



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405

www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg



PARENT LINK : MARCH 2019

8 March 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians

We have come 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 (28 January to 13 February)

This year, the MTL department designated two consecutive weeks for MTL Fortnight, during which a wide range of activities relating to MTL and their cultures were carried out. To create an immersive environment for the learning of MTL, there were targeted activities for different groups and levels of students as well as activities for mass participation. We hope that this had enhanced the learning experience of each KC student to actively use their respective mother tongue and experience the associated culture.

Chinese Language (CL)		Malay Language (ML)	
Language Appreciation Programme			
Creative Writing / Pictorial Writing Competition (For all levels)			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote MTL literary writing in school Provide a platform for students to express their creativity and demonstrate their ability to generate discussions on different topics and issues 		
Fun with Polyphonic Characters (Sec 4) 《华语小贴士》-多音字		Scrabble Competition (Sec 1 – 5) Pintar Kata App Competition (Sec 1 – 4 NT)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the awareness of commonly-used polyphonic characters Use polyphonic characters to create short stories 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the joy of learning Malay Language through games Expand students' vocabulary



Guess the Chinese Idioms! (Sec 2 & Sec 3 NA)		Concrete Poetry Writing (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elicit Chinese idioms from picture cues correctly and explain their meanings accurately Learn more about Chinese idioms through class competition 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote creativity in poetry writing Create concrete poetry based on the theme of Malay traditional games
Fun with Singapore Mandarin (Sec 1) 《我们这一家》 – 地域特色词/惯用语			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the differences between colloquial usage and standard Mandarin, and how the environment can influence the language (i.e., how Singapore Mandarin differs from the Mandarin used in other parts of the world) Spur students to be culturally aware and reflect on the Mandarin used and heard in Singapore 		
Fun with Reading (for all NT, Sec 5 and 4 HCL)			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide students to appreciate biographies of famous people (for Sec 5) Facilitate student exploration and reflection on the theme in the form of poster drawing (for all NT classes) Develop the ability of critical thinking through the reading of novels and follow-up discussion (for Sec 4 HCL) 		
Cultural Exposure Programme			
Red Packet Lantern Making (Sec 1)		Malay Traditional Games Exhibition (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about traditional Chinese art and culture Appreciate Chinese culture through hands-on activity 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create awareness of various types of Malay traditional games through presentation by Sec 4 ML students Learn about the various types of Malay traditional games (e.g. congkak, batu seremban, teng-teng, guli, chapteh) through interactions and



			discussions
Traditional Chinese Fan Painting 绘扇 (Sec 2)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand students' knowledge and vocabulary on a variety of areas related to Malay traditional games
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover traditional Chinese Fan Art Experience how a piece of artwork is done on a paper fan 		
Chinese Opera Mask Painting (Sec 3)		Malay Traditional Games (Sec 1 – 5)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise a unique skill and makeup art in Chinese opera Experience traditional culture through hands-on activity 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn and recognise different types of Malay traditional games (e.g. gasing, lereng, rumah dayak, tapak kuda, tarik guni & nenek-nenek si bongkok tiga) through hands-on activities Experience various traditional games often played by kampong folks in yesteryears at the different stations
MTL Drama Appreciation			
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expose students to MTL drama performance in a theatre setting 		
'The Silly Little Girl and the Funny Old Tree' 《傻姑娘与怪老树》 戏剧 (Sec 3 - CL)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate an adaptation of this classic drama (set in modern context) through the clever interplay of music, dialogue and action. Guide students to think about how to respond to changes and dissolution of our culture and environment in a rapidly transforming society. 			
<i>*This will take place on 4 April.</i>			

Total Defence Day (15 February)

On Total Defence Day (TDD), all students and staff experienced emergency conditions such as no electricity for the first one hour of the day, sweet potato porridge ration during recess and an evacuation drill.

Although some students felt uncomfortable for the first hour without electricity, they remained attentive and focussed during lessons. During recess, the students were “treated” to an experience of having emergency food-rations comprising simple but filling sweet potato porridge. To end the TDD experience for the day, the school underwent an evacuation drill, based on a scenario involving the detection of a suspicious-looking, unattended suitcase left outside one of our classrooms. The school was evacuated to an assembly area far enough to be safe from where the item was found, and the teachers in their functional groups carried out their assigned duties of accounting for any missing persons or rendering first-aid to those who needed it.



