

XINMINSS NEWSLETTER

Embracing the Xinmin Spirit



@xinminss



Xinmin Secondary School
Leading Hearts, Leading Minds



Term 2 2025



CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

2025



Xinmin Secondary joyfully ushered in the Year of the Snake with a spirited and meaningful Chinese New Year (CNY) celebration, embracing both tradition and creativity. As part of our annual tradition, students penned heartfelt well-wishes on CNY cards before setting out to deliver them—along with mandarin oranges—to our neighbours in the community. This year, we managed to cover a total of **57** blocks and **4643** units, spreading festive cheer far and wide. Our students' warm smiles and gracious gestures brought joy to countless residents, fostering a strong spirit of togetherness.

Back in school, the excitement continued in the hall, where our Principal, Mr Tan, opened the celebration with an inspiring speech, punctuated by a resounding strike of the gong—signalling the official start of the festivities! The audience was treated to mesmerising performances by the Guzheng Ensemble and the Chinese Dance troupe, who showcased their talent through elegant melodies and graceful movements. Adding to the festive atmosphere, students enthusiastically participated in interactive quizzes, testing their knowledge of CNY traditions in a fun and engaging way.

A highlight of this year's celebration was the inter-class CNY music video competition for the Secondary 2 to 5 levels. Each class crafted their own unique videos, creatively blending traditional and modern CNY elements while incorporating snake-related themes. The submissions were nothing short of impressive, reflecting the students' ingenuity and festive spirit.

The celebration culminated in a spectacular Lion Dance performance that had the entire hall buzzing with excitement. As the lion leapt and twirled to the thunderous beat of the drums, students cheered in delight, fully immersed in the vibrant energy of the moment. The event was a resounding success, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a deepened appreciation for the festive season.





TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

Total Defence Day reminds us of Singaporeans' collective responsibility in safeguarding the nation. This year's commemoration featured activities designed to deepen students' understanding of the six pillars of Total Defence and instil resilience in times of crisis.

The event commenced with a solemn hall ceremony, where uniformed group students marched in with the state flag, setting the tone for reflection on the importance of national defence. Their disciplined display reinforced the significance of unity and commitment to Singapore's security.

Beyond the ceremony, students participated in fringe activities led by uniformed group members. They engaged in the Guardian of the City card game, tested their first aid knowledge, and learned about the six pillars of defence—Military, Civil, Economic, Social, Digital, and Psychological Defence. These interactive stations highlighted the multifaceted nature of national security.

A highlight of this year's commemoration was Exercise SG Ready, which prepared students for potential energy disruptions. The exercise simulated temporary power shortages, requiring students and teachers to adapt by continuing lessons in darkness and conducting classes in open spaces such as the parade square and eco garden. Their perseverance exemplified the essence of Total Defence—being prepared, resourceful, and resilient in the face of challenges.

Through these activities, students gained a deeper appreciation of their role in national defence, understanding that everyone has a part to play in keeping Singapore strong. The commemoration was a meaningful reminder that resilience, preparedness, and solidarity are essential in safeguarding our future.



5 Leadership Practices (Kouzes & Posner)

1. Model the Way
2. Inspire a Shared Vision
3. Challenge the Process
4. Enable Others to Act
5. Encourage the Heart

STRENGTHENING CLASS SPIRIT: C^3



SUBSCRIBE

Fostering a strong class spirit and strengthening peer relationships are at the heart of a positive school environment. To empower student leaders in achieving this, class committee members from all classes recently gathered at Class Committee Connect (C^3) for a leadership session designed to equip them with essential skills and insights.

The session introduced students to the Student Leadership Challenge model by James Kouzes and Barry Posner, helping them understand their roles and responsibilities. Through reflective discussions, they clarified their values and crafted a vision for their respective classes. This process allowed them to identify key issues within their classes and brainstorm solutions to enhance class cohesion.

