



CHIJ ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT 2018

Legacy of Love

80th
ANNIVERSARY

Legacy of Love

In September 1852, Mother Mathilde Raclot embarked with three other Sisters of the Infant Jesus on a perilous voyage from France to Malaysia to guide and to support a group of Sisters who had arrived in Penang five months earlier to set up a convent school for girls. The journey was so difficult that one of the Sisters lost her life. A year and a half later, Mother Mathilde sailed again from Penang to Singapore to establish another convent school. The CHIJ schools today are the fruit of the seeds sown by Mother Mathilde and the IJ Sisters more than a century ago.

We ponder the faith and courage which compelled Mother Mathilde to devote her life to fulfil the calling which consumed her heart. Mother Mathilde did not know that her work would transform the lives of thousands of girls over generations. We are the legacy of her love. Will we have the courage to follow what stirs in our hearts? Jesus said "Whoever believes in Me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38).

As St Joseph's Convent celebrates our 80th anniversary, we also reconnect with our identity as daughters of Saint Joseph. We reflect on the work he does as the Patron Saint of families, adopted children, workers, carpenters and artisans. We are part of this legacy. What will we leave for the generations behind us?



Mother Mathilde Raclot



*I alone cannot change the world,
but I can cast a stone across the waters
to create many ripples.*

Mother Teresa

*The things you do for yourself
are gone when you are gone,
but the things you do for others
remain as your legacy.*

Kalu Ndukwe Kalu

A photograph of a large, spreading tree with dense green foliage, reflected perfectly in the calm surface of a body of water. The sky above is a clear, pale blue.

Legacy of Love



CHIJ ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT 2018



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Our Principal's Message



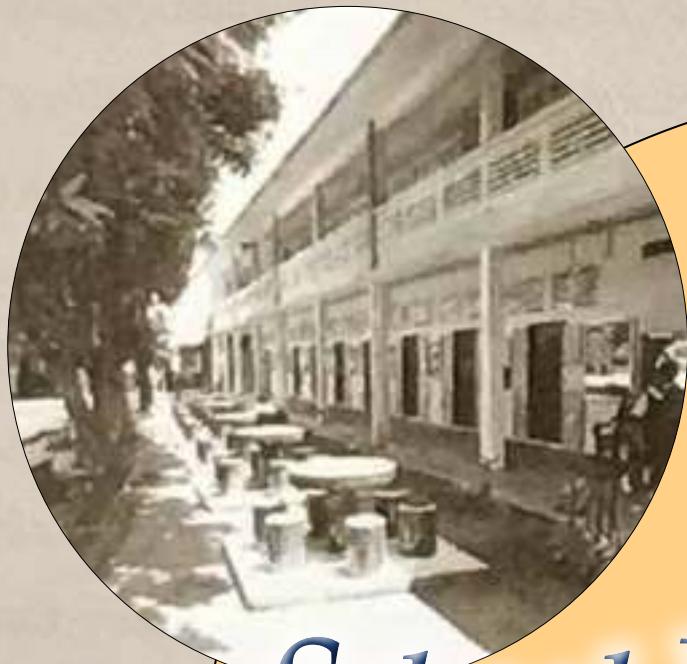
Ms Susie Ho
Principal
CHIJ St. Joseph's Convent

CHIJ St. Joseph's Convent has come a long way since its inception in 1938 as a private school in a rented house at Flower Road. The school started with just 22 students. In 2018, eighty years later, our enrolment stands at 1300. With Mother Mathilde, SJC has kept pace - we have constantly improved and attained new benchmarks in academics, sports, aesthetics and character-development. However, one thing has not changed - the needs of the child remain at the centre of education. At SJC, our priority is to meet our students' needs, developing them to be the best they can be – physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually.

We continue to teach our students to be more self-aware, to love others, especially the less fortunate, and to have a community spirit. This is essentially what our IJ Mission stands for – ‘the creation of a Christ-centred school community where all work together for the promotion of truth, justice, freedom, and love, with special reference to the needs of persons who are disadvantaged in any way’. For the past eighty years, our hope is that every girl who steps through our doors leaves transformed with a new belief in herself and what she can do to help others.

That the theme of our 80th Anniversary celebrations is “Legacy of Love” is not a surprise. This focus brings us back to our roots. Corinthians 13:13 says, “As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love”. Love has always been the cornerstone of our Catholic education at SJC. As our girls understand, the heart of IJ education is not just about acquiring knowledge or being the best in a particular field. It is also about developing ourselves to become the best we can be, in order to serve others in whatever capacity and ability we have. Our legacy of love at SJC will continue to guide us as we build many more generations of ‘women of integrity with the passion to pursue excellence.’

We thank God for the blessings which He has showered upon our school for the past eighty years. We pray and trust that He will continue to bless the staff, students, alumnae and parents as we come together to celebrate our legacy of love and share it with the generations that come.



