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Student Council Commendation

By Mazumdar Siddharth (19S04)



The Commendation Ceremony of the 42nd Student Council took place on 21 May 2019

That very morning, we straightened our uniforms and donned our blazers, mentally rehearsing our steps and reminding ourselves of the order of the ceremony—what would become a momentous event in our lives.

A whole host of intense activities culminated to this very moment. While the process itself was not long, it was gruelling in many ways, spanning selection interviews, campaigning, Student Council elections, the Student Leadership Residential Programme (SLRP), and the countless rehearsals for the Commendation Ceremony.

The journey thus far brought feelings of both joy and anticipation, mirroring the

emotions we felt as we made our way down the aisle of St Andrew's Cathedral. As the organist started playing, we walked synchronously, singing the Processional Hymn. The familiar faces of our friends, teachers and parents filled us with encouragement, while each physical step we took concretised the purpose of our collective journey – one of service to the larger student community.

The highlight of the service was being called by the Bishop of Singapore, The Right Reverend Rennis Ponniah, who presented us with our Councillor badges and officially commended us as the new student leaders of the College. We said the Student Councillor's Prayer and marched out of the Cathedral triumphantly singing the Recessional Hymn. We were warmly

surrounded by our friends, teachers and parents with whom we posed for photographs, forming memories that would last for a lifetime.

Following the ceremony, our seniors personally pinned our badges on for us—a final step in cementing our role as Student Councillors. It was a highly symbolic moment of passing the torch on, entrusting us with the solemn responsibility to lead the College to greater heights.

The commendation ceremony, while over, was in fact a new beginning, a new chapter of our lives as we endeavour to serve our fellow Saints with purpose and conviction.



ChrySALis

By Shannon Soh (18S28),
Chairperson of 6th ChrySALis Student EXCO

This year, the 6th ChrySALis Summit saw over 350 participants, from the youngest in primary schools to the most senior at the junior college level, gathering at St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) from 6th to 8th June 2019.

The Summit covered a wide range of interesting programmes conceptualised by the ChrySALis EXCO to achieve our leadership objectives of 'incubating' and growing servant leaders. Providing the resources to nurture servant leaders would pave the way for future Community Builders, one of the four distinctive Qualities of a Saint.

The Summit's signature community engagement project, ComPASSIONity, saw participants giving back to the Potong Pasir community via a series of leadership and public speaking skills workshops facilitated by student leaders and invited speakers. The team-building sessions also provided student leaders from more than 10 different schools, the opportunity to network and forge lasting friendships.

The highlight of the Summit was witnessing participants who were guided by their team leaders, undergo personal 'transformations' evident in their various contributions and depth of insights. Seeing participants step out of

their comfort zones and applying what they have learnt, particularly through ComPASSIONity, was a glimpse of how every individual can be empowered to be a change agent by first learning to put the needs of others above oneself. The success of ChrySALis 2019 was attributed to tireless work of many individuals – the ChrySALis student EXCO, JC1 student leaders from the 10th Saints Advocate and the 42nd Student Council, the SAJC Photographic Society as well as the team of teachers who served as our mentors. Through the process of organising this summit, we learnt to first exemplify leadership by supporting each other's duties and adapting swiftly and cheerfully to unforeseen circumstances – leading ourselves well before leading others.

This year's ChrySALis slogan, 'Be the Change' is a memorable call we hope many generations who pass through SAJC will continue to aspire towards.





JC1 SERVICE LEARNING DAY

Broader Smiles, Brighter Lives

By Cristie Sim 19A01 and Joshua Soh (19S12)

This year's JC1 Service Learning (SL) Day 2019 was organised by our College's Service Learning Committee, in partnership with the Central Singapore Community Development Council (CDC), Kreta Ayer-Kim Seng Grassroots Office and supported by the 10th Saints Advocate (VO). SL Day created a platform for our Saints to meaningfully serve and interact with the elderly, while giving back to our community during National Day.

In the week leading up to SL Day, VO organised an 'Elderly Week' in the College highlighting the myriad of challenges faced by the elderly to raise awareness and empathy amongst our Saints. Two lunch-time concerts were also staged by the VO Vocal Task Force in conjunction with this.

