



ESPOIR

a publication of Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School
Issue 1 March 2012





ESPOIR

a publication of KCPSS

Contents

Principal's Message 1

At a Glance 2

Release of GCE 'N' Level and 'O' level results 3

All Level Camps 4 & 5

Secondary One Orientation 6

Mother Tongue Fortnight 7

First Aid Course for Staff 8

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party 8

NPCC and NCDCC Kunming CIP Trip 9

PELS on Inter-UG Trail 9

Student Leaders Exchange Programme at Surabaya 10

Girl Guides CIP Trip to Jakarta 10

Maths and Science Korean Exchange trip 2012 11

Hong Kong Exchange Trip 11

Prevention of Dengue Project 12

2011 Prom Night 13

CNY Celebration 13

It's My Turn 14

Celebrations and Achievements 15

S7 Cluster Scrabble Competition 16

Welcome new staff 16

Editors:

Ms Debbie Wong, Mrs Ravi, Mdm Fazliana Pairin, Miss Hor Kah Wai

Reporters: Students from class 3 Faith

Photography: Mr Sebastian Lim, Photography Club



Touching Hearts Engaging Minds

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." Ecc 3:1

There is no denying that the winds of change have been sweeping through KCPSS in recent months. KCPians have spoken, articulated their expectations of the school experience and members of the staff have responded to better cater to these 21st century learners. To meaningfully respond to student expectations, the school adopted the theme, '***It's All about THEM!*** (Touching Hearts, Engaging Minds) to make explicit our commitment to ensure a highly engaging and motivating school experience for every KCPian.

Our vision of KCPSS being '*An Exciting School of Choice with every KCPian a servant leader, self-directed learner and community-contributor, rooted in Christian values*', can only be realised through a relentless pursuit of excellence for every child in every aspect of his development. In striving to provide every KCPian a holistic education that challenges him to be all that God meant him to be, the school has placed a strong emphasis on leadership development through several programmes that you will read about in this issue.

Our Internationalisation Programme was one such programme. Students had to make tough choices and persevere in the face of challenge as they ventured out to places as diverse as Kunming, China, Hong Kong and Surabaya and Jakarta, Indonesia. In addition to coping with unfamiliar and challenging living conditions, students were challenged to

make a significant contribution in each of these communities. The experience was life-enriching and students learnt to be resilient and resourceful, traits we want to see all KCPians develop during their years with us.

The annual All Level Camps reinforced this learning. Roughing it out in the 'Great Outdoors', KCPians realised the need to be confident in the face of challenge and uncertainty. They learnt to empathise with the weaker members of the team and pool resources to overcome the challenges before them. We are confident that each of these experiences has made KCPians determined to be resilient in pressing on to succeed in their journey through secondary school. The Sec 4E/5N/4N cohort affirmed our belief in the form of the 'I Can' banner - with a visual commitment to be leaders of self and work towards giving life to the silent dreams that wait within each of them!

2012 presents aplenty, opportunities for KCPians to transcend beyond what they imagine themselves to be and to trust that the Lord has set KCPSS apart for His glory. Once again, we would like to commit 2012 to the Lord, as well as all our endeavours to Touch Hearts and Engage Minds (THEM)!



A large, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rajesh". It is positioned above a starfish.



72500098

→ 2A



→ 3A

3572500098

→ 4A

3572500098

→ 5A



At a Glance...

