



ESPOIR

a publication of Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School

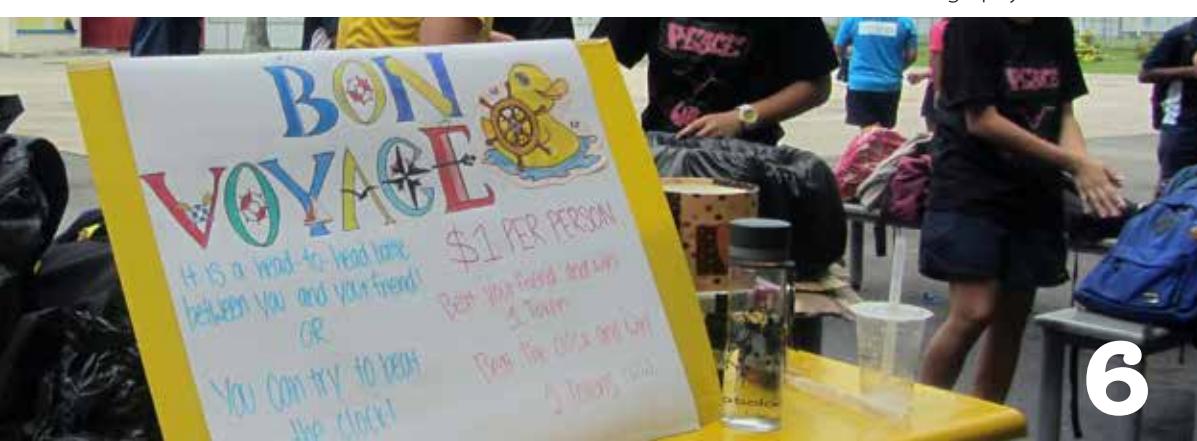
Issue 3 2013

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Exciting season, Exciting school

— The excitement never ends!

'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!'

– Psalm 118:24



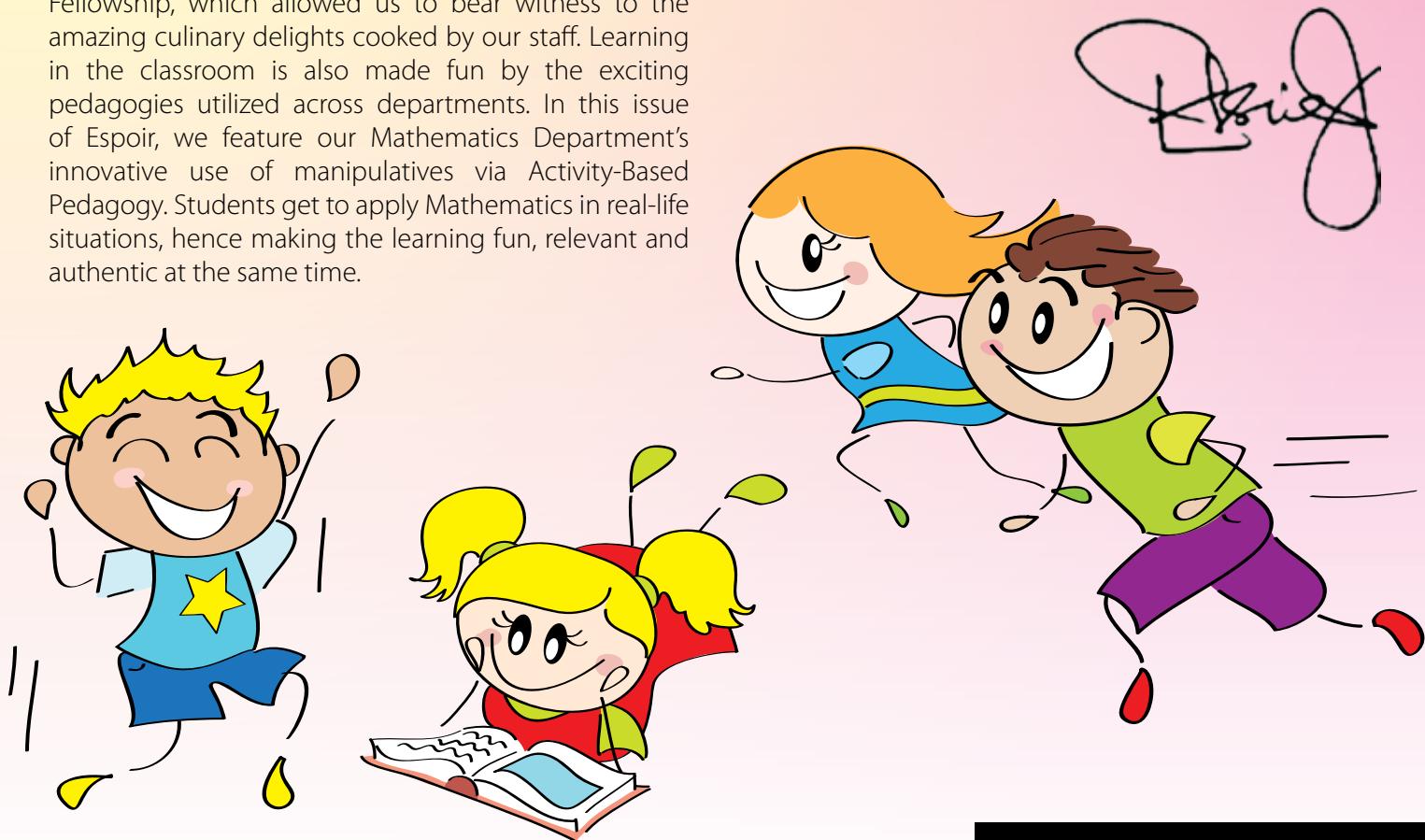
'Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all,' said Helen Keller. Who says that learning must be boring? In this issue of Espoir, we see KCPians taking fun in learning to the

extreme! KCPSS aspires to be a school that takes fun in learning, seriously. Even as the term drew to a close in May, we ended it with a bang by having our very own Cross Country at MacRitchie Reservoir. Not satisfied with just learning in the conventional classroom, teachers also organized exciting learning journeys such as the Secondary 1 Learning Journey to Bollywood Veggies and the Sports Fiesta. Following our belief to be an 'exciting school of choice', there is never a dull moment in the school year. KCPians became entrepreneurs for a day, planning and setting up their own stalls during the recent Youth Day Carnival. Such meaningful experiences also provided students with ample opportunities to work with each other and immerse in a time of fun and fellowship!

