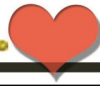




Christ Church Secondary School

# CHR Highlights



"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

Issue 4/2015

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## Congratulations!



Ms Naomi Sum and her groom!



Ms Hafizah on her newborn!

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM CHR STAFF ON HONOURS DAY (STAFF)

There was this air of contagious positive energy throughout the day. It was amazing to see how all staff are being recognised for their hard work and achievements. For me, it is a break from the usual routine and a precious opportunity to connect with both students and colleagues. It was great overall.

The reciting of the Teachers' Pledge helped me to reconnect to my purpose of becoming an educator. It got me convicted and served as a reminder of how much more I could actually give to the students.

It was the cards and affirmation forms that moved me the most. The encouraging notes made me realise how significant teachers can be to our students. The little things we do or say in class do have lasting impact on them. I was simply amazed and delighted when some of my students could even quote what I said to them! This gave meaning and value to every drop of blood, sweat and tear shed in the year., that I had made an impact on them one way or another.

**Ms Sarah Oh**

This year's Honours' Day (Staff) was very exciting for me as all the student leaders were involved in one way or another to honour the staff of the school.

The appreciation trees this year provided a platform for students' voices to be heard and I was heartened to see students taking the initiative to leave messages of appreciation for their teachers. I was also very encouraged when I saw the class leaders spend their Friday afternoons in the science labs meticulously making scented candles that were meant for the staff, the effort they put in truly bore testament to how their teachers and the school staff have impacted their lives.

Words of affirmation from my students encouraged me to continue putting in my best for them, encouragement from my peers also served as a good reminder of the reasons we do the work that we do. I think more than the gifts and the excitement, it's knowing that on a day to day basis we have impacted our students and helped them to grow, that gives me the greatest satisfaction as an educator.

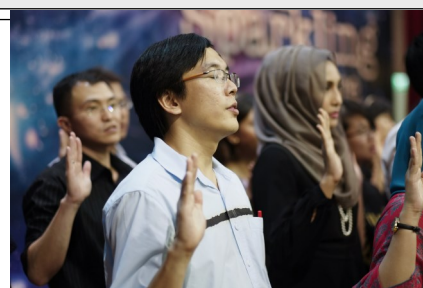
**Ms Toh Minmin**



## HONOURS' DAY (STAFF)



Mr Lau, our principal, Mrs Anne Chan and Mr Jeromy Ngian, our vice-principals, receiving a token of appreciation from Mr Christopher Pua, the vice chairman of our Parent Support Group.



Our teachers reciting the Teachers' Pledge with pride and conviction.

### CHECK OUT THESE AWESOME PERFORMANCES!



Chantel from 3E3 and Chelson from 2E1 put up a captivating performance!



A rousing performance by our PSG!



Our Modern Dance touched the heart of teachers through their unique performance.

## SPECIAL DEDICATIONS TO CHR STAFF

Mr Desmond Chan has inspired me to try harder in Mathematics. I always look forward to his fun lessons. Through his patient coaching, I am able to improve a lot in my results. Being approachable and friendly, my classmates and I frequently ask him for guidance and he never rejects us. I would like to thank him for making a difference in my life.

**Hannah, 2E3**

Mr Francis Seah is a teacher with a big heart and constantly cares about his students as if we are his own children. He takes time to explain and ensures we understand whatever he is teaching. He is an amazing teacher who makes lessons fun. I would like to thank him from the bottom of my heart for being such an awesome Mathematics teacher!



**Yixuan, 3N6**



Ms Sarah Oh is like a beautiful star guiding me through the bleak moments in my life. She changed my life by helping me to overcome my fears and understand the purpose of my existence.

**Qitarah, 4N7B**

Ms Min has put in a lot of effort to help my class, not only in improving our grades but also in helping us to develop in our character and values. I am grateful to her for showing us how to overcome challenges together not just as a class but as a family. Through her frequent talks to us, we have learnt to be more responsible, caring, persevering and forward-looking.

**Arianna Mae, 1E4**



Ms Lee Han is the best teacher I have ever met. She understands me and dotes on me the most. I am so thankful to have her as my teacher and I am full of respect for what she does.

