



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

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PARENT LINK : SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2017

27 September 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians

All too soon we have marched into the fourth term of the school year and you would have noted that we have uploaded the End-of-Year Examinations coverage, format and weighting on MOnline in Term 3, Week 10 for the reference of students and parents. CCA stand-down took effect from 18 September. This is our last issue of Parent Link for 2017. As the year draws to a close, we look back to celebrate our successes, review our programmes and plan ahead for 2018. We thank God for His special blessings on CHIJ Katong Convent this year and pray for His continued grace.

The **Sec 1 – 3 End-of-Year School Examinations** are scheduled to begin on 4 October. Marking Day and Promotion Exercise Day are scheduled on 16 October and 24 October respectively. Students need not report to school on these 2 days unless a special programme has been scheduled to maximise the use of time after the examination. In such circumstances, a separate notification would be sent to parents. The examination timetable has also been issued to your daughter/ ward in Term 3, Week 10. The last day of school for students is Friday 27 October. Please note that it is important for students to attend school in the post-examination period so that they can receive feedback on their examination performance in the various academic subjects and enrich their school experience with other activities. As the **Sec 2E/NA** students deliberate on their Sec 3 subject options, we will organise a Sec 2 Subject Information Fair on 26 October for them and parents are invited to the same Fair on the same evening. This Fair is part of our year-long continuous effort to provide educational career guidance to our girls (and their parents) to help them make informed choices. The **Sec 3** teachers will conduct a week of extra lessons (30 Oct to 3 Nov) to give the girls a head start in their preparations for the national examination in 2018. As such, applications for early holiday leave are strongly discouraged.

The **GCE 'N' Level** written papers began on 11 September. With a break in the schedule currently, further papers will continue from 2 to 13 October. The 4NA students will undergo Advanced Elective Modules at the Temasek Polytechnic from 16 to 20 October to deepen their post-secondary progression experience and extend learning of life skills beyond the confines of the KC classroom. In the last week of term, they will participate in a programme to raise their awareness of social issues in a holistic manner through real experience and exposure to social impact. With effect from 2014, there will be only a single application for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) after the release of the 'O' level results in January. All eligible **Sec 4NA** girls are advised to report to school on 2 January to carry on their studies in Secondary 5N next year unless continuing with Secondary 5N is not an option under consideration at all. Other details have been communicated to you and the students in our circular to parents dated 15 September.



The **GCE 'O' Level** written examinations will begin on 23 October and end on 17 November. School will be dismissed for our Sec 1-3 students at 1.40 pm on 23, 25, 26 and 27 October as the GCE examination will begin at 2.30pm. As indicated earlier on, students will not be in school on 24 October as it is Promotion Exercise Day.

It is timely to remind our girls and parents of Singapore Examination and Assessment Branch's policy regarding **mobile phones**. 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. Please help to ensure that your child/ ward does not bring her mobile phone to school during the examination period.

We wish all our girls every success in the coming examinations and pray for God's blessing and protection over them.

The **Graduation Dinner** for the graduating cohort will be held on Friday 17 November at our school hall.

You would have received our letter informing you of our **Homecoming** on Saturday 18 November from 4pm to 8pm. We look forward to having all parents with us as we give thanks for the new campus, celebrate our past, embrace the present and look to a future of possibilities!

Tickets are priced at \$10 per pax and may be paid for by cash or cheque. Purchase may also be done online via Peatix at <http://kchomecoming.peatix.com>.

The programme comprises performances by our performance arts groups (alumni & current students), friendly sports showdowns, live cooking sessions, tour of our new school and lots of yummy goodies and uniquely-KC craft for sale at the KC Mini Bazaar.

For more details, please refer to the school website or the school memo: KC 76/17 dated 25 Sep 2017.

The PTSG will be manning 3 stalls at the KC Mini Bazaar - Herb and Spice stall selling herbs, vegetables, salad packs directly from the garden of KC and PTSG, food stalls selling snacks and tidbits and a craft stall selling specially-made, wooden KC decorative and Christmas ornaments.

The PTSG is seeking help from parents in several ways:

1. Contribute food items - snacks and light bites
2. Contribute in-kind - to cover costs of the ornaments, seeds for herb stall
3. Contribute your time, effort and garden – to plant herbs etc. in advance for sale
4. Contribute your time and effort – to help with stall set up and sales on the day of and before the event

If you are able to contribute in any of these ways or have ideas for the event, please give PTSG a buzz! They are deeply appreciative of any help rendered. The contact details of our PTSG Chairpersons are Ms Tricia Boey at 84542834 and Ms Christine Tay at 97527974

If you have made travel plans for the holidays, please remember to complete the **Travel Plans Declaration** form which is available from the General Office and on our school's website. Please return it through your child's/ward's Form Teacher by Friday 27 October or before you leave the country.



