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SAJC ORIENTATION 2015: ÆRATI

By The 37th Student Council

They sat in utter silence in the hall; a reflection of the apprehension they felt in a brand new environment. Yet beneath that apprehension was latent excitement of a new beginning and a fresh start. Looking beyond the silence, one could sense the smiles on the faces of the freshmen.

After the usual morning assembly, Kok Weijie and Amirah Zalizan, the Vice Presidents of the Student Council, took the stage, and ærati 2015 began.

ærati was the theme of the orientation this year. Loosely translated, it means 'excellence in every and any form'. It was chosen in the hope that the JCs1 would adopt a lifestyle of excellence in every facet of their College life.

Excellence was also reflected as the overall theme of the Orientation programme. All new initiates were grouped into five Orders, namely Stratecus, Azylea, Iphedius, Nevios and Telora. The programme followed this storyline...

The plot began with the Tree of Knowledge, captive to the clutches of the Evil Queen. Under siege from the Order Masters who were attempting to liberate the Tree, the Queen deceitfully gained the trust of Nevios to defend her cause. However, as the plot developed, all five Order Masters



sacrificed their lives to free the Tree, so that it would be given for all. The sacrificial act, a reflection of servant leadership, also started a new generation where the five Orders cooperated and lived in harmony with each other.

Throughout the five days, the Orientation Facilitators of each group enthusiastically infused the new fledglings into the culture of SAJC. They sang the College Song, College Hymn, Mark of A Saint and 'Shake It' while locking arms, holding hands, forming trains and shouting cheers at the top of their voices in the name of fun and games.

New friendships and bonds were forged, and from total strangers, they became part of 'One Family Unbroken'. Although ærati ended with the finale on 5 February 2015, it continues in the hearts and minds of the new Saints.



RELEASE OF THE 2014 A-LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS



The release of the 2015 A-Level results was an eventful and emotionally-charged day, to say the least. I had the privilege to sit amongst my fellow schoolmates during the whole event, enveloped by a profound sense of anticipation.

Initially, various administrative issues were announced, followed by a list of top students in the various categories, but the air remained taut with barely-suppressed tension. When the individual results were finally issued, the pent-up emotion gave vent to a mix of shouts of joy and tears of dismay. It was mildly terrifying as I was struck with the gravity of what this year would mean to me, and everything that I would have to undertake to assure myself that I would be crying for the right reasons at this exact time next year.

Overall, our school did well. There was an increase in the number of distinctions in comparison to the last year. Our passing rate (passes in three H2 subjects and GP) was 94.5% – markedly above the national average of 91.4%. The top three Arts and Science classes were, in order: 13A08, 13A07, 13A04 and 13S03, 13S14, 13S04 respectively. The top 4H2 Science classes were 13S18, 13S16, and 13S17.

That day, I had the opportunity to interview three of our Honour Roll students, Osmond Chia (13A02), Abel George (13A06), and most notably Fiona Mei Robinson (13A07), the latter with a perfect score of 90 points, ordinarily a lofty dream for the Arts students. All of them graciously took the time to answer my questions and give advice to this year's batch of A-Level students, myself included.

Question: Congratulations on your results! How did you feel when you got them? Was it expected?

Osmond: *I've somewhat expected it.*

Abel: *The Arts subjects have always been unpredictable; you can never be sure how well or how badly you do, so no, I didn't.*

Fiona: *No, I didn't really expect it.*

Question: What have you done to achieve this result?

Osmond: *CONSULT your (Literature) tutors, KEEP DOING ESSAYS, basically. I made sure that I was consistent throughout the year.*

Abel: *I made sure to learn from my mistakes and not repeat them. I'd ask my tutors for help, since the tutors would know me best, after all. I started getting a lot more serious around July and made sure to work twice as hard.*

Fiona: *I made sure that I didn't slack off too much throughout the year, and that I maintained a certain consistency for my grades. I started "mugging" around the June period.*

Question: What would you say to 2015 A-Level students?

