



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

PARENT LINK : TERM 4 2022

23 November 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians

All too soon we have come to the end of the year. This is our last issue of Parent Link for 2022. As the year draws to a close, we look back to celebrate our successes, review our programmes and plan ahead for 2023. We thank God for His special blessings on CHIJ Katong Convent this year and pray for His continued grace.

In this Term 4 issue, we have featured events chronologically from late August to mid-November to give you a sense of what students continued to experience in school. Our students had an exciting term participating in enrichment activities, learning journeys maximizing their potential and serving the community. We also closed the academic term strongly with a Thanksgiving Mass as one big KC Family. Students and teachers continued to be back in school in the next 3 weeks to prepare for our inaugural Open House-cum-Homecoming on 19 November. It was a most joyful day welcoming potential Sec 1 students and their parents while catching up with our ex-students!

My Story 2022 Mandarin Public Speaking Competition

To promote Mandarin in a fun way through this public speaking competition and provide keen learners with an interactive platform to showcase their presentation and communication skills in Mandarin, 10 Sec 2 and 3 students took part in the My Story 2022 Mandarin Public Speaking Competition 《我的故事 2022 华语演说比赛》 in August this year. This competition was jointly organized by the Speak Mandarin Campaign and NoonTalk Media Agency.

In this competition, participants had to make use of the given words and creatively tell a story within 60 secs. In each round, there were interactive platforms to showcase participants' presentation and communication skills in Mandarin. After 3 exciting rounds, we are pleased to share that Wu Zi Yan from class 3/5 came in Top 8 and Liu Yi Nuo from class 3/4 emerged as the overall Champion! Both walked away with attractive prizes comprising PUMA product vouchers, POP MART products and LiHO Tea vouchers.

The school would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Er Jia Yu, Zoe (2/3), Elva Ko (2/3), Yuan Yi Jia (2/3), Wong Po-Zee (2/3), Azalea Cheong Cheng Ning (2/4), Sasha Yeo Si Yu (2/4), Hui Yi Lin (2/4) and Rachael Lim Xuan Ni (3/6) for their active participation. We hope that this will motivate all students to continue to learn and speak their Mother Tongue Languages with confidence in their daily lives!

Infant Jesus Youth Mission (IJYM)

IJYM participated in the IJYM inter-school meet at CHIJ Toa Payoh on 31 August with our sister schools for the first time since the pandemic 2 years ago. Each school was evaluated on a set of criteria from student's reflection and participation to the scope and quality of opportunities offered to IJYM students in accordance to the annual theme laid down by the organising committee.

KC IJYM team presented our activities from 2021 to 2022 and we included a video-montage and a 3D diorama representation of our activities. We are pleased to inform that KC IJYM has been awarded a Distinction Award for this event.

Sec 3 Service Learning

After a 2-year hiatus, Sec 3 students were able to carry out their Service Learning (SL) projects this year. Each class was attached to a beneficiary that serves the elderly and they had to plan and organise activities during their visits to the beneficiaries. It was heartwarming to see the students interacting and entertaining the elderly with games, dance and sing-along sessions. The students also taught them to make simple crafts and origami. As commented by a student, Chervonne Ong of Sec 3/3:

“At the end of the day, we made good memories for the elderly and us as well. I enjoyed that day and hope to do more of this in the future!”

In all, the SL projects achieved its objective, which is to develop in students the traits of compassionate servant leaders, as they were given the opportunity to demonstrate values of compassion, empathy, love, tolerance and respect. It is with such positivity that KC hopes to leave a significant impact on the community that we serve.

Facilitation Skills Training

Each year, the school conducts Focused Group Discussions (FGD) with student representatives of every class to listen to student voice relating to their overall school experience. Traditionally, these discussions were led by teachers. This year, we piloted an initiative to empower student leaders to become the facilitators. On 9 and 16 September, Sec 2 class leaders (Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and Peer Support Leaders) were trained to facilitate a FGD discussion, to harness constructive feedback in partnership with the school to improve school experience for all KC students. Selected class leaders then facilitated the Sec 2 FGD held after the End-of-Year examinations. Feedback suggested that this went down well with both the facilitators and participants.

