

# ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



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St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

MERRY

*Christmas*  
— & —

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2021





**IN THIS ISSUE**

Celebrating St. Margaret's 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
- A Virtual Concert on Facebook & YouTube Live

Celebrating St. Margaret's 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
- A Virtual Interview with Ms Lee Soo Kwan

What our Overseas Ex-Teachers and Students Have To Say about the 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Concert?

SMESA Speaker Series (Virtual)  
Wednesday, 14 October 2020 at SMSS

SMSS Post-Exam Activities (Virtual)  
October 2020

SMESA All-Round Achiever Award 2019 & Other Awards for SMPS

New Members

Recruitment of 2021/2022 Board Members

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SMESA AGM 2021  
(To Be Advised)**

**SMESA LEGAL AWARENESS PROJECT**  
(Postponed until further notice)

**SMESA VISIT TO ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL HOME FOR THE AGED  
(Outreach/Chaplaincy Programme)**  
(Visits subject to further advice from the relevant authorities)

**Note:**  
**Due to COVID-19, all events are postponed until further notice**

For enquiries to the above events,  
Please e-mail us at [smesa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:smesa.sg@gmail.com)



**Celebrating  
ST. MARGARET'S 178<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
- A Virtual Interview With Ms Lee Soo Kwan**

QUESTION: You have been an active member of SMESA through the years. Tell me what motivates you.

"I love my alma mater. I have very fond memories of my days in St Margaret's; my classmates, my teachers and Mrs Martha Holloway, our Principal. When I graduated from St Margaret's, I wanted to stay connected with the School. Joining SMESA was the answer and when invited, I gladly joined the Board.

SMESA's mission is to support our alma mater and students and reach out to our members and the community.

We secure work attachments and job shadowing for our students during the School holidays, to give them real life experience in the working world.

We organize legal awareness talks like Lasting Power of Attorney and Wills & Estates.

We visit our senior ex-teachers and members and have lots of laughter reminiscing our good old days at St Margaret's over a cup of tea but often a sumptuous tea! Our Outreach Programme takes us to the St Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged to spend time with the residents.

Our aim is to reach out to the St Margaret's Family at all times. This video is an example of this. Because of Covid-19, we could not have our on-site celebration. Helmed by our President, Siew Kheng, together with the School, PTA and PSG, this video has been put together so we can reach out to all members of the St Margaret's Family, here and overseas. Truly, we are One Family Unbroken.

Often, I have been asked 'What is there to be a member of SMESA?' Our work at SMESA! Very meaningful and rewarding. Also, the camaraderie among us.

There are also little things we can do to support our School, such as providing small snacks for our girls preparing for national exams and organizing post-exam activities. There is still much we can do. So, do come and join us.

To all members of the St Margaret's Family, we are presently living in unusual times. Stay safe, stay well. God bless each and every one of you wherever you are, watching this video. AND HAPPY ST MARGARET'S DAY!"

## SMESA Speaker Series – Virtual Talk by Ong Soh Chin on 14 Oct 2020

Ms Ong Soh Chin an ex-student from SMPS and SMSS is currently Deputy Director at the Institute of Policy Studies. Previously, she was Asia-Pacific Editor and Speechwriter with the global editorial team at Shell and held several positions at The Straits Times. As a journalist and editor, she has covered the arts, entertainment, fashion, beauty, lifestyle, politics and current affairs in her career.

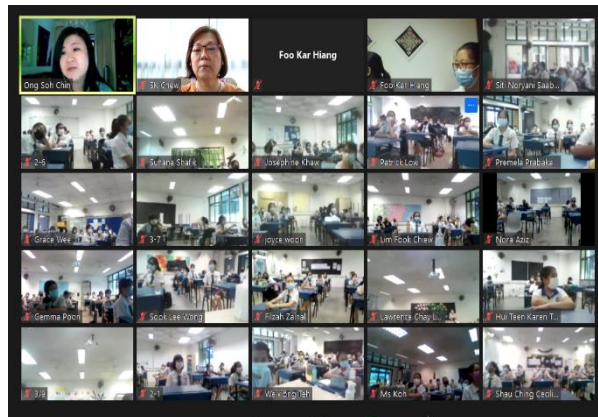


Ms Ong Soh Chin

She shared with the students of SMSS on how life is a series of new beginnings, with the advise that students should not be afraid to change their minds regarding careers and their life decisions.