It was also an exciting time for our staff as they too, indulged in a time of staff bonding during the Food Fellowship, which allowed us to bear witness to the amazing culinary delights cooked by our staff. Learning in the classroom is also made fun by the exciting pedagogies utilized across departments. In this issue of Espoir, we feature our Mathematics Department's innovative use of manipulatives via Activity-Based Pedagogy. Students get to apply Mathematics in real-life situations, hence making the learning fun, relevant and authentic at the same time.

As the school imbues fun and excitement in learning, we continue to celebrate the achievements of our teachers, who continue to develop their passion for their subjects. Mdm. Yu Xiao Qin, was awarded the Inspiring Chinese Language Teacher Award and she was even featured together with KCPians from 2 Peace, on Lianhe Zaobao. Our very own Science teacher, Ms. Jasline Pan, was also awarded the SEAMEO RECSAM (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics) Scholarship.

So while the school gears up for the heat of the major examinations in this semester, it is definitely refreshing to see our staff and students enjoying learning, and enjoy learning with one another as a KCPSS family. It is this attitude towards learning that makes the fruit of our labour, sweeter. In KCPSS, this is exactly what we mean when we say that we are an 'exciting school of choice.' In KCPSS, we play hard and work hard. But more importantly, we make learning fun and enjoyable so that we develop curious learners who are passionate about discovery and learning. Indeed, while results validate the hard work invested in the journey, it is the process that makes one resilient. Let us, as a school, continue to 'outwit, outplay and outlast' in this journey of education!



Mathematics week 2013:

Maths whiz kids were once again given an opportunity to showcase their prowess in a series of events organized by the Mathematics Department. It was held in the last week of term 2. The activities aimed at letting our students enjoy and excel in Mathematics. There were two days of Math Afternoon Buzz, which was a line-up of mini competitions leading to the finale on 29 May 2013.

KCPSS SUDOKU COMPETITION 2013

The secondary one classes participated in the KCPSS Sudoku Competition 2013 which was held at the school auditorium. It was a simple yet interesting game of logical thinking involving numbers which has captivated the interest of people of all ages. The representatives for each class tried their best to solve the puzzles within the stipulated time in each round. After two rounds of intense competition, the following teams emerged as the winners.

4			1
	1	3	
	4	1	
1			3

Position	Name	Class
1st	Yuli Chua Wen Yi	Sec 1 Love
	Loo Pei Ying	Sec 1 Love
2nd	Samantha Ng Pei Ling	Sec 1 Joy
	Mira d/o Lankatharan	Sec 1 Joy
3rd	Tan Choon Shin Mathias	Sec 1 Peace
	Matthew Tan How Aik	Sec 1 Peace

KCPSS MASTERMIND COMPETITION 2013

At the same time, the secondary two and three classes took part in the KCPSS Mastermind Competition 2013 which was held at the school hall. Once again, every class sent in their best representatives to pit their wits against one another in a code-breaking game that was invented in 1970. After two preliminary sessions, the best four teams vied for the championship title in the finals. The results are as follows:

Position	Name	Class
1st	Lee Si Ying	Sec 2 Truth
	Chay Yoke Ting Vanessa	Sec 2 Truth
2nd	Vivien Ng Yu Ting	Sec 3 Joy
	Shawn Jonathan Kumar	Sec 3 Joy
3rd	Woo Yan Kay, Andrea	Sec 3 Peace
	Aw Tong Huan, Chelsea	Sec 3 Peace
3rd	Terry Tan Jun Wei	Sec 3 Truth
	Enoch Ng Shi Nuo	Sec 3 Truth



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

Proud winners from the audience for the Math Afternoon Buzz...



THE BOLLYWOOD VEGGIES GETAWAY

Farm Fresh Produce
Straight to your plate



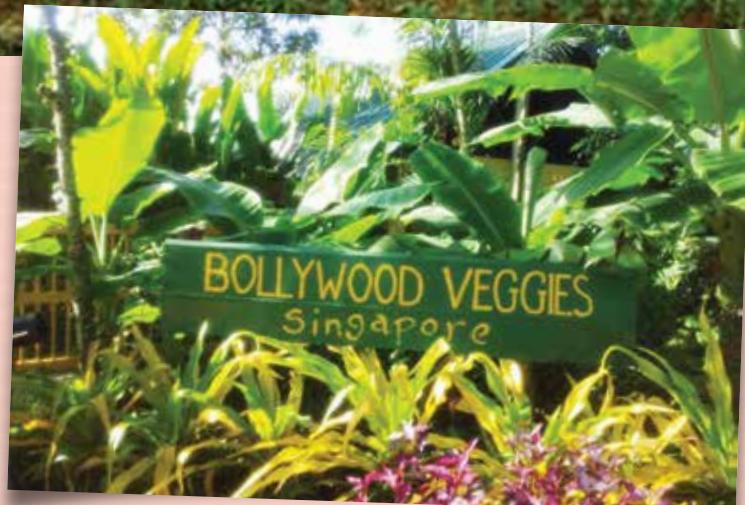
On 21 and 22 May, all secondary one students had a wonderful opportunity to make a getaway to Bollywood Veggies, a green sanctuary, set in the rustic environment of the northwest Kranji countryside. Let's journey with the students in their unique experiences to Bollywood Veggies. This is what they had to say:

Since the visit was planned after our mid-year examinations, it was a welcome relief and truly helped to rejuvenate our inner self, with all the green setting that greeted our eyes.

A treat awaited us upon our arrival. Little did we know that bananas were a key offering at Bollywood Veggies. The place boasted of a wide range of bananas such as Pisang Ambon, Pisang Rajah, Pisang Rajastali and Pisang Seribu. With great warmth and hospitality, we were all served the widely acclaimed banana bread – the sweet and succulent flavour of bananas was most distinctive. With our tastebuds aroused, we secretly craved for more.