Osmond: **STAY FOCUSED!**

Abel: *Don't let your results get you down. Also, notes are important. Make sure your notes are readily available and easy for yourself to understand.*

Fiona: *I think the most important thing is consistency. Just study and do your best!*

By Sonya Ng (14A03)

Featurette Interview with Wang Wei Ce (13S10)

The Vice President of the 37th Student Council shared that his road to academic excellence was thanks to discipline, initiative, and even more discipline. Having to juggle the heavy responsibilities that came with his leadership position along with his studies was no doubt arduous, but with a clear goal in mind, he forged through, and he stressed the need to prioritise well. He highlighted utilising every single resource to the fullest, from consultation time with teachers, past year practice papers, and even the protected time during school holidays, to catch up.

Dealing with stress was also another challenge he faced during his journey, and he shared that it was at times like these that one turns to family and friends to encourage and support each other.

As a final tip, he warmly quoted his mother, "even if you think it's too late, so long as it's not here yet, you're still early." In other words, don't give up till the end. 'Little time' is better than 'no time', he emphasised.

By Chen Le Ann (14S14)



KIWI CUP 2015

By Vickneshwaran (14S27)

The Kiwi Cup is the traditional curtain raiser to the rugby season in St Andrew's Village. The combined teams of St Andrew's Secondary School and St Andrew's Junior College have been playing this match annually against Raffles Institution (RI) from 1967 to 1978, and resuming again in 2006, after a 28-year hiatus. This match between old rivals certainly makes it a very prestigious event in the Saints sporting calendar. The 2015 game was held at RI and the pressure was on the Saints to repeat their six-game winning streak. Following the arrival of the Guest of Honour, Mrs Bernadette Cavanagh, the New Zealand High Commissioner, and the singing of the College anthems, the Saints team threw down the gauntlet by performing their version of the haka, a New Zealand war dance.

Right from kick-off, RI was pushed onto the back-foot by aggressive tackles and runs by the pumped-up Saints. Within five minutes of play, the Saints had a penalty in the RI half, which was capably converted by Vice-Captain Vivian Phillips to give the Saints a 3-0 lead. With the tide on their side, the Saints attacked hard at the RI defensive line and scored again about ten minutes later with a healthy 10-0 lead. The rest of the first half was more evenly-matched with both teams attacking and defending

impressively, leading to only three points being scored by Raffles before the break.

Just as in the first half, the Saints got the second half off to a flying start and scored another three points through Vivian, who converted another tricky penalty. However, this rallied the Raffles team further, riding on fervent home support. After several furious phases of interplay, the boys in green finally punctured the brave blue defensive line to crash over for their first try of the match with only fifteen minutes remaining. Raffles duly scored the conversion to close the gap to 13-10. This set up a nerve-wracking finale to the game with the score so even. The Saints defended brilliantly as they resisted wave after wave of the desperate Raffles onslaught, and finally were able to score another penalty in the dying minutes to secure victory for the Saints. The final whistle was greeted with rapturous cheers from the Saints team and their supporters, and it was agony again for Raffles, who had fought so hard.

The victory ceremony provided a worthy finish to the day, with both sets of players coming together for handshakes and photo-taking in the spirit of friendship and camaraderie.



FRIENDSHIP WEEK 2015

*By Justine Nieves Buenagua Hermoso
(5th Saints Advocate)*

Friendship Week 2015 (subtitled “It’s a small, small world”) was organised by the 5th Saints Advocate in collaboration with the Simei Care Centre (SCC), to unite all Saints as one family unbroken and to raise awareness of the work done by SCC.

Publicity for the events included attractive posters which were put up around the school, a dance performance, and a sharing of personal testimonies by the SCC during the JC2 Assembly programme.

There was a variety of activities that our Saints could take part in, from the unique Ball Pit, the Photo Booth where juniors and seniors captured sweet memories, to the Balloon-Sale Booth, where the Saints bought balloons for each other. Indeed, there was never a dull moment with such a line-up for the Saints to enjoy.

The merchandise booth was definitely also one of the highlights. Students and teachers not only bought the items made by members of the SCC, they also enquired about the SCC and how they could help. It was a heartwarming sight to see meaningful bonds forged between the Saints and the SCC, all in the spirit of love and care.

In addition, everyone had a chance to appreciate the SCC members’ talent and creativity through paintings displayed at the Music Café.

