



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA

April Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas
Brother President



Stuart Glascott
High School Principal



Eileen Quigley
Elementary School Principal

Warmest greetings and prayerful best wishes to staff, students, parents and friends of SJIIM. We have come to the end of a highly successful and exciting second term and are happy to send you accounts of the many highlights since Chinese New Year.

But perhaps the most unusual feature was that the months of February and March did not have any public holidays! Our teachers welcomed this uninterrupted flow of contact time with their classes. So lots of top quality academic work got done at all levels in the school. This was complemented by a wide range of CCA activities and exciting outings and educational events, many of which are reported in this newsletter. World Book Day saw our ES students arriving in a whole range of fictional character costumes. Our choir joined the famous Hamburg Girls Choir during their performance in our Auditorium. Our musicians gave us a most enjoyable evening in SJIIM's first ever Musical Concert. It ended with a moving rendition of our favourite Lasallian song, "We are Lasallian". Term ended with our very own "St. Joseph's Got Talent" show which had the ES Years 1-6 students dancing, singing, giving musical performances. We even had a brave Y5 group trying out some magic tricks.

Special mention must be made of our teams taking part for the first time in the World's Scholars Cup held at Epsom College 18-19th March. It was a wonderful success story for a new entrant like us and we wish to thank Mr Gary Cairns and the students involved for their hard work. Our teams won a total of 66 gold medals and 104 silver medals and all teams qualified for the Global Round to be held in Hanoi in June. They are looking forward to attending but it does entail quite a heavy financial outlay. We thank parents for your generous support. The school also held a non-uniform day to raise funds and the School Board is helping financially. At the end of term we successfully hosted the 3-day Malaysian National Model United Nations schools conference with more than 300 attending. Again congratulations to our students who won awards.

Dear parents, we really appreciate your wonderful support. We are always happy to receive feedback either directly, or through the PSG or your representatives on the Parents Forum. Congratulations to the PSG on a most enjoyable and really well supported social night on 17th March which commemorated the Feast day of St. Patrick, national patron of Ireland, with a strong 'green' theme. We hope that this perhaps could become an annual PSG highlight.

As we look forward to the third term, we would like to let you know that the major event will be Founders Day on Monday 15th May. This is the day that Lasallian Schools around the world celebrate the feast day of our Founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle. On that day we shall be having a special Catholic Mass in the morning to which all students are invited. Then in the afternoon (2.00p.m) we will have the Official Opening Ceremony of SJIIM. Both events will be in the auditorium. It will be a very special day for SJIIM and we shall be informing you further at the start of next term.

We would like to wish you all a very restful holiday period and every blessing during the season of Easter.

World Book Day!



There are many exciting firsts at St. Joseph's Institution International, Malaysia this year. On March 2nd, wizards, princess' and creatures of all shapes and sizes were the order of the day, as all students (from Nursery to High School) celebrated our inaugural World Book Day.

The elementary school children and staff came to school in costume portraying their favourite book character - Harry Potter, Little Red Riding Hood and Tom Gates proved to be popular choices!

At our WBD assembly, we enjoyed music, story, and a special dramatic presentation of Roald Dahl's, Little Red Riding Hood from our drama co-curricular students.

We also shared a story together in the spirit of the day. High school students performed scenes from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and The Wizard of Oz in flash mobs around the school - very exciting and highly engaging!

Students engaged with a range of literacy activities designed to promote the love of reading - from designing alternative book covers to completing the World Book Day quiz.

Years 1-6 engaged with peer reading, with each child reading with a buddy from an older or younger class. It was wonderful to see the older children encourage and support our younger readers. Well done everyone.

In the Lasallian spirit of our school, WBD proved to be another opportunity to teach our children the value of community and service. Many children donated a previously loved book to those for whom books are not so plentiful. These books have now been delivered to local charities.

Our first World Book Day was a huge success. We hope it will inspire readers and writers both within and beyond the walls of St. Joseph's going forward.



Hamburg Girls Concert



On the evening of 15th March St Joseph's Institution International Malaysia's auditorium was filled with the sweet sound of voices raised together in beautiful harmony. We were fortunate to host the Hamburg Girls Choir, a much decorated group of girls from age 14 - 21, as part of their tour through the area in a performance supported by both the MIA Ladies Chorus and our very own SJIIM High School Choir.

