

## Small Things Matter Much

*Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd? – John 6:9 (NIRV)*

Many of us love picnics. I have fond memories of picnics at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. In true Asian style, our picnic food consisted not of sandwiches, salads or pies packed into vintage baskets, but of *ju kueh* from a famous hawker stall, home-cooked *char bee hoon* and traditional local baguette to dip in chicken curry. There was always plenty to eat.

We are told of another picnic that took place more than two thousand years ago where 5,000 men were present (or some 15,000 if we included women and children). A large crowd was following Jesus because they had seen Him perform miracles. As it was getting late, He told His disciples to give the people something to eat. Phillip, a disciple quick with mental sums, estimated that it would take two hundred denarii (a denarius was a day's wage for a labourer) to buy enough food to feed all of them.

A growing boy, like one of our P5s or P6s, whose name we are not told, had brought along five barley loaves and two small fish. As it was near dinner, he was very hungry. He could well have eaten a horse, let alone five loaves and two fish! He was probably sitting within earshot of the Lord's preposterous request. He was willing to share his food but what good was his dinner for such a large crowd? He was also worried about the ridicule from others for thinking that his meal mattered for a need so great.

In those moments of reckoning, the boy saw Jesus looking at him. His eyes were neither stern nor judgmental, but gentle, loving and beckoning. They spoke into his heart, *Trust in me*.

Encouraged, the boy handed his five loaves and two fish to Jesus. Jesus gave thanks for the food and told His disciples to distribute them to the people. Right before his very eyes, the boy saw his five loaves and two fish being multiplied in the hands of Jesus. Everyone had their fill. In the end, there were twelve basketful of leftovers.

Today, Jesus is once again inviting us to offer up our five loaves

and two fish for His use and glory. Each boy, staff member, parent and partner has strengths and abilities, and Jesus can multiply these to bless the school community. However, Jesus is not just looking at the kind of *five loaves and two fish* that can win prizes and trophies or bring prestige to the school; the sacrifices that Jesus is pleased with may even go unnoticed by people, such as a kind act or showing respect for others. Indeed, in ACS (Primary), our boys are learning that cleaning up after themselves in the canteen, controlling their tongue, volunteering to help a friend, being a good team player, having a good learning attitude and keeping their classroom clean are sacrifices that will make school a better place for all. After all, God does not despise our small gifts. He used a couple who were past child-bearing age to create a nation for Himself and a tongue-tied shepherd to lead His people out of slavery. All He needs is our faithfulness and obedience; we can trust Him to do the rest.

As we participate in God's mission for our school, let us watch and wait in eager anticipation for how He will multiply our five loaves and two fish as we offer them up to Him. He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20)! *To God Be The Glory. The Best Is Yet To Be!*

**Mrs Leong-Ho Hil May**  
Principal  
ACS (Primary)



## P1 First Day Of School & Orientation

**January 3, 2023** • A warm welcome to ACS (Primary) P1 boys and their parents! Our curious, freshly-minted ACSians settled down in class under their Form Teachers for an induction programme to roll out on Day 1 and days following. At the Concert Hall, parents were welcomed by the Principal and attended a talk by HOD/CCE on *Transition to Primary School*. In their first PTM, Form Teachers briefed parents on class expectations and teaching subjects.

**November 11, 2022** • ACS (Primary) was finally free to host a P1 (2023) Orientation Programme for the incoming P1 cohort and parents. Boys enjoyed the Campus Tour and bonding activities with other children. Meanwhile, parents gathered at the Concert Hall for an address by our Principal, the Chairman of PSG EXCO and the Assistant Year Head. Three videos were then screened: a virtual school tour, one on school safety and security, and another on what to expect of P1 activities in Week 1 2023.



Getting To Know ACS (Primary) & Their Classmates



## CARE@ACSP

**January 2023** • Boys returned to ACS (Primary) on January 4, their first day. A 3-day Orientation programme eased them into a new year and served as a precious time of bonding between Form Teachers and their class boys. Classes interacted over activities infused with the CARE Principle, to begin our boys on another year of their own journey to Coach, Affirm, Relate to, and Enthuse others. 2023 marked the first CARE Month and activities were extended to January and beyond. As boys bond with teachers and classmates, 2023 will present itself with teaching moments to strengthen Teacher-Student and Peer-Support relationships for the CARE and well-being of our boys.



