

# ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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## **HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE**

- \* St. Margaret's 182nd Anniversary Lunch
- \* Sharing by Ms. Natasha Zhao during Founder's Day assembly at SMS(P)
- \* Visit to Mrs Monica Lim (former member of SMESA)
- \* SMESA Visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home
- \* SMS(P) Celebrating Our Success Day
- \* SMESA Farewell Dinner for Professor Lawrence Boo



## **NEW MEMBER(S)**

We welcome aboard the following new member(s) :-

	<b>SMPS</b>	<b>SMSS</b>
1. Melissa Lee	1997	2001
2. Saraniah Elavalahan	2002	None

### **SMESA MEMBERSHIPS**

**We offer both Life membership and Youth membership.**

**For further details, please visit our website:**

**<http://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>.**

## **Sharing by Ms. Natasha Zhao during Founder’s Day Assembly @ SMS(P)**



“Meet Ms A.K Lim -- she teaches at St. Margaret’s School (Primary). She's 83 this year but hardly looks it! She taught me in Primary 1, and she also taught my mum in Primary 1.

Being back at the school to share a Founder’s Day message with the girls brought back so many fond memories. Amazingly, 30 years later, Ms A.K Lim and some of my other teachers are still teaching here! 🏆

Even one of my former classmates DINAH CHAN has come full circle and is now a P.E. teacher at the school. It’s a beautiful reminder of the lasting community and legacy St. Margaret’s has built as the oldest girls' school in Singapore.



## Sharing by Ms. Natasha Zhao during Founder's Day Assembly @ SMS(P)

- Cont'd from Page 2

The school's motto — Charity 🤝 , Patience 😊 , and Devotion 🧐 — represents timeless values that guide not just individuals, but even entire organizations. These values remain just as relevant in life today, and I shared my personal reflections on them with the girls:

### ● **Charity**

Charity isn't just about donations or volunteering. It's about cultivating an attitude of giving — being selfless, generous, and understanding. It can mean giving your time, attention, and patience, and even choosing not to get easily offended by others. In today's world, where people are often quick to take offense, focusing on the needs of others can create a ripple of positivity. Imagine if we all became givers of kindness — how much brighter our communities would be.



### ● **Patience**

I'll admit, patience is hard — especially in today's fast-paced, technology-driven world. I joked with the students about how even 3-minute YouTube videos seem "too long" for some of my 4-year-old daughter's friends! But patience is a hidden superpower we can all develop. It builds inner strength and resilience, helps us overcome frustration, and allows us to persevere when others might give up. With patience, you can focus on what truly matters and build confidence in who you are.

### ● **Devotion**

Devotion is about putting your heart into what you care about. Whether it's schoolwork, sports, hobbies, or a cause, it's about giving your best effort and embracing the journey, not just the results. I shared the story of Maximillian Maeder, a 18-year-old kitefoiler ranked #1 in the world and an Olympic bronze medalist. He started competing at age 11, just like many of the students I spoke to, and he said something that truly resonated with me: "Winning isn't everything. I appreciate the process and the journey." It's a powerful reminder to find your passion, devote yourself to it, and persevere — even when the road gets tough. I also encouraged the students to not fear failure, because it's often a key part of success. As long as you've given your best, there's nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, failure teaches us lessons and helps us grow."

## St. Margaret's 182<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Lunch Beautifully Connected Across Generations

By Natasha Zhao

This year's St. Margaret's 182nd Anniversary Luncheon was more than a reunion — it was a celebration of a legacy that spans generations. For me, it was particularly meaningful as I attended for the first time (since graduating from the Primary school in 1998), accompanied by my mother, cousin, and young daughter, who I plan to have walk the same corridors in a much newer premise at Sophia Road as a St. Margaret's girl.

The theme, *'Beautifully Connected,'* truly came to life from the laughter, embracing and spirited conversations across tables. There was an undeniable warmth, camaraderie that you could feel in the hall, and it was a reminder of the unique heritage we are all a part of. For me, the luncheon wasn't just a gathering — it was a time capsule, a bridge, and a glimpse into the future. Seeing the nostalgic reunion between old classmates; students and their teachers with their shared pride emanating from school community, and imagining my daughter one day experiencing this same sense of belonging was deeply moving.

