



# CHIJ ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2017

Dear SJC Community, as the school term winds to a close, here are highlights from Term 4. Happy reading.

### LEARNING FROM THE PAST, ENVISIONING THE FUTURE, THE SECOND INSTALLATION OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT BETWEEN THE ENGLISH, HISTORY AND ALP DEPARTMENTS

Building on the drama skills that the Secondary Two students learnt in their lower secondary ALP drama classes as part of the NAC Artist-in-School (AIS) collaboration, the English teachers worked with the Secondary Two students to stage an afternoon of performances on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. Students had visited the National Museum previously as part of lower secondary History classes. During English Language classes, students put into practice what they had learnt about Singapore's past, and from the scripting of short dramatic pieces in their ALP Drama-Literature classes, to script, explore and depict the challenges faced by people from different trades in different eras, empathizing with Singaporeans of the past and envisioning the challenges and opportunities that await Singaporeans of the future. For example, 2B looked at transport in Singapore and how it has evolved over time from trishaw riders to what we have today, competition from Uber. Other ideas included the vanishing trades of oil paper umbrella makers and letter writers, and the future trade of space oxygen vendors.

Apart from deepening collaboration and presentation skills, the project enabled students to learn about the impact of socio-cultural changes on the individual and society at large and the skills needed to survive changes like these in the future. Therefore, before embarking on the drama showcase, students had to complete a series of tasks that prompted them to look to Singapore's past to remember Singapore's humble beginnings so as to forge a stronger future. Students had to think about different career paths and what they stood for in the past, what they stand for now in the present and more importantly, what they will mean to students in the future, when they join the workforce. Through narratives, students analysed how key events in society impacted people in different trades. And through other pieces of writing, scripting and role playing, students discovered other issues that may bless or plague different careers in different periods in time. This project also served as a prelude to the variety of career guidance talks that students will attend periodically through their Sec 3 to 5 years. Here are reflections from some of our students.



2B - Past Trade --> From Trishaw to Uber

*I learnt that there are always challenges in every job. For example, the rickshaw puller earned very little and he had to bring his passengers to their locations despite the terrible weather. The Uber drivers had to meet the demands of his passengers even when they were rude to him. I also need to be mentally prepared that there is going to be stiffer competition for jobs as there will be fewer jobs due to technological advancement. I need to be skilled enough so that I will not be replaced by robots. - Alessandra Sophia Bien, 2C*



2F: Past Trade --> The struggles of a street hawker and how he overcame them.

2C – Past Trade → Long gone are the letter-writers.



*I watched 2E's performance on oxygen vendors in space. If space travel is made possible in the future, then their job becomes really important as we won't be able to survive in space without oxygen! This has taught me to be more adaptable and innovative so that we create solutions for future problems. We need these skills to survive the working world in future. - Cheyne Toh, 2F.*



2E - Future Trade --> The life of a space oxygen vendor.

*I watched 2D's skit about a future trade that has yet to exist – Space Tourism. The idea of a space-bus bringing people from Earth to space is fascinating and totally plausible too! We will need to ensure that by 2036, we are able to find alternative energy sources, enough to power the space-buses so that these do not break down like what happened in the skit. - Lea Grace Dacanay Rillera, 2B*



2H – Past Trade → Presenting the challenges faced by oil paper umbrella makers

*I think I will need to prepare to face situations that need me to adjust to changes quickly in the future in 2036. From the challenges faced, I can predict that there will be more changes due to advancements in technology in the future and jobs will be gone and created to suit the evolving society, just like how the occupation of night-soilers was removed due to improvements in hygiene standards and sanitation. Thus, I will need to be adaptable to take up new jobs in 2036 should a job I am interested in now disappear in future. - Frances Alissa Samson Reyes, 2E*

## SECONDARY TWO CAREER GUIDANCE LEARNING JOURNEY - ECG IV FAIR 2017

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, a group of Secondary Two students opted to attend the Education and Career Guidance (ECG) IV Fair at Republic Polytechnic. The fair focused on three industries – Hospitality, Logistics and Maritime. Secondary Two students who attended gained greater understanding of each industry as they heard from industry professionals and also left with advice about how to make informed career choices in the future. Students had the opportunity to interact with professionals working in these fields through various exhibition booths, a talk and a workshop. Here are some of our students' reflections:



*We learnt many things through the ECG fair at Republic Polytechnic. For example, we learnt that Logistics is more than just working with numbers; it covers everything, from raw materials to the goods consumers receive, and the process in between. Technology is also widely applied in Logistics as well, such as through the usage of drones in stock management. After the talk, we went for a Hospitality workshop. The*



*experience from the fair has helped us understand and appreciate these industries. It was a really exciting and enriching experience, and we would definitely recommend this to our juniors next year. - Tan Yi Zhen, Dilys and Lorenzo Maryse Kristen B, 2D*