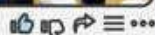
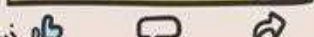


SUBSCRIBE

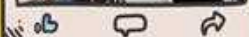
A highlight of the session was the sharing by the Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) of Class 405. They showcased initiatives they had implemented to foster class spirit and collegiality, inspiring the class committees with practical ideas on strengthening peer relationships.

Following these discussions, class committees pitched their vision for their classes, presenting their ideas through a deck of slides. Their proposals included activities to be conducted during Form Teacher Time, aimed at fostering a supportive and inclusive class culture.

This initiative not only empowered student leaders to take ownership of their class dynamics but also reinforced the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility in building a strong, united school community. By equipping student leaders with the right tools and inspiration, the school continues to nurture a culture of camaraderie and active peer support.



SUBSCRIBE

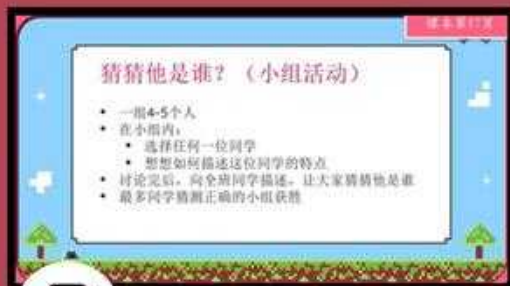


SUBSCRIBE



THE WAY WE LEARN @XMS!

Speak, Observe, Guess: A Fun and Interactive Way to Enhance Chinese Oral Skills



猜猜他是谁? (小组活动)

- 一组4-5个人
- 在小组内:
 - 选择任何一位同学
 - 想想如何描述这位同学的特点
- 讨论完后, 向全班同学描述, 让大家猜猜他是谁
- 最多同学猜对正确的小组获胜

Sec 1 Chinese G3 students actively participated in a group activity called "Guess Who He Is" ("猜猜他是谁"). This activity was designed to deepen their understanding of character portrayal skills. Students were given time to select a classmate and work in groups to describe this person using detailed character portrayal skills (人物描写). By engaging in this exercise, students not only hone their speaking and observational skills in an interactive manner, they also deepen their understanding of the text covered in class.

Before the activity began, students were reminded to remain respectful while describing their peers. This ensured that the classroom environment remained positive and that students learned to express their ideas respectfully. The game became even more engaging with a competitive element—whichever group made the most correct guesses would win a prize! This encouraged students to listen carefully, analyze thoughtfully, and communicate effectively. By integrating reading, speaking, and listening skills in a fun and interactive setting, the activity enabled students to apply their language knowledge meaningfully while promoting teamwork and enthusiasm for learning.



Creative Gymnastics on Balance and Pose

During Physical Education, students took part in Creative Gymnastics lessons focused on balance and pose. They were encouraged to explore stability and creativity. The session began with solo balance exercises, where students experimented with height, width, and contact points. They then progressed to partner and group balances, working together to form synchronised poses and sequences.

Beverly Bong from Class 108 reflected on the lesson:

"The lesson was both creative and challenging, which made it very enjoyable. It helped me think more creatively when planning movements and taught me to be resilient. At first, my group struggled because we didn't have a routine, but after two lessons, we caught up, planned, and practised together.

Through teamwork, we adjusted our movements, improved our balance, and supported each other. It was a great learning experience requiring patience and persistence. For the final showcase, I will apply what I have learned by staying focused, maintaining steady balance, and making smooth transitions."

The lessons highlighted creativity, perseverance, and teamwork, equipping students with valuable skills. As they prepare for their final showcase, their progress demonstrates technical growth, a spirit of collaboration and an increase in their confidence!





VOICES OF XINMIN - STRENGTH AND SERVICE

SHANIA YIP - 301, ST. JOHN BRIGADE



What do you enjoy most about being part of your CCA?

