



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405

www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg



PARENT LINK : JULY 2019

5 July 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians

Welcome back to Semester 2!

As the new term begins, we thank God for continuing to keep our staff and students healthy in body, mind and spirit, and giving our students the discipline and determination to excel in the face of many challenges as they continue to pursue their goals this semester.

Our teachers continued to make good use of the more leisurely paced June holidays to enhance the quality of our students' school experience. The graduating students came back for lessons in the first and last week of the holidays while many CCA groups organised camps and trainings. In the spirit of enhancing work-life harmony, the school has a policy of blocking out 2 of the 4 weeks of vacation time for both staff and students to spend some uninterrupted time with their families. We hope that all have had a good rest and are ready for the challenges ahead!

Farewell and Welcome

We bid a fond farewell to our Chinese Language teacher Ms Jiang Ling who is furthering her studies and administrative executive Ms Suraya Khamis who has joined another school and thank them for their past contributions to KC.

We also extend a very warm welcome to our new colleague Ms Teresa Wong (Mathematics) and hope that she will have a very fulfilling teaching experience in our school.

IJ 165 Celebration

Tuesday 28 May saw the gathering of all 11 IJ schools in the National Stadium as we celebrated 165 years since our founding by Blessed Nicholas Barre. Walking into the National Stadium, one felt the electric air of enthusiasm and joyous celebration. Here, in one place, generations of IJ students, teachers, alumni, parents, religious Sisters and Priests met to give thanks for the blessings and service of the IJ community.

It was a memorable programme, not only with the celebration of the eucharistic mass as a single united IJ body but with the commemoration of the acts of service of those who came before us, ever seeking, ever serving. With each of the 11 schools managing a different aspect of the celebration, it was inspiring to see how many hands worked together beautifully to glorify the Lord.

Beginning with a series of videos, lovingly produced and compiled by Katong Convent, the IJ story was movingly- and nostalgically-narrated by many voices and people. This tapestry of stories then seamlessly segued into the singing of the IJ favourite, 'Hold on to our Dream' by the original singers of the song. It was a hair-raising treat to not only hear the original singers but to also join in one voice with 18,000 others singing our hearts out. Guiding the programme along, were the



masters of ceremony from the KC Arts and Culture Programme, speaking with the eloquent articulation of the KC girl.

From there, it was fitting to turn the time to the Lord and give thanks for all his blessings in a mass celebrated by the Archbishop and 27 priests. The mass ended with a special thanksgiving speech by the Chairperson of the IJ Board of Management, Ms Vivienne Lim as well as the launch of a new IJ commemorative book titled, 'Ever Seeking, Ever Serving'. She also called on all IJ girls to continue the spirit of the IJ education and be future ambassadors of peace and of the environment. The 18,000 gathering then responded with a pledge to be stewards of the environment.

The momentous morning of celebrations concluded with much cheer, pride and singing of IJ favourites such as 'Caritas' and 'One Family' as the one big IJ family took their leave from the stadium. It was certainly an event to remember for generations to come!

On the same morning, there was also a concurrent school-based programme for a group of students who were unable to join the celebrations held at the National Stadium. Students were first brought down memory lane of the why and how IJ schools were set up before articulating their interpretation of the past, present and future of our school through a fun-filled artefact-making activity. Student representatives from each group also visited the KC Heritage Gallery to gather information and came back with insights to share with their group members.

As part of their environmental conservation efforts, students were brought to the FCE kitchen to harvest orange peel detergent made by our environment champions in the second segment of the programme. These orange peel detergent spray bottles were then distributed to each class to serve as a cleaning agent for window panes and floors. We hope that every class will make good use of it to keep their classroom clean and conducive for learning.

At the end of the day, students were given individual reflection cards to consolidate their thoughts and the opportunity to share their reflection with their peers. Students felt privileged to have participated in this meaningful school-based programme.