Here are some of the comments from the students:

"I think it was a new and interesting experience to have the food rationing exercise and bringing our own utensils".

~ Mazwin Sumaiya, 404 ~

"Little food was given and I reflected on how there was even no food for some people back then"

~ Lydia Rachel, 306 ~

"The food rationing exercise actually was interesting in a way that everyone got to eat porridge together and reflected on what it would have been like eating it every day".

~ Cheri Tan, 204 ~

"I really hated the porridge but I now know how it was during the war season".

~ Nishita Datar, 102 ~

"I feel that the food rationing exercise was good to help me learn about the difficulties faced by the older generations during the war years. I learnt that I am very fortunate to have food readily accessible whenever I am hungry and that it was not always this way in Singapore. I felt very hungry eating only one bowl of porridge for recess and that made me reflect about the years people in Singapore went hungry. I now feel the greater need of cherishing this blessing of food and will conserve and not waste as much as I can".

~ Adapa Ishwarya, 106 ~

SGSecure Exhibition Panel (18 to 22 February)

The SGSecure exhibition panels were displayed at the school's upper foyer for a week after the commemoration of Total Defence Day. To help our students iterate key SGSecure messages, the panels which the school loaned from the Ministry of Home Affairs enabled students to understand the threats of terrorism to our society, and how we, as a community and as an individual can play a part to safeguard our way of life. On some of these panels, there were also brochures containing information to help our students understand the ways to strengthen social cohesion and to stay united and strong after an attack. There were also scenarios to enable our students to understand the possible actions to take under different situations.

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 a day when Guides around the world think about the Guiding movement and its global impact.

The theme for this year's World Thinking Day is 'Leadership'. To start the Guides on their leadership journey, the company did some reviews, explored and reflected on the different facets of leadership as they completed activities by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) on the very same day. They even wrote a letter of commitment addressed to themselves which was kept in a time capsule! On 23 February at Tampines Hub, they witnessed Guides demonstrating sound leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

Then on 1 March, our Girl Guides celebrated World Thinking Day in school. The Girl Guides contingent stood proudly before the school during morning assembly, as they conducted a formal march past with the World Flag, sang the World Song and renewed their Guide Promise. A 96-



member company, they hope to develop their personal leadership skills so that they are in a position to lead themselves and others.

Twelfth Night by The Handlebards (26 February)

The CAs had just ended the week before, so it was a rather unusual buzz of excitement that sounded through the hall at 7:35am in the morning before assembly began. Plastic wrappers rustled, and bags of crisps were mysteriously spotted between boxes of cakes, and little heaps of cookies -- there was certainly something unprecedented hovering in the air.

With the last notes of the morning hymn quietly fading, a great bang and cacophony on stage revealed a rainbow screen and four men in brightly coloured socks singing and playing guitars. It was the Handlebards and they were about to perform William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* for the students.

It was certainly a treat for the students who had never seen the musical element of Shakespeare's verse. "If music be the food of love", sang one actor while another recited his lines, all while stomping and strumming his lute, showing to the students, the true mass appeal of Shakespeare's plays. The mass appeal of Shakespeare was further reinforced to the students who took delight in being able to eat while watching the play -- very much like how Shakespeare's audience would have done back in the day.

The performance was part of the Literature & Drama Appreciation Excursion Programme, a programme which supports the school's vision towards a broad-based arts education and offers students unique arts experiences. This year, the Handlebards, a critically acclaimed four-man travelling Shakespearean troupe from the UK brought to life the hilarious antics of Shakespeare's comedy with their amazing quick changes, playing over 11 characters with just four actors. It was truly a sight to behold and the performance was made all the more engaging with their appeal to the audience to participate. From getting students to throw water in the face of the actors during the storm scene to inviting teachers up on stage to play the parts of the minor characters, the students found new love and relevance for the Bard in their lives through the very accessible and thoroughly engaging performance.

Upper Secondary Literature Talk (28 February)

The Secondary 3 and 4 literature students had the opportunity to attend *Of Short Stories and Belonging II*, a talk by Cyril Wong and Phillip Holden. The two speakers, both esteemed literary critics and writers, are also editors of the O and N level set text short story anthologies *Here and Beyond* and *Hook and Eye: Stories from the Margins* respectively.

