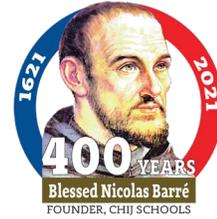




CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

PARENT LINK : FEBRUARY 2021



9 February 2021

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.

At CHIJ 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 previous years, parents and guardians would have already seen the January issue featuring activities which took place during the end-of-year holidays in early January but as you are aware, these end-of-year activities had been put on hold because of the COVID-19 situation. With new provisions and possibilities since the year started, we are happy to bring you the first issue for the year to share with you some aspects of your daughter/ward's school experiences so far. In our efforts to save more trees, we will continue to upload issues of Parent Link on the school website and Parents Gateway. 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 hope you will find the information useful.

Starting Right

On 4th January, we welcomed our students back to school as we ushered in the new school year with two days of meaningful activities.

Principal's Address

We began the morning's proceedings with the Principal's address, where Ms Chan led the school in reflecting on a tumultuous 2020 and starting afresh in 2021. As one big KC family, Ms Chan illustrated how we could live out our values, and treat each other with respect and understanding. 2021 is also the Jubilee Year of the 4th Centenary of the birth of Blessed Nicolas Barré, the founder of CHIJ schools. The Jubilee Year serves a timely reminder to everyone to remain steadfast and persevere daily to do our part for each other.

Amidst the new norm, Ms Chan reminded the school about safe management guidelines that would remain in place to keep everyone safe. She then turned her attention to the environment and urged all to practise environmentally-friendly practices to safeguard our future.

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



TEACHING & LEARNING



CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP
EDUCATION



STUDENT ALL-ROUND
DEVELOPMENT



STAFF WELL-BEING &
DEVELOPMENT



PARTNERSHIP



Ms Chan ended her segment with a clip - a read aloud of the book titled “The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse”, triggering our thoughts on how we could write our days in 2021.

To start the year right, 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 to keep themselves safe as we embrace the new norms against the ongoing pandemic and about behavior expectations, respect and accountability.

Commitment to Act

This year, every class was given a set of motivational class posters. Time was set aside for teachers to unpack the messages on the posters with their classes. Using the messages from the posters as a springboard, students then shared with their classmates their personal goals for the future and what they wanted to achieve collectively as a class. They completed a task together and developed a set of class goals, class motto and commitment to act in achieving these goals.

Sec 1 Orientation

The secondary one students spent a meaningful hour interacting with their student leaders. The student leaders introduced themselves to their respective assigned classes and told the secondary one students about the events they could expect in a typical year. They also introduced the various CCAs offered and gave them a brief history of the school. The student leaders devised a virtual Escape Room game to help students know the school better. Initially shy and reserved, they slowly warmed up to the student leaders, and by the end of the bonding games, were noticeably more comfortable in engaging with their seniors. As a token of welcome, every student received a goodie bag of stationery lovingly prepared by the Student Leadership Board (SLB).

Beginning-of-year Eucharistic Celebration

The school marked the start of 2021 with a partially virtual Eucharistic celebration, thanking God for the many blessings and asking Him to continue to protect and bless us in the new year given the ongoing pandemic. Catholic students from the graduating cohort were invited to attend face-to-face mass in the hall whilst the rest of the school attended a live stream mass in their classrooms. Petitions and thanksgiving from staff and students were offered up during mass and our celebrant, Fr. Adrian Yeo, blessed the school badges for our secondary one students. His homily reminded us of God’s presence in our lives and that love is the overarching virtue that will help us to relate better to one another. He then proceeded to invite Christians to deepen their relationship with God in this new year.

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



KC Welcome Ceremony

The secondary one students were welcomed to our KC family at the annual KC Welcome Ceremony. Representatives from the SLB kick-started the ceremony by sharing a brief history of the CHIJ badge and the significance of the ceremony, before teachers 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

Since 2019, students have started the tradition of creating a large sticker collage of the school values of Perseverance, Integrity, Excellence and Respect. Students continued with this activity with each girl given 3 coloured stickers on which they penned their thoughts associated with the given value. Secondary four students filled the red collage on Perseverance, the secondary three students on the green collage on Integrity, the secondary two students on the blue collage on Excellence while the secondary one and five students filled the yellow collage on Respect. As the collages grow over the years, these boards bearing the students’ reflections of and commitment to the school values will eventually be displayed on the school walls once they are full.

Introduction to CCA in KC

This year, in keeping with MOE’s Safe Management Measures (SMM), the KC CCA Fair went virtual. HOD/ CCA & PE, Ms Priscilla Humphries, shared important information on CCA, such as LEAPS 2.0 the MOE CCA grading system, as well as tips on how to select a CCA. This was done via a recorded video played in each classroom. The same information was then shared on the school website on the Parents Portal.