School History

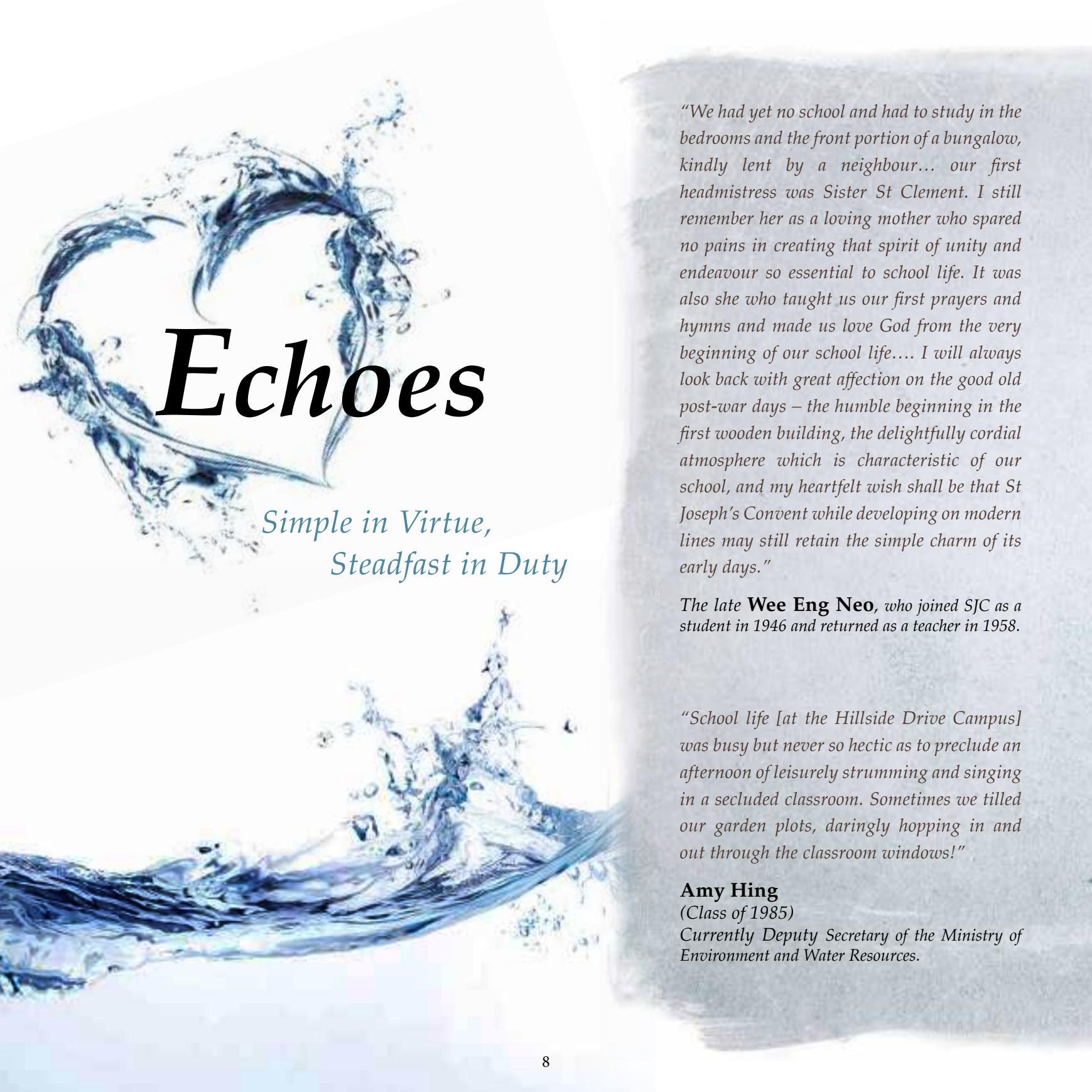
Simple in Virtue, Steadfast in Duty



CHIJ St Joseph's Convent (SJC) was founded in 1938 as a private school in a rented house at Flower Road. There were 21 pupils under the care of one nun of the Order of the Holy Infant Jesus and two teachers. Prior to World War II, the enrolment rose to 79 students with classes from Primary 1 to Secondary 3. In 1945, after the war, the school reopened in a bungalow lent by a neighbour and enrolment rose to 214. The school then moved to 11, Hillside Drive where a wooden building comprising four classrooms was erected. In 1954, a new two-storey block was built with a library, hall and staff block added later on. The school conducted classes for both primary and secondary until the late 1960s when the primary section was phased out. By 1974, SJC had become a full-fledged secondary school with morning and afternoon sessions. It had its first intake of Secondary 1 Express stream in 1976 and Normal stream in 1985. By then, the student population had grown to 920, and while everyone cherished the cosy school environment that was home for five decades, it was clear that a new school had to urgently be built.

When SJC moved to its present campus in Sengkang in 2000, the enrolment increased to 1400 with our first intake of nine Secondary One classes in Jan 2001. With modern facilities and sophisticated amenities, the school introduced the home room concept. This was an innovative way of structuring classes where each teacher was assigned to a classroom and students moved from class to class. Home rooms allowed teachers to accumulate resources and create an environment that enhanced how she taught. The novel idea proved highly successful. When SJC was officially opened by then Minister of Education Mr Teo Chee Hean, in 2003, it was one of the Top 10 Value-Added Schools for both Normal and Express streams and a Top 10 School for Physical Fitness Tests and Fitness Index. Besides academic achievements, SJC continued to prioritise the moral and social development of its students. With new beginnings and strong foundations, SJC was poised for even greater growth.





Echoes

*Simple in Virtue,
Steadfast in Duty*

"We had yet no school and had to study in the bedrooms and the front portion of a bungalow, kindly lent by a neighbour... our first headmistress was Sister St Clement. I still remember her as a loving mother who spared no pains in creating that spirit of unity and endeavour so essential to school life. It was also she who taught us our first prayers and hymns and made us love God from the very beginning of our school life.... I will always look back with great affection on the good old post-war days – the humble beginning in the first wooden building, the delightfully cordial atmosphere which is characteristic of our school, and my heartfelt wish shall be that St Joseph's Convent while developing on modern lines may still retain the simple charm of its early days."

The late **Wee Eng Neo**, who joined SJC as a student in 1946 and returned as a teacher in 1958.

"School life [at the Hillside Drive Campus] was busy but never so hectic as to preclude an afternoon of leisurely strumming and singing in a secluded classroom. Sometimes we tilled our garden plots, daringly hopping in and out through the classroom windows!"

Amy Hing
(Class of 1985)
Currently Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.

"The size of the school may have its disadvantages, but it has actually created a very homely and cosy environment where everyone knows everyone. Even the students seem to enjoy a better rapport with the teachers. "

Chia Soh Ling

(Class of 1958)

Retired SJC teacher on the modest size of SJC at Hillside Drive.

"I am filled with apprehension because we may lose the cosy, homely atmosphere we now enjoy. With bigger surroundings and a higher intake of students and teachers, our close knit family might disintegrate. In the future, we may get so impersonal that we will not know who's who in the school. I am, however, looking forward to the new facilities we will expect."

Ellen Tan

(Class of 1960)

Retired Art teacher at SJC as she reflected on the move from Hillside Drive to Sengkang.

"SJC at Hillside Drive was such a close-knit school – it was literally so small! Standing in the middle of the school compound, you could see the whole of SJC by turning one round of 360 degrees. The hall, science laboratories and classrooms surrounded two netball courts where all sporting activities took place. Being a small school had its benefits as well. The whole school simply breathed, ate, studied and played together!"

Janis Yeo

(Class of 1992)

Currently a Principal Occupational Therapist in a local hospital.

"The best years of my schooling life were no doubt at SJC, for it is an institution that is full of love. Students who passed through the gates of this school could still feel this love even after they graduated."

Heng Yiling, Corinne

(Class of 2006)

Currently a teacher at Hwa Chong Institution.

"Before entering SJC, I was not a very confident student and I did not have any goals in life, but after being in SJC for four years, I have become a more determined and confident individual and I always strive to do my best in anything that I set my mind towards."

Natasha Kalidas

(Class of 2014)

Currently in Republic Polytechnic on a scholarship.

"The friendships that I forged in SJC were a lot different from the ones that I have out of the school. In SJC, we become sisters, we become family."

Low Miao En Bibiana Inez

(Class of 2014)

Currently pursuing her passion in film-making.



Our School Song

*St Joseph's, St Joseph's,
We pledge our loyalty to Thee.
With you, we spend our golden days,
Happy and free.*

*Simple in our virtue, Steadfast in our work.
Together we strive to live up to your worth.*

*In one resounding voice we sing
To your praise.
Long live Saint Joseph's
With the help of God's grace.*



*Our **Vision***

Women of Integrity with the Passion to Pursue Excellence.