Working in tandem to introduce how to appreciate texts, the speakers gave the students an exclusive insight into the thrills and challenges of stitching together an anthology of short stories to produce a meaningful experience for the reader. They delved into the importance of curating stories through the ideas they put forth, rationalizing choices made in their own anthologies of narratives from marginal yet strangely familiar figures in order to explore the possibilities of empathy and see familiar landscapes in a new light.

During the question-and-answer session, the speakers also shared their personal inspirations and interpretations of texts they had read and written; encouraging students to appreciate that the study of literature requires deep emotional response as well as considerate analysis, and urging



them to exercise their own. At the end of the workshop, students were delighted to have their own copies of their set texts signed by the editors, as well as an enjoyable browsing opportunity through a collection of books put on sale.

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

16 canoeists took part in the annual Singapore Canoe Marathon (SCM) held at the Marina Reservoir on 20 January for the 12km and 18km race categories. 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 supported each other along the way. The canoeists braved and overcame the scorching sun, strong winds, and their own fatigue to complete their races. Special thanks to Tessa Chen (Sec 3/6) and Nicole Chan (Sec 3/1) for voluntarily coming for the event despite not racing, and contributing their time and efforts in helping the team with refreshments and boat portage.

Naming of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM)

Upon our return from Geylang Bahru to Marine Terrace, we found new neighbours in the form of the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the joint-venture between Ssangyong Engineering and Construction and Hyundai Engineering and Construction, collectively known as SHJV, working on the Marine Terrace Station of the Thomson-East Coast Line, which is scheduled for completion in 2023.

MRT construction work is challenging, risky and can be unavoidably noisy. But our LTA and SHJV neighbours have been, and continue to be, responsive and accommodating in working closely with our school to minimise noise and even stop work during exams, and we appreciate very much their support and understanding.



In November 2018, LTA and SHJV invited our students to participate in a contest to name their 2 tunnel boring machines. The contest required participants to suggest names of female saints and to explain why they have chosen those names.

Our students took up the challenge and we are proud to announce the winners of the TBM Naming Contest:

Senthil Shreya of Sec 2/5, whose entry of *St Joan of Arc* was selected as the name for the Woodlands-bound TBM. Shreya explained:

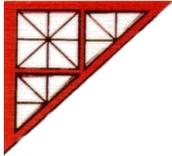
“St Joan of Arc exemplified courage and fortitude in the gravest of circumstances like when she led her people to victory during the Hundred Years’ War. Likewise, the people working to build this MRT work day and night to help the people travelling to places near the Thomson-East Coast Line. The Thomson-East Coast Line will benefit all the students studying in CHIJ Katong Convent, St Patrick’s, Victoria Junior College, Victoria School. Thanks for your hard work, courage and effort.”

Tan Zhen Xi, Cheri of Sec 2/4’s entry of *St Barbara* was selected as the name for the Changi-bound TBM. Cheri shared:

“The people who will be building the MRT Station will be working underground and the life-endangering and back-breaking toil of underground workers the world over is largely taken for granted by the general populace. With the blessing of St Barbara, the patron saint of miners and geologists, she will protect them.”

Our heartiest congratulations to Shreya and Cheri.





CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

email : ptsg.kc@gmail.com

PTSG website hyperlink @ <http://www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg>



Sports Evening 2019

The annual Sports Evening will soon be upon us! In true blue KC PTSG style, we want to celebrate fitness and camaraderie by joining our daughters in this year's Sports Evening, to be held on Friday April 12, 2019. Parents' help will be needed to form race teams, traffic marshalling and other support. If you are interested and want to find out more about the event, please contact the PTSG chairpersons today!

PTSG WhatsApp Groups

The PTSG chairpersons and level representatives keep in touch with parents through WhatsApp. If you would like to join the PTSG WhatsApp class / level groups, please send a message to the chairpersons so they can add you to the respective chat groups.

Contact Details

Please note our contact details below. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

Chairpersons		Teachers	
Rowena	82684712	Ms Cheryl Anne Lim	64486433 ext 132
Christine	97527974	lim_su_ying_cheryl@moe.edu.sg	
		Mr Luke Ezekiel	6448643 ext 143
		luke_saidil_ezekiel@moe.edu.sg	