Over the course of the first week of school, each CCA was given an opportunity to introduce themselves virtually every morning before morning assembly. Every CCA prepared either a PowerPoint presentation or a short video. Despite being completely online, there was no curbing the enthusiasm of the senior students as they went about painstakingly preparing beautiful introductions of their CCA. They were all eager to showcase their CCA’s achievements and activities in a bid to attract the new secondary one students. These presentations were also uploaded onto the secondary one students’ SLS account, for them to view again at their own leisure.

The secondary one students were encouraged to sign up for as many CCA trials as possible, in order to explore their interests and any hidden talents that they may have. CCA trials started on 13 January and ended on 27 January. Thereafter, the secondary one students went online and made their CCA selections. The results of the CCA allocation exercise was announced on 4 February and the secondary one students began their CCA on 5 February.

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



Arts and Culture (A&C) Workshop

The year's first A&C session took on a whole new approach with the A&C Arts Advocates suggesting new ways of bringing the arts into vibrant focus, enlivening the very space of KC itself. Indeed, even as the Singapore Arts scene emerges from the great disruption brought about by COVID-19 more innovative than before, A&C too saw its arts leaders even more passionate about developing the arts scene here in KC. The nomination campaign got off to a rousing start with the highly entertaining and explosive flash mob done to the catchy beat of BTS' Dynamite along the secondary two corridor of Theodora Block as part of their arts advocates campaign drive. It was a spirited and promising beginning to a new year of arts experiences!

Macbeth

On the 11th and 12th of January, two groups of secondary three full literature students spent a fascinating hands-on session learning about Macbeth. 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 got opportunities to explore the stage and act. The session started with a check-in of what students knew about Macbeth, what they liked or disliked about him and questions that they had about the play. After which, the participants were up on their feet acting out recognisable gestures of key characters in the play. The second 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 in 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 enthusiasm and motivation were 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, considering the exits and entrances of the characters, as well as lines said aside. Through this exciting activity, students took on the role of the various characters and even a director. 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 statues of Macbeths and their alter egos. They were given the autonomy to decide how they would like to dress their statues, and consider what pose the statues should take to best represent the Macbeths that they know.

All in all, it was a fun and unforgettable afternoon as students explored and delved into their literature text with their peers!

Secondary One Level Camp

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



Our secondary one students participated in their 3-day non-residential level camp themed 'Starting Right' from 18th to 20th 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 grow to become effective teenagers.

On Day 1, their form teachers took them on a Heritage Trail around the school campus and they gained an understanding of the rich history of Katong Convent. To support students in fostering positive relationships, communication skills were introduced to the students and they had fun learning them through role-playing.

The next day, they bonded with their classmates over a breakfast party and peer-led games in class. After that, activities ran by trainers provided opportunities for the students to learn important life skills such as constructing goals and supporting strategies, time management and problem solving. Through playing interactive games, students explored the importance of building a positive community of learning as a class, while recognising their personal role as a team player in the class. On the last day, students were imparted with study strategies to help them maximise the efficacy of their revision efforts in the days ahead.

The programme culminated in a digital Escape Room, where students were challenged to apply the skills learned during the camp to achieve success as a team (as a small group and as an entire class). It was indeed a meaningful process of self-discovery and growth for the students and for their form teachers to get to know them better.

Secondary Two Level Camp

The secondary two Outdoor Adventure Camp was held from 18th to 20th January at the MOE Labrador 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. Previously conducted as a 3-day-2-night overnight camp, this year's camp was non-residential, in keeping with MOE's SMM for Outdoor Adventure Learning activities. The conduct of the camp was made in strict adherence to all SMM, including safe distancing, disinfecting of equipment, cohortisation of class and the donning of masks except during strenuous activities and at meal times.

The camp was a signature programme specially tailored for the secondary two 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 small, fixed groups within their class throughout the entire camp, to teach them the value of teamwork and to hone their problem-solving skills. Reflection sessions in between the activities were facilitated by the form teachers of each class. Activities conducted include outdoor rock wall climbing, tower circuit, trekking and orienteering at Labrador Nature Reserve, team bonding games, abseiling, and a zip-line challenge.

During the team bonding games, students were required to work closely in their small groups and to think out of the box. Students were also offered the opportunity and choice to challenge themselves at the abseiling, zip-line, tower circuit and outdoor rock-wall climbing stations.

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



Another activity that incorporated Outdoor Education skills was a 2-hour long trekking session at Labrador Nature Reserve. 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 took 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 history and landmarks in the nature reserve, as well as the flora and fauna found there.

Students also learnt humility and servant leadership during meal times, when they were taught how to collect and distribute the individually packed meals to their classmates, and then clean up after themselves after their meals.

