



SYAS NEWS

Core Value Campaign

FEBRUARY Responsibility

For the month of February, a 'green fingers' campaign was launched to encourage students to exercise their sense of responsibility. The students took on the challenge to build a small nursery for their lettuce seedlings and nurture them. Despite facing difficulties from the unpredictable weather and other uncontrollable factors, students came up with new homes for their growing seedlings, displaying a responsible spirit.

by Lynette Chua



Principal's Message



Dear Friends of San Yu Adventist (SYAS),

The 2015 academic year has crossed the mid-point and we are eager to share what has transpired at SYAS. Since the last edition of this newsletter, the most significant milestone was the school's achievement of the four-year EduTrust certification in November 2014. With relentless pursuit of quality assurance, i.e. school performance improvement, based on the conditions set by the Council for Private Education, Ms Annie Ling and Ms Caren Chiang led the entire school team to this much sought after educational accomplishment.

Since the beginning of 2015, SYAS is bountifully blessed to experience successes in a wide variety of activities along the educational journey. "Connecting to community" led to the cooperation of SYAS with multiple (church and social) agencies in a Pay It Forward event to benefit many senior citizens. You will also see highlights of our students and staff engaging in sports, spiritual pursuits, church visitations, gospel camps in conjunction with spiritual emphasis week, experiential academic field trips, character (core values) development and others. As a result of its multiplicity of carefully planned activities, the San Yu, 3-fold "spiritual, mental, and physical" development of the SYAS family is unraveled. To be sure, the Christian SYAS community is alive and continues to unfold, haltingly, at times, but doggedly determined to live out our confessional identity.

Kudos to you all, SYAS and friends of SYAS!! You intentionally began well and anticipate a 'grand-slam' ending. Meanwhile in the interim, prayerfully embrace the manner of your journeying.

Dr Shee Soon Chiew
Principal



Light the Candles: SYAS Adventurer Induction Service 2015

28 March 2015 was a solemn yet joyous day for the new recruits of the SYAS Adventurer Club. More than 30 new Adventurers from Primary 1 to 4 became official members of the Club today as they marched down the aisle of Thomson Chinese Church in the company of their parents and guardians.

The evening started with song leading from four Helping Hands from Primary 4, followed by a recitation of the Adventurer Pledge and Law. After a short speech by the Director of the club, Ms Chia, the excited new recruits marched smartly on stage to receive a "flame" for their candles, signifying their roles as new Lights of the World. Shortly after, Pastor Bayu offered words of encouragement through the story of Zacchaeus. Parents and guardians then joined the new members for photographs by members of the Photography club.

After dinner, parents and guardians headed to the lecture hall for a Financial Management talk given by Pastor Mark Chan, while the Adventurers settled in church for an educational movie. The eventful day ended at 8pm, when the Adventurers left with new friends who have become fellow workers for Christ.

by Chia Han Ning

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Core Value Campaign

**MARCH
Cooperation**

The core value of cooperation was emphasised during the month of March. Students were reminded to work together selflessly for the common goal. Since this year is a special year whereby Singapore celebrates her 50 years of independence, all students were taught how to make the SG50 flowers out of recycled plastic bags. The productivity level of each class was challenged when they raced to make as many flowers as possible. Then, they had to exhibit creativity by using the plastic flowers to design SG50 posters. Last but not least, students were required to play a contributing role in helping to spruce up their classroom noticeboards.

by Esther Ng



**APRIL
Trust in God**

The theme for 'Trust in God' campaign this year is the Fruit of the Spirit. Obedience to God can only happen with the help of the Holy Spirit, and it will bear fruit in love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Students were asked to record a movie with this theme.

The results were stunning-SYAS indeed has many talented directors, cameramen, actors, actresses, script writers, sound engineers, etc. The top three movies were shown in the chapel on 20 April and received a big accolade. Glory be to God!

by Shanty Chandra

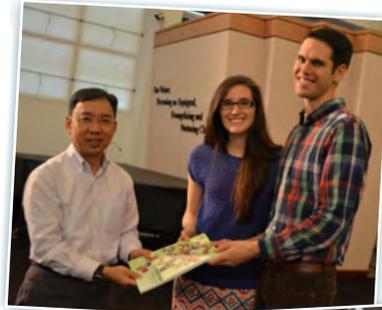


Week of Prayer #1: 'Life without Limits' by Fam Saw Ching

Held from March 30 to April 2, our Week of Prayer speakers were Pastor Zac and Leah Page from the USA. Besides sharing personal testimonies and stories from the Bible, the speakers visited and interacted with the students in the classes. In a few cases they even counselled students on a one-to-one basis.