*After going for the ECG fair, I have definitely gained insight into the many jobs available in each of the three industries. I learnt that certain subjects that we take in school, such as Mathematics, go a long way in certain industries such as Logistics, which involves many calculations. I also discovered jobs that I never knew existed! The fun and interactive games and activities during the workshop and exhibition also gave me a peek into the prospects of the job market as well as the requirements needed to enter each industry. In addition, I had the opportunity to bond with my friends and school mates and learn about their interests, strengths and weaknesses! It was very interesting to discover how similar or different we are! - Eliza Lam, 2G*



## NE JOURNEY: ASEAN DAY RECEPTION 2017

On 22 August, 10 of our Sec 3, 4 and 5 students, along with their peers from other secondary schools and junior colleges, attended the ASEAN Day Reception 2017. This reception marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of ASEAN. Here are reflections from two of our student participants:

*When I was given the opportunity to attend an ASEAN dinner, I was very excited at the prospect of getting the opportunity to meet diplomats and learning more about ASEAN. On the day itself, I was nervous and excited as I was very apprehensive about coming out of my comfort zone to talk to strangers. On the other hand, I was excited at the idea of getting deeper insight into ASEAN as this is a topic I find intriguing. I learnt more about the importance of Singapore within the region and how being part of ASEAN has provided Singapore in turn, with many socio-economic benefits. This experience also enabled me to gain some exposure in socialising with people from different countries and backgrounds, especially those who are working for the government. They provided me with a deeper understanding of the challenges one faces when making delicate and vital decisions which not only impact one's organization but the country. It is important to be able to adapt to changes in order to handle situations. As I engaged with the adults and other students I met, this event made me more confident and comfortable speaking my mind thoughtfully, and also deepened my understanding of ASEAN's role in the wider community. – Elizabeth Victoria, 5A.*

*I learnt many more things about what holds the keys to Singapore's success in the past, and now looking into the future. The 8<sup>th</sup> of August was the big start for ASEAN as the alliance was forged to further national and regional interests. Foreign Minister, Mr Balakrishnan, spoke of the importance of ASEAN in playing an indispensable role to enable all member countries to collaborate in the areas of economic development and security. ASEAN has enabled its member nations to be more independent and relevant to the larger world than if they had operated on their own, without the ASEAN umbrella. This evening, I also learnt how to better communicate with many students from other schools. This was a*



*rare opportunity as I also got a chance to see how diplomats carry themselves professionally during the entire dinner. I will cherish this experience and I would like to end with a huge thank you to the school for allowing me to be a part of this experience. – Ashley Ho, 5B*

## **2017 MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT**

This year, Mother Tongue Fortnight for various Language Units, was held throughout the year and students of SJC had the privilege of participating in various activities. Secondary 1 and 2 Tamil students were involved in Tamil Folk Tales programme (*Pati Sonna Kathai*) while the Secondary 3 Tamil students were involved in a drama workshop (*Naadaga Arangam*) during which they experienced many activities that could help them in the oral component of the examination.

*These lower sec workshops helped us boost our confidence level. I have become more aware of what I am saying in Tamil. It was easy to follow the activities as the instructors were clear in their instructions. The exercises that we did at the start of the workshop made us really energized throughout the workshop, which made the workshop very fun. Most importantly, the skills that they taught us were very useful. Since the workshop, my classmates and I have been putting in a lot of effort into our reading exercises.*  
- Pratibha Revi Shanker, 1E



*The activity was certainly a fun and engaging experience for Tamil students. We grew close as we had to complete many activities together. But more importantly, we improved our oral and listening skills based on the tips given by the conductors of the workshop. From this activity, I was able to understand more about my culture as well as prepare myself for the examinations. - Vidhyashakthi Palvannan, 1D*

*Initially, we had the impression that the drama workshop conducted for Tamil students as part of Mother Tongue Fortnight was going to be a crash course on oral skills. However, when we went for the workshop, we were pleasantly surprised by the content and execution of the workshop. It was definitely a refreshing look at tackling Tamil oral passages. The workshop started off with challenging tongue twisters which left us giggling non-stop. The course was carefully crafted to include important aspects of reading. It started with us learning proper breathing technique, posture, pronunciation, tone and expression. We were given scripts with many different characters to portray that gave us the opportunity to put to test our newly acquired knowledge. Not only was it an afternoon of joy and stress relief, we also learnt valuable skills that would definitely benefit us in our oral examinations. This workshop has changed our perspective and we hope our juniors will get the opportunity to attend this workshop too. - Kameela Rajendran and T S Vasanaa, 3D*

For the Malay Language, Secondary 1 students were given the opportunity to try *Dikir Barat*, a style of

Malay choral singing which incorporates poetry, music and hand choreography. Secondary 2 students learnt the art of playing the *seruling* (flute) while the Secondary 3 students were taught to play the *gamelan*. The Secondary 4 and 5 students had the opportunity to attend a performance at the Esplanade portraying the evolution of Malay music in Singapore! What a melodious year it has been!

