



CHIJ ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT

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Touring the SUTD Campus

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

LEARNING JOURNEYS TO SUTD

On 22nd June 2017 as a follow-up to the January STEM-focused Secondary Four and Five Level Camp when speakers from local gave talks to our graduating students, the Secondary Fours and Fives participated in a learning journey to the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), to learn more about higher education in Singapore. SUTD is the fourth autonomous university established in Singapore. Rich in a hands-on experiential curriculum, SUTD focuses on advancing knowledge and developing leaders and innovators in the fields of technology and design and has established numerous partnership opportunities for undergraduates with various

other universities and corporations. The visit started with an admissions talk by the university staff on the various undergraduate courses available as well as the personal and academic qualifications sought after by the tertiary education institute. Students also had a glimpse of campus life in SUTD through a short tour of the campus facilities. Excerpts from our students' reflections are reflected here.



SJCians touring the student-centred classrooms

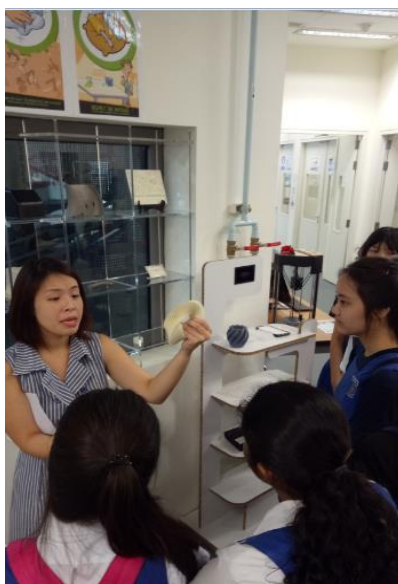


A glimpse of the cosy study booths on campus

This afternoon spent at SUTD has given us an insight to university education, especially one geared towards the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) industry. With many students being unaware of STEM and its related jobs, this university has opened our eyes to many new job prospects that we could explore. We were first given an admission talk about the different pillars and multidisciplinary aspects that the school focuses on and then a mini tour around the school. During the talk, the lecturer emphasised a lot the development of products that may potentially help improve people's lives. This is a key learning point for me as it made me realise the importance of finding a purpose in what I do. The tour around the school was intriguing as we were exposed to the many types and uses of 3D printing machinery and had the opportunity to touch many structures of different textures made by these machines. All in all, this trip inspired me to pursue my interests which will allow me to put my 100 percent in all that I



Observing a live demonstration of 3D printing



Learning about Materials Science



Touring the study rooms

The trip to SUTD was a fruitful one and I learnt a lot about the school. I was particularly impressed with the huge range of resources that the school has, such as the 3D printing machines. The students there are able to create unique structures that they have designed on their own using these machines. I think this really helps to promote creativity and innovation as the students have the opportunity to exercise their imagination. I was also fascinated with the wide collection of texture samples which can be found in the school library. Students can touch and play around with the samples to help stimulate their minds and generate new ideas. This hands-on experiential approach is very different from how we learn! - Ong Wen Xin, 4E



Exploring texture samples in the school library

SYF SOUNDWAVES 2017 @ ESPLANADE AND ANGKLUNG ENSEMBLE'S JOINT CONCERT WITH 2 JUNIOR ANGKLUNG ENSEMBLES

Immediately after our SYF in April, we embarked on two events, the school exchange programme that involved two primary schools, Anderson Primary and Townsville Primary and the SYF Soundwaves 2017@ Esplanade performance.

Upon hearing that we had to play five songs for the esplanade performance that would be happening in a mere 2 months and without our Sec 4 and 5 seniors who had participated through the SYF 2017, our whole ensemble felt immense pressure because we wanted to make sure that we were able to represent our school to the best of our abilities.

However, our conductor, Ms Alicia De Silva, reminded us that we had already learnt two songs which were our SYF pieces and that she had strategically arranged it such that we would be practising the other three songs during the exchange programme. That gave us the confidence that we were able to pull through and with Ms Alicia's continual guidance and the teachers', Ms Hafifah and Ms Albaniah's, encouragement, we were able to master the five songs within such a short period of time and without our seniors to guide us as

they had already stepped down.

During the last few practices before the performance, I was moved by the ensemble's commitment to perfecting our pieces as they stayed on after the sessions to practise on their own. Through the preparation for this performance, we interacted more with one another and have become closer as an ensemble. It was heartening to see that we were growing as a unit and that even the Secondary Ones were keeping up with the rigour and being more at ease with the rest of the members.

On the day of the performance, we played our best and although we were exhausted, we all felt a sense of accomplishment. We had to focus hard because there were so many distractions around us, from the NDP rehearsals that was going on next to us to the loud crowds that passed by the Outdoor theatre. We even had to stop our performance midway because the helicopters were flying passed us and we could not hear our own music. However, these distractions did not waiver our determination to put up a good performance. I am so proud of the ensemble and the professionalism that the ensemble showed while we were on stage. This has proven that our ensemble has grown to be an ensemble that is disciplined and professional.

Overall, the two events, both the School Exchange and the Esplanade performance have been extremely memorable and enjoyable experiences for me. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to represent our school and to show the public what Angklung music can bring. - Callista Goh, 3D, President



Angklung Ensemble at SYF Soundwaves @Esplanade 2017

After our SYF performance, the ensemble had little time to celebrate our achievements. We went straight into the next milestone for the Ensemble and that was to put up a good performance at the Esplanade, Theatre by the bay. As an ensemble, we truly felt honoured to be playing at a place where many professional musicians have held their concerts and performances, however we also felt the pressure as our performance was going to be for the public.