(Left to right) Shreya and Ashley of Sec 3-2



One thing that I learnt from the SMESA Speaker Series talk is the importance of adaptability. Ms Ong talked about the evolution of technology (especially in smart/handphones), and how we must stay relevant in society.

She also emphasised the need to constantly change and adapt to the future. She shared on the importance of kindness when I asked her about the attitude we should have when embarking on new ventures or tasks. I agree with her as expressions of kindness are visible. I genuinely admire how she held firm to her beliefs. It was interesting listening to her sharing about other female role models, especially Constance Singam. I greatly enjoyed this talk !  
By Shreya of Sec 3-2

From Ms Ong's presentation, I have learned about the importance of adaptability, especially in today's day and age. We need to be able to define and even redefine ourselves since our world is ever changing, and so it may not always be possible to follow a set path in our future careers. For her sharing, I gained valuable insight into what it takes to be successful in the workforce in the future: one should persevere, take risks and have a life-long learning mindset since there will always be ways to upskill ourselves e.g. tech savviness !  
By Ashley of Sec 3-2

**SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2020/2021****President**

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**2nd Vice-President**

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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

	<b>SMPS</b>	<b>SMSS</b>
1. Wee Melissa	2000	2004
2. Lee Chien Hui	1992	None
3. Sia Chin Chin	1984	None
4. Vathsala Devi Uthirapathy	None	1977
5. Evangeline Tan Pei Ping	None	1990

## Recruitment for SMESA Board Members 2021/2022

Year 2020 has been a challenging year. We pray you are all keeping well.

As we approach the New Year, we shall be preparing for SMESA Annual General Meeting to be held by April 2021, details will be advised when they have been finalized. An important item in our AGM agenda is the election of Members of the Board. Every year, we look forward to having new members joining the SMESA Board. We meet once a month and our work is centered round our Alma Mater, our members and the community. There is much we can still do in each of these areas and we need you, our members, to come on board to join us in this meaningful and rewarding work, to bless others as we have been blessed. So, please do contact us at [smesa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:smesa.sg@gmail.com) and we shall connect with you to give further information and answer questions you may have.





## SMSS Post-Exam Activities - Virtual

By Lina Wee

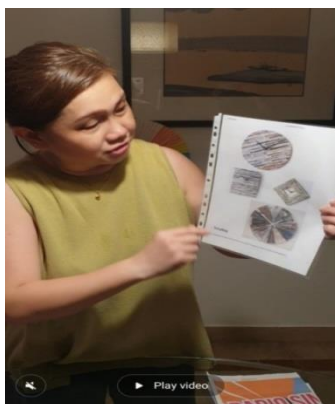
A group of us went to Soo Kwan's place to do a pre-recorded video for Post-Exam Activities for SMSS Library Club Members:

- a) Use recycle old T-shirt to make into a bag
- b) Use recycle papers/newspapers/magazines to make an accordion clock

Each of us brought something for potluck, and we had a fabulous meal together before we commenced our work.



InstaMag



# SMESA All-Round Achiever Award 2019 & Other Awards for SMPS

By Ethel Liew Wen Xin (6 Patience)

SMPS has always been a second home for me; a place where I could find comfort in my friends, a place for me to learn and grow; a place that I had spent a large part of my life in. So, it was with no hesitation that I would serve my school to the best of my abilities. Most of my values and experiences were all developed in SMPS. For example, my journey as a young prefect, then elected as a prefect captain, had given me lifelong experiences in more ways than one could ever imagine. Excelling in my studies and getting a high PSLE score could only be done with the diligent help of my teachers, who did their best to educate me and my fellow students well so that we could have a better future ahead. Thanks to them and all who have supported me, I believe that was the reason why I am who I am today. Thank you to all my teachers and friends who had supported me through my ups and downs throughout my primary school life. Thanks to those who believed in me and nominated me for this award. I will forever strive to do all of you proud.