23 October - 28 October 2011
Student Leaders Exchange Programme at
Surabaya

11 November - 14 November 2011
Prevention of Dengue Project

12 November - 22 November 2011
Hong Kong Exchange Trip

14 November - 15 November 2011
First Aid Course for Staff

17 November 2011
Thanksgiving Dinner

December 2011
Girl Guides CIP Trip to Brunei

21 December 2011
2011 Prom Night

4 January - 6 January 2012
Secondary One Orientation

5 January - 9 January 2012
Korean Exchange Programme

9 January 2012
Release of GCE 'N' Level and 'O' level
results

11 January - 14 January 2012
All Level Camps

20 January 2012
CNY Celebration

14 February 2012
Total Defence Day

7 March - 8 March 2012
S7 Cluster Scrabble Competition

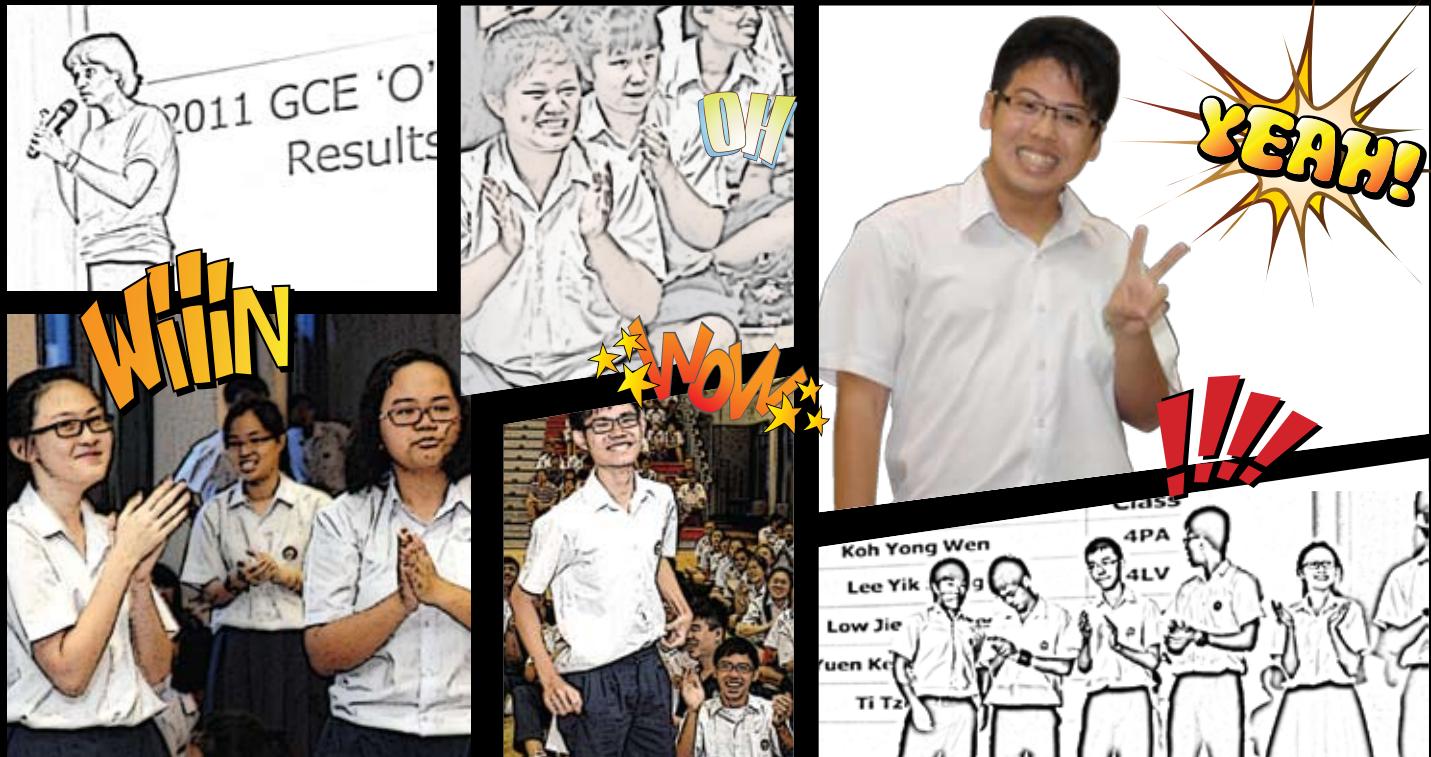


WE MADE IT!

The long awaited day of the release of the GCE 'O' Level results had finally arrived. The students drifted in, filling the hall with their nervous chatter and they cheered enthusiastically as our Principal, Mrs. Raja, stepped on stage. As she revealed the statistics of the passes and distinctions, thunderous applause was heard. The atmosphere was indeed nerve-wrecking as the students waited for the name of the top student Leong Jia Min from Secondary 4 Faith proved to be the lucky individual!

The GCE 'N' level results were however released much earlier in December. On that day, Mr. Chan, the Vice Principal started the event by showing an overview of the statistics. The release of the results was a very emotional moment for many students. Some cheered, while some cried. What was certain however was that these two days would definitely be a life-changing moment for all students.

By Tay Jing Rong, Ong Mei Yuan, Vanessa Looi and Sarah Wu of 3 Faith



How did you feel about the overall achievement of the school?

"There was a significant improvement in the number of distinctions as compared to last year. The students can still continue to strive higher and do better in the

academic area. Higher benchmarks will be set for next year's O-level batch of KCPians. I believe that they are capable of doing well. Overall, the credit should go to the teachers who have tirelessly worked hard to guide their students."

I think different teachers will have different feelings. The form teachers would feel happy for those who made it to Secondary 5 and of course, sad for those who didn't make it. I was pretty happy to see that many students had done well for Geography, although there was a handful who didn't really do well for the subject because they just gave up on it."

Mr Ben Yuan
(Form teacher of 5 Praise 2010)

Mrs. Raja

The Secondary 4 and 5 students have worked hard. I am glad that they have done well and that their hard work has finally paid off. These students had put in much effort and deserved their good results. I hope that the 2012 batch will achieve better results, and get even more distinctions!"

Mrs Chow Mei Chee
(Form Teacher of 4 Joy 2010)

Interview with Rachel Lee, 4 Joy, top student; scored 5A1s and 2A2s

How did you feel when you heard you were one of the top students?
"I didn't expect myself to be the top student."

Any studying tips for your juniors?

"To score well you have to focus in class and manage your time well. You must be confident as well! Revise what you have learnt for the day and when the exams are round the corner, study even harder."

Interview with Leong Jia Min, 4 Faith, top student; scored 8A1s.

How did you manage your time?

"I planned a time-table and allocated some time for each subject each day. I took a short break in between revising each subject."

How did you feel when you got your results?

"I was shocked and could not believe that I could receive such good results."

Do you have any particular group of people that you would like to thank?

"I would like to thank my friends for supporting me and always being there for me especially when I was feeling stressed."

Do you have anything to say to your juniors?

"Try your best in whatever you do and believe that you can achieve your dreams."

SEC 3E CAMP

Anticipation was in the air as the Secondary 3 Express students got all excited for their All-Level Camp that took place at Kota Tinggi, Johor Bahru. It was to be a 4 day and 3 night camp and for many students, it was their first camp overseas.

The moment they reached the campsite, the students played some ice-breaker games and cheers to get to know each other better. These were followed by exhilarating water activities such as Raft Building, Jetty Jump and Indiana Jones. The main aim was to let the class bond while having fun.

One of the most anticipated activities was the trek up Gunung Panti – a mountain which is 512m high. There were many obstacles and challenges such as steep slopes and thorns but the KCPian spirit was undaunted. Each and every one of them surmounted the obstacles and carried on. The obstacles helped to build teamwork as students were required to help one other, in order to swiftly yet safely climb up and down the hill. While waiting for each other's turn to pass an obstacle, many ended up chatting with their new friends. Many also had their first outdoor cooking experience as the students prepared their own lunch at the summit, while enjoying its magnificent scenery.



SEC 3NA CAMP

The Secondary 3 Normal Academic students attended a 4-day and 3-night camp at Bintan from 11 January to 14 January 2012. It was a successful camp which everyone enjoyed. They learnt leadership skills and completed many obstacles together. We managed to interview two of the pupils, Melinda and Axel from 3 Hope, to share with us their experiences during the camp.

