visited art museums and watched an artistic performance. The evolution of Vietnamese art was illuminated expertly by a knowledgeable art-historian who enthralled the students with her insights into the techniques and inspiration of accomplished artists. Lending a different dimension was the A O Show at the restored Saigon Opera House that captivated the audience with creative and fun uses of bamboo never thought possible.

For a seldom-covered topic, the students glimpsed the hard life experienced by farmers as they toured an educational showcase farm that made use of every available component of a harvest for ecological and cost benefits. Students learnt that the husk, bran and hay left over from the rice harvest can be used in so many different ways to help produce so many different products and even fertilise the fields to rejuvenate the life cycle again. This was an eye-opener that many students would never otherwise experience. They reflected on the food on their table that they previously took for granted.

Finally, it was the turn of our students to play unofficial diplomats themselves as they were hosted to the Thanh Binh School for a morning of exchange and performances. It was heart-warming for our students to realise that the Vietnamese had good impressions of Singaporeans and our reputation preceded us. Despite lacking a smooth means of communication, warmth and enthusiasm carried the day and communication was nevertheless established.

Throughout the trip, evening reflection sessions helmed by their teacher-facilitators afforded students the valuable opportunity to consolidate their learning. It was an intense six days that would be forever anchored in their memories as an unforgettable learning journey for these 31 students. Our students and teachers arrived back in Singapore on 5 November with a deeper knowledge of Ho Chih Minh City and the subject matters covered during the trip.

### *End-of-Year Work Attachment Programme*

In November 2019, 38 Secondary 3 students participated in a one-week KC Work Attachment Programme across seven different organisations – Nook & Cranny, BeautyEdge, Orchard Hotel,



Copthorne King's Hotel, Ren Ci Hospital, Pat's Schoolhouse Aroozoo and Tan Tock Seng Hospital The Work Attachment Programme sought to enhance students' awareness of themselves and the world of work, instil good work attitudes and values, and to create a greater awareness between their career interests and strengths. Participating organisations worked closely with the school to craft a meaningful work experience for the students during the week-long attachment, which included liaising with them regarding working hours and the type of work given to our students. At the same time, our students were briefed on work etiquette and expectations at work.

Upon completion of the programme, our students submitted their reflections of their work experience and many have gleaned new experience of the world of work. From attending to the needs of the elderly to receiving hotel guests, our students truly gained invaluable experiences!

Here are some reflections from the students themselves:

"I used to think that being an early childhood educator was one of the easiest jobs. Now, I think that being an early childhood educator is one of the hardest jobs. It sounds cliché but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. It is challenging as it requires a lot of patience and perseverance. I have truly gained respect for these educators who have the burning passion to keep going!"

Annika Mei Das, 301, attached to Pat's Schoolhouse Aroozoo

"I used to hold some unrealistic and negative notions about work. I believed that office work meant long hours confined to a cubicle and staring at a screen for hours on end. But this wasn't the case, everyone was so friendly and we had lots of fun together! I realised that I actually enjoyed working in an office setting and I'm a lot less intimidated by the thought of working life now."

Catherine Laura Danandjaja Antoni, 306, attached to BeautyEdge Pte Ltd

"Through this experience, I am more comfortable interacting with the elderly and I've even made friends with them. This opportunity has taught me more about the elderly's unique experiences and they have made a great impact on me. I will miss them a lot. They taught me the value of perseverance and I am motivated by their enthusiasm and positivity."

Maria Shabbir Rangwala, 305, attached to Ren Ci Hospital (Nursing Home)

"I thought that working at the Front Desk wouldn't be difficult because it would be mainly answering queries. But I learnt that it was difficult and tiring as we stood for long hours and we had to keep smiling to greet the guests no matter how tired we were. I really enjoyed this working experience and wished it could have been longer."

