

THE STEPHENIAN



Issue 27 • Term 1 • Jan to March 2010

USHERING IN 2010
WITH CELEBRATIONS



First Day of School 4 Jan



Lunar New Year 12 Feb



Inaugural Service 19 Jan



Lasallian Road Run 13 Mar



World Scout Day 22 Feb

Awards

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr Mohammed Yusoff on being conferred the Ministry of Education's Long Service Award for 25 years in the teaching service.



Workshops and Activities in Term 1

In line with the holistic development of our pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff were also engaged in a range of workshops and activities aimed at developing their PIES (Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual). These included:

Teachers' Renewal, 23 Jan

Staff made time to explore their inner purpose and rediscover their passion and vocation for teaching through deep reflection and by reconnecting with their inner selves.



St. Luke is humant until



Cham-players with their eyes on the ball

Captain's Ball Tournament, 27 Jan

The annual Captain's Ball tournament saw staff from each of the four houses battling it out on the basketball court. After several nail-biting matches, St. Luke Team 1 and Team 2 claimed the Championship trophy and second place respectively while St. Sebastian emerged third. Well done, everyone!

Stress Management Workshop, 27 Jan

Staff were educated on how to 'manage stress before it manages you' and picked up some relaxation techniques from Ms Ho Fei, a trainer from Dayspring Corporate Wellness Pte. Ltd.



Teachers enjoying a state of deep relaxation



Playing a memory game



Ready, steady, feast!



Lunar New Year Lohei for Staff, 23 Feb

Our Cluster Superintendant, Mdm Choy Wai Yin joined staff for the annual Lohei which was followed by a sumptuous mini-lunch. It was an afternoon with lots of bonding and munching as staff feasted on the festive spread.

British Council: Exciting Writing, 29 Jan - 8 Mar

Ms Anna Briton from the British Council led teachers through a 5-session course on Exciting Writing. This involved exploring strategies and ideas through which teachers can make writing lessons come alive for pupils.



Our trainer and teachers passionately 'exciting writing'

Commemorations and Celebrations

First Day of School, 4 Jan

by Yutaro Jong

On the first day of school, I felt sad. I had to wake up early in the morning and I really missed my parents a lot.

My friends and I were given buddies who taught us how to get food from the canteen during recess. Many of our parents came during recess to see how we were doing. There were many friendly parent-volunteers from SPARK who helped me around the school.

By the afternoon, I no longer felt sad in school. I enjoy the lessons in class and look forward to school every day. I am proud to be a part of St Stephen's School.

To encourage fathers with school-going children to be more actively-engaged in their sons' school-life and educational experience, St. Stephen's participated in the "Back to School with Dad" event organised by the Centre for Fathering. The event was targetted at promoting relationship-building to motivate fathers to step up and play an integral part in their sons' lives.

Inaugural Service, 19 Jan

On 19 January, St Stephen's held the annual Inaugural Service to welcome new staff and pupils to the school. With Brother Colin Wee as the guest-of-honour, the ceremony began with our Founder's song.

Four teachers of different faiths prayed for the well-being of the school and community. Brother Colin then welcomed new staff by presenting them with tea-lights as souvenirs.

The new prefects were also inaugurated and the new executive council was introduced. Our Head Prefect for 2010, Mohd Danial, then led the prefects in the recitation of the Prefects' Pledge.

The service ended with the whole school singing "We are Lasallian" in unison.

Meet Our Head Prefect, Mohd Danial

"I promise to carry out my duties diligently and to the best of my ability. I hope that the prefectorial board will be able to co-operate with me to make St. Stephen's School the best place for all Stephenians."



Danial

Marcus

Marc

Meet Our Vice-Head Prefects

"I would like to serve the school community by modelling the desired Stephenian values with the help of the prefectorial board. Let us all work towards "Attaining Excellence, Discipline the Key".
- Marcus Toh

"I realise that this role comes with great responsibility and pride. Together with Danial and Marcus, I promise to deliver my best. Let us work together to create a safe learning environment for all Stephenians." - Marc Koh



Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on the first day of school



A P4 lends a helping hand to a junior Stephenian



Father and son enjoy a leisurely walk to 20 Siglap Road



Our newly-inaugurated staff



Newly-minted prefects



Latest additions to our Stephenian family

The Buzz

Programme for Active Learning (PAL) @ SSS

As a way of encouraging artistic pursuits and enhancing pupil character development by imparting valuable life-skills, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has introduced Programme for Active Learning (PAL) in primary schools.