During the reflection segments, the form teachers 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 students certainly enjoyed the camp, reporting in their camp reflection booklets that they had learnt much over the three days. It also brought out the best in them, providing opportunities to display team spirit and a positive attitude.

Secondary Three Level Camp

The secondary three level camp’s focus was on equipping our students with the skills to be effective facilitators as they embarked on their service learning (SL) projects with their allocated beneficiaries this year. In the process, it is hoped that by reaching out to the less fortunate in the community, we can inculcate the values of empathy and compassion in our students.

On the first day of the level camp, students organised a class party and bonded with their classmates to get to know one another better. This was to create a friendly and comfortable environment as they moved on to work as a class in their SL project. In the late morning, students did research on their beneficiaries to understand their needs better and planned their projects thereafter.

During the next 2 days of the camp, students attended an intensive workshop on the meaning of SL facilitated by Touch Community. Through the workshop, they experienced the meaning of serving the elderly in the community and those with special needs. Students were engaged in varied fun-filled activities throughout the sessions. Through hands-on activities, they also realised the complexities of interacting with the elderly and children with special needs. Many students gave positive feedback about how the camp had enabled them to plan their projects better.

In the Make-a-Gift segment of the camp programme, the students painted on fabric bags 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, creativity, and discipline in accomplishing the task. All classes were able to complete the painting during the allocated time.

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



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

Career Seminar and Education Fair (Day One and Two)

“Reimagining The Future Of Work” was the theme of CHIJ Katong Convent’s Career Seminar and Education Fair this year. The event comprised the career seminar on 18th January and the education fair on 19th January. A host of programmes and activities were organised to enable the secondary four and five students opportunities to explore their education and career interests.

The school kicked off the first day of the career seminar with an opening address by our Principal, followed by a pre-recorded keynote speech by our guest-of-honour Ms Sher-li Torrey (*Founder of Mums@Work and co-founder of Career Navigators*). Ms Torrey spoke about the rapid changes in the workplace and the skills necessary for students to remain relevant in the workforce.

Following her very inspiring speech, the students attended 3 breakout sessions each with our invited speakers from 15 different industries such as accountancy, early childhood education, nursing, pharmacy, technology, medicine, law, arts and culture as well as hotel and hospitality. The breakout sessions were a hybrid of face-to-face and zoom sessions to adhere to the school’s SMMs. Students had the opportunity to listen and ask questions about the realities of each career and the skillsets, educational qualifications and dispositions required for the job. In the early afternoon, students learnt more about financial literacy and the possible career and educational pathways through an interactive board game of LCube, which was facilitated by students from Temasek Polytechnic.

The education fair on 19th January started with an engaging and informative session on interview skills. Our MOE-ECG counsellor, Ms Kate Choo gave the students numerous tips on how one could conduct themselves to give their best first impressions and what they could include in their student portfolios for early admission exercises. The students then attended various talks and sharing by KC alumni, ITE, Singapore Polytechnic and Catholic Junior College through a combination of zoom and face-to-face sessions. Through these talks, our students became more aware of the requirements in the various courses and the processes related to the institutions’ early admission exercises. The last programme of the day was a Mock JIE/JAE exercise hosted by our school’s ECG counsellors. Students researched on post-secondary education choices and were asked to identify possible post-secondary options based on their latest academic results.

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

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



“I thought that my grades were the only important thing in achieving academic success. But now I think that my attitude, determination and dedication play a big part too” - Concessio Stacy (402)

“I used to think I should worry about what I want to do only after the release of my O-level results. But now I think that I should start thinking about what I want to be in the future” – Andrea Chua (403)

“I thought that going to a junior college was my definite choice as I felt it would lead to good jobs in the future. But now I think that even if I were to go to a polytechnic, I would still be able to have a good future” - Chong Wai Yen Grace (405)

“Before the career seminar and education fair, I used to think that attending a junior college was going to be mainly listening to my lecturers, but now I think that being in a junior college would also entail hands-on and practical learning” - Nicole Chan (500)

“I used to think that course selection is easy even though I couldn’t really tell the difference between the various routes as they looked the same to me. But now I know the routes are different and I know how each of them works” – Soh Cze Ya (500)

The success of the 2-day career seminar and education fair would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of the speakers, industry partners, alumni, post-secondary institutions, and personal contacts of KC staff. The organising team is thankful for the continued partnership and believe that many of our students have benefitted from this experience.

Sec 4 Retreat (Day Three)

After an exciting career seminar and education fair on the first two days of the level camp, our secondary fours embarked on a day of recollection on 20th January. Known also as School Missions, the retreat was co-organised by KC’s school chaplaincy team and the Redemptorist Mission Team from the Novena Church. The secondary fives had participated in this retreat last year. 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 the heartstrings, alongside 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.