Our choir has primarily focused on singing pieces in a cappella (without accompaniment) this year and it was appropriate that our visiting choirs themselves have a great focus on celebrating and exploring vocal music of this type. On the day of the performance following each each choir having had sound checked in the venue something quite special took place, enriching all involved. The three choirs combined to rehearse two German songs and one Malaysian folk song to be sung together at the end of the concert, drawing together so many people of different ages, races and backgrounds, meeting for the first time to sing with unity and harmony.



At the end of an evening of bold first steps for our developing choir and commanding performances of the two visiting choirs it was powerful to be reminded through this musical experience of our common humanity and our common intrinsic love of music and expression.

Many thanks to all those who were involved in arranging and supporting this event and we look forward to participating in more partnerships such as this into the future.

By Mr Luke Hague



St. Patrick's Assembly



The assembly was welcomed by Mrs Lysaght who shared a story with the children about St Patrick and who he was. The dancers from the Irish Dancing CCA performed a Reel and a Light jig to support this occasion. We were so proud of how confident they all were on stage and how hard they have worked over the last couple of weeks in preparation for the assembly.

We invited our parents of the dancers to come and share this experience. We were also lucky enough to have the incredibly talented IB student Catherine Khaw play some Irish tunes on the violin, Brother Thomas to share an Irish blessing with the Elementary and Brother Jason playing the bagpipes. What a great day! - **By Ms Natasha Murphy**



Beginning of Lent



On the 6th of March, we had our Lentern Assembly as it was the beginning of Lent. James and Sarah from the Catholic Students Society were the emcees and they invited everyone to stand as we all sang the school rally with pride and honour. After that, they screened a video informing everyone what lent is all about. Then, they invited Brother Thomas on stage to present his ideas about lent. Brother Thomas talked about the spirit of giving during lent and showed a video on La Salle Centre Ipoh. He then said that our school would be having its first 12 hour run and all funds raised from the run would be donated to La Salle Centre Ipoh. The final speaker on stage was Hui Wen who gave further details on the 12 hour run.

By Daryl Ryan Chong, Year 12

World Scholars Cup



On Saturday March 18th & Sunday March 19th, students from SJIIM participated in their first ever World Scholar's Cup competition. Overall, students did incredibly well for their first appearance in the competition. At the event there were 399 students from schools in Malaysia.

In total, SJIIM students won five trophies. We were awarded 1st Place Team for Senior Collaborative Writing, 5th Place Overall Senior Team, 2nd Place Team for Senior Debating, 2nd Place for Senior Individual Writing, 3rd Place Team for Senior Scholar's Challenge and 4th Place for Senior Individual Writing.

Even though we had only 27 students competing, we achieved 66 Gold Medals and 104 Silver Medals. All of the teams qualified for the Global Round to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in June.

Fund-raising activities to help support the students in their efforts to attend the competition in Hanoi, Vietnam will start on Friday 31st March with a 'bake sale' and 'uniform free day'.

By Mr Gary Cairns

First High School Musical Concerts



22nd of March marks the date of SJIIM's first musical concert. Music enthusiasts in the HS showcased their talents in the form of solos, duets, trio, jazz band, choir and orchestra. Ranging from Paganini and Palladio to modern hits such as "Say You Won't Let Go" by James Arthur and "I Just Haven't Met You Yet" by Michael Buble, the performances were special and delightful.



Music teachers Mr. Luke Hague and Mr. David Klock made the concert a success by organising the event and leading the performers, not to mention the performers' effort in preparing.



The musical concert ended with the audience singing along with "We are Lasallian". It was a wonderful night, well done to the performers!

By Yee Jane Lam - Year 12



Forest Research Institute of Malaysia Trip for the Year 5 and 6



After the 'Amazing Race' at FRIM, we went on a guided forest-trekking adventure. We learnt about and saw a wide variety of trees. Our guide was knowledgeable and very passionate about preserving our natural forests. We also got to see the largest freshwater fish - and learnt that it originated from the Amazon river.

- Abigail Lee, Year 6F

I really enjoyed the 'Amazing Race' at FRIM. The marshalls were so kind-hearted. We engaged in many unbelievable survival skills: sling-shooting, making puzzles (and feeling puzzled), map reading and sprinting through the spooky forest. It was unbelievable!

