



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : FEBRUARY 2017

8 February 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians

In the spirit of the Lunar New Year festive season, let me begin by taking this opportunity to wish all bountiful blessings and a fulfilling year ahead. 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.

Subject Information Session

On 21 January, the Humanities and Literature departments organised the Lower Sec Subject Information Session on the Humanities Syllabuses (Geography, History and Literature) for parents of Secondary One students.

The objectives of this session were to enable parents:

- i. an understanding of the demands and expectations of the Lower Secondary Humanities syllabuses;
- ii. an overview of the academic programmes which support teaching and learning of the Humanities, and
- iii. an understanding of the assessment components for the Humanities subjects.

Positive feedback was received from the parents who attended this session. They were enlightened about the syllabuses and expectations of these subjects. It was also an opportunity for parents to seek clarifications to deepen their understanding of the subject matter and learn the know-how of extending support from school to home.

The team would like to express its deepest appreciation to all parents who availed themselves for the session and hoped that the partnership would enable their child to grow, love and cope with all these subjects offered at the lower secondary levels. We wish all students and parents an enriching journey ahead and look forward to their continued support and presence at other subject information sessions planned for this year.

Enhanced Art Programme – GCE ‘O’ and ‘N’ Level Art Coursework Information Session

36 graduating Art students and their parents were invited to the GCE ‘O’ and ‘N’ Level Art Coursework Information Session on 21 January. This marked the start of the national art examination cycle at Katong Convent.

With the view that parents are our partners, the session elaborated on the format and timeline for the conduct of the coursework component of the examinations, the role and responsibility of the coursework supervisor and how KC’s Art Department will be supporting the students in their endeavours. The information session also touched on how students can prepare and pace



themselves for the year ahead. Before the students collected their GCE 'O' and 'N' Level Art Examination Coursework question paper, they were invited to a gallery viewing at the new Art Studios.

Following the information session, a more in-depth examination briefing was conducted in the following art lesson. The Singapore Examination and Assessment Board's instructions to candidates were shared with all participating students. Students were also given the opportunity to seek clarification regarding use of supervised hours and various aspects of the examination process. The school's deadline that our students will be aspiring towards for the GCE 'O' and 'N' Level Art Coursework are 29 August and 15 July 2017 respectively.

Mother Tongue Fortnight

This year, the Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) department had designated two consecutive weeks from 23 January to 3 February for MTL Fortnight, during which, a wide range of activities related to Mother Tongue languages 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 which involved mass participation. We hope that this had enhanced the learning experience of each KC student to actively use their Mother Tongue and experience its culture.

Chinese Language (CL)		Malay Language (ML)	
Language Appreciation Programme			
Morning Assembly Programme: Fun With Chinese Idioms / Malay Proverbs (All)			
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student-led programme to teach Chinese idioms about animals and Malay proverbs related to the animal 'Rooster' • Provide opportunity for CL and ML students to be effective CL and ML oral presenters 		
Creative Writing / Essay Writing Competition (Sec 1 – 5)		Creative Writing / Essay Writing Competition for Sec 1 – 5 students & Concrete Poetry Competition for Sec 1 – 4 Normal Technical students	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote MTL literary writing in school • Give students the platform to express their creativity and demonstrate their ability to raise discussions on different topics and issues 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ML literary writing in school • Create opportunity to learn and appreciate Malay Literature
		Scrabble Competition for Sec 1 – 5 students & Online Boggle Competition for Sec 1 – 4 Normal Technical students	
		Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the joy of learning Malay Language through games • Expand students' vocabulary



