

# The STEPHENIAN



Issue 12 • Term 1 Jan – March 2006

## The Principal's Message

2005 was a good year for St Stephen's School. In our pursuit to provide our pupils with a holistic education, we did well in both the academic and non-academic areas.

At the 2005 PSLE, our teachers and pupils did us proud by achieving 100% passes enabling all our boys to continue their education in secondary schools. 77% of our pupils are posted to our CBS-affiliated secondary schools – St Joseph's Institution and St Patrick's School. Another 6% of our pupils are in Raffles Institution, Dunman High and Victoria Schools.

In 2005, St. Stephen's attained the MOE Programme for School-based Excellence Award for achievement in Track-and-Field. Our boys performed outstandingly in the 2005 National Track-and-Field and clinched the 'C' Division championship. They also emerged third and fourth in the 'D' and 'B' Divisions respectively.

We congratulate our boys on the different successes in their personal goals and for the school. Well done, Stephenians! The school year came to a close with the School Carnival. We extend our grateful appreciation and thanks to SPARK, our parent support group, and all other parents for their generous assistance in 2005. Thank you, parents!



## Our strategic focus for 2006 is 'Building Relationships, Developing Capacity'

Our strategic focus for 2006 is 'Building Relationships, Developing Capacity'. In school, we will work towards building quality relationships with our pupils and among staff members. We will continue the work we began last year in strengthening relationships with our parents and other stakeholders, and together work towards creating an even more conducive learning environment to enable our boys to develop their capacity to the fullest.



The school will continue to provide our boys with a holistic education and help each of them to grow to be fine young men we can all be proud of. The Cooperative Learning and Multiple Intelligences approaches will be used to reinforce pupil-centred learning and character development, and address the different learning styles of our pupils.

Our teachers will continue to develop themselves professionally and as individuals. The school will work closely with MOE and NIE to achieve these goals.

We will also continue to organise workshops for parents to enable them to support the school in providing our pupils with a sound education and in "learning how to learn and to learn how to live" and to nurture our boys to become "Men for Others".

We at St Stephen's ask for your prayers, support and cooperation to enable us to do the work we have planned. Wishing you God's great love and blessings always.

Credere Et Servire  
(To Believe, To Serve)

Fang Swee Im (Ms)

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**To Believe, To Serve**

## Inaugural Service



On 16 Jan this year, St. Stephen's School welcomed its new students and staff to the school. The whole school looked on proudly as the prefects solemnly took their oath of service. Let's see what our Head Prefect and Vice-head Prefect have to say:



*"I thank the school for trusting me with this responsibility. I will strive to set a good example for my fellow students and try my best to improve school discipline."*

Gerald Quek, 6I



*"I treasure this opportunity to serve St. Stephen's and be a role model to my juniors."*

Cong Jie Fu, 6P

## And bidding farewell to the old ...

## Here Come The MEN IN BLACK

As 2005 came to a close, the P6 teachers organized the first-ever graduation ceremony and party. The theme was MEN IN BLACK. The boys may not be galaxy defenders but they sure were dressed to kill.

The P6 boys were treated to a sumptuous buffet spread with something to cater to every taste bud. There were breakfast cereals with yoghurt or fresh milk, fruit tartlets, chicken pies, chocolate éclairs, bee hoon and ... the list goes on.

Entertainment was provided in the form of a masquerade fashion show by the P6 teachers as well as a song by Gerard Nadeau. A graduation party wouldn't be fun without a lucky draw and door gifts, and the kind contributions from school staff ensured that no one went home empty-handed that day. More importantly, everyone left with memories that were priceless.





# Little Things Parents Can Do

With parents being so busy at work and especially in families where both parents are working, it may be difficult to find time to interact with children and to build quality relationships. Here are some suggestions you may wish to try.



## Personal Introductions

Many children have vague ideas about their parents' work, interests or hobbies. They also don't know much about their parents' friends or life at school. Introduce yourselves and let your children know you better.



## Build Capacity

Identify one or two areas you can help each child to work on this year. Discuss this with your spouse and together set goals with each child. Review this quarterly with each child.



## Show Appreciation

Get together with the family once a month, or a term, and take turns to praise and thank each family member for things they have done well or put effort in. Alternatively, plan for everyone to leave little thank you messages on each other's bed or at the breakfast table on a Sunday. Extend this and ask each person to think of a blessing from God during the week and share this.



## Pray together

Take a few minutes to pray together at meal times, in the mornings or evenings. Include others in your prayers, such as the school, friends and colleagues. Teach children to care for others.



## Speak Positively

Speak positively about your child's school, the teachers, the parish priest, your colleagues and relatives. Children are influenced by your perceptions. Worse still, they may become your worst critics.



## Table talk

Make time to have lunch or dinner together at least once a week or a month. Prepare a simple but special meal (a roast chicken or something the family enjoys). Talk about your work and current events around the world. Ask your child for updates on school.



## Discuss ambitions

Ask each child what he wants to be when he grows up. Help him think about his interests and talents. Respect the changes he makes each year as he grows.



## Get to know your child's friends

Learn the names of 5 of each child's friends and invite them home. Children are happy with cookies and drinks. Praise them and say nice things about your children and their friends.



## Create quiet time

Create quiet time for the family. There is no need to always talk. Reading together in the same room or simply being with them when they do homework will result in good bonding.



