



ISSUE THREE 2020

Christ Church
Secondary School

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To access **CHR Highlights Issue 3 (2020)** in **full colour**, please scan the **QR code** or visit the **'Publications'** section in www.chr.edu.sg



National Day: Together A Stronger Singapore

The theme 'Together A Stronger Singapore' is a rallying call to Singaporeans to play our part to push forward and determine Singapore's future, in spite of the difficulties and crises. CHRians came together for a National Day Observance Ceremony in the morning and worked together as a class for a one-minute Love SG performance.

CHR HIGHLIGHTS

Snippets of Life in CHR

Many of our events and activities had to take on a different mode as CHR adapts to the new norms in Semester 2. However, we continue to explore possibilities as one CHR family, not forgetting to have fun at the same time!

Youth Day: Celebrating our successes

The day began with the Secondary 3 NRIC presentation ceremony in the morning and ended with a one-hour celebration in which we identified our very own CHR agents of kindness and affirmed our winners of the morning assembly challenges during full Home-based Learning (FHBL).



“

Dancing together as a class was a novel experience for me but it could also have been disastrous! But look, we have overcome them all. It was heart-warming to see everyone practising with zeal and confidence as the day of performance drew nearer. We became serious and exhibited camaraderie by encouraging one another. I will always remember this feeling! Such high spirits reflect the energy of our youth and we are proud to be the Youth Ambassadors of CHR!

-NUR SARAH SYAKIRA (4/3)

”



4E3 is proud to kickstart Youth Day Celebration with a flash mob!



Racial Harmony Day: Multicultural Singapore – Unity in Diversity

With the added challenges brought about by COVID-19, this year's commemoration took on an even greater significance. CHRians continued to contribute their voices by having deeper discussions about their roles in sustaining racial harmony, and learnt to appreciate the little things that unite us despite the differences in cultural practices.



THE NEW NORM: DSA & EAE Interview @ Library

This year, students who were shortlisted by tertiary institutions for the Direct School Admission (DSA) Exercise and/or Early Admission Exercise (EAE) went through e-interviews.

To better prepare students for their next phase of educational journey, Mdm Karen Lee, our school's ECG counsellor, held consultations using a video conferencing tool (Zoom) and encouraged students to post their questions using Padlet.

Ms Wendy Chew, our ECG teacher coordinator, shares the following tips with all CHRians on what they can do to better prepare themselves for an e-interview when the time comes:

If you wish to do your e-interview at home... you need to consider the following:

- Is your home environment conducive enough?
- Do you have the appropriate equipment (a laptop with a webcam) and a built-in or external microphone?
- Is the internet connection in your house stable?

What is Ms Chew's advice to CHRians as they prepare for the EAE?

1. Explore different courses and careers as early as possible

This will widen your horizon and help you consider your choices in school and your future careers.



2. Understand your strengths and weaknesses

... but do not limit yourself to what you can or cannot do. You are constantly learning and growing, building on your strengths and improving your weaknesses. This is something you need to consider when listing your dream courses or careers.

3. Build your portfolio early

Show your passion and sincerity through your portfolio. Demonstrate your knowledge of the courses you're interested in and show that you have done some research on related careers of your interest.

4. Chat and discuss your plans with a trusted adult

They can be your teachers, or anyone whom you're comfortable to share your plans with. If you have questions on the educational pathways (JC, Poly, ITE) or careers, you may also approach Mdm Karen Lee.

"To sum up my EAE experience in one word, it is all about "preparation". An early preparation is key to acing the interview. You should have your portfolio done up, have a clear understanding of the chosen polytechnic and course and be able to articulate what you want to do in the future. One challenge I faced was trying to explain why I position my courses in a certain order. It was definitely tough to answer such a question posed by the lecturers. Nevertheless, being composed and moving on is important. One thing I have learnt through the interviews is that I should not perceive this as a shortcut and be complacent in my studies. Priorities should be set right and studies should always come first. I have one tip to offer CHRians, and that is to not compare yourselves with your peers or other candidates. Be confident of yourself, do not sell yourself short and be proud of your past achievements. This is crucial if you want to attract the lecturers' attention."

