



2019 | Issue 2



Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

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EMBRACING OUR LEGACY, BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS





The Chinese Cultural Society (CCS) embarked on a special project to celebrate the 140th anniversary of SACSS. The members applied the different styles of writing techniques that they have learnt and formed the Chinese character 壽 using upcycled wood.

The Chinese character 壽 originated from the character 耂, which was first documented in the oracle bones script, a type of ancient writing found on animal bones or turtle shells. Dating back to 1200-1050 B.C., the character 耂 amalgamated with the character 耂 (老) to signify old age and active aging. In today's context, the character 壽 represents longevity and is used as a form of blessing for ones' elders and for birthday well wishes.

The CCS members faced difficulties initially due to their unfamiliarity with the different writing styles. However, with guidance and encouragement from their instructors and teachers, they practised diligently to perfect their penmanship and crafted a beautiful work of art. Through this journey, the members of CCS learnt about the rich history of the different writing styles and to be resilient in the face of adversity. It was a meaningful project to convey their well wishes to the school through their hard work and determination, in a manner that is unique to the Chinese Cultural Society.

By Ms Sandra Chong

Embracing our legacy

THE ISTANA OPEN HOUSE: BICENTENNIAL EDITION

St. Anthony's Canossian Schools celebrated two momentous milestones in 2019. We celebrated our 140th Anniversary and our journey from our humble beginnings in 1879. We also commemorated Singapore's Bicentennial. We believe that 140 years of illustrious school history would never have been possible if not for Singapore's success and meteoric rise through the years. Our schools, St. Anthony's Canossian Primary and Secondary Schools, have truly grown in tandem with Singapore's progress.

We were invited to be a part of the Bicentennial Edition of The Istana Open House. On the morning of 5 June, a Hari Raya Puasa public holiday, staff and students from both SACPS and SACSS were busy setting up our booth amid the verdant grounds at The Istana.

The highlight of the day was definitely President Halimah Yacob's visit to our booth. Students proudly shared with the President about the schools and presented her with a copy of our 140th Anniversary Colouring Book, *Amore Senza Fine*. This colouring book, together with the to be launched 140th Anniversary *In Tandem*, a special edition of an anthology of essays, and the two 140th Anniversary Commemorative Videos, are supported by the Singapore Bicentennial Office and the National Heritage Board.

It was a meaningful and fun-filled day at The Istana and it was also a pleasant surprise for the old girls to chance upon the booth when they attended The Istana Open House. Despite the warm and humid morning followed by bouts of heavy showers in the afternoon the spirit of the staff, students and Canossian Sisters at the booth was not dampened as they proudly shared with members of the public about our Canossian heritage.

By Andrew Seah

When I first found out that I would be a part of the Istana Open House, I was excited! Just the thought of how far our country has come and the many achievements and successes we attained never fail to bring me a sense of great pride and joy. Getting to serve at SAC's booth during the event to share about my school's rich history and culture, was a true honour – especially since it is our 140th anniversary!

Victoria Lam (Sec 3.6)



I decided to attend the bicentennial event despite it being Hari Raya. It was also my first time at the Istana, so it was definitely an opportunity I did not want to pass up! I assisted at the booth and proudly shared with visitors about our school, our rich heritage and our innovative learning application – Chinese GO!

Adelia Bte Ramli (Sec 3.8)

As a 15-year old who is not a Singaporean, it was indeed an honour to meet Mdm President. I was beaming with pride when my sisters from SACPS presented the Amore Senza Fine colouring book to Mdm President. It was indeed an honour to be able to be at the event, and share with Mdm president our school's history.

Ayyakkannu Abiraami (Sec 3.8)

Embracing our legacy

HARMONY
IFTAAR– BREAKING
FAST DURING
RAMADAN

On 26 May, SACSS student councillors were invited to an event organised by the Indian Muslim Social Service Association (IMSSA) held at Kampong Ubi Community Centre. The event was attended by people of all races and religions who gathered to experience the “break fast” ceremony as one community. Gracing the event were several prominent figures, whom the girls were excited to personally meet. These included our President Mdm Halimah Yacob, MP Assoc. Prof. Fatimah Lateef and Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong.

Student council volunteers arrived at noon and worked with other schools and social groups to pack food for between 4,000 to 6,000 people in attendance from all walks of life. The students worked tirelessly and participated in the Iftar together with the Muslim community. After a long day of work, the girls felt that they had gained valuable insights about volunteerism as well as the practice of fasting by Muslims during the month of Ramadan.



