



# CHIJ ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT

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## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

2017

Dear SJC Family, here are highlights from our February calendar.

### LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS WITH THE LARGER COMMUNITY

Every year, SJC invites elderly from the IJ Home to herald in the Spring Festival with our students and staff in a celebration in the school hall. This year's festivities took place on 27 Jan, the eve of the Lunar New Year. In the week leading up to the concert, students and staff prepared class food hampers made up of food items donated by students and staff as gifts for our visitors during our twice weekly Character Education lessons. Besides staging a meaningful and entertaining concert, the school also involved the students in various hand-on activities, such as a Rooster Collage Competition and a Creative Hamper-making Competition. These activities were organized to strengthen class bonding and to reinforce empathy and consideration for others. In the Creative Hamper-making Competition, the submissions were judged based on the suitability and practicality of the food items donated to make the hamper for the beneficiaries, and whether the hampers were done up creatively and prettily in an environmentally-friendly manner. The judges were Ms Daphne Teo, Mrs Molly Lau and Ms Angela Lee. All the hampers were donated to 2 homes for the elderly, The Lion's Befrienders and the IJ Home (AMK). The results for the Creative Hamper-making Competition: Sec 1: 1H, Sec 2: 2F, Sec 3: 3G, Sec 4/5: 4F. 5A.

Students also applied their creativity in the form of bright bursts of whimsical Rooster Collages to decorate their level common corridors. The Rooster Collages were judged on the extent to which recycled materials were used creatively and the overall aesthetic value of the collage. The judges were Mrs Maria Tan, Mrs Veronica Tjan and Mdm Karen Chen. The results for the Rooster Collage Competition: Sec 1: 1D, Sec 2: 2C, Sec 3: 3H, Sec 4/5: 4H.

While students were preparing these, teachers from the Mother Tongue department wrote original, funny scripts that used aspects of the Spring Festival celebrations to teach timeless values like patience and respect in an entertaining way during this annual celebration as a community. Later in the month of February, SJCians from our LAMBS (*Little Angels of Many Blessings*) Programme also went out into the community one morning as part of our annual community outreach, giving oranges to Sengkang residents and wishing them good cheer in the coming lunar new year.



Teachers leading the students in song.



Lion dancers adding to the festivities

SJC's talented, exuberant multi-ethnic student emcees



*School celebration activities before any festive season always bring me surprises. Perhaps it is the atmosphere, school celebration activities never fail to make me enthusiastic for the special event. For example, during this year's Lunar New Year celebration, there were lots of performances which gave me insights into the nature of the Lunar New Year. We also learnt about the significance of the things that we use on this special occasion. For example, the pair of mandarin oranges that we exchange and offer to one another when we visit homes represents gold which the Chinese believe will bring us luck and wealth. Thus, whenever the school holds celebration activities for different special events, I understand and discover more about these festivals and the cultures behind them. I have learnt to appreciate them. – Lo Lok Yiu, 2D*



Multi-talented MT teachers at work with the bluescreen in the Media CCA Room



Students with their form teacher creating the Rooster collage



The God of Fortune and Rooster Mascots lending fun and good cheer to the festivities



We celebrated the occasion with some of the elderly folk from IJ Home (Ang Mo Kio) and The Lion Befrienders. Here are representatives from the two homes receiving some of the hampers from our principal, Ms Ho. The hampers were made by students and staff for the elderly.



*Spirits were high when we had our Spring Festival school celebration. I enjoyed the variety of enriching programmes organised. I also gained more knowledge about Chinese traditions. One class decoration activity involved every class designing a rooster out of red packets and sticking that outside the classroom wall along the common corridor to form a series of wall collages. This activity taught me to work together and cooperate with my classmates as well as improve my time management. Although the activity was a rushed one for our class as we took quite a while designing the picture, we managed to complete decorating in the end as everybody was cooperative and contributed. In addition, the teachers' performances were very enjoyable and comical as their Chinese Zodiac speeches had lots of good advice like listen to and respect our elders, do not talk without thinking, have a healthy lifestyle! The dance performance by my seniors was impressive! This year's celebration was a pleasant and memorable one! Thank you, Teachers, for your efforts in organising this event for the school! - Chloe Loo Zi Wei, 2D*

On the 27th January 2017, CHIJ SJC celebrated Chinese New Year as one big family once again! The school hall was not only filled with students and teachers, it was also filled with the elderly from the IJ Home!