Friendship Week was truly a success, with a total of \$664 raised for the Simei Care Centre and \$1,022 for the future St Andrew’s Village Indoor Sports Hall. Our goals to forge better relationships among the Saints, to build a more inclusive student body and to advocate the cause for psychiatric patients at the SCC, were also met with positive response. We would like to thank our CCA teachers for their guidance and the Saints for their assistance in helping us meet our goals.

We hope that friendships will continue to bloom for the years to come, and may the Friendship Weeks down the road never cease to enkindle in us love and care for the community. It’s a small, small world after all!



TOTAL DEFENCE DAY 2015

By The Citizenship Education Committee 2015

As part of the College's continuing partnership with the Ministry of Defence, SAJC observed Total Defence Day for the second year running with the "Hoplites" of 8th Battalion, the Singapore Infantry Regiment (8 SIR). Conducted on 12 and 13 February for the JC2s and the JC1s respectively, this year's programme was a physically-orientated one, aimed at building the social and psychological aspects of Total Defence.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of 8 SIR, Major (MAJ) Herbert Ong, addressed the College, and expressed his hope that his unit's efforts would help to build a strong SAJC, a strong people and a strong Singapore. The commemorative programme was organised by 8 SIR and most energetically conducted by their personnel.

The soldiers took charge of each Civics Group and led them through a series of physical exercises commonly conducted in the military. There was also a competitive event, in which each House raced against each other to see which team could complete the most number of exercises in a given time. MAJ Ong, an Old Boy of the College, together with our Principal and Deputy Principals presented the winners with prizes donated by 8 SIR. The games on the first day ended with a surprise performance of 'Shake It'. With a squeal of delight, the JC2 Saints, recognising the familiar opening beats of the music, rose so enthusiastically to the occasion that some of the Hoplites gamely joined in and danced with the Saints. On the second day, forewarned and eager, ranks of Hoplites formed up alongside the JC1s, joined also by some JC2 students who were coincidentally in the vicinity. As a good number of the Hoplites besides their CO were Old Boys of the College, that morning of 13 February, at an event held to commemorate the bleakest day in Singapore's history, became instead a celebration of a family unbroken.



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS: HAMPER WRAPPING

By The Service Learning Committee 2015



On 18 February 2015, under the banner of the “Saints with a Heart” programme, the Saints Family displayed the College value of being a Community Builder through the JC1 and JC2 Chinese New Year Hamper Wrapping Competition. In total, 65 beautifully decorated hampers were donated to Fei Yue Community Services to help needy families.

The Saints had clearly put in much thought and effort into the design and decoration of the hampers, which were to be donated to the beneficiaries to help make a difference in their lives. Through this activity, we were reminded that although Singapore is an affluent nation, there are still ‘pocket poor’ people amongst us. We should continue to adopt an active approach to assist the underprivileged members of our community.





ODAC TRIP TO VIETNAM: “FUNSIPAN”

By Jasmine Toh (14S18)

On 24 November 2014, 14 students and 3 teachers from the Outdoor Activities Club (ODAC) set off on a seven-day trip to Vietnam. Despite months of physical training, we were still challenged to the limit by Mount Fansipan, the Roof of Indochina, which stood at a height of 3,143 metres.

The first day of the climb was very demanding. Beginning at a height of 1,800 metres, we had to reach Base Camp 2 at 2,800 metres before nightfall. We kept our eyes on

the dreary ground as we crossed slippery streams and waddled our unsteady way across muddy ground, but when we looked up, we saw the blue of the sky morphing into photo-worthy orangey-red, framed by mountain ranges. We could have spent more time enjoying the beautiful scenery if not for nightfall and the cold weather. We progressed slower than expected but continued to climb, spurred on by the desperate desire for warmth and rest at the base camp. That night, we slept deeply in our sleeping bags, as the temperature outside plunged to 5 degrees Centigrade.

The next day was even more challenging than the first. We had to use ladders and ropes as the elevation increased significantly. Finally, when we reached the peak of Mt. Fansipan, we stood tall on the highest peak in Indochina, rested our weary bodies and took in the gorgeous view. The sight was like a desktop wallpaper, only the colours were more vibrant and we were in it! The sense of accomplishment was so rewarding that we did not want to leave the peak.