All-Round Achiever 2019



## Recipients of SMESA Awards on SMPS Virtual Prize Giving Day



Head Prefect



Assistant Head Prefect



Assistant Head Prefect



Head Captain



Head Captain



St. Margaret's Prize



## Celebrating St. Margaret's 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - A Virtual Concert on Facebook and YouTube Live

(continued at page 8-10)

By Tay-Lang Ren Jee

16 November 2020 is a day I will always remember. St. Margaret's celebrated her 178<sup>th</sup> anniversary on that day, a first ever virtual celebration because of the restrictions on gathering due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Professor Lawrence Boo, chairman of the School Management Committee, started the event by expressing his thankfulness to God for 'His constant watch over us' which enables us to 'enjoy the abundant grace of God'. He said a prayer befitting of the challenging time, for God's protection 'from harm's way, from deadly pestilence that lurks in every unknown corner and that the Lord will bless everyone who's identified with the St. Margaret's family. He urged us to "feel the spirit that unites us as a family unbroken".

Indeed it was a family unbroken! Unbroken by geographical distance and time or pandemic. Hundreds across the globe paused to participate in the virtual celebrations on 16 November, 7.00 p.m. local time. There were participants all over the world including Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, US. (The site which is still open for viewing has garnered more than 2400 views thus far).

Looking at the photos of the various programmes and activities in both the primary and secondary school bring much delight. There's so much focus on holistic development and character development through enriching fun activities.



For the first time during our anniversary celebrations, we get to hear the voices of many expressing about their experiences in St. Margaret's. The 14 interviewed included principals, teachers and students, both present and past as well as the St. Margaret's Ex-students Alumni (SMESA) board members.

### **Principals (Past and Present)**

**Ms Pang Wee Mian**, (immediate past principal of SMPS : 2012 to 2018), shared that she had learnt to rely on God's grace, protection and leadership while serving in the school. Her experience in the school has prepared her well as she serves in her new school, relying on God's wisdom and grace to make a difference in the lives of students and staff.

**Mdm Lee Lin Yee** (immediate past principal of SMSS: 2015 to 2019) reiterated the importance of living out Philippians 2:3-4, in putting and valuing others above self and looking at the interests of others. She encouraged us to practise this in the current difficult time by bearing some discomfort in order to protect those around us.

**Ms Linda Lim** (current principal of SMSS) was overflowing with thanksgiving in spite of this unprecedented, challenging and bruising time. She was thankful to God for His faithfulness and protection. She also expressed thanks to different groups of people (all her staff, the management committee, the chaplaincy team of St. John's Chapel and the Parent-Support Group) for their various roles during such a time. She shared that life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain. She encouraged us to come as a community to encourage each other and let our light shine through this darkness.





## **Celebrating St. Margaret's 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - A Virtual Concert on Facebook and YouTube Live**

(continued from page 7)

**Mrs Ko-Tan Li Ling** (current principal of SMPS) shared about the PERI Upgrading Project the school is currently undergoing to enhance the teaching and learning infrastructure and facilities to support holistic education. The school has thus far raised \$700 000, far short of its target of \$1.3 million, which may be higher in the current situation. She encouraged everyone to donate generously. Greeting cards which feature pupils' artwork are also on sale. Those who wish to donate or purchase the greeting cards may email the school at [stmargaretps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:stmargaretps@moe.edu.sg)

### **Teachers (Past and Present)**

**Mrs Denise Cheong-Dio** (student of SMSS: 1988 to 1991; teacher in SMPS since 2005.) recalled the fun things she did as a student and her favourite nasi ayam from the canteen. She remembered how the teachers made her feel special and that each mattered even though all were treated the same way. These fond memories caused her to send her children to her alma-mater.