We were then brought to the farm where we learnt the names of some plants such as the lemon grass plant, the Bell flower and the Peppermint plant. A little scavenger hunt was organised for us where we had to either pluck the leaves or take a picture of them. We then had to give our baskets with the plucked leaves to the guides there, who had a look at our photographs of these plants. The best team won some prizes, which included impressive carved handmade animal figurines.

We were subsequently invited to the kitchen where we were instantly transformed into young chefs. With the Peppermint leaf we had plucked earlier, a resident chef showed us how to make two dishes – a batter fried leaf and devilled eggs. The chef invited us to wash our leaves and



dip them in a batter that had been prepared earlier. We then placed them in hot oil and fried them. Rather surprisingly, the fried leaf tasted delicious and crispy! Our next recipe was to whip up devilled eggs. First, we mixed curry powder and mayonnaise mixture into an edible shell. Secondly, we peeled a quailed egg, sliced it into half and placed it on top of the mixture. For an overall garnish, an edible plant was placed on top of this dish.

Apart from the cooking lesson, our trip was enlivened when we participated in a Bingo board game organised for us. This involved recognising names of plants that could be found at Bollywood Veggies. As a finale, a guide introduced us to the citronella plant – which is generally used in the making of mosquito repellent. Its distinctive smell was so pervasive, that it seemed to leave us with a lingering memory of our visit.

The trip to Bollywood Veggies was not only well-timed, but was also a great experience for us all. Given a second chance, we unanimously agreed that we would all love to make a second trip there – this time, to savour more of the banana bread!

By Tan Si Jie Mandy, Saravanaa Dhepikaa, Tan Zheen Nicholas, Jacqueline Ng Jing Ning and Joshua Loh Jian En of 1 Love

PLANT A BILLION TREES

By Elise Ng, Ronald Teo,
Juven Lim, Lim Yu Hui
of 1Grace

Something we often take for granted has its own special day – the tree. As part of the Green Wave movement, KCPians celebrated Tree Planting Day on 22 May 2013. A heritage tree called Tembusu was planted in order to celebrate this occasion. Did you know that this unique tree is also pictured on the back of the Singapore five-dollar note? It was exciting to know that we planted a tree with such historical significance in KCPSS. As Green Champs, we were eager to learn interesting facts about the environment and champion the Green Movement.

The significance of Tree Planting Day is to support the United Nations Environment Programme, "Plant a billion trees" where hundreds of trees are planted in schools all over Singapore. This year there were 237 schools in Singapore which participated in Tree Planting Day, the highest number to date. To commemorate 50 years of greening Singapore this year, each school was able to select and plant more than the usual one tree provided by National Parks Board. This tree-planting day also serves as a platform for the schools to showcase and share their gardening and conservation efforts. The day aims to educate us in caring for a healthy, biodiverse future and to inspire us to unite and take action for biodiversity. As Green Champs we have demonstrated our commitment to taking charge of the future. When we plant a tree today, we are taking a pledge to be responsible for our actions that might affect the environment and the climate. The focus is to plant locally significant trees such as Heritage Tree species, fruit trees and spice trees. Nicholas, Green Champ of 3 Joy says, "Tree planting does not require a great deal of money; it requires the mobilisation of people to care for the environment and nurture it." Trees help us maintain stable and healthy landscapes, through preventing soil erosion. They are a natural shelter for wildlife and a haven for biodiversity. As natural air filters, absorbing impurities and locking away the harmful carbon which contributes to the threat of climate change, trees are an important resource.



"We braved the sweltering heat and came together for a good cause. The Principal, Mrs Raja, Green Champs, student volunteers and teachers witnessed the planting of the Tembusu tree. To me the tree reminds me of our school which keeps us rooted together as one family, where we help one another and not leave anyone behind." - Chloe Soh (1 Hope)



Just as the greatest trees grow from the tiniest seeds, our efforts to nurture the environment will help arrest the catastrophic consequences on biodiversity and climate.

In our modern world it is easy to feel disconnected from the physical Earth but we hope to educate our peers to actively care for our environment and create future generations of committed environmental custodians.

GARDENS @ KCPSS

It was like we were creating our very own doll house! As we chatted excitedly about the choice of potters, the types of plants that can be used in a terrarium, and the quirky add-ins that can bring life, we also learned that these miniature greenhouses are actually a simulated habitat from which we can observe organisms.

We were all ears when the teacher explained to us how to maintain the terrarium and care for the plants. Did you know that the seemingly harmless looking glass jar can actually house some of the most unique and diverse creatures. We were amazed to learn that terrariums often house carnivorous plants, insects, amphibians, and crustaceans. A terrarium in its basic form contains soil, plants, nutrients and water. They are commonly used in science curriculums to examine natural processes and organisms in a simulated and controlled habitat.

The goal of the Terrarium making project is to supplement the science curriculum for the Secondary 2 Normal Academic classes of 2 Grace, 2 Hope and 2 Praise with a hands-on, group activity that is fruitful ground for individual learning and self-reflection.

Ms Jasline Pan, one of the teachers involved in this project aptly put, "It is a living experiment with, at times, unexpected and variable outcomes but students can learn valuable lessons from experiments that work and sometimes even more valuable lessons from experiments that don't work. On the whole, I saw students thinking and talking about their choice of plants and making some wise decisions." The students engaged in the workshop agreed that doing experiments such as this, allowed them to be creative and made their learning more purposeful as they could observe the organisms for themselves.

At the end of the lesson, we were all proud of our very own doses of 'spring in a bottle'. We had created our very own world in a bottle. We hope to be given such power to create; maybe next time we will create a storm in a bottle!



Sports for Life!