Besides the climb, ODAC also participated in a Community Involvement Programme (CIP) in Tavan Village. We visited the primary and secondary schools in the village and took part in their activities, such as morning exercises and litter-picking. This short CIP allowed us to interact with the villagers and we learnt more about their way of life. Most of the students there were from the H'mong tribe, and many could not complete their education as they had to take care of their younger siblings, tend to the field or find jobs to support the family.

Looking back, within a short span of seven days, we had scaled the highest mountain in Indochina and had a better appreciation for the people in Vietnam. I hope that we will be able to overcome future challenges with the same perseverance and passion we have gained during this trip.



OCIP TRIP 1

By Eleanor Que (14A03)



"Crossing Borders, Touching Lives", is the Overseas Community Involvement Programme (OCIP) motto printed on the front of our shirts. However, prior to the trip, some doubt clouded our minds - would we live up to the big promise of making a difference to someone else's life? And, as individuals, what was our real purpose behind going on this trip?

Initially, we met with some setbacks; our schedules were constantly changed, and we were tasked to build a house and a toilet. Some of us were dismayed by the limited ability we possessed to serve the larger community there. However, we soon became motivated to serve with all our heart. Seeing the smiling children in the village and at the Hope Orphanage reminded us of our impact on them. We cooked and performed for them and these reminded us to always do small things with great love.

Through our service, we learned invaluable lessons; "my house is small, but filled with love", a truth we discovered over and over again. We were struck by the beauty of their simple lives and few possessions; they truly treasured the small joys they were endowed with.

At PSE (Pour Un Sourire d'Enfant), an organisation that seeks to alleviate poverty by teaching Cambodian students vocational skills, another heartwarming story was learnt. An aspiring waitress, who wanted to work in a hotel, shared how PSE had helped her to successfully acquire skills such as a good command of the English language and how to serve an organisation. The Cambodian people we interacted with all possessed a common spirit of passion and determination, which inspired us to re-evaluate our own individual perspectives on life.

OCIP TRIP 2

By Hannah Erh (14A02)



When we travelled to Cambodia last year, all of us on the Overseas Community Involvement Programme (OCIP) trip had a common desire to reach out to the vulnerable group of people in Phum Thmey Village, in the hopes of bringing joy to their lives.

During the fourteen days spent in Cambodia, we helped to build a bamboo house, painted a primary school and kindergarten, taught the Cambodian children, and visited various households to distribute basic necessities as gifts. We worked very hard for many days, and were pleased to see the fruits of our labour.

Although we completed our various projects successfully, the interactions with the Cambodians were the most meaningful part of the trip, and we gained a better understanding of their way of life. The courage and optimism in trying to overcome the hardships in their lives was truly admirable. We held on to this principle: "I serve you in order to learn from you". Through our service to the people, we gained a deeper perspective of not just life in Cambodia, but our own lives as well.

When teaching the Cambodian children, we witnessed their eagerness to learn. This led us to reflect on the significance of our own education system, a privilege which we should never take for granted. We were also grateful for the flower crowns which the Cambodian children made especially for us, in appreciation of the help we offered them. Though the crowns of flowers cost little in monetary terms, we deeply valued their sweet gesture.

These experiences exposed us to the reality of poverty and suffering that is so alien to the typical youths of Singapore. I am indeed grateful for such a wonderful opportunity to cross borders to touch the lives of these Cambodians.



SINGAPORE CANOE MARATHON 2015

By David Cheung (14S22)



While many were relaxing and enjoying the December holidays, the SAJC canoeists were training hard in preparation for the Singapore Canoe Marathon 2015.

The 13th Singapore Canoe Marathon was held on Sunday, 18 January 2015, where 26 canoeists from SAJC participated in the 21 km and 28 km race categories. The gruelling race was held at the Marina Reservoir, where the canoeists had to paddle three rounds around the panoramic Kallang Basin for the 21 km course, and four rounds for the 30 km course, passing by iconic landmarks such as Marina Bay Sands, The Floating Platform, Gardens by The Bay, as well as the brand new Sports Hub Stadium. Each round of the course also included a 300m portage section, where canoeists had to carry their boats and equipment and run back to land so that teammates and supporters could provide them food and water before continuing to paddle.

