



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

Tel: 6448 6433 Fax: 6449 4405

www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg



PARENT LINK : APRIL 2018

6 April 2018

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 opening of our new campus at Marine Terrace 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.

We began Term 2 on an anticipatory note with all hands on deck to prepare for our official opening by Mr Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister, Advisor to Marine Parade GRC Grassroots Organisations on 24 March. 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 Founder's Day Celebrations on 25 May and more details will be provided nearer the date.

Meet-the-Parents Session (MTPS)

This year's MTPS was conducted on 9 and 10 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!

Official Opening Ceremony

In 1988, then first Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Goh Chok Tong opened CHIJ Katong Convent when she moved from Martia Road to Marine Terrace. On 24 March 2018, 30 years later, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong graced us with his presence yet again as he opened the new campus at Marine Terrace. It was a time to rekindle old memories and all the heritage and tradition that makes KC who she is, even while we celebrated the successes of our



students in the showcasing of our Communicative, Performing, and Visual Arts (CPVA) edge as well as the achievements of our 2017 graduates.

The arrival of our Guest of Honour ESM Goh held echoes of 1988, as our two uniformed groups, the Girl Guides and the National Civil Defence Cadet Corp, formed the guard of honour welcoming him to KC. This year however, there was a rousing fanfare by our concert band to add ceremony to the day's events.

The concert band's presence is evidence of KC's continual dedication to cultivating the CPVA talents of our girls. Indeed, the presentation of "Acension" an installation piece constructed with the wooden architectural trellis details from the old school building by artist Adeleine Daysor, class of 1998, showed how our girls truly bloom where they are planted. "Acension" captured the journey of the KC girl over three structural pieces that progress in height, suggesting growth, metamorphoses and succession.

Yet to blossom, a plant requires deep roots, and these were commemorated in the official opening of our Heritage Gallery by the Katong Convent School Alumnae Association. It was a mini homecoming for the invited guests and alumni who delighted in seeing how far they have come together as they viewed photographs of old classrooms and teachers, and inspiring letters by our founders.

The blooming of the KC girl was further celebrated in the hall segment of our Official Opening. Bookended by the vibrant talents of our modern dance girls and choir, the Official Opening was made all the sweeter with the recognition of the successes of our 2017 graduates who journeyed with the school in the move out of Marine Terrace to the holding site at Geylang Bahru Lane before returning to Marine Terrace last year. Parents, teachers, and our 2018 graduands in the audience applauded till hands were sore, cheering proudly for all the award recipients. The six special awardees of the five annual school awards (sponsored by the Katong Convent School Alumnae Association) and the Sister Deirdre O'Loan award (sponsored by the IJ Board) truly captured the essence of blooming where one is planted: a refrain that was echoed in the valedictorian speech of Sister Deirdre O'Loan award recipient, Shanais Yuen Ziqing (class 403, 2017) which moved the audience with its truth and gratitude.

After this celebration, guests were invited to view how KC grows the KC girl in her artistic strengths in a CPVA tour. ESM Goh kick-started the tour by opening the newly built Arts Alcove in the library which showcases KC's arts education over the years. Following that, guests were invited to view a radical relook of Shakespeare's most romantic scene: Romeo and Juliet's balcony rendezvous done the KC way by our Dramatic Arts Society. The tour ended in the library, where guests indulged in a luncheon while viewing the art display by our Enhanced Art Programme students and reading the poetry placemats written by the Upper Secondary writing group.

The two commemorative items of our Official Opening: the token of appreciation to ESM Goh of a gift box, and the poetry photobook were testament to how KC plants a harvest of girls to serve the community with their gifts. The gift box incorporated our IJ mission as well as the lattice woodwork, an element of KC's architecture since her days in Martia Road. It was conceptualised by the class of 2017 as part of an authentic Mathematics assessment task. Similarly, the poetry photobook was synthesised photographs of our past and present, with the dynamic poetry and imaginings of future possibilities for KC by our students.

To bloom where one is planted, a gardener must have the critical eye to spy what a little seedling possesses, so that she can nurture the plant with trellises of support, the fertiliser of love, and water it with prayers. Yet, the gardener cannot do it alone, and the KC village is a family of gardeners who see the strengths and gifts of the girls and grow them into contributing women of grace and distinction for the nation.



