At SJC, we uphold both the performance and moral character by redefining success beyond the academic to include character building.

This year, we celebrate the 76th Anniversary of CHIJ St Joseph’s Convent (SJC) as well as 160 years of the founding of IJ schools. The IJ schools were founded by the IJ Sisters who were inspired by their deep faith in God and their strong belief in the importance of providing an education for girls. Their story is the story of a band of unusual women, well ahead of their time. We draw strength and inspiration from the lives of these sisters knowing the struggle which they experienced as pioneers in a foreign country.

Throughout the past seven decades, SJC is proud to have nurtured many women who have succeeded in life. At SJC, we uphold both the performance and moral character by redefining success beyond the academic to include character building. We have documented some of our girls’ success stories in a publication entitled, SJC Stories That Inspire. This publication documents the journey undertaken by our girls of different generations in overcoming the odds in their learning. Their resilience and faith will serve to motivate our present and future generations of SJC girls to follow in their footsteps to excel.

SJC has continued to grow and do well. We are happy that SJC has been consistently performing above expectation to achieve value-added results in the GCE ‘O’ Level Examinations. Our Sec 4 Express students have done well again last year and our Sec 5NA girls have sustained their value add achievement. Our girls have sustained our improvement in the eligibility rate for JCs and Polytechnics.

The stories behind these numbers are more significant. I will like to commend the resilience of three girls, the recipients of our inaugural Special Achievement Award this year. They are Ng Xin Yi and S Keerdthanna Pillai from the class of 4G last year, as well as Heme Malini d/o Subramaniam of Sec 4A last year.

At SJC, we have a wide variety of CCAs to develop the potential and talents of our girls as well as to build their leadership competencies. We are pleased that the students have risen to the challenges to win accolades in the uniformed groups for NPCC, Girl Guides and SJAB. They also made their mark in sports such as fencing, track and field, swimming, badminton and netball. We were very heartened by our girls’ victory over the Singapore Sports School and emerging Zonal Champion for this year’s netball ‘B’ division, an honour that we last enjoyed twenty three years ago.

We have a vibrant Arts Scene at SJC and our performing Art groups have won numerous awards. Our Applied Learning programme is in the Art of Communication Through Theatre and Debates. Through this programme we nurture creativity and critical thinking in our girls.

Many of you here have helped to shape SJC’s success stories: the IJ Board, staff, teachers, parents, students, the alumni and friends of SJC. I would like to extend to you our greatest appreciation. As a Catholic school, we will not lose sight of our mandate to develop the moral character of our girls so that they would be grounded in our school values of Love, Integrity and Freedom to become engaged and empowered learners, effective leaders and eloquent individuals with ethics.

Miss Susie Ho
Principal
THE TOP SCORER OF THE ‘O’ LEVEL RESULTS:

TOP STUDENT SEC 5NA 2013:
Chua Ken Tian Eustacia

VALEDICTORIAN 2013:
Eva Tiffany Teo Aldridge
13TH AWARDS CEREMONY
SPORTS MEET 2014
THE NUS GEO CHALLENGE (NUSGC)

The National University of Singapore Geography Challenge (NUSGC) is an annual non-profit Geography-centred competition jointly organised by the NUS Department of Geography and the NUS Geographical Society. The competition hopes to ignite passion and inspire students to develop a keen interest in Geography as well as to engage, empower and educate all on world issues and highlight the relevance of Geography in their daily lives.

Our team comprised girls from 3Faith who volunteered to take part as they were very eager to take Geography beyond the confines of the classroom. Here’s what they had to say:

“The NUSGC was an eye-opener that made us more aware of how versatile Geography is as a subject. We realised that beyond just the usual physical and human aspects that we learn in school, Geography also encompassed politics, history, diseases, the aesthetics as well as our favourite topic - Food! Everything is connected one way or another and the experience has sort of pushed us beyond our comfort zone – thinking critically about global issues, evaluating problems, justifying solutions in the questions posed in the competition.

It’s a humbling experience and we would like to thank Mrs Soon and the Geography department for giving us that opportunity to ‘just go and try our best’ and most of all, ‘enjoy Geography as it is meant to be’.