- Elden Loh, Year 6F

I enjoyed walking through the forest and learning about different plants and trees. The thing that I found challenging was when we had to try to fill a tube that had holes with water.

- Sean Riley 5L

I really enjoyed the 'Amazing Race' because I did some things that I've never done like balancing the nails on a nail, going into the river and doing the slingshot. I found pouring the water into the tube to get the ball out from the tube challenging. You had to block holes in the tube. It took a long time.

- Ashton 5L

Checkpoint one was my favourite because that is where we went into the water to find three marbles. What I found challenging was balancing the nails at checkpoint seven. We had to balance ten nails on a single nail. Firstly, we faced one nail to the right and one nail to the left. We kept doing that until we manage to carry the other eight nails onto a single standing nail. I think I was good at the jungle trekking. I learned that the trunk of one type of tree looks like a python from the ground.

--Shawn 5L

Year 4 Cook and Camp

What an end to the term!

We had our Year 4 Camp at school last Friday. All the children stayed overnight in the multi-purpose hall and enjoyed Friday night games and fun. The children then had a fabulous time on Saturday morning when they were able to help prepare lunch for their parents later that day.

It was a wonderfully successful event, with everyone enjoying themselves and joining in with all the activities.

Here are some of the best bits:



Quotes from the Year 4 students:

“I had so much fun, we played in the field, everyone was drenched with sweat I wish we could do it again, please!”

“My favourite part was hide and seek because it was in total darkness”

“My favourite part is when we drank the hot chocolate and ate the chocolate chip cookies”

“I enjoyed the cooking sessions!!!”

Year 3 Forest Research Institute of Malaysia Trip



This past week, as part of our 'Saving the World' IPC unit Exit Point, Year 3 visited Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). The excursion was a way for the children to put in practice all that they had learnt over the past 9 weeks and visit a real rainforest. Children impressed the tour guide throughout with their understanding of the water and nutrient cycles and shared their knowledge of Malaysian animals and insects.

The excursion began with a difficult Trek through the rainforest, stopping regularly for the tour guide to explain the research taking place in FRIM and allow the children the chance for a well earned rest. With the initial fear of leeches subsiding, children became fascinated with the -

'friendly' creatures and even dared capturing and observing some in jars.

Once the 3 stages of the Trek were finished, children finally made their way up to the Canopy Walk. Safety talk over, children bravely walked over the canopy on a bridge suspended between platforms. The day ended with another difficult trek back to base camp that took us over some stunning streams and ended with a well earned lunch.



It was a fantastic day out and everyone, although exhausted, really enjoyed the experience.

By Mr Chamberlin



STEM at SJIIM

The STEM programmes (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at SJIIM are grabbing pupils' interest and engaging them. In Year 6 this term, pupils had, what Chloe called 'a once in a lifetime opportunity' to use the high school science labs and dissect a sheep's heart. The children were thrilled to put their academic learning into a real context. We may have some surgeons in the making!

The interests of young scientists are being developed both in lessons, as well as through Mr. Chamberlain's Science CCA. The focus there is hands-on investigations, where children explore the principles of fair-testing and the scientific process. They have been busy exploring design and aerodynamics, understanding the principles of upthrust and considering different forces.

Through our Singapore mathematics programme, we have seen children's problem solving skills develop rapidly in a very short space of time. Staff have worked extremely hard to develop the programme and have already had two experts trainers - Dr. Swee Fong Ng (Singapore) and Mr. Bill Davidson (USA) - visit the school and spend time with teachers over a number of days. Further development will come through links with our SJII - Singapore. Their maths team and ours have already begun liaising and visits between schools will happen this year.

Children are becoming increasingly competent solving worded problems, which lie at the heart of the programme. They are using many tools to help them do this in their daily problem solving sessions. Children's modelling skills have developed tremendously right across the school; from Year One, where these models can be made with concrete objects to Year Six where one problem might require more than one model.

By Steph Fedorowics

Views of the students;

I have understood more about how to do fractions in problem solving. The bar method has really helped me understand questions better in more complex ways.

-- Inara, Year 5L

I really enjoy maths! Singapore maths, in particular, has helped me with many types of word problems.

-- Jamie, Year 6H

At first I found using the models really tricky and I didn't get it. But now, I am getting really confident!

-- Maya, Year 4W

Singapore maths has introduced me to other types of problems solving strategies that really help me solve complicated problems.

