

XINMINSS NEWSLETTER

Work and Play - Balancing our way through!



@xinminss



Xinmin Secondary School
Leading Hearts, Leading Minds

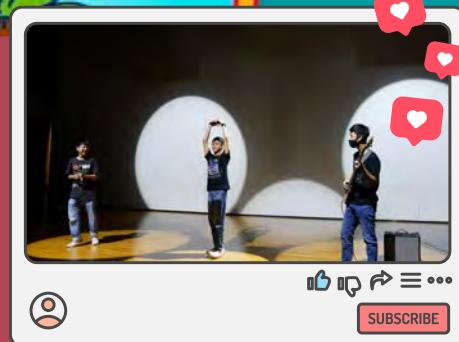


Term 3 2024

#ICYMI

2024 HOMECOMING

On 29 June, 2024, the Xinmin family joyously commemorated our Homecoming Day under the theme "Bridging Past and Present". The event united alumni, current students, teachers, and parents, celebrating our ties, fostering school spirit and preserving traditions. Despite wet weather conditions that impacted several outdoor activities, our festive enthusiasm persevered. Indoor events proceeded as planned, ensuring that everyone had a delightful and memorable experience.



With a plethora of activities to choose from, highlights of the day included friendly showdowns between alumni and current athletes, the thrilling Haunted House, the exhilarating Inflatable Rodeo Bull, the fun-filled Photo-booth, and of course, the unforgettable dunk tank. Once again, our Principal, along with many teachers and students, bravely volunteered to be dunked by their peers, adding to the lively atmosphere of the event.



Overall, we successfully achieved our goal of strengthening connections with our alumni and within our school community. Moving forward, we aim to nurture these bonds further, fostering a vibrant and enduring school spirit among our students.



Explore the Voices of Xinmin section to read the various experiences of Homecoming 2024!





FUTURE LEADERS IN ACTION



Once again this year, on 17 May, 2024, we held our Student Leaders' Investiture, followed by the Leadership Adventure Camp 2024 in June. These events signified the dawn of new leadership across various domains including CCAs and the Student Council. A notable addition was the introduction of Xinmin Council of Exemplary Leaders (XCEL), a team comprising leaders from the Student Council, Peer Support Board, and CCA Leaders. XCEL serves as a cohesive force, bridging these leadership bodies to propel our school culture and spirit forward.



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Upon assuming their roles, our newly appointed leaders wasted no time in stepping into the shoes of their impactful predecessors. They led the Leadership Adventure Camp, a three-day, two-night experience where our Sec 2 future leaders embarked on a transformative leadership journey. The competence of our Sec 3 leaders shone brightly as they guided their junior counterparts through a series of invigorating and demanding activities, fostering both personal growth and collective potential.

LAC EXPERIENCES





HUMANITIES OVERSEAS TRIP

During the June holidays, for the first time in many years, the Humanities team organised a trip to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for thirty students. This trip marked the beginning of department-based trips planned for the year. It was an exciting journey, offering a deep dive into the rich culture and history of Vietnam.



We visited historical landmarks, museums, and cultural sites, gaining a first-hand understanding of Vietnam's past and present. Some of the most memorable experiences included crawling through the Cu Chi Tunnels, navigating the tributaries of the Mekong River on a sampan, learning to cook authentic Vietnamese cuisine at a homestay, and even participating in fish catching! These activities were not only adventurous but also offered an intimate glimpse into the daily lives and history of the Vietnamese people.

The students displayed remarkable courage and an open mind as they stepped out of their comfort zones to immerse themselves in the lived experiences of the locals. Crawling through the Cu Chi Tunnels, for instance, gave them a profound understanding of the resilience and ingenuity of those who used them during the Vietnam War.

Overall, the trip was nothing short of an enriching journey for all involved, including the teachers. It provided an invaluable educational experience that went beyond conventional classroom learning. Beyond that, the bonds formed during this trip will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on everyone who participated.