SYARIF (4/4)

"Initially, when I knew I was shortlisted for the EAE interviews, I was overwhelmed with nervousness yet excited at the same time. In fact, Miss Low spent ample time to guide me, which helped me to better prepare myself for the interviews. My interviewers were friendly and affable, which made me less anxious and I was able to engage them. I got a chance to enhance my interpersonal skills and my confidence received a boost. Most importantly, I learnt to manage my anxiety in an instant so the experiences were definitely valuable."

ZI XUAN (5/1)

"It is an interesting journey for me because I get to witness our students preparing themselves for the interview, overcoming their nervousness to present themselves at their best and demonstrating an ability to think on their feet to give their personal responses. What heartens me the most is when students end their interview smiling and feeling confident. Of course, there are those who felt they could have better prepared themselves, but overall, it was definitely a great experience for all of them."

MS WENDY CHEW



CHRIANS HAVE THE DRIVE TO EXCEL, ARE THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTORS AND ARE ACTIVE LEARNERS
COURAGE . COMPASSION . CURIOSITY

OUR FHBL DIARY: International Friendship Day

“ Due to COVID-19, we knew that changes were inevitable. We had to set multiple plans in place so that we could carry on with the International Friendship Day (IFD) celebrations.

An art showcase was supposed to be held but since we couldn't do it, we took pictures of the artwork and presented them during morning assembly instead. The students were asked to guess the countries represented by the pieces of artwork.

We wanted to capture students' positive experiences and memories they shared with their international friends. That way, students are encouraged to keep in touch with each other no matter the physical distance:

“I have international friends in Malaysia who cheered me up by telling me jokes when I did badly in my Malay Language test. Even if some of the jokes were not that funny, I still appreciate them.

LUI EBELL (1/3)

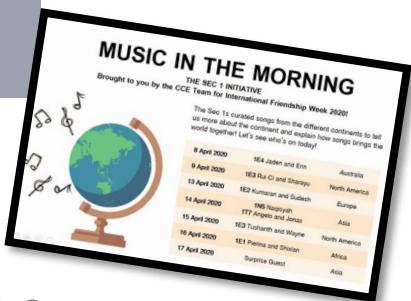
“My friend from Switzerland offered me her place to stay when I went there for an exchange programme. We had fun feeding the swans by the lake together for one week!”

MS CHARIS LIM

In addition, we invited the Secondary 1 students to do a recording for morning assembly. They were on task and were ready to commit! All I did was to give them a sample script, assigned them a continent to work on, and asked them to write a script.

They were really creative when presenting the details of the continent and explaining how music can bring everyone together. I am really impressed by them!