Post – Examination Programme

Geography Enrichment Activity

Transport and traffic congestion is an issue that the secondary two Geography students have been exploring over the last semester. However, Geography is much more than just the syllabus and examinations. To extend students' learning, the KC Geography Department invited the Land Transport Authority (LTA) to give our students a deeper insight into the topic. Staff from LTA shared about the 2040 Land Transport Master Plan and the role of active mobility in achieving this vision. Students gained a better understanding into the complexities of transport planning, the importance of activity mobility in our transport system and tips for keeping safe on our roads and footpaths.

Combined Literature & Social Studies Lecture

The Literature Paper 1 set text studied by the secondary threes, *Hook and Eye, Stories from the Margins*, is an anthology of Singaporean short stories that examine the marginalised and disenfranchised in Singapore. Through bringing into focus those on the edges of Singapore society, the anthology seeks to encourage empathy in readers as they interrogate notions of nationality, race, religion, and identity and what makes us belong.

Interestingly, these concepts of nationality, race, religion, and identity are also being studied in the secondary three social studies syllabus and thus the teachers from the two departments



collaborated to conduct a lecture during the post-examination period where the theory discussed in social studies class was extrapolated and applied in the literature context.

It was an eye-opening experience for the students who saw the reality of the literature stories they were studying through their social studies. The application of real-world concepts to the text brought even more strongly to the fore, the situation the characters were experiencing. With the revelation that the story's meaning was in actuality bound up within the lives of the students, social studies and literature worked hand in hand to lead students to reflect on their own lives and their relations to society.

Learning Journey to the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)

As part of the Social Studies Issue Investigation project, all secondary three students from the express and normal academic courses embarked on a post-examination learning journey to the URA City Gallery on the 24 and 27 of May. The visit aimed to provide an authentic case study of how Singapore prioritises competing land use within the constraints of our city-state. Armed with a customised worksheet designed by the team of teachers, students were guided to locate information which would support them to answer the inquiry task given to them. The newly rejuvenated exhibits, immersive interactive displays and sharing by volunteer docents provided a wealth of information for our students to better understand how URA plans for, and balances the current and future land needs of Singapore. Our students became more knowledgeable and appreciative of the complexities and trade-offs required for successful urban planning that has shaped the physical and urban landscape around us.

Arts Immersion Programme (AIP)

The post-examination period often provides an opportunity for our girls to be engaged more deeply in the arts and this May, it was no different as we ran the first of our regular bi-annual edition of the AIP. This year, our student participants were exposed to a wide variety of arts activities across the visual, performing and communicative arts. While some experienced making little plastic charms and experimenting with batik dyes, others were busy honing their music skills in a keyboard jamming session. The programme also catered to students who preferred the literary arts, writing poetry or learning more about the play *Off Centre* with local playwright, Haresh Sharma who did a personal sharing. All in all, a total of eight arts workshops ran concurrently over two afternoons giving our KC girls a meaningful and enriching experience with the Arts.

Lower Secondary Science Enrichment Workshops

In the second year of its successful run, Science enrichment workshops conducted during the post-examination period were once again welcomed by the girls. The workshops were designed for more authentic learning to help our girls appreciate the relevance and value of what they learnt in the classrooms, and develop stronger motivation and purpose to acquire knowledge and skills. Our girls learnt from the teachers how to create perfumes and soaps using raw materials such as roses, jasmine flowers and oranges. Beside the hands-on activities such as extracting oil from the fruit peel and obtaining solvents from different flower petals, they also learnt how to make scientific observations and record empirical results which eventually helped them to arrive at final conclusions.

Learning to Sew

Sewing lesson for secondary ones was initiated last year with the objective of equipping our girls with a life skill to sew buttons on their blouses or hooks on their belts. Due to positive feedback from students, the programme was sustained this year.



