

The STEPHENIAN



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50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Sports Fiesta, 17 March 2007

St Stephen's School's 50th Anniversary Celebrations kicked off to a roaring start with a Sports Fiesta. Held on the school grounds, the event featured a wide range of interactive sports-related activities. The objectives of the day were the promotion of a healthy and fun lifestyle and raising funds to enhance our school facilities.

Family participation was encouraged at game stalls which included virtual games for young and old in a test of skills and dexterity. Clinic sessions were also held to encourage participants to pick up a sport such as golf, archery and kids' athletics. There were also wellness programmes such as yoga and foot reflexology to cater to all.



Former and current boys and athletes cycled for their alma mater in the 500km on-the-spot Cyclathon Challenge to represent St. Stephen's 50 years of growth. Our boys were given the opportunity to pit their skills in the testosterone-laden soccer games against current and former national and soccer league players such as Bashir Khan, Noh Alam Shah and Nazri Nasir and Amos Boon. The 5-a-side soccer tournament organised by our former boys and sponsored by NTUC was a hit with our boys. As Matthew Yeoh Lai Hsin of 5N succinctly put it, "The 5-a-side soccer was the most memorable event. It was fun!"



Golf Tournament, 27 April 2007

The SSS Golf Tournament was held at the Tanah Merah Country Club Tampines Course. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. George Yeo, an ex-Stephenian, had accepted our invitation to grace the event as our Guest-of-Honour. However, as he was unable to attend the golf tournament due to an urgent official overseas visit, Mdm Cynthia Phua, MP for Aljunied GRC, was invited to be the special guest.



Although many did not complete the 18-hole due to inclement weather, the participants enjoyed themselves tremendously interacting with one another. Our staff also helped raise funds by selling golf T-shirts as well as other novelty items. The golf tournament concluded with a prize-giving dinner.

The school would like to extend its gratitude to the golfers for their generosity.

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To Believe, To Serve

School Events

Our school events are held to mark special occasions or days. They were designed to ensure that our PIES are constantly nurtured. What are PIES? They are an acronym for P (Physical), I (Intellectual), E (Emotional) and S (Spiritual) development of each and every Stephenian.

Sports Day

Our 49th Annual Athletic Meet was a joint collaboration among the Social Studies, National Education and PE Departments. Some pupils and staff from Bhavan Indian International School, Sekolah Indonesia Singapura and Katong School were invited to participate in the novelty events. Pupils from Bhavan International and Sekolah Indonesia Singapura also took part in the relay events and march past. Our pupils had a wonderful and enriching time mingling with our guests. The exchange also enabled our pupils to learn more about the culture of our international guests. The whole event reflected the true meaning of "International Friendship".



Founder's Day

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the School, the Founder's Day Mass was celebrated by five priests who are former students of the school. The main celebrant was Msgr. Eugene Vaz and the con-celebrants were Fr. Johnson, Fr. Adrian Yeo, Fr. Damian and Fr. Valerian. The procession of twenty altar-servers led by Bro Collin Wee, also an old boy of the School, carrying the relic of our Founder into the school hall added to the pomp of the occasion. In his homily, Msgr. Vaz reminded us of the importance of character-building of a person and the presence of God in our lives. After the Mass, the priests joined the school in watching a skit put up by some of the students.



Pirates Day

Pirates Day was an exciting learning adventure for the pupils of Primary One. Wearing their easy-to-make vest and eye-patch, the boys carried out activities like comparing the masses of bags of treasure and making words from the word PIRATE!

Wear-a-Book Day

Wear-a-Book Day was organised by the Media and Resource Library Department for all teachers and students to share their favourite book with one other. Teachers and students designed a book cover: the front cover featured their favourite book and the back cover a recommendation or review of the book. During recess, teachers and students mingled in the canteen and promoted their favourite book. Some students even distributed 'namecards' of their favourite book.



Achievements

President's Cup National Soccer Tournament 2007

Our junior and senior divisions participated in the national competition. The boys expected tough opposition but played their hearts out for the school. The matches were indeed competitive and so the boys were up to the mark once again. The strength of the teams lies in teamwork that was evident in all the games.