Question: What activities did you participate in? Which activity did you most enjoy?

Axel: I played soccer, captain's ball, volleyball, rock-climbing, flying-fox and also climbed a coconut tree. I enjoyed playing soccer as I had scored a goal three times and flying fox was awesome as well!

Melinda: I enjoyed kayaking the most as my

class played some games in the sea!

Question: What did the students perform during campfire?

Axel: 3 Grace sang karaoke and led all the students to sing a song. It was funny and all of us had lots of fun.

Melinda: We helped 3 Grace and sang some campfire songs with them. There were firecrackers which I saw for the first time in my life. There were also orphanages who participated in the campfire with us.

Question: What struggles did you experience in the camp? How did you overcome them?

Axel: The hill trek was very muddy and slippery. I held onto the rope and took each step carefully. Besides that, my classmates, including me, helped one another throughout the climb.

Melinda: The hill trek and the tree climbing

The other main activity was the Community Involvement Programme (CIP) with a local primary school. Our students were assigned to play games such as soccer, captain ball and poison ball with the Primary Five and Six students in the first part. For the second part of the CIP, our students helped to paint the school. The classes were allocated different areas which they had to paint within two hours.

The last night in Kota Tinggi was a memorable night as a campfire was prepared for them. The instructors taught them in many new and interesting campfire cheers and all the classes showcased their "Oscar-winning" campfire performances. It was followed by the dance the teachers had to do and 'Chammak Challo' performed by the student councillors. It was indeed a memorable evening.

The camp had definitely built strong bonds between classmates but most importantly, it gave students an experience they would never forget.

By Irvin Ting, Benedict Koh, Leong Kwan Hoe and Isaac Tan of 3 Faith

Jonathan (3 Faith)

'The hill trek at Kota Tinggi was an eye-opener and I strongly recommend my juniors to participate in the Sec 3 Camp as this opportunity of trekking up a hill is very rare.'

Joyce (3 Patience)

'The low elements games taught my class the importance of having teamwork and courage to overcome obstacles.'

Xuan Zheng (3 Love)

'I feel so happy and elated after I helped the children at Kota Tinggi. After playing with them and helping them, I can see the smiles on their faces and this gives me a feeling of satisfaction.'

Marsius (3 Joy)

"Indiana Jones" was the best game as it was challenging and my class had a lot of fun playing together.'



were the struggles I faced. My friends' support helped me to gain confidence and overcome the obstacles.

Question: What did you do when you reached the top of the hill?

Axel: I took photographs with my friends! Melinda: I took a group photograph with all the people who reached the summit. I also carved my name with a penknife on one of the trees for memory's sake.

Question: What did you learn from the camp?

Axel: I learnt to be a better leader and a better team mate. Besides, I bonded with my classmates and we are very close now.

Melinda: I acquired qualities such as confidence and resilience. Above all, I learnt that nothing is impossible!



SECONDARY FOUR STUDY CAMP – I CAN DO IT!

While the Secondary Two and Three students were out at their respective All-Level Camps, the Secondary Four students were in school toiling their preparation for the GCE 'O' Level Examination. They toiled and raced towards one aim in mind – to excel in the upcoming GCE 'O /N' Level Examination.

Although it was lessons as per normal for those three days, there were some special events planned. On Thursday, 12 January, they went to five different junior colleges' Open Houses to gain an insight on college life. On Friday, 13 January, they painted the "I Can" banner which would be hung up during the 'O' Levels to encourage them to strive for their best. The teachers hoped that it will be a motivational tool for the students when they are taking their GCE 'O/N' Level Examination. After the unveiling of the completed banner, the students were treated to ice-cream. Although some students felt that they were missing out on the fun that their juniors were having at their adventure camps, majority of the students felt that the study camp was beneficial and should be continued for future cohorts.

By Ng Kang Yu, Jonathan Tan, Clifton Ng Wei Zhi and Vijay Marimuthu of 3 Faith



Secondary Two Study Camp - Work hard, Play hard

This year, the Secondary Two students went to Sarimbun Scout Campsite, which is located off Lim Chu Kang Road, for their All-Level Camp. It was a 3 day and 2 night camp. The objectives of this camp were to ignite the Kuo Chuan spirit and prepare the students to strive for success.

During the camp, the students went through team-building activities such as the low elements, a Night Confidence Walk and Water-Rafting. They also participated in a heritage race around the Joo Chiat area to find out about the school's history. These activities encouraged the students to work and bond together as a team. It also helped to build leadership skills and a sense of responsibility within students.

The students also organised the campfire on their own, with student leaders from different classes taking on different roles, such as fire chiefs, programme chiefs and emcees. Some students felt awkward initially because many felt that they had to step out of their comfort zones during the camp. However, they soon adjusted well as they took part in all the activities with much zest. They were able to strengthen their friendships with each other as all of them had to sleep together in tents. What better way to get to know someone than to learn about their sleeping habits?

Many of the students felt that the camp was fun and enjoyable and they were able to learn new experiences through it.

By Ng Kang Yu, Jonathan Tan, Clifton Ng Wei Zhi and Vijay Marimuthu of 3 Faith

Secondary One Orientation

This year is a brand new year and a fresh new start for KCPians. For the Secondary One students, it will be an interesting year ahead as they join our huge KCPSS family.

To welcome the Secondary One students, the teachers and student leaders joined hands in preparing a variety of games and activities that would be forever etched in their memories.

Throughout the Secondary One Orientation Programme, the teachers and the student leaders worked hard to ensure every student felt the warm KCPSS welcome. Fun and exciting activities such as mini-group games led by the Physical Education Leaders (PELs) were carried out. The aim of these games was to introduce various sports that the Secondary Ones will experience throughout their stay in KCPSS. On top of that, the National Education (NE) Ambassadors organised the 'Amazing Race' which introduced students to various locations around school.