By Ethel Yam, Delcine Loke, Eric Ong, Joey Yap, Gildon Tan of 1 Grace

A few weeks before the June holidays, our students revelled themselves in a sports fiesta! The event allowed each cohort to send their best players to represent their class in various sports tournaments. On the day of the inter-class competition, all participants were busy practising. The Secondary Ones were competing in Badminton, Secondary Twos in Netball, Secondary Threes in Frisbee, Secondary Fours in Softball and the Secondary Fives Tchoukball. Many supporters held up banners, cheering whenever there was a goal scored. The sense of camaraderie was indeed high as supporters encouraged the players unfailingly even when they were not in their top

form. Amidst the competitive nature and the breaking of some records, students undeniably also forged stronger bonds with one another. At the end of the competition, the winners for each cohort were 1 Faith, 2 Love, 3 Peace, 4 Hope and 5 Hope.

Mr Alex Chu who was in charge of this event felt that this year's sports fiesta was very successful as it went smoothly.. Although the running of the fiesta generally went well, Mr Chu felt that one of the things that could be improved was the planning and communication channels done with the Physical Education Leaders (PELs). For some PELs, it was their first time

running the event and they were not confident enough to speak in front of the whole cohort. However, Mr Chu did emphasize that planning an event such as this is definitely a good platform for our students to be self-directed learners and to exercise initiative whenever the need arises.

Mr Chu was also ecstatic to witness how KCPSS students are becoming increasingly active and interested in sports. This positive trend among students has given the Physical Education Department the motivation to plan more sports activities in the future. We can definitely expect more "sporty" activities in the future! HOORAY!



YOUTH DAY CARNIVAL

Young people will inherit the world tomorrow but they are changing it today. We KCPians are brimming with a spirit of enterprise and innovation that cannot be restrained within the walls of the classroom or be swarmed by the demands of academic work. On 5 July, we saw KCPians shine as leaders and entrepreneurs who took on the task of planning, organizing and executing Youth Day Carnival 2013. True to the theme "Kaleidoscope", the event brought together students of varied talents, perspectives and skills.

The carnival which aimed to inspire, empower and celebrate young people was indeed a resounding success. For instance, 1Grace's stall, fondly called the "Pink Panda", sold notebooks at \$1 each, and other stationery items such as paperweights for the same price. They also sold mechanical pencils for \$1.50. They were pleased to sell their one and only panda paper weight to Miss Abby Choo. 1Love did customized cross stitch craft which proved popular amongst students and teachers. The councilors kept the spirits high by playing some of the latest hits and were also one the key pillars in planning this event.

Exciting games, mouth-watering food, delightful beverages and eye-catching crafts were only some of the things that were lined up for all to enjoy. The Sec 3 students had prepared an array of tasty delectables that proved to be popular amongst students. such as 3 Truth's Mac and Cheese.

This year's carnival was a great platform for students to showcase our talents and creativity. Each class formed a committee to plan the event and they led the class in discussions about the stalls and other logistics for the carnival. With the guidance of the student councillors and the teacher mentors, our KCPians found new paths to the challenges that came

INTERVIEW WITH JUDITH OF 3 TRUTH

What do you think of the YDC?

It was great.

What can be improved?

Nothing personally, I thought that the Youth Day Carnival was really a fun experience. My class, 3 Truth was providing staple food for the whole school. It was really challenging of course because we had to compete with other classes too!

However my classmates got together and we managed to pull through! Our fried rice and mac-n-cheese were sold out. Other than that, I had a great time visiting the other booths too.

What did you learn about yourself through this carnival?

I was encouraged to think for myself and was self-assured. I readily took responsibility for not only my own actions, but also my team's.

I learned that there is far more to life than just academic excellence. We need to have a good balance. This carnival was a welcome relief from the stress of school work.

INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW OF 5 HOPE

Andrew, what is the best thing in the carnival?

I liked the bubble tea from KOI and the Mac-n-cheese .





their way. Youths today chip away at the knowledge hoarding syndrome and seize every opportunity to create new knowledge. Their energy and excitement to question, probe and find new solutions were the key to their success. On the whole, our school had faith in our insights and encouraged us to amplify our strengths.

The carnival brought out qualities of dynamism such as determination, fighting spirit and the strive for excellence in us. We also learned that the key focus of the celebrations was to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others and this gave rise to the ideas for the carnival. Despite the stress of deadlines, schedules and meetings, we will never forget that the essential goals of the carnival was to promote the spirit of togetherness, creativity and innovation.

By Jerome Goh, Jeriah Soh, Ryan Tan, Ashley Seah, Seow Jia Xian of 1 Grace

THE DAY WE RAN - CROSS COUNTRY 2013



Lightening streaks flashed across the sky – 6 am. The weather forecast was grim – “Lightening alert at MacRitchie.” Would it be another cancellation of the cross country? 2nd year running? That was not to be. With heartfelt prayers lifted up, the miracle happened. Not a drop of rain fell and the skies cleared – paving the way to a glorious morning for a KCPSS run at MacRitchie reservoir on 31 May 2013.

The sense of enthusiasm, the feeling of camaraderie, the exhilaration of finally having a cross country after a long spell – these feelings were palpable, richly manifested in the cheerful smiles of every KCPian. Notwithstanding the monkeys, who provided some form of entertainment as

students hung around waiting for the event to begin, the verdant setting provided a wonderful getaway from the daily grind of studies.

And no one could have ignored the steady stream of hit songs belted out one after another, upon students' requests. The DJs of the day, Ms Cheryl Yeo and Mr Angus Sham manned their radio station, giving careful attention to road accidents of the day. Undaunted, students kept up a steady request for some of their favourite songs such as Rick Astley's “Never Gonna Give You Up,” Psy's “Gentleman,” and many others.

The Cross Country run began soon after our Principal,



Mrs Raja, declared the event open. As students gathered behind the starting line, the feeling was not one of competition, but rather, one of a mass KCPian family run. Friends cheered and egged each other on, encouraging all to keep running. It did seem a gruelling, long run for many, especially for those unaccustomed to long distance running. At the end of the run, it didn't seem to matter much to anyone about their actual winning positions anymore. What seemed to matter more was the photo taking. Capturing moments of friendship in a non-school setting seemed of paramount importance to many students.