Chinese Orchestra Mid-Autumn Festival Performance

On 10 September, our Chinese Orchestra girls performed for the Mid-Autumn Festival 2022 held at Telok Kurau Park. Jointly organised by Telok Kurau North and Telok Kurau East Coast RN, the evening began with an introduction of our Chinese Orchestra Club by the emcees, Karyn Wong (Love 97.2FM) and Andre Hoeden (Kiss 92FM). Under the skilful direction of our conductor, Mr Guo Changsuo, the Chinese Orchestra performed three lively tunes - Xi Yi Ge (洗衣歌), The Moon

Represents My Heart (月亮代表我的心) and Libertango, to the delight of the spectators gathered in front of the stage. Our girls delivered a passionate rendition for each piece, displaying their skill in and mastery of their instruments and bringing forth a distinctive sound to captivate the audience. This testified to the many hours of hard work and commitment they put into practising each piece. It was certainly a wonderful way to begin the evening with great cheer and we hope everyone enjoyed the Mid-Autumn celebration.

Cyber Wellness Ambassadors' Programme

Our selected students completed their Cyber Wellness Ambassadors' Programme to become the bridge between their peers and teachers and an agent in promoting cyber wellness values on 13 September.

The programme provided our ambassadors the awareness of cyber wellness knowledge, values and the latest Internet risks and threats from the ever-changing Internet landscape. They are now equipped to take effective actions in protecting themselves and their community, change attitudes towards undesirable behaviour on the Internet and handle possible cyber wellness issues and concerns through positive strategies. Our ambassadors will be a positive influence on their peers, contributing actively to promoting cyber wellness to the school community.

At the end of the training programme, each ambassador designed a cyber wellness awareness poster to consolidate what they had learned. Do keep a look out for these posters in school.

KC Awards Day

The annual KC Awards Day was held on 27 September to recognise the non-academic achievements of our students. The awards presented were the

- 1) National Colours Award (Individual and Team)
- 2) School Colours Award (Individual and Team)
- 3) Outstanding Contributions to CCA Award
- 4) Sports Girl of the Year Award
- 5) SHINE Award
- 6) School Values Award

It was heartening to be able to celebrate KC Awards Day 2022 with all the students and staff in the school hall after two years of virtual celebration. A total of 147 award recipients from Sec 1 to Sec 5 received their awards during the ceremony. We are very proud of the hard work and exemplary conduct shown by these recipients. Our heartiest congratulations to all the awardees!

Experience ITE Programme

As part of KC's Education and Career Guidance (ECG) programme, our Sec 3N girls attended the Experience ITE Programme (EIP) at ITE College East (CE) which opens its doors to some 3,000 Secondary 2 and 3 Normal Stream students every year.

The 1-day programme for Sec 3 students introduces them to the skills training available at the College. Students were guided to complete hands-on projects offered by the 4 academic schools. Apart from giving the visiting students exposure to the different training skills and helping them understand how the various disciplines are interconnected in the working world, each student was also be involved in an exciting and competitive multi-disciplinary project. Visiting students received an introduction to ITE and the courses available. They went on a campus tour to familiarise themselves with CE's teaching and recreational facilities, as well as to provide them with a glimpse of ITE students at work and play.

Our students were impressed with the dedicated facilities and equipment in the different schools like the human-response mannequin at the School of Applied and Health Sciences where Nursing students learn skills needed in healthcare settings. They enjoyed the long lunch break where they could choose from a wide range of cuisines and explore the premises. After lunch, they participated in the multi-disciplinary projects. These pulled together concepts from Business and Services, Electronics and Info-Comm Technology, Engineering, and Applied and Health Sciences schools. In competitive teams, our students completed projects which they then showcased to one another. The students benefitted from the exposure and hands-on activities at ITE.

This day away from school for ECG activities after the end-of-year exams was their first visit to a post-secondary educational institution. The students are encouraged to visit the various Open Houses organised by the polytechnics and junior colleges around the time of the release of the O-level results in January 2023 to further their awareness of various post-secondary pathways.

Concert Band Performance at Deepavali Istana Open House

The KC Concert Band was invited to perform at the Deepavali Istana Open House on 24 October. The band performed a selection of works which included popular tunes such as Ode to Joy and Für Elise to an enthusiastic crowd. After the performance, the young musicians were given a guided tour to the Main Building by the Aide-de-Camp where they had the opportunity to visit selected function rooms and view the collection of state gifts as well as room set-ups for state events. It was another enriching experience for the KC Band.