**Owen, 2N5**





## PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES (INFOCOMM CLUB)

As a member of the Infocomm Club (ICC), I am extremely proud to be part of an important team which contributes to the daily operations of my school's morning assembly as well as for school events and concerts.

For every event, without fail, ICC will play an integral part in ensuring that the event runs smoothly. My teacher-in-charge allows each and every one of us to be given the chance to lead and supervise an event. This helps to train us to be responsible and forward-looking. Through this platform, we also gain leadership skills.



Preparation for the event usually takes place at least two weeks before the actual event. This allows the student who is overall in-charge to plan the procedure the team needs to follow to run the event, as well as to prepare for any necessary equipment that is required.

During the rehearsals, the whole team needs to be present and test the equipment to ensure that the equipment is working well and to detect any faults that may be present in the system. Briefings will be conducted by the student in-charge to disseminate key information and allocation of duties to the rest of the team. After every rehearsal, there will be a debrief to help the team reflect on how everyone can work better together and have better communication to ensure the event runs more smoothly.

Every event brings huge stress to the team but through this, we learnt precious lessons on how to manage ourselves and to build on our strengths in order to better contribute to the team. I can definitely say that I am proud to be in ICC and under no circumstance will I leave my beloved CCA.

### Arcega, 3E4

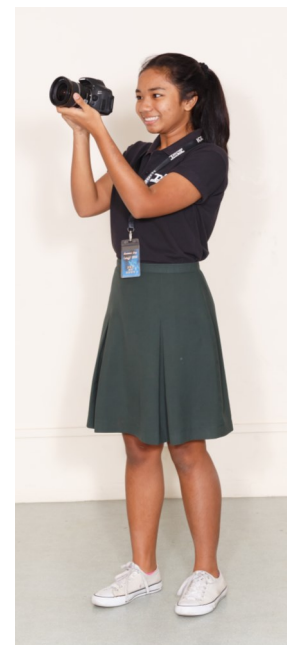
ICC plays a very important role behind the scenes as we are in charge of setting up the technical aspects for the morning assembly as well as for concerts during school events. That is why we have a great responsibility to fulfil in being part of the ICC. If any one of us shirks our responsibilities, it will definitely affect the morning assembly and the daily routine of the school. Therefore, we take pride in playing an important role to the daily operations and routine of the school. We are trained to be always quick and ready for any challenge that comes ahead of us. We need to be self-directed and work as a team to solve issues.

### Shaik, 3E5

Every morning, the students who are on duty for the morning assembly have to be in school by 6.50am to get ready. By 7am, we need to report to the station. To run the PA system as well as to play the National Anthem, we have a detailed set of procedures to follow. As long as we are competent in our technical knowledge and remain focused on our duties when we are at the station, we will be able to ensure that the morning assembly runs smoothly. Occasionally, there may be hiccups so we need to be always ready to react and think on the spot.

During events, communication is key to ensuring they run smoothly. We need to be well aware of the expectations from our teachers. We need to be extremely meticulous and pay a lot of attention to the requirements of the event so that we can react to any given situation. Timing is very important for a concert so we need to always remain alert.

### Joy, 2E4



## DARE TO DREAM



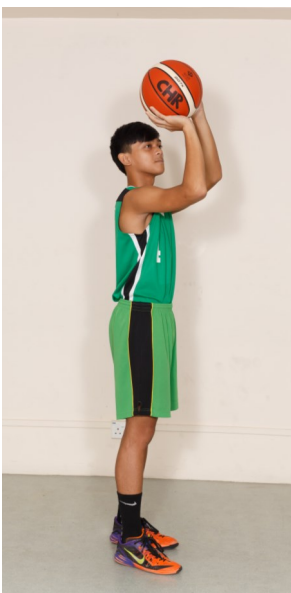
Three weeks ago, I was introduced to a new training programme hosted by the Singapore Sports School. It sounded exciting, and what was even more exciting was that my Badminton CCA Teacher in-charge sent me to represent Christ Church Secondary School in this programme. I was told that only the best players of each school were selected, and this rigorous training requires a lot of commitment from its players.