On SL Day itself, the JC1 cohort was split into two groups – one helped to clean the seniors' houses through Silver Homes while the other engaged the elderly through a fun carnival through Silver Friends. Dr Lily Neo, Grassroots Advisor to Jalan Besar GRC and Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore CDC graced the occasion and heartily encouraged Saints to make the most of their community-centred endeavours, to do good for the seniors at Kreta Ayer.

Our Saints indeed rose to the challenge. At Silver Homes, Saints undertook various household chores with vigour and cheer, making units spic and span. They also befriended the seniors and listened intently to their personal stories, using various forms of dialects to engage with the elderly, bridging generational gaps to understand their daily struggles and hardships.

Saints at Silver Friends organised a fun-filled carnival at Kreta Ayer. The carnival started off with simple warm-up exercises for the elderly, followed by games such as Bingo and performances by the VO Task Force and our Saints alumni, Leonard Lim. Cheered by the light-hearted atmosphere and enthusiastic singing, many of the elderly broke into wide grins, clapping and even singing along with us!

SL Day ended with group reflections led by our SL Representatives and Unit leaders. The interaction with the elderly was invaluable, and it was most heartening to know that we could make a difference in the lives of others in big or small ways.



Hosting of JC Concert Band Exchange

By Noelyn Joy Choo Jia An (18A05) and Tan Jin Yang (18S11)



The SAJC Concert Band hosted a music exchange on 13 April 2019, a few weeks shy of the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation. Bands from Hwa Chong Institution (HCI), Temasek Junior College (TJC) and Tampines Meridian Junior College (TMJC) were invited to join us for a day of music-making here in SAJC. This was the first time the SAJC Band played host to so many schools and we were excited for the day's events.

The exchange began with each band's showcase, consisting of the set piece "Party In Space" and their respective choice piece. The band

members were all keen to listen to how each band interpreted their pieces differently. At the same time, we were also eager to demonstrate our own pieces. The showcase was a fruitful learning experience for us and we were extremely impressed by the high level of musicality and technical skills presented by each school.

After the showcase, we were split into our respective sections to play games, which allowed us to interact with band members from other schools and gain valuable insights on their unique band experiences. It was through these games that we got to know members of the respective bands personally and

fostered new friendships. We ended the day with a formal exchange of gifts and a combined photo taking session.

The exchange was an enriching learning experience for many of us who were budding musicians. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our conductor, teachers-in-charge, and the band council members for their hard work in planning and making this exchange a memorable one. It was also through these combined efforts of everyone from the SAJC Concert Band that saw us achieving the Certificate of Distinction at the SYF once again.

Up and on!





TERM 3

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION EVENTS



RACIAL HARMONY DAY

In July 2019, we held our yearly Racial Harmony Day Commemoration. This year, our JC1 students were treated to a lovely performance by the band *Nadi Singapura* as they put up a lovely percussion performance of traditional folk song and dance. As 'nadi' refers to 'pulse' or 'flow of consciousness', the band consists of an ensemble made up of young and dynamic musicians, who believe in celebrating the beauty of traditional drums and percussions. As 'kompang' and 'gendang' are some of the most common Malay drums found in Singapore, *Nadi Singapura* featured these drums in their performances in perfect rhythm and harmony, and took the students on a musical journey through the folk songs across the

world in their aptly titled programme, 'Crossings'. The students cheered and clapped along enthusiastically to rhythms as the musicians sang and danced. As a highlight of the programme, the artistes from *Nadi Singapura* enlightened our students on the cultural and historical evolution of their various instruments. 'Crossings' gave students a chance to deeply appreciate the diverse cultural threads that have become entwined to form Singapore society. It also helped them realise that our cultural diversity is valuable and worth preserving.

Our JC2 students were treated to an engaging session by an invited speaker from OnePeople.sg and participated in a Racial Harmony

Forum. The programme took off with a roaring start as students were presented with a riveting short film from Channel NewsAsia's 'Regardless of Religion' series, titled 'Islamophobia and Perceptions of Terrorism'. The thought-provoking film precipitated an animated and constructive discourse regarding race, identity and citizenship amongst the JC2 students. It was in the sharing of personal stories and encounters with racial and religious tensions that Saints were able to understand and appreciate multiple perspectives and experiences. Through such an interactive platform, our Saints had an excellent opportunity to think deeply about their own values and attitudes and be motivated to build a stronger and more inclusive Singapore.