My CCA is St John Brigade (SJB). As an SJB cadet, I really enjoy being able to learn about First Aid! The First Aid lessons conducted during CCA provide me with new and invaluable knowledge that allow me to help others when they are injured. First Aid practical sessions also allow me to bond with my peers as we try out simple skills such as bandaging and CPR, or even First Aid cases!

Share a memorable moment or challenge you have faced with your team. How did it shape you?

One of the most memorable moments I had was attending the Corps Home Nursing Instructor (CHIC) course. It was an eye-opening experience for me as I got to interact with SJB cadets from different schools, which gave me an insight into how different SJB corps operate across the nation. This experience has also shaped the way I conduct my lessons during CCA, especially after learning about good communication skills, effective feedback and more from the course! Apart from that, I have also applied what I learnt from this course in my daily life, such as interacting with my peers with more empathy.

What advice would you give to juniors who are joining your CCA this year?

A piece of advice I would give to my juniors joining the CCA this year is to always keep trying! Joining St John is definitely not easy, as it requires a lot of effort and determination. There will definitely be days where CCA may seem dull and draining. However, I believe that to make CCA a more fruitful experience, it is important to persevere and put in your best effort. This has made CCA a more enjoyable experience for me, and I can also always rely on my CCA mates to bring my energy levels back up whenever I feel down!



VOICES OF XINMIN - STRENGTH AND SERVICE

TAN SHU DE - 402, FLOORBALL

What do you enjoy most about being part of your CCA?

Being in my CCA is not just about playing the sports that brings me happiness and enjoyment, it is also about the time I spend with my teammates, overcoming obstacles together and throughout the process forging deeper bonds. Apart from enjoying the time I spend with my teammates, the tiring yet fulfilling training regimes I have to go through also bring me a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Since Floorball is a sport I just started in secondary school, I also enjoy taking my time to find out more about the game and how to improve gradually as a player and how to contribute to my team.

Share a memorable moment or challenge you have faced with your team. How did it shape you?

There was once when we planned and participated in our own Floorball Day Camp. We started the day off with training and ended the day off with a cooking competition and other fun activities. By the end of the camp, every moment of it was etched in my mind as the camp really reminded me of how fortunate I am to be able to spend time with my fellow teammates.

What is one thing you would like to tell your juniors or potential DSA students?

To the juniors who are joining my CCA, the most important thing is to enjoy yourselves while learning. Joining a sports CCA such as Floorball will teach you the values of resilience and teamwork. If you are ever struggling with anything in the CCA or outside of CCA, please do not be scared to approach your seniors as we will all be happy to help you!



VOICES OF THE YOUTH

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY OUR VERY
OWN XINMIN STUDENTS



AMBER SPIRIT: IGNITING UNITY BY ANDREA NICOLE POH XUAN - 209



"Amber, Amber, shining bright, you're our star, our guiding light! Winners pave the way, victory's ours—hip hip hooray!" the Amber tribe cheered. This is a core memory of a truly life-changing experience that still lingers with me, bringing back many joyful moments with my fellow juniors, seniors, and peers.

This recent event deeply impacted both the Sec 1 and Sec 2 students. Personally, experiencing the Sec 1 cohort camp as a facilitator was incredibly fulfilling as it taught me many valuable life skills, including resilience and time management. The Hougang trail required the most time due to the number of activities and the walking distance we had to cover. Additionally, the late nights and demanding schedule with few breaks were challenging to adapt to, as this was our first experience taking on leadership roles.

The sheer number of tasks we had to complete, along with the adjustments we made—such as taking public transport instead of school buses, sleeping later than the Sec 1s, waking up extra early, guiding our juniors on rules and expectations, and even showering with cold water—were new challenges we learnt to take in stride. The cheers we all shouted in the canteen or during the campfire—such as the Makan cheer, Xinmin cheer, and my personal favorite, the Amber cheer—brought an incredible sense of unity.