*Our **Mission***

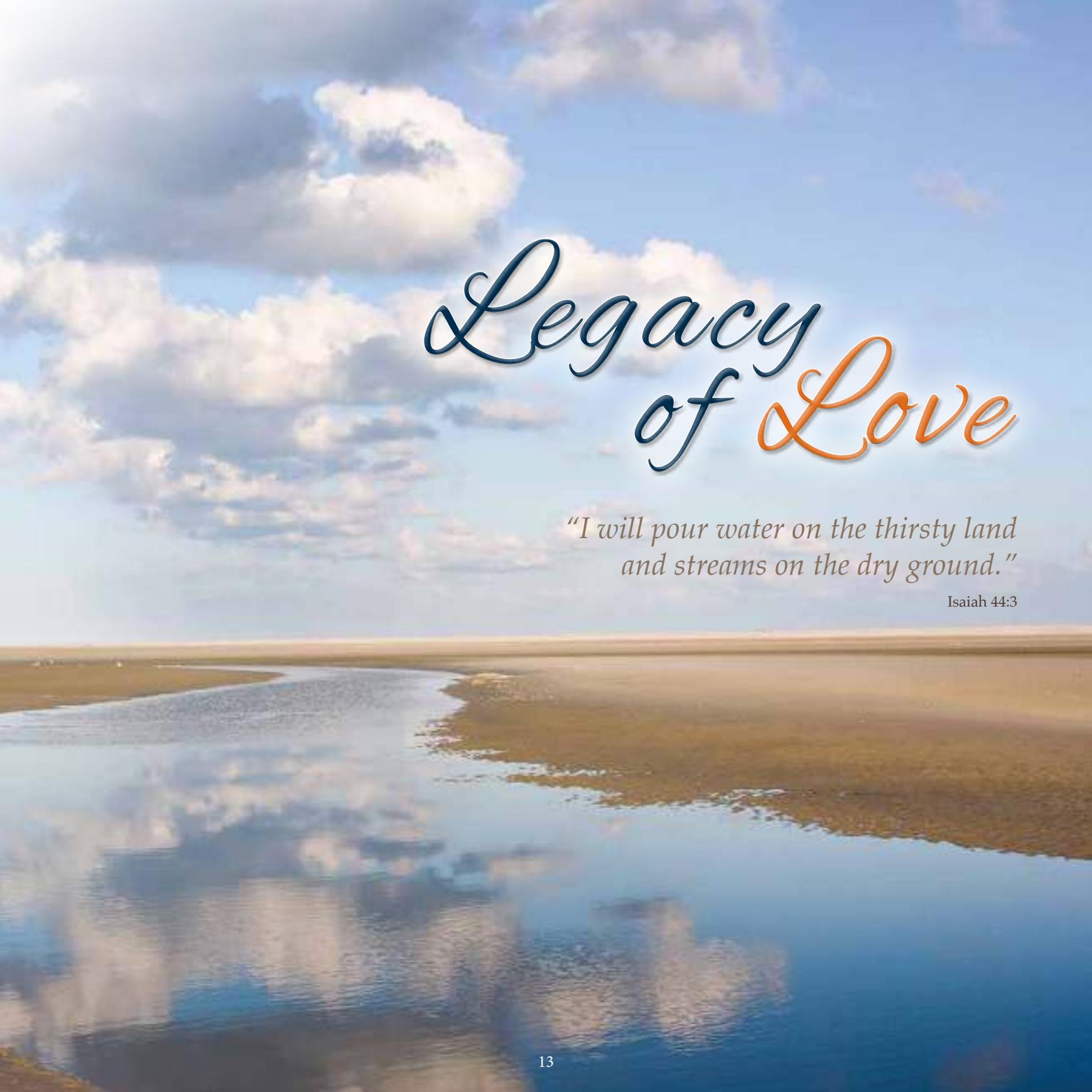
*The mission of an Infant Jesus Convent
is the creation of a Christ-centred school community
where all work together for the promotion of truth, justice, freedom and love,
with special reference to the needs of persons who are disadvantaged in any way.*

*Our **Motto***

Simple in Virtue. Steadfast in Duty.

When Mrs Josephine Colaco composed the lyrics of our school song in 1968, she wrote '...we spend our golden days happy and free... Simple in our virtue, steadfast in our work...'. These words capture the spirit of what education is at St. Joseph's Convent. Young ladies are raised to be virtuous and steadfast in a complex world. They become women with integrity who pursue excellence in everything they do, and who have the courage to stand for truth, justice, freedom and love. It is a well-rounded education - whether it is in the field of academics, aesthetics, sports or service, our students become the best they can be. Most of all, as many of our girls attest, their sojourn at SJC comprised laughter, friendship and love – fond memories of 'golden days happy and free'. As God waters and nourishes these budding souls, our SJC girls experience a wealth of richness and blessings that last their lifetime.



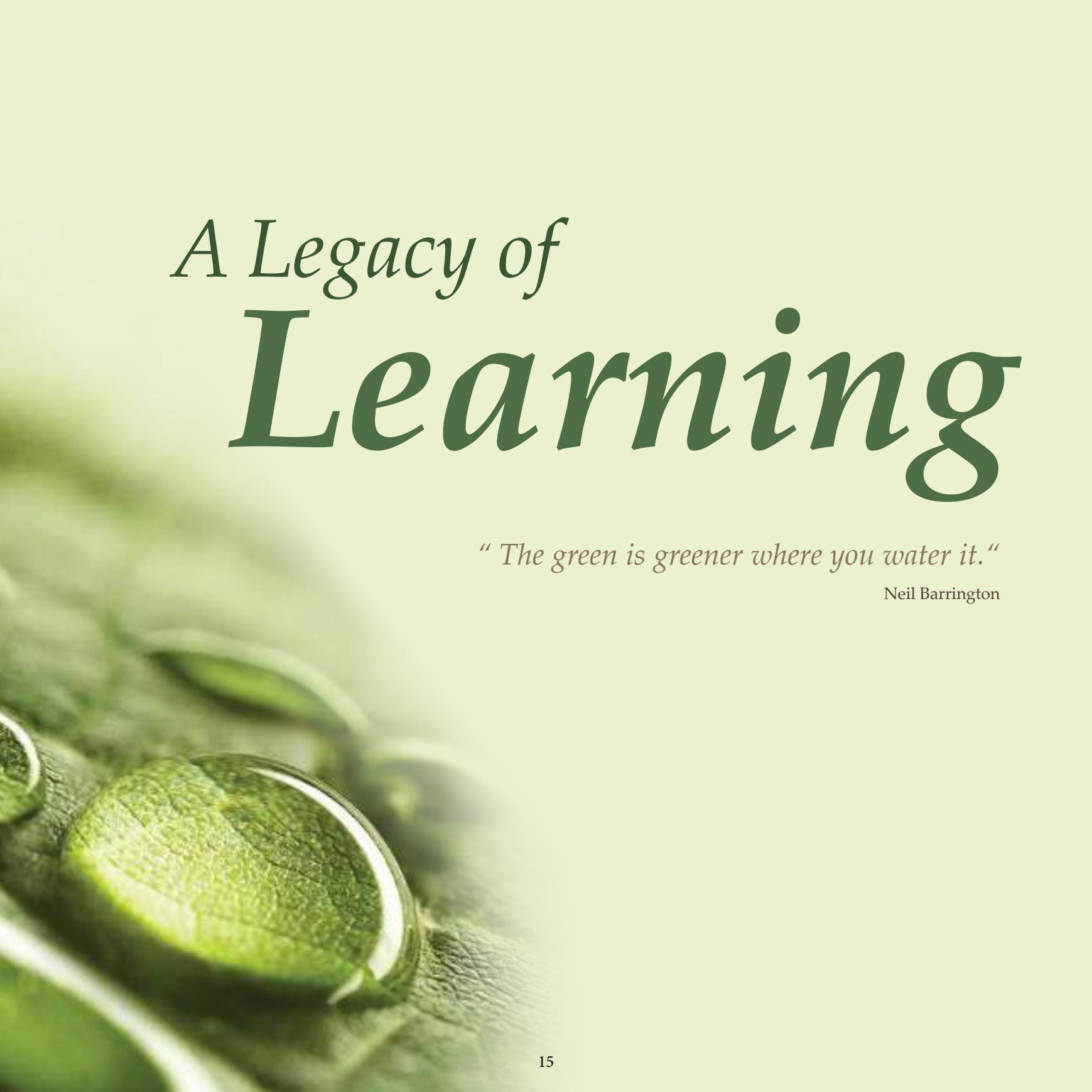
A landscape photograph showing a river flowing from the foreground towards a distant horizon. The banks of the river are dry, golden-brown earth. The water reflects the surrounding clouds and sky. The sky is filled with various shades of blue and white, with some darker, more dramatic clouds on the left.