# St. Stephen's Brass Band



St. Stephen's Brass Band started in June 1999. It provides a platform for Stephenians to acquire musical and performance skills. Over the years, the band has proved itself to be an excellent one, winning Gold awards in the SYF Youth Festivals in 2002 and 2004. In 2004, it was also awarded the title of "Best Brass Band". Inculcating a sense of duty towards the community is also one of the band's objectives. To this end, our boys have performed at the National University Hospital in conjunction with the opening of the Children's Cancer Foundation and at various community functions.

The current strength of the band stands at 35 and efforts are on going to recruit boys who are interested in developing and honing their performance skills. The band is constantly on the lookout for boys with the right attitude who have what it takes to achieve musical and performance excellence in a caring and nurturing environment.

The school has also recently hired the services of top bandmaster David Glosz (an old boy of the school). Mr. Glosz brings with him a wealth of experience in training top school bands and band-members. Practicing twice a week, for 2 to 3 hours per session, the band aims to once again scale the heights of excellence in the 2006 SYF Brass Band competition.



In 2006, the boys will be able to look forward to many exciting activities as part of their training. Working together with the band-members' parents, we know that we can provide the best conditions for the boys to develop their potential to the fullest.

## Presenting ... Our New Teachers and Staff



### Welcome

Clockwise from top left:  
 Ms Rosy Tan (Administrative staff) ,  
 Mr Darren Sandosham (EL teacher),  
 Mdm Naasirah (Contract teacher),  
 Mr Yam C M (Operations Manager),  
 Mrs Magness (EL teacher),  
 Mdm Chien Chia Yuh (CL teacher),  
 Ms Mashita (Administrative Staff),  
 Mdm Jiang Jian (CL teacher),  
 Ms Benji Chan (IT trainer),  
 Mr Chrispian Tirtamaya (NIE trainee),  
 Ms Eileen Leong (NIE trainee) and  
 Mr Dexter Cheng (Contract teacher) (not in picture).

### Happy Retirement

Mdm Hazel Lim

### Farewell

Miss Siow Chin Chin, Mdm Ang Geok Peng,  
 Mrs Audrey Yap and Mr Francis Tay



# School Events



Chinese New Year Celebration



Meet-the-Parents Sessions for P1 – P6



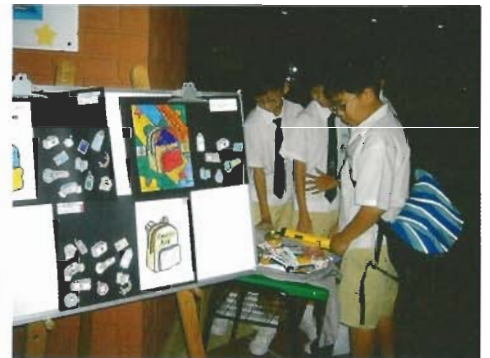
'Jack and the Juggling Giant' by  
Dramaplus Arts



World Scouts' Day




Language Workshop for Parents



Total Defence Day –  
Preparing the Ready Bag

# Our House System

This year, St. Stephen's started the house system. Four saints have been selected to represent the four houses. They are:

-  St. Sebastian – patron saint of athletes
-  St. Ambrose – patron saint of learning
-  St. Luke – patron saint of artists
-  St. Thomas – patron saint of students

With the implementation of the House System, we hope to move teachers & pupils beyond the class and level so as to build relationships and team spirit throughout the school. This will also provide pupils with various role models and mentors and give them more opportunities for teamwork and cooperation with their fellow Stephenians.



Today in History –  
Sharing the Story behind the Banana Notes



APLEC-Sharing at SJJ



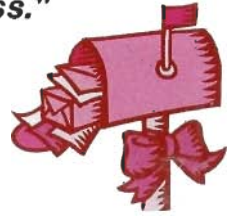
# Reflections from Heads of Department

***"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, making people happy and healthy."***

– King Solomon, The Wise

***"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."***

– Mother Teresa,  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient



Appreciation is one of the most important ways to build self esteem, confidence and motivation. "Appreciators" are natural people-builders! (CARE Program)

If there is something our staff has done well, do share it with us. We would like to affirm them!

## A Note to Parents ...

### School Activities before 7.30 am

As in 2004, the morning programme in school starts at 7.20 am. These activities help to:

- settle our boys down and prepare them for the start of school
- expose our pupils to other dimensions of learning, such as music, facts on Singapore, warm-up exercises, stories and reflections shared by teachers and pupils. For the music component, pupils have been listening to Mozart this term and many are able to identify his works and even hum them!
- showcase their talents and help them grow in confidence

We also make our morning announcements before flag-raising at 7.30 am to enable class to start punctually at 7.40 am. We appeal to parents for their cooperation and help in ensuring our boys are in school before 7.20 am.

### Acceptable Classroom Behaviour

Some teachers have mentioned that teaching can be a challenge when boys adopt defiant or disruptive behaviours during lessons or consistently hand in late or careless work. We have also received feedback from parents on boys who require additional help or attention in school. We are working with parents on specific ways to address these matters. We appreciate the support given to us in helping to establish a conducive learning environment at St Stephen's for all our pupils. Let us work together to build capacity for our boys.

### Water Safety

Of late, several articles have appeared in the papers regarding children drowning in Singapore. In school, we plan to ensure that all our P4 boys will be able to swim by the year-end. We will also be holding a talk on water safety for the children. While our boys should not be unduly concerned, they need to be cautioned on safe behaviour in and around water.

### Sports Day

Our staff and pupils are working hard in preparation of Sports Day which will be held on 21 April at Bedok Sports Stadium. We would like to invite all parents of P3 to P6 boys to take time off from work and join us in this school event. Do come in your children's house colours and lend support to their respective houses. Points will be given to the houses for parent participation. Come join us in building the Stephenian Spirit!