

The STEPHENIAN



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FOND FAREWELL AND HEARTFELT THANKS

It is with heartfelt words that I write this last message for *The Stephenian* as I will be retiring from the teaching service at the end of 2010. Although I will miss my work at school and the warm interactions with the staff and pupils, our parents and the Lasalle community, I do look forward to time that I will use for some rest and reflection.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as the principal at St Stephen's School since 2005. I have enjoyed these last six years of wonderful partnership with the students, staff and families of our school, and with the Lasallian and MOE communities at large. Thank you for the opportunity to serve all of you. I take with me many fond and wonderful memories of my work and friendship forged during my time here.

I am especially proud of the many accomplishments we achieved together as a school. There has been steady growth in student achievement, school programmes for a holistic education for our boys, community partners, and national recognition. Of our staff and students, I look forward to hearing great things about future accomplishments as you continue to grow the teaching and learning at St Stephen's. My grateful thanks to our parents, especially our SPARK committee, for recognizing and supporting the vision we brought to you.

Mr Thomas Koh, currently the Principal at St Anthony's Primary, will become the principal at St Stephen's in 2011. He is looking forward to working with all of you and getting to know the Stephenian community.

May God bless you and your loved ones always.

Credere Et Servire
(To Believe, To Serve)

Fong Swee Im (Miss)



Commemorations and Celebrations: Live our Dreams, Fly our Flag

Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebrations, 19 September

by Syed Harris Albar

The celebration began with Ms Rozita sharing some information about Hari Raya. Through her presentation, we learnt why Muslims fast. Upin and Ipin, a famous cartoon featuring two little boys enduring the ups and downs of fasting, was also screened. The celebration ended with a festive song led by Cikgu Abdolah and a group of Malay pupils.



Teachers and pupils dressed in their festive best.

Children's Day, 29 September

by Ethan Choo & Ethan Stewart



P6 teachers rocking the stage.

Our musical ensemble of CL teachers

We enjoyed Children's Day as there were performances by teachers from all levels. Our favourite act was the song and dance number by the P6 teachers who dressed up as rock stars and belted out a classic rock number. There were also other memorable performances which included dance numbers by the lower primary and P5 teachers, an instrumental performance by the Chinese Language teachers and a comical skit by the P4 teachers.

Lower Primary Sports & Choral Speaking Day, 29 September



A talking tree!

Creeping like a turtle with ease

Our P1 pupils had their very first public performance on Choral Speaking Day. Each class selected a poem to recite and practised very hard for the recital. Our pupils were very enthusiastic and recited their selected poems with expression. Following the recital, they proceeded to the field where they had fun competing at the Lower Primary Sports Day event.

Examination Mass, 4 October



Fr Adrian celebrating the Eucharist with us

Fr Adrian Yeo, an old boy of the school, celebrated the annual Examination Mass in the school hall. It was a time for all to thank Almighty God for His many blessings. Jeremiah Jed Chong, a prefect and prayer leader from PSN, felt that the Mass was meaningful "knowing that God is always by our side during our exams." Prior to this, and as part of our on-going formation for our Catholic pupils, 3 Level Masses were also celebrated during our respective Catechism periods.

Lasallian World Day of Prayer for Peace, 26 September



Jeremiah Jed Chong is the first to represent the Christian faith

Pupils from five different faiths led the prayers for the ceremony. It was a meaningful and solemn occasion that also allowed pupils time to reflect and pray for those who needed God's solace and comfort.



Our VIPs at the ceremony



Mr. Nalpon performing a traditional ceremony with a string!

P6 Graduation Ceremony, 16 November

by Sean Neubronner

It was an honour for me to be one of the award recipients at the P6 Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony commenced with speeches by our Principal, Ms Fang, as well as our Guest of Honour, Mr Zero Nalpon. Our other VIPs included Mr Ethelred Fernandez, Mdm Haireena and Dr Ravi Sharma. This was followed by a prayer ceremony with pupils representing each of the various faiths. Prizes were presented to pupils for academic achievement and outstanding performance in the various CCAs. Jefferson Chew, the top PSLE boy of 2009, also graced the occasion. The Young Stephenian of the Year Award for 2010 was conferred to Marcus Toh while the Sportsboy of the Year Award for 2010 went to Royston Tam. I now look forward with great anticipation to the next chapter of my schooling life. The Stephenian Spirit will always live in me.



Mr. Nalpon presenting our Young Stephenian of the Year Award to Marcus Toh, recipient of the award for Academic Achievement

P1 – P5 Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony, 15 November

by Siddharth & R. Periakaruppan



Our proud prize-winners from P1 to P5



Ms Fang and Mr Nalpon welcoming our former teachers Mr and Mrs Donald James Magness back to SSS

The school celebrated the successes of our P1 to P5 pupils in their academic ability, physical prowess as well as services rendered to the school. We were honoured to have former teachers in St Stephen's, Mr and Mrs Donald James Magness, grace the occasion as our esteemed guests-of-honour.