I decided to take part in this training programme because I wanted to bring my badminton skills to the next level. My first training at the Singapore Sports School was quite gruelling. I had to do 50 'push-ups', 50 'back-raise' after my Badminton training there, regardless of how exhausted I was.

However, after attending a few more training sessions, I slowly got accustomed to the challenging exercises. I hope to become stronger than I am now, and return to Christ Church Secondary School to share with my team mates what I learned. I also hope that with this training programme, it will help me to be a step closer to qualify for the National Intermediate Badminton Squad and represent Singapore in future. I will work hard towards my dream of representing Singapore and hope that my vision will come true.

**Manfred, 3T8**

## STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE THROUGH BASKETBALL



Through the Basketball matches with opponents from various schools, I learned to persevere in my training sessions to build up my stamina and to improve my techniques.

Through these matches, I became more aware of my strengths and weaknesses. By reflecting on each and every match that I had participated in, I became more conscious of how and what I had to do to improve my basketball skills.

Even though I had picked up various techniques during my CCA training, the application was not easy. When I wanted to try the 'underbasket' technique, my opponents were all blocking me. From this experience, I realised that I needed to have more confidence in myself and try to find an opportunity to beat my opponents. I was disappointed that I had no opportunity to try the 'free-throw' technique and made a lot of careless mistakes which caused my team to lose a lot of points.

Through exposure to matches with other schools, I have learned the importance of perseverance to improve my skills, confidence to believe in my own capabilities as well as the importance of teamwork to put in my best, together with my team, in order to achieve excellence through my CCA.

**Peggy Goh, 1E1**



## Healthy Living through Physical Education (PE)

Most of us do not have time to exercise with our busy school time table. PE allows us to exercise and break the **monotony** of sitting in a classroom. During PE lessons, we are exposed to different games like volleyball and badminton which allow us to bond with our classmates better. The theory section of PE is **an eye-opener** to the importance of keeping fit and eating correctly.



**Charmaine Ong Pei Xi, 3E5**

PE definitely has helped me achieve healthy living. Exercise plays a **pivotal** role in adopting a healthy lifestyle. PE ensures that we exercise every week as most of us do not set aside time for exercise. PE theory helps us understand and plan our exercise **routine** which best suits us. PE lessons also introduce us to different sports which give us an opportunity to cultivate an interest and passion for some games.

**Teh Yue Ern Deborah, 3E5**

PE gives us the opportunity to try out games we may not have played before. PE Theory teaches us how our body functions and what we need to do to be fit and healthy. We also learn how to build strength in our different muscles. Most teenagers enjoy sports and by staying active with games, we are able to have fun while keeping fit. At the same time, we are taught how to keep fit safely which is important for teenagers as most (of us) like to play outdoors.

**Jolene Ang, 3E5**

## HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH FOOD AND CONSUMER EDUCATION

I have learnt what a healthy diet is and this helps me choose the food I eat wisely. I am able to share this knowledge with my family.

**Ashley M, 1E4**

Food and Consumer Education (FCE) taught me how to store and handle food correctly to prevent contamination. Food poisoning is a painful condition caused by **toxins** and harmful bacteria when food is contaminated. It also teaches us about the healthy plate to help us eat right and be healthy.



**Elvy Chan, 1E1**

### Vocabulary Terms:

**Monotony** : lack of variety; sameness of tone or pitch, as in speaking

**Eye-opener**: something startling, surprising or enlightening

**Pivotal** : critical; vitally important

**Routine** : tasks, chores, duties done regularly; typical; habitual

**Toxins** : substances created by plants & animals which are harmful to humans; also includes useful medication which when taken in large amounts, becomes poisonous





## INTERACTIVE LEARNING AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE LIBRARY

In August 2015, the Chinese Mother Tongue (MT) students were introduced to the resources available in our MRL through an activity. Our MT teacher **narrated** a story and explained meanings of the drawings which were actually Chinese characters. The characters were not the simplified Chinese we are familiar with. Ancient Chinese characters actually **stemmed** from a form of Chinese culture.

