

# XINMINSS NEWSLETTER

Celebratory moments before hard work!



Xinmin Secondary School  
Leading Hearts, Leading Minds

Term 4 2024



## ACHIEVING OUR ASPIRATIONS IN XINMIN

In keeping with tradition, we proudly held the Graduation Ceremony for the Sec 4 and 5 students of the Class of 2024 on 20 September. The atmosphere was filled with joy and pride as the school community gathered to honour the graduating students and celebrate their growth and achievements over the years. Each class took turns stepping onto the stage for their group photo, a moment that symbolised not only their academic milestones but also the deep friendships and bonds they had forged through shared experiences. The palpable sense of camaraderie among the students was a testament to the strong relationships built during their time together at Xinmin.



One of the most touching moments of the ceremony was the series of 'thank you' videos created by the graduating classes. Some classes lovingly re-enacted their teachers' familiar classroom habits, from characteristic gestures to memorable catchphrases, while others conveyed their sincere gratitude with heartfelt messages. These videos served as a tribute to the dedication and guidance of their teachers, reflecting the lasting impact these educators had on their lives. The blend of humour, nostalgia, and deep appreciation made the videos truly heartwarming, leaving many in the audience with smiles and a few teary-eyed.

The speeches from Mr. Tan, our Principal, and Jacklyn Hong, the Student Council Chairperson for 2023-24, offered both forward-looking insights and reflective thoughts for the graduating students to consider. Finally, as the ceremony concluded, the students sang the school song with gusto, followed by the symbolic throwing of paper airplanes with well wishes from the teachers, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the graduates.





## RACIAL HARMONY DAY



This year, our celebration of Racial Harmony Day throughout Term 3 Week 4 was a vibrant and enriching experience, including an insightful discussion on contemporary issues in the CCE lesson, engaging fringe activities and an enlightening hall programme.

In the CCE lesson, students reflected on ways they can actively contribute to making Singapore a more inclusive and united society, enhancing the richness of our multicultural mosaic. During recess, traditional games such as chapteh, chess, and five stones were brought to life, evoking a sense of nostalgia and joy reminiscent of the games that once thrived in void decks across our communities. These games not only served as a bridge to our past but also highlighted the role they played in fostering unity among different races. Additionally, students had the unique opportunity to learn about the variations of these games in other countries, gaining a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity and the universal language of play.



In the hall, we commemorated Racial Harmony Day with a spirit of camaraderie and learning. The inter-class competition, where students donned vibrant ethnic attire, showcased a beautiful mosaic of cultures. The class with the highest proportion of participants in ethnic attire for each level was awarded a special prize. A quiz segment further enriched the learning experience, as students enthusiastically answered questions about the meanings and significance of various traditional garments.



Racial Harmony Day is a testament to our shared commitment to celebrating and understanding our diverse heritage. As we move forward, let us continue to love and respect one another, cherishing the rich tapestry of cultures that make our community so special.

Together, we can build a harmonious and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated.





## 2024 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Since last year, the school-based National Day Parade has become an integral part of our National Day celebrations. The parade contingent featured our various uniformed groups, student leaders, teachers, School Advisory Committee members, and alumni. With pride, the parade proceeded smoothly, led by our leaders from the National Cadet Corps (Land) and the Boys' Brigade, who served as the flag party commander and parade commander respectively.



The day continued as students from the different levels went on to participate in various activities. Among these, the Sec 3 NRIC Ceremony was particularly noteworthy, as our Sec 3 students received their NRIC from their Form Teachers. This moment was monumental for the students, marking the coming of age as Singapore Citizens.

Meanwhile, the Sec 4 students had an engaging experience listening to their alumnus, LTA Heng Zheng Han, who shared insights about his NS journey. Our students asked inquisitive questions, eager to learn more about his experiences as an officer in the Air Force. Needless to say, the celebrations ended with our exciting sing-along session in the hall.