Lucia Maria (3A)

LAMBS OUTREACH – 3A’s Inter-disciplinary Learning Journey to IKEA

In April, our Elements of Business Studies, Mathematics and English teachers brought us to IKEA as they knew that we learnt better outside the classroom. My experience at IKEA with my class was fun and enjoyable. We got to do lots of hands-on activity, took lots of photographs for the project, looked at showrooms and learnt IKEA’s way of making their products more affordable for its customers.

We spent four hours there and going there made learning the three subjects more relevant to us as we got to experience IKEA’s retail concept, plan our budget and measure dimensions of furniture in order to design a bedroom there. Subsequently, we wrote an article about our trip. It was very fun for us as we went around IKEA to look for items we wanted for our bedroom and to ensure that the items fit the bedroom theme we came up with during earlier English lessons.

The part I enjoyed the most was when we went around IKEA to look for the items we wanted for our bedroom as we got to take photographs of the items. My group members were posing with the items and it was quite hilarious and we had an enjoyable time bonding further with our classmates and teachers.

I think that other classes should also get the same opportunity like my class to get out of school for the hands-on experience. This is because some students learn better this way. When we were out and moving around IKEA, I noticed that everyone was energetic and full of life. No one seemed bored or even tired at any point in time. Everyone had a smile on her face including the teachers and we all had ice-cream before heading back to school.

Lucia Maria (3A)
Tamil Drama & Debate Competition

On 5 April 2014, our Tamil students took part in the Tamil Arumbu Drama & Debate Competition for secondary schools organised by Sengkang Community Centre. Five of our girls participated in the Drama Competition and another five in the Debate Competition. Our girls emerged Second and Third in the debate and drama competitions respectively.

These competitions have been a good avenue for our pupils to speak Tamil outside curriculum time and to learn and appreciate Tamil Literature beyond the confines of the classroom. Our pupils were challenged to express themselves more creatively during the drama workshop. They also sharpened and honed their communicative and debating skills preparing for the debate competition. This experience increased the self-esteem of our students and encouraged a more positive attitude towards the Tamil Language.

Congratulations to the following student participants who won:

Drama Competition
- Second Place: Sri Vaishnavi, 1D
- Third Place:预ethea Raman, 3F

Debates Competition
- Second Place: Hamna, 1E
- Dakshayani, 1G
- Shanmugapriya, 1H
- Third Place: Lepakshi, 3D
- Nur Diana, 3D
- Sangavi, 3E
- Daveenasheni, 3G

“The Tamil Debate competition helped us to develop greater confidence and self-esteem. Some of us lacked confidence when speaking in front of a class. This competition had been a good opportunity to build skills and confidence in oral presentations through practice in a pressurizing atmosphere. We improved our ability to speak confidently and to communicate our points efficiently. The competitions have aroused a greater interest in the Tamil Language as well as made us enjoy speaking the language more because most of us speak English at home. This debate competition was certainly an enriching experience for us.” - Debate Team

“The Tamil Drama competition was really a fun and interesting experience for us. This competition had been a good opportunity for us to showcase our talents and acting skills. Through this competition, we gained self-confidence to express ourselves in proper Tamil and it definitely helped to improve our oral skills. Working in teams, we were further able to learn more about our strengths and weaknesses while working to improve our competency in Tamil.” - Drama Team

The Tales of Two Cities: 2010–2014

This year, CHIJ St Joseph’s Convent (SJC) commemorates her five-year-long collaboration with Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School (SLCSS). The chosen theme was ‘Cherish the Past & Appreciate the Present’ and the exchange programme was helmed by the English Department, mainly the Secondary Three English Language teachers.

Our first collaborative piece, which was in line with the idea of cherishing the past, was a photojournalism project based on the themes “An Unforgettable Memory in My Life” and “A Precious Moment in My Life”, proposed by our esteemed educational partner SLCSS. Our Secondary Three cohort and SLCSS pupils penned beautiful accounts and shared them online with one another via the Edmodo platform.