When the three Feng Shui masters [Ed's note: 3 SJC teachers in disguise from the Maths, Science and MT departments], Master O Chang Kee, Master O'sim and Master Yeo Hiap Seng, appeared on the screen, the crowd cheered. The masters took turns telling the fortune of the different zodiacs, from the rat to the pig in a hilarious and educational way, while giving us good advice about good habits to develop. The Feng Shui masters, indeed, did a great job in making us remember the right values for the year ahead.

Next up was the teachers singing the new song trend the 'PPAP' implementing auspicious sayings into it; it was a creative way of making a new song! Lastly, the lion dance made their way through the school hall onto the stage, blessing us with good wealth and fortune. I believe everyone enjoyed this memorable lunar new year celebration and we should all be grateful towards the backstage crew, the teachers that took their precious time during after school hours to come out with ideas for the whole celebration. Without them, this celebration would not have been a success! -Chan Ting Ting, Sec 3D.



### CNY BLESSINGS 2017 FROM SJC LAMBS (LITTLE ANGELS OF MANY BLESSINGS)

As part of our annual Lunar New Year celebrations, selected N-stream classes from Sec 1, 4 and 5 distributed mandarin oranges to residents in our neighbourhood to extend our well wishes on the morning of Thursday, 7 February. Through the distribution of mandarin oranges with their form and subject teachers as they went from household to household spreading well wishes and good cheer, our students got a platform to build confidence through being our SJC school ambassadors. Here are some of our SJCians' reflections:

*I like seeing the uncles and aunties so happy in receiving the oranges as they opened the door. Seeing them so happy really touched me. Saying a simple "Thank you", "You're welcome", "Good morning" or "Have a nice day/week" to someone, especially towards the elderly, will make their day. – Roanne Chan, 1B*

*From the programme, I learnt to be gracious when we give out oranges to the residents. I like to interact with people and learn to always share a smile. – Makesh Elakkiya, 1A*



Morning Greetings

*We paired up with our Secondary One juniors to visit the allocated blocks to give out the oranges. This activity built our confidence to speak and interact with other schoolmates and strangers from the community. It was challenging to speak clearly to the residents as some of them did not understand English so we had to use dialect or facial expressions to smile, gesture and communicate. I have learnt to be more independent as we had to speak individually as we went from house to house giving out the pairs of oranges and sharing well wishes. – Praveena (4A)*



Sharing greetings and good cheer with friendly residents who made us feel welcome



Sharing festive greetings

*I like that I was able to communicate with my juniors as we handed out oranges to the homes in the neighbourhood of our school.*

*We had difficulties when some neighbours did not answer their doors when we rang their bells. Along one of the routes, we also ran out of bags of oranges to give out.*

*I was shy. The activity has given me the confidence I need and I have to learn to be outspoken sometimes. – Emily Reyes, 5A*

#### Exchanging Smiles and Good Will



*One thing I liked about this activity was that I got to interact with the residents to wish them well and to also bond with my junior buddy. Upper secondary students were paired with lower secondary students. The challenge was how some residents did not answer their doors or were not at home in the morning. I learnt to be patient towards the people around me as the Secondary Ones were quite noisy at the start but I realised that they were noisy because they were excited as they were doing this for the first time. – Chelsea Lorraine Fonseka (4C)*

*I gave out oranges to the residents staying around the neighbourhood and I liked interacting with the residents and seeing their smiles. I learnt how to engage with people that I did not know and had not met before. I had to pick up my courage and talk to the residents. Through this activity, I learnt to talk to people more confidently. – R Loshana, 1B*



Our SJC Student Ambassadors sharing lunar new year blessings and greetings with our Sengkang neighbours