Legacy of Love

*"I will pour water on the thirsty land
and streams on the dry ground."*

Isaiah 44:3





A Legacy of **Learning**

“The green is greener where you water it.”

Neil Barrington

A Legacy of Learning



Father Nicolas Barré, the founder of the Order of the Infant Jesus Sisters believed that every child was created unique, had potential to learn, and was entitled to experience the joy of learning.

He wrote: "Different species of trees produce different kinds of fruit. We must not look for cherries on a plum tree. So it is with people. Each one has to bear fruit according to its kind which is the combined result of grace and a person's special gifts."

Our teachers sow the seeds of knowledge, exploration and discovery in the hearts and minds of our girls, inspiring them to become self-directed learners who realise the gift that God has endowed them with.

"The mind that opens to a new idea never returns to its original size."

Albert Einstein

Self-Directed Learners Who Achieve Academic Excellence

Simple in our virtue, steadfast in our work. [School Song - line 5]

Older SJCians will remember the annual Library Days when students got together enthusiastically to stage short performances or put up demonstrations based on what they had learnt after borrowing and reading books from the library, and doing research in the library.



Science Lab.



Library Week.



This was a pre-internet era where students had to read books in hard copy and interview their teachers to gather information for synthesis and application. Despite the warm weather in the Hillside Drive quadrangle, girls would stage their performances in costume to the supportive audience of peers and teachers gathered to enjoy scenes re-created and re-interpreted from novels and whatever else they had read.

Since then, SJC has come a long way in continuing to nurture self-directed learners. SJC was a full school with morning and afternoon sessions until 1974. Today, CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity (OLN) and CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) are the primary schools affiliated to SJC. By 1976, SJC had transitioned completely to admitting only Secondary Ones. Three students from the class of 1978 scored 8 distinctions in the GCE O-Level Examination and were among the nation's top performers in that year's national examination. In 1985, SJC admitted her first class of Normal Academic students. In 1998, SJC's first pure science class was introduced. In 2002, SJC emerged a Top 10 Value-Added School for Normal Academic and Express streams and a Top 10 School for the Physical Fitness Tests and Fitness Index.

At the end of 2014, MOE awarded SJC three Best Practice Awards for Teaching and Learning, Character and Citizenship Education, and Staff Development. In 2015, SJC's LAMBs (Little Angels of Many Blessings) differentiated approach to support her Normal-stream students was acknowledged with the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Innovations in the Normal Course (2015 to 2020). At the end of 2016, SJC was validated with the People Developer Award (2017 to 2023).



Students with tourists whom they had interviewed in Little India as part of the Human Geography Investigative Fieldwork.



Students presenting a site-specific adaptation of Kuo Pao Kun's local play, Kopi Tiam, at the Passion Arts Festival at Rivervale Plaza. Lower secondary English Literature is anchored within the study of community issues.

Learning happens best when you effectively teach someone else what you've learnt; from Peer Mentoring in Mathematics when stronger students in the Normal stream serve as supportive seniors to juniors who grapple with maths, to conservation efforts at the Sengkang Floating Wetlands where seniors organize and administer games which encourage juniors to conserve precious resources.



To better appreciate the intersection of Science and Industry, upper secondary students, regardless of whether they study pure Sciences or Combined Science are given the chance to visit laboratories to meet with scientists to get a glimpse into science research.

At SJC, we believe that Everyone is Talented and Will Experience Success. SJC's 3-year Talent Development Programme introduces students to the concepts of Multiple Intelligences while they are in lower secondary. In Secondary Three, discussion about career options, personal considerations and competencies are framed using Gardner's Five Minds for the Future. During Secondary Four level camp, students are made more aware of STEM career opportunities through talks and learning journeys.

A Legacy of Learning



Secondary Twos at Wildlife Reserves Singapore learning about veterinary science during their Maths-Science Creative Thinking Level Camp.



IJ Friends are Friends for Life. Here, recent SJC Alumnus, Ms Sherry Goh, an Assistant Research Officer at Temasek Life Science Laboratory, offers insights into the work of Bio-Chemistry scientists to her juniors during a Career Guidance Festival.



SJCians learning to build mental resilience through outdoor adventure level camp.



Simple in Virtue, Steadfast in Duty. SJCians love the biennial Family Carnival during which they learn entrepreneurial and 21CC skills through raising funds for a worthy cause.



SJC's Character-Building Model is inspired by Lickona's Performance and Moral Character. Academic learning is often interwoven into activities that nurture 21CC. Here, IJYM girls are learning collaboration, communication, empathy and mathematics through their well-loved Valentines' Day fundraiser for their partner elderly folks' homes.



On behalf of the staff, principal Ms Susie Ho, receiving from then Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Kiat, the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Innovations in the Normal Stream (2015 to 2020) that was awarded to SJC.

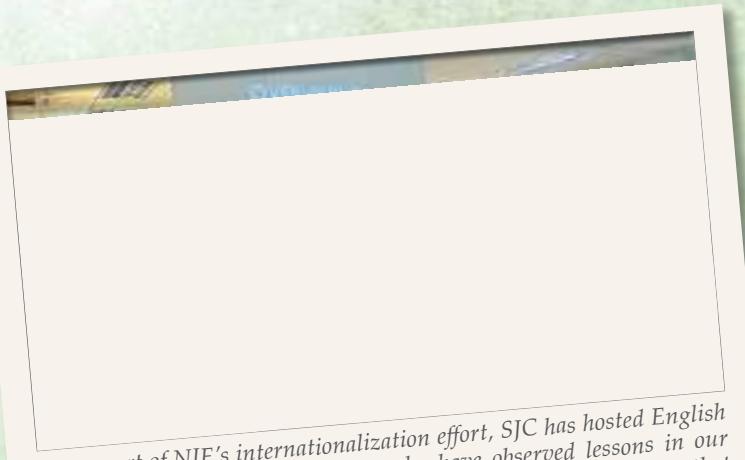


Creations from Secondary Ones commemorating National Day and exercising their visual-kinesthetic intelligence during form-teacher led Talent Development Programme lessons.

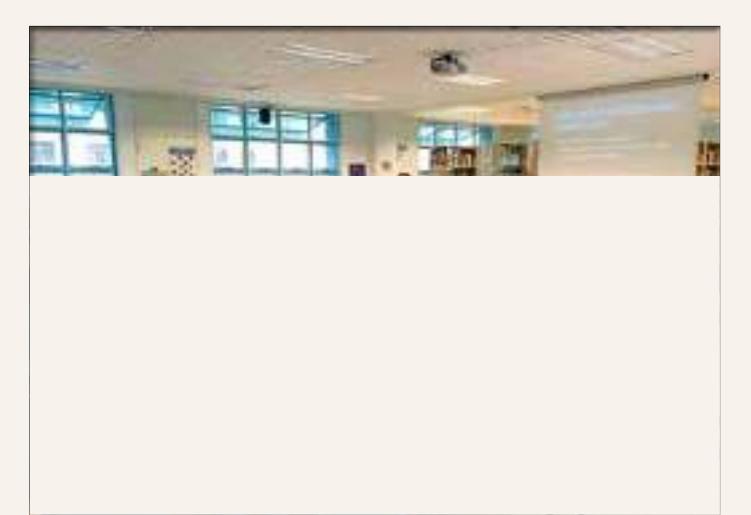


Winners at the Chemistry Ignite Challenge.

