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C O R R I connections

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

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MAKING LEARNING MEANINGFUL

The Teaching and Learning of Science in SACSS



Leveraging on Singapore's Science Curriculum Framework, the teaching and learning of Science is grounded on the national vision of Scientific Inquiry learning and our whole-school approach incorporating brain-based learning principles. The department focuses on the relevance of the subjects and emphasises on students' experiential learning with the application of knowledge and life skills in their daily lives. Our instructional programme adopts effective teaching strategies and pedagogies in Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons to equip students with an inquiring mind, to think like a scientist and to solve real-world problems by using scientific-engineering thinking processes. Interactive science lessons facilitated by the integration of ICT are conducted in the classroom, science laboratories or in the open areas to increase the level of engagement in students.

Customised programmes catering to the different levels – from Secondary 1 to 4 – provide an engaging continuum for students with different learning abilities. Our Science Research Programme allows the higher ability students to experience different facets of scientific research. Students excelling in the three branches of pure science are given the opportunity to participate in challenging competitions. As part of the Exploratory Science Programme, a cluster of programmes that serves to expand our students' authentic learning experiences has been built. These include two dedicated gardens for medicinal and ornamental plants, an ecological trail, science playground and a hydroponics farm.

By Dr Yap Ann Teck, HOD, Science

MOTIVATING STUDENTS

The Joy in Learning the Humanities

In recent years, students have expressed that while they do have the passion for the Humanities, the rigour and tedium of assessment has sapped them of the joy of learning. To address this, we focussed on making the learning of Humanities fun and meaningful at the lower secondary level.

We removed examinations to provide the time and space for the Secondary 1 cohort to learn Geography and History without the pressure of pen and paper tests. Besides allowing the students to discover the joy of learning, the Historical Investigation (HI) and Geographical Investigation (GI) programmes also serve to develop our students' ability to question, reason and think critically.

The Secondary 1 Geographical Investigation programme exposes our students to field work focussing on evaluating the water quality in the nearby canal. Guided by their teachers, the students use various techniques and apparatus to carry out the investigative work.

The Secondary 2 Express students are tasked with the Geographical research project that focusses on Housing Provision and are given three weeks to conduct their research independently and gather reliable data. For the Historical Investigation projects, the students learn to build on their findings gathered from both print and non-print resources and during Learning Journeys to World War II sites such as the Changi War Museum.

The department has also tapped on ICT tools to engage the students. The interactive platforms include *Padlet*, *Kahoot* or *Nearpod* for peer-learning and evaluation. The Assessment for Learning (AfL) provides students with instant feedback and motivation to build students confidence in their learning.



"Through the GI fieldwork, we are able to relate what we learn in geography to the real world context. It is extremely enjoyable learning outside the classroom and experiencing the work of a geographer." – Verona Chua (1.8)

By Mdm Rasheeda Begam, HOD, Humanities

MOTHER TONGUE (MT) FORTNIGHT

The MTL department organised a series of activities that were meaningful and engaging for the students as part of MT Fortnight in Term 1. The Secondary 3 students had the opportunity to gain insights into the colourful customs of a traditional Chinese wedding. Six Higher Chinese Language students in traditional Chinese wedding costumes of the past role-played the intricacies of traditional customary rites on the stage, which was also decked with an elaborate wedding altar.

The Secondary 3 cohort also had the opportunity to interact with the professional singers during a Xin Yao music appreciation workshop organised by Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning (CPCLL). With songbooks in hand, the students joined in the singing and learnt about the origins and development of the Xin Yao movement.

To cultivate a reading culture, thirty Secondary 2 students were selected to be part of a special reading club. Coordinated by the Secondary 2 Express CL teachers, the group meets once a month to explore and discuss the themes and issues in the prescribed book titled, *眼泪是胶囊* (*Tear Capsule*) by 小寒 – a local lyricist and writer. Filled with interesting and insightful reflections, the themes in the book are close to the hearts of students.

Desmond Ng, Bonnie Loo and Michelle Wong from The Celebrity Agency visited St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School on Thursday, 17 August as part of MT Fortnight. The celebrities shared with the students on the importance of Chinese Language.



The ML department also presented a series of programmes anchored on the theme *Etiquette* customised for the students from different levels to experience authentic learning through the hands-on sessions.

The Secondary 3 students, attended a *nasi ambeng* workshop where they made *begedil* (potato cutlets) and in the process learnt to appreciate the labour of love and care that goes into the food preparation. The girls also learnt to observe the proper Malay custom of handling and partaking in food together.

The graduating cohort of Malay Language students had the privilege of attending a calligraphy workshop. The students learnt to calligraph their names in Jawi, the Arabic script. They also gained deeper insights into Malay traditions and culture from this programme.

By Mdm Tay Hui Cheng, HOD, Mother Tongue



每天一苹果，医生远离我



PROPAGATING GROWTH

Greening SACSS



The Greenery@SACSS drive has come a long way from the initial greening when the school relocated to the rejuvenated campus. With the aspiration to be become a green model school, the emphasis from the onset was to fill the grounds with verdant trees and colourful flowering shrubs. The greening process evolved from the transformation of the grounds into pockets of thematic gardens thereby extending teaching and learning beyond the classrooms. A herbal garden, a sensory garden and an evolutionary ecological trail were added. The gardens became a rallying point for the SACSS community to connect. Coordinated by Mr Hamzah Bin Mohamed, the parent-volunteers, staff, students and landscapers were tapped on to care for the gardens to ensure their sustainability.