The second collaborative piece, a research and presentation project, was an extension of the theme ‘Cherish the Past’. Our Secondary Three pupils researched on the topic “Singapore – Then & Now”, delving into domains like education, housing, leisure activities, transportation and infrastructure and technology of our island-state. Likewise, SLCSS pupils researched the topic “Hong Kong – Then & Now”.

On 14 April 2014, SJC was delighted to receive forty students and four teachers from SLCSS who joined us in our Morning Assembly before being ushered to the library for an address by our Principal Ms Susie Ho, and treated to a local flavoured breakfast. Thereafter, SLCSS pupils joined our Secondary Three pupils for lessons and both presented the second collaborative project during English Language lessons.

The Exchange Programme culminated in a Learning Journey to the ArtScience Museum to visit the largest exhibition in Southeast Asia, “Dinosaurs: Dawn to Extinction” and attend a hands-on Paleontologist Workshop before we bade our guests from Hong Kong farewell.
CULINARY ARTS CLUB
Values in Action!

As part of their VIA programme, the Culinary Arts Club members catered for the Awards Ceremony VIP breakfast reception on Saturday, 5th April 2014. Club members anchored different areas of service, thus forming the chef, servers and newsletter teams. The Chef Team were guided and learnt to prepare different dishes such as Quiche Lorraine Medley, Boiled Orange Cake, Valerie’s Sushi Special and Fruit and Lemon Curd Vol Au Vents. The Servers Team meanwhile picked up some pointers on how to decorate the reception table with fresh flowers and banana leaves for a nostalgic feel, how to present the food to visually whet appetites and serve our special guests.

The Culinary Arts Club members were also involved on Sports Day, preparing food, setting up tables and providing their brand of service to the VIP guests, teachers and student officials.

TAEKWONDO

On 21 and 22 April, Megan Chin of Secondary 1B, represented SJC in the National Schools Taekwondo Competition 2014. Megan achieved a 2nd placing for the Green Belt Poomsae Category and a top 8 placing in both Yellow and Blue Belt Poomsae Category. Megan just started learning Taekwondo last October yet with her passion for the sport and diligence in her practice, Megan developed very quickly to be able to manage movements that are meant for three grades above her own. Congratulations, Megan!

Mrs Wong Peidi

NETBALL

April marks the end of our Netball National Schools season in 2014. Both ‘B’ and ‘C’ Division teams have ended the season with a Top 16 in the Nationals and gained more experience exchanged through playing with good teams.

On 20 April, the Netball Team held a celebration party to celebrate our success for the season. Other than having a beautiful high-tea, we spent a few good hours to play games as a team and to reminisce our recent season. We also had a prize presentation ceremony where the coach and teachers presented internal awards like Best Defender, Best Shooter, Best Midfielder, Most Improved Player, Most Outstanding Player, Most Valuable Player, Commendable Award and Best Team Manager to the team, acknowledging the good work that they had done. The team also took the opportunity to bid farewell to the graduating seniors by presenting gifts prepared by the juniors and a booklet of reflections written by themselves, teachers and the coach to journal their journey over the last four or five years spent in SJC’s Netball Team.

We wish the graduating seniors all the best in their ‘O’ levels and may they use the same tenacity and discipline to achieve success in many other areas.

Miss Melissa Paul

GIRL GUIDES

The first quarter of the year was a myriad of colourful activities for SJC Girl Guides. In addition to the usual physical training and foot drill sessions, there was a whole range of activities to develop the students. The Girl Guides had a session of Wire Art with SJC’s Visual Art teacher, Miss Amanda Lim, our invited guest teacher, to learn how to transform pieces of wire to beautiful and even usable artwork.

The trip to Sree Narayana Missions Home gave us the opportunity to put ourselves in the shoes of the elderly in the home in order to plan activities that catered to their needs. At the interactive Health Zone galleries at Health Promotion Board, we learnt about how to stay in the pink of health, a useful skill which we applied to our Inter-patrol Food Wrap Competition. Our food wraps were both nutritious and tasty.

We would also like to congratulate our seniors Brenda Chua and Lee Zhi Zin whose environmental poster emerged as the best in the Girl Guides North Division Day Poster Design Competition.

It has truly been a really exciting semester and we look forward to officially enrolling our secondary one Girl Guides after the mid-year examination. Remember to support our annual Cookie Sale Project too!