Cultural Exposure Programme			
Traditional Chinese Paper-Cutting Workshop 剪纸 (Sec 1)		Banner Painting Appreciation (Sec 1)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the history of traditional Chinese paper-cutting Appreciate Chinese culture through hands-on activity 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn to identify different types of food / spices / fruits / vegetables in Malay Expand students' knowledge and vocabulary Develop level team-bonding
Traditional Chinese Blow Art 吹画 (Sec 2)		Traditional Spice Trail (Sec 2)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover what traditional Chinese Blow Art is Explore how a piece of artwork is done through the technique of blowing 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand students' knowledge on a variety of areas related to Malay language, culture and tradition Learn about spices in Malay Engage in experiential learning
Traditional Paper Fan Painting 扇面画 (Sec 3)		Traditional Malay Kuih-Making Workshop (Sec 3)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the different styles of Paper Fan Painting Create their own paper fan art using watercolours 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn the process of making malay kuih Engage in experiential learning
		Learning Journey to Malay Heritage Centre (Sec 4 & 5)	
		Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn and understand the heritage and culture of the Malay Community. To learn the origin and history of Nasi Ambeng

Chinese New Year Celebration

Our school celebrated Chinese New Year (CNY) on 27 January and the theme for this year was 《鸡祥如意迎新春》“Celebrating Good Luck and Happiness in the Year of the Rooster”. This event was jointly organised by the Mother Tongue Languages Department and the Values-in-Action Committee. All classes decorated their noticeboards to the theme and spruced up their classrooms prior to CNY, and prizes were given to the top three best decorated classrooms of each level.

The highlight of the day was the CNY celebration concert in the hall, beginning with the enchanting performance by our Chinese Orchestra, followed by the Principal's sharing of her hopes and wishes for the school in the Year of the Rooster, the interactive CNY Quiz where teachers performed and students participated enthusiastically, and the ever-popular Lion Dance performance. All staff and students were equally excited and amused by the surprise appearance of the cheeky rooster mascot. The CNY hall celebration ended on a high note, with class representatives and student councillors presenting oranges symbolising good wishes to all staff.



It was a high-spirited event, involving staff and students from all ethnic groups in the celebration with a view to deepen inter-cultural appreciation and understanding.

Chinese New Year Values-in-Action Experience

To usher in the Year of the Rooster, all classes organised class parties and enjoyed an hour of food, drinks and lots of festive cheer. The Upper Secondary classes had special guests for their class parties: Sec 3 classes invited the school's cleaners and administrative staff while the Sec 4 and 5 classes played hosts to the senior citizens from GoodLife! in Marine Terrace. In addition to presenting these guests with Chinese New Year goodie bags, our girls also spoke with these elderly, listened to their sharing, sang with and for them and also treated them to an awesome performance by the school's Concert Band. Our guests truly enjoyed themselves and it was gratifying to see both students and guests finding fulfilment and joy in the activity. Gong Xi Fa Cai to all our guests!

Geographical Investigation

In late January and early February, the Secondary 1 students had the opportunity to carry out their Geographical Investigation (GI) fieldwork on the water quality at Kallang River. They were tasked to test if the water quality along the river was suitable for aquatic life by collecting and testing the water samples as well as observing possible human activities in the area that could impact the water quality.

The fieldwork provided the students an authentic experience where they learnt to connect what they observed and experienced in the field to their prior learning in class. Through this fieldwork, they also had the opportunity to develop and practise fieldwork-specific skills such as field sketching, data collection and problem solving. This GI helped students develop an affinity for the environment as well as a sense of space and place, three key concepts that underlie the Geography syllabus.

Historical Investigation

Sec 2 Express and Normal Academic students went on a learning journey to the National Museum as part of their Historical Investigation (HI) project. Working in groups of 5, this task required students to question, gather, select, examine sources and construct their responses to the HI question, '*Why were the events of the 1960s and 1970s significant?*' At the museum, they gathered information on some of the significant events that happened during the 1960s and 1970s.

This investigative task serves to promote greater student ownership over their learning, and encourage team effort. With this, opportunities are also provided for students to have a deeper understanding of the key events that took place in Singapore, and how it shaped the country today. Furthermore, by working in groups to complete the HI end-task, students will learn cooperative learning as they are given the platform to discuss their research with their group members, and provide the necessary feedback. Lastly, HI also gives students opportunities to develop 21st century competencies such as cultural and civic literacy, managing complexities, sound reasoning and reflective thinking.