The response from the students was overwhelming. Many students have requested for Bible studies and a few have indicated their desire for baptism in the near future. Many others have accepted Jesus as their Personal Lord and Saviour or have recommitted their lives to Him.

The week ended on a positive note with the promise Jesus made in John 10:10, " I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."



English Gospel Camp by Criston Choo

The Gospel Camp was conducted from April 4 to 6, at NACLI (National Community Leadership Institute). 40 students and 20 facilitators from three churches came together to attend the camp. The speakers of the Gospel Camp were Pastor Zac Page and his wife Leah. As a result of the Camp and Week of Prayer, six students have chosen to get baptized and others recommittting their lives to Jesus. Some of our students have also started attending church and care groups together with their facilitators. We thank God for the wonderful harvest which the Gospel Camp has brought!



Chinese Gospel Camp by Tan Jia Hong

The Chinese Gospel Camp was conducted from 10 to 12 April 2015. The topic was Star Wars—referencing to the ongoing war between good and evil. The speaker was Malaysian Pastor Cheng Zi Xian, who shared his testimony and other messages with SYAS students.

Three main game sessions improved teamwork within the four groups. Students had fun while learning that the experience shared is more important than winning.

The camp ended on Sunday with a Talent Show showcasing the scriptwriting, creativity, and acting abilities of students as they re-enacted stories from the Bible. From this camp, one student decided to be baptised and ten were keen to have Bible Studies.

God has blessed the efforts of the organising team in this successful and fruitful gospel camp. May the Spirit continue to be with each of the participant in guiding them to know the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Visit to Churches by Fam Saw Ching

'Visits to churches' is a regular event in our school calendar. In Term One, the programme was organised by the Prefectorial Board headed by Ms Annie Ling and Mrs Patricia Choo together with our Chaplain Mr Fam Saw Ching. The group visited Jurong English Church and Jurong SDA Chinese Church on 24 January and Thomson SDA Chinese Church on 28 February.

Through the introduction by our Acting Principal Ms Annie Ling, church members were kept updated on the happenings in the school. Prefects shared personal testimonies of their lives in San Yu and rendered special music. The programme culminated with a message by our Chaplain on 'Praying Parents'.

In Term Two, our Primary 1 and 2 students accompanied by Mrs Jessica Okimi our Music teacher, Mrs Patricia Choo, Ms Stacia Choo, an alumnus of the school and Mr Fam, visited Balestier SDA Church. The programme included special music presented by the students led by Mrs Okimi and a message on 'Self Control' delivered by Mr Fam. More visits to churches are in the pipeline for the rest of the year.



Pay It Forward Day by Chia Han Ning

26 April 2015 marks a significant day for both SYAS and the Thomson SDA church as they joined hands for the 2015 Pay It Forward (PIF) Programme. Held in conjunction with the PIF Movement of Singapore, the event was attended by Guest of Honour Mr Lui Tuck Yew, the Singapore Minister for Transport, Second Minister for Defence, Grassroots Advisor and Member of Parliament for Moulmein-Kallang GRC, along with the residents of the Adventist Home for the Elders, PIF recipients as well as SYAS teachers and students.

The programme began with an opening speech by SYAS principal Dr Shee Soon Chiew, followed by an introduction of PIF by Ps Foo, the pastor of Thomson SDA Chinese Church. Mr Lui took the stage next by giving a speech as well as unveiling wish-list items purchased earlier by volunteers for the PIF recipients. Attendees were then treated to performances by SYAS students, the first being

"Reach for the Skies" performed by P1 and P2 students, with Mr Lui, Dr Shee and Ps Foo joining them in the chorus. As a token of appreciation, Dr Johnny Kan, President of SDA Conference Singapore, presented Mr Lui with a handcrafted card made by P6 students after his onstage participation. As student volunteers started serving lunch provided by the school, other performances followed—two songs as well as one violin instrumental performance by Thomson Chinese Church Children's Choir, solos and duets in different languages from students of various classes. Included in the programme also, were two skits, a modern-day retelling of "The Good Samaritan" by Sec 4-1 and "Living With Jesus" by Secondary Three students.