May God bless you and your family and keep you in His loving care.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. September / October Highlights

Date	Event
11 Sept	GCE 'N' Level Written Examination
18 Sept	CCA Stand-Down for Sec 1 - 3 KC Awards Day
19 Sept	Lessons resume for 4NA
20 Sept	Lessons resume for 4NT
22 Sept	Farewell Reflection for Graduating Cohort
25 Sept	*History CA for Sec 1 Express / Normal Academic Classes
27 Sept	Study leave for 4N Begins
2 Oct	GCE 'N' Level Written Examination Resumes Study Leave for 4E/5N Begins
4 – 13 Oct	*Sec 1 - 3 EOY Examination
16 Oct	Marking Day
16 – 27 Oct	Post - 4NA Programme
23 Oct	GCE 'O' Level Written Examination Begins
24 Oct	Promotion Exercise Day *Sec 1NA & NT Retreat
26 Oct	**Sec 2 Subject Information Fair (for students) **Sec 1E Retreat **Sec 2 Subject Information Fair 6 pm (for parents)
27 Oct	**Last Day of School – Mass and Issuance of Result Slips
30 Oct – 3 Nov	Sec 3 Academic Programme
17 Nov	Grad Dinner for Graduating Cohort
18 Nov	*Homecoming

* The circular has been issued.

**A circular will be issued in due course.

2. East Zone Science Fair

A team of four students, Charmaine Koh (Sec 3/5), Calma Eanna (Sec 3/6), Kristine Oh (Sec 3/6) and Mabel Yeong (Sec 3/6) participated in the Victoria Junior College's East Zone Science Fair in collaboration with A* STAR labs during the month of July. The team had to create a research project demonstrating understanding of the scientific method and application of scientific concepts in the real world context. They conducted experiments to investigate Mycelium as an alternative building material and presented their findings to a panel of judges. It was a great learning



experience for the team as it ignited their scientific curiosity and deepened their scientific knowledge.

3. External Safety Validation (ESV)

On 1 August, a team from Victoria School conducted an ESV on Katong Convent, as part of MOE's continual efforts to review and tighten school safety and security and to promote a culture of emergency preparedness. Conducted once every 3 or 4 years, the ESV Team provides an independent assessment of existing measures that are in place in KC, and shares its observations and recommendations on areas covering road, building, environment and school activity safety and security.

4. 3M Step Up Challenge @ South East 2017

On 7 August, the Class Council, supported by their class leaders organised Katong Convent's very first 3M Step Up Challenge @ South East. The challenge was conceptualised by the South East Community Development Council (CDC) to promote a giving spirit among students and residents by encouraging them to climb stairs for a good cause. Students were challenged to climb the stairs at their own pace, and for every 500 steps accumulated by the school, 3M Singapore would contribute a \$40 household package, which comprises mops, sponges and many more items for the needy in the Southeast CDC district.

The event was well received and attracted a crowd of participants, both students and staff, who pledged their time and effort to serve the community. It was a fun-filled experience, as the participants went through the challenge, in a festive atmosphere with music playing in the background. Our class leaders were also given the valuable opportunity to plan and execute the programme as leaders of the student body.

As an incentive, winners were also recognised for contributing the highest number of steps. Ms Angelita Tan, won the staff award for accumulating 2,250 steps. Naomi Lee Yong Xi from Sec 3/5 clinched the student award for climbing a total number of 3,250 steps. The class that accumulated the most steps was Sec 2/5, with a total of 23,500 steps.

The Class Council would like to thank all participants for their support. Through this event, the school was able to accomplish a total number of 288,125 steps within a short span of 2 hours! 3M Singapore will be matching the school's number of steps with 576 of their products for the needy families in the Southeast CDC district.

5. National Day Celebration

Katong Convent celebrated the nation's birthday with great fanfare! The day began with an appropriately solemn air, as the school gathered at assembly decked in the red of the Singapore flag to watch our uniformed groups and student councillor contingents do the march past. Holding the nation's flag and stepping in time to the music, the march past also reminded us of how our nation's sovereignty is protected by our National Service men and women. This was a particularly poignant reminder as 2017 marked the celebration of NS50 and their fifty years of service rendered. As our Principal read the National Day message, the school reflected on what it meant to turn 52 this year.