Although this year’s session was done live via zoom, the objectives and essence of the retreat were not lost. The retreat remained an extremely touching and befitting way to start the year on

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



a positive note to support and encourage our graduating cohort in moving forward towards yet another meaningful and enriching year in KC.

Here are some reflections from the students:

"Honestly, every session was very relevant because it is all close to my heart. I could relate to everything and I'm so thankful. Thank you :)"

"There was one thing that one of my teachers wrote, "you are more special and loved than you think," and i guess it really hit me".

"I found it most relevant as my friends are the ones who will be with me through one of the most important years of my life".

"It has made me realise I should really cherish my last year in KC with the people around me and move forward with them"

Art Coursework Briefing

On 23th January, the Art department held an Art coursework briefing for parents of students taking the 2021 'N' and 'O' level examinations. Close to 40 parents joined us online for the briefing which included expectations of students during the coursework period and how parents could support their daughters. Parents were also given the opportunity to interact with their daughter's Art teacher and were also shown some coursework samples. It was a pleasure to have the parents with us and we would like to thank all parents who participated in this event.

EAP Milestone Learning Experience

Our secondary three Express and DSA Art students participated in the EAP Milestone Learning Experience on 29th January. Jointly run by MOE and the LaSalle College for the Arts, the partial online workshop was aimed at providing a learning opportunity for students to engage industry practitioners and also gain knowledge and skills on the applied arts as well as institutions of higher art. For this workshop, KC worked with artist Mr Khairulddin Wahab, who built on our students' classroom learning and explore drawing with possibilities of using and combining traditional mediums of art with digital tools to help them expand their own approach to creating drawings and paintings. Our girls had a good time learning how to manipulate online drawing software and creating new possibilities through harnessing their existing skillsets. The experience gained at the workshop was a prelude to the students' participation in I-LEAP 2021, another MOE-led EAP event in November in which all 9 EAP schools will come together for 4 days of art-making fun.

GEAR UP

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



This year, the GEAR UP (Guiding & Empowering Students for Affiliation & Resilience to Unlock their Potential) programme kicked off with a Melt & Pour Workshop welcome session where each participant made a bar of natural soap with a choice of scent/colour/design from a wide range of 100% pure essential oil, natural colourants and mould designs. They learnt the basic knowledge of the layering technique and had a hands-on experience making their own handcrafted soap. The Student Development Team plans to continue such talks and events that will support our GEAR UP students so that they will indeed be guided and empowered in this academic year.

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

BCA Green Mark Award (Gold) for CHIJ Katong Convent

We are proud to share that CHIJ Katong Convent has been awarded the BCA Green Mark Award (GOLD).

BCA Green Mark is a green building rating system to evaluate a building for its environmental impact and performance. It provides a comprehensive framework for assessing the overall environmental performance of new and existing buildings to promote sustainable design, construction and operations practices in buildings.

The BCA Green Mark awards recognises developers, building owners and individuals who have made outstanding achievements in environmental sustainability in the built environment.

As a KC family, let's continue, if not, step up on our efforts and mindfulness to conserve energy and be green as part of the global effort on environmental sustainability with these tips:

Set air-con temperature at 25 degrees Celsius

Switch off all electrical appliances when not in use

Reduce consumption of water

Print on both sides of the paper, and only when necessary

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg



2020 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 ≤ 19 points, 86.3 % of our Sec 4N(A) girls qualified for Sec 5N as compared to the national percentage of 77.7%.

Our Sec 4N(A) girls achieved 100% passes in Additional Mathematics, English Language, Literature, Art, Principles of Accounts and Tamil 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, Computer Application, English Language 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.

2020 GCE O Level Results

In the 2020 GCE O levels, our Sec 4 Express cohort did well with 84.6% eligible for JC progression, 100% passes in 15 subjects and scored passes above national passes in 19 subjects. Subjects that achieved more than 25% distinctions were Art (63.6%), English Language (49.4%), Mathematics (53.2%), A Math (63.4%), Chemistry (32.1%), Biology (41.4%), Physics (42.4%), Combined Science (Bio/Chem) [40.3%], Combined Humanities (SS/Lit) [28.2%],

E Lit (41.9%), Malay Language (62.5%), Tamil Language (33.3%), History (42.9%), Geography (58.3%), Principles of Accounts (55%), Higher Chinese (29.4%), Chinese (25.7%), Drama (40%), Higher Music (100%) and Japanese (100%).

Our Sec 5 cohort scored 100% passes in Additional Mathematics, Art, Food & Nutrition, Literature, Principles of Accounts 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.

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405 Web: chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg Email: chijktcs@moe.edu.sg

