



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : MARCH 2017

8 March 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians

We are approaching 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 their time wisely and meaningfully during this break to be ready for the challenges of Term 2.

Ash Wednesday Mass

On 1 March, a Eucharistic celebration was held in the school for all Catholic students, parents and staff to commemorate Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of the Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, lasts for a period of 46 days (40 fasting days, excluding 6 Sundays) and culminates on Easter Sunday. This Christian tradition of prayer, almsgiving and fasting stems from the life of Jesus Christ in the Gospels, who spent 40 days fasting in the desert. "Ash Wednesday" derives its name from the practice of blessing using ashes made from palm branches. The ashes, applied in the shape of a cross on the forehead of each Catholic during the Mass, symbolise our sinful humanity and the importance of repentance to welcome Jesus as the king of our lives once again.

The school echoes the message shared by our celebrant Rev Fr Eugene Vaz, who encouraged all KCians to grow in charity and self-sacrifice during his homily. We are challenged to live out our prayer and almsgiving in our daily lives, seeking opportunities to serve and love each other in our school. We are called to reflect the meaning of our deeds and actions, realising our gratitude of others who have been generous and supportive in our own lives.

May you have a blessed season of Lent and experience the love of Jesus in this period of self-examination and fasting!

Sec 1 Leadership Camp

Our secondary one students participated in their level camp titled 'The Leader Within' from 6 to 8 February. Recognising their recent transition from primary to secondary school, the camp was specially crafted to impart skills and knowledge for our students to start right and be effective students in Katong Convent. The camp focussed on helping our students to become more self-aware, stressing the importance of discipline and self-ownership. Students also found out more about their personal learning styles and were equipped with essential tools to help them excel in their learning as students. These included time management skills, memory techniques as well as skills to manage their learning content. Our secondary one students also explored the importance of building a positive community of learning as a class, recognising their personal role as a team player in the class. The programme culminated in the setting of a class vision – a common goal



expressing the desire to journey together towards excellence. It was a meaningful process of self-discovery for the students and for their form teachers to get to know them better.

Sec 2 Adventure Camp

In the same period, 6 to 8 February, the secondary two students, together with their form teachers, attended the annual 3D2N camp at MOE Jalan Bahtera Adventure Camp. This camp is our signature programme for the secondary two cohort, and is organised by the PE Department. The objectives of the camp were to develop our students as leaders with the confidence and courage to step out of their comfort zone and stretch their limits, to build the life skills of effective communication, co-operation and personal responsibility and to foster class spirit by promoting mutual understanding, trust and respect.

The students challenged themselves, and remained resilient for the many adrenalin-pumping activities such as ziplining and abseiling. They fostered great teamwork, and camaraderie as they scaled the rock wall and the high elements obstacle course together. Our students rallied together to support their friends overcome their fear of height. During the indoor caving activity, the students displayed trust and courage in maneuvering adeptly the low and narrow passages in the dark. The students were monitored closely by a trained teacher who rendered assistance when needed. Students also honed their orienteering skills during the trekking session at Sungei Buloh Wetlands Reserve. Armed with an iPad, they were tasked with a 'mission' to capture pieces of evidence of 'enemies' lurking in the reserve. We were treated to sightings of herons, monitor lizards, mudskippers, spiders, and even crocodiles.

Beyond the high elements and interaction with nature, our students displayed their knowledge of outdoor cooking by preparing their own dinner on the first night. On the following night, they were treated to a array of talent and skills in the campfire performance. Our KC teachers opened the campfire, with their own rendition of a Star Wars battle scene while each class came forth to present their campfire showcase. There were cheers, self-choreographed dances, and covers of popular tunes.

It was a successful camp for our students. The camp concluded with the identification of the Best Camper awardees and these deserving students were:

Sec 2/1 – Yasmin Aisha Lisa Gannon
Sec 2/2 – Josephine Anne Tan Jie ling
Sec 2/3 – Hazel Tan Xue Min
Sec 2/4 – Tay WeiYi, Ashley Danielle
Sec 2/5 – Melanie Sum Kasise
Sec 2/6 – Amelia Anne Teo Mei Jing
Sec 2/7 – Yew KaiWen, Jenna

Sec 3 Service Learning Camp

This year's secondary three level camp took on a 2-pronged approach: one of reaching *in* to understand and cultivate one's own values of compassion, empathy, tolerance and respect as well as reaching *out* to the less fortunate in the community.

The 3-day camp began with a day of class bonding through games like dog-and-bone, a picnic at East Coast Park as well as activities such as painting art portraits to foster intra-class relationships and build camaraderie. The first day of the camp was certainly one filled with fun, cheer, friendship and artistic flair as students worked together to paint beautiful canvases as gifts to their class VIA beneficiaries. Each class painted 8 canvasses and will be presenting these as gifts to their beneficiary at the end of their Service Learning journey.