**Mrs Pamela Yeo-Chew** (student of SMS: 1987 to 1996; teacher and HOD in SMPS since 2009) felt that she was 'coming home' when she started teaching at SMPS. She recalled how she experienced God in a real way when she was a student in SMSS.

**Mrs Elizabeth Yang-Tan** (student of SMS: 1994 to 2003, teacher SMSS since 2011) remembered an occasion when the school was at a holding site. A family of rats entered the classroom causing a pandemonium. The 'gungho' ones started chasing the rats around the classroom.

**Ms Noraini Bakri** (teacher in SMSS since 1982) was able to stay in SMSS for almost 40 years because the school feels like a family to her, even from the very first day she joined the school. One needs only to ask for help and help will come. She expressed that she will miss the school as she will be retiring at the end of the year).

**Mrs Tay Ren Jee Renata** (student SMS : 1964 to 1973; teacher in SMSS in 1978; teacher, HOD, Year Head in SMPS : 1988 -2017, SMESA board since 2018) shared about my finding greatest pleasure and fulfilment in building the socio-emotional well-being of pupils. I fondly recalled impacting the life of a student who could hardly read just months before her PSLE. My greatest joy was not her passing the PSLE but her having grown in confidence and self-esteem, as testified by her father and adult sister. Another pupils who realised my eagerness to help her, voluntarily admitted her struggle with honesty.

### **Students (Past and Present)**

**Eleanor Teo Yan** (student of SMSS: 2010 – 2019) misses her friends at SMSS most. They went through ups and downs together, laughed and cried together. It's such close friendship that has shaped and helped her character and values.

**Megan Wang** (student of SMSS: 2010 – 2019, immediate past president of SMSS Student Council) is a success story of the value ex-principal, Mdm Lee, imparted to the school – to put others before self and servant leadership. Mdm Lee's exhortation to 'go into the world and do well, but more importantly, go into the world and do good' has left a deep impression in her. This has helped her to lead a purposeful and meaningful live.

**Anya Chew** (Current Head Prefect of SMPS) shared that her favourite place is in the school library because of the coolness, the wide variety of books and the friendly and approachable librarian.





## Celebrating St. Margaret’s 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - A Virtual Concert on Facebook and YouTube Live

(continued from page 8)

### PTA and SMESA

**Ms Lee Chin Chin** (President of SMPS PTA) was very pleased that her two daughters in SMPS have picked up the value of kindness from the school. Both girls are very attentive to their friends and reach out to comfort them when they are down.

**Ms Lee Soo Kwan** (student of SMSS: 1959 to 1962, immediate past president of SMESA, SMC Board Member) accepted the invitation to join SMESA board in mid 1960s to stay connected with the school and to contribute to her alma-mater. She shared about the work of SMESA which aims to reach out to the St. Margaret’s family and to impact the community. These include work attachments and job shadowing for students, legal awareness talks, visiting senior ex-teachers and members, visit to the St. Andrew’s Cathedral Home for the Aged, etc. She encourages ex-students to join her. (A transcript of the interview with her can be found on Page 2)

