



# CHIJ ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

2018

Dear SJC Community, here are highlights from our July and August calendar.

### NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2018

Congratulations to our Year Head, Ms Teo Siew Ling, for being conferred the *Commendation Award* in recognition of her contributions to the Education Service!

### NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS 2018



The Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) and Humanities Teams, alongside the Student Council organized once more a well-received 9<sup>th</sup> of August celebration as SJCians commemorated Singapore's 53<sup>rd</sup> year of independence.

The "We" in this year's National Day theme emphasises the collective - regardless of our origins and wherever we are,

Singapore is our way of life and will always be our home. The theme, ***We Are Singapore***, defines the Singapore Spirit, invoking the strength and resilience with which the Pioneer and Merdeka Generations built Singapore. This was the spirit that empowered Singaporeans to overcome challenges and adversities together. The theme is a pledge of unity and togetherness among our diverse cultures and reminds us that we will collectively shape and be responsible for our country's future.

### ACTIVITIES LEADING UP TO SJC'S COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL DAY ON 8 AUGUST:

#### 1. DAILY SHARING BY STUDENT COUNCILLORS

In the week leading up to National Day, five representatives from the Student Council took turns to share their reflections on five significant milestones in Singapore's past, present and future that relate to this year's National Day theme, "We are Singapore".

Through their sharing, the councillors hoped to inspire SJCians to continue to create special bonds with one another and appreciate the importance of this year's National Day theme as we commemorate Singapore's hard won independence. The five sets of sharing focused on 1) Singapore's first National Day Parade, 2) the outbreak of SARS in 2003 which tested Singapore's resilience and efficiency as a nation, 3) the first playground designed and built by HDB residents which aimed to re-create the Kampong Spirit, 4) the recent SingHealth cyber attack which once more tested Singapore's defences in this cyber age, and 5) innovations which will prepare Singapore for the challenges of this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### 2. INTER-CLASS NATIONAL DAY COMPETITIONS

##### (a) SEC 1-3 INTER-CLASS NATIONAL DAY QUIZ

The Student Council also initiated an inter-class National Day Quiz for Sec 1-3 classes which was conducted during CCE lessons. Students were tested on their general knowledge about Singapore.

Questions included 'How long is the term of office of the President of Singapore?' and 'Name the three famous wildlife attractions in Mandai'. **Congratulations to the winning classes of Sec 1 Grace, Sec 2 Diligence and Sec 3 Humility!**



**(b) SEC 1 INTER-CLASS NATIONAL DAY CARD DESIGN COMPETITION**

Secondary Ones are a very talented group of students. As part of SJC's Talent Development Programme (TDP), students learn to identify their strengths based on Gardner's Multiple Intelligences model. For their Picture Smart (or Spatial Intelligence) lesson in late July, Secondary Ones were given stimuli and asked to experiment with creating images and cards that celebrate Singapore's identity and 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. **Congratulations to the artists behind the winning cards, some of which are featured above! Our winning artists are Celest Thian (Sec 1D), Lovelle Lim (Sec 1D), Gaileen Tolentino and Ashley Toh from Sec 1E, and Xandrea Alfie and Faith Zhen (Sec 1G)!**

### **3. CCE LESSONS LEADING UP TO NATIONAL DAY**

During the first CCE lesson for National Day, SJCians were given time to reflect on what makes them Singaporeans. They had to put up a skit focusing on any aspect of the Singapore identity. This could be a quality that Singaporeans already possess or something that they hope to see in Singaporeans in the future. At the end of the lesson, students discussed how a nation's identity is made up of every individual's collective memories, lived realities and aspirations. ***In a global and national society that is increasingly complex and diverse, our Singapore identity will only resonate with us if we have a sense of belonging.***

In the second CCE lesson, SJCians discussed the theme song of NDP 2018, *We are Singapore*. They learnt that the song is a revamped version of the 1987 classic. In 1987, the song was a declaration of unity by Singaporeans. It was set at a difficult time in Singapore's history. Singapore experienced her first recession post-independence in 1985 but she made a recovery in mid-1986. Hence, the song was a rally cry to Singaporeans to unit and overcome challenges together. Its chorus incorporates words from a speech from the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew to school principals in 1966:

***But whatever it is, ultimately the result that we want - and I am sure you must want this - is to produce a community that feels together. You know, on certain things, we respond together: this is my country, this is my flag; this is my present; this is my future. I am going to protect it.***  
- Mr Lee Kuan Yew, 29 August 1966

The students learnt that the 2018 version by Singaporean, Mr Charlie Lim, acknowledges the timeless message of unity and national pride of the 1987 song. However, it also signifies how we should take responsibility for the future first as individuals, then as one united people, anchored on the values that



have built our nation.



### 8TH AUGUST: NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN SCHOOL

On the morning of 8 August, SJCians got together for our annual, much loved National Day Commemoration in school. For Singaporeans, this commemoration in school is an important memory of life as a Singaporean growing up on this island that we call home, an integral part of the Singaporean experience and identity.

