



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : APRIL 2017

5 April 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians

Term 1 ended on a very uplifting note for all of us at Katong Convent. We would like to thank all parents and guardians for your collaboration as our partners-in-education thus far. Our Meet-the-Parents Session which was held on the last Friday and Saturday of Term 1 was a significant touchpoint between us and parents / guardians for the first milestones of your daughter's/ ward's holistic development. Leveraging the more leisurely pace of the March holidays, our performing arts groups continued their preparations for the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation in their quest for excellence. Our teachers also enriched the learning of our girls with workshops for our secondary one catholic girls and Enhanced Art Programme students and successfully completed the series of training for our student leaders.

Our girls will continue to be busy preparing for various competitions and the mid-year examination. 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 Honours Day-cum-Founder's Day Celebrations on 26 May. More details will be provided nearer the date and we look forward to your support and participation in this key school event.

Meet-the-Parents Session (MTPS)

This year's MTPS was conducted on 10 and 11 March to make it even more convenient for parents / guardians to make time to meet the teachers on either a Friday afternoon or a Saturday morning. In addition to providing feedback to parents / guardians on your child's / ward's performance in the first term, the focus of MTPS was also to provide essential information to parents / guardians on post-secondary education pathways. As such, an Education Fair showcasing different post-secondary institutions such as the Polytechnics, ITE, NAFA and others was held during the MTPS.

On the whole, 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 parents and guardians for your support and for making the MTPS a meaningful and enriching experience!

Lenten Prayer Service

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
(Matthew 26:41, NIV)

In the spirit of Lent, the school has begun conducting weekly prayer services, which are held in Classroom 1, every Wednesday, 7.15 am to 7.30 am. We hope to inculcate and develop a simple discipline of regular prayer and devotion to God in this time of penance and anticipation for Easter. In the current season, we will be focusing on the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary of the Blessed



Virgin Mary. May we continue to rediscover God's love, through the Passion of Jesus – His suffering and death on the Cross. As a praying community that serves, we also welcome all parents/guardians and interested non-catholic students to join us in this quiet time of meditation.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Mid-Year Examination

This will begin on 27 April for the graduating cohort and 28 April for the rest of the students. The examination coverage was uploaded onto MC Online and the timetable was issued to your daughters / wards on 24 March. It is timely to remind our girls and parents / guardians of the examination policy regarding mobile phones. Please note that **mobile phones are strictly NOT allowed** in an examination venue. If a candidate is caught with a mobile phone in her possession, even if it is not turned on, it will be construed as an attempt to cheat and she may be barred from all subsequent examinations. Do refer to our Student Journal for other examination guidelines and policies and help to ensure that your daughter / ward adheres to them.

2. Humanities / NE Challenge

KC's Humanities Department's annual signature programme which saw its twelve run this year took place on 4 March with a total of 11 participating schools. This year's theme of "Embracing Diversity: In the Age of Globalisation" served to educate our young about the diverse society that we live in today.

Riding on last year's format which was well-received by the participating schools, the Challenge was made up of two segments - the 'Amazing Race' segment and the crowd's favourite quiz segment 'Humanopoly'.

The 'Amazing Race' segment saw all 11 schools engaged in fierce competition at various stations around the school. Students took part in different tasks and answered questions related to Geography, History, Social Studies and current affairs. There were also roving game masters for participants to approach and score additional bonus points. This further tested the effectiveness of the game plan adopted by each team.

Some revisions were made to the concept of 'Humanopoly' segment this year. Unlike last year where only the top 5 teams could advance to this round, this year all teams were given the opportunity to participate in 'Humanopoly'. In the first round, all schools had to battle it out and attempt to answer questions across the Humanities subjects while the second round was only for the top five qualifying teams attempting more challenging questions.



Congratulations to Team KC for emerging top this year and thank you to all participating schools who have made this event a success! We hope to sustain this programme in the many years to come.

Thank you to our sponsors – South-East Community Development Council for the door gifts and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth for funding this programme. And not forgetting the team of teachers from the Humanities department and KC students for their active collaboration in conceptualizing and executing this year's Challenge.

3. Student Leadership Training

Term 1 was the start of an enriching journey for our CCA and Class Student Leaders. With the new platforms afforded to them, our student leaders also began a series of leadership training workshops on 13 Feb, 13 and 14 Mar to ensure that they have the knowledge, skills and values needed to excel on their leadership journey.

Organised by the Student Leadership Committee as well as the Class and CCA Council, students were introduced to their roles and responsibilities as well as the keys to outstanding leadership using a combination of lectures, discussion sessions and experiential group activities. They were also challenged to be values-driven leaders who would leave a positive impact on their community as well as to lead their respective peers towards common goals of success.