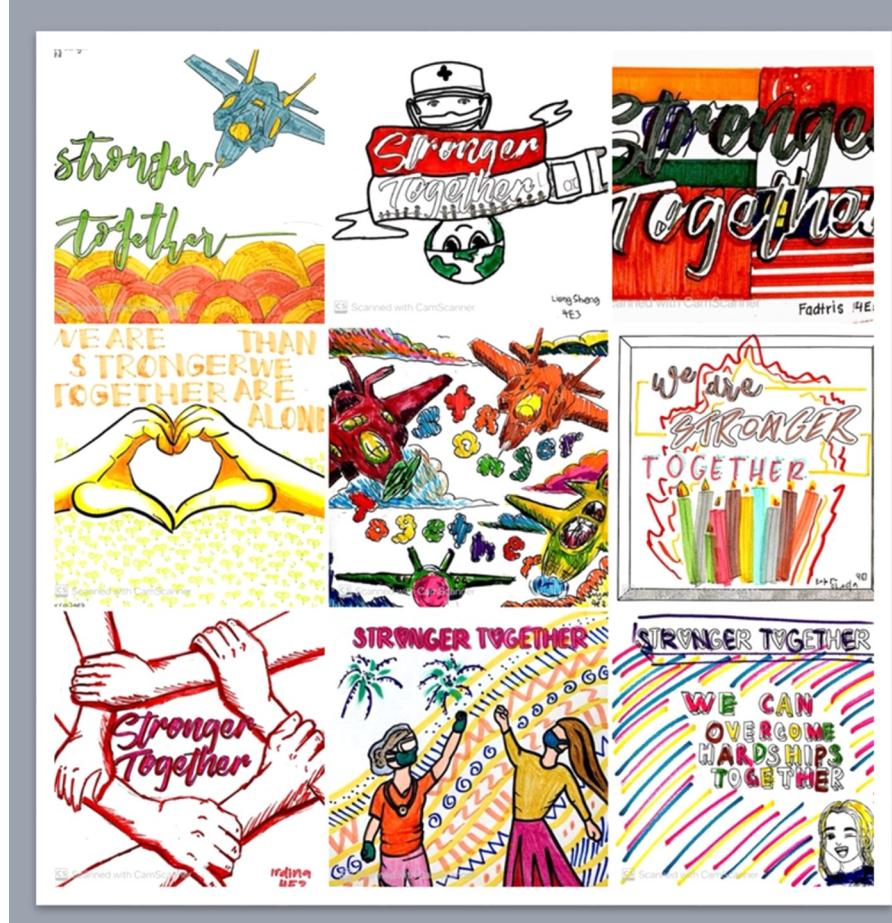
-MS SHEEREN LOKE



CCE LESSON: #StrongerTogether

As part of the National Day Parade 2020, the #SYFstrongerTogether Project aims to unite youths in expressing their hopes for Singapore through writing and drawing. 25 selected pieces from each school are featured on SYFgoesOnline! as our gift to the nation for NDP 2020.

Access the online artwork here:
www.singaporeyouthfestivalsg.sg/syf/public/north.html?region=north



Fabula Vitae

Editorial Committee: Joshua Arunedhan Arumugam (1/1), Carwen Audrey Liang (1/3), Ginny Chan Hui Fen (1/4), Ethan Mikhael Barrato Jerez (1/4), Thomas Khoo Kai Le (1/4), Joshni Rowena Joseph (2/4), Tiffanie Kayle Gil Pangan (2/4), Tiongco Katherine Theisha Morales (2/4), Naywirah Aiman Binte Jasmani (2/5), Alisa Adriana Binte Rohim (3/1), Orana Alexandra Denise Manalo (3/1), Gerwyn Tan Zhi Wei (3/1), Chia Zhenyi (3/4), Hannah Qiting Binte Ikram (3/4), Steffi Wong Zi Xuan (3/4), Moreno Ginger Sam Morelos (3/5), Li Jin Yu (3/5)



Introducing...

Chief Editor: Hannah Qiting Binte Ikram (3/4)

Social Media Managers: Alisa Adriana Binte Rohim (3/1) & Steffi Wong Zi Xuan (3/4)

Head over to our Les Literato Instagram ([les.literato](#)) and catch us in action as we capture moments of magic in CHR.

CAUGHT ON Camera



By Ginny Chan Hui Fen (1/4)
& Steffi Wong Zi Xuan (3/4)

33 Years of Rapid Transportation



The MRT or Mass Rapid Transit is known to Singaporeans as the easiest and quickest mode of transport. Launched in 1987, it has reached 3 million average daily passengers today. The idea of the MRT came about in the 1970s when our population boomed and traffic congestion worsened. The solution? Our government embarked on a brave project - Build a transit system. That was when our modern MRT system was born!

River Of Brimming History



More than just a river, it is a time capsule hidden in plain sight! In the past, the Singapore River played a role as a trading port. Now, its role has shifted towards tourism and aesthetics. Statues dot the river depicting the lives of people who lived and worked by the river in the early days.

The Breathtaking Tropical Wonderland



Cloud Forest is one of Gardens By The Bay's most impressive attractions. With a built-in breathtaking waterfall as well as a 35-metre tall mountain, the place is shrouded with flamboyant and varicoloured orchids, ferns and other exotic plants. The dome replicates the cool and moist conditions found in tropical mountain regions. Not only is this "Forest" Insta-worthy, you'll also get to learn about the rare plants and their fast disappearing environment.

Thinking of where to go this December holiday? Why not embark on an adventure to discover on our very own island!

CHRISTIANS HAVE THE DRIVE TO EXCEL, ARE THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTORS AND ARE ACTIVE LEARNERS



COURAGE . COMPASSION . CURIOSITY

CHRIAN OF THE TERM: MR GAVIN CHONG

By Chia Zhenyi (3/4)

First impressions are often unreliable. Our CHRian of the Term definitely proved this to be true. He may seem reserved at first but to my surprise, our interview revealed someone who is genuinely enthusiastic especially when he is teaching. Our CHRian of the Term is none other than our Chinese Language teacher, Mr Gavin Chong.