By Ms Nicole Quek, Ms Nadiyah Brown
and Mr He Junhao

BICENTENNIAL VOLUNTEERS
– WHAT SPURS THEM ON

“Volunteering as a storyteller at the bicentennial experience has been a meaningful and fulfilling experience. It gave me an opportunity to give back to society and along the way share about the growth and development of Singapore which has spanned more than 700 hundred years.

*I was at the atrium, the first stop for the time traveller show at Fort Canning Centre before visitors moved through different spaces to experience the sights and sounds of Singapore’s 700-year journey through the 5 Acts. We briefed the audience every 10 minutes on what was in store for them and what to look out for in the show. This is my favourite line in the script – **This is a journey through Singapore’s history like no other. We hope you will be inspired!** Indeed, this was how I felt about the Singapore Bicentennial.”*

Ms Annie Ng

“I signed up as a storyteller for The Bicentennial Experience, mainly because I recently received my Singapore citizenship. This experience gave me the opportunity to be immersed in Singapore’s history, and afforded me the chance to contribute to the country which I have called home for the past 8 years. It has indeed been a humbling and meaningful experience to work with other volunteers from schools and various government organisations. I did some research to make up for my lack of knowledge of Singapore’s 700-year history before assuming my duties and enjoyed the meaningful interactions with both local and overseas visitors. I vividly recall the smiles and the eagerness of the visitors, both young and old. I will cherish the memories of having the chance to do my part for this country I now call home.”

Ms Li Wei

*“I viewed volunteering for the Bicentennial Experience 2019 as an opportunity for me to delve deeper into Singapore’s heritage and history and share with my wife the knowledge I acquired about our country’s origins as she embarks on her project to write about the co-existence of the modern buildings alongside heritage buildings. The idea for her book was sparked off during one of our many conversations when we were studying in Sydney. The plot is inspired by **The City and The City** by British author China Miéville which is a compelling tale about two separate cities occupying the same space simultaneously. That is how I see many parts of Singapore and I look forward to sharing my views on this with my better half.”*

Mr Rion Tan

IN TOUCH WITH OUR ALUMNI AND THEIR PATHWAYS

Lynthia Chai graduated from SACSS in 2016 and is currently pursuing the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) at Singapore Polytechnic (SP). DEEE is one of most sought-after courses in all the polytechnics. In SP alone there are more than 350 students enrolled in the course.

Lynthia shared, "During my secondary school days, I was almost clueless about the education paths to pursue after my secondary education. During my final year in SACSS, from our Career Guidance sessions I learnt about the different career options as well as more about tertiary education during the afternoon assembly sessions. I also learnt about the Early Admission Exercise (EAE) and the different courses offered by various institutions. With the EAE scheme in mind, I did more research online but found that the information was limited to only entry requirements and the technical details of the course.

However, I was interested in the insights into real-life experiences of students who had gone through the courses that I was interested to apply for. Subsequently, I discovered a wealth of reading resources in our library at SACSS on post secondary education. There were magazines from the various polytechnics along with career books and STEM related course books in the library.

I gathered insightful information from the information available in our library including information about the school's environment as well as students' testimonials. I noted a statement by an Engineering student who shared that he was always assembling and disassembling toy cars and electronic toys at a young age as he was fascinated by what makes the toys work. His story resonated with how I felt and furthered my resolve to join Engineering at SP and made me more confident in applying for the course that I wanted."



The Pastoral Care and Career Education Committee organises several activities per year for students of various levels to discover more about themselves and the various jobs available in the market. Students who need more information can log onto their SkillsFuture Portal or speak to our Education Career Guidance Counsellor.

Aliyah Hidayah was a member of the Badminton CCA at SACSS. She was appointed the student-in-charge of the CCA's Values In Action (VIA) programme when she was in Secondary 3. She was then tasked to coordinate with Special Olympics, Singapore on two programmes namely, the Badminton Outreach and the Young Athletes Programme.

Aliyah served as a volunteer in the VIA programme. After completing her 'O' level examination in 2018, she was selected by Special Olympics Singapore to prepare a presentation on Singapore at the Global Youth Leadership Summit which was held in conjunction with the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. To prepare for the summit, she attended a public-speaking and personal grooming workshop together with the Athlete Leaders.

In February 2019, she co-emceed the Special Olympics Team Singapore World Games Sending Off Ceremony with Athlete Leader, Florence. She also provided assistance to the Camp Confidante at the Special Olympics Asia Pacific. Aliyah together with Florence collaborated to present their project which focused on building a unified community where people – both the able-bodied and those with disabilities – can participate in sports together. To encourage her juniors in school to adopt the spirit of volunteerism, she shared about her fulfilling experiences during an assembly session in May.