In spite of the choppy waves and the windy conditions, our canoeists successfully completed the race. Facing strong competition from schools such as Hwa Chong Institution and National Junior College, they did SAJC proud with podium finishes in the Junior Men C2, Junior Men K2 and Junior Women K1 categories. Simon Lam (14S02) and Joel Chua (14S07) won first place in the Junior Men C2 category, while Samantha Rachel Rajakanthan (15S20) won second place in the Junior Women K1 category. Harish Raju s/o Selva Raju (14S06) and Aaron Ng (14S21) won third place in the Junior Men K2 category.

The SAJC Canoeing team would like to thank the College and the CCA teachers, Mr Bryan Kieu, Ms Ong Hwee Hoon, Mr Alvin Toh, and Mr Teng Guan Foo for their guidance, support and commitment. We would also like to acknowledge our coaches, Mr Bill Lee Wei Liang and Mr James Goh for their dedication during our training. We hope to bring SAJC canoeing to greater heights in the A-Division championships in April this year. Up and On!



THE UNDER - 19 HOCKEY NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 2015

By Tan Ming Aaron (14S02) and Shannon Leong Yu Lyn (14S13)

The SAJC Hockey Boys' and Girls' teams took part in the Singapore Hockey Federation National Junior League tournament under the guidance of our coaches, Mr Sunil Prasad and Mr Robin Ng. Held during the weekends of January to March of 2015, it was an under-19 tournament that gave our local youth players more exposure to competitive hockey. Led by our captains, Timothy Peck from 14S24 and Laura Martens from 14S15, we were pitted against the likes of St. Joseph's Institution, Crescent Girls School and Teck Whye Secondary School.

Both teams had their ups and downs during the competition as we secured victories against some teams but suffered defeat at the hands of others. However, our players took this in their stride. Every game was a learning opportunity for everyone to further improve themselves in the game that followed. With each passing game, we became more consistent in our style of play and performed much better than when we started.

The National Junior League also fostered greater bonds and friendships with teammates, ultimately bringing them closer together. The National Junior League was a great and fruitful learning experience for all and has definitely given us the platform to prepare well for the upcoming National School 'A' Division in April this year.



THE ULTIMATE JOURNEY TO ULTIMATE FRISBEE!

By Ultimate Frisbee 2015

The "Ultimate Rise to Ultimate Frisbee @ SAJC" is a story that spans five years.

While the sport emerged in Singapore in the 1990s, it was not until recent times that it gained some popularity among young people in Singapore, with numerous independent clubs starting up.

It needed the interest and drive of a few committed individuals from the class of 2011 in SAJC to kick-start the love for Ultimate Frisbee, more endearingly known to its fans as 'Uity'. The sport found its humble beginnings with a handful of students who learnt the ropes of the game in Secondary School, and would gather during breaks and after school in SAJC to play it as a leisure sport until the last ray of light disappeared.

The beginnings of what looked like a promising SAJC team emerged when these students formed an ad-hoc team and participated in the 2011 Inter-JC Tournament to achieve the title of Best New Team. This boosted the confidence of these players who decided to train and play with even more gusto. They locked horns with more experienced opponents in the Inter-JC Challenge in 2012 and emerged second-place winners. In the following two years, more and more students joined them on the field, and their love for the game was transformed to a fierce competitive spirit. They trained on Saturdays without fail, and made this new game known in the College and beyond.

Today, a group of alumni, Tow Jia Hao, and Aaron Ramzeen, to name a few, still return to train with our students, and together they forged a strong identity and niche in SAJC. Those who do not play at a competitive level still meet up to play for fun.

The fruits of the students' love for the sport which brought a random group of Saints together finally gained its due recognition when SAJC found a



teacher, Mr Wong Chee Wai, whose love for the game and expertise in the sport helped to put in place a systematic training programme, and after discussion with the College's management, succeeded in starting Ultimate Frisbee as an official CCA in SAJC.

It did not take long for the sport to gain popularity among the JC1 students this year. The CCA saw over one hundred new students signing up and after rigorous trial sessions, only thirty-four were selected.

