

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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President's Message

By Chew Siew Kheng

As we entered into 2020, we give thanks to and praise God for His many blessings on the St. Margaret's family in 2019. Both SMPS and SMSS continue to do very well academically and for the various CCA and sports. By the grace of God, SMPS also had a smooth relocation to their holding site at Mattar Road as the school undergoes a 2 year PERI upgrading at Wilkie Road.

In mid-December, we also saw Mdm Lee Lin Yee, Principal of SMSS for 5 years, leave for MOE and Ms Linda Lim, former Vice Principal, being promoted to Principal. We thank Mdm Lee Lin Yee for her support towards SMESA and wish her well in her new assignment. We look forward to working closely with Ms Linda Lim.

In the midst of all these excitements and the start of the new school year with many activities planned for Term 1, there was a sudden outbreak of COVID-19 around Chinese New Year. Schools have been very much impacted as Principals and staff have to work very quickly to put in place precautionary measures to protect the staff and students. When DORSCON turned orange, suddenly, no congregation of more than 50 students is allowed, morning assemblies were stopped and recess has to be staggered. Adjustments to CCA and sporting activities have to be made too. It is definitely not an easy time for the schools. Let us remember them in our prayers.

While the Singapore government tries her best to control the outbreak, we still live in much fear each day especially when we hear how the virus is spreading in countries near and far. We try to follow the news closely each day with the hope that the number infected will decline and more and more will recover. While we have read many devastating cases, we have also heard many testimonies from China and Singapore on how they overcome their fear and find hope in their afflictions. All over the world, people are crying out desperately for prayers and churches around the world have united themselves in prayers. We too should earnestly join in these prayers and ask God to have mercy on all of us and for the afflicted as the Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him and to the ones who earnestly seek Him. We are called to be humble in our ways, to pray and seek His face and to turn from our wicked ways. He will hear our cry for help. Remember God is our refuge and fortress. Do not fear, continue to live our lives normally and put our faith and trust completely in God who is faithful. In our daily lives, do remember to practice good hygiene at all times and take all necessary precautions.

Due to COVID-19, SMESA also has decided to postpone the AGM from 28th March to 18th April. Do mark your calendar to join us as we share with you our blessings and the work we do in SMESA.

May God bless us with His Grace and Mercy and grant us His perfect peace throughout 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMESA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 18 April 2020 at SMSS
IT Conference Room from 2-4pm

SMPS Charity Golf

(School Building Fund Raising)

Wednesday, 29 April 2020 at Tanah
Merah Country Club from 1.00pm
(shotgun start at 1.30pm)

SMESA Legal Awareness Project

(Talk on 'PDPA')

Saturday, 23 May 2020 at SMSS
The Learning Lab from 2-4pm

SMSS Graduates 2010

(10-Year Reunion Hi-Tea)

Saturday, 27 June 2020
(Details to be advised)

SMESA visit to St. Andrew's

Cathedral Home for the Aged

(Outreach/Chaplaincy Programme)

(There is no visit details until further
notice)

For enquiries to the above events,
Please e-mail us at smesa.sg@gmail.com

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SMSS Students' Journey (Class of 2020)Sarika Giri
Class : S1-6

On my first day in SMSS, I was extremely scared as I was not used to seeing so many unfamiliar faces. Surprisingly, I managed to make a new friend at the end of my first day at SMSS. I also really missed my primary school teachers; after all, I spent six years there. But once I met and talked to my secondary school teachers, I realised that they were very nice. I found out that my new school can really be fun.

In particular, the Secondary One Camp was amazing! I realised that 'change' can be good sometimes. I made lots of friends during the camp.

I really enjoy being in SMSS as there are many new things that I can discover and I have made some great friends along the way. I am happy with my class as my classmates are the sweetest people ever. I learned that growing up is a part of life and SMSS is a wonderful place to allow me to explore many opportunities!

It has been almost two months since I started Secondary One and my journey at SMSS so far has been amazing!

At the start of the year, I participated in the Secondary One Orientation Programme. I must say I already missed it! I had a lot of fun during the orientation sessions and it was all thanks to our Sec 3 and 4 seniors who were capable facilitators of the programme.

I made many new friends and have adapted extremely well to my new school. The teachers at SMSS do their best to make learning as conducive as possible, despite having to deal with the extra precautions taken to manage the spread of COVID-19. It makes me feel safe every day as I study and communicate with my friends in school.

I love SMSS! And just to add : my class is just AMAZING!