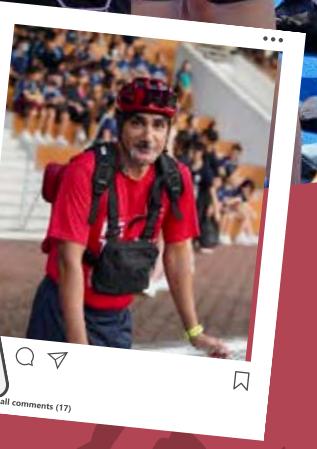




XINMIN CROSS COUNTRY



••• SUBSCRIBE



This year, we held our biennial Xinmin Cross Country event at Sengkang Riverside Park. Everyone arrived motivated, eager to participate in the run, and determined to secure a top 20 spot. The route included a challenging terrain with steep and long upslopes, testing our resilience as we raced our way back to Sengkang Hockey Pitch.

Beyond the run itself, the event had a celebratory tone, marking the near end of Term 2. There were many fringe activities like frisbee and volleyball, adding to the festive atmosphere. Students were also encouraged to attend the event with unique socks, and they did not disappoint. Some even purchased class or group socks with similar patterns and various colour tones, showcasing their creativity and unity.

And of course, we could not end the event without our school Mass Dance. Despite being exhausted from the run and the blazing sun, everyone found new energy to participate in the dance, proudly displaying our school spirit. It was a truly amazing experience that brought everyone together, highlighting the camaraderie and enthusiasm of our school community. The event was not only a test of physical endurance but also a celebration of our collective spirit and togetherness.



••• SUBSCRIBE

XINMIN INVITATIONALS

To encourage sports among youth, our Badminton Girls and Floorball Boys hosted primary school students for invitational competitions. This initiative provided a fruitful learning experience for our students who organised and managed the event, allowing them to develop leadership and event-planning skills. It was also an enjoyable experience for the young participants, who had the opportunity to compete, learn new skills, and interact with older students.





THE WAY WE LEARN @XMS!



CCE - XinminCares Day

In the last week of Term 2, we held our XinminCares Day, during which many classes carried out their VIA projects, offering unique experiences to fellow schoolmates and serving the community.

Some of the projects included goalball, blind experiences, seated floorball, and boccia. As students participated in these activities, they learnt about and experienced the challenges faced by those who are physically impaired. Engaging fully in these activities, they gained valuable insights and lessons about empathy and inclusion.

Additionally, some students helped senior citizens of the Fei Yue Community Services navigate the use of smartphones. This effort was part of the Intergenerational Learning Programme (ILP), a service provided by Fei Yue Community Services to bond seniors and youth in a group learning environment.

As the year progresses, there are many more VIA projects planned, providing opportunities for our students to serve the community and to foster a spirit of compassion and social responsibility.

Design and Tinker Fiesta

In Term 2 Week 6, embracing the concept of design and tinkering, the Design and Technology teachers launched the Design and Tinker Fiesta that allowed students to engage in various design activities, encouraging them to express their innate creativity. The programme brought together many like-minded students and teachers to explore hands-on tasks focused on creating innovative products.

One of the key highlights was the paper aeroplane creation activity. Students, teachers, and school leaders participated in this event, crafting and testing the design quality of their paper aeroplanes. It was an engaging and lively session, with participants enthusiastically challenging each other and spectators eagerly watching the designers compete.





VOICES OF XINMIN - HOMECOMING

THE TEACHER - Mdm Lee Boon Hong
Susan



Describe your experience planning and organising Homecoming 2024.

To put it simply, it was an exciting, unnerving, challenging but very rewarding experience.

Highlight the most memorable moment during your planning journey.

There were many memorable moments throughout the whole planning journey!

One of the standout highlights was our collaboration with the Alumni Association (AA). When I discussed this year's Homecoming theme, "Bridging Past and Present", with Mr. Kwek Boon Watt, President of the Alumni Association, and requested that AA set up at least 3 booths to enhance awareness among current students and younger alumni, he responded enthusiastically. He promptly appointed a dedicated AA representative to work closely with us. I am delighted to share that through our collaboration, we successfully established multiple AA booths and effectively managed their operations during the event.

I also want to give special mention to the support and assistance from fellow colleagues who identified blind spots we missed in our planning. Their kind words of encouragement were invaluable and greatly appreciated 😊! Honestly, there were countless more memorable moments, but I have tried my best to summarise them into just these two points.