The junior boys came in third and the senior boys fourth in the competition, commendable placing for both teams. Well done, boys! Our boys also took part in H-Two-O International Mini Football Carnival on 29 May and emerged as East Zone champions!



The school would like to thank our soccer coaches, Coach Suresh, Coach Puvanesh and Coach Michael for their tireless efforts in guiding the teams through all the matches. Former Stephenians themselves, the coaches reminisced the time when they were the feared team. Today, we have come full circle. Stephenians are a force to reckon with!



Athletics

In the 8th National Inter-Primary Schools' Relay (2007), our D Division boys ran to the 2nd position in the 4x100m and 5th in the 6x80m relays. Our C Division boys came in 4th in the 6x80 m and 4x100 m relays. We emerged 4th overall in the boys' division.

In the Akira Swift 54th Annual track and Field Championship 2007, St Stephen's bagged 4 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals.

Wushu

Bryan Lim of Primary 6SD represented St Stephen' School in the Wushu Tournament held at Tao Nan Primary School in March 2007. Bryan came in 2nd (Silver Medallist) in the Nan Cadgel International Routine and 4th (Bronze medal) in the Nan Quan International routine events.



Friendly Cup Day-and-Night Cricket Carnival 2007 (Malaysia) 26 – 29 June 2007

Six Stephenians participated in a friendly tournament in Kuala Lumpur. Despite facing stiff opposition from teams from Malaysia and a combined team of expatriate pupils from Australia and New Zealand, our school Teams 1 and 2 managed to clinch the Championship and 1st Runner-Up positions respectively.

Kudos to our six representatives Chirath, Siddarth, Harsh Kackar, Simar, Lakshan and Siddantha for doing St. Stephen's proud.

Learning Journeys and Camps

Learning journeys extend our knowledge beyond the textbooks and add depth to our understanding of the world. Our pupils are physically engaged in their learning and connect with the lessons emotionally, and even spiritually too, at times. Such learning may take place locally or internationally as some of our pupils were lucky enough to experience this June holiday. This is especially evident in learning that takes place beyond our shores.



Integrated Curriculum Educational Tour to Malacca, 24 – 26 May 2007

Our P5 and P6 HMT Malay and Tamil language boys went to the historical city of Malacca and experienced a traditional kampong lifestyle in Little India as well as Malay Village. They had a taste of rubber tapping and partook of authentic traditional local Peranakan, Malay and Indian cuisines. The boys also visited various places of worship and made a trip to a Baba and Nyonya Museum which took them back to the rich typical Peranakan house of 19th century.

They visited three schools, Sacred Heart Convent, St Francis Xavier (a Lasallian school) and Bukit Baru Primary School, where they interacted, exchanged ideas and mingled with local pupils while making new friends. Our pupils were touched by their warm, hospitable and friendly nature. They garnered knowledge and brought home fond memories of the rich culture, history and heritage of Malacca.

Leadership Camp, 28 – 29 May 2007

We collaborated with South East CDC on a pilot project on management leadership training. During the two-day camp, the pupils were put through a series of leadership-oriented workshops and exposed to skills like communications, team-building, event management and life skills.

Pupils not only sat through a series of theory-based workshops, they were also provided with experiential activities that required them to reflect both as a team and individually after the activities.



Perth Trip, 1 – 8 June 2007

The beautiful Australian city of Perth played host to 28 Stephenians of the school's brass band. Our boys toured Perth where they received insights into some of the interesting facets of the city, its history and development.



They also spent a day in the countryside experiencing the cool winter morning amidst the horses and sheep.

While there, the boys had the privilege of performing for the people of Perth. These included a public performance at the much-visited Whiteman Park. They received a good reception to the lively music they performed before proceeding to an open air barbecue lunch!

Our boys also visited three schools and graced each visit with rousing performances which were cheered on by the very warm and friendly Australian school children.

Schools they visited were La Salle College, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School and the Walpole Primary School. Our boys also had an opportunity to mingle with the children there. Indeed, they have made wonderful friendships and memories to last a lifetime!

Staff Activities

Teacher Renewal

A *Call to Renewal* is a gift to teachers to re-orient, renew and re-enter the service. Many of us could not envision 'taking time off' for renewal as we view time as a luxury and not a necessity. So time was 'made and set aside' for us.