Solemnity gave way to celebration as the students streamed into the hall for the second half of the day's events, beginning all the more sweetly with the provision of KC's own National Day goodie bag consisting of a smorgasbord of National Day tattoos, mini flags, milo, and sweet buns.



Remembering the past to appreciate how far we have come was the opening theme in the video, "Journey through Time," by our InfoComm Club and it was indeed a wave of nostalgia to see so many parts of both Singapore and the school which have transformed and grown over the years. Yet looking at the past should go beyond passive nostalgia and instead be an invitation to shape and improve the future which the DAS appropriately themed their highly comic and very entertaining performance. The National Day celebrations took a more interactive turn, not only with the surprise video montage of our teachers singing "Stand Up for Singapore" but also with the National Day edition of Bingo and the newspaper game, "Can We Stand Together." In all these activities, teachers and students had to work together to achieve success – mirroring the 2017 National Day theme of #OneNationTogether.

The day ended with an all-time favourite: the rousing sing-along of National Day songs, and most meaningfully of all, an impassioned chorus of the National Anthem. Majulah Singapura!

6. Educational and Career Guidance (ECG)

The ECG Committee organised a sharing session entitled Pathways for the 4 Normal (Academic) students on 22 August. To kick off the session, Mrs Jane Cheah provided students with data on the progression pathways that past cohorts of 4NA KC girls have taken. An activity was conducted based on the actual number of students from the 2015 N(A) cohort and their progression to ITE (Nitec or Higher Nitec (DPP)), the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), as well as the post O-Level routes of students who went on to Secondary 5. This helped students visualise the possible outcomes and the proportion of students who took each path.

Following this, KC Alumni, Ms Poon Wing Yunn from the class of 2012, shared her experiences in an interview with Ms Debra Scully. Wing told the girls about her disappointment of not making it to the PFP and the deciding factors for her choice to take up the DPP over Sec 5. Wing shared honestly about her experience in the Business & Services course at ITE College Central, covering issues such as the camaraderie among her classmates, sources of motivation, being on the Director's List and falling off it, the hard work she put in and the skills she learnt. Eventually, all of this helped her in her entry to excel in a polytechnic course in Business Management at Nanyang Polytechnic, where she has just completed an internship and is on vacation before her final semester.

During the Question & Answer segment, students had the opportunity to ask questions close to their hearts. In particular, a student asked Wing how she felt about taking an extra year in the DPP to enter the polytechnic compared to her friends who took the Sec 5 route. Wing replied that it mattered more to her that she took a route that was best able to help her reach her goal of entering the polytechnic and eventually going on to the university. Through an honest reflection of her own abilities, she decided that taking an extra year would be beneficial for her to ensure that she did very well in the path she was in and to progress to the next level in the course of her choice. In response to another question on how she managed to convince her parents that the ITE was a viable route, Wing shared that her parents as employers in the aerospace industry actually had better experiences with ITE students compared to polytechnic students during their internships and she did not have to convince them as they were already open to it. She added that the skills she picked up at the ITE in fact gave her an edge over her peers in the polytechnic who had come through the O-Level route. Wing was happy to share her story with the girls and attributed her language and communication skills, and confidence to being in KC.

At the end of the session, the girls were reminded that they should make the effort to find out more information to make wise choices, know themselves and decide what is the course that is best suited to their strengths, style of learning and interests, as well as the continued importance of hard work and perseverance regardless of the route they took.



These are some of their thoughts: ... "I actually found it quite enlightening and it did change my perspective of DPP and ITE. I felt quite encouraged as I realised that it was a valid option to consider, and that it would help me boost my skills, contrary to what I have been told by my mother" "It was great! Now I'm really open to choose DPP. She made me realise that to do well I don't have to be where everyone thinks I should be, and I should consider DPP as it is a route that isn't that bad after all"

On 15 September, 22 secondary two students attended the Educational and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair at Republic Polytechnic on the hospitality, logistics and maritime industries. This was the fourth installment of ECG Fairs jointly organised by MOE, the polytechnics, ITE and industry partners.

Our first stop was an exhibition where students obtained a wealth of information from booths set up by the various post-secondary educational institutions. Students in these courses shared their learning and work experiences with our girls, providing them with some insights on their courses and the related professions.

Next, students were introduced to the maritime industry through an interactive workshop, where students were required to create a stop-motion animation clip on the industry. This hands-on activity allowed students to gain both a better understanding of the industry and new IT skills.

Rounding up the Fair was a talk on the hospitality industry by a graduate from the Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC). He gave an introduction to SHATEC and the courses offered by the centre. Students were entertained with interesting stories of his workplace experiences and gained insights on working in a hotel.