Our task was to ‘hunt’ for ‘treasures’ — we had to gather information from the resources in the MRL to complete our assignment. As we flipped the pages of the books, we were **immersed** in the beginning of Chinese **culture**.

Besides learning more about the Chinese characters, we also realised that our MRL has many Chinese Language books available.

### Pang Hui Yu, 2N6

We were **tasked** to find out the meaning of a few words that people used in the past. We were given two clues, one of which was the author’s surname and the other was the number on the book. We found out that the answer was within the book. There were two objectives behind this event: to encourage us to spend more time in the library discovering books filled with new words and reminding us that answers we were looking for could be found in a book!

### Tan Hui Wen, Alicia, 2N6

In this learning session, we also did a survey with ‘Socrative’. We had to type in Chinese, which we had never done before, using the computers in the library. It was a effective way to learn the Chinese Language on the computer as it is relevant for all students of today.

### Than Yu Hui, 2N6

Having lessons in a different venue such as the MRL allowed us to experience learning in a different environment. For Biology lesson that day, we watched videos on the topic of Photosynthesis. The video was a great alternative to the traditional methods of teaching as it kept us interested. Thus, we paid more attention to the lesson and as a result, we were able to absorb the lesson contents with greater ease.

In addition, the video was funny and it kept us alert. We also had an online quiz session using Kahoot after the video. I think that this was a great way to test what we had learnt as it was educational, interactive and fun at the same time. The environment in the MRL was very conducive as it was quiet, clean and cool. Hence learning was more enjoyable.

### Deborah Teh, 3E5



#### Vocabulary Terms:

**Narrated** : to tell the story or to give an account of

**Stemmed from** : started or developed as the result of something

**Immersed** : involved deeply in a particular activity

**Culture** : the beliefs, customs, arts etc of a particular group, place or time / a way of thinking or working that exists in a place or organisation

**Tasked** : assigned a piece of work



## STAFF SUGGESTIONS

### Parent-Child Bonding Session @ Meet-The Parents Session

In order to enhance parent-child bonding and to allow parents to meet the teachers in a more personal environment such as their child's classroom, students can decorate the classroom meaningfully.

Students can present the routes to institutions of higher learning and the scores required to qualify for the various courses on their class noticeboard. The process of doing this helps the students to gain a greater awareness of their options and grades required to enter their desired school and course.



Parents will be better engaged and happy to see their child taking on a more active and engaging role. There is room for more specific and relevant queries by parents and students in a more relaxed setting.

Thus a platform is created to develop students' confidence. Parents will see their children in action and this platform enhances parent-student relationships as well.

**Ms Lee Han (Cluster Best for Jan 2015)**

### Dreamz @ NTU and RP

Currently, many students do not know their career options. The ECG team designed a "Dreamz @ NTU" learning journey to provide students the opportunity to explore the choices they can have beyond secondary school to motivate them to work towards a goal.



At NTU, an iPhone application (app) Klikaklu was used to facilitate the race. The students were divided into groups and each leader had an iPhone. The app gave clues together with the GPS. The group tried to navigate around the campus and also asked around for help. They got a chance to look at how our universities function and also to mingle with the undergraduates.

Following from the NTU learning journey, "Dreamz @ RP" was conceived. At RP, the race took a very different form. Each group was given a JAE booklet and the JAE requirements. The two days allowed this group of students a better understanding of the options for the two different institutions which they might encounter during the different phases of their lives. It opened their eyes to the possibilities they could have in the future.

The intent of this programme is to increase intrinsic motivation through exposure, reflection and target setting. In the journey of chasing their dreams, more dreams will evolve. What we need to teach them is: DARE TO DREAM.

**Group Members:**

**Mr Ng Sei Heng, Mr Hu Chang Chuan, Miss Rossellini Tan (Cluster Best for April 2015)**

### The Kang Kong Project: Incorporating Authentic Tasks to Enhance Learning in Science

Currently, lower secondary students are taught scientific inquiry, but do not have the opportunity to do so on their own. Students also see topics covered in isolation, and are unable to make links between what they have learnt in each topic.