While this is an annual event hosted by teachers and student leaders, this time, it was even more dynamic. It included additional activities, such as a three-day, two-night overnight stay at the school. There was also an Amazing Race featuring games such as Capture the Flag, Dodgeball, Flip the Cup, and many more. Additionally, Campfire Day at the Parade Square featured a real fire, and many parents came to Xinmin to watch their children perform with their new classmates.

My favorite part was the campfire session, where we sang along to 'A Million Dreams'. It brought back memories of my first week at Xinmin, but this time, we proudly watched our juniors trying out activities like Boulderling and the CCA carnival. Chanting the Amber cheer with my tribe reminded me of the times we encouraged the Sec 1s to participate, how shy they were at first, and how much we all grew together through this experience.

Through determination and teamwork with our fellow facilitators, peer support leaders, and tribe leaders, we stood tall, overcoming the challenges of orientation while also forging new bonds with our juniors.

MAINTAINING SOCIAL SAFETY

BY LAURENCIO ELAINE ROSE CUERVO - 305

In today's world, maintaining social safety is more important than ever. As young people, we play a crucial role in fostering inclusive, respectful, and secure communities. By promoting kindness, standing against bullying, and using social media responsibly, we can create a safer environment for everyone. It is our responsibility to speak up against injustice, support those in need, and encourage open conversations about mental health and well-being. Together, through awareness and action, we can build a society where everyone feels valued, protected, and empowered.



A NEW BEGINNING FOR ALL

BY ISAAC TAN YONG JUN - 308



At the start of the year, I never thought making friends would be easy in my new class, as I had to leave my old friends and adjust to a new environment with people I was unfamiliar with. However, I was very fortunate to have made a couple of new friends while keeping my old ones, and I feel truly valued as they treat me kindly.

My new Chemistry and Biology teachers changed my perspective on these subjects. They maintain firm discipline in class, which helps me stay focused on my studies, and they plan interesting lessons, such as our recent microscope lab experiment, where we observed cells.

However, not everyone is as lucky as I am, as some students find it harder to make friends due to their differences. Some of them struggle to form friendships, and at times, they may appear uncooperative, making it challenging for teachers and peers to reach out to them. I believe everyone should be more understanding towards these students, as some may have grown up in difficult environments. As a school community, we should support them, as they may not have the confidence to reach out for help.

I believe our school is a great place and we are always striving to grow together as One Xinmin. We should care not only for society as a whole but also for the individuals around us who often go unnoticed or feel unappreciated. We should be kind, reach out to them, and guide them positively—it will be worth it!

Everyone deserves a fresh start, and it begins with how we treat one another.



NSG WELL-WISHES FROM OUR XINMIN FAMILY

Dear NSG Team, I want to wish you all the best of luck as you compete. You've worked so hard to get here, and your dedication and teamwork is truly inspiring. No matter the result, I know you will give it your all and make the school and us proud. Keep pushing forward, stay focused and healthy, and most importantly, enjoy the experience. You've got this! Wishing you all strength, focus, and success—go team! YOU CAN DO IT!

#good
vibes
only!

-Ariel Loo, 104



To all NSG athletes, good luck in competing in the upcoming competitions! Hope that you won't give up during this period and stay strong as well as continue to gather support from all of your Xinmin peers.

Good luck for NSG! May all your morning assembly speeches taste as sweet as your wins!

-Chen Ruixuan, 403

-Leanne On, 104



As you embark on this incredible journey to the National School Games, we are filled with immense pride and confidence in your abilities. Your hard work, dedication, and relentless spirit have brought you this far, and now is the time to showcase your talent on the grand stage. Compete with passion, uphold the values of sportsmanship, and make unforgettable memories. No matter the outcome, you are already champions in our hearts. Go out there, give it your all, and make our school proud! Best of luck!