What made you feel good during the event itself?

I felt an immense sense of pride when I witnessed our students rise to the occasion and wholeheartedly contribute to the success of the event. As much as meticulous planning plays a role, the ultimate success of any event often hinges on the dedication and efforts of the students involved. Whether it was the booths curated by students themselves or those curated by the school, it was truly heartwarming to see our students giving their all, despite the challenging weather conditions, to host guests and fellow schoolmates. I could not have asked for more from our students.



VOICES OF XINMIN - HOMECOMING

THE ALUMNI - Zhong Yuhan - 404
(2023)

Welcome back! How does it feel to be back at Xinmin?

It felt wonderful to be back in a familiar environment; it really felt like coming home. Everything seemed unchanged except for the canteen, which has undergone a remarkable upgrade and is now really cool! I wished the upgrade had happened earlier!

Did you enjoy Homecoming? Why?

Yes, I had a wonderful time catching up with classmates, friends, and teachers. The event was filled with a variety of delicious snacks and drinks that everyone enjoyed, especially the tiramisu. The entertainment was top-notch as well, with engaging activities such as the haunted house and the inflatables providing a lot of fun and excitement. However, the only downside was the weather, which unfortunately was not as pleasant as we had hoped.

Having graduated, and returning back to your Alma Mater, what is one thing you would like to tell your juniors at Xinmin?

Seize the opportunity when there are school events like this. These events offer a unique platform for you to showcase your talents and connect with your peers in a fun and supportive environment. If you want to perform, be brave and step forward when the opportunity arises. It is not easy to muster the confidence to perform in front of a crowd, but it is a rare chance that you will never regret taking. Being on stage is an entirely unique experience that can be both exhilarating and rewarding.

This Homecoming was particularly special because there were numerous student performances. This is a fantastic sign that more students are stepping out of their comfort zones to try something new. It takes courage to perform, and it is wonderful to see so many people embracing this opportunity. Great job to everyone who participated!



VOICES OF XINMIN - HOMECOMING

THE STUDENTS - Pear and Nara - 303



What did your class plan for Homecoming? And how was the planning journey?

My class organised an inflatable archery booth for Homecoming, which featured an archery game, a photo booth, and a friendship bracelet-making area. The planning journey was fantastic, as the committee put in a lot of effort to make this event a success. We often stayed after school to discuss details and worked hard on the setup. Seeing everyone come together and contribute was incredibly rewarding. The dedication and teamwork made the experience truly special, and it was amazing to see our hard work pay off in such a memorable way.

Having experienced Homecoming for the first time, was it enjoyable?

It was better than I expected. At first, I thought it might be boring, but spending time with my classmates, going around the school to buy food, and playing games turned out to be a lot of fun. The whole atmosphere was vibrant and exciting.

What was your most memorable moment during your journey?

The most memorable moment for me was staying back to work on the booth. It gave me the opportunity to talk to my classmates more and bond with them. Watching the booth come to life from all the hard work we put in was incredibly satisfying. It felt like a reward for our teamwork and dedication, and it made the entire experience even more special.



VOICES OF THE YOUTH

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY OUR VERY
OWN XINMIN STUDENTS

XMS CROSS COUNTRY BY ELVIS ONG ZHEN LIANG - 307



Introduction and Origin

Oho! Coming by every 2 years, the XMS Cross Country strikes back and better than ever!

The anticipation of it excited many students and made them wonder whether it was going to be as competitive as last time. The event is a combination of testing your limits and having a fun experience mashed into one.

This year, with a small but significant twist, the school encouraged us to run together with our classmates for Cross-Country. We did not have to fret, however, as there was still competition – only less intense than before as we work more within each of our classes, encouraging one another to persevere throughout and be the best class to finish the event.

Sounds quite light-hearted, until you realise how wild it is to run with a ton of people in one fell swoop! I couldn't tell if it made us more united or if it fed our competitive spirit!

Key Moments

Let's recall the major events that happened on that memorable day.

We had passionate runners in their prime, performing below twelve-minute runs for a distance of 2.9 kilometers. Many couldn't be more impressed to see what kind of show people put up in the seriousness of this event.