Yoko Connolly Neo Li Hong, 303, attached to Orchard Hotel (Front Desk)

### *i-LEAP*

Between 11 to 14 November, students from the Secondary 3 Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) attended I-LEAP 2019, a four-day combined EAP schools workshop co-organised by MOE and Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Interactive & Digital Media. The event provided authentic and applied learning opportunities for Secondary 3 students from the nine EAP schools to develop their strengths and interests in eight different art forms like animation, photography, illustration, motion graphics, etc. Through interacting and working with established art industry practitioners and their peers, students gained exposure to trends and developments in the creative art industries and learnt to create art meaningfully in response to the given theme of "miniature". Students also participated in a mass art-making workshop that introduced them to the use of the design thinking process for art-making. The event culminated in a showcase on the last day where students displayed plans and sketches of their art-making processes as well as their final work.



## *The KC Concert Band*

The KC Concert Band was invited by Band Directors' Association (Singapore) to perform in a joint-concert entitled Schools In Concert at the Victoria Concert Hall on 13 November. The band performed a repertoire which included Chillaxin' by Matt Conaway and Flutitude by Larry Neeck.

On 22 November, the KC Concert Band put up a joint concert with the CHIJ (Katong) Primary Handbell Ensemble. In this concert, the audience was treated to a delightful programme that included popular tunes such as Vincent by Don McLean and Christmas melodies such as Silent Night and O Come, All Ye Faithful.

## **A New Year, Begin with love - Love never fails (1 Cor 13)**

### *Principal's address*

2020 marks 90 years of CHIJ Katong Convent, and the Principal warmly welcomed students and staff with the call to honour our past, inspire the present, and forge the future as we celebrate 90 years of being and blessings. It was a meaningful progression from 2019's theme of *Ever Seeking, Ever Serving*, as Ms Chan shared the journey made by the IJ Sisters from their homeland in France to the hardships they encountered in their mission to bring education to girls in Singapore. It was a mission that was motivated by love, and driven by faith and hope.

God's love inspired Blessed Barre to provide education for girls in a time when it was not the norm. The nuns' trust in a God who loves and therefore provides, propelled them to leave their homeland to begin missions in a new strange land. It is with this legacy that Ms Chan shared the 90th Anniversary theme: *Love Never Fails*. 1 Corinthians 13. She emphasised that this love was not a romantic love but rather the love we put into our work and our interactions with others.

Ms Chan presented three ways in which the KC family could answer this call: By being stewards of our home, blessing to others, and living the KC values of Perseverance, Integrity, Excellence and Respect every day. She concluded by sharing the story of the porcupine family and how teams and families do not just happen. Rather each one of us has to build them carefully and methodically. As teams and families, we have to learn how to trust each other, how to rely on each other and how to be accountable to each other.

### *Starting right*

As the year began, students were brought through various talks and sharings to highlight important messages we wish to share with them. There were talks on safety and discipline matters to remind our students about behaviour, respect, accountability, and keeping themselves safe. The Sec 1 to 3 Year Heads shared an overview of upcoming academic and co-curricular programmes planned for their cohort and anticipated the possible challenges they might face. The Principal spoke to the graduating cohort about having the right mindset, starting afresh and journeying the year ahead as a team. Students were encouraged through anecdotal quotes by previous batches to embrace the KC experience and look forward to an enriching year beyond academics.

### *Commitment to act*

Time was set aside for our students to meet with their form teachers and classmates to reflect on their values and events that had an impact in their life. Students then shared with their classmates about their personal goals for the future and as a class, they completed a task together and developed a set of class goals, class motto and commit to act in achieving these goals.



## Sec 1 Orientation

### Heritage trail

As new students to KC, it is important that the Secondary 1 girls know about our history and heritage. Thus, part of the school's induction programme for the Secondary 1 students includes a teacher-led Heritage Trail around the school, when classes visited key heritage spots such as the Heritage Gallery, Mission Alcove and Arts Alcove. Students also completed a crossword puzzle as they found out interesting and fun facts about our school's heritage. It was a meaningful activity, particularly for students new to the IJ family as they learnt more about the founding of CHIJ schools in Singapore and KC as well as the school experience of students and teachers of the past.

### Interaction with the Student Leadership Board (SLB)

The Secondary One students then spent a meaningful hour interacting with their student leaders, who had been their guides throughout the orientation programme. Initially shy and reserved, the Secondary One students slowly warmed up to the student leaders, and by the end of the bonding games, were noticeably more comfortable in engaging with their seniors. Striving to help the Secondary One students settle in well in KC, Rachael Chua Yi Xuan (Sec 4/4), Philicia Geow (Sec 4/2) and Cara Anne Leong (Sec 4/3), the President and Vice Presidents of our Student Leadership Board (SLB), ended the segment by sharing their school experiences and tips on how to embrace this new milestone in their life.