Perhaps the day could best be aptly summed up by the

reflections and feelings of Mr Tan Kok Lum, our PE teacher – “I am very grateful to God, as he gave us a chance to have this event as it did not rain. I am also very happy as everybody cheered each other throughout the run, and I am glad that everybody participated in the event actively.” Coming from our students, Ivy Ng from 3 Faith had this to say, “I felt that it was a success and it was also a great time to showcase our school’s athletic talents. It was also a great time to bond with our classmates.”

The breakthrough was achieved. The sportsmanship will linger on. Aflame with the KCPian spirit, students and teachers headed home with the spark of cherished memories.

By Lucas Bureau, Bryan Toh, Darren Lee, Samuel Teo of 1 Grace

Department's Good Practices

Poetry of Logical Ideas

Starting this year, Secondary 1 Mathematics and Secondary 3 Additional Mathematics underwent a revision of the syllabus. Content-wise, changes are minimal and there are no changes in the format of assessment. The focus of this new syllabus is on strengthening math processes and influencing teaching and learning in the classroom. Students are given "Learning Experiences" together with "Problems in real-world context" in the learning of Mathematics. These are included to emphasize the need for students to have an understanding and appreciation of the application of math in the real world, where math is used to model and solve real world problems. The new syllabus aims to provide students opportunities to develop a deeper conceptual understanding, strengthen their math processes and foster interest in math.

In the school, teachers have carried out Learning Experiences such as learning algebra through the use of algebra disc, either the actual discs or the use of computer program "algetool" which is a virtual use of algebra disc. At Secondary 3 level in Additional Mathematics, students experienced the use of graphing software to identify shape and characteristics of various graphs.

All Secondary 1 to 3 classes will also be carrying out simple performance tasks in groups to explore the use of Mathematics in real-life situations in term 3.

The Mathematics Department has adopted the Activity-Based pedagogy to engage students in their learning. More teaching aids and manipulatives such as mini whiteboards, alge-cards, 3-dimensional solids and balance beams have been obtained to enable more hands-on activities for students. In some instances, students leave the classrooms to measure height of trees or buildings in our school compounds through the use of clinometers, by applying trigonometry.

Math teachers also use the mobile laptops frequently for students to have opportunities to learn Mathematics through use of ICT, and very often use the Math online portal to encourage self-directed learning. The interactive abilities, simulation of geometrical objects and drawing of graphs are very powerful ICT tools to learn mathematics.

It is our sincere hope that all these strategies will help our students enjoy mathematics while achieving better understanding. The Department will spare no efforts in continuing to find ways to engage students through their feedback and staff professional development.



USE OF BALANCE BEAMS IN MATHS



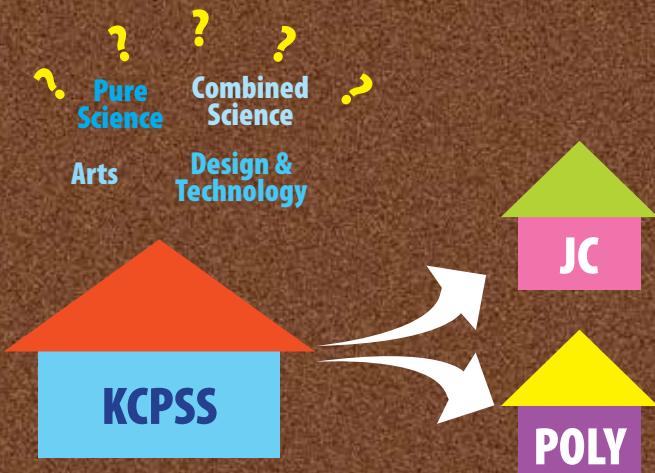
1 USE OF ALGECARDS

By Ms Rebecca Kang

PARTNERING IN OUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Maintaining effective and clear communication channels with our various stakeholders has always been an important focus. Parents undeniably will remain a significant factor in the school's efforts to nurture our students into responsible, innovative and lifelong learners. Thus, the Meet-the-Parents Sessions (MTPS) are opportunities for teachers and school leaders to share school initiatives with parents and explore new ways to work together to better support each child throughout his years at KCPSS. To better inform parents of the future educational prospects for their children, special briefings were held for the Sec 2s and 4s on the same day of the MTPS which was on 31 May. For the Sec2s, the talk was to inform parents regarding the streaming selection criteria and subject combinations while the talk for the Sec 4s covered the post-secondary education landscape. Parents were thankful of the school's efforts to consistently keep

them in the loop and that they are now better informed of the paths and choices available for their children. Indeed, strong and close relationships with parents will always be the school's utmost priority as we work towards excellence.



Talking Point – Parents and the School Management Committee

On 1 June 2013, 26 parents met up with our school leaders and School Management Committee (SMC) Chairperson, Dr Ho Yew Kee, to dialogue about parenting, education and post-secondary issues. Dr Ho shared his heartbeat for the school and articulated the SMC's commitment to ensure that every child in the Kuo Chuan schools is given the best possible support for an enriching, holistic school experience.

The session was well-received by parents, who were appreciative of the opportunity to learn more as well as to clarify doubts pertaining to post-secondary options. Apart from sharing with parents about SMC's plans to support the school's effort in achieving the school vision, Elder Dr Ho shared some parenting tips and his own journey as a parent.

As the Igbo (Nigeria) proverb goes, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." Active engagement among parents and school staff allow for this belief to take root. Eventually, it is the school's vision that each KCPian will grow and blossom to be a servant leader, a self-directed learner and a community contributor.

SEAMEO RECSAM SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



KCPSS teacher, Miss Jasline Pan, was awarded the SEAMEO RECSAM (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics) Scholarship to attend the course "Active Learning of Secondary Science through the Integration of ICT" in Penang, Malaysia from 29 April to 23 May 2013.

Miss Pan was one of two representatives from Singapore who joined 64 other participants from the other 10 SEAMEO countries who attended the course. During the one month course, participants not only have the opportunity to stay and attend classes together, they also had the chance to engage in the sharing of their various teaching and learning experiences with one another. "That has indeed broadened all our perspectives of education," quipped Miss Pan.