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. Student Leadership Training

Term 1 saw the selection and welcome of our new Class and CCA leaders into the student leadership fraternity. A series of leadership training workshops were organised to equip them with the values, knowledge and skills needed to excel at their appointments on 12 February and 13 March. Organised by the Student Leadership Committee together with representatives from our Student Leadership Board, the programme saw our student leaders engaged in heartfelt discussions about their roles as leaders and the exploration of practical solutions to the challenges they may face as leaders.

They were also trained in the areas of communication, active listening and relationship management. Indeed, these are skills that will position them well in fostering a positive and caring environment in the classroom and in their CCA. The training sessions culminated in the student leaders being 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. We wish them a meaningful journey of learning and growth as student leaders in KC!

2. SGSecure at CHIJ (Katong) Primary and CHIJ KC

In line with SGSecure, a national movement to sensitise, train, and mobilise citizens to prevent and respond to terror attacks, 15 NCDCC cadets and 8 Girl Guides set up four learning booths at CHIJ (Katong) Primary and KC on 28 February and 7 March respectively. The students set up 4 stations, aptly named 'CPR 101', 'First Aid 101', 'Stay Alert' and 'Stay United', to impart basic first aid and CPR knowledge, as well as raise awareness of the need for community vigilance and cohesion. The enthusiasm and excitement of our younger sisters at KCP and fellow KC students created an extremely vibrant and lively learning atmosphere. Many of them keenly participated in the activities and games, learning more about how they could contribute to the country's defence against potential terror attacks.

This was indeed a meaningful experience for our NCDCC cadets and Girl Guides. Our girls were able to impart their knowledge and guide the younger girls and their peers with compassion and love, while strengthening their knowledge on emergency preparedness and first aid. We are certain that everyone will continue to do their part to keep Singapore safe and secure, and defend our home.



3. Enhanced Art Programme – EAP March Workshop (Classical Animation)

31 Secondary Three Express and Normal Academic Art students participated in two sets of art workshops in March. The first workshop titled “Sketching Dangerously” was led by Mr Paul Wang, a professional urban sketcher who is a member of an international network of artists who draw the cities where they live in and travel to. In the one and a half day sketching workshop on 1 and 3 March, students explored sketching as spontaneous play-making, acquired skills in making quick and expressive sketches, explored the use of unconventional tools to innovate and create new ideas, and more importantly, learnt to improvise by turning “accidents” into opportunities. The workshop provided the students with an opportunity to carefully observe and sketch not only their school campus but also the immediate Marine Terrace neighbourhood.

In the second workshop held on 12 and 13 March, they were further involved in a set of community art projects. The in-house workshop was specially designed as a collaborative platform for our students to work together with their peers, to develop their community and leadership capabilities. Besides participating in games such as a photo marathon, students took inspiration from artists such as Liu Kang, Gustav Klimt, Wu Guanzhong, Vincent van Gogh, and Bart van der Leck in their design and painting of five swings in school. In their groups, they also planned and proposed art workshops that would interest and enrich their KC student community. These activities would be led by them during the post-exam Arts Immersion Programme to be held at the end of each semester.

From the two sets of art workshops held in March, our students learnt to work on projects that positively contribute to their community, be it as a careful observer, helping to create a conducive learning environment or organizing workshops to teach others a skill.

4. Sec 1 Connect Camp

Our annual camp for Secondary One Catholic students was held on 12 March. It was both enjoyable and meaningful for the Sec 1s and our Catholic Support Leaders (CSLs) who conducted and facilitated the camp. This camp reaches out to Catholic Sec 1 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.

There was a balance of activities to draw students closer to each other and also to draw them closer to God. Students got to know their seniors better at this camp when they saw a different side of them and a God-inspired “can-do” spirit that they demonstrated. At the same time, the Secondary 1s experienced the value of team-work, looking out for each other and reflecting on their relationship with God. The students worked as a team and showed their perseverance to overcome difficulties they in order to complete a “mission”. Our CSLs took up the challenge in leading the Sec 1 Catholics in very creative ways that proved beneficial for both their juniors and themselves as they rose to take on different tasks.

The camp ended on a meaningful note where seniors and Sec 1s showed appreciation for each other and it is the school’s hope that the Sec 1s of this year will continue to serve the school as CSLs themselves next year as they give their hearts and hands in the service of God.

5. National Library Talk

Four of our Secondary 2 students participated in the National Library (NL) Prove It! Contest, alongside 39 other schools, on 12 March. This inter-school competition challenges students’ information and research skills, with its focus on online falsehoods and misinformation. Participants had to attend a compulsory talk on information literacy, following which they had to complete an online paper during the Preliminary Round. Our students took away with them the



importance of checking the credibility of sources or news that they read daily, and a better understanding of fake news.

