

THE RAFFLES WAVE

Wishing all happy holidays and a fabulous new year!



**RAFFLES
GIRLS' SCHOOL**

*Nurturing Daughters of a
Better Age*

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Presenting the class of 2017: all the best in your future endeavours and continue to shine as daughters of a better age!

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



Farewell Alma Mater 2017: The 27th of October saw our Year 4 students celebrating their graduation night along with the Principals and their teachers who bore witness to their RGS journey. Dressed to the nines to match the theme of 'High Society', the students enjoyed a night of food and entertainment, including a special performance by a teachers' band. To the class of 2017, go forth and continue to make a difference in society, and strive to create a better age for all. Filiae Melioris Aevi!

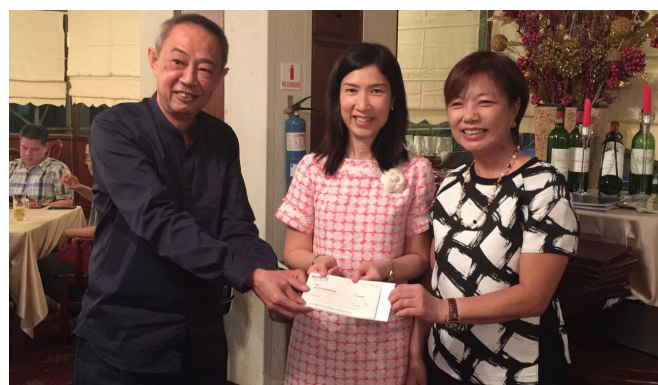
YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE HITTING THE GOLD MARK



The students also had the opportunity to speak with Minister Grace Fu. Click [here](#) to find out more about their conversation in a Facebook post by Minister!

Ten Year 3 students attended the Young Women in Leadership Dialogue (YWILD) on 28 October 2017. Themed ‘Resilience – Ordinary people doing extraordinary things’, the dialogue examines and celebrates the aspirations of young women in the community, and also relooks the concept of leadership. YWILD is a biennial event organised by the MENDAKI Club and Singapore Muslim Women’s Organisation.

THANK YOU!



At a celebratory dinner at Serangoon Gardens Country Club, Mr Dennis Foo, Vice-President of the Old Rafflesians’ Association (ORA) and Ms Cheong Yoke Keng, Chairperson of the ORA Golf Fundraising Committee presented a cheque of \$66k raised from the golf event to Principal Mrs Poh Mun See for the RGS New Campus Development Fund.



In appreciation of their participation in RGS’ New Campus Groundbreaking Ceremony back in August, Ms Amy Ang Poh Eng, Chairperson of the Parents for RGS Association (PRGS) and Ms Maitri Bobba, Vice-Chairperson of the PRGS Association, were each presented with a golden shovel that was used at the ceremony.



RGS NCC cadets past and present turned up to celebrate the milestone event. The event also managed to raise more than \$1,400 for the RGS New Campus Development Fund.

The RGS National Cadet Corps (NCC) held an anniversary dinner on 20 October 2017 to commemorate five decades of service by the CCA to the school and the community. Organised by the cadets themselves along with the help of their teachers-in-charge, the golden jubilee dinner saw a sizeable turnout of former RGS NCC cadets and ex-RGS NCC teacher-officers, as well as the HQ NCC leaders all coming together to share and reminisce about their unique experiences being part of the uniformed group.



RGS CARNIVAL MEMORIAS

To raise funds for our new campus, RGS will be organising Carnival Memorias on 3 March, 2018. Held on campus from 8am - 2pm, visitors to the carnival can expect lots of fun, food, and interaction with members of the Rafflesian community both past and present. More information on the carnival will be available early next year, so do stay tuned!

To purchase tickets for the carnival, you may contact Mr Bryden Chew at bryden.chew@rgs.edu.sg

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN SWINGING TO THE TOP

RGS Year 4 student Sneha Sivakumar is one of Singapore’s brightest squash prospects – just last year, she was part of the national team that won gold for Singapore at the South-East Asia Squash Cup, making it the first time in over two decades that the Republic has trounced fierce rivals Malaysia. She won a silver medal in the women’s jumbo doubles in the same sporting event as well. Most recently, she received the SINDA Excellence Award and the Best Sportsgirl Award, an honour that has since been bestowed on her twice, adding to her growing list of squash accolades.

To think that squash was a sport she was introduced to “by accident” – “My dad and I wanted to play tennis initially, but since it rained, we decided to head to the squash courts instead. It was then that I was introduced to the sport and I got hooked ever since” – then her success thus far is no doubt the work of fate and of course, the numerous hours spent on and off the court training for the game. We speak to Sneha to find out more about her RGS journey and her passion for squash.