During the course, two sets of lectures stood out in Miss Pan's mind. One was by Dr. Koay Suan See on "Clay Animation" and the other by Dr. Lindsey Conner on "Critical Thinking Tools and Relating Science Teaching to Authentic Learning Context." In addition, the words "change your mindset so that you will be a change agent in your country" in Dr Devadason's opening speech was found to be very noteworthy.

Miss Pan was glad to be awarded this scholarship. She remarked, "This is part of my professional development of which I am very privileged to be part of. This course emphasises a good grounding of theory and classroom practice. The skills that were learnt will definitely enable me to improve my teaching in class."



**LEARNING SCIENCE THROUGH AUTHENTIC CONTEXT.
TEACHERS ARE DOING AN EXPERIMENT WITH M&M CANDIES TO TEACH CHROMATOGRAPHY.**



**ON THE LEFT- ACTING CENTRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RECSAM, DR DEVADASON ROBERT PETER;
ON THE RIGHT- MS JASLINE PAN**

SHE'S NOT THE SAGE ON STAGE!



Inspiring teachers change lives and motivate us to do great things. We are indeed blessed to have many such teachers in KCPSS and even more proud to announce that one of our teachers has been officially recognized for her efforts to ignite the fire of interest for her subject in her students. She has been, the reinforcement and moral support for her students. Mdm Yu

Xiaoqin is one of the nine Chinese Language teachers in the whole of Singapore who attained the Inspiring Chinese Language Teachers Award 2013.

The classroom is alive with students taking on different roles of characters from classic novels. No question from the students is ignored or side-lined. Every response and query is taken as a catalyst that will move the discussion to the next level. It is a dynamic classroom where students are excited to learn and are driven to keep exploring until they succeed. The teacher behind all this purposeful collaboration is Mdm Yu Xiaoqin, one of the winners of the Inspiring Chinese Teacher Award.

Endorsed by the Ministry of Education, the Inspiring Chinese Language Teachers Awards is organised by Lianhe Zaobao, co-organised by Singapore Chinese Middle School Teachers' Association and Singapore Chinese Teachers' Union, and sponsored by Lee Foundation. It is a national-level award that recognizes teachers who have displayed exemplary efforts in the teaching of Chinese Language and culture in Singapore. These Chinese teachers have also, over the past years, inspired their students to develop appreciation for the Chinese Language and culture with their zeal and commitment. The nine Chinese Language teachers who put in exemplary effort in the teaching of the Chinese Language were picked from 900 nominations made by school principals, teachers, parents and students for this year's 16th Annual Inspiring Chinese Language Teachers Awards. Four of them were primary school teachers and the remaining five were secondary school teachers.

Mdm Yu's students are touched by how she looks into their

Award receivers



moral, social and emotional well-being, impacting their character development through her Chinese lessons. She gets to know students personally by listening to what they say during and after classes. One of her students comments, "In the kindness of her manner, the way she asks a question and then looks directly at me as though to say, 'Go on, speak up: if you're wrong, that's OK,' she made me feel confident." This confidence that she imbues in her students has fuelled many lively discussions and purposeful collaborations.

She is also aware of her student's varied learning needs and caters to them through different strategies and pedagogies. To arouse students' interest in the Chinese Language and culture, she engages students through supplementary materials, information and communication technology and multi-media resources like newspaper articles, Chinese drama, films, songs, cartoons and TV shows. Her students will always remember the classroom experiences where they get to produce scripts, perform plays in groups and practise using their voices to depict the characters in their stories. The lessons where current pop songs are used to enliven the lessons to teach grammar are memorable learning experiences. By providing a rich language learning experience for her students, Mdm Yu has piqued their interest and engaged them meaningfully.

Mdm Yu treats her students as thinking people with opinions worth listening to. Most importantly, she encourages them to think not just about passing exams and getting good grades, but rather the ideas and philosophy behind what they learn and the voices that gave perspective to some of these ideas. Her way of teaching is very searching and passionate. An exceptional teacher.

08 第 21 期 20/05/13 - 04/06/13 新闻

全国模范华文教师俞晓琴：
希望学生快乐地拿A1

全国模范华文教师俞晓琴得奖名单

- 1. 李孟瑾老师 / 英全学校 (附小)
- 2. 许唯望老师 / 圣爱女校 (客座)
- 3. 邓婉菁老师 / 南洋小学
- 4. 李晶老师 / 植德小学
- 5. 黄宜敬老师 / 立才中学
- 6. 陈晓琴老师 / 国车学校/国中/小学
- 7. 周敬华老师 / 南洋女子中学校
- 8. 陈秉尧老师 / 忠明中学
- 9. 陈冰莹老师 / 德惠中学

感恩教学的快乐

从武汉华中师范毕业后的俞晓琴，如今在南洋小学任教。俞老师被派到当地一所小学实习，虽然只有短短四个星期，但帮助学生建立起良好的关系，并且激发了学生之间那种互相帮助的感觉。完成实习后，她选择成为一名正式的工作者，选择教书。她选择了感受到了每天和学生相处的快乐，让她工作起来特别有冲劲。

难得的是，这份快乐并没有随着时光流逝而减退。每有面对程度不一的学生，

教学素材来自生活

相对于很多人，俞老师的教学基本的技能是谈笑风生，谈笑风生。她觉得教材应该当成一份苦差，俞老师却认为“教华文的教材应该从生活中来”。她说：“我常常跟学生说，如果学成以后，你对华文没有兴趣，那就去学英文吧。”

教学的快乐无限

说到得到的感谢，俞老师说：“荣幸是对过去工作的肯定与鼓励，更是对未来的激励和鞭策。”但我不

是说要在我儿子身上的成绩上，我也会跟它写点小的奖励，又或者奖励他之间的距离。”

俞晓琴老师喜欢地取材，并与学生们分享生活之余，也进行教学。（左启摄影）

光一现，把它融入教材，又或是发现在我儿子身上的成绩上，我也会跟它写点小的奖励，又或者奖励他之间的距离。”

俞晓琴老师的过程中，她不时会报出俏皮的笑声，又不断强调“快乐”。她坦承，最大的愿望是帮助学生“快乐地拿到A1”，不要批评学生的华文。

过去几年，俞老师也积极和新加坡教师共享自己的教学心得，她曾经协助《领导力》、《教育观察》、《教育家》、《学习者》等杂志撰写文章。

全国模范华文教师颁奖典礼于5月5日在圣淘沙举行，俞老师将同另外九位获奖的华文教师，从文化、社区及青年部代部长兼教育及新闻部高级政务部长黄循财手中接过这份殊荣。

Principal's Cup

By Mrs Tang Lai Chan

This year's Principal's Cup challenge was held on 27 May 2013 and the purpose was to foster better bonding among the members of each department through fun and interactive games. This mini competition entitled 'Minute-to-win-it' was to allow departments to battle it out with other department members in the area of co-ordination, agility and strategizing.