Moving Forward

KC has done well in the 2016 GCE O & N Level Examinations and we aspire to continue this good work through the dedication and hard work of our teachers and close collaboration with our parents. Registration for these examinations for our current Secondary 4 and 5 students will be conducted in Week 8. We have been working with our girls to strategise their approach towards this major challenge. For our girls to excel in the national examinations, it is important to ensure full attendance, completion of homework, daily self-study and self-discipline. Coursework



questions have been released for Art, Drama and Elements of Business Skills and students are expected to spend regular time and effort to complete the coursework on time.

Teachers of these subjects are constantly concerned about girls being absent from lessons set aside for the coursework. It is during these lessons that teachers are able to guide our girls from design to the delivery of the product. For this reason, we seek your help in ensuring that your daughter comes to school regularly and to support us in our journey towards excellence. *If your daughter is unwell on the days set aside for coursework, she would need a valid medical certificate to do the coursework missed outside of the allotted curriculum time.* A summary of the critical deadlines is provided on page 5.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. 2016 GCE O Level Results

In the 2016 GCE O levels, our Sec 4 Express cohort did well with 72.2% eligible for JCs, 100% passes in 6 subjects and scored distinctions above the national average in 6 subjects. Subjects that achieved more than 25% distinctions were English Language (39.1%), Combined Humanities (32.5%), Geography (52.4%), Mathematics (54.3%), A Math (60%), Physics (54.3%), Chemistry (30%), Biology (47.9%), Science (Bio/Chem) (37.5%), Science (Phy/Chem) (100%), Malay (33.3%), Higher Malay (50%), Urdu (100%), Bengali (100%) and Higher Music (33.3%).

Our Sec 5 cohort scored 100% passes in Add Math, Food and Nutrition and Malay and achieved distinctions over the national average in Combined Humanities, A Math, Mathematics and Malay.

2. CA Week and Meet-the-Parents Session

The Common Test Week will be held from 16 to 22 February. The schedule has been issued to students on 3 February.

We have also scheduled a Meet-the-Parents Session on Friday, 10 March from 230 to 530 pm and Saturday 11 March from 9 am to 1230 pm to discuss your child's/ward's progress. On 11 March, representatives from the various Institutes of Higher Learning will also be present to share what their institute has to offer to our students. Do remember to keep the dates free to meet with us. The details of the meeting will be issued to you soon.



3. Assessment Components and Weightings 2017

Do note that we have uploaded information pertaining to assessment components and weightings for CAs and SAs on MCOonline for you and your daughter's / ward's reference on 3 February.

4. Coursework Schedules for Art, Drama and EBS

Summary of Deadlines for Sec 4N, 4E & 5N Coursework

Subject (Teacher i/c)	Coursework Deadlines
N Level Art Coursework (Mr Mohamed Faizal)	Monday 31 July
O Level Art Coursework (Mr Ng Kuan Shin)	Friday 15 Sept
O Level Drama Coursework (Mr Owen Tan)	Friday 18 Aug
N Level EBS Coursework (Mr Sim Kim Seng)	Tuesday 16 May

5. Sec 3 Core Literature Workshop on Julius Caesar

The students huddled in the darkness of KC's brand new blackbox wondering just what to expect from the day's Julius Caesar workshop. From the shadows emerged the tall imposing figure of Julius Caesar played by our Head of Department, Mrs Sukhjeet Singh. Contemptuously, Caesar intones to the Soothsayer who is shrouded in the chiaroscuro effect from the gobos, "The Ides of March are come." "Aye Caesar," the Soothsayer played by Ms Sang cautions, "But not gone."

And with this tense opening began the KC Literature Department's annual Shakespeare workshop, conducted for the Sec Three core literature students to enthuse and induct them into the political and treacherous world of *Julius Caesar* where heroes are revealed to be villains, and nothing is what it seems. For three hours the students explored the various themes in the text, acted out a condensed version of the entire play at top speed, and finally, as an exploration of character and motivate, built memorials to the fallen men of *Julius Caesar*. It was an immersive and transformative three hours for the students who left the blackbox flushed with a new found appreciation for a world come alive, from page, to stage.