Sneha with her teammates during the 2017 Southeast Asian Games, where she achieved two bronzes and one silver. At 16, she was the youngest in the Singapore squash contingent to the games.

Looking Back on her Squash Journey

“I started playing squash when I was seven but at that point in time, it was just a hobby for me and a regular activity that I enjoyed over the weekends. Soon after, my passion, aspirations and dreams for the sport widened and it became more than just a hobby of mine. Back then, I would not have thought that I would someday get to represent Singapore in the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games. I am truly very happy and grateful for all the support, and I hope to go even further as I believe that the sky is the limit.”

Her Love for Squash

“I love the sport because when I am playing it, my mind and body are fully engaged and absorbed. I would often describe squash as a game of chess. The only difference is that you are playing it while sprinting. It is a high-paced, quick-reaction, tactical game that requires 100% of the player’s concentration, mental and physical tenacity. Squash has also given me a very nice community to rely on. We are like family; we may be small as compared to other sports communities, but we are a warm and friendly one.”



Sneha (second from right) with her teammates and a fellow Myanmar squash player during the SEA Squash Cup in 2016.



SEA Squash Cup 2016: “Despite being the only junior in the team, I was able to bond with my seniors throughout this tournament. I also forged new friendships with those from various countries and I am sure they would blossom into great bonds in years to come.”

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN SWINGING TO THE TOP



Sneha in action during the 29th SEA Games.

The Keys to Success

"When I first started playing squash, it was hard for me to grasp the technical and minute details of the sport. However, over time, I learnt the importance of perfecting the small things and persevering through the tough trainings. Just the thought of becoming better and being more fluid on court pushed me to work even harder to perfect my skills. Over the years, I have managed to enjoy the training process, whether they are gym sessions, strenuous physical exercises or painful sprints because I know that all the pain goes towards my end goal. Sometimes, I would question myself after not seeing any improvement in my game for months and I would feel demoralised. But with the support from my coaches, teammates and parents, my passion for the sport is kept alive."

Her RGS Experience

"It has been a very fruitful experience. From a 'blur' Year 1, when I was nervous about what laid ahead, I can now confidently say that I am a Rafflesian who embodies the values of what it means to be one. From my four years in RGS, I have gained a group of close friends, teachers and a community that I know that I can always rely on."

Support from the RGS Community

"The school has provided me with immense support over the past four years. Teachers would make time for me after school to give me makeup lessons and even when I was overseas for competitions, they would help me with any queries I would have through WhatsApp or email exchanges. They would also make time for me during the school holidays, where we would be at the school library for several hours just going through the lessons that I have missed. During the SEA games period, I had to miss school for almost a month but my friends would send me daily updates for each topic that was taught in school through WhatsApp or even Skype me to explain certain concepts. I am very grateful for this support system."

New RGS Campus

"Even if RGS moves to the new campus, I do not think that would matter when it comes to preserving memories of my RGS experience because the culture would still be carried on."

A Typical Training Day

"A typical training day would see me waking up at 5am to get ready for a gym session at 5.30am. At 6.30am, I would head back home and get ready for school. After school, at around 2pm, I would head to the Singapore Sports Institute where I either take a nap or complete my schoolwork before my evening training session from 6-8pm. Between 8-9pm, I try to spend some time with my family before I hit the books at 9pm. Because of such long days, I often try to complete as much work as I possibly can before 11pm so that I can head to bed and get a good night's rest."



Besides squash, Sneha enjoys painting too. "This was actually done about a year ago and it is basically a painting of nature. I hang this up in my room and it gives me a sense of calm and ease when I picture myself standing amongst the fields depicted in the painting."

A Leader is More Than Just a Title

"Being in the Prefectorial Board came with a lot of responsibilities; I had to perform duties in the morning and after school. I also had to be involved in projects, initiatives and soon after, I found myself in a fix trying to juggle my studies, my squash trainings as well as my duties as a prefect. Eventually, after taking stock of all my commitments, I made a conscious decision to step down from the lead board. Even so, the experience moulded me into a better leader and a better person in other aspects of my life."



Sneha with her friends during Racial Harmony Day celebrations earlier this year. Photo credit: Year 4 student Zhao Jinxin, RGS Photographic Society.

Hopes for RGS

"I hope that the Rafflesian spirit would continue to shine bright and that future batches of students would truly enjoy and benefit greatly from the new learning environment."