Deepavali Celebrations, 8 November

by Siddharth & R. Periakaruppan

Celebrate the Arts 2 @ St Stephen's, 20 November



Our energetic Dance boys



Mr. Terry Blum, one of our GOHs, has his eye on Andre's masterpiece



Performers and teachers strike a pose on stage



Our Vice Principal, Mr Tejb, lighting the Deepavali lamp

St Stephen's held a grand concert to celebrate the Arts. The event started off with our five-time SYF Gold Award-Winning Brass Band playing three very entertaining pieces which had the audience clapping along. There were also performances by the Latin Percussion players from P4, the P4 recorder group, the boys from the Chinese drums programme and an entertaining skit entitled "Pirates Don't Change Diapers" from the Drama Troupe.

Our P2 Stephenians also took to the stage with their "Jungle Book"-themed performance which showcased their learning from the Programme for Active Learning (PAL). Another highlight was the performance by the award-winning Dance Boyz. They wowed the audience with their nifty footwork and quick movements.

A range of art and craft workshops were also held in the P1 classrooms. These included tile-painting, clay modelling and digital art. The Silent Auction saw many a work of art fetch good bids. The artists themselves were on hand to present the artworks to the highest bidders. Many left with their masterpieces as memorable souvenirs of their arty experience at St Stephen's.

We really enjoyed the Deepavali celebration as it was very interesting. The P4 and P5 NTL pupils performed exciting Hindi dances choreographed by the Hindi teachers and Ms Seema respectively. The P6s also performed a lively dance while Cikgu Abdullah captivated us with his rendition of a Hindi song. We also learnt that lighting the oil lamp is the most important ritual in Deepavali as 'deepa' means light and that is why it is known as the Festival of Lights.



Participants at the clay-modelling workshop

The Buzz

Visit from Zee Juniors (Montessori), 27 August



A group of ten K2 pupils and four teachers from Zee Juniors (Montessori) visited our school. This was to allow the K2 pupils to experience a primary school setting as part of their K2 Pupil P1 Preparatory Programme. The pupils enjoyed interacting with our P1 pupils as well as observing and participating in some classroom activities.

PAL Presentation on Children's Day, 30 September

The Primary 2 PAL programme was selected as the prototype for MOE and all pupils were exposed to an integrated experience on drama, music, movement and art based on the theme 'Jungle Jingle'. "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling was the reference text for activities in 'Jungle Jingle'. Our pupils put up a performance at the Lower Primary Sports and Choral Speaking Day in conjunction with Children's Day.



P1 Orientation, 19 November



The P1 Orientation for 2011 was held for all parents and children of the 7 Primary One classes. Parents were briefed on some of the programmes in the school while the children had some activities in the classrooms and were led on a tour around the school.

CCA Appreciation High Tea, 30 September

A high tea reception was held in appreciation of the continued commitment and valuable support of our parents and teachers. Kudos to one and all!



Our cheery parents at the high tea

P6 Camp, 28 – 29 October by Balram Sharma

The P6 students descended on Jalan Bahera Adventure Center for the 2DIN camp. We went orienteering at Labrador Park and learnt about Singapore's history and the forts nearby. We also danced at the campfire later that night. In spite of some initial misgivings, it was fun. We also went on a night walk while blindfolded! We learnt to work as a team and completed the walk despite the obstacles along the way.



Campfire's burning, draw nearer!

P2 Science Camp

The annual P2 Science Camp was organised to help pupils cultivate a keener interest in the subject. 7 stations which included experiments on locating the centre of gravity, magnetism and energy transfer were set up to introduce Science to pupils through a fun and hands-on approach.



Little Experiments of work

Coffee Talk for P5/6 Parents



Mr. Azah Yusoff, vice Principal of Serangoon Gardens Secondary and parent of our ex-pupil, shares some exam tips with parents

Parents of P5 and P6 pupils were invited to an informal session with the school leaders and teachers before the year-end examinations. The purpose of the talk was to equip parents with strategies and tips on managing examination stress as well as skills on how to tackle examination questions.

Library Storytelling by Roger Jenkins



Mr Jenkins and his cast delight our local primary audience

Week 9 saw the launch of our very own Story Troupe, starring 10 enthusiastic parent volunteers led by Roger Jenkins. They gave 7 performances of their half-hour show, a highly entertaining mix of Readers Theatre, Choral Verse and Storytelling, to all pupils from Primary 1 to 4. Held in our newly-revamped Library, the intimate space enabled them to perform without microphones and engage the boys in a vivid demonstration of the power of the spoken word.

SFE Activities@SSS: School Family Education (SFE) Programmes

'Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies', 2 September



This program was conducted to teach children that having healthy thoughts and mindsets contribute to a healthy well-being. Magic was used to illustrate some fundamental concepts on self-development and self-leadership in a fun and entertaining way. There were also classroom activities which focused on stress and anger management.



Parent-Child Bonding Day Trip, 4 September

81 parents and children embarked on a one-day trip to Malaysia, targeted at fostering closer bonding among parents and their children. Activities on this trip included visits to a chocolate outlet, a fruit farm, an ostrich farm, as well as a fireflies cruise. Participants enjoyed the trip and the time spent with their families.