### Beginning-of-year Eucharistic Celebration

The school marked the end of week 0 with a Eucharistic celebration thanking God for the many blessings this past year and asking Him to continue to bless us in the new year. Our celebrant, Fr Eugene Vaz, welcomed the new staff and students to the KC family and anchored his homily on the school's theme of 'Love Never Fails'. Based on the first reading on 1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13 and gospel reading taken from John 17:20-26, Fr Vaz reminded all of God's presence in our life and that we must rely on Him in all things. He invited Christians to deepen their relationship with God in this new year. The school choir led us in the singing of hymns during the Eucharistic Celebration.

### Beginning-of-year Ceremonies

#### Cohort Handover Ceremony

A tradition that started in 2019, in answer to Pope Francis' encyclical call of Laudato Si – Care for our Environment, the graduating cohort of last year returned to school to hand over the responsibility of caring for the trees they had planted to the new batch of graduating cohort. Two student representatives per class of the 2019 cohort presented the gardening tools on stage to the 2020 graduating cohort in a simple ceremony after the Eucharistic celebration. The current batch will be responsible for taking care of the trees which were planted by their seniors last year. The ceremony ended with the song, *Seed, scattered and sown*.

#### Welcome Ceremony

This was followed by the ceremony to welcome the Secondary One students to our KC family. Representatives from the SLB kickstarted the ceremony by sharing a brief history of the CHIJ badge and the significance of the ceremony, before graduating seniors bearing warm smiles and heartfelt well wishes pinned the badges on for Secondary One students. The symbolic ceremony closed with many singing jubilantly to the tune of "Welcome To The Family".



## *Sticker Activity*

In 2019, students started the tradition of creating a large sticker collage of the school values (Perseverance, Integrity, Excellence and Respect). This year, our students continued with this activity with each girl given 3 coloured stickers in different shades in which they wrote their own words or phrases associated with the given value. Secondary 4 & 5 students filled the red collage on Perseverance, the Secondary 3 students on the green collage on Integrity and the Secondary 2 students on the blue collage on Excellence. The collage is now almost three-quarters filled with students' reflection displayed on it. This beautiful and colourful board will be carried over to the next year's batch of students. The outcome of the collage will be displayed on the school walls once it is full and will contain 3 batches of students' reflection of the school values.

## *90th Anniversary Mass Dance*

Of course, no KC programme is complete without a mass physical activity. And what better reason to have one than to celebrate this very special year of our 90th anniversary? During the December holidays, the Student Leaders and House Captains of the 4 Houses came together to choreograph a mass dance to commemorate KC's 90th anniversary. They choreographed a 2-minute dance incorporating popular steps moves from the 90s, all to the tune of the 90s hit song, *The Sign*, by 90s band Ace of Base. The Student Leaders and House Captains then guided the whole school with the simple dance steps, and it was clear that everyone, both teachers and students, enjoyed the activity.

## *CCA Fair & Secondary One Meet-The-Parents-Session*

The programme for Week 0 ended on a high note, with the much-awaited CCA Fair and Meet-the-Parents session for the parents of Secondary One students on Saturday 4 January.

Saturday's programme started with a rousing performance by our Concert Band, led by their teacher-conductor Mr Sim Kim Seng. This was followed by the Principal's Address.

During the Principal's address, the parents were treated to a video montage of the activities that their daughters experienced during the Week 0 programme. Ms Chan also shared with parents strategies that their daughters can employ to aid them in adjusting to secondary school life.

The HOD/CCA & PE, Ms Priscilla Humphries, then briefed parents and the Secondary One students, on the objectives of Co-Curricular Programmes (CCP) in MOE secondary schools and the important role that Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) play in instilling skills, values and 21st Century Competencies in our students. Ms Humphries also briefed parents and students on the CCA allocation exercise in KC, the process by which the Secondary One students will select and be assigned a CCA.