6. Enhanced Art Programme – Learning Journey to Art Stage Singapore 2017

On 12 January, 58 Upper Secondary Art students visited Art Stage Singapore. The exhibition was held at Marina Bay Sands Convention and Exhibition Centre. Art Stage Singapore is a signature visual arts event held annually in Singapore's Arts calendar. Through the learning journey, our students were exposed to Singapore's largest showcase of South East Asian contemporary art from 131 galleries and 27 global cities. During this trip, students were given the opportunity to explore the exhibition at their own pace. They were encouraged to converse with the professional artists and gallery owners present to learn more about the artists' thought processes and the various art-making techniques that gave rise to each artwork. Students learnt about the importance of allowing oneself to develop a unique style that sets them apart from other artists. By observing the deliberate arrangement of artworks in relation to the setting in the exhibition, students were also exposed to the subtle art of curatorial and exhibition management.

In summary, our students were sensitised to the array of artworks that used both traditional media - paintings and sculptures - to more contemporary media such as digital and light art.



Our students expressed through their art journals their appreciation of the endless possibilities suggested by the artworks of these contemporary artists. We hope the trip has ignited our students' creative thought and that they would be inspired to create their very own unique expression.

7. Girl Guides – World Thinking Day cum Centenary Celebration

2017 marks the 100th year of Guiding Movement in Singapore. Last year, as part of the lead up to the centenary celebration, four of our Guides have completed their storybook writing project. This year, in conjunction with World Thinking Day, Girl Guides Singapore has organised a series of festivities at the Singapore Botanic Gardens on 18 February (Saturday). Our Guiders and Guides have started collecting pledges for the Centenary Walkathon, where they would be walking from Nassim Gate to Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, the hub of all festivities. Over at the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, our Guides will be competing for the top prize for the intra-division picnic competition; there would be carnival booths for all, and some of our Guides are in charge of face-painting during the event. Last but not least, our Guide Company's Captain, Ms Sangeerna, will be sharing about her experience at the Iris Blaqcker Leadership Programme last December at one of the carnival booths.

More importantly, Girl Guide Singapore is part of the Guiding Movement worldwide, and belongs to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). The Europe WAGGGS region will be represented by the East Division Guide companies; one of our Company Leaders, Aliya Ram Prashad (Sec 4/4), will be dressed up to represent the United Kingdom and bear the United Kingdom flag.

It will be a day filled with fun and excitement, and the Katong Convent Girl Guide Companies would like to cordially invite all parents to join us at the Singapore Botanic Gardens on 18 February from 8am to 1pm. We hope to see you there!

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. SPEAK! VENTURES Debate Championship 2017

KC Debate team kicked off 2017's Debating season with our participation in the Debate Association (Singapore)'s annual event, SPEAK! VENTURES Debate Championship 2017. This event was held at Tanglin Trust School over the weekend of 21-23 January with a total of 16 teams taking part.

Katong Convent sent debaters Lauryn Foo (Sec 2/3), Lydia Lee (Sec 3/3), Cheryl Arun (Sec 3/4), Christine Ong (Sec 3/5) and Joan Ong (Sec 4/4). This mixed team of experienced and fresh-faced debaters faced off against Cedar Girls' School in our first of three match-ups for the competition. The next two rounds saw our girls pitted against Victoria School and finally Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School to complete their qualifying rounds of 3 debates.

In addition, Katong Convent also provided a 2-member swing team to the tournament. A swing team is an ad-hoc group of debaters specially formed to ensure an even-number of preliminary match-ups for every competitive team to debate against. Cheryl Chua (Sec 2/5) and Queeshia Pascual (Sec 2/5) paired up with another debater from Anglican High School to form this swing team of three which was pitted against St. Anthony's Cannosian Secondary, Victoria School and Fairfield Methodist School. This would broaden our pool of experienced debaters in the long run.

