



# CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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**PARENT LINK : APRIL 2019**

10 April 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians

Term 1 ended on a very uplifting note for all of us at Katong Convent. Our Meet-the-Parents Session for the graduating cohort which was held on the last Saturday of Term 1 was a significant home-school touchpoint as we continue to work closely to support our students' holistic development and their preparations for the national examination in the months ahead. We would like to thank all parents and guardians of our graduating cohort for your collaboration as our partners-in-education. Leveraging the more leisurely pace of the March holidays, our students continued their preparations for the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation and sports competitions, and participated in external trainings organised by their Uniformed Group headquarters in their quest for excellence. Our teachers also enriched the learning of our girls with workshops for our Secondary 1 Catholic girls, Enhanced Art Programme students and the student leaders who have successfully completed their series of leadership training.

Our girls will continue to be busy preparing for various competitions and the mid-year examination this term. While we continue to do our best to look after their well-being, do encourage, support and guide your daughters/ wards to manage their time wisely so that they are not unduly stressed as the examination dates draw nearer. We will end Term 2 with our Founder's Day Celebrations with the family of CHIJ schools at the National Stadium on 28 May and Honours Day on 31 May. More details will be provided nearer the date.

## Literary Arts Workshop (II)

Speculative literature and science fiction have always reflected and expressed contemporary societal anxieties and yet treated as the lesser literary cousin, falling into the genre of popular fiction meant only for entertainment. More recently, the genre has been "trending" among teenagers and young adults, popularised by novels and movies such as *The Maze Runner*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Divergent* to name a few. It was thus with much excitement and intrigue that poet Shelly Bryant was welcomed into the KC library for the second workshop in the KC Literary Arts Workshop Series to redeem the genre.

During the workshop, Shelly Byrant guided students in the use of speculative fiction to confront realities through the lens of a different world. Students were introduced to the difference between science fiction and fantasy, both aspects of speculative fiction that have been around as early as the 10th century's Beowulf. Parallels between the function of speculative fiction and themes that were being studied in the upper secondary literature classroom such as the anonymous marginalised surfaced and students began realising how speculative fiction was a deeply thoughtful genre rather than merely fluff and entertainment.

Students were then called to discuss the big "What If?" - what might the world be like based on today's scientific knowledge and debates taken to an extreme? This generated a lively conversation with sometimes chilling revelations. The session ended with the students reading,



and then writing their own speculative poetry, each leaving the library with a fragment of an uncertain future and the tools to interrogate it.

### **Upper Secondary Geographical Investigation (GI)**

To understand the dynamism of coastal processes over space and the interaction of human and nature, the Secondary 3 Full Geography students embarked on a coastal geographical investigation at East Coast Park measuring wave characteristics, observing how beach materials were transported along the coast and how the presence of human management structures altered coastal processes. This fieldwork engaged students in an authentic manner, enabling them to conduct a geographical inquiry of the different coastal processes at work in Singapore.

On the other hand, the Secondary 3 Elective Geography students embarked on a weather and climate GI where they were tasked to investigate if different places within a small area (e.g. school compound) experienced different temperatures at the same time. They went to the different sites around the school to observe, measure, record and analyse the weather data collected. This geographical inquiry allowed students to uncover how variations in temperature across different places are affected by familiar local environmental factors such as the installation of air conditioners, grassy school field or the asphalt car park.

Similarly, for the Secondary 4 Geography students, they embarked on their GI at Marina Bay Sands to understand the factors that affect tourism in the area. Within the short span of a few hours, the girls tracked the traffic flow, analysed the shops available, as well as interviewed tourists on their reasons for visiting the area as well as their profile. It was a meaningful experience that tested not only their geographical but also their communication skills.

Through all these GI experiences, students not only got the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of what they had learnt during their Geography lessons in class but they also managed to practise and hone GI-specific skills such as data collection, analyses and presentation. Their exposure to GI enabled them to develop an affinity for the environment as well as a sense of space, place and scale; the key concepts that undergird the Upper Secondary Geography syllabus.

### **Ash Wednesday Mass**

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, a Christian period of prayer, fasting, repentance and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of ashes on the foreheads of participants.

To mark the start of Lent, the school held the Ash Wednesday Mass on 6 March for our Catholic students and their parents. We were encouraged by the words of our celebrant, Fr Eugene Vaz, who reminded us of our calling to a life of generosity and prayer and the importance of serving others around us. Lent is a season of rejoicing and not of sadness when we fast. Fr Vaz also reminded us of Jesus' desire to welcome us back to him and invited us to be reconciled to God.