A Legacy of Learning



In support of NIE's internationalization effort, SJC has hosted English Language Teachers from Vietnam who have observed lessons in our classrooms and learnt about English Department initiatives that have made the learning of English engaging for students. Teachers from Vietnam here with members of SJC's English Department after a morning of classroom observations and workshops by SJC's HOD English and the English Language teachers.



English Language teachers from Vietnam learning from the HOD English, Mdm Karen Chen, during their visit.



SJC's staff and students have hosted visits from teachers from Asia Pacific neighbours such as Australia, Vietnam and Penang. In 2015, visiting student-teachers from (CHIJ) Myanmar were attached to SJC for several days to learn about SJC's English, Science and Maths programmes.



In 2017, Lead Teachers from various primary and secondary schools in Brisbane visited SJC as part of a one-week tour of Catholic schools in Singapore to learn about the Singapore education system. The visitors observed classes, and learnt about the English and Maths programmes at SJC. Australian senior educators with english language teacher, Ms Hazel Chew.



Australian senior educators visiting SJC's classrooms and learning about the Singapore approach to teaching languages.



Staff and students from SJC Convent Light Street, and Convent Pulau Tikus, Penang, visiting SJC.



SJCian staff and students visited Convent Light Street in Penang in 2015. The group was led by Ms Mary Charles (RE Co-ordinator) who was assisted by Ms Jeanette Ngoh (Geography teacher) and Ms Hazel Chew (Literature teacher).



A Legacy of Learning

*Extracted from the pages of the
CHIJ SJC Teachers' Handbook
which was prepared for all teachers in the 1960s.*



*The teacher's task is not to implant facts
but to place the subject in front of the learner,
and through enthusiasm, imagination and inventiveness
awaken the appetite of the learner!*

Every Child Has The Right To :

- affection, love and understanding
- an opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and morally in freedom and dignity...
- a name and nationality...
- free education...
- adequate nutrition, housing, medical care and recreation...
- special care, if handicapped...
- be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster...
- special care, if handicapped...
- be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster...
- be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood...
- protection against neglect, cruelty and exploitation...
- enjoy his/her rights, regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, national or social origin.

ADAPTED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, 1959



*“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember,
involve me and I learn.”*

Benjamin Franklin



A wide-angle photograph of a powerful ocean wave breaking towards the right. The wave's white foam contrasts sharply with the deep blue and teal tones of the surrounding water. Above the horizon, the sky is filled with a mix of dark, heavy clouds and lighter, wispy ones, all bathed in the warm, golden light of either a setting or rising sun. The overall mood is one of raw energy and natural beauty.

A Legacy in

Sports

and a rich Co-Curricular Experience

A dramatic photograph of a large ocean wave crashing, with a cloudy sky above.

*“You are not a drop in the ocean.
You are the entire ocean, in a drop.”*

Rumi

*A Legacy in **Sports** and a rich Co-Curricular Experience*



It has been said that sports is a microcosm of life. One of the tenets of education is to prepare young people for life, and sports plays an integral part. The process to master a sport takes commitment, hard work and determination. The journey to excel in it demands even more - resilience, perseverance and sacrifice are part of the daily diet in an athlete's life. Our guiding principle is that all students have talents and will experience success. Sweat, tears and bouts of failure are the stepping stones to great accomplishment. Lessons on how to win or lose with grace, or how to work as a team are taught and learnt not in textbooks, but in the playing field. What's more, the spirit of camaraderie and friendships made are cherished for a lifetime.

"Just play, enjoy the game, have fun."

Michael Jordan

Building A Sense of Belonging, Cultivating a Life-long Healthy Lifestyle

St Joseph's St Joseph's, We pledge our loyalty to Thee. With you, we spend our golden days... [School Song - lines 1-3]

Despite the smallness of our school compound, SJC has always maintained a robust and vibrant sporting culture that provides opportunities for all SJCians to maximise their potential. Older SJCians remember enjoying swimming and rockwall climbing lessons, as well as outdoor adventure level camps as an integral part of the SJC experience.

Another pillar of the SJC experience was the House system, a legacy from the Nuns that lasted from the 1960s to present. The House system served as a means of unifying students across different streams and classes through a shared participation and appreciation in a multitude of sports activities. Under the House system, many SJCians had their first taste of empowering student leadership as they had to assist their teachers in the organization and management of various sporting activities.



2018 Netball Carnival for Past to Present students.

The Swimming Meet was another annual major sports event for SJCians who had learnt to swim during the Swimming enrichment programme to compete. From the late 70s to 2006, there were a total of 29 annual swimming meets before this activity was stopped as primary schools increasingly provided swimming lessons to students. The Learn-to-Swim Programme and the School Team CCA both supported a vibrant swimming community in the school with a state swimmer, Mavis Ee, in the 1980s and the school performing well at the annual National Schools Swimming Championships. SJC has been regularly among the top 8 schools since the 1990s and also clinched the National Schools Top 4 awards in 1995 and 1997 for the C and B Division (Girls) respectively.



Swimming Carnival in the 1980s.



29th Swimming Meet 2006.



Sports Day from 1950s to 1990s at Hillside Drive.

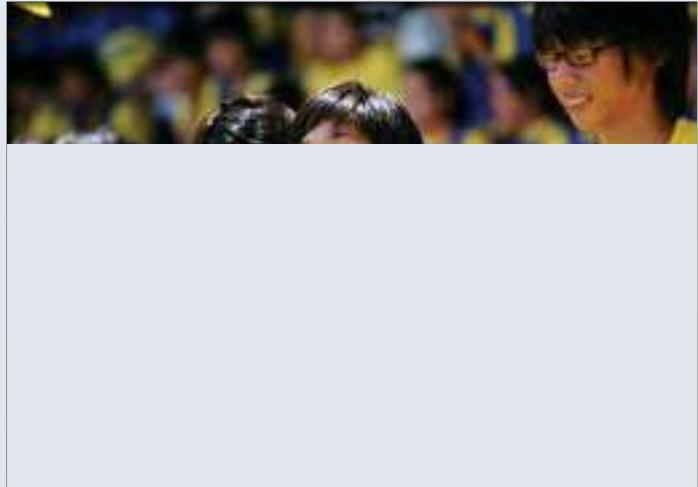


8x50m Inter-Class Relay, 2016 Sports Day.

*A Legacy in **Sports** and a rich Co-Curricular Experience*



St. Catherine House leaders at the 29th Swimming Meet (2006) leading members to cheer for the team.



St. Elizabeth House members cheering their team-mates at the 2007 Sports Day.



St. Emilie Prize Winners at the 2018 Sports Meet.



St. Helen House cheerleaders at the 2008 Sports Meet.