#### CEREMONIAL MARCH-IN AND FLAG-RAISING BY UNIFORMED GROUPS

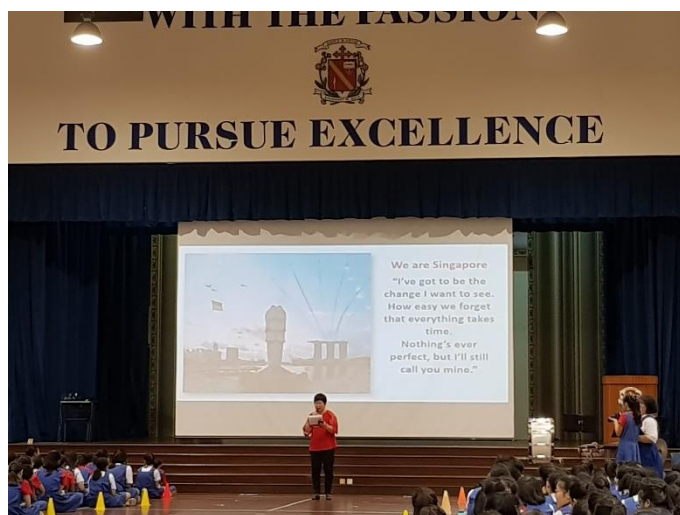
The ceremonial march-in and flag-raising ceremony have always been a significant feature of the National Day celebrations in SJC. They are an integral part of any official National Day observance ceremony in Singapore schools. Students from uniformed groups are given this special honour to bear and raise the flag for this important occasion.



Our student councillor organizers working quietly behind the scenes putting up decorations in the school hall



The marching contingent, which comprises representatives from National Police and Cadet Corp (NPCC), St. John's Brigade (SJB) and Girl Guides, led the school in the ceremony. They were accompanied by members of the Concert Band. All these students had spent many hours after school rehearsing to ensure the perfect execution of the ceremony. This experience epitomized the importance of discipline and hard work, without which Singapore would not have been able to achieve the success that she has today.



Following the march past, principal, Ms Ho, shared the National Day speech that is to be read to students. The speech emphasized the values that Singaporeans hold dear and which have brought us this far. It was an important reminder to us all to not take for granted Singapore's hard won progress and prosperity and to stay united as One People.

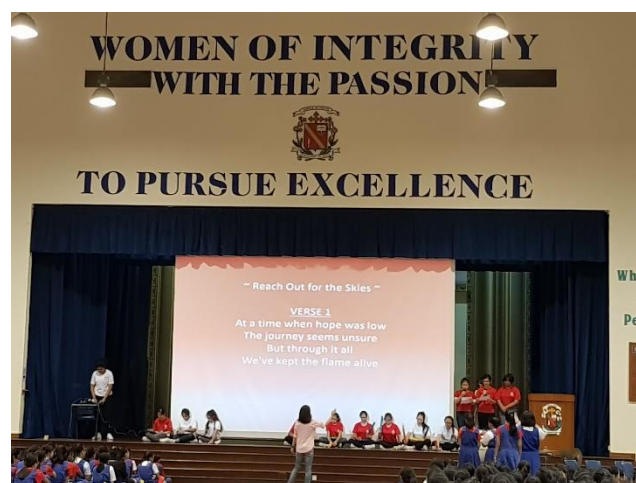
### Special Performance by Sec 1 Charity (2018)

As part of music lessons leading up to National Day, the Secondary Ones learnt about the development of our National Day songs throughout the 1980s till today. They learnt how songs were used to create a sense of belonging and identity among the people of Singapore in our early years as an independent nation. Besides the history of our National Day songs, the Sec Ones also learnt to develop musical skills such as ensemble playing in class. They learnt to listen well to one another and to play together as an ensemble. Students from Class 1C were chosen to represent the Sec Ones in presenting the song *Reach Out for the Skies* (2005) during the school's National Day celebrations. Here are some of their thoughts and reflections:

*I enjoyed playing the song with my other friends because it's fun. I was very nervous at first. But when the crowd started singing, I wasn't as nervous as during rehearsals. Through playing with my classmates, we gained teamwork, responsibility and being alert* – Putri Nur Shafina Binte Shafiee, 1C

*I liked how our class has great coordination and teamwork which makes the performance a wonderful one. During the performance I felt very nervous and scared, but knowing that I am not going through this alone made me want to accomplish something with the class.* - Charmaine Ng, 1C

*I enjoyed playing the Boomwhackers. The class did not cooperate at the start but we learned what we are good at playing. I have learnt patience, teamwork and cooperation. I hope our class can perform again next year!* - Emma Mary, 1C



Our talented Sec 1C performers with their percussion instruments, Boomwhackers, being conducted by Ms Jeanette Teoh, our Music Co-ordinator and N1 STAR Music Champion



### SINGAPOREAN BY CENTRESTAGE

Our talented cast and crew from Centrestage also showcased, to much applause from the student body, their thought-provoking, original play about the shifting nature of the Singaporean identity as we grapple with globalization and Singapore's increasingly rich, complex ethnic identity.

## **NATIONAL DAY COMMUNITY SINGING**

No National Day celebration in school is complete without the community singalong, a welcome ritual which started in the 1980s.

An all-time favourite amongst students and teachers, we closed the celebrations for the day with a rousing sing-a-long session. All students and staff stood together, uniting their voices, expressing their love for Singapore as we sang the gamut of National Day songs. This came to a rousing close with the familiar favourites “Count On Me, Singapore”, “We are Singapore” and “Home”.

Happy 53<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Singapore!