The SA Ultimate Frisbee team has started training seriously for the upcoming UitySports Division 'A' Tournament and the Inter-JC Tournament in the hopes of doing the CCA and College proud.

Kudos to the dedicated 2015 team, and their coach and teacher, Mr Wong, for promoting interest in the challenging sport of Ultimate Frisbee among the Saints.

ST ANDREW'S HALL

By Nguyen Chi Hai, Nham Quoc Hung, Xie Yijia, Song Wuchu, and Zhou Yuanhao (Secondary 4 Boarders at St Andrew's Hall)

LOCAL FAMILIES PLAY HOST TO FOREIGN STUDENTS IN SINGAPORE

The Local Hosting Programme, started in January 2013 and by the Chaplaincy Team and St Andrew's Hall, provides the hostel's boarders with a network of friends during their stay in Singapore. It also serves as an avenue for enriching cultural exchanges and gaining a better understanding of how the locals live, work and play.

Gracious Singaporean families came forward to play host to these boarders (simply known as "Saints") who attend secondary schools around Singapore. In addition to showing them places of interest, the local families help to cultivate a sense of belonging and reduce homesickness, and encourage active participation in local society. Let us hear from some St Andrew's Hall Saints who have participated in the programme.

ADVENTURES WITH MR DARRELL TAN



(L to R: Hai, Nathanael Tan, Elizabeth Tan, Mrs Tan, Mr Tan, Hung)

We are two youngsters in a strange land, separated from the shelter of our parents' watchful eyes and boundless care. A new home, a new school and new people made us feel lost and confused. Mr Tan and his family were the ones who guided us through these hard times. They took us in and, many a time, invited us out for concerts, food and fun activities. Every outing had an itinerary of its own to expose us to as much of this beautiful sun-bleached island as possible. We quickly felt at home and at ease. We were even more grateful when Mr Tan offered to help us with our English, introduced us to origami, and taught us life lessons through the book he compiled. We are truly blessed to have had met Mr Tan and his family.

MATERNAL WARMTH FROM MDM JING JING



(L to R: Yijia, Wuchu, Mdm Jing Jing, Yuanhao)

Mdm Jing Jing's family is our local host family. We would like to say that we really appreciate having her as our "mother" while we study in Singapore. Mdm Jing Jing is one of the most positive people we have ever known. Whenever we felt lost or desperate, she would always be there, to comfort and counsel us.

She was not only our "mother", but also our local tour guide here. She took us to many different places and we left our footprints around many areas in this country. Sentosa, River Safari and the ice engraving show were a few of the places we visited with her. She also introduced us to a special dish, Curry Fish Head, which we really enjoyed.



We found the Local Hosting Programme very helpful to students who are new to the country. It allowed us to feel the warmth of a family, and helped us to be familiar with Singapore as we learnt about the local practices, beliefs and cultures.

Thank you, St Andrew's Hall!



NUS PHARMACY CAMP 2014

By Lau Lagerfeld (14S13)



The Pharmacy Camp, held at the National University of Singapore in December 2014, was a rich experience for all of us. Connecting with pharmacists and university undergraduates gave us an opportunity to have a better understanding of the pharmacy course and its future career prospects. The 'Pharmacist's Dialogue', 'Dispensing Practical' and 'Dosage Form Design Practical' were some of the enriching and enjoyable things we did with our peers from the other JCs during the camp. In the Dispensing Practical, we learnt to make diarrhoea medicine for very young children using benzoic acid, kaolin light, chloroform water, and other substances. During the Dosage Form Design Practical, we made our very own calamine lotion and capsules to relieve heartburn. We had to fill the tiny capsules with the mixture that we made, and it was actually a difficult job. However, I found this experience very special, as it is not often that people are able to prepare their own medication! I felt a sense of pride and achievement when I saw my own bottle of medicine in front of me.

Associate Professor Lita Chew, Head of the Pharmacy Department at the National Cancer Centre Singapore, and a few other specialists explained to us the scope and duties of a pharmacist. Besides an in-depth learning of the pharmaceutical profession, there were games as well. We played many fun games such as trying to sink a bowl floating on water with pebbles and dodgeball with socks. Through the games, I forged many new friendships and had many unforgettable memories. The dormitories were also something new. As we were each given a room to ourselves; it was like living in a hotel. Overall, it was an incredible time getting to know about pharmacy, medicine, the professors' work, and even making friends.