When the eventful day came to an end, recipients went home with their hearts filled and bags full, marking the success of another PIF programme.



MAY
Caring

On early Sunday morning of 26 April, the basement Primary school classrooms were abuzz with activities and excitement, as students from Primary 4 to Secondary 4 enthusiastically carried their goods galore in boxes there for sale. Organised by the Core Values (Caring) Committee in conjunction with the Community Service Day Committee for PIF+, the much anticipated Caring Flea Market finally arrived. Generously donated items from Crocodile, well-wishers, church members, staff and their friends and students were collected and painstakingly sorted over the past few months. Clothes, bags, accessories, toys, books, stationery, CDs, DVDs, household items, food and drinks etc., were carefully displayed by students on tables in each room. Eager beaver early birds were spotted trying to reserve their desired items, as they were not allowed to shop before the arrival of the Guest-of-Honour Minister Lui Tuck Yew and our special guests – the elderly from the Adventist Home for the Elders (AHE). Guided by volunteers, the elderly were given priority to shop and make their shopping rounds beaming happily with their donated coupons. Some enterprising students were seen roving around decked in goods to market to customers. Everyone had a fun and meaningful time haggling, selling and shopping for bargains and went home satisfied with lots of good-buys that day. All the proceeds raised in the Flea Market sales will be donated to our beneficiaries from AHE.

by Christine Lim



Play Basketball to Learn Life Skills by Christine Lim



Our boys' team with First Toa Payoh Secondary School Team

The school's basketball club SYAS Crown boys' team learnt invaluable life skills when they played two friendly competitions with two government secondary schools in March. The first was with the First Toa Payoh Secondary School team players on 11 March at Home Team Balestier indoor court and the second was with those of Tanglin Secondary School at their outdoor court in Clementi on 13 March. Prior to the matches, our boys trained very hard with Coach Cass, who taught them useful defence tactics. Though we lost both matches to stronger teams, the life skills and values of teamwork, perseverance, courage and defence that our boys learnt were those that they could apply to their daily lives. Our boys' team also bonded and shared camaraderie when they trained and played a match with Pastor Zac on 1 April during the Week of Prayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

- *Hygiene Campaign
- *Integrity Campaign
- 16 SYAS Sports day
- 27-31 Week Of Prayer II

August

- *Respect Campaign
- 6 National Day Celebration
- 26 316 Music Ministry Chapel Program
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- 31 Festival of Praise (Lower Secondary)

September

- *Perseverance Campaign
- 2 Festival of Praise (Upper Secondary)
- 4 Teachers' Day Celebration
- 19 SYAS Adventurer Investiture Day

Leadership Training Camp by Jariya Chanachai (Sec 4-1)

20th May 2015. Phew! Last exam paper completed but no time to rest, the SYAS prefects, together with three teachers, were off to attend the three-day Leadership Training Camp at Sembawang Camp Challenge. Activities this year included raft building, following which all team members were required to demonstrate confidence in their construction by climbing aboard and rafting in the sea together. What a perfect way to de-stress after exams! The prefects all cheered and sang together - reinforcing bonding and developing team spirit. Undoubtedly it was a revival of leadership spirit for both new and senior prefects!



Geography Field Trip to Chinatown by Bo Yihouy, (Sec 4-1)

Seventy-over Secondary Four students headed to Chinatown on 12 March for a field study on tourism. Equipped with clipboards and questionnaires, we were divided into numerous groups within our respective classes. We set off after a hearty breakfast at Toastbox and began our work along Pagoda Street. Enthusiastically requesting for interviews from tourists and shop vendors (then appreciating them in return with the traditional snack, sweet Haw Flakes), we also remembered to thank them politely when turned down. After completing our tasks, we, with our teachers, rendezvoused at the nearby air-conditioned McDonalds, all smiling and appearing more knowledgeable and wiser than we were before.

Personally, I not only gained an out-of-textbook learning experience during the trip but also learnt to appreciate from the perspective of the engineers, the architects and the locals who endeavour each day to make Chinatown a must-see tourist destination in Singapore. This is definitely an unforgettable learning journey that many of us will cherish and recall with fond memories in the future.



The team's official We-fie



Getting along with the friendly tourists!