According to early Roman calendar, April was the second month but became fourth when they started to use January as the first month. The name originally came from the Latin word *Aprilis*, meaning 'to open'. In some parts of the world, April is planting time but in other parts, it is the harvest season. People usually do huge spring cleaning and mowing.

Here are some interesting facts about April I have collected for pleasure reading.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- The zodiac signs for April are Aries (March 21 - April 19) and Taurus (April 20 - May 20).
- Mathematics Awareness Month
- April 1 - April Fools' Day
- April 4, 1949 - the North Atlantic Treaty was signed.
- April 5 - Arbor Day
- April 6, 1917 - The United States declared war on Germany in World War I.
- April 18 - Good Friday - the Friday before Easter Sunday
- April 19, 1755 - The Revolutionary War in America began.

In SJC, there are also various events celebrated such as International Friendship Day on 4th April of Friday and our 13th Awards Ceremony for our outstanding students on 5 April. Good Friday is also celebrated on 18th of April and not to miss is our very own Concert Band’s concert on the 25th of April.

Lydia Lim (3F)
On 14th of April, forty students and four teachers, hailing from Shun Li Catholic High School in Hong Kong, came to CHIJ SJC. Consisting of both boys and girls, the students joined the eight Secondary Three classes for a day in groups of five. Here are some of their interviews.

Genevieve Au (3G)

During their lunch break, we managed to catch a group of male students for a brief interview.

I: What do you think of Singapore?
Singapore is very nice but the weather is very hot.

I: What do you think of CHIJ SJC, the teachers and students?
The teachers are very good and efficient. They have a lot of interaction with the students. They talked to us (the Hong Kong students) a lot, making us feel welcomed.

I: Is it hard conversing in English? How many languages do you know?
Definitely not but speaking Cantonese is definitely easier for us. We are all trilingual and know how to speak Cantonese, English and Mandarin. In school, both Cantonese and English are used by the teachers to teach us but not Mandarin.

I: Would you want to come to Singapore again? Would you like it if SJC girls go over to Hong Kong?
Of course we want to come back here again. We would also like it if you would come to Hong Kong.

I: Name one similarity and one difference between Singapore and Hong Kong.
The fact that English is widely used in schools is one similarity. However, in comparison, Hong Kong is more congested than Singapore. The flats in Hong Kong are also considerably smaller than Singapore's.
I: Did you have fun staying in Singapore? Why?
Yes, I had fun visiting all the different places and the culture is very nice. I enjoyed taking a lot of pictures, especially Gardens by the Bay. I really like that but the weather is too blistering.

I: Do you like the students here in Singapore? Why?
Yes because they are very warm and we are not awkward with each other. I had fun talking, eating and studying with them.

To be continued
I: What would you suggest to have a better trip?
I would suggest going to more places in Singapore. I would like to see a nice view of Singapore.

I: What would you miss about Singapore and would you like to come back?
Gardens by the Bay! I would also miss the delicious food and you, Jaslyn. Yes, if I have the chance to, I would definitely want to come back. One day, I may even visit Universal Studios Singapore with my parents.

Jaslyn Tan (3B)

Another of our girls interviewed two more boys, Michael and Sam.

I: Was the weather in Singapore the same as Hong Kong?
M: Obviously, it’s not the same because Singapore is located nearer to the Equator. Hong Kong has four seasons but Singapore only has summer.

I: Is Singapore really that hot to you?
M: It’s extremely hot for me. The temperature is like always around 30 degrees Celsius.

I: How was your experience in Singapore for the past five days?
M: It’s marvelous! We learnt more about Singapore such as its culture and cuisines. The students were very enthusiastic and talkative. They chatted with us actively and we talked about everything. We also tried the different cuisines. It’s really good and I want to travel to Singapore again!

I: What did you like most in Singapore?
M: I like the efforts made by the government in conserving energy and developing renewable energy. I do appreciate it because it can relieve the impacts of global warming. If many countries follow, the earth can be more healthier and we can enjoy fresher air. I hope that the efforts made by the government can influence other countries.

I: Did you have fun in Singapore?
S: Of course, I had fun. Visiting your school is the most unforgettable experience for me. Your school’s teaching methods and schoolmates are different from Hong Kong’s. I am interested in discovering more about your school. Also, I have learnt the Malay language which enrich my knowledge base.