One of the most cherished moments of the event was the presentation of handcrafted art pieces by our esteemed and senior member of SMESA, Mrs. Wong Hoe Eng. These heartfelt gifts were presented to SMESA and Professor Lawrence Boo, a beloved figure who has dedicated 32 remarkable years of service to the St. Margaret's family. It was a beautiful gesture of gratitude and appreciation for his unwavering commitment and contributions.



(Continue on Page 5)

## St. Margaret's 182<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Lunch

- Cont'd from Page 4

As we left the luncheon, my heart was full, not just because of the memories shared or the bonds strengthened, but because of the promise I felt for the future of our alumni network. There is so much untapped potential to grow and deepen this community. Through events like this and the legacy we pass on to our daughters, we are reminded of how truly *beautifully connected* we are—past, present, and future. Here's to many more years of St. Margaret's School, and to the unbreakable threads of connection that bind us all.



*Ties*

*That*

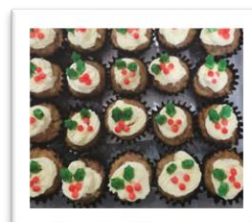
*Bind*

*Across*

*Generations*

## SMESA Visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral Home

As Christmas draws near, we visited SACH on 4 December 2024 to bring Christmas cheer to the residents. During the visit, the residents happily decorated the Santa hats with various colourful stickers that we brought for them. Satisfied with their handiwork, they put on the Santa caps and happily sang Christmas carols with bells and shakers. Just watching those happy faces warmed our hearts. We are always so blessed in return whenever we visit them. They also did a Christmas craft, using ice cream sticks and cup-cake paper cups, which they proudly hung on their Christmas tree. We ended the visit by presenting them with Christmas goodies and cup-cakes. It was a time well spent at the home.



## Visiting Senior Member of SMESA, Mrs Monica Lim

**12 December 2024**

**By Jennie Bek**

What better way for the SMESA board and members to spend a Saturday afternoon than by sharing in fellowship? Despite the drizzle, we gathered at the home of Monica Lim, one of our esteemed senior board members, for a potluck session filled with warmth and camaraderie.

Monica, a former SMESA board member, has supported the school in numerous ways over the years and has been a steadfast prayer warrior for St. Margaret's Secondary School. Loved and respected by all, Monica, at the remarkable age of 91, remains vibrant and full of life. Her energetic voice and radiant personality made the afternoon truly special.

During the gathering, Monica shared cherished memories of her school days at St. Margaret's Secondary School. She fondly recalled her experiences as a young student, her principal, and the teachers who shaped her life. Her vivid storytelling transported us to a time of innocence and joy, as she recounted not only her school days but also the many precious moments of her childhood.

It was an unforgettable afternoon, filled with heartfelt sharing, laughter, and a delightful stroll down memory lane. The fellowship reminded us of the strong bonds we share and the legacy of St. Margaret's that unite us all.

Having joined SMESA in 2012, I have had the privilege of knowing Monica and benefiting from her wisdom. Our conversations during board meetings often revolved around the upbringing and education of children, and her thoughtful advice has left a lasting impression on me.

Monica, we look forward to meeting you again soon for more meaningful fellowship and joyful memories!



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**SMS(P) – Celebrating Our Success Day**

SMS(P) held its Celebrating Our Success Day on 15 December 2024. The occasion seeks to celebrate the students' progress and character development. The Guest of Honour was Dr. Megan Neo (Class of 2009).



SMESA is pleased to contribute the following awards:

- Prefects Service Award
- All-Round Achiever
- The St. Margaret's Prize

**Farewell to Professor Lawrence Boo, Chairman, School Management Committee**

SMESA Board Members (present and past) held a farewell dinner in honour of Professor Lawrence Boo to recognise his faithful service to the St. Margaret's family as Chairman of the School Management Committee for 32 years. We wish him God's abundant blessings and favour in the next chapter of his life.