Zahra Faseehah
Class : S1-4

My journey at SMSS so far has been truly enjoyable. I made a lot of new friends and would like to put the values of 'patience', 'charity' and 'devotion' into practice. I find that St. Margaret's Secondary School is an ideal place for me to turn my experiences into valuable memories.

I would like to challenge myself and set new goals for my Co-curricular Activity (CCA), Netball. This would be the first time that I am playing Netball. I hope to be a team player in my CCA and forge strong ties with the other teammates.

Kelly Koh
Class : S1-7



Message from SMSS new Principal Ms Linda Lim

Dear friends at St. Margaret's Ex-Students Association,

I joined SMSS as Vice-Principal in 2017 and I was honoured to participate in the year-long celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the oldest girls' school in the Far East. I was also privileged to have worked closely with Ms Lee Soo Kwan and SMESA on the Gala Anniversary Dinner. That year, I experienced first-hand the passion and commitment of SMESA in working with the school to celebrate God's blessings on an established institution with a long history.

When Ms Chew Siew Keng asked me to pen an article for the SMESA newsletter as the new Principal of SMSS, I was humbled as it reminded me that I had taken on the leadership of a school that has such a rich heritage. I remember sharing at Daily Devotion two years ago on 'Gratitude and Giving Back'. I had asked the girls to reflect on these questions on SMESA: "Why would a group of people be so committed to their alma mater? Why are they giving freely of their time, energy and resources to a school that they graduated from years ago?" It was quite clear to me that this group of selfless individuals from SMESA serve and give back because they are responding to the exhortation in Luke 12:48: 'From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.' I remember urging the girls to reflect on their blessings, to be thankful as students and to think of how they can emulate SMESA to give back to the school, to impact the next generation of St. Margaret's girls just as they 'reap what (you) have sown'.

I am grateful to God for assuring me of His presence and help when I was appointed the Principal of SMSS in December 2019. It is a blessing to have taken over the helm from a God-fearing Principal, Mdm Lee Lin Yee, whom I had worked with for four years. Mdm Lee would often exhort the girls to remember that it is not enough to do well. St. Margaret's must remember to 'Do Good'. Her axiom resonates with staff, the students and me. We would want to continue to heed that call as we march into the new decade. I am also grateful to be supported by Vice-Principals, Ms Susan Toh and Ms Chrystine Woon, who work tirelessly for the school. In addition, I cannot ask for better staff who more often than not put the school before themselves.

At the beginning of the year, I shared with the staff and students the need for us to re-dedicate and re-commit ourselves to our SMSS Vision, 'A Community of Learners Growing and Glowing for God'. It is indeed timely that we look at the vision in these tumultuous days and more so because of COVID-19. We will have to band together as 'one family unbroken' to learn, to grow and to glow for God.

The school is blessed to be supported by the chaplaincy team of St. John's Chapel and SMESA as we strive to keep our school safe for the girls in our charge. We trust that God is watching over us. The crisis has presented SMSS with the opportunity to rise to the challenge, to be the salt and light to the community around us. To that end, we will continue to strive and work.

PERI-Upgrading at SMPS
(Support Our PUP)



Join us and shape their future!

St Margaret's School
Fund Raising
GOLF 2020

Tampines Course, Tanah Merah Country Club



APRIL 29, WED | **1.30PM SHOTGUN START**
includes lunch, dinner, goodie bag, attractive hole-in-one prize, tournament prizes and lucky draw!

GOLD \$15,000 (2 Flights)
Gold sponsor gets two complimentary flights, corporate logo acknowledgement, 1 unit of A Board display on course as well as token of appreciation presented over dinner.

SILVER \$6,000 (1 Flight)
Silver sponsor gets one complimentary flight & corporate logo acknowledgement.

All monetary contribution qualify for 2.5 times tax-exemption
We welcome all forms of donation for this event.

CALL US TO REGISTER TODAY!
Email: yingyin@innogolf.com.sg / Hotline: +65 6342 9282

We look forward to your support and would like to appeal to you to donate* generously to the building fund to "Support Our PUP". Your donation will go a long way to benefit future generations of SMPS students.

(* Cheque can be made payable to 'St Margaret's Primary School' or you can contact SMPS General Office at 6339-4247 for assistance)

Dinner with New Principals and Vice Principals

By Juliana Tenggara

It is a tradition for the SMESA Board Members to engage newly appointed principal or vice-principal of St. Margaret's Primary/Secondary. In committing itself to strengthen relations between the School and SMESA, it is hoped that the holistic development of the students can be continually and meaningfully supported.