This project introduces a coherent underlying theme that the students can refer to when applying their learning. In this case, students are given kang kong to grow over the span of a term. Through the growing of their own kang kong, students learn how to identify variables and write hypotheses, use apparatus to measure variables like mass, diameter, volume, plan and carry out an experiment based on their hypotheses, collect data and conclude. The entire project brings the students through each step of the scientific inquiry process, and allows students to see for themselves what applying their content learning looks like.

Furthermore, the project can be extended to help students learn about plant cells and the transport in plants. Having an underlying theme helps the students to see how the topics that they learn are correlated and can all be applied to study a subject. This project also allows students to take ownership of their own learning and to be responsible and consistent in collecting their data.

**Ms Toh Min Min (Cluster Best for May 2015)**





The theme for CHR 2015 **"Giving Thanks: Appreciate Each Family"** builds on 2014 theme **"Giving Thanks: Appreciate Each Day"**.

It focuses on developing gratitude in our students at home as families are pivotal in their life journey. Each family unit is unique and we believe that when CHRians learn to appreciate their families no matter what situation the family is in, they can play a more proactive role at home in strengthening family ties. Through this, they will demonstrate our RICPF values and this will bring them joy and hope in their life.

After a long day at work, my parents still find time to motivate me to do well in my studies. They inspire me to do my very best and strive for better results in my O-levels.

Their love for me and their inspiration, push me on. My parents are my role models, urging me on and to never give up.



**Ernest, 4E3**

My dad would stop watching tv and sit next to me whenever I am studying. My mom writes me notes of encouragement every day. I owe my success to her.

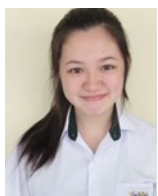


**Nathan, 4E5**

My Mom would nag and remind me that whatever I do, I should do it with excellence because it will benefit me in the future. I thank God for giving me such a wonderful Mother who guides me by correcting my mistakes.



**Kyla Eunice, 4N7A**



**Lecanne O'Donnell, 4N7B**

Broken smiles, teary eyes, you press on.

Broken family, corrupted childhood, you carry on.

Broken marriages, cheated feelings, you grow strong.

Persevere and you will see, they were all wrong.

One should be forward-looking and avoid doing things at the last minute. We need to plan ahead and strive towards our goals.

We should avoid doing things at the last minute. I try not to do things half-heartedly. I follow my passion so that I can put in my best effort.



**Jaquelyn, 5N1**



**Justin Wong, 4E1**

I draw inspiration from my family members who work hard to overcome their challenges with a positive attitude.

Their perseverance and great determination have always inspired me to have passion and the will to go on, in all that I do.



**Pamela, 4E2**

I feel extremely grateful to my parents for the sacrifices they've made for me. Almost too often, we fail to appreciate them and assume they'd be there forever.

A family will stay by your side during your darkest hour. Take time to give thanks because they are the reasons we are able to achieve our dreams.

Most of the time, we are too busy to take a step back and appreciate what our family has done for us. My father works long hours and my mom, takes care of us while running her own business. Often, my parents tell us that they work hard to ensure that my brother and I are able to get a decent education and a future.

We are determined to achieve the best that we can, to do our family proud.



**Villafior Kate, 4E4**

My parents urged me to draw when I was very young. They believed in passion and taught me that practice does not make perfect, but it brings about progress.

Believe in what you are passionate about and keep working on it.



**Christabelle Chi, 4N6**

By giving thanks to my family, I learn to persevere during challenging times. At times like those, we need to see the opportunities rather than the difficulties.

I am determined to work hard so that I am able to provide the best for my wife and family.



**Mr Joel Seah, Form Teacher of 4N6**

I'm thankful to my classmates and teachers, for always making lessons come alive in class.

Nothing is worth more than giving thanks to everyone for all the years we have been together as a class!



**Haziq, 4T8**

Saying thanks to my mother is not enough for all the things that she has given and provided me with.

Knowing she is always there for me, gives me the confidence to continue striving for my dreams.



**Nurul Shahfudin 5N2**