*I had a fun and exciting experience during the Dikir Barat workshop. We learnt the basic techniques of singing, which includes proper breathing techniques and posture. As we were having lots of fun learning the song lyrics and singing together, little did I expect myself to be the lead singer (also known as the Juara). As the lead singer, I had to be separated from the rest of the group (also known as the awok-awok) and I had a different set of lyrics to sing to. I have always had stage fright and tend to be really nervous. But my friends gave me encouragement and I tried to overcome my fear by just reminding myself to keep calm. At the end of the session, after several practices, I could not believe that I was able to sing solo. It was, indeed, a memorable experience for me! - Nur Athirah, 1D*



*At first when we asked to play the seruling, I was afraid as I have new to the instrument. However, after being taught how to play the seruling by the instructor, I became more confident. One of the challenges that I faced while playing the seruling is actually*



*the holding of the instrument. It could get tiring at times as we had to spread our fingers along the instrument. We also had to be precise when playing the instrument because for every note that we played, the opening and closing of the various holes on the seruling would determine the sound of the note that is being played. On top of that, it was also difficult to control the quality of the sound that comes out of the instrument. Despite these challenges, I was glad that I participated in this activity. - Emma Maree Humphries, 2F*

Chinese Language students also had activities that promoted language appreciation. The author of a local book "Grandmother's hand", Mr John Wang, was invited to SJC to speak to our Secondary 1 students about his book and the inspiration behind it. Secondary 2 students enjoyed themselves when they attended a musical entitled "Lao Jiu" as part of the exposure to cultural performances and to raise the standard of the appreciation of the arts. To top it all off, SJC had invited a guest star as part of the Mother Tongue Fortnight programme to promote the use of Chinese Language. He was none other than Nathan Hartono, the runner-up for Sing! China, a Chinese singing competition. It was like having a mini-concert in our very own SJC compound!



*The book inspired and motivated me to understand more about the author's life. Through the values taught, I was inspired to put the values to practice, such as being kind to others, showing concern and helping others in need. I also learnt to muster my courage to overcome any challenges that come my way, to not be afraid and to keep on trying until we achieve success. Thus, I feel that his book talk was beneficial to me. - Felicia Chai Jing Yi, 1G*

*Mr Wang De Yuan's book talk motivated me to finish reading his book. I gained a lot of knowledge that can*

be applied to my everyday life from this book talk. One thing I gained was the value of care. One character would bring many bottles of medicine with him whenever he travels to different countries. I learnt that we should not make decisions solely based on what people say. I also learnt that whenever people need help, we should try our best to lend a helping hand. Thus, I feel that his book as well as his book talk was very inspiring. - Bernice Ng Xiang Ting, 1G

Through the musical, *Lao Jiu*, I learnt about the need to fight for one's own dreams and to never give up one's aspirations just to please others. Even if the road ahead is tougher than the ones already arranged for us as, we should not be afraid as it challenges us to do our best. Besides that, I also realised that from the musical, I can improve my Chinese by communicating more often in Chinese. In this way, I can learn to construct proper sentences and use suitable vocabulary words. The play we watched was so enjoyable that I would go for another play if given the opportunity. - Joey Lee, 2G

To motivate and inspire our students to learn Chinese, SJC invited Nathan Hartono (向洋) to stage a performance in our school on 11 April 2017. The stories that Nathan shared with us during this programme were very inspiring. When he took part in the *Voice of China*, he faced many difficulties trying to understand and communicate with the other five contestants. However, he used alternative ways like technology to help him improve his Chinese language. Initially, Nathan found Chinese difficult and meaningless and he was not interested in learning it. Ever since his participation in the *Voice of China*, he found himself attracted to the language and was so determined to master the language. That was when he realised that learning a new language merely for grades may not get anyone far. According to Nathan, if we learn a language because we have a deep interest in it, we may succeed. He also mentioned that we have to practice the language on a daily basis. Therefore the campaign, 爱上华文 (ài shàng huá wén) was created by Hartono to visit a series of schools to share his experiences. He has motivated us because now I believe that difficult does not mean impossible. We have to always try and do our utmost best in order to succeed, just like Nathan. I have learnt from that no matter where we come from, where there is a will, there will always be a way – and it is definitely not wrong to dream big! - Shovess Neo, 3F



As music overcomes all language barriers, I truly enjoyed Nathan Hartono's performance of several songs in Chinese. Through the song lyrics which were skillfully crafted by the songwriter, my friends and I learnt new Chinese words and phrases which we found very useful. This session showed us that the learning of language can be done in more ways than one; and in ways which are comfortable for us to express ourselves. This programme has helped me appreciate Chinese, not just as a subject but as an art of verbal and literary expression. - Tay Jean Yee, 3E