All in all, the students left the Fair with a greater awareness of the education and career pathways in these three sectors and a deepened sense of the need to find alignment between their interests, strengths and careers in the future.

7. Teachers' Day Celebration

The theme for this year's Teachers' Day Celebration was Our Teachers, Our Heroes. Initiated by the Student Leadership Board, the theme celebrates the hard work of our teachers that sometimes can be under appreciated through the course of the year.

We began Teachers' Day morning with a celebration of the Catholic Mass.

The word 'Mass' comes from the Latin word 'missio' which means 'Mission'. As we commemorated Teachers' Day, we started the day with God, thanking him for the privilege of a special mission he has entrusted to our teachers. Together with our celebrant Fr Terence Wee, the school took this time to pray for our teachers and staff, offering blessings and goodwill to be with them in their calling to lead, care and inspire. We were also thankful for our choir, who had accepted our invitation to join in singing songs and hymns to bless our teachers.

In his homily, teachers and staff were reminded by Fr Terence to seek balance in our commitment to our students and personal well-being. He added that Teachers' Day is a reminder for us to be grateful for our teachers - both in and out of school - on a daily basis.

Students then returned to class for their class celebration with their teachers. Initiated and led by the class leaders, they worked together with their classmates to create a festive atmosphere of gratitude and appreciation. This also included a new initiative - letters to teachers, where the class leaders encouraged their peers to write letters of thanks to the teachers who made an impact in their lives.



Next, the school returned to the multi-purpose hall for the Teachers' Day Concert. Organised collectively by the student leaders, the school was treated to performances by our very own Chinese Orchestra, Modern Dance Club celebrating the positive experiences that our students share with our teachers in school. Following that, Giron Althea Isis Canonizado from Sec 4/4 and Wong Xueqi Celeste from Sec 4/2, former contestants of KC Talent Show - The Stars, took to the stage with their rendition of Mariah Carey's Hero. As they sang the soulful ballad, one could certainly appreciate the meaningful message of the song.

The concert brought much laughter particularly during the game segment that involved our teachers taking part in stage games. Teachers and school leaders were challenged to juggle balloons in the air as well as take part in a spelling contest. It was such an enjoyable experience watching teachers let their hair down and appreciating the moment. The student leaders also prepared a special skit that showed our teachers as super heroes in their lives. The skit certainly left the school in stitches, roaring with laughter at the caricatures and hilarious antics of the super heroes.

Using a popular tune by Bruno Mars titled Count On Me, the student leaders wrote new lyrics to the song, galvanizing the school to sing along with them, committing to many more years of meaningful relationships with their teachers. Our teachers, Ms Sarah Phua, Ms Lee Shu Min, Ms Lim Shiyong, Mr Koo Cheng Wai, Ms Tan Chew Ngee, Ms Lai Mok Ern, Ms Tan Qiu Yan, Ms Yeoh Lai Lin and Ms Patrine Chua were not to be outdone and stormed the stage with a surprise item, also performing a rewritten song based on a popular ballad by Westlife. The song highlighted the challenges of being a teacher and their love for the students.

All in all, it was indeed a meaningful concert that warmed the hearts of our teachers, making them feel appreciated as Unsung Heroes.

The concert concluded with a well-loved KC tradition - the presentation of the well-wishes board to our graduating cohort. The board represents the junior's prayers, and encouragement to their beloved sisters who would be taking their N and O-level examinations shortly. We wish all our students hope and perseverance in Term 4 as we spur each other on towards love and goodness.

In the afternoon, the KC staff gathered at the Civil Service Club Changi, Rose Bowl for a memorable Teachers' Day lunch. It commenced with the Principal's opening address and prayer to thank the KC staff, followed by a sumptuous lunch buffet. After lunch, the KC staff was treated to a game of bowling.

Endless cheers, laughter, and sounds of falling pins soon filled the entire bowling alley. The KC staff had a whale of time interacting with one another as well as aiming to get a strike in the bowling games. Those who have not bowled for a long time managed to rekindle their passion for the sport and those who were new to bowling also had a joyful time learning from others. Indeed, everyone had a splendid afternoon of fun and laughter.

8. Executive, Admin and Support Staff (EASS) Day

The Executive, Admin and Support Staff (EASS) Day 2017 was held on 31 August with the objectives of promoting teamwork while learning a skill. The team learnt how to bake swiss rolls and cookies in the school's Food and Consumer Education laboratories.

To promote volunteerism and to understand the operation of voluntary welfare organisations, the team proceeded to Jamiyah Foodbank Warehouse after lunch. The team was given a brief on the work of Jamiyah Foodbank Warehouse and the community that it served. After the briefing, the team assisted the organisation to sort and organise food items for distribution to the beneficiaries. It was a well-spent day for our executive, admin and support staff.