Applying The CARE Principle

## School-Home Partnership

**January 2023** • A first series of Parent Teacher Meetings (PTMs) were held over a few sessions in January. Each session began with the address from Mrs Leong our Principal, followed by level meetings via ZOOM between parents and Form Teachers. Information such as class administration, arrival and dismissal times, pick-up points, class expectations, communication channels and curriculum were spelt out clearly. To better support their sons/wards at home, parents had time for clarifications with teachers. PTMs help to strengthen our school-home partnership, as teachers and parents work closely together to ensure the well-being of the boys.



Teachers & Parents, Working Hand In Hand

## Looking Beyond Results...

**November 23, 2022** • PSLE results were out. Parents gathered at the Concert Hall for the Principal's address while boys reported to their Form Teachers in class. *Project A.C.S.P.*, an ongoing collaboration between the Parent Support Group (PSG) and the school, offered a precious window of opportunity for parents to communicate to their sons unconditional love and affirmation through their personal handwritten notes. The note was for each boy to read and ponder over before receiving his results. To the graduating class of 2022, *To God Be The Glory. The Best Is Yet To Be!*



It Is All Right..It Is OK, 'Cos We Love You Anyway



## Honours Day@ACS (Primary)

**November 18, 2022** • Honours Day is a longstanding ACS tradition held on the last day of school to celebrate the achievements of ACSians in sports, or service to the school. The top honours of Sportsboy 2022 and ACS OBA President's Award 2022 went to Jerrel Ong Bing Xiang (P6A) and Jarod Low (P5E) respectively, both for competitive swimming. ACS (Primary) presented 60 Distinctions, 140 Colours, 27 Edusave Character Awards, 300 Commendations, and nine Honourable Mentions; they represented the best in school for 2022, taking into consideration their character and conduct, and recognizing them as role models of the school's Four Traits of an ACSian. We are grateful to be able to invite parents of award winners to school to celebrate together. Our Guest-of-Honour was Mr David Kwok, a Distinguished Old Boy.



Honour & Character





## P6 Celebration Day & Party 2022

**November 15, 2022** • Done away with class parties, our P6 boys were again able to return to celebrating en masse at the auditorium, thanks to the lifting of COVID-19 measures. The auditorium was decked out with balloons and hand-made Minecraft bricks under the theme *Video Games* – organised by the PSG. *What did boys like about the party?* For classmates Elliot Ng and Reuben Ong of P6G, it was, unashamedly, the food! They enjoyed *Face the Cookie*, a game of moving an Oreo cookie from face to mouth, without hands! Everyone was in high spirits after the party was over, marking an end to the chapter of ACS (Primary) to begin another.



To Remember The Six Years Of ACS (Primary) By...



## Purple Parade Turned 10!

**October 29, 2022** • Purple Parade at ACS (Primary) is an excellent way to open the eyes, hearts and hands of our boys, to expose them to the community of persons with special needs. This year, boys saw the world through the eyes of the visually impaired, simulated by wearing variedly modified goggles. They also learned of swimmer Yip Pin Xiu, triathlete Darren Ho and notable others and how they overcome their disability; even the most celebrated of Olympians, Michael Phelps, struggled emotionally with depression. Eager boys queued up to make their own Purple Parade badges as mementos. As iHOPEFUL mentors to their boys, ACS (Primary) staff pledged their support by forming the number 10 to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Purple Parade!



A Heart Of Empathy & Support For Purple Parade

## Snippets Of CARE For The Community



**November 7, 2022** • ACS (Primary) donated some 155kg of preloved textbooks to families-in-need with school-going children, thanks to the efforts of our boys, teachers, parent volunteers, in a collaboration between our Green and Value in Action committees.



Guests also soaked up the lively dancing of *La Bamba* by P1H.

**November 10, 2022** • P1A boys got our elderly guests from Yong-en Care Centre, St Luke's ElderCare and Methodist Welfare Services standing up and rocking to their performance *Rock Around The Clock* at our P1 Concert.



a lesson on the importance of *Unity* in teamwork and *Perseverance*, two of the school's iHOPEFUL values.