As a newly appointed Exco member, I felt that we had to pull together as an ensemble to give our all and to show our commitment to the CCA. This was the first time that the new Exco was going to take charge and I felt nervous in case anything went wrong and we would not be able to handle the situation. It served as another opportunity for me to communicate more with everyone and open up. As a committee, we managed to identify some of the problems that we faced and sought solutions for them so that we could be better prepared when the next event comes around. We were able to see how we all felt about the same

situation, but from different perspectives. It was evident that we still lacked in terms of giving and carrying out instructions, but I believe we are still growing as a committee.

This preparation for the Esplanade performance was indeed a challenging one for me, personally. As I was given the chance to play the Glockenspiel even though I had no music background. I did struggle a lot and made many mistakes. Being unfamiliar with this new instrument at the start, I was not confident at all and felt that I wasn't worthy of playing it. However, my seniors, teachers and instructor kept encouraging me. They would practise with me and when I was able to play it right, they would praise me and when I wasn't able to do it right, they would encourage me to try again. I am grateful for being able to challenge myself and I will continue to practise and improve in my playing of the instruments. - Teo Zi Li Caitlin, 2G, Lower Secondary Committee Member

SYF 2017 CELEBRATIONS @ THE MALLS FEATURING INDIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE



I was very sad when our SYF journey was over as I had grown to absolutely love our SYF dance and did not really want to stop performing and practicing it, which is why when we were informed of the SYF extravaganza showcase I was really excited and could not wait to start our practice again.

Our first practice after SYF was not so productive as many of the dancers had forgotten parts of the dance and we also had to redo some positions in the dance as the Sec 4 and 5 seniors had stepped down to prepare for the national exams. Comparing our first SYF practice to the first SYF extravaganza practice, there was one major difference. We had all bonded over SYF and I was very happy to see the Sec 2s and 1s approaching us Sec 3s to ask for help as I have told them before that the best way for us to improve is to seek clarification without fear.

The second and third practice sessions were much better as we had all recalled our steps and were all looking forward to the performance. On the day of the performance, we were all quite relaxed unlike on SYF day. Although we were performing the same dance, it felt different as we were not



Awaiting their turn to perform

so stressed. We had a lot of fun dressing up in our costumes and jewellery and makeup. Once we reached our performance location, we kept reminding ourselves that we had to uphold the school standard and conduct ourselves in an appropriate manner.

The performance itself went very smoothly and the only problem we encountered was that the stage size was very small and we had to adapt quickly to the changes around us while watching out for one another to ensure that no one got hurt. Overall, this experience has brought our CCA closer together and given us more exposure to performing in front of a public performance. I hope to be able to get more opportunities like this in the future to help our CCA grow more and allow ourselves to become better dancers. - Kameela(3D), President

MODERN DANCE ENSEMBLE ENRICHMENT

On 30 June 2017, the Modern Dance Ensemble attended a performance at the Contemporary Dance Festival 2017. The Dance Company presented two dance pieces titled *Binary*. It was an enriching evening of exposure to contemporary dance for our girls. The two pieces performed are both by duos, lasting about 30 minutes each. Our dancers had a clear objective to learn from what they watched. Here are some of their post-performance reflections:

Through the watching of this dance, I want to learn to improve on my technique and be able to transition from one move to another smoothly. I want to be able to portray myself with emotion so that when I dance in front of a crowd, they are able to feel my emotions through dance. After watching the performance, I learnt that it isn't just about executing the movements and remembering steps. It is also about moving freely and feeling the music. The dancers inspired me to be in my "zone" when dancing so as to be more confident when dancing. - Leah Michelle Nerva, 1E

After watching these performances, I am inspired to be a more skilled dancer. It takes hardship and perseverance in order to succeed well, thus, I need to train myself often. I learnt that it is important to be able to express oneself on stage, filled with emotions and movements to be sharp. This will engage the audience and allow them to feel the dance too. It inspires me to work harder, to love and also to enjoy the piece. - Tan Ci Qi Amelissa, 2E

I gathered inspiration from the dancers today to improve my technique and the execution of the movements. I noticed that the dancers have very expressive movements. I want to keep in mind that facial expressions are important in delivering movements, for these bring out deeper meanings in the dance. These are possible because of the plenty of hours spent practising, training and conditioning the body. I can apply this to our weekly sessions by ensuring that I exercise and follow the strength training booklet to strengthen my body and to gain stamina. - Lau Jie Lin Geri, 3D

From watching this dance, one of the things I want to be able to achieve is to experience the effect the dance has on the audience's emotion. Through this, I want to understand the way I should deliver the dance movements to achieve the same effect. Each dance piece was 30 minutes long, and for the dancers to dance for this duration, they required very good stamina to still express their emotions effortlessly. I learnt that confidence is very important on stage as it sets the mood for the whole dance piece. For example, one male dancer had a long solo dance movement on stage at the very beginning where he had to express himself confidently and calmly, while the whole audience's attention was focused on him. I can apply this confidence by focusing on my movements on stage fully and be expressive. - Laetitia Tay Kit-Sze, 3D