In this season of repentance and contemplation, we wish for all to have a meaningful observance and cultivation of our inner spiritual lives.

### **Penitential Service**

In the holy season of Lent, where Christians carry out a solemn 60-day religious observance beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending before Easter Sunday, we continue our journey to



prepare our girls for the Lord's Resurrection through prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins and almsgiving.

The Penitential Service is at heart a time when God's people gather, and listen more closely to his word, and reflect on their lives in the light of that word. It is a time for contemplation, for being attentive to those things that at other times we cannot find time to focus on. Each prayer and reflection helps every Catholic to learn how to live life more deeply grounded in the Gospel.

As all Catholic staff and students gather as one Church for common prayer to focus on listening to the word of God, we began to examine our lives in the light of the Gospel in that greater space, by helping one another take our first steps back to the Sacrament of Penance.

We would like to express our thanksgiving to all parishes and priests of the East district for their support in ministering the sacrament.

May you have a blessed and contemplative Lenten season!

### **CHIJ 165th Anniversary Forum**

On 9 March, a delegation of student leaders comprising class leaders, student councillors and catholic support leaders participated and represented our school at the CHIJ 165th Anniversary Forum at Catholic Junior College. The forum was one of a series of events organised to commemorate our CHIJ 165th anniversary. Student representatives from all CHIJ schools, primary and secondary came together in a discussion of the theme: Ever Seeking. Ever Serving – a well-remembered phrase taken from the CHIJ song *Hold On To Our Dream* by Julie Sim & Trevor Nerva.

The keynote speaker for the forum was Professor Lily Kong - President of Singapore Management University. She was joined on stage by a panel of other former CHIJ graduates who are leaders and change makers in their field of work. This included Ms Janet Ang – Vice President of Business Development at IBM, Ms Lim Choi Meng – District Judge at the Family Justice Court, Ms Nichol Ng – founder of Foodbank Singapore and Ms Rachel Nadia Goh – founder of the Barré Group.

Our student leaders were inspired by the personal anecdotes and nuggets of wisdom shared by our esteemed guests. Indeed, they relished the opportunity to seek advice from the panelists during the question and answer segment, on a variety of topics ranging from plans for the future to the values that guide these industry leaders. It is without a doubt that our student leaders left the forum with a renewed understanding of the theme Ever Seeking, Ever Serving and an affirmed identity as CHIJ students at present and for the future.

### **Humanities/ NE Challenge**

The Humanities/NE Challenge was held in Katong Convent on 9 March with the participation of 11 schools including ours from E4, E5, E6, E7 clusters. With the theme of 'Singapore: A little red dot in the world?', the competition served to highlight Singapore's valuable contributions to the world beyond its small physical size, while stretching participants' knowledge of History, Social Studies, Geography and current affairs.

The competition had two components: Amazing Race and Battleship. During the Amazing Race, participants raced around the school to find game stations based on clues, and tested their capabilities and knowledge in a variety of tasks. The new Battleship component, modelled after the classic board game, pit pairs of randomly selected participating schools against one another in



a match of quick thinking and strategy. Participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves while competing intensely in both segments.

Heartiest congratulations to the top 5 teams - Ngee Ann Secondary School, St Patrick's School, Victoria School, Broadrick Secondary School and Katong Convent.

### **UniStem Day at Biopolis**

UniStem Day is an event aimed at promoting an awareness of the wonders and issues surrounding stem cell research among students around the world. Every year on the same day, an outreach programme comprising lectures, lab visits and hands-on sessions will gather students around the world at universities and research institutions to listen and learn from the best experts.

On 15 March, 25 Upper Secondary Biology students attended the UniStem Day (Singapore) held at Biopolis. Dr. Mohmaud Pouladi, a Principal Investigator with the Translational Lab in Genetic Medicine (TLGM) at the Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A\*STAR) and Dr. Judy Sng, a Senior Lecturer at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine conducted talks about stem cells and their therapeutic uses.

The students also had a chance to visit the Pouladi Lab and caught a glimpse of how the researchers worked in a laboratory. In addition, students carried out some hands-on activities which included Gel Electrophoresis - a laboratory method used to separate mixtures of DNA, RNA, or proteins according to molecular size, and to extract DNA from wheat germ. They also looked at stem cell cultures under the light microscope and learnt how different medium could encourage the growth of different types of specialised cells.