**October 29, 2022** • BB Juniors and three parents joined other supporters for a 5km jog at Bishan Park in MWS Empowerun to Bring Colours to Lives by raising funds for MWS beneficiaries. For our boys, it was



who are also parents of three Old Boys! We wish them both a blessed retirement.

**December 13, 2022** • Mr Kam Kwee Teck (aka Uncle Michael) retired after almost 20 years of serving up thousands of delicious bowls of noodles to generations of ACS boys *on the Hill*! We will miss his noodles and the affable Kams

## Games Day

**November 16** (for P5s), **14** (P6s) **2022** • P5 and P6 boys had a wonderful time during Games Day of Ultimate Frisbee against their peers from other classes. Each class was divided into three groups where each group compete with another at three different venues with another group from another class. This was an inter-class game where the scores for each class in the different venues were aggregated for results. In the final tally, P5H and P6H emerged Champions for their respective level!



An Enjoyable Frisbee Day!

## Created. Designed. Empowered.

**Nov 29-Dec 1 2022** • We thank God for the theme *Created, Designed and Empowered* of 2022's Vacation Bible School (VBS); it made such an impact on our boys in a first-ever combined VBS organised by the Christian Ministry Staff (CMS) and Barker Road Methodist Church (BRMC). CMS and BRMC joined hands in planning and hosting this combined VBS day camp, otherwise held separately in preceding years, as VBS finally returned to our Campus after two years of COVID-19. 60 ACS (Primary) boys enjoyed their time of fellowship with children from the BRMC community; they gelled over Worship, Bible Study, Crafts, Games and Snacks, even as CMS and BRMC volunteers took turns to lead.



Thank God For The Return Of VBS!

## Our P5 & P6 Social Entrepreneurs

**November 2022** • What can be more rewarding to end 2022 than for ACSians to put on their thinking caps, not for examinations but to raise funds for charity! This being a Children for Children VIA activity, P5 and P6 boys served as advocates for the Children's Cancer Foundation and Make-A-Wish Foundation to raise awareness. They promoted the charities; they built game props. Truly, they exemplified the four Traits of an ACSian. To Lim Zheng Bang Mikel and Chng Yuan Man of P5F, it taught them kindness. While both found managing their games stall and the beeline challenging, they valued the brainstorming, teamwork and doing their part for the community. *Individually, we are a drop of water, but together, we are an ocean.*



Growing Social Entrepreneurs In School

## ACCOLADES

**Singapore Science Buskers 2022** 29 October • 2022 saw a return to face-to-face competition and a record 17 teams from ACS (Primary) participating. In the finals, Kingsley Tan (P5G) and Thaddeus Lin (P5D) of Team *Eureka* won 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up. Zachary Ng, David Poe and Christian Lim (P4G) of Team *Mad Scientists* won 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up and voted Best On-Camera Talents in the People's Choice Awards. We also commend Teams *Hangry Gang* and *The Microbiologists* for their enthusiastic participation. Organised by Science Centre Singapore, the competition requires buskers to do a *show-and-tell* on any science topic and the results hinging on judges' criteria and votes from the public.



Our Talented Teams Of Science Buskers

**Draw My Stamp Art Competition** July 2022 • Isaac Ho (P6C) won a Gold Award at the *Draw My Stamp Story Art* Competition for his winning watercolour and ink depiction of the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital against Singapore's famous landmarks as a backdrop. Organised by The Children's Museum Singapore (formerly the Singapore Philatelic Museum), the competition celebrates our history and culture through philately. Isaac not only rendered a remarkable piece, it was also a lesson in perseverance as he took time away from his PSLE preparation to complete it.



A Gold Award For Isaac!



**National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore (NMOS) 2022**, July 26 & June 29 • 23 of our boys from P4 and P5 qualified for the Special Round of The National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore (NMOS) for a 9<sup>th</sup> place, earning ACS (Primary) a bronze nationally. NMOS promotes greater interest, enthusiasm and love for Mathematics in schools, in the hope of nurturing talent amongst Singapore's youth. NMOS attracted 285 participants from schools.



Our Budding Mathematicians!