One special item that never failed to grab people's attention was the 'traditional' mass dance item titled "EVERYDAY I'M BALLOONING", where everyone danced to the popular Hindi song 'Chammak Challo'. As always, the orientation ended with the grand finale – The Campfire.

The classes proudly performed their class cheers for their parents during the Meet-the-Parents Session. During the Campfire, there were spectacular performances by different uniformed groups and the student councillors. The Campfire ended with a bang as everyone danced along to 'Chammak Challo' during the closing ceremony.

The Secondary Ones had learnt many valuable lessons from each other. The entire experience helped to forge friendships that could last forever. Staying true to the theme of the Orientation - "Igniting the Flame", the Secondary Ones have definitely shown a burning passion to realise their potential at KCPSS.

Flame On!

By Leong Kwan Hoe, Isaac Tan, Irvin Ting and Benedict Koh of 3 Faith



இராவாரத் தமிழ்மொழி நடவடிக்கைகள்

ஜனவரி மாதம் 16 மாதல் 27 வரை நம் பள்ளியில் 'இராவாரத் தமிழ்மொழி நடவடிக்கைகள்' மாற்களெப்பட்டன. இந்நாட்களில் நம் மாணவர்கள் பல வகையான கலாச்சார, பண்பாட்டா நடவடிக்கைகளில் ஈடுபட்டனர்.

உயர்நிலதே ஒன்றா மாதல் ஜந்தா வரவையிலான மாணவர்கள் பல்லாங்காழி, தாயம், ஆட்டாலி ஆட்டம் பாரம்பரிய விளையாட்டாகளைக் கற்றாக் கொண்டனர். மடேபை பசேசாளர்களை அடையாளம் காணும் வகையில் விவாதப் பாட்டியாம் நடவடிக்கைகளை கல்விச் சாற்றாலாவாக, விட்டில் இந்தியாவிற்காம் காவரோ சாவான் தடிடக்கப்பள்ளிக்காம் சனீற்றா, எங்களாக்கா என்றாம் மறக்கமாப்பியாத ஓர் இளிமையான அனாபவமாக அமர்ந்தா. அகல்விளக்காக்கா வர்ணம் பார்பி பலாம்மகைளாக்கா பாடவன அணிவித்ததாம் மகிழ்ச்சியான பாரம்பரிய கற்றலாக்கா வழி வகுத்ததா.

பொதாத் தரேவா எழுதப் பாகூம் உயர்நிலதே நான்கா, ஜந்தா மாணவர்களாக்கா, சாயமான்னறேற் சொற்பொழிவாம் நடவடிக்கைகளை கொண்டனர். இவற்றாக்கலெல்லாம் மாத்தாய்ப்பாக, சீனப்பாத்தான்டா விழாவையைம் இராவாரத் தாயம்மொழி நடவடிக்கையைம் ஒன்றினணக்கையை வகையில், பள்ளி மண்டபத்தில் தமிழர் பாரம்பரிய மாற்றப்படி அலங்கரித்ததோம். மொத்தத்தில் 'இராவாரத் தமிழ்மொழி நடவடிக்கைகள்' வழி நம் பண்பாட்டிகளை கற்றாக்கொண்டோம்' என்ற மனநிறவை எங்களாக்கா ஏற்பட்டதா.

ஒகினா 3TH தமீம் 3PA

Dwimingga Budaya 2012

Dwimingga Budaya dilancarkan oleh Kementerian Pendidikan sejak tahun 2011. Baru-baru ini, Jabatan Bahasa Melayu telah mengadakan acara tersebut pada tanggal 16 Januari hingga 27 Januari 2012. Objektif Dwimingga Budaya ini adalah untuk menjadikan para pelajar lebih peka dan menghargai budaya mereka.

Mari kita dengar pandangan daripada rakan-rakan kita mengenai Dwimingga Budaya 2012.

"Daripada semua aktiviti ini, saya rasa kagum dan bersyukur kerana pihak sekolah telah menganjurkan acara ini. Dalam kegiatan paluan kompong, saya rasa sangat teruja kerana ia pertama kali saya memalu kompong. Kini, saya sudah berpengalaman dalam memalu kompong."

Mohammed Thaqif Dhiyauddin, 4 Joy

"Secara keseluruhan, dua minggu ini mengakrabkan 'perhubungan' kami dengan budaya Melayu. Ia tentu telah membuka mata saya kepada keluasan seni tradisional dan budaya kita. Kini, ramai remaja terikut-ikut budaya orang Barat. Akhlak kita yang makin merosot sebenarnya boleh menconteng arang di 'muka' bangsa sendiri. Budaya kita sebenarnya beradab tetapi kemunduran perangai-perangai generasi pelapis telah menyembunyikan perkara baik ini."

Mardhiany Puteri, 4 Truth

"Sebenarnya, budaya Melayu itu luas, hanya orang Melayu sahaja yang tidak menunjukkan minat pada budaya sendiri."

Danish Emran, 4 Faith

Akhir sekali, sama-sama lah kita merenungi serangkap pantun yang dikarang oleh Nur Hidayat (5 Praise):

Jikalau Ultraman melawan Hang Tuah

Siapakah akan menjadi juara

Janganlah kita lupa budaya

Takkan Melayu pupus di dunia?