The PE department took the lead in organizing the events. There were altogether 4 stations, namely 'Ring-the-Cone', 'Ping-pong challenge', 'Cone-the-tennis balls' and 'Slithering'. Each department sent in 3 members to participate in each event and they were given 1 minute each to complete the task. Everyone took time to plan and strategize among themselves before taking on the events. All staff had lots of fun laughing at themselves and at other staff trying to complete the assigned tasks.



The winners for this year's Principal's Cup are:
 Champion – The Humanities Department
 1st Runner-up – The Science Department
 2nd Runner-up – The Craft and Technology Department.

Staff Breakfast Fellowship

By Mrs. Debbie Chua



Breakfast as usual? Not quite! The staff in KCPSS celebrated what was supposedly a stressful marking week with delectable delights - a spread so magnificent that it was fit for kings! Held during Marking Day - a day set aside for teachers to mark the Mid-Year Examination scripts, staff of KCPSS cooked, bought and served each other with gastronomic sensations!

More meaningful and joyous than any famed Manchurian banquet, we saw culinary greats among our staff - Masterchefs and Michelin-star award cooks! The usual culinary geniuses such as Mrs. Angie Yip did not disappoint with her red velvet cupcakes and cheesy strawberry hearts. Homey Mr. Yap dished out his heartwarming mushroom soup and red-bean soup. So home-cooked with love that it makes one yearn mummy's cooking! The dishes covered a range of ethnic flavours from roti prata to Cantonese dim sum and French baguette! With such a yummy spread, who says that teachers need to plough through marking season with drudgery and ennui? A feast for the senses, the Staff Breakfast Fellowship is definitely an event that staff look forward to, as a time of feasting and fellowshipping among each other. As Shakespeare used to say, 'Thou art a scholar, therefore let us eat and drink!'



EVER WONDERED WHAT THE NCDCC AND BB DO? HERE'S AN INSIGHT INTO THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS.

NCDCC

The NCDCC achieved 3rd position for the precision drill in 2010, 2nd in 2011 and 2012. They got 2nd place for inter-unit quiz for 2 consecutive time. They attained a Gold Award last year for the first time and attained Gold Award again in UOPA (Unit Overall Performance Award) this year. They also have an upcoming competition, the precision drill competition or also known as PDC.

NCDCC also focusses on the discipline and character of the cadets. Their training is tough, both mentally and physically. This trains their endurance and resilience. The training also incorporates learning how to save lives in various emergency situations. Activities outside school

include the dissemination of knowledge of emergency preparedness to the community. Such activities help NCDCC cadets to become more empathetic to the needs of others.

Other than the usual activities like training for first aid rescue, fire safety and drills, Mr Loo Sze Yen, the teacher-in-charge of NCDCC, also challenges cadets to try other activities like running camps and kayaking. Cadets themselves expressed great interest in kayaking courses. First aid rescue and fire safety trainings are tailored in such a way that cadets find it relevant and applicable in their daily lives.

BB

Activities of the Boy's Brigade include a variety of activities such as bowling, archery, Bible studies and kayaking. This year, the Boy's Brigade also planned an outing for the Bishan Home residents. Activities such as these helped foster and nurture Godly values that the school seeks to imbibe in each KCPian.

The Bagpipes and Drums Band took part in the 10th BB Bagpipes and Drums Festival in Dec 2012. Johan Aw clinched the Championships in the Snare Drum Soloist Category. The judges were impressed by our band standard and awarded us 1st runner-up in the Miniature Band Category.

The Boy's Brigade has also achieved Gold with Honours in the BB Blaze 2013, an adventurous race where the senior boys test their physical and mental abilities in various adventurous activities. Months of intense, gruelling training paid off when the teams clinched 4th and 10th positions among an overwhelming 119 participating teams. This surely attests to an indomitable spirit of sheer determination and grit amongst our BB boys.

Each year, Companies of The Boy's Brigade are presented with the JM Fraser Award for Excellence for distinguishing themselves based on stringent criteria that assess their standard of excellence in the area of administrative and operational efficiency. Through dedication and commitment of all members, the 5th Company achieved



the JM Fraser Gold Award once again.

The school is proud of the achievements of the Boy's Brigade and the National Civil Defence Cadets Corps and we wish them all the best in all their future endeavours.

music, drama and dance...

Let the ARTS prevail!

The theme for the 2013 Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) is “in•fusion”. The theme signifies the spirit of seeking new grounds by weaving and infusing the diverse arts talents from all Singapore schools. It gives recognition to the unique abilities, talents, aspirations and dreams of our youths. Our own KCPSS students displayed their unique abilities and talents as they showcased their performances. Through these performances and training for this prestigious competition, they have learned to be more confident and also to be responsible for their own learning.

Guzheng Ensemble

The Guzheng members brought honour to KCPSS when they achieved a Certificate of Distinction for this year's SYF competition. They had put in a lot of effort and reaped what they had sown. Their choice of songs reflected our school values of God-fearing and to show one's sense of gratefulness for God's wonderful creations all around us. Joshlyn of Secondary 4 Love shared the exhilarating sense of satisfaction when she realised her friends and her had achieved a Certificate of Distinction. "Because of this, Guzheng will always continue to work hard in order to maintain a high level of standard for all our performances."