Miss Estelle Chia
**CONCERT BAND ENCORE V CONCERT**

April 23 was a special day for Concert Band as we held our very own bi-annual concert entitled ‘Encore V’. The objective of the concert was to deepen our craft as a band.

The process of preparing for the concert was definitely arduous. We formed a Concert Committee and divided our job in preparation for the concert. Presented with many constraints aside from our own studies, we learnt to prioritise our concerns and sat down to discuss how to move forward to ensure the success of our event.

The biggest problem we faced was that some of us were still unsure of how to play certain songs very well. As the concert day drew closer, the pressure intensified and we realised that we had to be self-disciplined by carrying out our own sectional practices as well as practise at home in order to master our scores. On our first rehearsal, we felt disheartened that we were not performing up to standard. We felt that some members were not serious and did not play their instruments well. However, as the days went by, we could see the band improving progressively.

The concert was a major success as we sold six hundred tickets and had to print more to accommodate requests from parents and fellow school mates! The concert taught us the importance of planning and effective communication. We saw the importance of communicating the right messages and instructions to our band members, especially our most junior Secondary One members; we learnt to accept contributions of ideas to make our concert a successful one. Working with the committee members has taught us the importance of collaboration. It was a valuable experience to work with Angklung and Kulintang ensemble as our guest performers, believing that “Two Minds are Better than One”!

Learning lasts a lifetime. We would like to continue to improve our performances. We hope to put up a better performance at SJC’s third Aesthetics Night performance in November at the National University Concert Hall. We also hope, one day, to perform at the Esplanade.

**Pearl Kiang Ye Ping (3D) Bryanne Chua Zi Ning (3E)**

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**PIONEER PARTICIPATION IN THE FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING SINGAPORE NATIONAL COMPETITION**

As part of the school’s continued efforts to identify platforms for our girls to experience success and develop into young ladies with the passion for excellence, SJC participated in the Future Problem Solving (FPS) Singapore national competition for the first time in 2013. The FPS Program is an international competition held in the USA every year, looking into developing life skills that bring learning beyond the classroom. In Singapore, this program is anchored by Raffles Girls’ School which holds an annual national competition to select the team that would represent Singapore in the international competition.

Two teams, consisting of students from Secondary Two and Three, represented SJC in the Global Issues Problem Solving component of this national event, where students would analyse a scenario set in the future, fraught with problems. In two hours students would apply the prescribed six strategies to problem solving and identify sixteen possible problems in the future scene, decide on an underlying problem, suggest sixteen possible solutions to the underlying problem, develop and apply a matrix to choose the best solution and create an action plan using this solution.

Daunting to even some adults, the rigour of this competition develops not only critical thinking skills but with themes like Megacities and Ocean Soup, it creates in students’ the ability to see themselves within the context of the social demands, allowing them to grow to be active global citizens. Making students move out of their comfort zones and surprise even themselves with the challenges that they can rise up to, SJC’s pioneering competition team was invited by RGS to participate in the national finals based on their performance in the preliminary rounds. The final round of the national competition was made even more exciting for our students when they had to put up a creative performance of their action plan, utilising theatre techniques. Their hard work paid off when they emerged third in this presentation of their action plan.

Mdm Nazeema Parveen Bte Shaik Alaudee

Having gone through the journey, this is what Olettea of 3I (2013) had to say about what she had learnt in the course of preparing for this competition:

*Through this Future Problem Solving competition, I learnt that communication is really important. Without communication, it is quite difficult to succeed. To be honest, I thought that we had really great ideas, but we felt restricted initially because we could not convey our ideas well. However, with the training that we had to undergo it was a pleasant surprise to know that we are capable of bringing our ideas to a whole new level.*
CHIJ TIES THAT BIND

Burmese visitors

CHIJ schools founded by Father Nicholas Barre have always provided an education for underprivileged students. The IJ sisters and their lay volunteers have a presence in many countries throughout the world.