Our class leaders also learned level specific skills like building relationships based on respect, effective communication and how to manage others when dealing with conflicts in the classroom. The training allowed our class leaders to work together and plan how to foster a positive and caring environment in the classroom.

4. Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) – EAP Workshop

During the March holidays, a two-day classical animation workshop was organised for our Secondary 3 Express and Normal Academic Art students. The workshop focussed on classical animation, where characters and objects were brought to life through frame-by-frame, sequential drawing. The workshop was specially designed to expose our students to time-based media, to develop their understanding of motion and time, and to deepen their appreciation of animated films.

During the workshop, students were engaged in these activities:

- Gesture drawing of a series of dance poses in as little as 30 seconds per frame.
- Storyboarding to plan and sequence images based on a proposed storyline.

With the acquired skills, the students created their own mini flipbook animation out of post-its. Thereafter, to further their learning on a larger scale, groups of students came together to ideate a storyline for a 15 seconds clip. To produce their collaborative animation, each student contributed a scene of about 3-5 seconds by drawing approximately 50 frames each. The students learnt that besides having an appealing story and characters, it is equally important to have discipline and teamwork to produce an animation of quality.

5. Secondary One Connect Camp

The Secondary One Connect Camp was held on 13 March with the objective of reaching out to catholic secondary one students so that we can build a community of catholic students who grow stronger in their faith, care for each other and serve the school community. The activities brought



about interclass bonding and bonding between juniors and senior students who ran the activities. The Catholic Student Leaders (CSLs) conducted fun group activities in addition to serious reflection on the student's journey as a catholic in our school.

The secondary one catholic students worked as a team and showed their perseverance to overcome difficulties in order to complete a "mission". Our CSLs also took up the challenge in leading the juniors in very creative ways that proved beneficial for both the secondary ones and themselves as they rose to take on different tasks.

In summary, it was a time well spent and students built priceless bonds together.

6. Romeo & Juliet Workshop

"I believe in love at first sight," declared the teacher and with that, 80 apprehensive and giggling secondary two students arranged themselves in a diagonal line across the room to indicate their response on an imaginary scale. "Why are you standing there?" was the question asked to a girl standing close to the door, a metaphor almost, to the extent to which she disagreed with the statement. "Because it only happens in stories and Korean dramas," the girl replied. "It's superficial and based on appearance. That's not love!" And with that emotive response the 2017 edition of the Secondary Two Romeo and Juliet workshops began.

Teaching Shakespeare in schools has often been perceived as outdated and pandering to beliefs of colonial superiority. It can also be seen as disengaging for Singapore students since not only the language but the culture is foreign to them. Yet the opening game of "Where do you stand?", played with great emotion and discourse showed that the themes of *Romeo and Juliet* are relevant and immediate to the lives of the students.

KC's annual lower secondary Shakespeare workshop aims, through play and embodied learning, to not only introduce the plot, characters, and themes, of *Romeo and Juliet* to the students, but also to show them how relatable and fun Shakespeare can be.

It was an afternoon filled with being and identifying with characters, challenging points of views, and finally creating purposeful art from nothing more than a post-it and the features of the room. At the heart of the play, *Romeo and Juliet* is about challenging restrictive, set ways of traditional thinking, and the workshop did exactly that, to show to the secondary two students the value and interest of Shakespeare and the world he created with *Romeo and Juliet*.

7. Educational Career Guidance (ECG) Awareness

Secondary One to Three – "Are you Future Ready?"

"The year is 2035 - Singapore's last landfill reaches its limit. Our streets are overflowing with rubbish and we have nowhere to put it. Are you able to come up with an innovative solution for sustainable waste management?"

By 2020, automation is expected to take over 5 million jobs. Will you be able to adapt and learn new skills and knowledge to remain relevant?"

City Hall station was blown up by a local ISIS sympathiser. Innocent lives were taken. Cracks appear in our social fabric – people view one another with suspicion & racial discrimination. Are you able to continue to trust your fellow Singaporeans and believe that extremist views of a few do not represent the views of an entire community?"



These were some of the questions posed to the secondary one to three students during their Monday Assembly on 20 March as we explored the values, qualities and competencies that are necessary for one to thrive in the future economy. Of these, two aspects were emphasised: (1) The joy of learning – where students were encouraged to discover their interests, grow their passion and seek opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills, where learning is fun and with the necessary rigour. (2) Entrepreneurial dare – An attitude, a mind-set of pushing boundaries, of wanting to innovate and finding a breakthrough, where a spirit of enterprise, resilience, adaptability is key.