KC – Fukuoka Futaba Exchange Programme (online)

On October 25, nine students from Sec 1 to 3 participated in an online exchange programme with our sister IJ school in Japan, Fukuoka Futaba. The programme is an annual effort between CHIJ Katong Convent and Fukuoka Futaba in Fukuoka, Japan. The objectives of the programme are to:

- promote cultural exchange between participating schools;
- provide opportunities for students to broaden their perspectives, learn social and language skills, and cultivate respect for differences in culture; and
- promote international friendship and understanding.

Due to Covid-19, the exchange programme has moved to a virtual platform since 2021. Through their hard work in preparing for and participating in the online exchange, students honed their teamwork and Japanese language skills, learnt more about Japanese culture and made new friends from Fukuoka Futaba!

Thanksgiving and End-of-Year Mass

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Indeed, there was much to be thankful for, especially the many gifts and blessings we have received this year. To commemorate the end of the academic year, we gathered as a school community in a thanksgiving Mass, which was celebrated by Father Adrian Yeo, parish priest of the Church of The Holy Family.

The readings were from 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-17 and John 15:1-2, 4-12. Father Adrian in his homily, reminded us how we need to be grateful for the help from many people in our lives that got us through the school year. He stressed that it was not just our efforts alone but also the effort of our teachers, parents and friends who love us. Father Adrian also highlighted how in many periods of our lives we get help too from people in our community whom we do not know, to grow to be better persons. Father explained that the source of all these help comes from God who loves us and it is out of his goodness, kindness and merciful love that we become a better version of ourselves. He referred to the gospel reading from John, that we are the branches attached to God who is the vine and we cannot live apart from Him.

The school community then prayed for our staff and students, as well as all the other schools in Singapore, that they continue to grow not just as institutions, but as communities with a genuine sense of love, care, and respect. The choir led by Mrs Helen Lie then sang the offertory hymn, “By the Waking of Our Hearts”, beautifully, passionately and in harmony.

At the end of the Mass, Father Adrian then invited those present to stand and lift their hands in prayer for our Principal, Mrs Hilda Thong. It was a moving prayer asking God to comfort, guide, protect and surround her with God’s peace. We wish Mrs Thong well and thank her for the extraordinary love and commitment she had given in her short stay at Katong Convent.

24-Hour Playwriting Competition

On the blazing morning of Saturday 16 July, the Sec 3 and 4 DEP students and their drama teachers, trooped down to Magorium, a deep-tech start-up with a solution to the world’s plastic waste problem – transforming plastic waste and giving them a new life, one spent outside of oceans or incinerators, as NEWBitumen. It was T:Works’ annual 24 Hour Playwriting Competition and the girls and teachers were excited to explore the space and apply their playwriting skills.

Though in hybrid form this year, in classic competition tradition, the themed element was revealed on the day of the competition, and various stimuli were provided throughout the 24 hours, all which the participants needed to incorporate into their script!

Even though the students and teachers were all working separately in the comfort of their own homes, ideas and support flew across cyberspace through WhatsApp and Zoom conferences into the wee hours of the morning as the students tackled the theme of environmental conservation and the four tricky stimuli.

Sunday 17 July saw exhausted but exhilarated DEP students submitting their scripts before debriefing over Happy Meals at Kallang McDonalds.

After many months of anxious waiting, the results of the competition were released on 29 October with Aisha Zafirah of Sec 4/4 winning third place in the youth category and Ms Yin Mei Lenden placing second in the open category. Truly, the KC Drama Department showed how they bloom where they are planted, shining with their God-given talents.

Open Mic

With the many opportunities to host school events such as National Day and Graduation Lunch, our students applied their knowledge of planning speeches and speaking off the cuff, and worked in teams as student emcees to rally the school together. This has formed a close-knit public speaking student community that has passion for public speaking. During a day camp in November, they put together ideas to advocate public speaking and came up with practical tips for students who might be speaking in front of a crowd for the first time. They are raring to mentor new public speakers and take part in oratorical competitions in 2023!