On 18 January 2020, our Board Members enjoyed fellowship (and Lo Hei) at a dinner held at Singapore Island Country Club with newly appointed SMSS Principal, Ms Linda Lim, as well as the Vice-Principals, Ms Susan Toh and Ms Chrystine Woon. We are grateful to them for making time to get together and understand our work. We look forward to working with Ms Linda Lim more closely.

In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to out-going Principal, Mdm Lee Lin Yee, who was able to join us that evening. Her youthfulness and infectious laughs will be missed, and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



SMESA Board Members' Lunch

By Lina Wee

The SMESA Board gathered for its monthly meeting on 15 February 2020. After the meeting, we adjourned to for lunch to foster camaraderie. The birthdays of Board members who were born in February were celebrated with a hearty rendition of the birthday song and topped off with a delectable Chendol cake, specially ordered for the occasion. With sumptuous food, good company and exuberant mood, we shared much laughter and had a great time together.



SMESA Members' Tea Party - (Mary Kay Make-up Workshop)

By Susan Wijaya

Our annual member's tea this year was on 11 January 2020. SMESA invited Mary Kay's beauty consultant to conduct a Korean make up workshop for the members.

It was a hands on workshop. The instructor, Yvonne started by educating us the importance of skincare routine for day and night. She showed us the correct method to cleanse and moisturise our face. Everyone in the class was asked to remove our makeup and cleanse our face to get ready for the makeup.

She brought along a model for demonstration to show us the technique to apply colours to our face. After her demonstration, members were asked to follow her steps to apply makeup on our own faces.

After the session, members had tea and light snacks before taking a group photo after the beautiful makeover.





SMESA Job-Shadowing & Work Attachment 2019

– (continued at page 8)

By Lee Soo Kwan

We continued with our Job-Shadowing and Work Attachment Programme in 2019 during the June and November/December School holidays for our girls in St. Margaret's Secondary School. This meaningful Programme provides our girls with real life working experience, gaining first hand insights into life in the working world. The Programme helps to give the girls a more holistic education.

We have been blessed with many partners who have faithfully supported our Programme for several years and in 2019, four new partners joined the Programme. The activities of our partners are diverse - from architectural to research work, from workers' union to family work, from legal to humanitarian work, from clinics to music school. A big 'Thank You!' to all our partners and their staff for guiding and mentoring our girls during their attachments, in the midst of their busy work schedules. Without their support, it would not have been possible for us to continue this meaningful Programme for our girls.

The girls have given us positive and encouraging feedback on their attachments. Many felt they have learnt new skills and gained useful insights into the real working world. They have learnt to be patient, adaptable to changing situations, to speak up. Others have learnt the need for good time management, taking pride and ownership in their work. Here are some of the things the girls had to say about their attachments :

I enjoyed attending the collective agreement meetings and learnt what a collective agreement is from the discussions between the Industrial Relations Officer and the Company's Human Resource Officer.

I was able to sit through a meeting that was almost 3 hours without falling off to sleep!

We had the opportunity to visit areas that were being developed. We also learnt about the process architects have to think through when designing a project and that architects have to be sensitive to the changing needs of society.

I enjoyed going to court, learning about the different courts and their functions, and the qualities of a good lawyer. I enjoyed seeing how lawyers fight for their clients.

I gained insights into financial procedures and learnt the importance of proper handling of invoices and receipts.

We at SMESA continue to look for more partners for our Job-Shadowing and Work Attachment Programme for our girls. Please do contact us if you are able to host our girls in your work place or know of someone who is willing to do so. Help us to help our girls.

The following pictures show our girls in the work places of some of our partners during 2019.

SMESA Job-Shadowing & Work Attachment 2019

— (continued from page 7)



Archideas Design



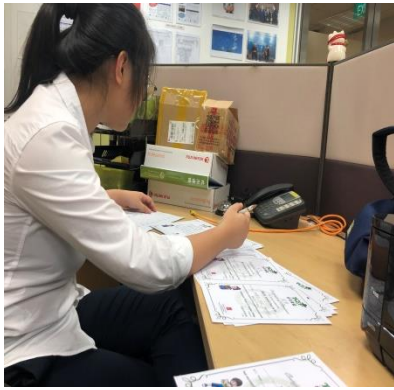
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Focus on the Family