Secondary Four and Five – Post-secondary education talks

Sec 4NT – Students learnt about the courses available at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and had the opportunity to ask questions about the Nitec and Higher Nitec programmes and pathways.

Sec 4N(A) – Students learnt about the two alternatives in pursuing an education in the polytechnics - the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) (a one-year foundational programme in the polytechnics) and Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) (a Higher Nitec programme at the ITE). With a belief that all routes are viable options for progression to the polytechnics, students were encouraged to consider their abilities, strengths and interests in making their choice. Ex-KC girls currently at Temasek Polytechnic were also present to share their experiences in these programmes.

Sec 4E/5N(A) – Students learnt about the courses and nature of studies offered at the polytechnics and the junior colleges. Similarly, students were strongly encouraged to find out more about the various programme offerings and make a wise choice based on the mode of education and course of study that was most suited to their strengths, interest and abilities. Students also heard about the Early Admission Exercise (EAE) and were encouraged to start preparing their portfolios if they were interested to apply for it.

We would like to encourage all secondary four and five parents to make the effort to talk to your daughter about all the options available. More information is available in the Student Journal, from page 54 to 64, as well as the weblinks provided within. Parents/ Guardians, you may also wish to refer to the booklet 'Journeying with our children from education to aspirations', distributed during the Meet-the- Parents Session on 10 and 11 March for more suggestions on discussing these issues with your daughters. You could wish make an appointment with the school Education and Career Guidance Counsellor Ms Bong Siew Yin (bong_siew_yin@moe.gov.sg).

8. Educational and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair

Sixteen secondary two students participated in an ECG Fair at Temasek Polytechnic on 24 March, the third instalment of ECG Fairs jointly organised by the Ministry of Education, industry players, the polytechnics and the ITE since 2016.

The focus of this fair was on Early Childhood Education and Power Engineering, two sectors invaluable to Singapore's future with the greater efforts to strengthen our early childhood sector and the importance of sustainable energy. Through the exhibitions, education and career talks, and hands-on experiences conducted by industry experts and the post-secondary education institutions, the students who attended gained a deeper understanding about the related education and career pathways in these sectors.

This fair is one of the many ECG programmes, both within and outside of school, where KC girls have the opportunity to be exposed to the world of work, develop their interests and explore various career fields.



9. 10th East Division Brownie Revel 2017

On Saturday, 25 March, our Girl Guide company successfully hosted our 10th East Division Brownie Revel 2017 for Brownie Packs in the East Division. This year, the theme for Brownie Revel was 'Grow, Sprout and Blossom'. More than 170 brownies from 11 primary schools took part in competitions namely, doll-making, picture-story presentations, dessert-making, garden mascot and performance. It was heartening to observe the Brownies' growth and transformation as young girls via the competition platforms.

On top of that, three other Girl Guide companies, namely Cedar Girls' Secondary, Chung Cheng High School (Main) and Geylang Methodist Secondary School joined us to share what Guiding is all about in secondary schools. With reference to the 5-point programme, our Girl Guide company took this opportunity to share knowledge and skills on the International section of the programme. Besides an information display on the various ASEAN countries, our booth consisted of several games and craft that people around our ASEAN region enjoy; we played Congkak, made lotus flowers using paper towels and held gunny sack races with the Brownies to raise their awareness about our neighbouring countries. The Brownies were able to earn hand-drawn stickers by our Girl Guide alumni, Alyssa Tee (Sec 4/5, 2016), when they completed all the booths put up by the different secondary schools. Not only was it a fun day for the Brownies, it was also a meaningful day as sister Guides from the various secondary schools came together and made friends with each other.

Lastly, the event would not have been possible without our school's National Civil Defence Cadet Corps providing first aid support and the student councillors providing AV support in the hall.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. National Juniors Canoeing Championships

The National Juniors Canoeing Championships (NJCC) was held from 11 to 13 March at the MacRitchie Reservoir. In this competition, Team KC fielded a team of twenty two canoeists to compete in the Under 16 Women and Under 14 Women in various categories.

Shanais Yuen Ziqing (Sec 4/3) fought hard to achieve 5th placing in the B-Finals for the Under 16 K1 500m event. Sarah Zafirah Bte Noor Ashikin (Sec 2/4) and Cecilia Low Hui Hui (Sec 2/7) attained 6th placing in the semi-finals for the Under 14 JK2 500m event.