In November 2006, our staff went on a 2-day (residential) renewal journey at Copthorne Hotel, a far cry from the hustle and bustle of the daily grind that culminated in the school's graduation ceremony.



At the start of 2007, we went to East Coast Park for a booster programme to inject enthusiasm and for us to re-energise ourselves as we face the coming year. The second booster took us on a journey to the Botanic Gardens where we nurtured our PIES once again while communing with nature.

St Stephen's Bowling Championship

The St. Stephen's School Bowling Championship took place at Safra Mount Faber on 22 May 2007. Ms Fang and Mdm Loe, were there to start the ball rolling. A total of 53 players participated in the championship. It was a time for camaraderie and bonding as teachers competed for their houses: St Ambrose, St Luke, St Sebastian and St Thomas.

The winner of the bowling competition was Mr Thomas Foo, with a score of 168. The 1st runner up was Mr James Chan, followed by Mr Yusoff, Mr Firshah and last but not least Mr Chrispian. St Thomas House bowled its way to the top spot.



Understanding by Design Workshop (UbD) by Dr Susan Adler

Another enriching time was spent with Dr Adler gleaning from her the wealth of experience she had as a follow-up to last year's 3-day workshop. Teachers from the East Cluster shared their fruitful, albeit sometimes challenging, attempts at using the 'Understanding By Design' framework in their schools. Each of us was able to take away priceless advice from the various participating schools. This in turn would now propel our efforts in making the framework more a part of our classroom pedagogy. Furthermore, Dr Adler's valuable inputs and words of wisdom will provide guidance as we continue in our UbD learning journey.

Staff News



Farewell:

Miss Edna Lee Xin Fen, Miss Hong Hui Ling, Miss Sharon Tan and Mr Chow who will be pursuing their studies at NIE

Retirement:

We wish Ms Tan Boey Ee a happy retirement.

Birth

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Tayeb on the birth of their third daughter, Marina.

Welcome:

Back row (from left): Mdm Yang Yi Qun, Ms Ma Huimin, Ms Goh Ka Bee, Ms Chan Huey Min, Mdm Norhazli Ramli, Mdm Sun, Ms Safarina Satar, Ms Jasmine Soliano. Front Row (from left): Mr Paul Low, Mr Michael Chow

Congratulations to the following teachers on their recent promotion:

Mrs Jaysree, Mr Terence Tng, Mrs Selvi Peters, Bro Jeffrey Chan, Ms Audrey Wee, Ms Rozita, Ms Nicole Tham, Mr Firshah, Mr Stephen Tan, Ms Sharon Thia, Mrs Tan Chor Kheng, Mdm Michelle Yeo, Mrs Katherine Michael, Mdm Gladys Tay, Mdm Jiang Jian, Mdm Junainah, Ms Christine Tan, Ms Rosidah, Mr Lesslar, Mdm Lim Ee Chen, Mdm Suriani, Ms Janet D'Silva, Mdm Chien CY, Mr Yusoff, Mrs Sandran, Ms Gladys Tay, Ms Christine Tan and Mr Gan XG.

A Note to Parents ...

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Grateful thanks to all our parents and pupils, both past and present, and well-wishers for all the encouragement, support and help given to make our Sports Fiesta, Founder's Day Celebrations and Golf Tournament a success. We hope that these events will become good memories of your association with St Stephen's School.

On 30 Jun, we will be holding yet another event to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. In Celebration of Youth Concert will showcase the art and music programmes in the school. The event includes the sale and silent auction of art pieces done by staff and pupils and some of our pupils will portray characters from famous art pieces. Proceeds from the sale of artwork and postcards and silent auction will be donated to the Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer. Do join us for another round of celebrations.

Subject-Based Banding

Subject-based Banding (SBB) will replace the EM3 stream in P5 and P6. It will be introduced in primary schools starting from the 2008 P5 cohort. SBB allows pupils who may be recommended to EM3 the flexibility of taking a mix of standard or foundation subjects depending on their strength in each subject. This will help stretch our pupils further in their stronger areas. A briefing will be held for P4 parents in July.

Emphasis on Academic Studies

As in past years, our focus on the academic is intensified in the second semester. We ask parents to help in setting routines and ensuring our boys put in the necessary effort and time on their studies to reach their targets set for the year.