Natasha Samri (3B)
Ever since 1935, the world has been celebrating International Friendship Day. Devoted to commemorating friendship, this day is special for all those who believe in celebrating this special bond among friends. Here in CHIJ Saint Joseph’s Convent, we give importance to cultivating strong friendship amongst the student body. Hence, on the 4th of April, the school arranged a small story telling session by a team of multiracial students telling us more about their respective country’s legends.

After morning assembly, a group of Indonesian, Burmese, Philipinnes, Indian and Singaporean schoolmates appeared to share stories that were full of morals and values which educate us to be the person that we should be. There was an Indonesian story shared that particularly touched me. It was about a mother and her son who were very poor. The mother had worked very hard to raise and provide for her child. However, after he grew up, he started to neglect his mother upon becoming rich. This led to his mother cursing him, resulting in him asking her for forgiveness. Yet, when he bent down to ask her for forgiveness, he turned into stone. I think that he turned to stone because of the fact that he had hurt his mother’s feelings and apologizing for his behaviour would not make up for the sadness he caused her. Therefore, this story imparts the value of respect for our parents. Everybody should respect their parents no matter what condition they are in.

There was another story that was particularly interesting because it’s closer to home. It was the story shared by our Singaporean schoolmate, entitled Sisters’ Island. From the title, you can probably guess that this story is about two sisters who were very close.

Minah and Linah were so close to each other that they promised to live together forever. Even when they were forced to part because of a pirate chief, the sisters fought to be with each other. The end result was the tragic deaths of the two sisters and two islands were named 'Sisters' Island'. This story tells us about the sacrifices that you make for your family, no matter the consequences. It shows that you are willing to fight for your family.

This International Friendship day was memorable because of the beautiful and fascinating folktales which were shared. I think all credits should go to our fellow international schoolmates for giving us a piece of their country’s rich culture.

Devika Bora (3F) and Devanshi Joshi (1D)
Vocaloid (ボーカロイド) is a singing voice synthesizer which is famous in Japan. The software enables users to synthesize singing by typing in lyrics and melodies. It uses synthesizing technology with recorded vocals of voice actors or singers. To create a song, the user must input a melody and lyrics into the system. Each Vocaloid is sold as "a singer in a box", replacing the actual singer.

The first album to be released using a full commercial Vocaloid was ‘A Place in the Sun’, which used Leon's voice for the vocals singing in both Russian and English. The software was originally only available in English starting with the first Vocaloids Leon, Lola and Miriam. One of the Vocaloid albums, “Exit Tunes Presents Vocalogenesis feat. Hatsune Miku”, debuted at No. 1 on the Japanese weekly Oricon albums chart in May 2010, becoming the first Vocaloid album ever to top the charts. The album sold 23,000 copies in its first week of release and eventually sold 86,000 copies.

With the huge popularity of these Vocaloids, many products are out there promoting it such as figures, paper crafts, key chains, posters and many more! There are many games as well that promote or let you interact with the characters of Vocaloid. Games like Project DIVA for the PSP, Project DIVA-F for PsVita, Project Mirai for the 3DS and many mobile OS games likes Miku flick and Hatsune Miku Live Stage Producer are just some of the games made relates to Vocaloid.

Samantha Gomes (2B)
After “You Who Came from the Stars”’s immense popularity, more attention have been placed onto Korean culture, especially their famous Kpop bands.

**Infinite (인피니트)** is a seven-member South Korean pop boy band, formed in 2010 by Woollim Entertainment. The group comprises of seven members, Sung-kyu (Leader and Main Vocalist), Dongwoo (Main Rapper), Woohyun (Main Vocalist), Hoya (Main Dancer), Sungyeol (Vocalist), L (Vocalist and Visual) and Sung-jong (Vocalist and Maknae).

Their most recent mini-album, New Challenge, has sold over 160,000 copies in Korea alone and was one of the best-selling albums of 2013. Other of their best-sounding and catchy songs are ‘Be Mine’, ‘Nothing’s Over’, ‘Destiny’, ‘BTD (Before The Dawn)’ and ‘Man in Love’.

On January 16 2014, Mnet released a preview for the group's new reality show, "This is INFINITE", and on February 6, the show aired its first broadcast. This was their first variety show as a group since Ranking King. The group also announced that they will be making a comeback in April during the concert. On February 20th 2014 broadcast of "This is INFINITE", a short prologue video was shown featuring Woohyun and Shinee's Key, introducing a new sub unit, Toheart which debuted on March 10 2014.