As students, we are always curious about the secret lives of our teachers before they became educators. To satisfy our curiosity, I interviewed Mr Gavin to dig into his student life and personal goals.

How would you describe yourself as a student?

I'm someone who abides by the school rules and doesn't get into any trouble. However, I was not motivated to learn so I faced a hard time adjusting to life in Secondary 3.

What was your Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) in Secondary School?

I was in the St John Ambulance Brigade (SJAB). Back then, I was very dedicated to my CCA, spending countless hours after school attending the training sessions and meetings. My secondary school life revolved around SJAB that my studies took a back seat. In the end, my results suffered greatly. On hindsight, I should have learnt to juggle both my academic work and CCA.

What motivated you to become a Chinese Language teacher?

Both my mum and elder sister are educators, so I was influenced by them. Initially, teaching Chinese Language did not cross my mind. The thought seemed daunting. But it all changed in JC when I met my Chinese Literature teacher, Ms Chin. Our lively class discussions were intriguing and I never knew analysing Chinese prose from different perspectives was fascinating. Her lessons were fun, engaging and eye-opening. Her literature lessons inspired me to become the Chinese teacher I am today.

What is one of the scariest moments you faced in life?

I performed Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a real casualty when I was 18 years old. I was volunteering at my alma mater as an SJAB officer when the security guards ran towards me yelling, "The baseball coach fainted at the side of the road!" My instincts kicked in and I rushed to the scene. I found him without any pulse! While I felt anxious, I had to perform CPR. Throughout the entire time, anxiety built up as I feared I would lose him. When the paramedics arrived, I was surrounded by the coach's baseball players who were in tears. The baseball coach eventually passed away but his family thanked me for rendering first aid support. It was truly an emotional but memorable experience.

What are some things on your bucket list?

- Go on a safari tour in South Africa – As much as I fear wild animals, I thought it would be cool if I can see them up close in their natural habitat!
- Visit North Korea – I have always wanted to visit the country and see for myself if it is anything like how the media portrays it.
- View the aurora lights – I saw it once on a documentary and told myself I have to witness them personally one day!

Learning from the life lessons of our CCA enthusiast, Mr Gavin, let us give our best in both our studies and our CCA!



The Days

By Moreno Ginger Sam Morelos (3/5)

The days are dull and scary

all I want to do is rest

but each day I wake up

I'm forced to do my best

They say the world is healing

Oh how I wish it was true

because all we feel is distant

as everyone is infected with the blues

They say seek your friends

embark on adventures - indoors

find new hobbies to attend

So life won't become a bore

Passions are put to a pause

dreaming on sleepless nights

of travels beyond our shores

only wanting it all but oh what a plight

They say stay strong

we will need you back

They sang songs

of our long and tiring trek

towards a new world we belong



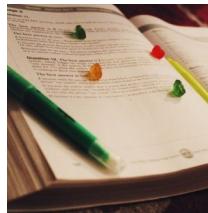
4 STUDY HACKS THAT ACTUALLY WORK

By Joshni Rowena Joseph (2/4)

When thinking about your upcoming exams, have you been pulling your hair out? Having sleepless nights? Biting your nails constantly? It's time we put a stop to it. What you need to do is get yourself in the right mindset to start your revision. So here's a handy list of study hacks scientifically proven to work!

#Hack 1: 'The Gummy Bear Incentive'

To all of you serial snackers, this is one delicious study hack. What you can do is to leave one gummy bear or any sweet of your choice on each part of the text you want to memorise. When you have memorised that part, gobble up the gummy bear or sweet. This works like a reward system when you get a prize for doing something correctly. The point here is to motivate you. But please eat them in moderation!



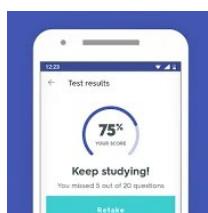
#Hack 2: Listen to music while studying

Studying with music comes with benefits such as staying engaged and attentive during your study session. It creates a relaxing atmosphere for concentration. However, your favourite pop or rock songs won't do as they might be too distracting. Playing lo-fi beats or jazz music in the background will do the trick.