--Abigail, Year 6F

Maths is really fun and we use cubes to help us subtract.

-- Isabella, Year 1T



Math's Week

Through the week of March 13th – 17th, HS students at SJIIM have been involved in various activities to celebrate Mathematics. Two of the high points of the week were the HS assembly and the SJIIM Amazing Maths Race.



The highlight of the week's assembly was the skit "Mary Plotter and the Order of Operations" which was put on by a group of talented Year 9 performers. Both staff and students alike were treated to an entertaining and funny parody loosely based on the Harry Potter books. The skit centered around young Mary's journey into the wonderful world of Mathematics. High praise goes out to the wonderful cast:

- Yumiko (Mary Plotter)
- Dalius (Haverage)
- Ren-Wei (Ollivector/Bernoulli)
- Marcus (Uncle Varignon)
- Esha (Student)
- Sean (Student)
- Emily (Narrator)



The week's fun was capped off with the SJIIM Amazing Maths Race. Working collaboratively in small groups that included students from Year 7 through Year 12, the teams raced around the school attempting to complete as many stations as possible. The stations included activities that tested mental agility, problem solving skills, mathematical prowess, construction skills and spatial awareness. Great fun was had by all and they all learned something about both the subject and themselves along

the way. A big thank you to the Maths Department and all supporting staff for putting on such a successful event. - **By Mr Jodis Henderson**



Badminton

On Tuesday March 21st, ten of SJIIM's finest badminton players headed to Mont Kiara International School for an afternoon of friendly competition. The Mont Kiara team were at the peak of their training prior to heading to Jakarta next week for the South East Asia Students Activities Conference.

Nonetheless, our players were very competitive in all singles rubbers against a finely tuned Mont Kiara outfit. SJIIM then proved ourselves to be the real doubles specialists with some commanding performances. Most importantly, our students represented themselves with distinction and exceptional sporting conduct both on and off the court.

We would like to extend our thanks to Mont Kiara International School for their hospitality and look forward to taking some of our U/15 Squad there later in the year. The team was Annabel Leong Wen, Emily Kon Wei Yi, Mae Chew En Xuan, Yeap Joo Wei, Aisha Datta, Shingo Wong Shunji, Daryl Ryan Chong, Tong Gui Cheng, Pham Xuan Dang Khoa, Ong Ka Yi.

Peter Bartlett

Head of CCA, Sport and Physical Education



Message from Peter Barlett

High School CCA Update

Term 2 has seen the launch of a number of new High School CCAs including Hip Hop Dance, Netball, 3D Animation, Touch Rugby, Model United Nations, Art and Design Club and Softball as well as a change in seasonal sports to Basketball and Badminton. It has been wonderful to see so many students assisting with and in many cases, driving these new CCAs.

High School CCAs will continue to run up until the start of the exam period with the final day for this year being Friday May 26th.

Towards the end of Term Three, students will be sent an updated Term One CCA booklet and a Google form for CCA selection. These will be sent to students via their SJIIM email address.

If you have any questions about the High School CCA program, please don't hesitate to contact Peter Bartlett at pbartlett@sj-international.edu.my

St. Joseph's Got Talent



There has been a buzz of excitement around the corridors of the Elementary School recently, with children suddenly breaking out into song or practising their dance steps between classes. It could only mean one thing - they were getting ready for the first ever St Joseph's Got Talent!

Our Elementary talent show got students from Years 1 to 6 excited about performing on stage and having the opportunity to show off their skills in a range of disciplines. Over 60 children auditioned, with students from all 6 year groups represented in the final 13 acts. These included singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and even a touch of magic!

At the final on Friday afternoon all of the participants did a wonderful job of entertaining our large audience of over 300 people, and the judges had a difficult decision selecting the winners. As well as the student talent on show, while the judges made their final deliberations we were also treated to a fantastic performance of "Zach's Song" from "School of Rock" by our staff band AB/CD! Hopefully we will get to see them perform at more school events in the future!

Congratulations to all those who took part in the final, and especially to Ooi Kay Ann who came third, Isaac Liew who was second, and Grace and Jess who was the overall winner of St Joseph's Got Talent 2017, with a wonderful performance of a piano duet - definitely a star in the making!

By Christine Pardo
(Director of St Joseph's Got Talent)