SG PERSPECTIVES DIALOGUE

On 2 August 2019, the JC2 cohort took part in the annual SG Perspectives Dialogue session with Mr Edwin Tong, Senior Minister of State for Law and Health. In preparation for this dialogue, the students had undergone a SLEAD lesson on the challenges of fake news and other online falsehoods. This prompted the students to ask insightful questions to Mr Tong about the new Prevention of Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA). Saints also asked a diverse set of other questions as well, ranging from Sports to Singapore's position in the current USA-China trade war. Through this dialogue session, our Saints had a meaningful and interactive platform to firmly grasp the rationale behind policy decisions and the importance of adopting a firm, legal approach in dealing with challenges. The question and answer segment also afforded our Saints the opportunity to grow as Holistic Thinkers and Skilled Communicators.



NATIONAL DAY

This year, our JC2 Saints spent their National Day celebrations in a purposeful and remarkable way. To celebrate this special occasion on 8 Aug 2019, the JC2 Saints students headed out to roads and landmarks named after or associated with our forefathers to share about their 'giraffe' stories. This campaign was organised in partnership with Central Singapore Community Development Council. In commemoration of Singapore's Bicentennial, JC2 Saints were assigned a Pioneer Giraffe hero, who they researched on and brought awareness to the public on their contributions. Saints engaged ordinary Singaporeans on the streets and encouraged them to go beyond their comfort zones to make positive contributions to our society, in the same way as our forefathers. The campaign gave Saints the opportunity to serve as community builders and to make a positive impact on Singapore during National Day.



SAJC

Environment Club

Activities

By Brandon Heng Jun Han (19A03)



The St Andrew's Junior College Environment Club participated in various competitions and outreach programmes in 2019. The highlights of their contributions included spreading the message of water conservation and carrying out litter-picking events. The Club also worked hard to conduct school-based activities to advocate for the reduction of water consumption as well as the wise stewardship of water.

As part of the Environment Club's school-based advocacy, the World Water Day 2019 was held on campus to educate Saints on how to do their part in actively conserving water, be it at home or in school. As part of this advocacy, the Environment Club took the initiative to cover taps with plastic bags, sending a clear and strong message to the Saints on unnecessary water wastage and the important role every citizen can play in only using the resources that they need.

In March, the Environment Club members visited Bedok Mall where they approached strangers to spread the water conservation message. They also encouraged members of the public to pledge to save water and inspired many others to do their part in water conservation. In May, the Environment Club spearheaded a litter-picking event at Ang Mo Kio-Bishan Park. In spite of the sweltering heat, our Saints took part in the event with dedication and enthusiasm, sparing no effort in cleaning up the Park. Convinced by the harm that non-biodegradable items have on the environment, participants strengthened their commitment to lead a minimum-waste lifestyle and be responsible in their disposal of waste.

All in all, the activities that members took part in reinforced for them the importance of cherishing and protecting the environment. The Environmental Club will continue to serve the College as well as the community tirelessly through its various green efforts.





SPORTS CARNIVAL

By Ezenn Chong (19A03)



The St Andrew's Sport Carnival 2019 was a highly anticipated school-wide event put together by members of the Saints Sports Club (SSC). Their responsibilities were aplenty, ranging from the brainstorming of ideas for the design of various posters to the logistical needs for the Carnival.

The efforts of the SSC members certainly paid off as the Carnival commenced with an impressive opening. The Saints spirit was palpable as captains of the various houses - Hose, Gomes, Romanis, Loy Fatt and Venn - flew their flags high to mark the start of an exhilarating day of sporting events.

Both JC1 and JC2 classes participated enthusiastically in a host of games, including Basketball, Captain's Ball, Handball, Netball, Floorball, Football, Touch Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. Members of the SAJC teaching staff also joined in the games with the student body, raising the competitive spirit whilst strengthening the bonds between teachers and students.

One of the pivotal roles that the SSC members played was in the capacity of venue managers (VM) to the various sports games to ensure its smooth running and fair play. SSC members had to rise up to the occasion to familiarise themselves with the different game rules and this could only be done through many dry runs conducted before the event itself. The tireless rehearsals carried out by the student emcees and the meticulous packing of goodie bags beforehand also ensured the success of the Sports Carnival.

The event ended on a high note, as the councillors announced the winning classes for the respective games, and Gomes emerged the overall House Champion. In closing, Saints gathered together in arms to sing the well-loved College hymn, 'One Family Unbroken' with pride and gusto.