To broaden our knowledge in setting up the multifaceted garden, the school got in touch with Mrs Ivy Singh-Lim, the owner of Bollywood Veggies and a former student of SACSS. Mrs Ivy Singh-Lim welcomed a visiting group comprising teachers and parents led by our VP (Administration), Ms Grace Chew, at her farm on 3 March. The affable hostess also generously shared with us her extensive knowledge in setting up gardens. She offered to come on board to assist us on the improvement works for our gardens and later became our advisor. She engaged Jolly Green Agriculture to carry out the necessary works, including the re-designing of the five stations within the evolutionary ecological trail and re-creating a 100-metre footpath. All this is scheduled to be completed by end August 2017.

To provide our staff and parent-volunteers with the necessary gardening skills to maintain the gardens, we partnered with NParks and Fengshan RC to organise a series of hands-on workshops. In July 2017, the Vertical Gardening Workshop was conducted for our staff, parent-volunteers and students from the St. Magdalene's Club as well as the Green Ambassadors. Their efforts transformed a sidewall of the Hydroponics Green House into a vertical garden featuring the bottled plants.

The school also partnered with Chung Cheng High (Main) School and NParks – as part of their Community in Nature (CIN) Programme – to establish a butterfly sanctuary along the ecological trail. Following the planning stage, a Butterfly Breeding Programme was implemented under the charge of Ms Ang Hwee Chieh with the recruitment of Secondary 1 and 2 students to study the life-cycles of butterflies and attract different species of butterflies to add to the thriving gardens.

By Dr Yap Ann Teck and Mr Hamzah Bin Mohamed



EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Water: A Precious Resource

Despite having built a robust and sustainable water supply from four water sources (the Four National Taps) – comprising water from local catchment, imported water, reclaimed water (known as NEWater) and desalinated water, Singapore still needs to conserve water through efficient usage and good habits. To support our National agenda to conserve water, the school has embarked on a comprehensive school-wide initiative.



Assembly talks on Water Conservation are held regularly throughout the year to share with everyone the latest initiatives and developments. The different departments take ownership of their own water usage. The Science Department which looks after the school's extensive garden does its part to save water by keeping the plants pruned and watered using a watering can during the early hours of the morning to minimise evaporation. In the Cookery Studio, where dishes and utensils are washed following Food and Consumer Education (FCE) lessons, water pressure is reduced across all the faucets so that water no longer gushes out. Students wash food in a basin rather than under a running tap while washing of dishes is done all at one go instead of one at a time. Throughout the school, all faucets are installed with water-saving aerators and tap heads to reduce water wastage. The school cleaners play their part by using recycled water to mop the common areas in the school.

The school's concerted efforts to conserve water have produced impressive results. A year-on-year comparison over the same period from January to June shows that we saved 1331.1 m³ of water (equivalent to almost half an Olympic-sized swimming pool) which in turn translated to a saving of \$3181.33 in the monthly utility bill.

By Ms Grace Chew and Mr He Junhao

CELEBRATING OUR CCA ACHIEVEMENTS

Performing Arts Groups at SYF 2017

Angklung

The Angklung Band's unflinching dedication and efforts paid off with a Certificate of Distinction at the SYF. Beyond bringing honour to the school, the band members also deepened their awareness of the CORRI values learnt and forged stronger bonds among themselves. Summing up their journey leading up to the award is Jamirah Bte Shaik Mohamed (2.5), "It was a fulfilling feeling when we garnered the award as a result of all the hard work by putting our hearts and minds into the performance."

By Ms Sandy Lee

Choir

The school Choir was also awarded the Certificate of Distinction. Under the musical direction of their conductor, Ms Jennifer Tham, the Choir diligently attended thrice weekly practice sessions leading up to the SYF. Choir President, Clara Fong (4.4) proudly attributed the Choir's success to, "hard work, teamwork along with good time management which ensured that the practices were productive."

By Mrs Jane Tay

Concert Band

During the course of the rigorous band practices, we grew together as a tight-knit

group. The efforts put in underpin our desire to continue to do our best as summed up by Nicole Quah (2.8), Cornet Section, "The SYF experience has reinforced my pursuit of being a better musician and kept my passion for the band alive."

By Thien My (2.8)

Drama

Drama enriches students with the ability to gain deeper insights into the human character, while other-centeredness and compassion are the key values that are entrenched as part of the school culture. The synergy has strengthened our students, making them more sensitive to the characters they portray during rehearsals. Isabella Louise Rose Stoddart (4.6) appropriately articulated this in her statement, "Drama and the opportunity to portray different roles has made me more understanding of the struggles and the mistakes made."