Faith-Marie Low (Sec 4/5) and Iva Nishrin Bte Abdul Malik (Sec 4/1) attained 5th and 6th placing respectively in the semi-finals for the Under 16 K1 500m event.

Sheridan Chua Lee-Min (Sec 3/4), Damia Humaira Bte Ridwan (Sec 4/1), Tatiyana Elisa Bte Hermanto (Sec 4/4) and Nur Razza Farwyzah Bte Abdul Razak (Sec 4/5) qualified for the semi-finals for the Under 16 K4 500m.

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.



2. East Zone Badminton Competition

Our badminton girls fought hard during the East Zone Badminton Competition held in January and February this year and made excellent progress in the history of Katong Convent.

The B Division Girls made it to the second round of the games and emerged Top 8 in the East Zone, beating Changkat Changi Secondary School, Manjusri Secondary School and Meridian Secondary School.

Our C Division Girls beat Tanjong Katong Girls' School, East Spring Secondary School, Chung Cheng High School (Main) and Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) and emerged 4th in the East Zone Badminton Competition. The C Division Team will continue to compete in the Nationals against the other teams from the North, South and West Zones. Through this competition, the students learnt about the importance of teamwork, resilience and the spirit of sportsmanship.

The C Division team comprised: Chin Yu Ting (Sec 1/2), Kylene Yeow (Sec 1/4), Chong Shih Hann Sarah Grace (Sec 1/4), Hipolita Julia Gabrielle (Sec 2/1), Felicity Lim (Sec 2/3), Sarah Low Ying Cheng (Sec 2/3), Lim Ai Hui (Sec 2/4), Ong Ying Ying (Sec 2/5), Reena Wong Shi Min (Sec 2/5), Dutta Sania (Sec 2/5), Haley Sia Xin Ern (Sec 2/6) and Yew KaiWen, Jenna (Sec 2/7).

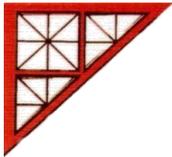
Good job and well done!

3. World Thinking Day Competition

On 4 March, our Girl Guide company took part in the World Thinking Day Instagram Competition. With 92 teachers and students in the photograph, we clinched the 'Photograph that Captured the Most Number of Persons' Award. The photograph was taken right before the girls laid the picnic food which they have prepared as a patrol on the picnic mats. From Indian Curry to Korean Japchae, our Guides enjoyed learning about and feasting on breakfast from around Asia that day.

Well done, KCGG!





CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

email : ptsq.kc@gmail.com

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



Suggestions for Parent Activities

The PTSG Council continues to invite suggestions on activities for parents as well as with their daughters. A schedule of these events will be shared at the next PTSG meeting. 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 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!

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Parents

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Teachers

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Parenting By Design - Different Children, Different Needs

Parenting can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life. It can also be one of the most challenging endeavours that parents embark upon. Good parenting does not just happen, good parents work at it as they recognize that each child is unique.

At this workshop, you will gain insights on how to effectively motivate your child to learn and excel based on his/her distinct personality.

The learning outcomes are:

- To adequately recognize the profile of individual parent-participant
- To adequately recognize the profile of their child
- To know how to confidently apply the right interactions with their child
- To articulate and adapt their parenting style that suits their child's personality

Venue: CHIJ Katong Convent

Date: 8th April 2017, Sat Time: 9.45am - 11.45am Fees: Free!

Light refreshments will be served

Speaker: Mr John Kok

John is a resource speaker for Family Education service providers like TOUCH Family Services, Fei Yue Community Services, C.A.F.E, Oikos.community@SengKang, Focus on the Family, Families for Tomorrow and FILOS Community Services.

He has conducted family bonding time for child care centres and churches. He has also been conducting parenting talks and workshops, interactive workshops on "family" topics to schools, public and lunchtime talks in companies as well as book fair. In addition, he has conducted training in schools in various life skills, debating skills, personal grooming, learning skills and leadership programs.

John has been working with and amongst youths and teenagers for more than 20 years. He has accumulated invaluable experiences through the close interactions with many of the teens he has worked with, ranging from the affluent to the needy and from the high achievers to the at-risk children.

He is also in constant contact with parents of children of various ages to get a feel and an understanding of the challenges they face daily. John is passionate about helping people build stronger relationships with their loved one.

John graduated from NUS BBA (Honours, Second Upper) in 1996. He obtained his Teacher's certificate in 1998 PGDE in MOE (SPE).

*If you are interested in registering, please email glenn.familymatters@gmail.com. Please include your name, contact number, child's name and class. Thank you! **Please note that in the event that this workshop is under-subscribed it may be postponed. Thank you.***