9. Fukuoka Exchange Programme 2017

From 31 August to 6 September, nine students from secondary two and two teachers embarked on an exchange programme with Fukuoka Futaba School, our sister IJ school in Japan. The objectives of the exchange programme were to enable academic, cultural and bilingual exchange with our IJ sisters and to promote international friendship and understanding.

On arrival in Fukuoka, the students embarked on an enriching learning journey to Fukuoka's water desalination plant where they learnt how the Japanese used reverse osmosis processes to desalinate sea water into drinkable water. The next destination was the Fukuoka Tower where students enjoyed the panoramic view of Fukuoka town from the height of 234 metres! At the Robot Square, students were awed by the interesting technology and entertained by a robot samurai performing martial arts. A short bus ride away from the robot centre was the Fukuoka Disaster Prevention Centre. Due to Japan's occasional natural disasters, citizens are educated on what to do during a natural disaster. Our students experienced a simulation of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake as well as the strong winds of a typhoon. They also experienced a simulation of an emergency evacuation exercise and learnt how to extinguish a fire successfully. The last stop for the day was Dazaifu Shrine which is elegantly beautiful with an amazing infrastructure and populated with many quaint shops selling snacks and souvenirs.

The rest of the week was spent in Fukuoka Futaba School where students were immersed in classroom learning from 8.30am to 4.30pm on weekdays and 8.30am to 1.00pm on a Saturday. The students had the opportunity to experience a typical school day in a Japanese education system, learning new things like Japanese language, calligraphy, art, cookery lessons and experiencing the rigorous PE lessons. Apart from experiencing what it was like to study in a Japanese school, the girls also looked forward to staying with their buddies and learning the Japanese culture whilst living with their host families. Some had the opportunity to learn how to wear a Yukata, a Japanese traditional costume, from their host families.

Each day was filled with new experiences where our girls witnessed how Futaba students learn in class and saw the pride their students took in maintaining a clean school environment. All students took responsibility at the end of each school day to clean their classrooms and parts of the school area, including their huge sick bay, the toilets and staircases along the school. Aside from that, our students were impressed with the reverence in prayer displayed by the Futaba students before the start of each school day and how all would participate in saying the prayer 'Our Father' every morning and at the end of each day.

On the last day at Fukuoka Futaba School, our students gave a presentation about school life in Katong Convent and introduced the different culture and food in Singapore. They ended the presentation with a resounding singing of the KC school song and likewise, Fukuoka Futaba School also sang their school song in turn. One cannot help but feel the sense of connection between the two schools which share the same school motto and the vision of our same founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre.

With so much that was gleaned from this exchange programme, our students were reluctant to leave Fukuoka. It was an emotional farewell at the airport on the day of departure, where all our students and their host families and buddies promised to maintain this friendship. Our students have grown and learnt much through this exchange programme and interacting with people from a different culture. It has certainly been an invaluable learning opportunity for both our students and teachers.



10. Semester 2 Assembly Programme

Our assembly programme in semester 2 continues to offer our students a holistic learning experience in the following domains: Communicative, Performing and Visual Arts, Citizenship and Character Education and Educational and Career Guidance. We had 2 assembly talks, one on SGSecure and the other on sexuality education. Katong Convent also brought 2 performances to our girls, one a forum theatre piece, titled, "Living in Terror, Must We?" and the other, a music performance by 'Falling Feathers'. Students underwent two final sessions of reflection in semester 2, focussing on the habits and behaviours they plan to cultivate to achieve their goals. The Student Leaders' Investiture was also carried out to officiate the commissioning of the new batch of student leaders leading KC for the remaining of the year and into 2018.

11. Environment Matters

Our students have displayed their care for our environment this year, as in previous years. They work enthusiastically to do their bit by recycling paper and plastic waste, and bringing them down for weighing weekly as part of the year-long recycling competition. In the same way, in the Class Ambience competition, students have been assessed on the conduciveness of their classroom environment including cleanliness and energy conservation. Top winning classes were rewarded with gift vouchers which they could use for class celebration and bonding.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. The Lee Kuan Yew Award for Outstanding Normal Course Students (LKY-ONC Award)

Katong Convent is very happy to share that Atiqa Mashhood Dar (Sec 5/1) of the 2016 graduating cohort was a proud recipient of the LKY-ONC Award in recognition of her outstanding GCE 'O' level examination results. Atiqa's drive and abilities demonstrated in both her academic and non-academic pursuits saw her contributing to her track and field team and the wider community in various outreach programme during her years in Katong Convent. Congratulations, Atiqa! We wish her all the best for her future endeavours as she continues to develop her potential to the fullest.