On 23 April 2014, we welcomed two CHIJ student teachers from CHIJ (Myanmar), Ms Glennis Soe Hlaing and Ms Lucia. Ms Glennis and Ms Lucia are two of the many student teachers who have benefitted from the teacher training planned by the Myanmar Mission Team. The Myanmar Mission Team which offers teacher training to teachers in boarding houses worked with the CHIJ schools and The National Institute of Education in Singapore to assist in their Teacher Training Programme.

As part of the programme planned for the day, the student teachers were invited to observe a few lessons in English, Mathematics and Science, both Upper and Lower Secondary classes. They were taken on a tour of the school and shown the different educational facilities available for students. As part of the cultural immersion experience, the student teachers also had a chance to sample local food. Ms Glennis and Ms Lucia also had the opportunity to interact with teachers and students. Our teachers shared good teaching practices, classroom management skills and assessment papers with our guests.

Our guests thanked the school for the support and kindness shown to them during their visit. SJC looks forward to future collaborations with them.

Letter from the Myanmar teachers

Dear St Joseph’s Convent Teachers,

We are very grateful to you for giving us a very precious experience today. We have a bit of teaching strategies and methods but we need to learn more about the ways to handle children.

Today, we learnt a lot and the experiences from what we got from our observation will surely help us to become effective teachers for our Myanmar children.

Thank you teachers. You all have subject mastery and are smart in teaching. We saw the good lesson preparations and the firm, fair and friendly way the teachers engaged with the students.

This period of visit was revision time for the school so we could not catch the flow of the lessons that much. We are impressed with your school having many different activities and facilities. We feel that the students have great opportunities for education in Singapore.

Dear teachers, we feel deep gratitude for your helping hand and open hearts.

Our wish for you is that God will continue to bless you more.

Myanmar IJ Teachers

Lucia and Glennis

SOCIAL AWARENESS THROUGH PHOTOJOURNALISM

This semester, as an integration of the school’s Art of Communication ALP and the Visual Art Department goal of using the arts to provoke social awareness, all express Secondary One students attend a photojournalism module to develop their ability to use photography as a means of exploring social and environmental issues in Singapore. Under the tutelage of professional photojournalist-cum-environmental activist Debby Ng, and SJC’s art teachers, students are given the opportunity to select a social issue of choice to do research in, and then guided in the skills required to photograph, edit, select, organize, prepare write-ups and eventually present these collections as a photography exhibit within school and at external community venues such as community centres.

Promoting Social Awareness Through T-Shirt Designs

At the end of last year, a group of twenty five Secondary Two and Three art students participated in a T-shirt design competition organised by The Rotary Club of Singapore. After conducting research about the Rotary Club and its mission and purposes, the students worked on various themes which aimed to raise awareness about humanitarian and environmental causes.

SJC emerged top in the competition, winning 5 out of the top 10 prizes, including 1st and 2nd positions. The representative from The Rotary Club of Singapore, Mr Anthony Twohill came to SJC in January 2014 to present the prizes and cash awards.

The winners are:

1st – Megan Cheryl Chua – $800 cash prize
2nd – Tiffany Pereira – $600 cash prize
7th – Beatricia Liyu – $100 cash prize
8th – Jean Lim Ziyi – $100 cash prize
9th – Dena Ong – $100 cash prize

“When I signed up for the competition, I was given a plain white T-shirt to work on. At first I was not sure what to do with it. However, after consulting my teacher Miss Iris Teh, I then decided that I wanted my design to raise awareness about the environment and what mankind is doing to Mother Earth.

I find that raising awareness about the environment is most important as mankind is destroying the Earth gradually to obtain resources in order to satisfy our wants and needs. Although there are many projects out there on saving the Earth, I find that we are still not doing enough. We must make everyone realise how much damage we have inflicted, and that we should take action right now.

I did not really think much about my T-shirt design after my submission, thus I was shocked after learning that I have won the 8th prize with a hundred dollar cash. To me, having a hundred dollars in my hands was just unbelievable. I also did not know what to do with it either. After being clueless for days, I decided it would be a good idea to donate the sum of money to our school’s fund to help students under the Financial Assistance Scheme. It sure felt good that I can actually contribute in my own ways to help others in school.”

Jean Lim Ziyi (3H), who donated all of her cash prize to SJC’s Financial Assistance Scheme.