Of course, Sports would not be complete at SJC without Netball. From its humble beginnings in the 1960s when students would play with joy under the blazing sun during recess and whatever breaks they had during the day, to the more methodical approach adopted today in the 2010s, Netball was always an instrument for pushing our girls out of their comfort zone through sports. Through the Netball friends who eventually became as close as family, many SJCians who participated in this sport learnt time-management, resilience, strategy and patience on the court. Originally started by history teacher-turned coach, Mrs Cecile Tan, to keep students busy in the afternoons, the game took on a life of its own and even developed into a platform where SJCians in the early 80s picked up networking skills as they played with professionals from the finance industry. For many of these young ladies, these friendly encounters on the court paved the way for subsequent professional careers in banking and finance. Right up to the 1990s, SJC was one of the top four schools each year in the National Schools Netball tournament. In the 1980s to 1993, SJC clinched the championship several times. CCA membership for Netball then was the highest with membership of at least thirty percent of the school population. Today, SJC Netballers continue to do well at the national and zonal levels winning 3rd place in the C Division (Girls) National Schools Netball Tournament in 2017 and emerging amongst the top 3 winners in the North Zone Netball Championships for the last 6 years.



Our Netball girls at North Zone Netball Tournament 2018.



Mrs Cecile Tan, teacher-cum-coach with SJC school team netballers after prize giving at the Zonal / National Schools Netball competition.



SJC's Netball team after prize presentation of the 2017 National Inter-Schools Netball Tournament, winning the 3rd position for the C Division (Girls).

*A Legacy in **Sports** and a rich Co-Curricular Experience*

Today, SJCians have an even wider range of sports CCA options beyond the traditional Table Tennis and Badminton. They also have Fencing, Shooting and Modular Sports.

For students who are not sports or arts inclined, there are the Uniformed Groups which today have an enrolment of thirty percent of the student population. While we are happy that the Girl Guides, National Police Cadet Corp and St. John Brigade at SJC have been recognized with Gold Awards for the rich holistic educational experience provided to their students, what has been most satisfying is seeing shy Secondary Ones join the Uniformed Groups and emerge confident, organized young ladies with strong leadership competencies who love their UG and who will return faithfully once a year to help out at UG camps.



NPCC cadets representing their unit at Sengkang West National Day Observance Ceremony in Aug 2018.



St. John Ambulance Brigade in the Passing Out Parade at Hillside Drive in the 1990s.



Girl Guides during a training camp at Camp Christine in 2016.



Teachers vs Students Captain's Ball game at the Inter-House Games Day in 2000.



Inter-House Games Day, Table Tennis game held at the canteen in Hillside Drive.



Representing House and class at the 2018 second Cross Country Meet.



Outdoor Adventure Camp in the 1990s at Jalan Bahtera where girls were exposed to outdoor education, learning values of perseverance, teamwork, resilience and leadership skills. All girls go through an outdoor adventure camp at one of the level camps in SJC.



A Legacy in the Arts

"We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us."

Winston Churchill



A Legacy in the *Arts*



The arts, be it dance, drama, music or visual art, deepens self-awareness through the art of disciplined self-expression. To create, one must first imagine. To express, one must first experience.

As SJCians step out of their comfort zone and find new courage on stage; discover a new passion as they master an instrument or technique; and realise their potential as they immerse themselves in creating something that is truly their own, many of them have grown in confidence. An arts education is the ladder that enables our girls to rise above themselves and reach for the stars.

*"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul.
Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal."*

Mother Teresa

Creativity that Inspires and Challenges

Happy and Free. [School Song - line 4]

Necessity is the mother of invention. Given the humble beginnings of SJC at Flower Road before she subsequently moved to the Ree Family Bungalow and then to the Hillside Drive school campus after it was awarded Aided School status, SJCians have long learnt to maximize resources, however minimalistic, and still have fun learning. This was nowhere more obvious than in SJCians' attitude towards the Arts. Older SJCians remember that Art lessons took place just beside the canteen at the Hillside Drive campus because there were insufficient rooms. St Joseph's Feast Day saw students resourcefully initiating skits which recreated biblical scenes beautifully, staging celebratory dances and musical performances in the quadrangle despite the limited audio equipment and the possibility of inclement weather. In a time when English Literature was taken by all students in the convent schools,



Students thought nothing of dancing barefoot on concrete or under the hot sun when they volunteered their performances for a variety of school events such as Feast Day, Teachers' Day and National Day Celebrations.

SJCians demonstrated their appreciation of Shakespeare through performances of *Midsummer Night's Dream* staged in the Hillside Drive quadrangle. Although many of the students who enrol in SJC in Secondary One do not have the luxury of having had formal training in dance, drama or music, that has not stopped them from immersing themselves in the school culture and adopting the arts as a platform to build confidence, clarity of expression, and grace and teamwork as they are pushed out of their comfort zone to perform on stage in ensemble work. Apart from being a platform for students to establish lifelong friendships regardless of stream and class, today, many SJC alumni have established careers in the media industry and for many of them, they credit the opportunities they were given to perform or serve as student emcees on stage, be it through structured CCA activities, Religious Education celebrations, or inter-class voluntary initiatives.

The arts programme at SJC has evolved over the years and garnered support through the National Arts Council Artist-in-School partnerships and grants (2010 to 2014, 2016 to 2017) for Modern Dance/ Drama lower secondary curriculum. SJC's layered arts appreciation and development framework was recognized with the biennial Sustained Achievement Award (Performing Arts CCAs) from 2007 until MOE discontinued the Award in 2015, the National Arts Council Arts Education Award (NAEA) (GLOW, 2011 to 2016, and SPARK, 2015 to 2020), MOE Niche status in 2012, and formed the basis of SJC's Applied Learning Programme (ALP), The Art of Communication in Theatre and Debates (2013).

Today, the ALP is woven into the teaching of the languages, English and Mother Tongue, and Literature, which remains a popular choice amongst students. Platforms such as the interdisciplinary EL-Lit-History-Science project Jobs: Past and Future enable students to apply what they have learnt in drama enrichment and Literature classes into scripting stories about what they envision jobs of the future will be like, as well as the stories of empathy and struggle that migrants to Singapore experienced. In Mother Tongue, opportunities to encourage bilingualism span the gamut from literary and cultural arts platforms like translation or

oratorical competitions to theatre appreciation outings, meet-the-author sessions, and even a biennial singing competition.

Students who want to deepen their training in the arts do so through their choice of CCAs (Angklung, Concert Band, Centrestage – Drama, Debates, Modern Dance, Indian Dance, Guitar, Handbell, Media and Publications, and Pixel Playhouse – Photography and Animation.) Close to forty percent of the student population is enrolled in an arts CCA, 10 of the 23 CCAs available.



Modern Dance Ensemble students performing at SJC's youth adaptation of *The Sound of Music*.



Indian Dancers performing at the Lee Foundation Theatre, NAFA, on Aesthetics Night.



Angklung Ensemble performing with Minister of Education, Mr Ong Ye Kung, during SYF Celebrates at the Esplanade.

A Legacy in the Arts



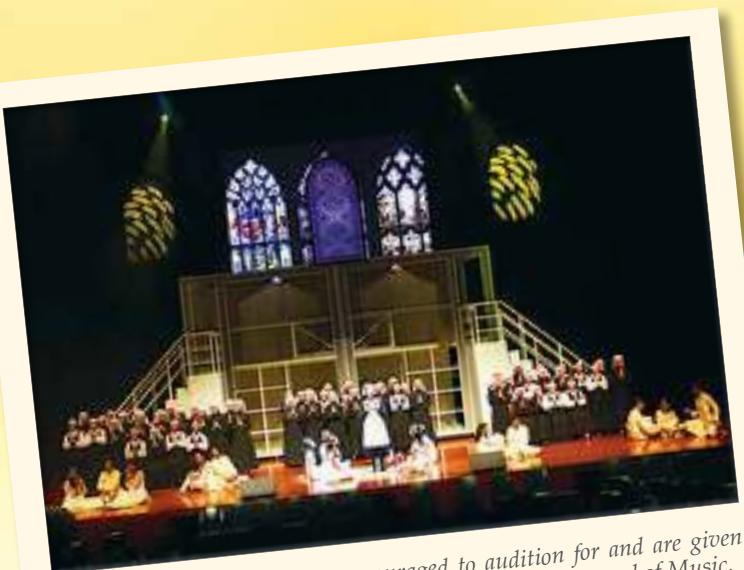
The SJC Choir representing Singapore at the Kagoshima Youth Arts Festival 2015.



