



February Newsletter

2016

Dear Family and Friends of SJC, here are some highlights from February.

IJYM'S ANNUAL, MUCH LOVED VALENTINE'S DAY FUND-RAISER 2016

On the 12th of February, my CCA, IJ Youth Mission held our Valentine's Day sale in school. We sold heart-shaped balloons and roses. We had to pre-order the balloons and roses a few days before the sale and the roses, in particular, required the most preparation. One difficulty I faced was to manage my preparation for the Common Tests the following week after the sale. However, I decided to be a little more disciplined with my time management and be fully involved in a worthy cause. Yes, it was tiring preparing and selling the balloons as well as roses but in the end, I felt it was all worth it as the funds we had collected from the sale would greatly help in organising the future outreach activities our CCA would hold. Pushing away my feelings of tiredness when I reached home, I strived to manage my time well and studied for the upcoming tests by placing my handphone away and focusing on my revision. I was touched by the students who were very generous and bought the balloons and roses. Thus, their support greatly encouraged me and made me feel more willing to be there that afternoon. Some of them who bought the roses and balloons would be presenting them to their parents as tokens of their appreciation. This act of love encouraged me as well. - Megann Chee, Sec 3H



The profits made will help support our CCA for other meaningful event such as raising awareness for the abused maids and organising the outreach activity for the residents of HOME, a shelter for abused domestic workers. This made me feel very glad as I felt that I was able to contribute and give back to others who have shown warmth to me. All the IJYM members have worked hard to plan this project since January. We were very



pleased and felt a sense of achievement that the Valentine's Day project was very successful. We are very glad that we are able to bring a smile to everyone who came to support us. This project allowed me to experience the true meaning of love by working together as a team to achieve a goal which would benefit others. - Joelle Thian, Sec 3H



Being new to IJYM, I did not know what to expect of the Valentine's day activities. Through the planning, preparation and implementation of the stages of Project Valentine, I formed friendships with the other members in IJYM. This gave me a sense of belonging to my new CCA. The Valentine's Day activities helped me to work better with the other CCA members as we had to co-operate, persevere, plan what to do and divide the work load amongst us in order to get the job done quickly. I learnt how proper planning and teamwork ensures success, and I am eagerly looking forward to the other activities planned for IJYM. Working on a project which raises funds for the disadvantaged made it even more meaningful. - Natasha Fernandez, Sec 2D



Our 2016 fundraiser raised \$890/- from the sale of Valentine's Day flowers and balloons. This money will be used for the HOME outreach as well as the Rice Drive to supplement the food supply of families that require financial assistance.

IJYM students and staff would like to thank all students, staff and families that made this meaningful activity possible!

SPREADING CHINESE NEW YEAR CHEER IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



SJCs' LAMBS (*Little Angels of Many Blessings*) had their annual Chinese New Year Blessings on 11th February, a sunny Thursday morning. The Sec 1 and Sec 4/5 NA and NT students were paired up and went out to the neighbourhood to bless and greet our immediate neighbours not only with Chinese New Year greetings but also with bags of oranges which they had packed the day before and their personal handmade notes. Our students packed 600 over oranges to give away to the community.

Our girls were warmly received by the neighbours who opened their doors. We would like to thank the Sengkang community for their very warm and encouraging welcome! This year, some elderly neighbours even blessed our students with *angbaos* in return. The \$36/- of *angbaos* given were brought back to school and deposited into the fund that supports the financially needy students in SJC. Here are photos of our 2016 event. SJC initiated this community outreach activity in 2013.