#Hack 3: Use an online interactive flashcard

Flashcards are incredibly versatile and unexpectedly worked for most who have used them to study. Flashcards work as you repeat the act of learning and memorising until you become an expert. Quizlet and StudyBlue are some of the best online flashcards.



#Hack 4: Dance away!

Take a break from studying by dancing. Dancing stimulates your brain and produces more oxygen which boosts mental capacity, making you happier so you feel encouraged to continue studying. Who says you cannot have a bit of fun when studying!



What are you waiting for? Gather your notes and books and jump-start your revision with these hacks! Good luck for your upcoming examinations!



COMIC CORNER

Illustration and caption by Li Jin Yu (3/5)

How People See It

By Tiongco Katherine Theisha Morales (2/4)

For this issue, we were curious what some of our CHRIans were up to during Circuit Breaker. It turns out that many of them turned to online games to keep themselves entertained. Let's find out some of their responses to the question.

Question: What is the most addictive game you have ever played? Why?

The most addictive game I've ever played is Player Unknown's Battlegrounds aka PUBG. It's an online multiplayer battle game very different from the repetitive type of games in the market. (Vivian, 3/3)

It will be Minecraft. Through the game, I can express my creativity to build new worlds. It gets even more thrilling in the survival game mode. (Joie, 2/3)

BitLife is the most addictive game for me. It's extremely fun and interactive. Plus, it gives me many choices in the game. (Xenia, 2/4)

Rise of the Tomb Raider because the plot is good yet it's quite a difficult game. (Kailin, 3/2)

Rainbow Six Siege is very addictive. This is an online tactical shooter game where players go on training and missions to save the world from terrorists. After practising many times and finally getting it right, the game is rewarding in the end. (Si Yu, 2/4)

Recently, Animal Crossing Pocket Camp is rather addictive. It's a game where we build friendships with animals. It's addictive because as you make more friends, the higher the level you go. (Jordon, 4/2)

Definitely Minecraft because it is somewhat peaceful being in a different world. Plus, in this world, I can do literally anything. (Seth, 3/2)



The Funny & Unusual Things

Compiled by Thomas Khoo (1/4), Alisa Adriana (3/1),
Gerwyn Tan (3/1) & Hannah Qiting (3/4)

A day in the classroom in school is bound to be filled with interesting stories. Let's hear some of these wacky stories.

During a Geography experiment, I opened a 1.5L bottle of coke for the experiment and the bottle exploded! Spent 2 periods cleaning up.

-Ms Althea Yeo

A student accidentally spilled half a bottle of grape juice on my dress, leaving me scrambling for a change of clothes. I managed to borrow an extra CCA T-shirt from a kind colleague (Ms Sabrina!) and a pair of school shorts from the general office. So I went to class dressed as a PE teacher for the day.

-Ms Amanda Tan

For Honours Day (Staff), some students from my Form Class gave me a prickly pineapple! And this happened for two years in a row. So what did I do? We had a fun photoshoot posing with the pineapple. It was hilarious!

-Ms Rusydiah

On Teachers' Day, one group of students gave me a laser engraved image of myself and now, I use the image as a stamp! It was my first time receiving something like that.

-Mr Eugene Teo

In Lower Sec, my EL teacher will play Kahoot games with the class. So every time my classmates ask if they will get anything if they win the Kahoot Quiz, her reply will always be, "You will win my respect!". That always made the class laugh.

-Yvette, 3/2

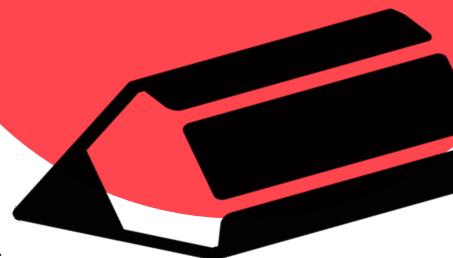
My Physics teacher, Mr Eugene, sometimes refers himself as Mr "Eu-genius".