St Stephen's School is pleased to be one of the 12 selected schools to prototype this programme. The programme focuses on experiential learning – where students are encouraged to learn creatively in a fun and enjoyable setting.

Currently, all pupils in Primary 1 and 2 are on this programme with the P1s involved in outdoor activities while P2s are challenged to explore and extend their imagination in the Arts.

The result is a group of confident, creative and expressive young individuals – ready to thrive in a fast-changing future.

SSS Brass Band Performances

Our Brass Band has been going places as it steps up for the SYF competition in Term 2. Here is a quick recap of its public performances over the last two terms:

Band Fiesta @ Botanic Gardens, 19 Dec 2009

Our Brass Band played as part of a combined band with St Anthony's Primary and St Andrew's Junior School

OLAM Twenty20 Cricket Challenge, 31 Jan 2010

We were invited by the Singapore Indian Association to grace the occasion. The Guest-of-Honour was Mr S.R. Nathan who gamely came by and shook hands with our boys.

Music in the City, 3 February 2010

Our boys performed at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza to the delight of shoppers and passersby.



Our boys rehearsing before their performance at Ngee Ann City



The boys enjoying a drama activity



Team-building during the 'Earthquake' activity



Our boys come face to face with His Excellency President Nathan



Michael Cheong on cymbals (for Basil our percussionist)



Pupils taking in the sights and sounds at Serangoon Road



Pupils tour the Gallery and learn about the dangers of fires

Pongal Festival Learning Journey to Little India, 15 Jan by Syahmi Bin Sidek

I felt very excited to go to Little India for the Pongal Festival. I learnt that "Pongal" means rice pudding and I also learnt that the cow is a sacred animal to the Hindus. The cows were beautifully decorated with garlands of colourful flowers. I understand the Hindu culture better and I respect my Indian friends.

P2 Learning Journey to the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery

P2s visited the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery which traces civil defence developments in Singapore from the late 1800s till today. There, pupils saw how far Singapore has progressed in fire-fighting and learnt more about fire safety and some of the major fire events from the past.

P2 Learning Journey to East Coast Park, 8 and 10 Feb

The learning journey was a culmination and consolidation of Unit 1: Fun in the Park and Unit 2: Health and Fitness. The students excitedly explored the park and worked in teams to complete the activity sheet which integrated subjects such as Math, Science, English and Social Studies. Besides having fun, the students found the learning journey exciting and enriching.



A day of sun, sand and the picturesque sea!

P3 Learning Journey to the Zoo, 4 Mar by Tan Yong Boon and Thomas Abraham

The P3s went on a learning journey to the zoo. We saw many animals like baboons and cheetahs. We had our lunch at the Shaw Foundation Amphitheatre. After lunch, parent volunteers took care of our belongings while we explored the other half of the zoo. To end our day at the zoo, we watched the show "The Rainforest Fights Back". We learnt about living things and their characteristics.



Learning more about animals at the Zoo

P2 Camp, 8 - 9 Mar

The 2-day camp was conducted by Kid's Athletics, an external vendor. Pupils were further developed in their Track and Field skills in addition to being instilled with the values of friendship, teamwork and a love for outdoor activities. There was also a talk on nutrition and the Olympic games in conjunction with the Youth Olympic Games that will be held in August.



P2s enjoying sports through fun and engaging activities

P3 PE Camp, 10 & 12 Mar

The P3 camp kicked off to a roaring start with various stations such as the 'triple jump', 'high jump' and 'soccer'. Needless to say, the 'soccer' station was the most popular. The boys watched intently as the trainers demonstrated the techniques. When it was time for them to get into action, everyone gave their personal best. The boys had fun but most of all they developed a fighting spirit and learnt to support one another to achieve their best!