2. The Goh Chok Tong NextGen Outstanding Student Leader Award

The Goh Chok Tong NextGen Outstanding Student Leader Award aims to recognise and promote leadership and community service among youths, beyond academic performance. The award was first launched in 2010 and is administered by the Marine Parade Leadership Foundation. We are pleased to announce that Yuen Ziqing Shanais (Sec 4/3), Ariken Isabel Clare (Sec 4/3) and Nurul Iffah Bte Mohd Arifin (Sec 4/3) have been awarded the Goh Chok Tong NextGen Outstanding Student Leader Award 2017 for their contributions in service to the school and community. On behalf of the school, we congratulate them on their well-deserved win.

3. 29th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games

Christie Chue from Sec 5/1 has once again done KC, and Singapore proud, by clinching the gold medal in the 4 X 200m women's freestyle relay in the recently concluded SEA Games 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her team not only bagged the gold medal; they also broke the games record with a stunning time of 8:10:41s, more than 5.7 seconds ahead of the closest competitor.

Good job, Christie and team!



4. Singapore Mathematical Olympiads (SMO) Competition 2017

This year, 20 secondary two students underwent a series of training sessions from July 2016 to May 2017 and they participated in the competition held on 30 May 2017.

The SMO competition is a prestigious annual affair pitched at a very high level. We are pleased to congratulate the following students for their very deserving achievement: Felicity Lim (Lin Lehuan) of Sec 2/3 and Shannon Siew-Tong Odermatt of Sec 2/5 for their Bronze Award and Chng Jing Xuan, Celeste of Sec 2/6 and Dutta Sania of Sec 2/5 for the Honourable Mention.

Well done! The girls had certainly gained a valuable experience and broadened their appreciation of Mathematics.

5. St. Margaret's Secondary School Ladies Debate League

On two consecutive Saturdays on 29 July and 5 August, KC Debate debuted our secondary one and two debaters to participate in the **inaugural St. Margaret's Secondary School Ladies Debate League**. This competition was held in honour of their school's 175th anniversary.

The unique feature of the tournament was that it featured only female debaters and was aimed at raising awareness, deepening discussion and fostering understanding of women's issues in Singapore and in the larger world.

KC's young team of five debaters comprised of Lauryn Foo En Qi (Sec 2/3), Cheryl Chua Xin Miao (Sec 2/5), Queeshia Fenella Mateo Pascual (Sec 2/5), Keris Lim Zhuo Yan (Sec 1/6) and Phoebe Tan Sze Tong (Sec 1/3). They represent the next wave of debaters being put through the paces for the coming years of the highly competitive debating scene in Singapore.

Our team was subject to three rounds of debates, consisting of 1 prepared and 2 unseen motions. The team had only one hour between each of the latter 2 rounds to prepare their case arguments against their competitors and to win over the adjudicators. It was an intense period of crafting and delivering compelling arguments under intense time pressure.

We are happy to report that not only did we manage to enter the final round, our young KC debaters emerged overall champion for the competition. On their journey, they had come head to head with Ngee Ann Secondary, Tanjong Katong Girls', Cedar Girls' and finally St. Anthony's Canossian School in the final showdown. Our young team showed great tenacity and spirit to successfully debate their way to the top spot. We are extremely proud of their achievements.

6. Hwa Chong Invitational 2017

KC Debate was invited to participate in the above for the first time this year. This is a platform for selected debating clubs in schools to further refine their craft in the competitive debating scene in Singapore.

Held over two Saturdays on 5 and 12 August, the unique format of this debate allowed competing teams to select their preferred motion to debate on out of a choice of three possible motions. Within broad themes centred around 'The Human Condition', debaters pored over motions ranging from whether women should serve in the military to whether international aid should be tied to proselytizing. It was a good opportunity for our girls to think about a range over issues that they may not have otherwise thought about.



KC Debate competed in the Silver Division with debaters Christine Ong (Sec 3/5), Cheryl Arun (Sec 3/4) and Lydia Lee (Sec 3/3). Shadowing their seniors were secondary one debaters Nethelyn Yang (Sec 1/3) and Faith Khoo (Sec 1/3). KC faced off against debaters from our division as well as more experienced teams - Kent Ridge Secondary, Raffles Girls School, Anglican High School and in the finals, St. Joseph Institution International.