The Saints Sports Carnival would not have been possible without the support of the Student Council and the Parent Support Group, who went out of their way to make the event an unforgettable one for all.



Wheel, Walk or Jog + Family Carnival

ST ANDREW'S HALL

On 27 April 2019, Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA) held its 35th annual "Wheel, Walk or Jog" cum Family Carnival, at the Esplanade Park. It was officiated by Guest-of-Honour Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social & Family Development.

The Carnival was held to raise community awareness about the disabled and raise funds for HWA.

29 Saints from St Andrew's Hall volunteered enthusiastically and were tasked with a variety of responsibilities including the setting up of stalls to sell goods and food as well as the escorting of the wheelchair-bound HWA members. To understand the roles and responsibilities better, executive members of the Venn House made several recce trips to the association to learn from the organisers. Attractive and eye-catching posters were designed and produced beforehand to help in the publicity of the event.

On the day of the carnival, Saints wove their way around the carnival premises to raise awareness of the disabled and attract more customers to visit their booths. Some of the more interesting sights included Saints carrying red bean buns in baskets to sell to members of the public and even to volunteers from other stalls. This experience was enriching as Saints made the best use of their marketing skills to sell their wares while heartily promoting the worthy cause behind the event.

All in all, the event was a resounding success as every individual worked hard to achieve the goals set out for it. The essence of the event was best captured by Nguyen Pham Minh Quan, a student residing at St Andrew's Hall, who stated: 'While we were all committed to making the event a successful one, what is most important is inspiring others to live for a cause greater than ourselves and play a part in helping the often forgotten, underprivileged members of society.'





SAJC SAINTS ULTIMATE

By Loo Jayme (18A05)



The journey of the SAJC Saints Ultimate Frisbee Team has been in many ways an extraordinary one, marked by some troughs but many more high points. As a young team of 22 players, we managed to defy all odds stacked against us and clinched the 4th position in the 15th Inter-Junior College Games in 2019.

As we were a relatively new co-curricular activity (CCA), we were uncertain as to how the CCA would unfold for us, and how team dynamics would play out. The early months were challenging as we faced difficulties working together and were unable to communicate with each other well.

However, we were thrown into tournament after tournament, including the UityBeginners, UitySchool and the Rascals Development Tournament. Little did we know that through these training sessions and competitions, including our annual March Holiday camp, we would build some of the most treasured memories together.

Over time, it was encouraging to see team members forging tangible bonds with each other. From the washing of muddy cleats together and team dinners at *WhataCrab*, we formed a deep camaraderie which played an integral role in shaping us into the team that we are today.

One of the greatest highlights in our journey was the 15th Inter-Junior College Games held over the June holidays. Over the stretch of two days, we witnessed how our team was able to reach greater heights as we closed in the gaps and worked together. Amidst stiff competition from other

more experienced teams, we fought hard, encouraged each other and leaned on each other. As gratifying as it was for a new team to clinch the fourth position, the sheer resilience and team spirit exemplified by our players was worth infinitely more.

The Saints Ultimate journey would not have been possible without our coaches, teachers-in-charge and alumni members. They taught us lessons that went beyond the competition, moulding us to become better individuals on and off the field. None of our achievements could have been attained without our selfless sacrifices for the team.

Through this sport, we became each other's pillar of support, emerging not only as better individuals but also a stronger team. We did not just gain a team; we gained a family.



W R I T E R O F T H E M O N T H

By Lim Qing Ya Vera

(19S17)

Change

Elite School

Neighbourhood School

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world."

creme the la creme
Top rat, king of the hill
That's what i'm supposed to be.
Chins up, wide smiles.
Remember who you are,
Remember where you come from.

It's okay to make mistakes
To try again from scratch.
A perfect grade only comes
With sufficient practice and rest.
I shan't relent now,
I will try my best

"You will make us proud."

Success in all your endeavours
Top scores in national exams.
I need to live up to expectations
to have a future in my hands.
"We have worked hard,
You are the fruit of our labour."

It seems so unattainable
To reach such a height
But I'm not going to give up
Without a fight.
One more day, one more time,
One day closer to taking flight

I am

A girl from a prestigious school.
A student that stands out from the rest.

A girl from an average school
A nobody with a dream, but

I will make a difference.

IOTA TEACHER ADVISORS: Ms Caroline Sin & Ms Jessica Yim

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