Drama

For the Drama Club, this was their 5th time participating in the SYF and probably the most impactful. The few weeks before SYF were the busiest with their last minute rehearsals and additional training sessions. Their play entitled 'Good Asian Values' depicted a power play within the classroom as seen through the eyes of innocent 7-year olds, as they recounted the day's experience to their mothers. The classroom became an arena where both students and teachers tried to assert their authority and the teaching of good Asian Values seemed to be the only solution to end all chaos. Although the play was a satire and done in a tongue-in-cheek approach, the significance of possessing good values was never undermined.

"Being 100% focused for the rehearsals was the most difficult part. Though it was a tiring and long journey, we learned to communicate well with the rest of the cast and the whole experience became so much more enriching since we got to know each other's idiosyncrasies. We became a really tight ensemble," said Briant Benjamin Xavier (3 Faith).



Modern Dance

This year, the Modern Dance achieved a Certificate of Accomplishment in the SYF through a piece entitled 'Enchanting Dreams'. The piece was a visual and physical metaphor of the dissonance between the black emptiness of sleep and a dreamlike state. Dancers made the transition from one state to another with the aid of balloons moving them from one reality to another. The unsynchronised music paralleled the dancers' energetic movements as they burst forth into the freedom and joy of a fantasy world where their movements were in tandem with the music. But like all dreams, it was fleeting and like a balloon flying off in the distance, one could only look forward with hope to the next dream. Our dancers' mesmerizing and graceful dance moves reflected their desire in making their dreams come true.



When asked which part of the SYF she enjoyed most, a member of Modern Dance, Jolene Chia of 2 Faith merely uttered these four words "A feeling of accomplishment!" Indeed, our dancers should feel accomplished as not only had they shown their ability to work effectively in teams, but also display a strong desire to strive for excellence.

Chinese Dance

With a title like 'Celestial Bliss' for their dance, it was no wonder that the judges saw our dancers as divine goddesses as they freely expressed their sophisticated and graceful dance moves during their performance. The imagery of sunlight shining in all its glory amidst a celestial paradise was the perfect setting for our Chinese Dance to garner a Certificate of Distinction. Indeed, our dancers were indeed blessed by the Lord who guided them in their poignant journey.



Choir

For more than a year, the zealous Choir members trained twice a week for at least 3 hours and this hard work finally earned them a Certificate of Accomplishment for this year's SYF. One of the pieces sung by the Choir was entitled 'The Lord Is My Shepherd'. This piece was indeed apt in reflecting our school's Christian values as it praised the Lord for leading the way and being the provider of all things. One of its members, Shania Tan of 2 Faith shared candidly her own personal experiences during the tiring period. She said, "We had to keep practising until our singing was perfect and we must always sing in perfect order. But no matter how tired we were, we never stopped giving our best!" Hearing such a spirited reply gave us much assurance that our Choir members will always endeavour to do their best at all times and be motivated to strive for better results for the SYF in 2015.



Band

It is undeniable that the school Band had put in a lot of hard work and effort through their weekly practices. Thus, it came as no surprise when they gave a top-notch performance during the SYF Competition and achieved a Certificate of Accomplishment. The first piece they played was entitled 'Gavotte' and it was a compulsory song set by Co-curricular Activity Branch. The theme of this song was indeed apt as it

reiterated the importance of gaining strength in unity. The second piece entitled 'In All Its Glory' glorified the beauty of God's power and will. An interesting point to note was that the two songs were an accurate reflection of what the school hopes for the students to achieve; which is to forge strong bonds through a memorable shared experience .

By Daphne Loy, Garrel Saw, Shin Hobin and Shen Jianxin of 1Grace

Celebrations and Achievements

BOYS' BRIGADE

BB Blaze 2013

In April, the Boys' Brigade took part in the BB Blaze 2013. This competition is an adventure race where students are tested on their physical and mental abilities in various adventure activities such as cycling, archery, abseiling, kayaking and map navigation. Two teams took part in this challenge. The months of intense training paid off when the teams clinched 4th and 10th positions among the 119 participating teams. The BB also achieved Gold with Honours in this competition. The winning teams are formed by:

- Nicholas Chua Kai Boon • Bok Wen Yang • Gu Yu Jie
- Chua Yong Da Derek • Chee Tao Kang • Tay Mayor
- Haniel Pang Jia Yue • Sean Chen Zhi En • Low Fu Yi

Well done BB!



GIRL GUIDES

National Camp Best Patrol

During the June holidays, a team of 6 Girl Guides participated in Camp Challenge 2013 from 7 to 10 June. The Camp Challenge is a national competition where guides from all 4 Divisions participate in a 4D3N Camp at Camp Christine. The team from our school was judged on the various aspects of Guiding at both Division and National level such as Fire Safety Quiz, Gadget making, Field cooking, Patrol Flag, and Patrol Identity. The team won several awards at Division Level such as Night Challenge (1st Position) and Tent-pitching Competition (1st Position).

At the National Level, our school won the Overall Best Patrol! Congratulations to the Girl Guides for such a commendable performance!



Design and Technology (D&T)

South Zone Millennium Challenge

After a long wait, the Design and Technology department finally captured the coveted 1st position in the South Zone Millennium Challenge! Despite the challenge, our students prevailed in the end. It was indeed inspiring to see our students working so hard to bring glory to our school.

Our students achieved the following awards:

- Motorised (Speed) - 1st and 2nd positions
- Bridge Building (Strength) - 2nd and 3rd positions.
- Non-Motorised (Distance) - 4th position

The students involved are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Nikki Low (3 Hope) | Tearin Tan (3 Hope) |
| Tracy Tang (3 Truth) | Chua Boon Hui (3 Truth) |
| Chua, Alex (3 Truth) | Leong, Oliver (3 Truth) |
| Carmen Lee (3 Truth) | Ng, Jordan (3 Truth) |
| Shawn Neo (3 Truth) | Chia Zhen Da (4 Love) |
| Yeo Zhi Yong (4 Love) | Joon Kiat (5 Grace) |



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