P3s having a go at high-jump and soccer

P5 Learning Journey to Old Ford Factory, 4 Feb

by Ian Paul Tan & Nicholas Teo Wei Heng

This was where the British surrendered to the Japanese. Many of us were attracted to the guns used by the soldiers from Japan and Singapore. We saw artifacts as well as many black and white pictures from World War II. I could see pain, suffering, hardship and grief in the faces of the prisoners of war. I was very touched when I saw the pictures that the prisoners had drawn on the walls of their cells. They depicted Jesus suffering on the cross and the words "forgive them for they do not know what they are doing". I realise the importance of National Defence and feel that whatever the provocation, wars should never be used to settle conflict.



Mr Chan, our guide, regales us with details of Singapore's surrender to the Japanese

MTP 1, 11 Mar

There was a Meet-the-Parents' Session for all parents and guardians on Thursday, 11 March 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a one-to-one conference between teachers and individual parents and guardians to discuss pupils' performance and progress.



Mr Mu conferences with a parent

The Buzz / Staff

Parents' Symposium 2010, 13 Mar

Parents' Symposium was organized on the last Saturday of Term 1. The objectives of the Symposium were to equip parents with teaching tools so they could complement the teaching carried out in school; help parents understand their growing children and in this technological age, to combat computer addiction. The Symposium was well-attended and parents interviewed said they had benefited from the courses and look forward to implement the teaching techniques in the various disciplines. It was also a good time for parents and teachers to bond.



Attempting to separate the parts of a science toy

Parents learning about model drawing from Mdm Neele

Lasallian Road Run 2010, 13 Mar

by Anand Viren Mantri

The non-competitive event, held at East Coast Park, saw selected pupils from the 7 Lasallian schools participating in a 3km run to raise funds for their respective schools. We were rewarded with drinks and a goodie bag after the run. There was an enjoyable brass-band performance by St. Anthony's Primary School. We had the opportunity to interact with St. Stephen's alumni from the 2009 batch. It was an enjoyable event which helped to foster camaraderie amongst pupils and staff of the Lasallian family.



Our Stephenians gamely smiling for the camera, post-run

Excellence To Serve

Welcome

We warmly welcome Mr Abdolah B Lamat (ML Teacher), Ms Anita Hamid (CSC), Mr Jeff Kwan (IT Executive), Ms Nurashah, (Contract Teacher), Mr Prabuddha (TA) and Mr Sunny Ang (OSO) to our Stephenian family.



Mr Abdolah B Lamat
(ML Teacher)



Ms Anita Hamid
(CSC)



Mr Jeff Kwan
(IT Executive)



Ms Nurashah,
(Contract Teacher)



Mr Prabuddha
(TA)



Mr Sunny Ang
(OSO)

We also welcome the following trainee teachers on their practicum to St Stephen's:

Mr Shawn Kuok Wei Chert, Ms Francesca Lee, Ms Poo May May, Mdm Quah Swee Bee and Ms Samantha Khoo Shi Min (AEO-LBS)



Farewell

We would like to thank Mdm Lee Hing Lee (OSO), Mr Lim Joon Kiat (TA), Mdm Mahawa (CSC) and Mr Spencer See (IT Executive) for their years of dedicated service to the school. We wish them all the best.

Wedded Bliss

Congratulations to Mr Mohamed Taib and Ms Nur'Aym on their marriage!

Achievements

Celebrating Our Achievements in Term 1



Our valiant Senior Team players

East Zone Senior Soccer Tournament 2010

St Stephen's participated in the East Zone Senior Division Soccer Tournament organized by Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council (SPSSC). After several gruelling and competitive matches, we emerged tops both in Round 1 and Round 2 and qualified for the semi-final against Tanjong Katong Primary. Our boys played hard but in the end, lost by a score of 0-2. We played against Coral Primary for the 3rd/4th placing. We were trailing 1-3 at the end of the first half but soon overcame this setback. We persevered and fought back to level the game at 3-3 at fulltime. The captain of the team, Ameer Hakim, scored the winning goal and clinched victory for St Stephen's.

Kudos to our boys for believing in themselves!



Our valiant P3 footballers in action

SPSSC/FAS 5-a-side Soccer Fiesta, 13 Mar

10 of our P3 pupils represented St Stephen's in the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council-Football Association of Singapore 5-a-side Soccer Fiesta. In spite of the stiff competition, our boys played valiantly and emerged 3rd in the first round.

Be Believers, Be Brave