VAANAVIL

By Arunachalam Selvanayagam (14S19)

The SAJC Indian Cultural Society (ICS) participated in the biennial competition, 'Vaanaivil', organised by Jurong Junior College this year on 14 March 2015. The competition, conducted in Tamil, comprised three categories: Short Film, Rap and Stand-up Comedy. Our ICS participated in all three categories, with our entries overcoming the competition in the preliminaries and qualifying for the finals in each of the three categories.

The SAJC ICS team placed special emphasis on creating novel performances in both the Rap and the Stand-up Comedy categories. With the help of our teachers, we succeeded in putting up two innovative and dynamic performances. For the Rap performance, we incorporated a beatbox backing, performed by Karan of 14S09, with the two rappers, Selva of 14S17 and Tharun of 14S16, appearing on stage clad in traditional Indian garb. The concept of cultural fusion, conveyed through a traditional Tamil poem articulated in a non-traditional medium, coupled with the beatbox backing, proved to be a hit with both the judges and the audience alike. To the rapturous applause from a full house, we were awarded the first prize in the Rap category.



For our Stand-up Comedy, Hemachandar of 14S09, who changed his voice to a convincing falsetto, dressed up and impersonated a girl. His partner, Yuvan of 15S22, played the role of a nerdy, insipid young man, who though unsure of himself, transformed into a confident orator through the course of the act. This was well-received and we achieved the second position.

For the Short Film section, our cast was played by Tharun of 14S16 (playing an indebted father), Sharon of 14S13 (a homely wife), Vignesh of 14S13 (a loan shark), Hemachandar of 14S09 (an uneducated labourer) and Selva of 14S17 (a conniving businessman). The play was directed by Aravind of 14S09, who also conceived the plot. While the direction and acting left a good performance, the overall act could have benefited from better-developed cinematic awareness and effects. Nevertheless, our film still achieved the third position.



All in all, it was a successful outing for ICS as all the participants achieved a prize each. Moreover, considering the fact that it was the first time for many of our ICS members getting up on stage and performing in front of a full house, we came away from this event feeling both proud of our achievements and full of confidence going into future competitions.

ICS would like to thank the College for giving us this opportunity, our teacher in charge, Mr Raja, and also Ms Malini and Mr Mohan for their advice and guidance.

ENVIRONMENT CLUB: LIVING ARRRT URBAN WASTE AND GREENWAVE

By David Cheung (14S22)

On 22 May 2014, the Environment Club participated in the Greenwave Environmental Care Project in which we were tasked to plant a tree in our school compound. Our principal, Mrs Lee Bee Yann, launched the event by watering the new tembusu tree we planted near the school car park. We hoped that by planting this tree, our fellow Saints would learn to appreciate the greenery in our school and make an effort to take good care of the trees and plants.



In addition, the Environment Club took part in the "Living ARRRT Urban Waste (Sculpture) Competition 2014". We created a sculpture showcasing our 'Clean and Green City' made out of recyclable materials. Inspired by the tallest building in Dubai, we decided to use mainly recyclable drink cans to construct a replica 'green building'. We included many details to the sculpture, such as intricate hand-crafted flowers, also made out of cans. Although the designing was a very complex process, our efforts paid off when our sculpture made it to the final stage of the Tertiary Award.

The sculpture brought an aesthetic value to Singapore's architecture, and contributed to providing a clean and conducive environment to live in. As the saying goes, "we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." It was a good reminder that we should preserve our city's greenery for our future generations to enjoy.

Through these varied experiences, we managed to reach out to a large audience and help instill green-consciousness in them.



STUDENT FORUM 2015: CHINA QUOTIENT STUDENT FORUM WITH JJ LIN JUNJIE

By Chong Shu Ning Teri (15A07)



I was initially doubtful when asked to attend the JJ Lin Student Forum held on 25 February 2015 at the SAJC Cultural Centre. Coming from an English-speaking family, bilingualism never occurred to me as being important. However, after attending the forum, I realised that being bilingual is a very crucial and unique asset to have in our world today.