母语双周活动丰富， 农历新年充满祥和

转眼间，一年一度的华人农历新年又来临了。为了弘扬传统文化，让学生更了解并喜爱自己的母语，1月14日 – 1月20 日，学校母语部组织了丰富多彩的母语双周活动。活动期间，除了华族同学外，其他种族的同学们也踊跃参与。各项活动都受到了同学们的广泛好评。

学校为了鼓励学生多接触母语，认识本族文化，特别为中一至中五的华族学生筹划了丰富多彩的活动。每个年级的活动进行得热火朝天，每个人的脸上洋溢着动手的快乐，探索的新奇，成功的喜悦。

中一学生学习临摹中国水墨画，又富有创意地制作贺年卡；中二书法学习挥春，又开展了灯笼制作比赛；中三学生为了迎接农历新年的到来，把整个校园装饰一新，充满喜庆的气氛；毕业班的学生跟着老师画脸谱，为紧张的学习增添了不少乐趣。他们还利用课余时间，为那些困难家庭准备了100多个丰富的礼包，表达他们的离校前回馈社会的心意。

希望借着母语双周活动的翅膀，把更多的母语知识与文化带给莘莘学子，充实他们的人生行囊，伴随他们长大成才。

3 Faith 林学山, 谢承钊, 郑宇钧, 黄良伟



First Aid Course for Staff 2011

A course on Basic First Aid was organised for the staff of our school on 14 and 15 November 2011. It was the first time that such a course was held. The course was conducted by Raffles Medical. The 28 participants were actively involved in discussions and practical sessions. There was much laughter as teachers applied their practical

skills on one another. The course ended with a theory test as well as a practical one on CPR. Despite the nervousness experienced during the practical test on CPR and one-to-one interview, we are happy to say that all our participants passed their tests with flying colours.

By Ms Hasna Alsagoff



The Mad Hatter's Tea Party

The theme for last year's Annual Staff Thanksgiving Dinner was 'The Mad's Hatter's Tea-Party'. Staying true to the theme, many dressed for the occasion as Alice and other quirky characters from the famous novel 'Alice in Wonderland'. It was a night of limitless fantasy and loads of fun. To familiarise everyone with the story, a brief explanation of the characters and scenes were written on cards and placed on the tables.

The evening began with the opening speech by our Principal, Mrs Raja. She started the dinner after thanking the key members of the School Management Committee, Living Praise Presbyterian church Parents' Support Group and the staff for their contribution and effort in bringing the school to greater heights. During dinner, our two newest members of the KCP family, Mr Angus Sham (dressed as a pirate) and Ms Cheryl Yeo (with a wig, featuring the colours of Germany) led us through many exciting games that made it a night of reverie and fun.

One of the games required a representative from each table to guess the song title that was being played. When it was Ms Hasna Alsagoff's turn, the emcees played a Hokkien song which was the theme song of a popular Taiwanese drama series entitled 'Love'. It was really a hilarious moment as we saw Ms Alsagoff's stunned expression. In another game, we had to send members to challenge each other for the 'Fastest Drinker' title. To do that, each representative had to drink a gassy drink in the shortest time possible and Ms Quek Imm Ki emerged as the winner.

Amidst all the fun and laughter, we also commended our staff for various achievements. Some of the awards given out were the Group and Individual Outstanding Contribution Awards, the Pink of Health Award for staff who did not take a single MC during 2011 and the Health Ambassador Award for staff members who were awarded at least a Silver in the Sports-for-life event. We also gave out certificates and a token of appreciation to Co-operating Teachers and School Coordinating Mentors for their important contribution in training future teachers of our country.

Indeed, we have a lot to be thankful for in 2011 and may God continue to bless this KCP family with lots of love, health and happiness.

By Mrs Tang Lai Chan (SWC Chairperson)

Mr. Terence Tan (Vice Chairperson 2010 – 2011)
As Vice Chairperson, I had the privilege to work closely with Mrs. Raja and Mr. Tony Low (ex principal). This close relationship gave me a good understanding of the school's policies and directives.

My fondest memory is being the Organising Chairman for our historic 24Hrs Badminton Marathon in 2008. Through the hard work of parents, students and staff, we made it to The Singapore Book of Record for 'The Most Numbers of Matches In A Single Location'. We also raised more than \$11,000 for the School's needy student fund. This meaningful event highlighted PSG commitment and true expression of love to KCP.



Mdm. Ho Chiu Lin (Chairperson 2010 – 2011)

I see my role as Chairperson in the simplest way – to serve. I hope I have carried out this task well. In return, I have been blessed with many great friendships with parents as well as teachers which I will treasure.

One of my proudest moments is forming Fathers@Schools Group in Kuo Chuan. Fathers@Schools Group seeks active involvement of fathers with their child via various bonding activities. It was great to see father and child partnership during our first Father & Child Bowling Session.



Reflection of the NCDCC and NPCC Kunming CIP Trip

A group of 19 students and 2 teachers from NPCC and NCDCC went on a CIP trip to Kunming to experience the communal village life in rural China. A vibrant city that never sleeps, the sights and sounds of Kunming baffled me when I first landed. I was greeted by a cold gust of wind that made my hair stand on ends. My friends and I had to get used to the cold climate.

Our first destination was up Mount Da Po. The trek up to the village took us about 45 minutes. Though trekking up the mountain was an arduous task, we felt that it was all worth it when we saw the happy faces of the children from the village school.

We enthusiastically embarked on our mission by teaching these children some English songs and educate them on personal hygiene. Their limited knowledge of the language impeded communication but that did not dampen our spirits. We thought of creative ways to communicate with them and even taught them how to sing the songs accurately with appropriate pitch and tone. Once the initial nervousness and awkwardness had been overcome, we were at ease with the children and managed to teach them the songs quite effectively. We also enjoyed the fellowship with the staff and students of the school while we enjoyed the simple but delicious lunch.

This is what some of us had to say about the trip :

"I was pleasantly surprised that Mrs Raja, our Principal took time to send us off at the airport. It also made me feel that the journey I had embarked on was an important one and I felt personally responsible to make it a purposeful journey."

Tan Wei Jun

"Teaching the local students and helping them farm and pluck fruits was an awesome experience!"

Emmanuel Lee

"The local children took care of one another and they were very disciplined; they would walk in a straight line up and down the mountain."

Gavin Goh

"The local children's determination to walk up and down the mountain everyday –the whole of 10km, was amazing."

Phua Li Hung

"I was shocked to know that hard-boiled eggs were a luxury for the locals."