## ALL STAFF DAY

All Staff Day is an event dedicated to recognising and appreciating the tremendous efforts of our teachers, allied educators, and executive and administrative staff. On the last day of Term 3, the celebration commenced with a cozy breakfast with Form Teachers in the classroom before moving on to a vibrant concert held in the school hall. The concert showcased diverse talents of our students - from mesmerising dance routines and soulful singing to captivating instrumental performances and engaging drama acts, our students truly shone.

A delightful surprise awaited everyone as our teachers orchestrated a lively flash mob, energetically dancing to "Supernova", presenting Xinmin's unique rendition of this popular K-pop dance. The concert concluded on a high note with a heartwarming mass sing-along, fostering a sense of unity and joy among all attendees.

Following the concert, a sports-themed lunch buffet was organised for all staff members. Departments enthusiastically embraced the theme, donning creative sports attire and participating in a spirited catwalk. The event also featured some hidden talents within our staff, as school leaders dedicated the song "If We Hold On Together" to the staff. Ms. Yap Bee Leng and Ms. Sarah Teo added a special touch by writing and performing an original song that celebrated the 'heartwork' of teaching.

This uplifting day not only strengthened the bonds within our school community but also underscored our collective commitment to create a supportive and welcoming learning environment. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this day a memorable success.





## THE WAY WE LEARN @XMS!



### Experiences from Reflexions

"I feel Reflexions lessons are really fun and interesting. We learnt about focus, the different physical levels of expression and much more. We also learnt more about our Xinmin culture. Drama is honestly quite engaging and one of the subjects I look forward to. We get to express our emotions through body language, facial expression, and even the way you say a sentence plays a part."

Olivia Lim Zhi Qi, Sec 103



"I would say that so far, my lessons have been very exciting. I really like putting myself into the shoes of the character I am acting out. Feeling the way the character would feel and acting out what the character might or would do makes me feel like I have morphed into a completely different person, or that I am controlling someone else with the same body, yet with a different personality and thoughts. Not only that, I am also starting to grasp the mechanics of acting, why an actor does this and so on. I really like drama so far, and I hope it gets even more interesting."

Jeremmie William Siswanto, Sec 104

## Enhancing the Art Curriculum



The Art curriculum provided engaging, multi-modal experiences that were both enjoyable and exciting for students this year. Introducing longer, 2-hour lessons on a semesterly basis for our lower secondary programme significantly enhanced their learning experiences and allowed for better differentiation based on individual student needs. Sec 2 students particularly enjoyed their painting modules and undertook a mini-coursework experience. This enabled them to dive deeper into the world of art and enabled them to gain a preview of the upper secondary curriculum. More importantly, it fostered a sense of responsible individuality in their work.

Our upper secondary Art Students had an equally exciting first semester in 2024. Beyond the many engaging and insightful learning journeys they were immersed in, students had a unique opportunity to collaborate with an Artist in School! The Sec 3 students gained firsthand insights from industry professional Mr. Mok Zijie during an 8-week watercolouring project that was infused within the curriculum. This opportunity significantly boosted their watercolouring skills, allowed them to get a sense of pride in their artistic journaling and gain different artistic perspectives.





## VOICES OF XINMIN - UNIFORMED GROUPS

ETHAN YAP - 301 - Boys' Brigade



**Describe your experience playing an important role in the Xinmin National Day Parade.**

When I was chosen as the parade commander, I was initially apprehensive as the thought of standing in front of the school and being prone to mistakes was extremely scary to me. However, with the constant support from my teachers, friends and classmates, I decided to push myself and ultimately decided to take up this role as the parade commander. During the first few rehearsals, there were many hiccups and disruptions like the sudden weather change, communication errors etc. Furthermore, I had problems such as my voice being too soft or a lack of clarity in my commands. This were all things that really caused me to doubt myself throughout the whole process. However, this did not stop me and the other CCA leaders to continue and push everyone to practise their hardest for this National Day Parade. All in all, I feel that the parade ran smoothly and that all our time and effort had paid off.

**Highlight the most memorable experience(s) as a leader of your UG at Xinmin Secondary School.**

One of my best memories as a leader in my UG at Xinmin Secondary School was planning and organising a game that everyone loved. It took careful planning and creativity to make sure the game was fun for everyone. Seeing everyone so excited and working together was incredibly rewarding, and it showed me how much joy good leadership can bring.