KC Debate emerged as runners-up in our first appearance at the 2017 edition of the Hwa Chong Invitational 2017. We would like to congratulate the team for their fine showing in what has been a hectic but satisfying year for the club.

7. Infant Jesus Youth Mission (IJYM) Inter-School Presentation 2017

The annual IJYM Inter-School Presentation 2017 was hosted at Katong Convent on 23 August. Each year, IJYM groups of every CHIJ secondary school gather to share best practices, CCA journeys and experiences during their service to the community.

The theme of this year's presentation was 'Walking with Others'. Showcasing testimonials shared by students serving different needs of the community, we were enriched by the vast experiences and lessons learnt from our sisters of the other schools. In addition to showing a commendable level of hospitality, our girls also exhibited enthusiasm and creativity through the use of videos and handmade posters, which summarised the key events organised and memories gained from their interaction with the elderly of communities such as Goodlife Centre.

A colourful gallery of posters and 3D displays was also set up, to encourage conversation among the students and to appreciate their effort made throughout the year. In acknowledgement of their determination and drive to reach out and empathise with the less fortunate, our girls achieved the Accomplishment Award for their effort.

Congratulations to the KC IJYM Team!

8. Girl Guides East Division Day

On 26 August, the Girl Guides participated in the annual East Division Day held at Loyang Secondary School. Guides from schools in the East Division came together to compete and showcase their talents and skills through various competitions. Our Guides took part in all 7 competitions and also used the platform to share their potato-cut printing skill. They had spent the month of August preparing for this event, having gone through several rounds of feedback from the teachers and seniors. We are pleased to share that we have four winning teams. The Performance and Snack Making teams came in first runner-up while the Fashion Parade and Mini Gadget teams clinched the merit awards.

In addition, the KC Girl Guides was also presented the Puan Noor Aishah Gold Award for work done in 2016. The Puan Noor Aishah award is a prestigious award presented to Brownie and Guide companies that have fulfilled the criteria set by Girl Guides Singapore. To win this award, Guides or Brownies have to participate actively in the unit, divisional and HQ activities, serve the community wholeheartedly, and be self-directed when it comes to levelling up their skills and proficiencies; Guiders, who are the teachers-in-charge of the company, have to organise the activities for the weekly meetings, and on top of that, be active contributors in divisional and HQ meetings and activities. This affirmation will serve as motivation for us to continue to strive for excellence in all our endeavours.



9. Yellowren 2017 Canvas Art Competition

On 26 August, six teams made up of our secondary two 2 and three students competed with 98 other teams in the Yellowren Canvas Art competition held at Lower Seletar Reservoir Park. The competition was part of the Yellowren Arts Festival which endeavoured to bring transformation to communities through the spaces of music, film and visual art. Based on this year's theme "Love the World", it hoped to inspire youths to love their community and the world.

Having prepared their intended compositions a week earlier in school, our students left for the competing grounds in high spirits. They spent more than three gruelling hours fervently painting under the sweltering sun. Their perseverance and efforts at creative problem solving bore fruit and one of the teams won an Honourable Mention. The members of the team were Arnaz Freddy Bavaadam, Grace Yong Yu Hui, Jeanette Hui Zi Ning, Sarah Zafirah Bte Noor Ashikin, and Tanisha Hiranand Chainani from Sec 2/4.

At the event, not only did the students spend time painting to realize their ideas, they also watched other students compete in a contemporary dance competition. Soaked in the artistic atmosphere, the students were treated to a medley of songs sung by local youth bands, delicious gourmet food and gelato from the food trucks, and some even had a go at the hands-on activities such as making a light catcher, paper marbling, and porcelain art.

10. Floorball

In Term 3, KC Floorball participated in the National Inter-school Floorball Championship and achieved top 6 in Singapore. The team was exemplary in their commitment to bring honour and glory to the school. Choung A Yeun from Sec 2/2 stood out for her outstanding sportsmanship and was awarded the Sportsmanship Award for always putting the team before self. She always seeks to improve herself and takes responsibility for team outcomes while exhibiting the value of respect for both her opponents and teammates. Many congratulations to A Yeun for winning this award!

11. The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

Earlier this year, the secondary three students were encouraged to participate in The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition. This is a prestigious writing competition that receives entries from all Commonwealth countries and territories. The theme for this year was **A Commonwealth for Peace**; it gave our students a platform to critically examine peace, a contemporary topic, at every level: from the personal to the political. Prior to their submissions in April, they had worked with their teachers for feedback and guidance. Despite being the youngest in the senior category, they have shown maturity in their thought and writing and have done themselves and the school proud.