6. Secondary Two Shakespeare Workshop – Macbeth

Reading Shakespeare has always been a tradition in KC as an introduction to drama and plays in the study of literature. He is one of the greatest playwrights of all time; a brilliant mind behind some of the most charming characters, daring romances and heart-wrenching tragedies. As Shakespearean English can appear daunting and unfamiliar, the Secondary Twos attended a workshop on their literature text for the year – the intriguing and gripping Macbeth. The workshop was designed to provide a gateway to the tragic world of Macbeth and the beauty of Shakespeare's language through an afternoon of dramatic activities as a prelude to the study of the text.

Over the course of an afternoon, students were introduced to the well-loved play through a programme aimed at motivating them to enjoy their literature text. They were delightfully spooked by scenes of horror acted out by the Secondary 3 Drama Elective Programme students, and the opening scene was met with much excitement as the play was brought to life.

Devised and run by the Literature teachers themselves, the workshop aimed not only to give students an overview of the characters, themes, and the plot of the play, but also to show them how relatable and fun Shakespeare can be.

Through the introduction of the key characters and immersion to the language of Shakespeare with games and drama activities, as well as short interactive lectures and deliberative group work, students explored the larger themes of the play. Students were also given opportunities to get to know the characters better by engaging in role play, learning lines from the play, as they engaged in close reading of key moments from the text.

More importantly, the workshop strove to enthuse students about the text and invite them to feel for the characters. All in all, it was an enjoyable afternoon for both teachers and students, and a good preparation for the students' endeavour in the literary analysis of Shakespeare!

7. Literary Talk

In the third instalment of the KC library talks and workshops series, KC alumni, poet, and Youth Poet Ambassador, Pooja Nansi returned to present a performance poetry showcase where she engaged the audience to consider what lies between the lines of poetry as well as what exists beyond the page. Entitled *Beyond Page: Place, Perspective and Poetry*, Pooja shared stories of her family's migration to Singapore, accompanying her tales with traditional songs played on her guitar. At once heart wrenching and tender, while peppered with pockets of humour, Pooja interrogated what it means to belong and what constitutes home: does it exist in place, or memory, and how does it shape the identity of the individual? Pooja shared black and white photographs of her family as she traced her family's journey from India to Singapore and the resemblance she bore of the people in the photographs captured how much of identity lies in heritage.

It was an afternoon that engendered deep reflection, and whether you were a member of the Arts and Culture Programme or a literature student studying *Here and Beyond*, you nonetheless left the library, carrying with you a thread of story that tied you to who you are.

8. Limelight Concert by the Choir

After a long six years, KC Choir was back on the stage of the Esplanade Concert Hall for her second Limelight Concert on 2 April. The eighty-strong choir, together with our KC Choir Alumnae,



opened the concert with *Sanakam*, a Latvian folksong (meaning 'Let's Gather'). Helmed and mentored by conductor Mr Terrence Toh, the choir gathered to present other pieces such as *Northern Lights*, *The Seal Lullaby*, *If Music be the Food of Love* among others. Our student clarinetist and student violinist were also showcased in *She Weeps Over Ragoon* and *The Snow* respectively. Some other songs from the repertoire that enthralled the audience included *For Good* and *Defying Gravity*, two tracks from the popular musical *Wicked*. The night at the Esplanade ended with the choir's mellifluous voices belting out *It's a Grand Night for Singing* which both the choir and the audience could not have agreed more!

9. Easter Tuesday Assembly

Easter was celebrated during the morning assembly in the school hall with a para-liturgical celebration. For the second year in succession, 3 students from the Catholic Spirituality Team, re-enacted the story of the Empty Tomb (Mark 16 :1-7). The students were Alexia Ariola of Sec 2/1, Joan Ng of Sec 2/2 and Isabel Cordeiro of Sec 2/3. The students' re-enactment brought a deeper understanding of the role of women in society and being witnesses of good news. During the prayers of the faithful, a student representing each level, said a prayer for her level, lighting a candle simultaneously. The Music Ministry team provided lovely hymns to add to the occasion.

Our students then proceeded to their classrooms to further celebrate the festivities through the 'Angel & Mortal' game. As in previous years, each student was called to be a secret "angel" to another in the class. The "angels" then revealed themselves to their chosen mortals through the exchange of gifts, such as candies and simple letters of encouragement to affirm their friendships. This year, our staff too participated in the Angel and Mortal game, where each staff member became an angel to a "mortal".