We are happy to report that our individual debaters were ranked respectably in the list of about 50 debaters in the tournament. Lydia Lee was ranked overall 6th best speaker while Cheryl



Chua and Queeshia Pascual were placed 16th and 17th respectively. Our heartiest congratulations to them.

Over the course of this first championship for 2017, our girls have gained invaluable experience that will stand them in good stead as they prepare to do battle yet again in February with another round of debates against schools from across Singapore.

2. The Singapore Canoe Marathon

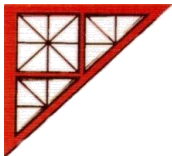
The Singapore Canoe Marathon was held on 15 January at the Marina Reservoir. In this competition, Team KC fielded a team of twenty canoeists to compete in the Junior Women and U15 Women in various categories.

The training sessions started after the year-end examinations last year and we had to combat poor weather conditions during training. Training was also halted during the period of our move back from Geylang Bahru Lane to Marine Terrace. Despite the adversity and challenges thrown in the face of our young canoeists, they took it in their stride and displayed perseverance in this gruelling marathon.

A special shout-out to Erya Syarafina Sufian of Sec 4/2, Anne Lee Si En of Sec 3/5, Kee Ning Pearlyn of Sec 3/4 and Sofia Bte Irwan Haerman of Sec 3/3. These girls played a vital role as feeders during this marathon - they helped replenish food and water for our marathoners during the course of the 2-hour-marathon.

Team KC acknowledges the hard work put in by the competitors. The experience fostered camaraderie within the team - it has not only made them teammates but friends as well. There were many lessons learnt about sportsmanship and we hope the team will take the lessons with them on their KC Canoeing journey.





CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

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



1st PTSG Meeting of 2017 – Welcome & Introduction

We kicked off the year with our first meeting on Saturday 21 Jan. Our Principal, Ms Patricia Chan shared about her experiences as a school leader and parent as well as her plans and vision for parent partnership in the school. Ms Chan also reiterated the importance of PTSG as a collective body of parents working with the school in building trust and moving towards a common goal to improve the learning and development of our students. Parents were introduced to the PTSG committee of teachers and parents and were informed of key dates in the first semester of the school year. These dates will be updated again in the second semester. Parents were also introduced to the Schoolbag website which contains many articles, infographics and useful kits for parents to read and use so as to better their relationship with their secondary school-going daughters. Using the PTSG meeting as a school-parent partnership platform, parent volunteers were sought for a range of activities and programmes such as the school reading programme (for selected lower secondary NA students), parent-child VIA opportunities, gardening, career talks and work attachments for upper secondary students. It was heartening to see many parents volunteering for these activities for 2017.

Plan for PTSG Meetings – School + Parent Segments

In 2017, each PTSG meeting will comprise a school segment and a parent segment. The former segment will involve sharing sessions by the school as well as subject information sessions helmed by various departments beginning with the Humanities department in January, the Science, Math and Art departments in February and the English and Mother Tongue Languages departments in April. Parents keen to find out about the different subject syllabus, better understand the subject and how to help their daughters with the subject are invited to attend these sessions! The latter segment helmed by parents will involve discussions on workshops and events by parents and for parents. These will serve as excellent opportunities for networking and bonding amongst parents.

PTSG WhatsApp Groups

The KC PTSG WhatsApp Groups will continue in 2017 and we encourage new Secondary 1 parents to join us. These groups are a great way to stay in touch and keep abreast of news, activities and developments as well as to seek clarifications on school matters. We have class WhatsApp groups helmed by the various level parent representatives (2 parents per level). We welcome all parents to join! Please contact Tricia or Christine if you wish to be part of the parent network and be added to the KC PTSG WhatsApp groups.

Next PTSG Meeting

Details of the next meeting are:

Date : Saturday 18 February 2017

Time : 8.30 – 9.30 am

Venue : Hall

Light breakfast and hot drinks will be provided.



The meeting will be followed by a subject information sharing session by the Art, Math and Science departments. All parents, especially Sec 1 parents are warmly invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Parents

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