It was a meaningful afternoon that sparked our students' interest in stem cell research and gave them a deeper understanding of scientific research.

### **Lower Secondary Normal Technical (NT) Theatre Experience**

As part of the NT English Language programme, our Lower Secondary NT English Language students went on a learning journey to Marina Bay Sands to watch 'Matilda the Musical'. This performance afforded our students the opportunity to have a page to stage experience, where the storyline and characters that they have explored in class via Roald Dahl's story books came to life. Through song and dance, the musical explored themes of friendship, labelling and family, which the students could readily identify with. They were entertained by the humour-infused lyrics and meaningful themes of the musical. The students will continue to explore Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Matilda* as part of their English language learning in the classroom.

### **Meet-the-Parents Session (MTPS)**

The MTPS for the parents / guardians of our Sec 4 and 5 students was held on 16 March. With the differentiated approach adopted by the school, parents / guardians were hosted by subject teachers instead of form teachers as compared to previous years. In addition to providing feedback to parents / guardians on their child's / ward's performance in the first term, the focus was also to provide subject-specific information to parents / guardians to support their child / ward as they journey towards their national exams. The MTPS was well received by parents and guardians. The school also gleaned useful learning points and feedback from all who attended the sessions.

A big thank you to all our Sec 4 and 5 parents and guardians for your support and for making the MTPS a meaningful and enriching experience!



## **Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) Graffiti Mural Workshop**

Over the March term break, the Secondary 3 EAP students came together to learn about Graffiti Art and collaborated to create a 'Blockbuster' mural and a Peranakan-themed doodle wall. It was an exciting time and the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they learnt spray painting as an art medium. Our beautiful new mural wall is located just outside the Art Studios and may also be viewed from the bus stop along Marine Parade Road, just outside our school. Everyone is invited to come take a look at the work which the EAP students are very proud of!

## **Class Leadership Training**

Term 1 saw the selection and welcome of our new class leaders into the student leadership fraternity. A series of leadership training workshops were organised to equip them with the values, knowledge and skills needed to excel at their appointments on 11 February and 18 March.

The first workshop was organised by the Student Leadership Committee together with representatives from our Student Leadership Board.

The programme saw our class leaders being engaged in discussions about their roles and responsibilities in class, as well as honing the skills required to be an effective communicator and team player. The second workshop explored the areas of event management though budget planning, as well as relationship management, giving the class leaders practical solutions to the challenges they may face as leaders. Indeed, these are skills that will position them well to foster a positive and caring environment in their classrooms. The training sessions culminated in the student leaders being challenged to be values-driven leaders who would leave a positive impact on their community as well as to lead their peers towards common goals of success.

## **CCA Leaders and House Captains Training**

In addition to the class leaders training programme, the student leadership committee also conducted a training workshop for our new batch of CCA leaders and house captains. During the workshop, student leaders engaged in a brainstorm activity to identify qualities and values an effective leader should possess, as well as their roles and responsibilities now that they have taken on a higher leadership position. Expectations and service opportunities were also communicated, giving the student leaders a better idea of how they are supported in their development as an active contributor to the school and wider community. Rounding off the session, goal-setting techniques were explored before our student leaders crafted their own goals and commitments. These goals will guide them in achieving a purposeful leadership journey in their respective CCAs and Houses.

We wish our student leaders a meaningful journey of learning and growth as student leaders in KC!

## **Malay Language Seminar**

On 19 March, the Malay Language Unit was invited by organisers of Malay Language Seminar 2019 to showcase CHIJ Katong Convent's unique approach to cultural appreciation and value-based lessons. The annual event that drew island-wide participation of Malay Language educators from primary to junior colleges was held at The Malay Language Centre of Singapore (MLCS).

In line with this year's theme, 'Teaching Practice among Malay Language Teachers in Singapore', the unit shared past years initiatives on teaching values through cultural appreciation that had become the core of its annual Mother Tongue Language Fortnight celebration since 2017, as well as elements of Singapore Teaching Practice (STP).



Ms Norazian Md Yahya and Ms Hannah Nadhirah Lokman represented the unit along with two student presenters, Siti Nur Syafiqah Bte Hamdan of Sec 3/1 and Nur Adilah Bte Muhammad Azhar of Sec 3/2. They engaged with A/P Muhammad Faishal, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, MOE and MSFD and officials who were appreciative of the unit's effort in promoting Malay language and culture. Teacher participants who visited CHIJ Katong Convent booth expressed their appreciation of shared experiences and teaching resources including annual publication of *Kisah & Cerita* and thematic MTL Fortnight student booklets.