By Mr Michael Ee, Teacher-in-charge Drama CCA

Indian Dance

Clinching the SYF Certificate of Distinction was a result of the months of hard work and commitment put in by the thirty dancers comprising students from Secondary 1 to 4, the teachers and Mrs Vijaya, our dance instructor. The fluidity of the enchanting performance depicting the gracefulness of lotus blooms gently drifting on the water surface was magically mesmerising.

By Ms Nurfaeza Rahmat

Guitar Ensemble

We did our very best at the SYF and even though we did not attain our goal of

getting a Certificate of Distinction, we are grateful for the words of encouragement from our teachers and instructors and most of all, we are thankful for the opportunity to showcase the amazing songs as an ensemble and the many memorable moments forging new friendships and honing our skills in the process.

By Tsui Sing Lei (3.7)

Modern Dance

Receiving the Certificate of Accomplishment is commendable for the Modern Dance troupe that spent months perfecting the movements for the SYF. Memories of the powerful performance evolved from the melding of talents and the deeper emotions that surfaced through the powerful strains of the musical score – Mindfulness.

By Ms Daisy Tan

Percussion Band

The Percussion Band (PB) participated in the SYF Arts Presentation for the first time and garnered a Certificate of Accomplishment. The PB journey has been a challenging one in preparation for the presentation. We rose to the demands and in the course of it, we experienced honour, fostered friendships and bonds as well as acquired strengths such as perseverance, self-discipline and teamwork. We are grateful for all the efforts put in by the graduating Secondary 4 students, Mr Juraimi, our PB Instructor and the PB teachers.

By Christel Teo Ling Lin, President (4.7),
Garcia Lee Jia En, Vice President (4.8)





Uniformed Groups

Girl Guides

The Girl Guides troop received the Puan Noor Aishah Award (Gold) for the 2016 year of assessment in recognition of the unit's overall quality programmes. For the individual awards, Regina Chua (4.8) was awarded the Baden-Powell Award and will receive her award from the Chief Commissioner in November. Meanwhile, Crystabel Chua (4.8) was awarded the President's Guide Award, the highest accolade presented to Girl Guides in Singapore. She will receive her award from the President of Singapore, at a ceremony to be held at the Istana on 6 December 2017.

By Ms Aileen Tan Ai Lian



St. John Brigade

The SACSS St. John Brigade (SJB) was awarded the Bronze Award for the year of assessment in 2016. The award is a testimony to the commitment and hard work of teachers as well as the students, both past and present. We are especially grateful to our ex-students who provided much support and encouragement to the current cohort.

By SJB Teachers

Sports

Handball

The SACSS Handball 'B' division team earned their 3rd consecutive championship title through their consistent resolve and resilience displayed throughout the competition. The tight-knit team also impressed everyone with their camaraderie, teamwork and school spirit.

For the girls, committing to Handball as their second CCA was something that kept them motivated to do well, especially for those from non-sports CCAs. The physical demand of the sport provided them with the motivation to become champions. And they accomplished it. **"All I did was believe, and they did the rest"**, Miss Ng Shilin

*By Faridah Bte Isnin (4.3),
Rachel Ow and Shanice Lim (4.7)*



Taekwondo

SACSS Taekwondo students participated in the Poomsae and Kyorugi competitions and brought honour to the school with a host of commendable results. For the Individual Poomsae category, Doris Lim (2.6) and Huang Xuxun (3.8) finished in 1st position for their respective category. For the Team Poomsae competition, the SACSS team secured a commendable 2nd position. For the Kyorugi (Individual) competition, Anselina Tay (4.8) achieved 1st position in her category while the 'B' Division students achieved an overall 2nd position. Keep up the good work, girls!!

By Mr Rion Tan



Track & Field

The Track & Field team blazed a trail as finalists in the National Schools Track and Field Championships for 3 consecutive years. The athletes made the school proud by clinching 10th position overall for the 'B' Division this year by qualifying for the finals for Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Javelin and the 4x100m Relay events! **"We pushed ourselves beyond our limits both physically and mentally. I am immensely proud of how far we have come and I am certain we will continue to grow."** – Lin Peiqin (4.6), Ex Vice-Captain.

By Ms Fatin Atiqah Abdullah



ARTICULATING THROUGH VISUAL EXPRESSIONS

Canossian Art Unites Exhibition – Faith, Hope and Love

Faith, Hope and Love – an art exhibition featuring 70 artworks contributed by students from the three Canossian schools was held at the Visual Arts Centre at Dhoby Ghaut Green from 21 to 27 July 2017. The themes of the works on display showcased the artistic experiences that Canossian students would have been exposed to in the three schools. The repertoire of media ranged from the traditional acrylic paint, coloured markers and paper to more complex expressions such as cyanotypes, paper pulp sculpting and ceramics.

Gracing the Opening Ceremony was Guest-of-Honour, Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State and Member of Parliament, who was visibly impressed by the artworks on display. Art Enrichment student, Akansha Thakur (2.8), engaged with Ms Sim Ann and shared with her insights on the making of *I Have A Dream* – a montage of ink renderings on cardboard depicting the Pakistani activist championing for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai.

By Mdm Goo Lay Hoon, Mr Michael Ee, Ms Fiona Chiu Yun Ting



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