During the post-examination weeks in May, teachers from the Nutrition and Food Science department prepared the necessary quantity of sewing kits needed for students and explained the why and how to sew. Through small group coaching with safety as a priority, students were then taught the basics of needling and how to sew hooks and bars. For most, it was their first attempt handling small needles and threading. Yet, within the hour, they picked up how to start and end stitches, and how to attach hooks and bars. Through this programme, we hope that students could now independently sew whenever there is a need to adjust their belts or attach a button on their white blouse. It was certainly enjoyable to see our girls learning something useful while having so much fun during the lessons.

Beach Clean-up

On 27 May, the secondary one cohort went for a beach clean-up at East Coast Park as part of the school's environmental outreach efforts. It was an eye-opening experience as the girls picked up litter they did not expect to see such as a damaged teddy bear, large broken plastic buckets and slippers. After the beach clean-up, they reflected on their experience and thought about the impact the litter might have on the environment and marine life in Singapore.

Through this environmental outreach, the girls learnt to take responsibility for keeping the environment clean and appreciate the efforts of the cleaning attendants who worked hard to keep our environment clean all the time. The girls did a great job and we hope that they will continue to try to be ambassadors of the environment.

Honours Day

31 May was a joyous day for KC as we celebrated our Honours Day. Former students, invited guests, proud parents, and the graduating cohort arrived early in the morning to register their attendance to witness the annual ceremony of recognising academic, character and leadership excellence in our students, as well as honouring partners and staff who have contributed to developing our students.

Ms Nikita Rae Wong, a former student and currently a sergeant with the Singapore Police Force, was invited to grace this special occasion.

A total of 192 students were affirmed and these included the following recipients of our pinnacle special awards:

- Eelyn Yap Teng Ying (S4/6) for the Marie Bong Literature Award
- Chrestella Vasya Basuki (S4/3) for the Special Commendation Award
- Ong Shu Hui Christine (S4/5) the Blessed Barré Award
- Nicole Lim Siew Ping (S4/6) for the Sister Finbarr Award
- Evelyn Erike Tan (S4/4) for the Sister Deirdre O'Loan Award

In her valedictory speech to fellow KCians, Evelyn Erike Tan encouraged the current cohort to persevere and not to allow past failures define oneself; just like one's past achievements would not guarantee everlasting success and hence one should not grow complacent either. We hope Evelyn and our KCians will continue to give nothing less than their best effort in everything they do.

The school also recognised the excellent service and support of our 5 partners from the PTSG and Alumni in adding value to our students' all-round development.

There was a befitting conclusion to the awards presentation when 11 staff were honoured for their long service to MOE, and 6 staff for their long service in an IJ school.



KC honours and congratulates all the awardees. May God continue to guide our staff and students in their journey with the true IJ spirit.

Student Leaders Investiture

The Student Leaders Investiture also took place on 31 May to recognise the service and contributions made by the outgoing student leaders, as well as to present the incoming leaders of 2019/2020 to the school community.

Organised by the Student Leadership Board, the theme for this year's investiture was 'A Heart of Service'. The theme was significant to the student leaders because of their acknowledgement of their role as a student leader in KC in serving the school as role models. To them, leadership is about constantly seeking to show love and kindness to others in the community, and believing that a heart of service is a heart that cares, listens and acts.

The celebratory event began with our Principal's opening address and her thoughts on the theme. She shared the importance of always seeking to serve others and to be empathetic to the concerns and needs of those around us. This was followed by the presentation of certificates to the outgoing leaders, and a heartfelt speech by our outgoing president, Charlotte Lee Jia Wei of Sec 4/5, who recounted the initiatives accomplished throughout the year including KC's first ever Kindness Week Campaign and the addition of new tables and benches in the canteen. She also thanked her fellow student leaders for their selfless service to the school and the support of the school in working towards a caring community.

Charlotte's speech was followed by the introduction of the incoming student leaders for the year 2019/2020. This year was especially significant with the induction of the House Captains as student leaders of KC. These newly minted House Captains have the responsibility of working towards unity in the houses they lead in house meetings and school-wide events.