Staff

We warmly welcome our new staff:



Mr Wong Kang



Mr Justin Tan



Farewell

We would like to thank Mr Mohamed Lukman (CCPE) for his dedicated service to the school and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Promotions

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr Danny Koh, Mr Wu Puwen, Ms Helen Valentina Fernandez and Mr Shafiq on their recent promotions.

Workshops & Presentations

Fire Safety & First Aid Workshop, 22 September

Basic First Aid and Fire Fighting training was conducted for all staff in St Stephen's School. Staff were introduced to the usage of defibrillation for the treatment of cardiac arrest. At the end of the training, staff felt more confident about rendering first aid and performing simple head dressing, CPR and fire fighting.



East-Zone Learning Symposium Presentation@TJC, 24 September

Mr Shafiq and Mr Wu Puwen presented an action research on "Improving Pupils' Performance in Primary Five Science Topic on Electricity Through the Use of Regular Feedback" at the East-Zone Learning Symposium. They will be also presenting on the same action research at the Science Teachers' Conference in November.

Ms Pang's Visit to Beijing, 6 September to 3 October

Our Vice-Principal, Ms Pang Wee Mian, went on a VP Attachment to 北京市海淀区第二实验小学 (No. 2 Experimental Primary School in Beijing, China). She had a meaningful time interacting with the staff and pupils of the school and sharing about the educational system in Singapore and the programmes at St Stephen's School with them. She also visited other educational and cultural institutions.



Exchange of postcards done by St Stephen's pupils with those completed by pupils of 北京市海淀区第二实验小学

In return, one Principal and three Vice Principals from schools in Beijing visited St Stephen's from 25 to 29 October 2010 for their Attachment Programme in Singapore. They observed lessons and interacted with our pupils and staff. The visitors were impressed with the programmes in the school and the warm welcome they received from all staff and pupils at St Stephen's. Our visitors included 马万成 书记校长 (Principal) from 民族小学 (Primary), 马春亚 副校长 (Vice Principal) from 海淀实验小学 (Primary), 王梅 副校长 (Vice Principal) from 东升学区 (Primary) and 檀晋轩 副校长 (Vice Principal) 北京十九中 (Secondary).



Knowing Some Conversion Rules in the Spoken Tamil, 30 September



Mrs Sandran delivered a presentation on conversion rules in spoken Tamil at Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre.

8th Singapore-UK Teacher Exchange Programme 2010, 14 - 25 November

Ms Sharon Thia represented the Ministry of Education at the 8th Singapore-UK Teacher Exchange Programme 2010. She visited institutions in Lincolnshire and Grimsby to better understand the strategies deployed for infusing or incorporating creativity into the curriculum and their impact on learning and teaching. She also attended workshops on creativity at the British Council in London.



Students in Huntington Community School completing a puzzle

Staff Welfare Activities

Staff Appreciation Lunch, 14 September

As part of Staff Appreciation Day celebrations, our staff were treated to a sumptuous lunch at Garuda Padang Cuisine. Judging from the wide smiles and hearty laughter, it was evident that everyone enjoyed both the food and the camaraderie.



E2 Cluster Teachers' Games Carnival 2010@Bedok Green Secondary, 24 September

12 teachers represented the school in the E2 Cluster Games Carnival. They formed a team each for volleyball and for Ultimate Frisbee. Our teachers put up a good fight despite the lack of training and experience in both games and emerged third in Ultimate Frisbee.



An ultimate show of sportsmanship at Ultimate Frisbee!

Celebrating Our Achievements in Term 4

Our Stephenians have brought glory to the school, excelling in sports, academia and other co-curricular activities in Term 4. We are also proud to have attained the Development Award for Character Development 2010 and our third Sustained Achievement Award for Sports (2007 – 2009). We thank our coaches, teachers and parents for their guidance and encouragement. Congratulations boys!

Development Award for Character Development 2010



Third Sustained Achievement Award



People Developer (PD) Certification



St Stephen's School received the People Developer (PD) Certification from SPRING Singapore in September this year. The certification recognises an organisation's efforts in establishing the business excellence niche standard for people. The school has developed a total approach to managing people and achieving high performance through its people systems.

Singa Award

Friend of Singa Award Recipients (Merit Award)

- Ryan Chen
- Kuljiv Singh
- Ryan Leong
- Azeem Merchant
- Zachary Lim



Singa Poster Design Competition, 3rd Prize (Primary School Category)

- Nathaniel Tan



Annual Mathlympics for Singapore Primary Schools

- Daren Tan (Silver Award)
- Lucas David Koh (Silver Award)
- Nicolai Alexander Neo (Bronze Award)



NUS High Math Olympiad

- Darren Leow (Bronze Award)

University of New South Wales (UNSW) Global



Maximus Tan
(Medal Winner in Computer Skills 2010)

ASEAN Primary School Sport Olympiad

Royston Tan represented St Stephen's School at the ASEAN Primary School Sport Olympiad in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 4 to 11 November 2010



Soccer

EZ (COE) Under-10 Soccer Development Tournament 2010 – 1st



Taekwondo

• Gabriel Asarween Suwanarat
awarded 1st POOM Black Belt by Singapore Taekwondo Federation