The next 2 days of the camp focussed on VIA and marked the start of the Sec 3 Service Learning journey. It involved learning about service learning and how it differed from their usual VIA experiences. They were taught the steps involved in embarking on a service learning project and started to formulate their own class service learning project ideas. At the same time, they also learnt about the needs of those they were going to serve through their project, particularly the elderly in the community and those with special needs. These were carried out through enriching hands-on activities that took them out of their seats in the classroom and got them thinking about the needs of others. The camp also included a sharing by WeCare at Marine Parade to help students better understand the Marine Parade community and the plight of the many needy and less fortunate families in the area.

With these experiences, the secondary threes will be moving on to plan and execute their Service Learning projects with their selected beneficiary. We hope that through these projects, students will not only engage the needy in our community but also make a positive difference to their lives and organisation. This way, each student can truly be a compassionate servant leader.

Sec 4 and 5 Career Seminar

“Passions VS Reality” was the theme of the inaugural KC Career Seminar, organised for the secondary four and five students on 6 February. The day started with an address by Mrs Lena Siau, HOD CCE, who set the context of the Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) environment that they will grow up in and the importance of developing relevant skills to navigate it. Thereafter, our keynote speaker, Ms Jamie Nonis, Managing Director of Wildfire Communications addressed the students, sharing from her personal experiences of how she pursued her passion for writing despite the challenges she had faced.

Following this, the students attended four breakout sessions which they had selected from a wide-ranging list of eighteen career talks. Earlier in the year, the students had the opportunity to indicate their career interests through a needs analysis that was conducted. We were very grateful that we were able to cater to most of their interests through the enthusiastic support from PTSG members, alumni and personal contacts of KC staff. From Visual Effects to Marine Biology, Hospitality, Media, Education, Social Work, Law, Urban Planning, Early Childhood, Accountancy, Arboriculture and Healthcare – students had the opportunity to hear and ask questions about the realities of each career and the skillsets, education qualifications and dispositions required for each job.

Our Education and Career Guidance Counsellor Ms Bong Siew Yin and Vice-Principal Mrs Goh then conducted an informative session on interview skills. Lastly, our Principal Ms Chan rounded off the Career Seminar by sharing her hope that each and every student will continue to ponder over what they had learnt over the course of the morning, discover their strengths and explore the many pathways available to them.

We leave you with some comments from the students:

“I used to think that it was too early to think about my future. But when one knows her goal, it can push someone to excel academically to achieve her dream. I think that this seminar was very helpful and it benefited me greatly. I hope that the school will continue to do this for future batches to come.” Nathalia Gomes, Sec 5/1

“Before the Career Seminar, I used to think that all lawyers work in court and have to debate loudly against the other party, ...corporate lawyers don't necessarily need to go to court, they work behind a desk and write out documents for their clients...Now, when I think of lawyers, I think of problem-solvers and solution-providers who have analytical, curious and creative minds, who are persevering and have good comprehension skills and can read and think quickly and critically.



I also used to think that nurses simply check the well-being, blood pressure and sugar levels of patients, but now I realised that nurses do more than that...they help people live with the conditions they have, they also give power back to the patients - the power to overcome their illnesses and recover as soon as possible.

Overall, I now know that good grades, good values and attitudes, commitment and passion are the most important things for any career path.” Vimal Anoushka Meagan, Sec 4/5

“I used to think that it's pretty easy to get what you want to aim for. I did not expect that it takes a lot of hard work and hearing the speakers today really inspired me to work hard.” Nurul Iffah, Sec 4/3

Subject Information Talk – Art, D&T, Mathematics, Science

On Saturday 18 February, a Subject Information Talk was held for parents of secondary one students. The 90-minutes session introduced participating parents to three areas of learning which their daughters were involved in since January: the study of the Arts (Art, Design & Technology), Mathematics, and Science.

All three departments offered a quick overview, focussing on the key learning objectives in their disciplines. Parents were also informed of the topics covered, or in the case of the Arts, given examples of the major projects and learning experiences that students would encounter at secondary one. Besides sharing how KC supports their daughters' learning, overall promotion criteria and the assessment components for each subject were fleshed out and examples of Mathematics and Science examination questions were presented to demonstrate the types of skills and processes tested.

While Mathematics highlighted some of the learning differences when transiting from primary to secondary school, the Arts touched on how secondary one students are encouraged to record their learning in their journals, explore and experiment with materials, and be open to new ideas. Meanwhile, parents learnt from the Science presentation how they could support their daughters at home by emphasising effective studying habits such as fostering habits for constant practice and consistency.

The session concluded with a question & answer session where parents had the opportunity to clarify the information shared by the departmental representatives.

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



GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Academic Support Programme (ASP)

The ASP was put in place by the school to provide additional support for identified students outside of the core curricular hours. As a gentle reminder, this is held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2.45 to 3.45 pm. The Sec 1 ASP will begin from Term 2.

Owing to our tight curriculum structure, parents are strongly encouraged to arrange extra-curricular programmes for their child such that they would not miss their ASP. As the ASP aims to provide additional support for identified students, do also note that there will be a review of eligible students after the mid-year examination.