In the closing prayer, we were all reminded, to continue to be an angel to someone every day and to bring hope to the hopeless and a voice to the voiceless.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. International Biomedical Quiz

On 14 February, a group of upper secondary Biology students participated in the 7th International Biomedical Quiz hosted by Anglo-Chinese Junior College. The theme was "Geriatric Medicine", and our students sat through the gruelling individual quiz of a 2-hour long written paper. Our students also had the opportunity to witness a live oral quiz among the top 3 pre-university institutions, which had distinguished medical professionals as the panel judges. The questions comprised topics on physiology of ageing, aspects of geriatric care, and pathological conditions associated with ageing.

CHIJ Katong Convent is proud to have 10 special award recipients. They are:

Certificate of Merit: Riya Maria Philip Sec 3/4

Honourable Mention: Ishana Prakash Sec 3/6 and Katelyn Choo Ru Ern Sec 3/6

Bronze Medal: Koh Hui Xi Charmaine Sec 4/5, Laverne Ang Shi Min Sec 3/6, Lavonne Low Yen Qing Sec 3/5, Panneer Subashree Sec 3/6 and Rebekah Tan Kar Lin Sec 3/5

Silver Medal: Kristine Oh Mei Qing Sec 4/6

Gold Medal: Katie Lin Amberg Sec 3/5

Congratulations and we look forward to supporting their interests in the field of Science.



2. ASEAN Quiz

3 girls represented the school in the 8th ASEAN Quiz (National Level Competition) organised by the National Institute of Education, and presented by the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore. This competition for students aged 15 to 18 years old, tested their understanding of the region's political, economic, cultural, social developments and ASEAN's initiatives. A total of 64 teams took part in this competition.

There were two segments in the qualifying round

- a) individual written test and;
- b) group written test.

The top 20 teams from the qualifying round advanced to the semi-finals before the top 3 teams then advanced to the grand finals.

Despite KC's inaugural participation in this competition, our team comprising Sarah Tan Weyin (Sec 4/5), Eleya Yap Teng Ying (Sec 4/6) and Valerie Liao Xuan Xuan (Sec 4/6) made it to the grand finals and came in 3rd in this competition. It was a remarkable achievement for the team and the members truly deserved our commendation for their commitment in the course of preparing for this competition. Well-done girls!

3. NUS Geography Challenge

The theme for this year's challenge, Securing Singapore – Managing our Threats and Opportunities, saw the girls participating in two rounds which challenged them cognitively and creatively.

The preliminary round required students to answer geography-related questions on a range of topics where most of the content tested went beyond what they had learnt in school. The girls spent many hours preparing for the session, by staying back after school and attempting some of the past year's questions. As a result of their hard work, they emerged as one of the top 50 schools in Singapore for the individual component, and top 5 schools in the Application Question component. Two of our students – Kek Shi Min Emmelyn, from Sec 4/6, and Low Yan Qi Rachel, from Sec 4/4, won the Bronze award for their efforts in the preliminary round.

Getting into the top 50 position meant that the team qualified for the next round, which required them to produce a photo essay on the topic "Securing our Social and Cultural Heritage" where they explored the significance of the place to Singaporeans, the threats faced and the possible opportunities for conservation of the place. All these required them to employ the appropriate fieldwork methods they have learnt in class, and conduct a research on the chosen place. The team decided to conduct their research on Kusu Island.

As semi-finalists, the team also had to participate in a Geo-Trail, an Amazing Race-type of competition which required them to travel all around Singapore using the traditional street directory and bus guide. They braved the wet and windy weather together to complete tasks and questions at the stations. Through the Geo-trail, they learned to think beyond the classroom and appreciate the application of Geography to everyday life.

The school is proud of the achievements of the team and even though they did not emerge as one of the overall top teams, the learning and insights that they had gained through this experience is invaluable.



4. Unit Overall Performance Award (UOPA) 2017

The NCDCC UOPA is an annual evaluation of the overall performance of the school unit and active involvement of both cadets and teacher officers conducted by HQ NCDCC.

NCDCC is pleased to share that we have obtained a Bronze for UOPA. This award affirms the achievements and efforts made by our cadets in 2017.

Our alumnae, Nur Syafiqah Bte Shahrin, CCA leader of 2013/2014 and current Senior Cadet Lieutenant, was selected to attend and represent NCDCC and Singapore in the DIDI Engage: Challenging Dangerous Online Narratives forum. This is a forum organised by the Australian government for youths from Australia and ASEAN countries. Along with three other representatives from Singapore, Syafiqah shared how youths can help to challenge dangerous online narratives in their communities, which is in line with the country's SGSecure movement.

