



# ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA

## February Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas  
Brother President



Stuart Glascott  
High School Principal



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Warmest greetings and prayerful best wishes to staff, students, parents and friends of SJIIM. We would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year of the Rooster.

We began our second term by welcoming 54 new students and opening a new Year 8 class. We thank these families for choosing SJIIM and wish these students a happy and successful time in our school.

Soon after re-opening , the Christmas decorations came down with a some sadness but were quickly replaced by an array of bright red paper lanterns and colourful cherry blossom trees in the foyer decked out with ángpows'. We had a wonderful celebration of Chinese New year at all levels in the school and this newsletter gives you glimpses of the many exciting and enjoyable activities welcoming the Rooster. The climax of the celebrations came on Chor-7 when a huge Yee Sang was set up along the ground floor and which bonded the whole school together. This was accompanied by a highly athletic Lion Dance for the enjoyment of all. We would like to express our gratitude to the teachers of our Chinese Department who guided our students in all aspects of the celebration.

Being a new school, our focus in the first term was very much in-house as we worked on getting school systems in place and our timetables up and running. This term we are raising our sights above the parapets and encouraging our staff and students to become more involved with the outside world. All Classes are currently planning service activities under the direction of Year 12 members of the Lasallian Youth Movement. Our links with the Malaysian Lasallian family are important to us and we welcomed delegates from the Boards of all our Schools on 18th Feb. Next month we shall be having three important events: a concert by the Hamburg Girls Choir (8th), a social evening by the parents support group on 17th, and, rounding off the term, we will host our first ever Malaysian Model United Nations. In addition to this our students will participate in the World Scholars Cup for the first time. We wish them well and we look forward to your support for these events.

As an intergral part of the Lasallian tradition, our schools respect the personal faith of each student and honour this during major celebrations of their religions. Our next witness to this will be the celebration of the Christian Ash Wednesday (1st March) which marks the opening of the Season of Lent. As is the custom ashes will be distributed during Mass on that day. We welcome Christian families to join us for this celebration at 12.30pm in the School Chapel.

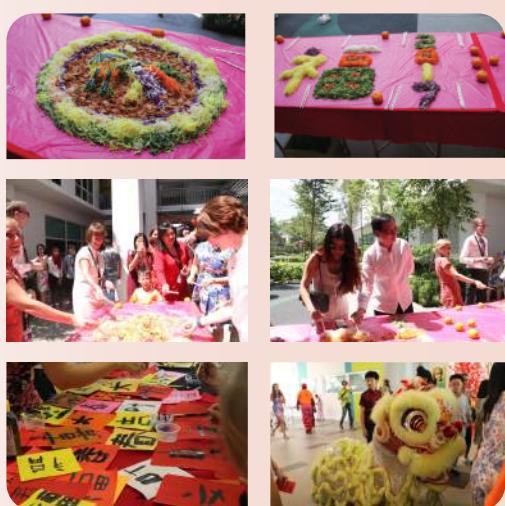
# Chinese New Year Celebration



SJIIM welcomed Chinese New Year in style, through this year's jam-packed schedule of Chinese culture activities organized in the high school!

The Chinese New Year celebration was a fantastic 2 week session of our Chinese language program, coupled with cultural elements in art, craft and performances from each year level. Students were actively involved in the following activities: traditional lantern painting, paper cutting, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese culture challenge and Chinese tea appreciation replete with a tea party. Under their teacher's guidance, some of our Year 11 and 12 students took their initiative and produced a wonderful Chinese New Year Assembly, highlighted by traditional performances and a touching video about the importance of the family unit in Chinese culture. During our Chinese New Year celebration, the students confidently modeled the attribute of being a Communicator from the IB Learner Profile.

“We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups”



The students thoroughly enjoyed arts, crafts and performing! Also impressive was our older students' ability to communicate in Mandarin. Language instruction is most effective when embedded in meaningful contexts that encourage application and foster inquiry - both of which were highlighted in the Chinese New Year celebration. Students learn a language, learn about a language, and learn through language. We appreciate the role of language as a social medium as well as a medium of inquiry.

Here at SJIIM students are fortunate to build their language skills in a multicultural environment and have the choice of learning Mandarin at different levels.

As we welcome the year of the Chicken with traditional showcases of the dragon dance and Loh Sang, 2017 will act as a benchmark for how Chinese New Year will be celebrated in the coming years at SJIIM!

# Early Years



What a fantastic month the Early Years have had celebrating the Chinese New Year to welcome the year of the rooster!

Our incredible Mandarin staff have worked effortlessly to organise Chinese New Year activities, a Chinese New Year celebration day and a performance for the Elementary School assembly. The classrooms are now decorated with very creative chickens, paper lanterns and calligraphy!

Chen Loa Chi and Wen Xin Loa Chi told the traditional story of 'Nian the Monster' during Mandarin classes and children responded by acting out their own versions during play time!

On Wednesday 25th January, it was lovely to see all of our students and parents take part in our very own Lion Dance, making Tang Yuan and trying traditional sweets eaten during the festival.

After the holiday, the whole school celebrated 'Lo Sang' in style by setting up tables that stretched the whole length of the school! The sound of drums echoed through the corridors as the Lion Dance was performed and children chased the lion away!



# Year 1



I during my chinese new year I made a lantern. On my Chinese new year I saw lion dance in sjd. On my Chinese new year I eat yes san. On my Chinese new year I did a ink painting and that ink painting a chinese star.

"We have had great fun celebrating Chinese New Year with the children today at school. They all looked fantastic in their traditional costumes and we loved seeing all the colours. The children did lots of art activities which really made the classroom come to life"

From the Year 1 Team



# Year 2



## Ashton:

"We are taking a photo of our Chinese New Year celebration. I am holding my hands like that to wish good luck to my ancestors and my family. We are all wearing red to scare away the bad spirits."