The Bronze Award winners from Sec 3/6 were Ashley Huan May An, Cheryl Angelique Seow, Cristie Sim Yen Yee, Lim Qian Ru Olivia, Liu Shutong and Tammie Koh Sze Hui while Eelyn Yap Teng Ying, Liao Xuan Xuan Valerie and Mabel Yeong Jun Ning also from Sec 3/6 were the Silver Award winners. Congratulations!

12. National Air Race Competition

During the September holidays, Christabelle Teo, Olivia Lim, and Liu Shutong from Sec 3/6 participated in the 2017 National Air Race Competition, a computer-based flight simulation competition, at Hwa Chong Institution. The girls had to come up with detailed flight plans and pilot a simulated aircraft to a number of destinations. The girls put up a commendable performance and had the best flight plans. The team clinched the bronze award in the girl's category. Well-done!





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FAMILY matters!

Parent As Coach the Solutions Focused Way (Building Confident & Resilient Children/Teens)

Synopsis:

This inspiring workshop introduces the concept of Parent as Coach, the solutions focused way. It equips parents with skill sets for building confident and resilient children/teens.

This solution focused approach in parenting is based on the notion that children have an innate desire and wish to learn, develop skills and be successful. Parents can make a difference in a child's life and have a positive influence on his or her future.

We need to create an environment, atmosphere and positive relationships between the parent and the child that are conducive to accomplishing their goals. This special relationship between children and their parents is crucial to learning and contributes to a child's motivation.

The most important element is the parent's view of a child. When a parent believes the child has an innate desire to learn, he/she is likely to talk to a child differently.

PARENT AS COACH
Empower More, Worry Less

Change your teenagers by changing your perception of them and empowering them to be resourcefull and confident people!

About the Trainer:
Edwin Choy (MSc) is the founding director of Centre for Fathering. Trained as a Solution Focused Therapist (CSFT), Edwin has delivered impactful parenting and work-life programmes to thousands and has been on radio numerous times.
Email: edwin@resourcefull.sg **facebook** : www.facebook.com/resourcefull

Parent as Coach : Part 1 (7th October 2017, Sat) 9am – 12pm

1. Research on Strong Families by Dr Nick Stinnet
 - Understanding the kind and quality of families that raises well-adjusted teenagers.
2. Problem Focus & Solution Focused Parenting Approaches
 - Parents are often frustrated when they use the same unhelpful approach to parenting their children. This seminar helps parents look for solutions in the problem rather than focus on problems.
3. Three Basic Assumptions on Solution Focused Parenting
 - Basic tenets of SF coaching that made it effective in the context of therapy and coaching
4. Celebrating What Our Children Have Done Well
 - The power of Compliments
 - Noticing success and progress



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FAMILYmatters!

Parent as Coach : Part 2 (13th October 2017, Fri) 6pm -9pm

1. Understanding Motivations : Helping People Change
2. Practical Coaching Skills based on SURF model by Dr Peter Szabo
3. Solution Focused Conversations : Increasing A child's confidence
4. Closing Ceremony

About The Trainer – Edwin Choy

Edwin is a certified Solution Focused Therapist. He is also an approved Solution Focused Brief Therapy supervisor with the Canadian Council of Professional Certification (CCPC).

In 1999, Edwin gathered two other friends and co-founded Centre for Fathering to inspire dads to be more involved with their children. Centre for Fathering won the Outstanding New Initiative Award given by National Volunteer Centre.

Edwin has developed and conducted numerous solution focused coaching/counselling workshops for teachers, parents and civil servants. He has conducted numerous Parent As Coach training for schools which he has created and for which he has received excellent reviews. He has also conducted a number of Coaching training for teachers, including team coaching and workshops on how to motivate students. Edwin also supervises SF trainee therapists including some from MOE.

Edwin has delivered 2 workshops for Excel Fest organised by MOE and the latest is this year on the topic of Coaching Confident and Resilient Teens.

Some of his clients included NIE, SIM, SMU, SUTD, Temasek Poly, Ngee Ann Poly, RGS, RI, SCGS, Fairfield Methodist Sec and Taylor's Education Group (KL) and numerous secondary and primary schools in Singapore.

***Date: 7th October 2017, Sat (9am -12pm)**
and
13th October 2017, Fri (6pm -9pm)
**Need to attend both sessions*

Venue: CHIJ Katong Convent

Fees: Free!

Light refreshments will be served

*If you are interested in registering, please email glenn.familymatters@gmail.com. Please include your name, contact number, child's name and class. **For logistic purposes, kindly register by 25th Sept 2017.** Thank you! **Please note that in the event that this workshop is under-subscribed it may be postponed.** Thank you.*