2. Post-Secondary Education Fair

Our school will be organising the annual Education Fair in conjunction with our Meet-the-Parents Session on Friday, **10 March from 230pm to 5pm** and Saturday, **11 March from 8.00am to 12.00pm**. The five polytechnics, ITE, LaSalle College of the Arts, NAFA will set up booths to promote their courses. Their representatives will be on hand to provide consultation to our girls and their parents. Do take advantage of our network with these institutions to get your questions on post-secondary options answered from the representatives themselves. From previous feedback, our students and parents have found this beneficial and appreciate us getting these institutions here to assist them in making informed post-secondary educational choices. We strongly encourage you to visit the booths of the different institutions to have a deeper understanding of post-secondary education pathways and career options. Our Education and Career Guidance Counsellor, Ms Bong Siew Yin will also be available for consultation.

3. Timetable Changes

We will carry out **Friday's even week timetable on 7 April in Term 2 Wk 3** instead of the usual odd week timetable to replace the even week Fridays taken up for the Chinese New Year celebration and a Good Friday public holiday.

4. CCA Stand-Down

CCA stand-down for Secondary 4 & 5 students will take effect from 11 March unless they are involved in competitions. As for the rest, CCA will stand down with effect from 17 April in preparation for the mid-year examinations which will commence on 27 April for the graduating cohort and 28 April for the non-graduating cohort.

5. KC Concert Band

The KC Concert Band will be performing at the Esplanade Concert Hall on 11 April, Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. as part of the Esplanade *Limelight* series. The band will perform contemporary compositions for the wind ensemble. Be swept away by the blustery atmosphere created in *Whirlwind* by Jodie Blackshaw and energised by *Covington Square* by James Swearingen. Sit back and be enchanted by familiar favourites from Charlie Puth, Pharrell Williams, Disney blockbusters such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Despite its short history, the concert band has made outstanding achievements in the local schools' arts scene. The band achieved the Gold Award at the biennial Singapore International Band Festival and the National Band Competition consecutively from 2012 to 2016. At the 2013 and 2015 Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation, the band attained Certificates of Distinction.



Tickets are priced at \$14 (including \$1 SISTIC fee) each, and you can order them online at sistic.com.sg from 13 March. You may also make your purchase now by emailing the Band teacher-in-charge, Ms Koek Chwee Kim, at koek_chwee_kim@moe.edu.sg

Thank you and we hope to see you at our concert!

6. Environment Matters

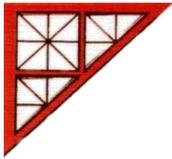
Along with our homecoming back to Marine Terrace, KC has embarked on the exciting adventure of building our Heritage Garden as well as a community garden. We have started on creating our very own compost and nursery with the enthusiastic involvement of our dedicated parent-volunteer, Mrs Shireen Ang, and hands-on teacher, Mr Luke Ezekiel, as well as student volunteers but we need more help. We hope parents are able to assist us by contributing in any of the following ways:

- your time
- your expertise at landscaping
- donations of plants, materials like pallets, soil and funds

Any help is deeply appreciated.

We also hope to raise awareness among students of environmental conservation and the need to clean up after themselves with the launch of two intra-school competitions: the Recycling Competition and 'Class Ambience Award' Competition for the period, February to August. Weighing of recyclables takes place after school dismissal every Thursday, while all students are encouraged to keep their classroom clean and tidy, and to clear the trash daily.





CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

email : ptsg.kc@gmail.com

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



2nd PTSG Meeting of 2017

The second PTSG meeting was held on Saturday 18 February from 8.30 to 9.30am. This meeting saw the contribution of many ideas from parents about possible activities that parents can do together with other parents, with their daughters as well as those that the school can organise for and with parents. Ideas such as regular badminton and Zumba sessions, regular cooking or baking sessions, weekly gardening groups, a VIA project by parents for the neighbourhood, and even a parents' race in the school's Sports Day were thrown up for discussion.

We thank parents for all their suggestions and we look forward to more active participation in the coming months. The PTSG Council is currently working out your suggestions and will be in touch with you soon regarding the schedule of these events. Meanwhile a WhatsApp group for only PTSG activities has been set up to keep parents abreast of upcoming PTSG parent activities. If you are keen to be involved and are not yet in the group, please contact Tricia (84542834) or Christine (97527974).

PTSG WhatsApp Groups

The KC PTSG WhatsApp Groups for each 2017 class has been set up and helmed by the various level parent representatives (2 parents per level). Please contact Tricia or Christine if you wish to be part of the class parent network and be added to the class Whatsapp groups.

Next PTSG Meeting

Details of the next meeting are:

Date : Saturday 8 April 2017

Time : 8.30 – 9.30 am

Venue : Music Room

A light breakfast and hot drinks will be provided.

The meeting will be followed by a subject information sharing session by the English and Mother Tongue Languages departments. All secondary one 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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