-Rose, 305

To our Badminton girls! You have shown true dedication and team spirit in braving the NSG period. Fight with your heart and let your hard work pay off. We are always cheering and rooting for you. We believe in you! Go smash your way to victory ✨

-Ms Hafizah



To the B Division Floorball athletes, great job on completing your season! Your outstanding dedication, hard work and perseverance throughout the competition have truly been inspiring. Regardless of the results, what matters most is the effort you put in, the teamwork you displayed, and the growth you've achieved as players. Be proud of how far you've come, and continue to push yourselves to new heights. Well done!

To the C Division Floorball athletes, all the best for your upcoming season! Keep training hard, stay focused, and trust in your abilities. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow stronger, and every game is a chance to showcase your passion for the sport. Believe in yourselves and in your team—give it your all, and enjoy the journey ahead!

-Ms Shanti Teo

Dear Shooters! Your dedication, focus, and perseverance inspire us! With every training, you grow stronger and sharper. Keep pushing your limits, trust the process, and give your very best. We are proud of your journey and commitment. Shine bright in NSG—aim high and hit the bull's eye! 🎯

-Shooting Teachers



COMING UP!



Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 1	Mother Tongue Language Festival	24/03 - 04/04	All
	Health screening	24/03 - 04/04	S1, S2
Week 2	Hari Raya Puasa Public Holiday	31/03	All
	HBL	01/04	All
	Lower Sec Parents Workshop: -ECG Conversations with Your Child -Educational Pathways Under Full SBB	05/04	S1, S2
Week 3	Design and Tinker Fiesta	Week long	All
	International Friendship Day Celebration	Week long	All
	Xpressions Festival	Week long	All
Week 3 to Week 8	Weighted Assessments	Week long	All
Week 4	Uniformed Groups' Passing Out Parade	14/04	All
	Speech Day	17/04	All
	Good Friday Public Holiday	18/04	All
Week 5	Mother Tongue Languages Oral Examinations (Prelim)	21/04 - 02/05	S4/5
	Xinmin Council of Exemplary Leaders (XCEL) Campaign & Elections	Week long	S3
	CCA Stand-down for S4 and 5	21/04	S4/5

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

CALENDAR HERE!



COMING UP!



Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 6	HBL	30/04	All
	Labour Day Public Holiday	01/05	All
Week 7 to Week 9	EL Oral Exams	05/05 - 20/05	S2, S4/5
Week 8	Vesak Day Public Holiday	12/05	All
	Global Citizen Programme	13/05 - 23/05	All
Week 9	Student Leaders' Investiture	23/05	All
	Xcalade Bouldering Carnival	23/05	Selected students
	Mother Tongue Languages O-Level Intensive Revision	23/05 to 29/05	S4/5
Week 10	Sec 3N ApLM@Schools	26/05 - 28/05	S3N
	XCUBE 1	26/05 - 28/05	All
	HBL	29/05	S1, 2, 3
	Parent-Teacher Meeting	29/05 - 30/05	All

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

CALENDAR HERE!



COMING UP!



Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
June Holidays	June Holidays	31/05 - 29/06	All
	Humanities Trip to Vietnam	30/05 - 03/06	S3 (Selected students)
	GCE O-Level MTL and MTL(B) Written Exams	02/06	S4/5
	ODAC CCA Trip to Gunung Belumat	03/06 - 05/06	S2 (Selected students)
	GB CCA trip to Thailand	04/06 - 08/06	S2, S3 (Selected students)
	Protected time for staff and students	09/06 - 22/06	All
	Student Leadership training	25/06	S3 (Selected students)
	Xinmin Model ASEAN	26/06	S3, S4 (Selected students)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Announcement &
Reminder

Student Drop-off Timings - Driving into School:

- Regular School Days: Before 7:00 AM
- Late Start Thursdays: Before 8:00 AM
- Rainy Days: Any time before flag-raising ceremony

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring smooth traffic flow during morning drop-offs.

Your support helps create a pleasant start to the school day for everyone.
Thank you for your continued partnership.