



CHIJ ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

2018

Dear SJC Community, as term 1 draws to a close, and we welcome March, here are highlights from our SJC February calendar.

Spring Celebrations at SJC

Chinese New Year is not simply a time of renewal and fresh beginnings for the year ahead, it is more importantly, a renewal of ties within school and to the wider community that we are a part of. Preparations for the Chinese New Year started weeks before with students and their form teachers coming together during a Character and Citizenship lesson to prepare gift hampers of food and snacks for the elderly from the IJ Home and Lions' Befrienders who accepted our yearly invitations to celebrate the occasion together with a luncheon and to be our guests at the CNY celebratory morning concert by students and staff.



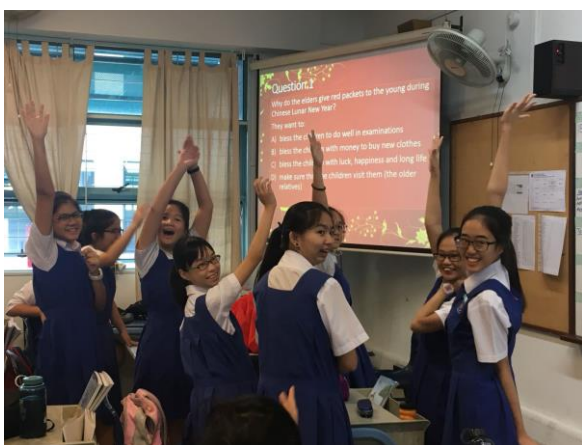
Celebrating with community partners



Adorable Lions heralding Joy and Good Tidings during the concert



Celebrations on the eve of the Chinese New Year started off with fun-filled classroom activities such as folding origami dogs which could be attached to greeting tags to be given away to our nearby residents during this festive period. Form teachers held friendly class competitions where students competed to answer the most number of questions related to the Chinese New Year customs and traditions. As has been our SJC tradition for the past 5 years, as a gesture of goodwill and blessings, form teachers handed out a pair of mandarin oranges to every student to wish them all the very best in the new year.



SJCians participating enthusiastically during the morning classroom activities



Fun folding origami dogs using recycled red packets

Following the classroom activities, teachers and students proceeded to the school hall for the highly anticipated celebration concert. The first programme in the lineup was a song medley presented by our school Band. Upon playing the piece *"The Arrival of God of Fortune"*, a God of Fortune, one of the Band seniors in disguise, appeared from the stage and playfully tossed sweets into the enthusiastic crowd.

The next performance was choreographed by a self-initiated group of our very own talented SJCians who volunteered to put up a modern dance item. They were beaming with confidence on stage and their enjoyment clearly rubbed off on the audience as evident from the loud cheering and applause. Three of our talented teachers, Mrs Png Nan Sy, Mr Andrew Teo and Mrs Joyce Goh (*see right*) lent their melodious voices to the occasion with a live rendition of popular CNY favourites which the crowd sang to.



Playful, much-loved CNY mascots

As a traditional festive custom, a lion dance troupe was invited to the school to put up a lion dance performance to ward off any bad luck and to bring in good health and prosperity for all in the school. While the lions were parading in the school hall, some of our SJCians playfully tapped on the backside of the lions! Not far away on the stage, the mascot of "the boy with the big head" was also mischievously pulling pranks on our school leaders when they were trying to give *ang pows* to the boy and this scene greatly tickled the crowd.

This year, the Mother Tongue Department collaborated with the Nutrition and Food Science Department, and the Culinary Arts Club to incorporate a special project for the Spring Festive celebration, a "Festive Culinary Competition". Pairs of budding student-chefs signed-up and competed good-naturedly and creatively to pit their culinary skills in conjuring up and preparing interesting CNY dishes. The dishes prepared were then scrutinized by three of our teacher-judges, Mr. Egg-cellent (Mr Otto Tham), Ms. All-I-Carrot-Bout-Is-Food (Ms Jeanette Ngoh) and Ms. I-Travel-For-Food (Ms Wong Yu Qing). The entire process was captured and edited on video and screened during the concert to the delight of the SJC community and our guests who were left in stitches.