**What is one thing you would like to tell your juniors in UG CCAs?**

One thing I would like to tell my juniors is to make sure you enjoy your time together. The friendships and memories you build during CCA will stay with you for a long time, so have fun, support each other, and make the most of every moment.



## VOICES OF XINMIN - UNIFORMED GROUPS

HARRY CHONG - 305 - NATIONAL CADET CORPS (LAND)

**Describe your experience playing an important role in the Xinmin National Day Parade.**

During the process of planning for the Xinmin National Day Parade, we ran into many challenges such as coordinating rehearsals. However, we managed to overcome all these challenges by working together, which made the parade a successful one in the end. My experience as a planner for the parade has helped me learn how to adapt to unfavourable circumstances. Furthermore, I am grateful that I was chosen to be the Flag Party Commander for this year's parade. My experience as the Flag Party Commander has enabled me to communicate and work closely with the other commanders and I will never forget this memorable experience.

**Highlight the most memorable experience(s) as a leader of your UG at Xinmin Secondary School.**

Other than the NDP parade, another memorable experience was when I was the Parade Commander for the 123rd NCC Day Parade. This experience helped me to realise that the planning of a parade is not easy. Despite the multiple difficulties I faced, I managed to overcome them to form up a successful parade. I am grateful to have been given the chance to lead my UG this year and I hope that I would have many more memorable experiences as a leader of NCC.

**What is one thing you would like to tell your juniors in UG CCAs?**

Always remember to persevere and work with your platoon mates through thick and thin. To serve with Pride and Dedication, NCC!



## VOICES OF THE YOUTH

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY OUR VERY  
OWN XINMIN STUDENTS

# Red, White, and Oh, What a Sight: School Cheers for Singapore's 59th BY AKSHAYA VIJAYAN - 303



A sea of red and white that lit up the parade square in its resplendence on Singapore's National Day signaled the start of a wonderful celebration. As everyone assembled and jostled in the parade square at the start of the day, the excitement in many of the students was apparent.

The day started with the band members playing the national anthem and the school song with much pride. Many watched as the teachers and students from uniformed groups marched in and waved flags at everyone.

Following that, many got to experience a delightful time in the school hall when it was time to settle down and sing the national day songs from previous years, as many red and white balloons were thrown about in the air that made the atmosphere all the more lively for students and teachers. This was a special occasion for everyone to express their love to our beloved country, as after all, it is no mean feat that our little red dot has reached 59 years of independence!





## VOICES OF THE YOUTH

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY OUR VERY  
OWN XINMIN STUDENTS



# Library Etiquette: Enhancing Peace and Productivity at Xinmin BY KOH SHER MIN - 304

It is no secret that the Xinmin Library has always been a go-to facility for students to utilise during their free periods and Self-Directed Learning (SDL) sessions. Its cozy atmosphere and cool air conditioning make it perfect for catching up on homework, studying, or even unwinding.

However, with its popularity, there has been a shift in how some students use the library space. During a visit in the middle of the school day, you might notice students relaxing comfortably on couches or enjoying casual conversations with friends. While it is great to see everyone feeling at home in the library, it is important to remember that it remains as a space for quiet study and focus.

To maintain the library's atmosphere as a peaceful study haven, we should all be mindful of our actions. Keeping noise to a minimum and using electronic devices with headphones will ensure that everyone can concentrate. We should also take care of the furniture and maintain the cleanliness of tables and seats. With a few small adjustments, we can make the library an even better place for everyone to enjoy!

The true purpose of the library - a quiet haven for study and reading - should always be upheld. It is simple: respect the space and its users. Avoid bringing food into the library, keep noise to a minimum, and refrain from lying down or misusing furniture. Dress neatly and clean up after yourself. We all share responsibility for maintaining the library's peaceful environment.

By following these guidelines, we can ensure it remains a productive space where everyone can focus and succeed. Let us work together to preserve the library as a conducive and welcoming place for all.