Lye Yuzhe

"Tough jobs like farming and harvesting were daily routines for these children. I learned resilience from them."

Clarence Goh

国大长老会中学 KUO CHUAN PRESBYTERIAN HIGH SCHOOL
SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO YUNNAN, CHINA
中国云南文化交流暨社区服务之旅
23.10.2011 ~ 27.10.2011



'Balik Kampong' - The UG Heritage Trail

Imagine walking along quaint shophouses selling exotic fare such as prayer rugs, Persian carpets and traditional batiks. We felt as if we had been transported to Turkey. It was an enriching experience when the uniformed groups took part in the Annual Heritage Trail at the end of last year. The Heritage Trail was a great and fun experience for us. We went to heritage sites like Arab Street and Geylang Serai. It was interesting to learn that Geylang Serai was where the indigenous Malays had lived since 1840. We experienced all aspects of the Malay culture and tradition in Singapore such as kampong life in the 1950s-60s, played with

musical instruments and made some handicraft. We could not have had a better opportunity to learn about Singapore in the olden days. Also, we had great fun working together as a team as we tackled questions at each checkpoint. Our teams won the 1st and 3rd position in this inter-UG heritage trail. Although winning definitely made the whole experience more enjoyable, the joy of learning more about these heritage sites and gaining knowledge was just priceless.

By Pearly Poh of 4 Patience



Surabaya Trip to Petra High School

The Surabaya trip was indeed an eye-opening experience for students of KCPSS and the Indonesian students of PETRA High. During the trip, students from both schools were constantly learning about each other's culture through their close interaction. Muhamed Jauhar of 3 Faith, a student who attended the trip commented, "It was fun to learn from the PETRA High students about the locals, their culture and their delicious delicacies."

Our students also gathered some 'fun facts' regarding Surabaya. The Suramadu bridge in Surabaya is the second longest bridge in Asia. Surabaya also has around 17000 islands!

'Sura' in Indonesian actually means shark and 'Baya' means crocodile. According to legend, the shark and the crocodile were competing with one another but neither won, so they decided to come to a truce. That was how the name Surabaya came about.

Besides learning history lessons, KCPSS students also had a lot of fun participating in various recreational activities. They climbed a volcano, Mount Bromo and even took a cruise with the Indonesian students in order to strengthen their friendships. Dominic Koh from 3 Hope said that climbing the volcano was tough because the staircase had been melted by the lava a long time ago.

KCPSS students also learnt different methods of teaching in Surabaya. For example, the PETRA High School students get to present many presentations during

class. Another KCPIan who went on the trip said, "I like the joy we shared with our friendly buddies. I have learnt a lot from them and they did their best to make each and every one of us feel comfortable throughout our stay".

The Surabaya trip was an overall success. Our students had not only gained new knowledge about another country, but had also managed to forge new and hopefully long-lasting friendships.

By Chim Ge Huai, J.Muhamed Jauhar, Rahul Radhakrishnan & Galvin Ng of 3Faith



Girl Guides CIPTrip to Brunei

During the December holidays,

four of our Guides took part in the Sharing Culture Brunei Darussalam 2011.

The camp was really a great experience for us as we got to make more friends from different countries like Brunei, Australia, Philippines and Hong Kong. We had a chance to learn more about their culture and how the guiding system works in the different countries. More importantly, it has cultivated in us a greater understanding of the culture and history of the countries. It was really an eye-opener as the trip has largely broadened our perspectives of the world. It has also reminded us of countless people who are still living in poverty and are struggling to make ends meet. Without a doubt, this trip has both humbled us and made us more thankful for living such fortunate lives in Singapore. We definitely look forward to having more of such exchange programmes.

By Pearly Poh of 4 Patience



Exchange a day, Knowledge for life

Korean Exchange Programme

We cannot deny that Singaporeans, just like other Asians have been hit by the 'Korean Wave'. We are intrigued

by Korean music, dramas and even fashion. KCPians were indeed a privileged lot who had the opportunity to interact and learn from the Koreans themselves. We were honoured to host a group of students from Suncheon Maesan Middle School who participated in our school's immersion programme. The Korean students were assigned to their respective KCPSS buddies from Sec 2 and 3 classes. They were fully integrated into the academic and social life of our school. Our guests were first immersed into the KCP classrooms here and got to experience a day in the life of a KCPian. They went on fun-filled activities like a dinosaur exhibition and also an archeological talk at the Singapore Science Centre. It was also an enriching experience for them as they learned more about Singapore's rich history and heritage through the exciting learning journeys. We interviewed some of the Korean students and they felt it was interesting and they were excited to meet more people and learn more of their culture. We are certain that they have returned home with new knowledge, cultural understanding and life-long friendships.

By Ethan Lit, Irene, Esther and Yu Zhe of 3 Faith

HONG KONG EXCHANGE TRIP

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." – St. Augustine

From the 12 to 22 November 2011, 10 of our students and the teacher-in-charge, Mr. Alvin Lim, went to Hong Kong for the 10th Singapore – Hong Kong Exchange Programme. They visited 2 schools, Kwun Tong Government Secondary School and Sir Ellise Kadoorie Secondary School. They were greeted upon arrival with much joy and enthusiasm by the welcoming party.

Besides being immersed in the school's classroom activities, they also visited places of interest such as the Hong Kong History and Science Museum and the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.

On 18 November 2011, they embarked on a learning journey to Hong Kong Disneyland

and had lots of fun there taking all the rides. . Apart from classroom knowledge, students were also able to experience an outdoor Physics lesson on forces from the roller coasters and learn some scientific principles behind some of the attractions and rides.

The most interesting part of this programme was homestay where students were hosted by their Hong Kong buddies in their homes. Through this platform, students enjoyed an up close and personal experience with their counterparts. Interacting with their Hong Kong peers which helped students to understand more about Hong Kong's culture, education system and family life. Moreover, they also fostered strong

I have learnt about the Korean culture and the respect they show towards others.
By Sean Quek, 2 Grace

I shared many fond memories with my friends and their buddies during the homestay. I really look forward to learning more and seeing them again in Korea.
By Soo Chin Kit, Gary 2 Praise



friendships through this exchange programme.