All in all, the All in all, the Spring Festival celebration was a success and we wish all SJCians, families and friends a happy "PAWsporous" New Year ahead!

There are the Winners of the 2018 CNY Culinary Competition:

'Culinary Creativity' Category:

1. Jashinta Marcela Go, 2H
2. Ajeetha Feross, 4C
3. Clarissa Ann Arozoo, 1B
4. Monreal Edriacia Marie Tengco, 1B

Lower Secondary Category:

➤ 1st prize:

1. Teo Le Xin, 2G
2. Thadea Ellen Goh Yinn Hwee, 2G

Lower Secondary Category:

- **2nd prize:**
- 1. Ee Alexandria Faith, 2H
- 2. Jenell Png Xuan, 2H

Upper Secondary Category:

- **Grand Prize:**
- 1. Priscilla Lee, 4H
- 2. Tan Jia Xin, 4H
- 3. Terese Tok Wan Li, 4H

- **1st prize:**
- 1. La'Keysha Martina Lee, 4B
- 2. Renne Ling Ru Yu, 4B

- **2nd prize:**
- 1. Tay Yi Zhen Dilys, 3E
- 2. Tan Yi Hua 3H

Winners for the Creative Hamper-Making Competition:

1. Secondary 1: 1C
2. Secondary 2: 2A
3. Secondary 3: 3G
4. Secondary 4/5: 4G

Here are reflections from 2 of our student-participants:

When I first heard about the competition, I joked with some of my friends that we would join for the experience to put our 2 years of culinary skills to the test. Being F&N students, our practical examinations are just around the corner. We felt that this would help us to familiarise ourselves with the kitchen environment, and also the pressure of having to work under a time limit. Moreover, my teammates and I have a passion for food, cooking, and concocting dishes from scratch (though we may not be the best at it). Therefore, we entered the competition amidst all the stress of schoolwork and coursework and took the 'leap of faith'. My teammates and I have always been very close, and that is the reason why I think we worked so well together. Our brainstorming sessions were always fruitful. Though some ideas for the dish did not match up and even conflicted with each other at times, we came to a unanimous agreement and made the best out of it. Undeniably, I think our teamwork was one of the main reasons for our successful execution of the dishes in the end. Each of us had our own unique strengths that contributed towards the execution of the dish (some were strong in garnishing and perfecting dish presentation, some were strong in our cooking abilities, some were strong in ensuring that everything was running smoothly and nothing was chaotic).

The dishes we came up with were dishes that were all purely figments of our imagination. However, with one another's help, we executed them with an even greater ability on the day itself, and there were no major failures. We were confident in the success of our dish, but felt ambiguous about whether the dishes would win the competition. Our 'Yusheng from the West' and 'Towers of Wealth' weren't the most extravagant dishes, and the other contestants produced equally quality dishes. Nevertheless, regardless of the outcome, we were proud of our work at the end of the day.

*Receiving the results on our dish winning the Grand Prize did come as a shock to all three of us. It was only then that we realised not just how much the past 3 years of FCE and F&N had paid off in how far our skills had developed. **Moreover, we realised how teamwork really plays a key role in achieving a desired goal. To us, we really felt that our key takeaway from this competition was the spirit of teamwork and cohesion. From discussing our ideas, to finalising our dishes, to dividing up the work and executing the dish, I think my team was able to communicate very well with each other and understand one***

another; and that's why our fairly simple dish could have been worthy of such a title. The dishes were not just a potpourri of flavours, but also a potpourri of our efforts and perseverance.