5. Wee Kim Wee Challenge

On 24 March, the following Girl Guides participated in the Preliminary Round of the Wee Kim Wee Challenge, a biennial competition that challenged them to exercise creative and critical thinking skills:

Team 1: Shannon Siew-Tong Odermatt (Sec 3/5), R Vesallachi (Sec 3/5), Shay Tang Zhuo Min (Sec 3/5), Teh Jing Yi Racheal (Sec 3/4), Amelia Gay Min (Sec 3/3), Keisha Ann Timir (Sec 3/4) (Reserve and Photographer) and Chua Yi Xuan Rachael (Sec 2/3) (Reserve).

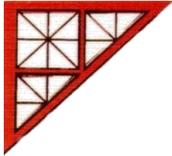
The challenge provided the Guides the opportunity to showcase their culinary skills and present their dishes with journalistic creativity. Specifically, the teams had to prepare two dishes within one hour and forty-five minutes. The girls were challenged to pair a local dish with an international dish from countries in Africa or Europe. They were required to also relate the significance of their dishes to the World Thinking Day 2018 theme: "Connect, Grow and Impact". Their chee chang yuan and Moroccan chicken stew with butternut squash and couscous highlighted how Girl Guides has provided them with meaningful opportunities to learn from the culture and heritage of people across the world.

Our team competed with other schools from the East Division, and we are extremely happy to announce that our team came in second. The girls did us proud with their beautifully plated delectable delights, and their confident presentation. They will compete in the finals which will be held in late May. We wish them all the best. May they continue to grow in strength as they strive for excellence.

6. Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Song Writing Contest.

We are pleased to announce that Isabelle Wong of Sec 1/2 was selected as one of the top 16 finalists of the 2018 Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Song Writing Contest. Besides a Commendation plaque and vouchers, Isabelle would also have the opportunity to receive mentoring sessions conducted by music industry professionals and perform at the National Library on Sunday, 8 July. Congratulations, Isabelle!





CHIJKATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

email : ptsg.kc@gmail.com

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



OUR GIRLS, OUR FUTURE

CHIJKATONG CONVENT PARENT- TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

Keeping in Touch - PTSG WhatsApp Groups

The PTSG chairpersons and level representatives keep in touch with parents through WhatsApp. If you would like to join the PTSG WhatsApp class or activity groups, please send a message to the chairpersons so they can add you to the respective chat groups.

Contact Details

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

Chairpersons		Teachers	
Christine	97527974	Ms Cheryl Anne Lim	64486433 ext 132
Rowena	82684712	lim_su_ying_cheryl@moe.edu.sg	
Nalla	98188495	Mr Luke Ezekiel	64486433 ext 143
		luke_saidil_ezekiel@moe.edu.sg	





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FAMILYmatters!

Stress Alert: Helping your Child Cope with Stress

Most parents naturally want their child to do well in school - to be happy, to learn and to thrive. While some children thrive in school, some others get very stressed out, especially in a competitive school environment. This stress may be from the people, school, home, or it may be from the child himself/ herself.

Stress can affect the child's mental, emotional and academic well-being. As parents, it is important to know how to help our child cope with stress, including exam stress.

Come learn some practical tips in this informative and interactive parenting talk.



Venue: CHIJ Katong Convent

Date: 5th May 2018, Sat Time: 9am – 12pm

Fees: Free!

Light refreshments will be served

Speaker's Profile – Dr Agnes Tan

Agnes trained as a medical doctor in London, England and has worked there as well as in Singapore. She gave up her medical practice to pursue mission work for over a decade.

Agnes currently works as a Trainer, Counsellor and Family Life Educator – she holds a Master of Social Science in Professional Counselling, and a Graduate Certificate in Parent Education Leadership Training, both from Swinburne University, Australia. She is a Registered Counsellor with Singapore Association for Counselling.

She is also a certified trainer for Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme), “Good Enough Parenting”, “I Choose Us” marriage programmes and many others. She has over 20 years of experience and is a sought-after speaker in schools and organisations.

Agnes is happily married to Steven for over 24 years. They work closely as a couple and are passionate about building strong and resilient families. They have a son and a daughter, both in tertiary studies.

*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 21st April 2018. Thank you! Please note that in the event that this workshop is under-subscribed it may be postponed. Thank you.***