Another sight to see was how people, in their urgency for a refreshing drink, hoisted their coupons out and swiftly headed to the milo truck to quench their thirst. The amount of people at the truck was astounding, as if the truck could possibly be emptied out by as quickly as it had been set up.

Finally, by some unearthly energy, we also witnessed students who continued to play volleyball and frisbee after the run, unfazed after running intensely. You know, it is truly unimaginable and impressive, the amount of energy that some people have!

Impactful and Great Memories Forged

We need to understand and appreciate the importance of having such an event hosted by our school.

Some may think that this event is insignificant, but it helps us in building friendships on a greater level. Perhaps such an event can introduce you to other students that you may not know of, outside of your class or even CCA too.

For some of us, it could be the last time that we participate in such events alongside our schoolmates. As we inch closer to graduation, we may not be able to experience such a unique event like this that allows for our school spirit to prosper.

We may not get another opportunity like this, so let this memory stay in our minds forever and may we bask and immerse ourselves in the upcoming school events even more!



VOICES OF THE YOUTH

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY OUR VERY
OWN XINMIN STUDENTS

AN EVENTFUL TERM 2 BY QUAN RUIXUAN CHEVELLE - 207



Term 2 has truly been an eventful term for all of us, with many breathtaking events that took place, strengthening our school spirit. In the fourth week of Term 2, our school had a unique and exciting week where the performing arts CCAs got to present their talents while sharing a stage with their seniors, juniors, and batchmates.

Arts Week kicked off on the Friday of Week 3, showcasing the stunning performances put up by students during 'Xinmin Got Talent'. Arts Week was an amazingly fulfilling event, with varied experiences and perspectives shared amongst students. While some spent time with friends to watch the performances, others in the performing arts CCAs had to sacrifice watching performances to polish their skills to the ultimate best for their showcase. However, this definitely did not go to waste. The tiring but enriching practices allowed students to forge closer bonds with their CCA mates.

As a member of our school's Guzheng Ensemble myself, I personally feel that our practices for Arts Week effectively strengthened my relationship with my batchmates and seniors as we worked together to improve and make this performance better than any other. I am confident that most of the other performers feel the same as well. One of my friends who is of the same CCA as me, said, "I think Xinmin Arts Week performance really helped me to understand and appreciate my CCA better as I noticed how much effort our seniors and batchmates put in to playing these few songs." This shows just how beneficial the practices for Arts Week were, and how enjoyable rehearsals can be.

Another opinion shared from a band member, Javier Zhao from 208, expressed that he had a fun experience from Arts Week, and would like to have more opportunities to perform and learn from experiences. He suggested that performing arts CCAs could "hold a performance for the nursing home". Personally, I feel that other than having XinminCares for lower secondary classes, it would be exciting to include it in CCAs as well. This will benefit students in terms of letting us know more and empathise with different communities as well as improve the relationship we have with our fellow CCA members.

Perhaps, the school could allow CCAs to have XinminCares initiatives. For students in the performing arts CCAs, this would be the perfect opportunity for them to have more performing experiences and to interact with other communities.

COMING UP!



TERM 3

Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 3	Structured Intervention Programme	Term-long	Sec 4/5
Week 5	GCE N-Level EL Oral Exam	Week-long	Sec 4/5
	GCE O-Level EL Oral Exam		
	GCE O-Level HMTL Oral Exam		
	GCE N-Level MTL Oral Exam		
	HBL Days	23/07 to 25/07	All Levels
	N-Level Prelim Exams	26/07 to 06/08	Sec 4N/NT
Week 7	National Day Celebrations [School ends at 11:30am]	08/08	All Levels
	National Day Public Holiday	09/08	All Levels

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CALENDAR, CLICK ON THE LINK OR SCAN!

CALENDAR HERE!



COMING UP!



TERM 3

Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 8	O-Level Science Practical Prelim Exams	12/08 to 15/08	Sec 4/5
Week 9	O-Level Prelim Exams	16/08 to 28/08	Sec 4/5
Week 10	All Staff Day Celebrations [School ends at 10:30am]	29/08	All Levels
	Teacher's Day School Holiday	30/08	All Levels
-	September School Holidays	31/08 to 08/09	All Levels

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