With much to learn and share with the larger teaching fraternity, the unit intends to participate in future seminars to offer precious learning opportunities to students to engage them on this national platform.

### **Catholic CONNECT Day Camp**

As part of our mission to create a Christ-centred school community, the school organised a CONNECT Day Camp for Secondary 1 Catholic students and Secondary 2 to 5 Catholic Student Leaders (CSLs) during the March school holidays. The objective of the day camp was to build on the weekly Thursday CONNECT sessions, and to establish a Catholic student community rooted in faith through fellowship. The day camp was specially planned for all Catholic students and was a collaborative effort between the school and the Redemptorist Mission Team (RMT) of Novena Church.

Our Catholic students were taught how to pray, and to understand that there can be different ways of prayer, through our actions and through songs, and that in order to build our relationship with God, we would have to encounter Him in our own personal way.

The girls appreciated the sharing by one of the RMT members, who told her personal story of overcoming hardship and sadness in her life, and how she did so through support from the church and from God.

The girls gave feedback that they found the day camp meaningful, and allowed them to connect with God on a deeper level. They felt that they could relate to what was discussed during the day camp, and understood that we are all moulded and created by God with love. Through this day camp, the girls also realised the importance of journeying with God, and the importance of remembering that while nobody is perfect, everybody is important. Through this day camp, we hope to have further strengthened our students' Catholic identity and spirituality.

### **Secondary Two Shakespeare Workshop -Taming Of The Shrew**

Reading Shakespeare has always been a tradition in KC as an introduction to drama and plays in the study of literature. He is one of the greatest playwrights of all time; a brilliant mind behind some of the most charming characters, daring romances and heart-wrenching tragedies. As Shakespearean English can appear daunting and unfamiliar, the Secondary 2s attended a workshop on their literature text for the year – the entertaining and thought-provoking world of *The Taming of the Shrew*. The workshop was designed to provide a gateway to the context of the play and the beauty of Shakespeare's language through an afternoon of dramatic activities.

Over the course of an afternoon, students were introduced to the well-loved play through a programme aimed at motivating them to enjoy their literature text. They were plunged into the thick of the action with a snippet showcasing both the tamer and the shrew in their first meeting in the play.



Devised and run by the Literature teachers themselves, the workshop aimed not only to give students an overview of the characters, themes, and the plot of the play, but also to show them how relatable and fun Shakespeare can be.

Through the introduction of the key characters and immersion to the language of Shakespeare with games and drama activities, as well as short interactive lectures and group work, students explored the larger themes of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Students were also given opportunities to get to know the characters better by engaging in role play. The Secondary 2s were most excited about learning lines from the play, as they engaged in close reading of key moments from the text. In fact, by the end of the workshop, students were hankering for more activities to delve deeper into the concerns of the text, as evidenced by feedback asking for a longer run of the workshop.

More importantly, the workshop strove to enthuse students about the text and invite them to feel for the characters. All in all, it was an enjoyable afternoon for both teachers and students, and a good preparation for the students' endeavour in the literary analysis of Shakespeare!

### **NT Elective Module Updates**

Our Secondary 2NT students attended an ITE Elective Module entitled "Dramatique" at ITE College Central from 25 March to 28 March 2019.

Dramatique module enabled students to apply basic acting skills as well as assist in managing and executing various production activities leading up to a performance, including managing the lightings and sounds. This module is a taster-course to the actual Higher Nitec Performance Production course and complemented the stage management lessons they had in Cabin Club. A part of the assessment included producing a short play at ITE College Central's Black Box.

We hoped that the students would do well in the module to attain the ITE Certificate of Achievement, earning themselves a credit unit point (for Elective Modules) that can be used when they enrol themselves in ITE elective module courses in the future. In addition, the certificates may also be included in their portfolio when applying for post-secondary ITE courses via Early Admission Exercise - an aptitude-based admissions exercise that allows students to apply and receive conditional offers for admission to ITE based on their aptitude and interest, prior to receiving their final GCE N(T) Level examination results. Such exercise allows ITE greater flexibility in selecting students on a broader measure of criteria, other than academic grades, thus allowing a wider range of talents to be recognised.