After the briefing, the parents attended a Meet-the-Parents session with their daughter's form teachers, in which they shared matters pertaining to student well-being and the various communication platforms for parents to access school information.

All activities were in full swing when our Secondary 1 students and their parents toured the beautifully decorated booths and displays prepared by all the CCA groups in the school, providing them with plenty of information to help students make informed choices. All CCA teachers were also on hand to answer any further queries from the parents. The Secondary 1 students were given an opportunity to try out different sports such as bowling, badminton, netball and floorball, and view performances put up by the Chinese Drama and Dramatic Arts Society. Some even had a chance to try their hand at playing an instrument at the Chinese Orchestra booth.



The event was a success and we would like to thank all parents who attended the event on an early Saturday morning.

As the flurry of activities came to a close, our students were made aware that as they prepare for the many challenges ahead, they can always count on the KC family who will care and guide them in creating memorable experiences in this school. Love will continue to keep the KC spirit going - *Love Never Fails*.

As we continue the KC journey in 2020, we pray for all staff and students to grow in faith, hope and love for another through charity and acts of service, which will bless our community and loved ones.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Chan (Ms)  
Principal

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2019 GCE N Level Results

Last year, our Sec 4 Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) girls performed well in the GCE N Level Examinations. With the eligibility criteria for Sec 5N set at an ELMAB3 (English + Math + Best 3 subjects) aggregate of  $\leq 19$  points, 89.7 % of our Sec 4N(A) girls qualified for Sec 5N as compared to the national percentage of 76.6%.

Our Sec 4N(A) girls achieved 100% passes in Additional Mathematics, English Language, Combined Humanities (Social Studies and Elective Lit), Literature, Art, Food and Nutrition and Malay Language. Subjects that achieved better than National passes were Additional Mathematics, English Language, Literature, Mathematics, Combined Humanities (Social Studies, Elective Geography), Combined Humanities (Social Studies, Elective Literature), Art, Malay Language, Food and Nutrition, Combined Science (Chemistry, Biology) and Principles of Accounts.

Our Sec 4N(T) girls achieved 100% passes in Basic Malay, Basic Chinese and Science. They did better than the National performance in terms of % passes in Basic Chinese, Basic Malay, Elements of Business Studies, Mathematics, English Language and Science.

Our heartiest congratulations to all the girls, parents and teachers. We wish all the girls every success in their future endeavours.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Uniformed Groups Bowling Championships 2019

On 30 October 2019, 4 NCDCC cadets participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> Uniformed Groups Bowling Championships organised by Hwa Chong Institution NPCC. We are pleased to inform that the



team comprising SSGT Natasha Zhuang Hishsam (Sec 3/2), SSGT Boon Siang An (Sec 3/5), LCP Chloe Tan Li Lin (Sec 1/6) and LCP Tan Yue Lin Michel (Sec 1/3) achieved the 1<sup>st</sup> position in the Girls (Team) category. In addition, SSGT Natasha and LCP Chloe came in 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Girls (Individual) category respectively.

### **Make The Change Design For Good Youth Competition 2019**

Four Entrepreneur Club girls won the **Best of the Show Award** and the **Commendation Award** at the Make The Change Design For Good Youth Competition 2019 held in August 2019. These were two of the nine teams we fielded for the Competition. The competition was organised by the social enterprise, Make The Change and supported by Media Literacy Council.

A total of 600 entries from 28 secondary schools were submitted for this competition. The students were tasked to design a communicative poster to create an awareness to advocate for the better use of internet. It was also to promote the values of “Be Kind, Be Smart and Be Safe” for Better Internet Campaign. This campaign highlights cyber wellness issues that affect all of us and encourages internet users to play their part in creating a safer and conducive internet platform. Students worked individually or in small groups. They could use any media and methods in their design. Prior to that, they attended a three-hour complimentary digital arts workshop on digital literacy.

The Best of the Show Award winners were Chan Wen Xin, Joan (Sec 2/5) and Escudero Adrienne Tiffany Kalaw (Sec 2/5)

The Commendation Award winners were Sarah Yeo (Sec 2/5) and Alicia Seah Hui Xin (Sec 3/1).

Well done, girls!