-Meagan, 3/2

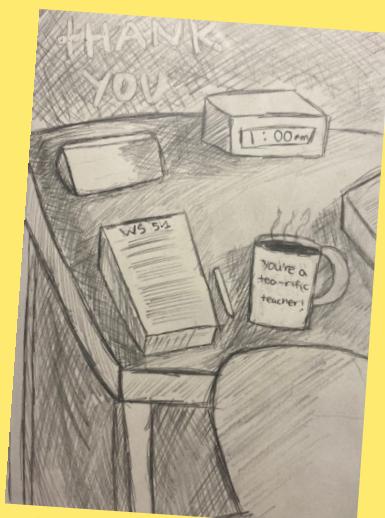
A classmate fell asleep during Geography lesson. Our teacher, Mr Yuan, brought in a fire extinguisher, woke my classmate up and asked him to gently cradle it. He told my friend, "Pretend it's a baby. Put it to sleep." Being the caring person he was, my classmate handled the "baby" carefully. Mr Yuan then asked the class to keep quiet as the "baby" was trying to sleep. He even turned on a lullaby! It was really funny.

-Ayuni, 4/3

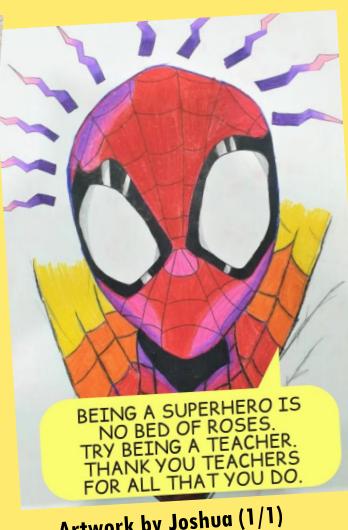
Tribute to Teachers



Comic by Ethan Mikhael Barrato Jereza (1/4)



Artwork by Tiffanie (2/4)



Artwork by Joshua (1/1)



Artwork by Carwen (1/3)



Artwork by Naywirah (2/5)



GIVING THANKS

Our new staff

Appreciate
Each
Family



MR TAN CHAI HOK
Lead Teacher
English Language



MR ONG KIAN JIE
Teacher
Geography & English



MR ZULKHAIRI
Teacher
Art



MR NG QI QIN, GARY
Teacher
FCE & History



MS ANISAH HUSSAIN
Student Welfare Officer

"Based on my short time in CHR, I'm very intrigued and fascinated by the CHR culture thus far. I hope to contribute to the school through my subject, particularly by imparting critical thinking skills and aesthetic appreciation. There is more to art than meet the eyes, and I believe this is just the same with the CHR family! I hope to engage students as an art educator and learn more about everyone along the way. A quote I would like to share: "Creativity is intelligence having fun."

"To be part of the CHR family is truly a blessing, especially when we are surrounded by people who are supportive and nurturing towards one another. I am excited to embark on this meaningful journey with CHRians and learn as much as we can from each other as one family. "Nothing worth doing is ever easy." I hope as CHRians, we will have the courage to do what is right, show compassion to people around us and have the curiosity to seek the wealth of knowledge in the world. Let us grow, learn and have fun together in this wonderful haven."

"I am incredibly touched by the warm welcome into the CHR family and I look forward to contributing and growing together with everyone here! I truly believe in the hearts of both the students, the teachers as well as the faculty members as we progress forward as a community. Excited to be here!"

Congrats!



Congratulations to
Mr. Nicholas Tsao on
the arrival of his
baby prince!

thankful
grateful
AND
Blessed



MS RAVATHI
Teacher
Tamil Language &
Tamil Literature

"I strongly believe that teaching is a work of heart and I am grateful to be part of this warm and loving CHR family. I will put my best foot forward and I look forward to learning together with my students and colleagues because learning has no end!"

"I am blessed and grateful to be greeted with warm welcome by the CHR family when I first entered the school. I met many supportive colleagues and even bumped into students who look out for each other and remain ever ready to help.

I love listening to music, and watching comedy and inspiring shows after a tiring day. I also dance for leisure. These activities make me calm and happy!

I always believe in doing small things with great love, so I wish to share a quote with everyone:

"We all have potential but it means nothing without taking action. We all have our pasts. We all made choices that maybe weren't the best ones. But...we get a fresh start every day to be a better person than we were yesterday."