Throughout her volunteering journey, Aliyah has inspired many and has along the way, demonstrated the CORRI qualities.

By Ms Sharon Yu, Mr Kevan Lee and Mr He Junhao



Embracing our legacy

SINGAPORE – BRUNEI SCHOOL TWINNING PROGRAMME



Between 1 – 5 April, a visiting entourage of 3 staff and 12 students from Sekolah Memengah Pangiran Anak Putri Hajah Masna (PAP Masna) visited SACSS to learn more about the teaching of Maths and English Language as well as the processes involved in Student Welfare and Development.

During their visit, the guest teachers attended lesson observations and participated in staff and level meetings. In addition, special programmes which included lessons in Design & Technology, drawing and painting sessions hosted by the Chinese Cultural Society and a Handball tutorial and game session were conducted. SACSS also organised visits for the guests to the Singapore National Museum, Malay Heritage Centre and Sultan Mosque, Gardens by the Bay, Little India and Mustafa Centre as well as scheduled a free and easy time for them to explore the Joo Chiat area for its Peranakan Heritage. The 5-day twinning programme gave our guests useful insights as well as provided our teachers and students the opportunity to engage with the visitors and also learn from them.

By Mdm Rasheada and Mr Roland Lim

The visit was enlightening as we had an opportunity to discover so many things. We were able to experience the process of how the school operates particularly focusing on the development of their students in general. I am truly honoured by the warmth and insightful experience. Thank you SACSS!

Mdm Dayang Siti Salmiah binti Awang Abas
(Deputy Principal Academic, PAP Masna)

I learnt a lot from the experience and was inspired by the PE teachers who went well beyond their call of duty to ensure that the students become better citizens. Thank you for the inspiring moments!

Mdm Hajah Mariah binti Haji Ahmad (HOD
English, PAP Masna)

The twinning programme has strengthened ties between SACSS and SMPAP Hajah Masna. Playing host has enabled me to showcase our school and Singapore. The experience was indeed a memorable one.

Ms NurFaezah, SACSS

I learnt quite a few interesting facts about the Brunei education system. It's different from our Singapore system as we have streaming, where we have different choices to choose from. They however, are limited to three choices.

Therese (Sec 3.9)

Building on our strengths

CHINESE, WE ARE IN DEVELOPING A MOBILE APPLICATION



Riding on the success of our T&L innovation Chinese GO!, we were awarded MIF Tier 2 Funding and are working alongside our sister schools, St. Anthony's Canossian Primary School (SACPS) and Canossa Catholic Primary School (CCPS) to develop Chinese GO! Junior Mobile Application for the primary schools' adaptation.

The Heads of Department for Mother Tongue Language from all three schools have been collaborating on this project. As sister schools, we not only share the same Canossian values, we also share the same passion for teaching. We had to overcome various challenges such as arranging a convenient time when everyone was available to meet and discuss, brainstorm and to ensure that our goals are aligned.

By Mdm Tay Hui Cheng

ON THE GO! JUNIOR ION



I can appreciate how Hui Cheng patiently taught me how to do professional voice recording or how Sin Li rushed down from CCPS for the meetings. I am so lucky to have such dedicated colleagues!

Mdm Huang Shansi (SACPS MTL HOD)

We held several discussions on how we can design the game to attract and motivate our Primary School learners. We also kept our communication channels open, identifying and overcoming obstacles together. Having journeyed so far, we are all looking forward to realising the fruits of our labour!

Mdm Lim Sin Li (CCPS MTL HOD)

SAC BLAZE 2019

A gathering of the Canossian Family

As part of our schools' 140th Anniversary Celebrations, this year's SAC Blaze was held for all in the Canossian Family – our pre-schoolers, primary and secondary students, and ex-girls. It was a heart-warming event that saw a reunion of sorts, and a gathering of the Canossian Family.

The event was succinctly described by Ann Chou, a Secondary 4 parent who



is also part of the Co-Canossian Educators (CCE), when she expressed that she was "Touched to see students past and

present, from the kindergarten and sister schools all coming together to celebrate as one big Canossian family."

Apart from organising the game stalls to raise funds for the beneficiaries selected by our Secondary 3 students, this year's carnival also featured a Viking ship ride, two bouncy castles, a food truck and a wider variety of food stalls. From "potting ice cream" to bubble tea and ice popsicles to "ramly burgers" – there was a delectable selection to cater to different tastes. The little ones even had hands-on activities such as slime-making that saw snaking queues as they eagerly awaited their turn. These new add-ons certainly made for wonderful memories.