JJ Lin shared that bilingualism had helped him to reach out to a more diverse audience from Taiwan and Singapore, and enabled him to extend his fan-base further around the world. He also encouraged us to make use of our ability to speak both languages to influence the people around us. This made me realise that speaking both Chinese and English would benefit me greatly in my future endeavours.

JJ Lin also spoke about his Junior College experience. He recalled bringing his guitar every day and had jamming sessions with his friends in the cafeteria. This cultivated his passion for song-writing and helped him to grow closer to his schoolmates. His teachers saw his talent and linked him up with a famous local music school. He thanked his SAJC teachers for their continued support, and said that even when he gave up on himself, they never did.

It was an enjoyable and heartwarming experience when he invited his old classmate, a local singer-songwriter, Hong Jun Yang, up on stage to perform a duet together. He explained the importance of cherishing friends, who have common interests to share.

The forum ended with a harmonious chant: "双语双文化，世界无限大". Indeed, bilingualism and multiculturalism extends our world! Watching a Saint giving back to his alma mater filled me with pride. I have truly benefitted from JJ Lin's sharing, which has broadened my horizon.



LONDON CALLING

THE LITERATURE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: CULTURAL IMMERSION IN LONDON

14 – 24 NOV 2014

By Tan Sir Jack (14S16)



Walking through the streets of London on our arrival, all 32 of us excitedly took in the scene around us. Our first stop was St James Park and it was vastly different from any park in Singapore. The weather was cold and there was a slight drizzle, but what a picturesque welcome to London it was. Past the black studded rusty gates, we saw squirrels scrambling among the maple trees, waterfowl gracefully swimming across the still waters of the lake, and a black swan, pelicans and seagulls were circling above. We walked on towards Buckingham Palace, and were fortunate to witness the Royal Household Cavalry on horses and the military band marching toward the Palace. We also took in Westminster Abbey where many famous people are buried, including Charles Dickens and Sir Isaac Newton.

Our next destination was the Tower of London, and we were extremely lucky to be there that day, as they were commemorating the centenary of World War One. We were not only greeted by the spectacular view of the Tower itself, but also a field of red ceramic poppies that was part of the centenary events. Each poppy represented a soldier who died during World War One. While the sight of the poppies was captivating, it was also heart-wrenching to think about the number of lives lost during the war. We were told that almost 900,000 of these poppies had been planted by volunteers to honour and commemorate those who had died in battle.

We travelled by the London Tube daily, visiting places such as St Paul's Cathedral and the Globe Theatre where we took part in a workshop on Othello. We crossed the Millennium Bridge, which appeared in the Harry Potter movie, "The Half-Blood Prince", and this thrilled many of us. The chilly wind did not deter us from taking many selfies and group pictures as the views were truly breathtaking. We then visited Cambridge, and along the way, spent a few hours in Epping Forest, where the sounds and sights of nature resonated with many of us. We also had a chance to visit Thaxted, a Tudor-era village which still had thatched roof cottages with their own windmills.

But it was not all sightseeing. Both the Literature and Talent Development Programme (TDP) students had the opportunity to experience the British education system by spending time at SAJC's two twinning schools in the United Kingdom. The TDP students spent two days at the Sir John Lawes School while the Literature students went to Gumley House Convent for three days. We attended classes with our British counterparts and had the chance to attend lessons in subjects that we were not offered in Singapore. These included subjects such as Psychology, Business Studies and even Visual Arts. The way the classes were conducted was different from what we have in Singapore. It largely revolved around application and clarification, and our counterparts told us that they spent about four hours a day reading the materials in preparation for class. We also had the opportunity to attend a European Union (EU) Conference in the EU Parliament. We had mixed feelings of sadness and longing when the immersion period ended, as we had made many friends, whom we will definitely be keeping in touch with.

School visits, theatre experiences, museum trips, walking through the less touristic areas of London such as Brixton and meeting with our ex-Saints: they all made the 10-day trip so remarkable. The writer Kazuo Ishiguro said, "memories, even your most precious ones, fade surprisingly quickly. But I don't go along with that. The memories I value most, I don't ever see them fading." I could not agree more. For those of us who were fortunate enough to go on the trip, our memories will remain treasured forever.