**EXO (엑소)** is a South Korean-Chinese boy band produced by S.M. Entertainment. Formed in 2011 in Seoul, South Korea, EXO comprises twelve members separated into two subgroups, EXO-K and EXO-M, performing music in Korean and Mandarin, respectively. There are eight Korean members and four Chinese members in EXO, the leaders being Suho and Kris, a Korean and Chinese respectively. Their name was taken from exoplanet, a term referring to planets outside of the Solar System.

With XOXO, their first album, EXO became the youngest boy band ever to win Album of the Year at the Mnet Asian Music Awards, a prestigious Korean award ceremony. Some of their best songs are Wolf, Growl, MAMA and Baby Don’t Cry.

Carmen Chan (1E)
Welcome to Hollywood world, where all the latest news about your celebrity is updated. Join us for exciting stories, gossips and most probably romance ;)

**Justin Bieber Arrested**

Justin Bieber was arrested in Florida on January 23 2014 on suspicion of driving under the influence and drag racing in a residential area of Miami Beach. He was allegedly in a rented yellow Lamborghini at the time and told cops he had taken antidepressants, drank a beer and was smoking marijuana all day. I really think they are over-exaggerating all these information about him. He made a mistake but they’re making it sound as though he committed murder. I find it completely ridiculous. What are your thoughts?

**Miley Cyrus lashes out at Katy Perry in Twitter feud**

It all started at Cyrus' Bangerz tour show at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where the singer spotted Perry in the front row, hopped offstage and leaned in for a quick kiss. Apparently the kiss was a little too hot-and-heavy for Perry, who commented, "I just walked up to her to give her a friendly girly kiss. You know as us girls do. And then she like tried to move her head and go deeper and I pulled away." "God knows where that tongue has been!" Those comments were spotted by Cyrus who in return said, “Girl if you’re worried about where tongues have been good thing your ex boo is your EX BOO cause we ALL know where THAT [tongue emoji] been," Cyrus quipped, referring to Perry's ex-boyfriend, John Mayer. Sounds pretty intense, don’t you think?

**Jessie J celebrates her 26th birthday with a concert**

Rather than putting her feet up and allowing herself to be pampered and spoilt, Jessie chose to celebrate her 26th birthday in the company of her devoted Heartbeats yesterday by throwing an impromptu gig at Oslo in Hackney yesterday evening, just a few hours after she announced it on Twitter. Clearly feeling overwhelmed by the love, Jessie told her followers: “Too many messages to reply to them all! Thank you for your kind wishes and love! I will enjoy every bit of today! Promise.' I think she is extremely beautiful and I can’t wait for her next album. Check out the show and tell me what you think :)
Brain Power

Your IQ, which stands for Intelligence Quotient, is a scientific assessment of your intelligence derived from standardized tests that measure problem-solving abilities, spatial imagery, memory, general knowledge, and other factors. While there are limits based on native intelligence levels, recent studies have shown that it is possible to increase your intelligence.

These are some of the ways to boost your intelligence levels:

**Take risks with your brain.**

Have you become a Scrabble master, able to toss out 40-point words even when your rack looks like EEIOAUC? Fine, congratulations. Now go become a Sudoku master. When you reach that goal, move on. Become a Go master, or a chess expert.

Once you become good at a particular skill, your brain stops working as hard as before. It does not expend the resources, or trigger that dopamine rush that helps make you smarter. Feel free to continue to wallop the competition in Scrabble, but keep finding new "brain games" to explore.

**Do logic and lateral thinking puzzles.**

These help you explore new areas, and solve problems in different ways. Practice crosswords and Sudoku. These activities stimulate your mind and thought processes. People may not normally consider word searches thought-provoking, but if practiced in addition to other mind games, they could prove to be easy and stimulating.

Try cryptology, for example. This is when a message is written in codes and you try to figure it out. It is challenging for some, but after a while may even become enjoyable. All logic puzzles are great.

**Play video games.**

Games can be a great way to stimulate the brain. Try to play a game that is out of your usual range of choice such as Flow and Deemo. It will help you think differently. Especially look for games that provide you with problems to solve or force you to think quickly.

http://mcb.berkeley.edu/courses/mcb61/HumanBrain.jpg

Andrea Yap (IF)