The Guitar Ensemble performing at the NUIS Cultural Centre during Aesthetics Night. Most students join the Performing Arts CCAs without formal music training. The lower sec music programme teaches students sight-reading, basic music theory and keyboard skills.



Students from Debates Circle and Girl Guides emceeing at Aesthetics Night.



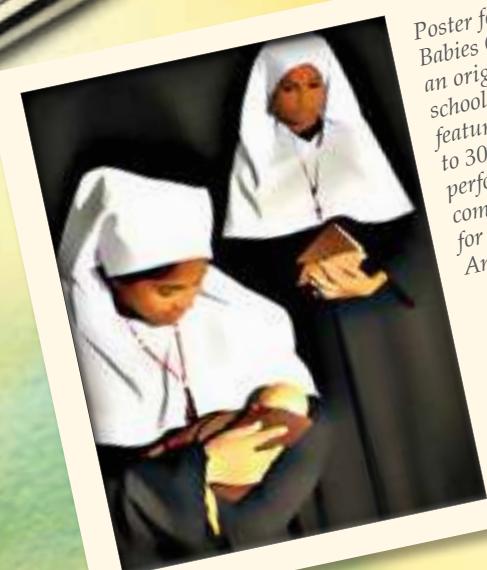
Students from all CCAs are encouraged to audition for and are given meaty roles in the school's musicals. A scene from The Sound of Music.



Centrestage Actors and Indian Dancers.



Inhouse photography and design by SJC's resourceful teachers.



Poster for Tiger Babies (2012), an original school musical featuring close to 300 student performers, and commissioned for SJC's 74th Anniversary.



Budding writers whose short stories celebrating Singapore were published in the local anthology Tales of Singapore in commemoration of Singapore's 50th Birthday.

A Legacy in the Arts



SJC's Military Band returning to school at the Hillside Drive campus after a National Day March Past.



The Voice of SJC is one of the many platforms provided to students to learn Mandarin in a fun manner. Featured here are two Voice of SJC (Season One) songbirds returning to give guest performances with their powerful vocals.



Handbell Ensemble ringers in position before curtain call for the SYF Celebrates 2018! opening performance at the Esplanade Concert Hall.



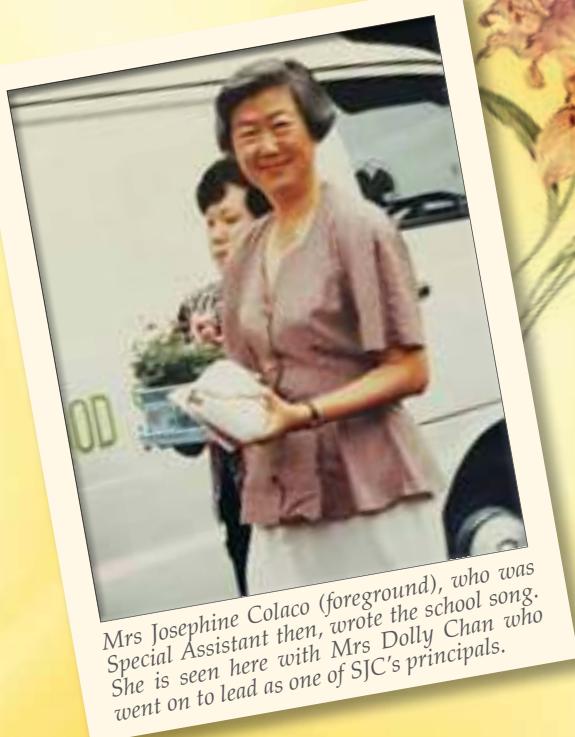
Budding bilingual student translators fluent in both English and Mandarin.



Student debators at the annual Singapore Literature Festival.



Secondary Twos enacting their Wax Museum skits that raise concerns about the implications on human safety and meritocracy in an increasingly technologically reliant world where genetic selection may well be possible in humans.



Mrs Josephine Colaco (foreground), who was Special Assistant then, wrote the school song. She is seen here with Mrs Dolly Chan who went on to lead as one of SJC's principals.



Mrs May Sim designed the school flag in 1968 while she was a student in SJC. The flag was first hoisted on 20 July 1968 to mark the opening of the Youth Festival. The blue of the flag is our convent blue and our Lady's colour. White is for purity. The letters SJC are surrounded by 2 arcs incorporating our school motto. This signifies that SJC is a school complete in itself yet sharing the same unifying motto as all other IJ Convents.





A Legacy of **Service**

"Together we strive to live up to your words."

School Song - Line 6

A Legacy of Service



St. Paul says, 'we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.' (Ephesians 2:10). The Infant Jesus Sisters built our convent with the overarching goal of serving the community, especially meeting the needs of 'persons who are disadvantaged in any way'. An education at SJC goes beyond just honing talents and helping our girls to realise their inner potential. Just as a gardener sows his seeds and nurtures it from sapling to tree, we nourish our girls and tend to their growth. A healthy tree bears good fruit for all to enjoy. Our hope is that every girl who enters and leaves our gates will use her abilities to serve others especially those who are in need. Many of our alumnae have paid forward the blessings they have received and made an impact in the lives of others wherever they are. As our girls look for opportunities to bless those around them, they in turn will find fulfilment and purpose in their lives.

"For it is in giving that we receive."

St. Francis of Assisi

Simple in Virtue, Steadfast in Duty - Paying It Forward

In one resounding voice we sing, To your praise. Long live Saint Joseph's. With the help of God's grace. [School Song - lines 7-10]

If your school is based in a simple farming area in Hougang-Serangoon, walking to school at Hillside Drive daily was not uncommon. Many SJCians did not come from wealthy families. Given the school's Aided School status, fund raisers for the worthy cause of education were common. Nuns, teachers, girls and their parents chipped in many a time to raise funds to extend the small school building, or raised funds to help those who required financial aid.

Perhaps it was out of this that SJC developed the practice of a biennial Family Carnival in the 2000s. Today, Family Carnival brings together students, staff, alumni and the Parents Support Group to come together in a day of social entrepreneurship to aid the students who require financial



The Biennial Family Carnival embodies one of the best examples of support from the dedicated Parents' Support Group. The Carnival serves as a platform to teach our girls social entrepreneurship, teamwork and communicative skills. The PSG runs several booths and has been most supportive in their generous contribution of exciting lucky draw prizes which carnival patrons look forward to. Current PSG Chairman, Mr Terence Teo, is seen here during the lucky draw segment with a lucky winner.

assistance. Guided by their form teachers, classes put up booths that reflect their resourcefulness and creativity. Lower secondary students typically set up stalls promoting simple, old-fashioned funfair games and simple artwork. Older students are more adventurous and will cobble together anything from haunted houses, to music request booths complete with wannabe deejays, to workshops that promote recycling creatively like terrarium making and even Science and Maths treasure hunts. It is little wonder that SJC's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) which was established in 2013 is Critical and Creative Thinking through Community Problem Solving, and one of our longest standing CCAs is IJ Youth Mission which focuses on community work.