More than feeling accomplished with the work we produced, we are all extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate in a cooking competition like this in our last year in SJC. Overall, we feel that this has been a one-of-a-kind experience that has really helped us to grow as F&N students and in our culinary journey thus far! - Priscilla Lee, 4H

*On the 30th of January, I took part in the Spring Festival Culinary Competition with my friend and teammate, Yihua. We spent quite a bit of time deciding what dishes we should prepare and what we should name them. In the end, we concluded that we should make a main course, "Cross the Bridge Noodles", and a dessert, "White Fungus with Osmanthus" respectively. Preparing the dishes during the competition itself wasn't an easy task as well. We almost did not finish our dish on time as we could not decide whether we should chill our dish or not. Despite that, we still managed to finish preparing our dishes and even achieved 2nd place amongst the upper secondary contestants! **I felt that this competition was very exciting and (especially) nostalgic as I got to work with my old FCE, D&T and lab partner from lower sec once again.** - Tay Yi Zhen Dilys, 3E*

CCA MILESTONE CHECKS - FENCING FRIENDLIES AT CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE

As part of the Fencing CCA's milestone checks, SJC Fencing has been engaging in competitive friendlies.



Competing at CJC

On 26th January 2018, 20 upper sec students from our fencing club represented the school in a friendly fencing competition hosted by Catholic Junior College. We competed in the Foil and Epee swords categories to give our students more opportunities to compete against other schools and as preparation for the upcoming National Inter-School competitions later in March this year.

For this round of competition, our fencers competed against fencers from schools such as Catholic Junior College and Madrassah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah (MAI).

Despite this being a friendly competition, our students took the competition seriously as they were, nonetheless, representing the school and themselves. They competed ferociously to win, were humble in victory and gracious in defeat. The competition gave them a chance to see where they stood against peers of their same age, and also a chance to push themselves harder when fencing against Junior College girls who were older and of stronger physique. This fencing friendly also gave our students a chance to interact with students from other schools to learn more about their school culture and also serve as an informal way to learn about the pre-tertiary lifestyle from their CJC seniors at our affiliated JC, CJC.



Our students appreciate this friendly fencing competition at CJC and we hope to continue such friendly competitions.

NPCC ADVENTURE AND SURVIVAL TRAINING CAMP

From 9-11 February 2018, our Secondary 2 and 3 cadets attended the Adventure and Survival Training Camp respectively, at Camp Resilience at Pulau Ubin.

In the days leading up to the camp, there was much apprehension amongst the Secondary 2 cadets, particularly as this was to be their first outdoor camp. Fears soon evaporated as they set foot on the island. As we embarked on our 4.3km hike to the campsite, spirits were high and there was much singing, led by the Secondary 3 seniors.

Once they reached the campsite, the cadets started to put their camp-craft skills to good use, putting up tents which would be their homes for the next 2 days.



In line with the camp's objective of building resilience among campers, our cadets participated in a series of adventure programmes to develop ruggedness, self-resilience, teamwork and leadership skills.

Here are the very thoughtful and frank reflections from our NPCC cadets.

This was my first time camping outdoors and also the first time doing rock climbing. It required tremendous perseverance and you have to continuously push yourself to climb further up.

– Lcpl (NPCC) Adishree Archana, 2G

I learned how to prioritise my work to manage my time better and finish my work on time.

– Lcpl (NPCC) Shaw Aradhana



Secondary 2 cadets attempting the Low Ropes Challenge and Rock Wall Climbing.

I need to have the resilience to overcome challenges that I face. We should take the initiative to step out of our comfort zone to speak to others and lead in discussions.

– Lcpl (NPCC) Chua Shu Hui Jessica



Secondary 3 cadets challenged themselves with the Double Flying Fox, Advanced Ropes Challenge and Land Expedition.

One of the important things that I learned is to step out of my comfort zone and take initiative, something which I currently lack. – Cpl (NPCC) Jaslyn Yap Huei Wen, 3H

I have learned to take ownership of my actions and how they can impact others. Persevering through all the challenges has also made me more resilient. – Cpl (NPCC) Nur Syafeena Bte Muhammad T, 3C



Tired but happy and satisfied cadets and their teacher-leaders at the end of an exciting camp.