Following that, the incoming president of the Student Leadership Board, Chua Yi Xuan Rachael of Sec 3/4 took to the stage to deliver her thoughts on what it means to have a heart of service. She encouraged the school community to set aside their previous preoccupation with self and turn their focus outwards, towards others and develop the willingness to serve the school wholeheartedly. In her speech, she also stressed the importance of how the student leaders can learn to develop the spirit of being a cheerful giver, to continue to make KC a positive and inclusive environment. The investiture then closed with the leaders pledging to be a positive role model, leader and voice of the student body.

It was indeed a meaningful milestone for our student leaders on their leadership journey.

Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Events – Post Exam and June Holidays

Our ECG programme aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills and values to make informed decisions for successful transition to post-secondary education.

In view of the special admission exercises, a series of targeted workshops was planned for the graduating cohort in April and May, which focussed on providing first-hand insights into the post-secondary education pathways and admission exercises. There were also opportunities for secondary three students to explore various interests more deeply in June, in the form of two Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs) conducted by Temasek Polytechnic on pharmacy, art and design. Through all these programmes, we hope that students will continue to seize available opportunities both within and outside of KC to learn more about their strengths, interests and the vast range of education and career opportunities available to them, so they will be able to navigate their pathways with confidence.



Details on some of the programmes are highlighted below.

Early Admission Exercise (EAE – for ITE and the polytechnics) and Direct School Admission (DSA – for the junior colleges) Application Workshops

These special admission exercises allow students to apply for admission to post-secondary institutions based on their non-academic aptitudes prior to the N- or O-Levels. With applications opening from the end of May, a series of workshops was organised to support students in the application process.

Our ECG Counsellor, Ms Kate Choo conducted the workshops on ITE EAE and DSA-JC applications. For the former, the students from 407 were guided on researching modules and career prospects of ITE courses and given tips on what to include in their personal statement. For the later, Ms Choo first went through the process and timeline of DSA-JC application. After which, the focus shifted to explaining how students should support their application and examples of interview questions. She also highlighted the pertinent issue of knowing oneself. With the small group of participants, the presentation was interactive and often interjected with questions for clarifications. The second half of the session morphed into consultation mode and Ms Choo engaged students personally to meet their individual needs. The girls left feeling enlightened and supported in planning their next steps for their application.

The Poly EAE workshop was conducted by Mr Eric Wee from Marketing and Outreach and Ms Pat Chong from the School of Design at Temasek Polytechnic. Ms Chong shared about the process and timeline of the aptitude-based application exercise which may be based on talent or interest that should be supported by evidence in physical or digital form. In addition, she highlighted the requirements and supplemented her points with previous Poly EAE interview experiences at the School of Design. At the end of the session, the girls felt better equipped for the next steps to take in their application.

More than just supporting students on the application process, the workshops also gave students a timely opportunity to think about their goals and what they want to work towards, so that they could gather supporting evidence as they prepare for their application.

For more information on the special admission exercises, you may wish to refer to the following websites. (Please note that application for 2020 entry has closed for ITE EAE and DSA-JC for some JCs. Application for Poly EAE closes on 3 July 2019.)

ITE EAE – <https://www.ite.edu.sg/wps/portal/eae>

Poly EAE – <https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg> and respective polytechnic websites

DSA-JC – <https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-jc/overview> and respective college websites

Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs) at Temasek Polytechnic

In June, a total of 46 students attended two AEMs in Temasek Polytechnic to explore their interest in the fields of pharmacy, art and design. AEMs are 30-hour courses in applied topics conducted by polytechnic lecturers and geared towards developing students' interest in specific fields. Students taking these AEMs may participate in field trips, hands-on projects and discussions with industry practitioners. AEMs are also reflected in the School Holistic Report Card and students may use their participation in AEMs as evidence of interest and aptitude to apply to the polytechnics through EAE.



AEM on Discovering Pharmacy

Students were introduced to various products and services available at the pharmacy, and were taught the principles of optimising drug therapy as well as proper self-medication. With that, students learnt more about common ailments and how to identify them. Many were delighted to be given the unique hands-on opportunity of making their own creams, capsules and antiseptic solutions during practical sessions at the laboratory.