Book Club

In Term 4, we had two final sessions of the Book Club 2022. Our students worked with NLB and gained insights about reading as they worked on growing their love for books. They were encouraged to reflect on what they read to lead them to become effective readers and were made more aware of the different genres of books.

The students had borrowed a book of their choice from the school library and in the last session, they used Canva to create book reviews which they proudly displayed in the school library to encourage others to read.

Writing a book review is a chance for our girls to examine literature and process it in a more complex way rather than simply following the story and understanding its plot. It also helps them be more curious about well-known literature so that they want to find out more for themselves and persuade their peers to be interested in what they are reading.

All the students were proud of their work and happy to be part of the Book Club this year!

I-LEAP

How does art look when it meets the design-thinking process? Our Sec 3 Enhanced Arts Programme (EAP) students made the discovery themselves when they engaged in this year's Incubation-Lab Enhanced Art Programme (I-LEAP).

The I-LEAP is a signature EAP event that provides authentic and applied learning opportunities for the students in the nine EAP schools. During this four-day event, students had the opportunity to interact and learn from art industry practitioners as well as peers from the other EAP schools.

Working closely with Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Design & Media this year, the programme exposed students to further education and potential career pathways in the creative art industries with workshops consisting of 2D animation, fashion design for statement pieces and other arts forms. Students worked in tandem with artist mentors and the result of four days of

creative work was captured in an exhibition that included the students' artistic process and learning.

Articulation Prize Singapore

Appreciation, Research and Presentation, these are the three key processes that five of our Arts and Culture Advocates and Enhanced Art Programme students learned as they participated in the Discovery Days Workshop as part of Articulation Prize Singapore.

Articulation Prize Singapore competition is jointly organised by the National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum in conjunction with the National Gallery, London. Designed to promote an appreciation and discussion of art among youth, it seeks to develop students' ability and confidence to express their thoughts and opinions on current affairs that matter to them.

The two and a half day workshop helped students develop a keen understanding of, and better engagement with art. Through interactions with curators and visiting the museum's current exhibitions and permanent collections, students engaged in research and group discussions. Articulation Prize Singapore was a chance for our students to display the three processes and the fruits of their discovery.

At Your Brightest – Graduation Lunch

On 15 November, the Class of 2022 was treated to a Grad Lunch that was specially planned with them in mind. Having gone through ups and downs together, the girls have emerged stronger and have grown closer in their classes and as a cohort. Grad Lunch gave them the opportunity to get together and reconnect after the national exams. It was a wonderful time to reminisce and create new memories with the live band performance, photo booth, class videos and speeches, fun Class Awards and the scavenger hunt! Along with the warm messages from the teachers, they received a beautiful pouch, a KC bear and thoughtful gifts from the PTSG.

'At Your Brightest' encapsulates the teachers' dreams for the girls. As many have expressed in their well wishes, they would like them to go forth and achieve success, and be stars in various ways, shining at their brightest!

We wish the Class of 2022 all the best!

Open House-cum-Homecoming

KC opened her doors from 10 am to 1 pm to the KC family, past, present and future, on Saturday, 19 November, with a successful physical Open House. The KC family of students and staff came together to share our story of "A Caring School that Excels" as well as showcased our KC Graduate who is an effective communicator, compassionate servant-leader, innovative problem solver and discerning citizen of the world.

Primary school students and their families were led on an interactive school tour by confident student leaders, who shared their stories of their second home through the various places where the KC magic happens. The visitors were impressed with the students' broad smiles and love for the school.

All over the school, impassioned sharing of our academic Instructional Programme, CCAs, signature programme of Communicative, Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA) and showcase of Performing Arts, sporting matches and Arts and Culture were fronted by enthusiastic KC students, supported by the staff.

It was a beautiful reunion of KC students past and present, coming together to share our story with our potential future generation of KC girls. When the gates to the school finally closed for the school year, it was evident that everyone left the school with the firm conviction of a day well spent making connections and building bonds to grow our KC family.

In CHIJ Katong Convent, we are continuously looking for and providing opportunities for our girls to have a rich and fulfilling school experience that will enable the girls to grow holistically to meet the challenges of tomorrow. It has been a fulfilling term of growth for the KC family and we welcome parents and guardians to continue to help source for or provide experiential opportunities for our students.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely



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Principal

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