### **Secondary Two Historical Investigation (HI)**

Secondary 2 Express and Normal Academic students went to the former Ford Factory Museum as part of their HI project. At the different stages of the inquiry, students were required to work in groups of 5 to question, gather, select and examine sources and construct their responses to the HI question, "**What were the methods of control used by the Japanese during the Japanese Occupation?**" The trip to Ford Factory Museum served to help students gather the necessary information as the galleries provided students with a rich collection of historical sources on the various methods of control; the use of Japanese propaganda, the rule of fear through the Kempeitai and the Japanese attempts to win local support.

The field trip received positive feedback as students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the exhibits collaboratively in their HI groups. Students appreciated this unique learning experience as they were able to situate themselves in that time period and empathise with the struggles the people endured during the Japanese Occupation.



## **Cultural Appreciation Experience**

Organised by the Chinese language department, 160 girls mainly from Secondary 3 spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Drama Centre Theatre watching a play presented by the Young People's Performing Arts Ensemble. A local classic, *The Silly Little Girl and The Funny Old Tree* was written by the late theatre doyen Mr Kuo Pao Kun. This year's production was directed by Ang Gey Pin, who interestingly played the role of the silly girl in 1987. This play questions the exploitation of trees in a modern industrialised world, and the loss of dialects and some traditions among Chinese Singaporeans. The young cast ruled the stage with immense energy and synergy, telling the story with very creative ways. It was heartening to learn from the girls who were a great audience that they had enjoyed the play tremendously. The school would like to thank the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning- Cultural Programme Exposure Scheme (CPCLL-CPES) and Tote Board (Arts Grant) for sponsoring the tickets and making this cultural appreciation experience possible for our girls.

Parents and Guardians, we truly believe in the power of your support and encouragement. Do challenge your daughter / ward and support her at the same time. Your daughter / ward will truly "bloom where she is planted".

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Chan (Ms)  
Principal

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **1. ACJC Orator's Trophy**

On 16 February, Shirli Lim of Sec 4/4 represented the school at the Senior League division of the 10<sup>th</sup> ACJC ORATOR'S TROPHY 2019. An annual national oratorical competition, it seeks to provide an avenue for students to develop their spontaneous speaking skills and build up confidence in public presentation, learn and gain by observation and interaction with other public speakers, and encourage the creative and persuasive use of the English language. Participants were assessed based on Content, Delivery and Language. All speeches were impromptu, thus the topics were only released on the day of the competition and all preparation was done individually.

Remaining calm, cool and collected, Shirli provided refreshing, candid and well-considered responses to topics ranging from *'The most important value in life is...'*, to *'If I had two wishes they would be...'* and *'Shake it off'*. Shirli also displayed maturity through reflecting on her performance after each round, taking into consideration feedback from adjudicators to further improve her approach. The school is proud to share that Shirli was one of the 5 students from 16 other schools in her preliminary rounds to make it to the semi-finals. Congratulations, Shirli!

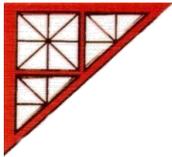


## 2. National Junior Canoe Sprint Championships

19 Canoeists participated in the 2019 National Junior Canoe Sprint Championships held between 16 to 18 March at MacRitchie Reservoir. The competition format was either 500m or 1000m straight-line sprints for competitors using kayaks with one, two, or four occupants. The competitors faced a variety of challenges; the Secondary 2 participants competed against other schools for the first time and were nervous yet excited while the Upper Secondary participants faced seasoned and well-trained competitors. The team members worked well together with all participants supporting one another in portage, preparation for races and cheering their teammates on.

Congratulations to Seow Xue Qi, Jamie (2/4), Trisha Mahmood (2/5), Cecilia Low Hui Hui (3/1), Hailey Eryn Anwari (3/2), Layla O'Connor (3/4), Ifa Adilah Dafinah Binte Isafareed (4/2), Sarah Zafirah Bte Noor Ashikin (4/6), Isabel Wai Yin Kuffel (5/2) for qualifying for the semi-finals of their events. A special mention to Yee Jia Ying (2/2), Nurul Amelia Binte Mohamed Zaki (2/2), Lara Wong (2/5), Chan Ying Tung Nicole (3/1), Shannon Lee (3/5) and Tessa Chen Jing Ee (3/5) for being at the venue to cheer for the competitors and for helping out. The KC canoeing team will continue to train hard and compete to the best of their abilities in the upcoming competitions.





# CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

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**OUR GIRLS, OUR FUTURE**

## CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

### 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.

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