# WELL-WISHES FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS FROM STUDENTS



I wish and hope that you do well in your studies. I also hope that you will never give up no matter what is in your way. I also hope that you will remember your juniors and teachers who cheered you on when you were down and when you were in need of help. I hope you will remember us after you graduate!!

Riffa Aryssa Binte Muhammad Raffiq, 101

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift because it is the present. Always stay happy! 🎉

Jacklyn Hong, 403

Hi Sec 4s! It's been amazing looking up to you these past years. Congrats on graduating! We've learned so much from you, and we'll miss having you around. Thank you for all the guidance and support. Your hard work has paid off—now it's time for you to soar! Also, good luck on your next journey, and hope we meet again someday!

Tan Yang Yee, 301

Congratulations on your momentous accomplishment. I hope all of you will get into your desired institutes that you have worked tirelessly for. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Tan Zheng Hong, 107

Thank you for having a fun time in Xinmin...and it has been a good time with you, you gave me lots of happiness! Thank you!

Poa Wei Jun Wesley, 409

To the graduating batch of 2024, this is just the beginning of your amazing journey. Take pride in your achievements, and go forward with courage and determination. The world is yours to conquer!

Laurencio Elaine Rose Cuervo, 205

# WELL-WISHES FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS FROM TEACHERS



Wishing you all the best in the dreams and interests you pursue, hope that you will find joy and meaning in the things you set out to do. May you also continue to appreciate Math in the real world; Math is all around! ;)

Ms Joanne Kong

To my dear 501,

It's your final lap towards your 'O' level exam. Wishing you all the best! Do continue to work hard and believe in yourself. Persevere! You can do it!

Mrs Wong

Dear 408/409

It has been a 2-year journey we have taken together. Now, stand ready to face the future with all its possibilities. The road ahead may have twists and turns, but with determination and purpose, you will find your way.

Consider the words of Langston Hughes in Dreams:

"Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams die,  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly."

Dreams are the compass that will guide you through the uncertainties of life. Hold onto them tightly, for they will inspire you, lift you, and give your life direction. Stay true to yourself, and embrace the challenges that come your way, for they will shape you into who you are meant to be.

Ms Jasmine Lim

To my amazing 403. The Os are finally here and I know all of you got this! Wishing you'll reap what you sow for the grades you desire. Keep up the effort!

Mrs Belinda Goh

# COMING UP!



## TERM 4

Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 1	GCE N-Level Part 1	9 - 19 Sep	Sec 4
	EL & MTL Oral Exams	9 - 20 Sep	Sec 3
	GCE N-Level Listening Comprehension	12 Sep	Sec 4
Week 2	Graduation Ceremony	20 Sep	Sec 4 & 5
Week 3	End-of-Year Exams	26 Sep - 10 Oct	Sec 1 to 3
Week 4	GCE N-Level Part 2	30 Sep - 8 Oct	Sec 4
	GCE O-Level Science Practical	1 - 16 Oct	Sec 4 & 5
	GCE O-Level Exams	2 Oct - 11 Nov	Sec 4 & 5
Week 5	Marking Day (No school)	11 Oct	Sec 1 to 3
Week 6	GCE O-Level Listening Comprehension	16 Oct	Sec 4 & 5
	XCUBE II	18 - 25 Oct	Sec 1 to 3
Week 7	Sec 3 Guidance Programme	21 - 25 Oct	Sec 3
	Results processing day (No school)	22 Oct	Sec 1 to 3
	Last day of school	25 Oct	Sec 1 to 3

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

**CALENDAR HERE!**



# COMING UP!



## TERM 4

Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 8	Sec 3 Supplementary Lessons	28 Oct - 1 Nov	Selected Sec 3
Week 9	Volleyball Girls Team Overseas Training	5 - 10 Nov	Selected students
	Overseas Service Learning Trip	7 - 16 Nov	Selected Sec 3
	Open House 2024	9 Nov	Selected students
Week 10	Mother Tongue Languages Overseas Immersion Programme	10 - 18 Nov	Selected students
	Graduation Gala Night	14 Nov	Sec 4 & 5
	Year-end school vacation	16 Nov onwards	All Levels



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS!](#)