Joanna Tan from SACPS, 6 Courage, also shared her thoughts about the event. "SAC Blaze was something that my friends and I had been looking forward to for some time. The games and activities were fun. It was a truly enjoyable experience."

Introducing the enhanced format, SAC Blaze was indeed a leap of faith taken by the EAS staff, CCEs, Secondary 3 classes and teachers who helped to set up and run the stalls. The event challenged boundaries and espoused the CORRI qualities best summed up by Fernanda Chua Xin Rou (Class of 2017), "The nostalgia not only reminds me of memories during my time at SAC, but also the beauty of the Canossian spirit."

By Ms Amanda Choo

Building on our strengths

ENHANCING OUR PE PROGRAMME WITH IMPROVED FACILITIES

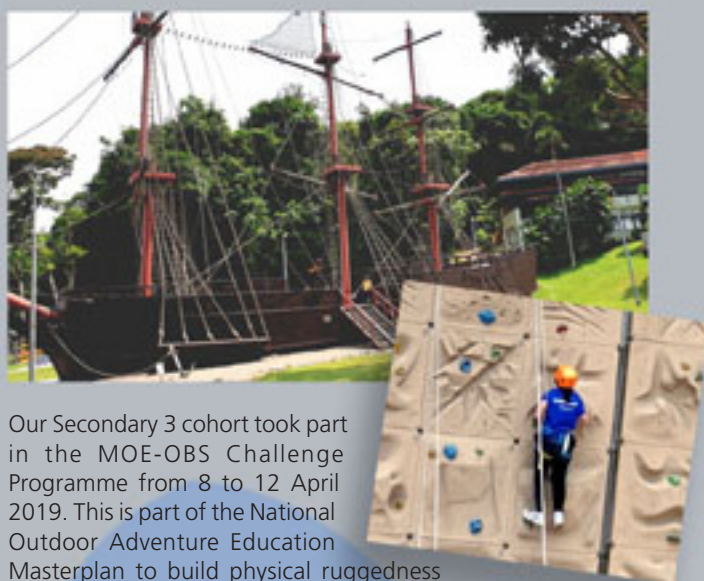


During the month-long school holidays in June, the school's track underwent resurfacing and widening works as part of its upgrading programme. The PE department will be working with Track and Field CCA to further enhance the track by incorporating 10m distance markers and a baton exchange zone. This will facilitate the teaching of the Track and Field module and Physical Health and Fitness lessons.

The PE department also purchased badminton racquets and shuttlecocks to encourage students to engage in more physical activities. Basketball, Football Frisbee, and Floorball equipment are also readily available for students to use during their free time. By improving the facilities and procuring more sports equipment, we hope to see more students pick up a racquet or ball rather than their smartphone!

By Ms Ng Shilin

MOE-OBS CHALLENGE



Our Secondary 3 cohort took part in the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme from 8 to 12 April 2019. This is part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan to build physical ruggedness and mental resilience among students. The 5-day expeditionary course serves to allow participants to overcome physical, mental and social/emotional challenges in an outdoor environment. Students camped in tents, cooked their meals outdoors and engaged in a host of other activities including kayaking at sea, trekking on uneven terrain as well as traversing heights on a high-rope course.

Perhaps the most notable and rewarding challenge of all was that our girls had the opportunity to work together with students from other schools. SACSS teamed up with boys and girls from Compassvale, Dunearn and Mayflower Secondary School to form groups of 14 – 18 students. Each group, termed by OBS as a *Watch*, had to quickly learn to operate together as a team despite their diverse backgrounds. Facilitated by well-trained OBS instructors, each *Watch* eventually managed their challenges positively through self-directed learning, and actively helped each other achieve team goals in an inclusive manner.

Our girls did SACSS proud, with many of the OBS instructors giving positive feedback about their resilience and positive spirit as they weathered the physically challenging expeditions as well as their display of leadership, putting others before self, looking out for the needs of their *Watch-mates* and keeping a cheerful attitude throughout the five days.

During our post course reflection sessions, many of our girls agreed that the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme was meaningful and it left them with many positive memories. They shared on how they confronted personal fears, and learnt to overcome them with the help of their *Watch-mates*. The experience has helped them realise that they are tougher than they thought, and that they are well-poised to overcome whatever challenges ahead. As part of Camp CORRI 2020, the Secondary 3 cohort will participate in the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme from 30 March to 3 April 2020.

By Mr He Junhao and Ms Pauline Choy

Published by
St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School
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