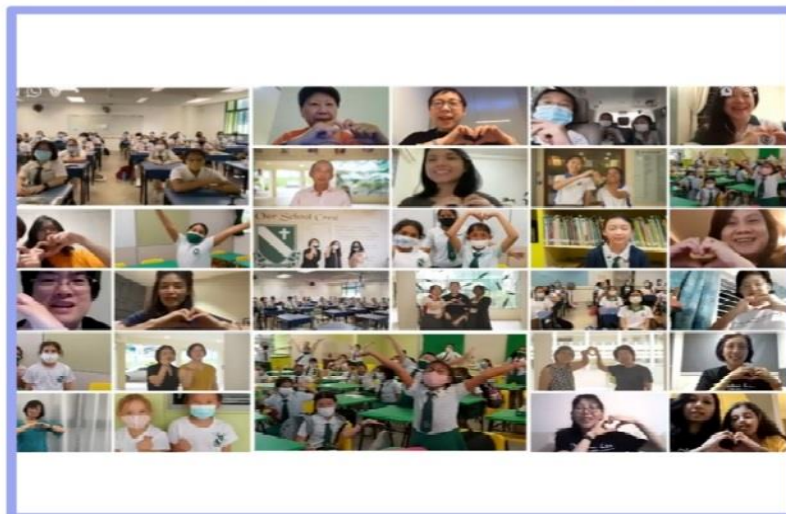
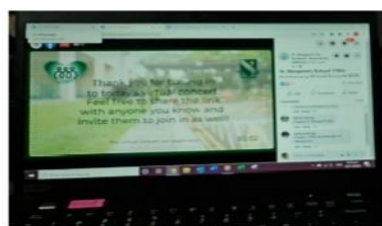
The virtual celebration ended with a virtual choir comprising 58 voices echoing in unison ‘For Charity, Patience, Devotion let’s be known...’ as they sang the school song.

Watching the celebrations brought a nostalgic feeling and a sense of pride to be in the St. Margaret’s family.

Here’s the link to either platform:

Facebook – [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=852334365567084&id=262755627081319](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=852334365567084&id=262755627081319)

YouTube – <https://youtu.be/fa79PiH79KA>





(continued from page 9)

## What Our Overseas Ex-Teachers And Students Have To Say ?

Watching the 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Concert 2020 from my home in Southern Ireland brought back fond memories of my teaching days in SMPS. The school ethos of Charity, Patience and Devotion was evident on a daily basis during my time there. In the strange times we are living in, it is so nice to see that these values are as strong as ever. Thank you for including me in this celebration. Keep up the good work.

*Mrs Geraldine Kieren (Ireland)  
Teacher in SMPS (2012 to 2016)*

It is really heartwarming to hear all the encouraging messages shared by every individual. Watching the celebrations brought back many fond memories. I enjoyed the school song the most since the last time I sang it was back in 2004. Thank you for putting this virtual concert together.

*Soh Wei Ling Samantha (Sydney, Australia)  
Student of SMS from 1994 to 2004*

I love the 178<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration! Seeing the school and students wearing the uniform definitely stir up warm feelings and joy and brought back fond memories. It's such an eye opener to see that the school has expanded greatly with modern classrooms and with great ambience! I hope to visit the school one day!

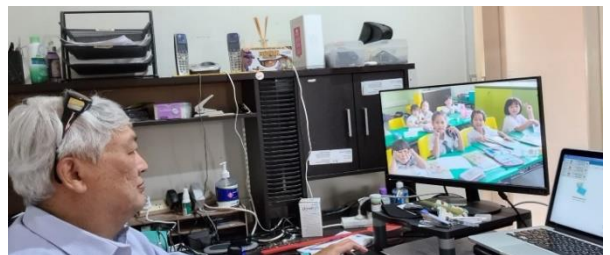
*Dorothy Tan (USA)  
Student from SMSS 1976 to 1979*

Living overseas, I benefitted from the need to go virtual by being able to participate in the celebrations from home and not having to miss out on these events! Well done to the team who organised it and keep it up, please!

*Fiona Wee (Perth, Australia)  
Student from SMSS from 1976 to 1979*

I am so happy to be able to watch the 178<sup>th</sup> Anniversary online and to celebrate this memorable day with the family of St. Margaret's. It is evident that St. Margaret's is developing leaders of Singapore and the world.

*Mr Victor Lim (Melbourne, Australia)  
First male teacher in SMPS (1991 to 2008)*



Here in Singapore, Mrs Wong Hoe Eng, Ex-Teacher and Member of SMESA was watching the video at home.