The Handbell and Guitar Ensembles performed for SJC's 2016 Chinese New Year celebrations. They were also invited by one of our fellow N1 schools, Palm View Primary, to perform as part of their 3rd Speech Day and CNY festivities. Our Ringers and Guitarists and the little ones that they performed for enjoyed this immensely. Here are our girls' reflections about this experience:



The many CCA practices that my fellow Ringers and I went through to put on this year's CNY performance led to a great experience for our very first performance of 2016. This prepped us to be responsible for our own role in future performances and to be more engaging and interactive such as helping one another when in need. – Reyes Emily Mary, 4B

This was a memorable and

exciting experience for all of us! With the guidance of our coaches-- Mr Damien Lim and Miss Cai, we were able to effectively overcome challenges along the way. As we coordinated and cooperated with one another to make the performance an intriguing and fruitful one, we understand one another even better and the strong teamwork we established amongst ourselves has benefited us in many ways. We enjoyed receiving an invitation from Palm View Primary School as this gave us an opportunity to showcase our talents. Indeed, such performances have instilled a sense of pride and accomplishment in us because we all know that our efforts spent on preparing for the performances paid-off! – Aw Yong Hui Qi, 4E

Standing in front of an audience who cheered us on while we were performing was very encouraging. I was a little fearful as I was scared that I might mess up during the performance. However, I managed to make minimal mistakes overall. I learnt to be determined throughout the whole show. To me, Determination and Courage is the key that kept me going forward. Overall, throughout the whole performance, I had a lot of



fun as we could play together as one and come up with a show that caught people's attention. I have improved a lot in my confidence as I used to be shy when I was younger. This performance benefited me since it improved my well-being. – Jesleen Kaur, 3C

I thank our instructors, Mr Lim and Ms Cai, for their time and patience to help us rehearse and master the songs and the teachers who were with us at each session and during the performance. I enjoyed myself tremendously though I was nervous but excited about my first public performance in Handbell

Ensemble. Although rehearsals felt very rushed, they were worth it when we saw the audience enjoying themselves and listening attentively to us. After this experience, I will be better prepared for such chances to perform and after people hear us, I hope that they will start developing an interest to learn more about Handbells. – Mikiyo Seah Bao Yu, 2H

It was truly a very unique experience as we were playing Chinese songs at SJC and Palm View Primary's CNY Celebrations; not many people have a chance to listen to Chinese songs played by Handbells. Therefore, this opportunity to present to our teachers, fellow schoolmates and other audiences, our performance was, indeed, a privilege for us Ringers. To the audience, it might have seemed easy to play the songs, but to us, being able to play the songs perfectly and having the courage to stand on stage was not as simple. These 2 CNY celebration performances were successful for all of us, but we could not have pulled it off if we were not coordinating as a team. Every member is crucial to this team; if one person goes missing, this is actually equivalent to a note missing in a song and that will affect the whole performance. We could not do it as soloists, but together, we succeeded. Together as One, We Ring. – Charmaine Mah Jia Ning, 4E

I was very excited about the performance because I thought that it would be good exposure for the guitarists, especially the Secondary Twos because this was their first time stage performance as part of the ensemble. Although we did not have much time to prepare, we practised hard at home and made full use of our CCA sessions and did our very best for our performances. I felt very encouraged and happy when the primary school children sang and clapped along to our pieces. Overall, I thought that this was an enriching experience that could help strengthen the SJC guitar ensemble as we had to work together with the teachers and the instructors to push our CCA to greater heights. I thoroughly enjoyed this and I hope that we have more chances to showcase our capabilities. - Alia Ally, 3F



I was extremely nervous about my very first time performing on stage. When the guitar ensemble started playing the first song, I heard some people singing and clapping along to our music. I couldn't help but break into a smile because I was so happy that the primary school students

were enjoying the performance. The best reward for a guitarist is to receive such acknowledgement from the audience. I enjoyed myself thoroughly. – Xin Kai, 2F

I am grateful for the performance opportunity although the process was not easy because there were many variations in the pieces we performed. It was also not easy for some members who had to change and adapt to the newly assigned section that they were not familiar with. I thank Mrs



Goh and Miss Tan for their support and our instructors' constant encouragement so that we could play with gusto. We were all smiling by the end of the performance because we were satisfied with the responses from the audience. I can honestly say that we have done our best! - Htee Mu Wah, 4F