AEM on Art for Aspiring Designers

Students who were interested to work in the art and design industry were exposed to the fundamentals of art elements and design principles as they created exciting, interesting and meaningful visual compositions. They were also treated to an afternoon at the Singapore Art Gallery where they explored how artists employ narratives and symbols in their works. Students were also able to draw inspiration from the environment that they are living in as they designed their art work in a step-by-step learning and critical thinking process.

The two AEMs had enabled students to gain valuable insights about their education and career interests, while giving them a taste of polytechnic life at the same time.

Lab attachment at Department of Pharmacology, NUS

Three secondary four students were selected to participate in the lab attachment programme with the Department of Pharmacology at NUS from 10-14 June. The department of Pharmacology is a unique biomedical science discipline that focuses mainly on drug research. Under the caring guidance of the NUS professors, our girls had the opportunities to learn different scientific techniques while conducting DNA and protein experiments. Such experience allowed them to gain rich insights into the pharmacology field and we hope it has helped them to recognise their strengths and interests, the vast range of education and career opportunities available to them.

Enhanced Art Programme (EAP): Urban Sketching Workshop

EAP & DSA students were given a treat this June holidays as local urban sketcher Paul Wang conducted a one-day course on 'Sketching Dangerously'. Fortunately, the only danger involved was the girls learning to step out of their comfort zone to sketch using materials new to them and ultimately do some live urban sketching at the nearby Marine Terrace market under the curious scrutiny of our friendly neighbourhood uncles and aunties. Despite the initial inclement weather, we managed to get some good work done with pleasing results and definitely got some good learning experiences under our belt. With new skills in their arsenal, we look forward to our girls utilising their new experiences in the coming semester's lessons.

We expect Semester 2 to be just as busy and enriching for us at Katong Convent and we continue to look forward to your invaluable support as we nurture our girls into KCians with the essential 21st century competencies.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal



ACHIEVEMENTS

Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation 2019

Our students in the six Performing Arts CCAs have been working very hard since last November, and we are extremely proud of all of them for all that they have achieved. The results of KC's PA CCA groups' performance in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation 2019 are as follows:

Concert Band (Woodwind) - Certificate of Distinction
Concert Band (Brass) - Certificate of Distinction
Chinese Drama - Certificate of Accomplishment
English Drama (DAS) - Certificate of Accomplishment
Chinese Orchestra - Certificate of Accomplishment
Dance - Certificate of Distinction
Choir - Certificate of Distinction

IgnITE Skills Challenge

A group of students from Sec 3/1, 3/2, 3/7 and 4/7 took part in the IgnITE Skills Challenge 2019, one of the few national competitions organised by ITE for N-level students. Six teams went through the preliminary rounds in April at ITE East and Central after undergoing the training sessions facilitated by the ITE lecturers prior to the competition. Out of the six teams, two teams made it to the final round which was held at ITE College East on Wednesday, 22 May. The two teams that competed in the finals were Magic Shop comprising Ng Faustine, Alyssa Nadia Bte Mohamed Sani and Fun Jun Ting Felicia from Sec 4/7 and Team Wizard comprising Dacia Lin Zhi Qi, Chloe Lim Ying Xuan from Sec. 3/7 and Seow Ning Fei Joey from Sec 3/2.

Our students participated in the following challenges.