## Alex:

"I am putting the zodiac animals in order. I remember it was mouse, bull, tiger, rabbit, dragon. That's what I remember."



## Emily:

"I made my dragon. I liked making the zigzag body because it was nice and bouncy."



## Claire:

"I am rolling balls to make rice balls. I made six of them. It was fun".



## Kaylee:

"I am eating rice balls. I liked the soup because it is sweet and hot. The rice balls were soft."



# Year 3



What a fantastic Chinese New Year! From a personal note, it was such a welcoming and celebratory experience that I felt blessed to be a part of. It was clear that children were in awe of all the celebrations and were eager to share the traditions with me.

Tin Koh Kian embraced the opportunity to bring his lion costume into school and began a impromptu dance with the performers in front of an excited crowd. He told me "I am going to be a lion dancer like the dancers!" and explained why the lions were performing. Our room is still adorned with Chinese lanterns created by the children and signs and buntions. Children are very reluctant to remove these anytime soon.

Bring on Chinese New Year 2018!

From the Year 3 Team



# Year 4



It has been a wonderful start to the new term, with the children learning about Chinese New Year, and writing poetry and storyboards retelling the story of the Nian. The children have listened to stories about different Chinese traditions, and discussed what makes Chinese New Year a special celebration. They have worked very hard in their art lessons to complete our fabulous Chinese New Year Dragon for our classroom display.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for their ongoing support and look forward to learning more and sharing more of the children's learning with you as the year continues.

From the Year 4 Team



# Year 5



For Chinese New Year, we have done many interesting and exciting activities. Chinese people celebrate saying a new year has arrived. In our Mandarin classes, our teachers taught us some Chinese New Year activities. In our classes, we did calligraphy, cherry blossom paintings and Chinese New Year wishes which we hung on the cherry blossom tree at the front of the school. We also wrote wishes for good luck and five fortunes for family members and good friends.

In class, we made paper lanterns, paper dragons, and did origami with ang pao packets. We made fish, lanterns and hearts. We enjoyed the Chinese New Year assembly from Years 4, 5 and 6 and Reception. We loved the drumming, and especially enjoyed the acting from the Year 5 stars, John and Ken. On Friday, the Loh Sang was exciting and the lion dance was outstanding.

We look forward to next year and hope it will be as exciting as this year has been.

**By Jaden and Lara – Year 5**



# Year 6



Xin Nian Kuai Le everyone! SJIIM has ushered in the new year by hosting a splendid carnival. Some events included an outstanding lion dance, colourful Yee Sang and entertaining arts and crafts stalls. In class, we did myriad activities, including porcelain plate decorating for the Year of the Rooster. Dazzling decorations filled both the confines of our classroom. Ang Pau hung from the ceiling and a splendid lantern invoked the Chinese New Year mood. Overall, nothing topped the special CNY assembly! The actors clearly practised with determination to give us an amazing performance - in clear and precise Mandarin! In addition, the drummers were exceptionally confident and their timing was amazingly precise. It was an amazing assembly!

By Chloe Chai 6F

During Chinese New Year, the whole class decorated the class from top to bottom with red packets, lanterns, red coloured paper and signs. The whole class learned lots of new things like how to write a haiku, we constructed a Chinese Zodiac Story based on the story Mr. Higgins showed us. We also learned a song in Mandarin that we had to dance to. At the end of the week we managed to watch fun lion dance that was really long and the Yee Sang was really messy.

By Alia 6H



# Science Week



Monday the 16th January marked the start of Science Week, here at St Joseph's Institution. With a full programme of activities aimed across the whole school, students were treated to experiences and challenges posed by our Science team.

Science week kicked off with an inspiring and eye opening assembly that was prepared and presented by our wonderful IB students. Ying Xuan introduced us to the differences between the sciences through an A Capella rendition, based on various yet iconic Star Wars tunes. Visagan and Wei Lyn provided an insight into the future of science, whilst Priya delved in to the history of our own Malaysian scientists. Finally, Hui Qi provided us with a psychological study of Robert J Oppenheimer, the man that America broke; as we saw the duality between his sheer brilliance and his deepest regret upon completion of the Manhattan Project.

Throughout the week, students in years 7-8 worked on STEM related activities such as the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Chocolate Challenge, the Barbie Bungee Jump and Ping-Pong Catapults. These activities were designed to promote team-work, listening, creativity and critical analysis of our students.



Wednesday also saw a special treat, as St Joseph's was lucky enough to have a visit from a Science Communicator / Performer, called Dr. Ken. As a Chemist, TV personality and juggler; Dr. Ken has worked with many schools and festivals to enhance the understanding and interest of learning science, through his performances.

Year 7-9 also had the chance to meet Dr. Ken and to attend his Science of the Circus workshop. All our students seemed to thoroughly enjoy the acrobatic science show and hopefully they learnt something new, as they laughed along the way.

## Dr Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory Dilemma

The students were given the challenge to identify the most appropriate Dr Willy Wonka chocolate bar to sell in Malaysia. The correct chocolate bar must melt in the mouth but not on the shelf in the shop. Dr Wonka chocolate bars come in four types: white, milk, dark and extra dark. The students spend their lessons investigating which chocolate bar they should recommend to Dr Willy Wonka.

The winner was . . . white (which is Dr Brown's favourite!). Golden Tickets were awarded to the following teams: Wonka's Daddy (Ethan, Kwang Wei and Jun Yuan); and, Wonka's Minions (Cheyanne, Zoey and Ryan Teoh) for the most effective investigations. Well done Year 7 scientists.