"Through this exchange programme, I feel that our students have represented the school and country very well and have successfully assimilated into the Hong Kong families. They have also developed holistically and gained knowledge which cannot be found in the classroom. The school should encourage more students to go for international trips!" said Mr Alvin Lim.

Regardless of their cultural differences, the friendships made cross all boundaries and established a strong bond between the students and their hosts. We look forward to more educational exchange programmes just like this!





Aedes Mosquitoes Prevention Project

In 2011, a team of Sec 2 students - Yong Jia Wei, Teresa Widjaja, T N Nabeesathul Faysha, Kejendreganesh S/O P Koh Jie Yan, Cheryl, Kristine Chua Wan Ting (all from Sec 2 Love) as well as Lai Sock Ling Irene (Sec 2 Peace) – participated in the Community Problem Solving (CMPS) competition organised by Future Problem Solving Program Singapore. The CMPS competition encourages students to identify and solve an existing community problem using the Future Problem Solving Model.

Since 2010, the team was engaged in an Aedes mosquitoes prevention project. The team was concerned with the high number of dengue cases in Singapore despite years of publicity to educate the public about Aedes mosquitoes. In their project, the students decided to focus on the problem of stagnant water found in flower-pot plates: a potential breeding source highlighted by the National Environment Agency (NEA). In the course of solving the problem, they developed a self-watering flower pot system which would do away with the need of flower pot plates and minimise the risk of stagnant water forming in and around flower-pot plates. Upon successful testing of the self-watering flower-pot system with some common household as well as the Citronella (anti-mosquito repellent) plants, the team submitted their project report for the CMPS competition in 2011 subsequently. The team was invited to participate and showcase their project at the CMPS National Finals held at Raffles Girls School from 11 – 13 November 2011.

The students were indeed elated, having made it into the CMPS National Finals. The team had worked very hard to prepare a final

report for judging. In addition, they had to prepare their project booth as well as participate in an onsite interview with the judges on 11 and 12 November. On 13 November, when the competition held an open-house for visitors and guests to view the various finalists' projects, the KCP team left an indelible mark on the visitors on the uniqueness and inventiveness of the project as well as the confidence displayed by the team members in answering the various questions posed by the visitors. Though the team did not clinch the top prize, the members were pleased with their efforts as they had learned much through this process of problem solving and self-discovery.

At the same time, NEA expressed interest in the team's effort in combating dengue fever through the use of the self-watering flower-pot system with the Citronella plant. As a result, the team was invited to conduct a hands-on workshop for members of the public at the Central Singapore Clean and Green Carnival held at United Square on 13 and 14 of November 2011. The event was graced by the Guests-of-Honour, Associate Professor Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, as well as the Mayor for Central Singapore, Mr Sam Tan. The team together with some of their classmates from Sec 2 Love (Lim Rui Qi, Galvin Ng and Jin Zhe Hua) had the honour of explaining and demonstrating the project to them as well as helping members of the public build their own self-watering flower pot system with the Citronella and Money plants.

When the event ended, Kejendreganesh said, "I feel that it was a very good experience as we made conversation with the Minister. It was a very unique experience as it is not everyday that we get to talk to such important people. I feel honoured to be able to talk to him. Thank you, Kuo Chuan, for giving me this experience". Echoing his point, one of the leaders of the team, Yong Jia Wei, added, "I felt that it (meeting with people) was a memorable experience for me as I learnt how to communicate with people and be patient. It gave me the opportunity to spread the message of dengue fever prevention with them!"

By Mr Sebastian Lim



2011 Prom Night

Prom Night is an event that most students in all secondary schools look forward to. Not only does it mark the end of the students' secondary school life, it gives many the opportunity to let their hair down. Our seniors proved to be no different!

On 21 December 2011, at around 7.30 in the evening, the seniors had gathered at Carlton Hotel in their beautiful gowns and smart suits, ready for the spectacular night to unfold. During the event, students and teachers had their stomachs filled with scrumptious food, before carrying on with playing fun and exciting games such as 'Don't Forget The Lyrics' and 'Bingo'. Everyone was a sport as they participated in the various games enthusiastically.

The whole event ended on a high note when the Prom King and Queen were announced. Ang Jun

Wei and Sian Chan from class 4 Patience 2011 had bagged the titles. Everyone had a memorable night dancing and taking memorable photos with their friends.

"I was very happy to be present for such an awesome event and would also like to thank the student councillors and teachers-in-charge for making this night so successful," Yong Yik Tin (4 Patience '11) commented.

By Shannon Lee, Pattany Kruathorn, Tay Yu Juan and Rachel Lim (3 Faith)



Chinese New Year Celebration

Chinese New Year is an occasion that everyone looks forward to and this is no exception for the teachers and students in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School.

CNY Activities:

- Sec 1: Making of greeting cards
- Sec 2: Construction of lanterns with red packets
- Sec 3: Decorating school premises
- Sec 4 and 5: Making Gift Hamper for the elderly in Toa Pah Yo Elderly Care.

The atmosphere in the school was festive as we welcomed the Year of the Dragon on 20 January 2012. It was a day worth celebrating and everyone was looking forward to the electrifying concert organized by the Mother Tongue Department. The entire hall was filled with excitement as the three emcees, Danish, Su Jie and Thameem led the celebration.

The performances were clearly the highlight of the day and the purpose of the event was to allow everyone to know more about other cultures. The first performance was by Stickids from the Guzheng which left the crowd mesmerized by their undeniable talent with percussion instruments. The Malay students were next as they performed their traditional 'Silat' dance and this was followed by "cross-talk" performance that was artfully done by two Secondary 2 Higher Chinese students. Both performances were lively and entertaining.