1) Skill Challenge Title : Social Media Retailing (ITE College Central)

The challenge provided participants with the knowledge to gain market research skills, identify target market (millennial generation) and the products to promote as well as use a variety of software to create digital contents (videos and pictures) for uploading on social media and channel followers to the commerce website to shop and buy. This challenge is related to the School of Business & Services (Nitec in Retail Services and Higher Nitec in Retail and Online Business)

TEAM 1 : Ace KC

Nurr Myra Shaqira Bte Azmee (Sec 3/7)
Tan June Hian (Sec 3/7)
Shazelina Ellyana Bte Mohamed Zaki (Sec 3/7)

TEAM 2 : Magic Shop

Ng Faustine (Sec 4/7)
Alyssa Nadia Bte Mohamed Sani (Sec 4/7)
Fun Jun Ting Felicia (Sec 4/7)

2) Skill Challenge Title : Be First to Aid (ITE College East)

The challenge provided participants with the knowledge and skills to identify and manage different types of wounds as well as role-play and apply first aid treatment to wounds. This challenge is related to the School of Applied & Health Sciences (Nitec in Nursing).



TEAM 3 : The Aiders

Kendra Chan Yunru (Sec 4/7)
Felicia Goh Wan Ling (Sec 4/7)
Ruth Tay En Qi (Sec 4/7)

TEAM 4 : The Bean Aiders

Raihanah Bte Mohd Ghaus (Sec 4/7)
Ong Tze Lynn (Sec 4/7)
Dhriti Jenibelle D/O Sivakumaren (Sec 4/7)

3) Skill Challenge Title : Potion Alchemy (ITE College East)

The challenge provided participants with the knowledge to identify the properties of different essential oils and concoct as well as produce wellness products and market them on social media. This challenge is related to the School of Business & Services (Nitec in Beauty & Wellness and Higher Nitec in Beauty and Wellness Management).

TEAM 5 : Team Wizard

Dacia Lin Zhi Qi (Sec 3/7)
Chloe Lim Ying Xuan (Sec 3/7)
Seow Ning Fei Joey (Sec 3/2)

4) Skill Challenge Title : Visual Storytelling (ITE College Central)

The challenge provided participants with the knowledge and skills to take photographs, insert music and edit these media as well as form a graphical storyboard and narrate the story visually.

TEAM 6 : Seagulls

Mikaela Andrea Calderon Bosangit (Sec 3/7)
Kathleen Chng Kai Leng (Sec 3/7)
Joei Wong Wei Qi (Sec 3/1)

We hope that all the teams have had an enriching experience during their participation in the IgnITE Skills Challenge 2019. Congratulations for giving their best effort in the challenge!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the whole KC family for showing their utmost support in helping to vote for Team Wizard's Potion Alchemy's product via Instagram.

Build Your Own Business (BYOB) Accounting Game Board Challenge

On 29 May, the Entrepreneur Club participated in the Build Your Own Business (BYOB) Accounting Game Board Challenge, organised by Republic Polytechnic and one of the teams clinched the 2nd runner up position.

This is a national competition opened to all secondary schools and a total of 40 teams from various schools participated. We sent 4 teams of 3 girls each. In this challenge, students had to incorporate accounting knowledge, business strategies and make sound decision to meet objectives set by the organizer. The objectives were to maintain accurate book-keeping, grow their assets, maximise cash and to navigate unforeseen business circumstances with good business proposal. The students' work were then scrutinized and assessed by a team of judges from the Republic Polytechnic. One of our teams comprising Desiree Ayako Decker (Sec 4/6/), Ruqaiyah Azhar Katib (Sec 4/4) and Kylie Shannon Tjipto (Sec 4/2) rose to the challenge. They



demonstrated excellent teamwork, made a good business proposal and emerged as 2nd runner up. Congratulations to the girls!

KC Sports Development Club (SDC)

Students from the KC SDC participated in an inter-school sports carnival held at St Hilda's Secondary School. The five participating schools fielded beginning athletes. Each game was played with modified rules - 5-aside Netball, 3 on 3 Floorball and Badminton doubles which was played using the table tennis scoring system.

Our secondary one students were playing in their first formal competition after 10 weeks of training and achieved better than expected results. The students had to compete against some secondary 2 students from the other schools and rose to the challenge after the initial nerves. They had gained much confidence from the experience. We congratulate our students on achieving the following results - Badminton 2nd position, Netball 2nd position and Floorball 3rd.