In a similar vein, two well-loved traditions in SJC today are her annual level camps, and her House system, platforms which cut across stream and class to enable girls to come together for a common worthy cause. Today, each SJCian's four to five year journey involves a level camp with a Service Learning focus that has enabled students to better appreciate what they have especially given that today, the majority of SJCians come from middle class families. Many SJCians have returned to serve as teachers, parent-volunteers or both! Many SJC alumnae who have made inroads into worthy causes locally and overseas beyond the gates of the school, or who have shown their gratitude to the school through the initiation of various awards and bursaries for their juniors, shared that they were motivated by the life-affirming and encouraging educational experiences and lifelong friendships that they forged in SJC.

In 2007 and 2009, the Wee Eng Neo and Cecile Tan Awards were initiated in gratitude and love by alumnae for their teachers who made a huge difference in their lives. In 2015, the SJC Alumnae initiated the SJCA Special Achievement Award to recognise girls from the 3 different streams who excelled in their national exams despite facing challenges. In 2018, the Lucy and Philip Kho Award was initiated by Susanna Kho, an SJC alumna, who started an award in memory of her parents. The award was to empower her juniors just as she felt SJC had empowered her.



SJC's LLP CmPS requires students to identify community issues and propose solutions. One such group went on to win the under 15 top prize at the Singapore Water Competition with their solutions to encourage water conservation. Here is the winning team with their supportive teacher-coaches, Ms Serene Wong and Ms Ho Yan Yi.



SJC's LLP CmPS requires students to identify community issues and propose solutions. In 2015, following a visit to the Future of Us exhibit, SJCians, staff and students alike, proposed solutions to meet the challenges in Singapore's future. Their ideas were compiled into 2 volumes – SJC Heartbeat.



(L-R) The late Ms Wee Eng Neo, Mrs Cecile Tan, Mrs Monica Lim (SJCA exec), Mrs Daphne Cardoza, then Principal, Mrs Neela Wyatt, Mrs Ellen Tan and Sister Agnes Lee while at Hillside Drive.

A Legacy of Service



In 2017, a group of alumni celebrated their 50th birthdays by partnering SJC in a Pay It Forward Project to raise funds for the village of Taom in Cambodia. Funds raised were used to improve the infrastructure in Taom.



Simple in Virtue, Steadfast in Duty. SJCians have typically spent one of their upper secondary level camps doing community outreach. Here, Secondary Four students painted and drew wall murals at a village in Indonesia



The Debate Circle students showcasing their CmPS project, Project Attualita, which promotes awareness about current affairs. SJC held an exhibition alongside other Top Ten groups at the CmPS exhibit in 2018. The students were coached by their teachers, Ms Jeanette Ngoh and Ms Sarah Sharmini.



Collage of SJC's ILEAD project where a group of seniors rallied the school to set an SG Guiness Record for wearing spectacles to raise awareness about the challenges facing the visually impaired. (L-R) Then VP, Dr Jeanne Ho, and Principal, Mrs Susan Crossley, supporting students by donning the glasses too.



Staff leading students in the church choir.

Prayer, regardless of one's faith, is a quiet source of strength that underpins our values and beliefs about what we aspire for our girls.



A Legacy of Service



Sherlyn Khong
(Class of 1991)

Key founder of Acts 29

Acts 29 is a youth organization of the Catholic Church. It serves the poor in the Payatas Dumpsite of Quezon City, Philippines.

Sherlyn works with Paaralang Pantao, a school for the poor. Acts 29 provides free, non-formal education for homeless children living on the streets. Acts 29 also provides nutritional and well-balanced meals for the poor who live in the dumpsite.

Sherlyn was featured in the CNA documentary, A Singaporean Abroad (2015), and in a Straits Times article, Slumming It and Loving It (2015).



Debby Ng
(Class of 1998)

Photojournalist, Conservation Activist, Co-Founder of Himalayan Mutt Project

Debbie collaborates with local veterinarians, community leaders and supportive individuals to make a difference to human health, animal welfare and the sensitive ecology of the Himalayans.

Debbie was featured in a Straits Times article, Saving Wildlife, Dogs and People at the same time (2017). In January 2018, she was awarded a US\$10,000/- grant from National Geographic to support her work with animals in Nepal.



Annie Tan
(Class of 1995)

Outreach and Mission Work with children in orphanages overseas since 2007

Annie began such work at the UN Thai-Burmese border. For close to a decade, she has been working with children from various parts of China, Cambodia, Nepal and Indonesia and currently visits an orphanage in Burma at least once a year.

Her work with orphans and children was featured in Episode 6 of the Channel 8 programme, Going Miles, Spreading Smiles (2017).



Audrey Tan
(Class of 2003)

Co-Founder of Angels of Impact and PlayMoolah, two social enterprises

Audrey's passion for poverty alleviation led her to help social enterprises in ASEAN by empowering women-led businesses from impoverished local communities.

Audrey believes that women are the key to change as they are more likely to spend their income on their families' well-being which enables these families to create a better future.

She was featured in Cleo Magazine's July 2017 issue, Changemakers 2017.

SJC Girls who Answered the Call

To Act Justly with Courage and Compassion, Helping the Disadvantaged in Society



Founder of the Volunteer Group, Advocates for Refugees (Singapore)

Mathilda has organized public events such as Refugee Awareness Week (RAW) (2017) to raise awareness of refugee problems and to encourage support for their cause. Her work includes supporting global refugee problems through raising awareness.

Mathilda Ho

(Class of 2005)



Manorama Singh

(Class of 2008)

Project Roshni

Manorama, while an undergraduate at Singapore Management University, initiated an online crowdfunding campaign, Project Roshni, that raised S\$15,000/- to install solar panels for a school in India and also supported the medical work by doctor volunteers and social workers for the poor.

"SJC challenged me to examine how I could impact my community. I realized how much it matters to me that those in need of help were touched."

- Manorama's sharing from SJC Stories That Inspire, Celebrating Learning.



Programme Executive working with disadvantaged children at Care Community Services Society

Sarah heard a calling to serve as a social worker helping children and youth at risk as she has enjoyed volunteering and serving actively in church since her youth.

Sarah Jane Tan

(Class of 2001)



Michelle Vong

(Class of 2012)

Community Activist

Michelle initiated a polytechnic final year project, "Light Their Plight", to raise awareness of poverty.

Her good work at Nanyang Polytechnic was highlighted by The New Paper (2016). She was also awarded a scholarship to study Social Work at the National University of Singapore.





Acknowledgements

There is a Zen saying that “No snowflake ever falls at the wrong place”.

Just as all water reunites with the ocean, SJCians, over these past 80 years, have with the guidance and love of the Lord, our Father above, Father Barre, Mother Mathilde, St Joseph and the wider SJC community of the IJ Board of Management, MOE, the Parents’ Support Group, Alumnae and Staff, grown into Women of Integrity, with the Passion to Pursue Excellence. There are too many people to thank for SJC’s Legacy of Love these beautiful eight decades. This little collection of memories is dedicated to all of you for your Love, Hope and Belief in Our Girls.

Happy 80th Birthday, SJC, and here’s to many, more Anniversaries!

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