The student councillors who went up, next performed a dance for the song



'Chammak Challo', which was greeted by thunderous applause. Though it was Chinese New Year, performances were multi-cultural as the Mother Tongue Department had just celebrated Mother Tongue Fortnight. The celebration ended with students and teachers sending new year blessings to their friends and loved ones through their mobile phones. The traditional exchange of Mandarin oranges and "ang pows" between students and teachers marked the end of the celebration and the beginning of a great year.

As aptly put by Ms Debbie Wong the entire celebration "was a fistful of colour!"

By Cheng Yu Jun, Brandon Chee, Leo Nakaoko, Ryan Lim of 3 Faith



IT'S MY TURN

The National Education programme for 2012 kicked off with a bang as KCPSS celebrated Total Defence Day (TDD) with much gusto. The theme for TDD this year is 'It's My Turn'. The activities planned were aligned closely to the theme with the aim of inculcating in the students a sense of pride and loyalty for the nation. Greater student engagement was also encouraged through CCE lessons, the UGs Assembly Showcase and Level Competitions.

The TDD programme spanned over a period of two weeks. The programme commenced with CCE lessons which finally led to a Level Competition. For the competition, students were asked to design

Aspiration Cards. On these cards, students shared their hopes and dreams on how they could contribute to Singapore in the future. From each level, three of the best cards were selected for being the most meaningful and aesthetically pleasing and these individuals were rewarded for their good efforts during prize-giving on Friday. On top of that, the top ten pieces from each class were showcased at the school foyer for all to admire.

During Pastoral Care, Ms Connie Chua from the Corporate Communications SBS Transit was also invited to share a talk on public transport safety and security, which touched on the aspect of Civil Defence.

The NE Ambassadors also played a big part by conducting a sharing and quiz during morning assembly which the KCPians responded with much enthusiasm. The Sec 4s and 5s were also whisked off on a Total Defence Learning Journey at the Singapore Discovery Centre.

The two weeks of TDD activities were not only fun and exciting, but they also made the theme real for the students as they were made to realise

that it is their responsibility to defend Singapore in any way they can.

By Mdm Abby Choo



Celebrations and Achievements

American Mathematics Competition

The Mathematics Department sent 16 students to take part in the American Mathematics Competition held last year on 15 November 2011.

Ethan Lit from 3 Joy (2012) obtained gold, Irvin Ting 3 Faith (2012) obtained silver and Darren Tan Sheng Chong 2 Faith (2012) obtained bronze in this competition.

KCPSS Robotics and Technology Club

The KCPSS Robotics and Technology Club students participated in the Bull's Eye Competition on 27 October 2011 and the Singapore Robotic Games on 1 Feb 2012. They achieved the following awards:

Bull's Eye Competition

Champion

Category B - Mechatronics System Category



Best Creative Robot Design

Category B - Mechatronics System Category



Singapore Robotic Games

2nd Runner-up (3rd position)

Schools' Robotics Competition Category



Guzheng Ensemble

A total of 13 students from the Guzheng Ensemble took the Certificate of Chinese Instruments Graded Examination conducted at The Central Conservatory of Music & Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts from 5 to 10 December 2011. Out of the 13 students, 5 attained Grade 2, 6 attained Grade 3 and 2 attained Grade 6.



Girls' Brigade GBHQ Drill Instructor Test

In January 2012, Rachel Wong (4 Hope) and Kelly Deng (4 Truth) from the 28th (S) Girls' Brigade company, have passed the prestigious and stringent Drill Instructors test conducted by the Girls' Brigade Headquarters. They are now formally appointed as national drill instructors, whereby they can assess drill tests not only for their own 28th company but also other GB Coys at national.

NEmation 6 – Infocomm and NE Ambassadors

11 teams made up of 44-strong members in total from the KCPSS Info Communication Club and the NE Ambassadors participated in the 2011 NEmation! 6 for the first time. Out of a total of 1087 competing teams, 2 teams were shortlisted in the top 100 teams and 1 team in the top 40 teams.



S7 Cluster Scrabble Competition 2012

On the 8 March 2012, our school organised the S7 Cluster Scrabble Competition. This was a competition organised by our very own, Mrs.Ravi. Our school also had the support of the Scrabble Academy and Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School. The competition was held on home ground, thus, we had the added advantage of our fellow student councillors egging and encouraging us to excel in the competition.

Among those who took part was the National Scrabble Competition 2011 participants – Marsiling Secondary School. It was a tough fight against these seasoned veterans! But our KCPIans were optimistic and hopeful. This competition also provided us with an opportunity to make new friends – even if it is with our competitors! We became acquainted with students from Catholic High and CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School. We even had a chance to spar with our fellow KCPIans – from the lower secondary classes.

The teams that emerged victorious were from Raffles Institution and CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School. Even though we did not make the cut, we are determined to work hard and put up a tough fight in the National Scrabble Championship in April. Our teacher-in-charge, Mrs Ravi, also affirmed us with chocolates! That made it a sweet ending to a great competition!

By Muhammad Aqmar Naqib B Masrani of 3 Joy



Welcome New Staff

"Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way" – George Evans.

Although I have been teaching for 9 years, I still remind myself of this beautiful quote every single day. I have learnt that every student is a unique individual and each one has a different learning pace and style. I hope that in KCPSS, I will be able to help students realise their fullest potential and make them see how unique and beautiful they are.

Ms Faziliana Pairin



Mr Raymond Ng Soon Peng

Coming back to teaching Physical Education has been a good change for me after teaching academic subjects (mainly Elementary Mathematics and Additional Mathematics) for the past 10 years. It has been a good journey back to better health and fitness for me. I do hope to be a positive influence to both teachers and students by looking after the mental and physical well-being of each individual.

It's all about T.H.E.M!





Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School
10 Bishan Street 13 Singapore 579795

