

ST. MARGARET'S CONNECT



OCT-DEC

ISSUE #60

2021

A Publication of St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

IN THIS ISSUE

SMPS 179th Anniversary Celebration
Announcements / New Members
Partnering the schools
Feedback
SMPS School Leavers - Reflections
SMSS School Leavers - Reflections
SMESA Christmas Celebration with
St. Andrew's Cathedral Home via ZOOM
on Friday, 10 Nov 2021
Introduction of Azzah Fariha
SMESA Youth Wing Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

Work Attachment & Job-Shadowing
(WAJS) Programme

Notes :

1) Amendments to SMESA constitution have been approved by members during AGM held on 17th April 2021 and approved by ROS on 25th August 2021. Please refer to our website for the amended constitution.

2) Due to COVID-19, all other events are either in virtual mode or postponed until further notice.



St. Margaret's School 179th Anniversary Celebration **(Extracted from St. Margaret's School Annual 2021)**

The St. Margaret's School Founder's Day celebration this year saw us celebrating an illustrious 179 years of being. The planning of and carrying out of this event was led by the St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association (SMESA), in collaboration with St. Margaret's Secondary School, St. Margaret's Primary School, SMPS Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and SMSS Parents Support Group (PSG). The theme of our Anniversary celebration this year was '179 Years in Unity'. While safety restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 prevented us from gathering again to celebrate in person, this year's celebration was by no means impersonal. Just like the sash in our school crest that represents the friendship ties that bind all who are in the St. Margaret's School family, we did not let the unique circumstances of this year prevent us from strengthening our bonds with one another. This year's celebration was carried out over a virtual event platform, which allowed members of the St. Margaret's family, both locally and abroad, to join in. One of the highlights was a commemorative video featuring the highlights of the year from SMESA, SMSS, SMPS, PTA and PSG.

To mark the joyous occasion, members of the organizing committee worked together to design limited edition memorabilia such as St. Margaret's Face Masks, EZ-Link Card Stickers and Twilly Scarves. Designed with our trademark dots and white and green, these functional items gave members of the St. Margaret's family a sense of connection to our school and served as a timely reminder of how we overcame adversity during these difficult times. An online portal was set up to put the memorabilia on sale to the public. Indeed, we hope that these unique pieces of history will be a blessing to those who use them or receive them as gifts.

Continue on page 2



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following new members :-

	SMPS	SMSS
1. Silvaguru Kamini	None	2002
2. Celine Lim Yiru	1993	1997
3. Christine Wong	None	2002
4. Christine Chng	1999	2003
5. Amanda Tan	1997	2001
6. Lee Mei Shan	1997	2001
7. Stacy Wee	1999	None
8. Renita Chua	None	1990
9. Christabel Koh	1995	None
10. Joy-Anne Tan	None	1997

Heartiest Congratulations to our Past President Lee Soo Kwan for receiving the Service to Education Award (10-19 years) from MOE.



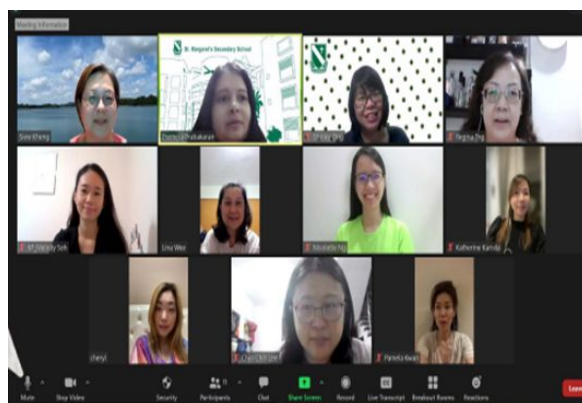
(L-R) Ms Linda Lim (SMSS Principal) and Ms Lee Soo Kwan (SMESA)

Partnering the Schools

- As part of SMSS strategic thrust, a team of 5 SMESA members consisting of Siew Kheng, Soo Kwan, Mary George, Sara Liew and Lee Mian Jun had a focus group discussion with Principal Linda Lim and VP Chrystine Woon over Zoom to discuss the aspirations of the girls and how to prepare the girls as they transit to higher tertiary education or the workplace.
- Sponsored SMESA Awards for SMPS Prize Giving Day 2021.
- Partner with SMSS on Work Attachment & Job-Shadowing (WAJS) Programme.
- Sale of special St Margaret's 179th Anniversary memorabilia to support SMPS PERI-upgrading Fund-raising.

Continue from Page 1

Although 2021 represents another challenging year, we thank God for holding the entire St. Margaret's family together, and for His preservation through these trying times, to not only survive, but to thrive. May we continue to live out the words of our school song, remembering that 'When life brings pain, when trials us defy, our faith, our hope, our discipline require us to withstand, respond with spirit high. St. Margaret's shall again inspire.'



179th Anniversary Organising Committee



St. Margaret's Memorabilia in support of SMPS PERI Upgrading



Please watch the anniversary video at <https://youtube.com/watch?v=EapT55SAjdc> and purchase the memorabilia at [https:// tinyurl.com/stmargaretsmemorabilia](https://tinyurl.com/stmargaretsmemorabilia)

Feedback

From Mrs Wong Hoe Eng

I have just received the SMESA Newsletter. It is lovely to read about your visit to Mrs Linda Sandosham. It brings back happy memories. It's wonderful to see the girls continue to shine for the School.

I am so pleased that SMESA continues working with the School and the community in the midst of the pandemic. Great that you keep the flag flying!

God bless all of you!

Soo Kwan: Mrs Wong told me she is perhaps the oldest St Marg's girl. She may be but she is as alert and clear-thinking as she has always been. She keeps herself well informed on all that is going on around her. She calls me every time after receiving our Newsletter, giving me interesting bits of news of an ex-student or a teacher mentioned in the Newsletter. On the morning of 16 November, she called me to wish everyone' Happy St Margaret's Day!' Her heart is truly with St Margaret's. May we all love our Alma Mater like Mrs Wong!

Mrs Wong taught in St Margaret's from 1949 to 1980 and served in the School Management Committee for 13 years until 1999.



From June Tipsan Seow

Technology is simply marvellous! Now living more than 12,000 kilometres from Singapore in Canada, it enables me to stay connected with SMESA. I look forward to receiving news from your quarterly Newsletter. It is truly heartening to know that more ex-students are joining our alumni association, coming on board to work with SMESA in their efforts to support the students and our Alma Mater. I am also very glad that SMESA continues to reach out to the community and in particular, the residents of St Andrew's Cathedral Home. I would like to encourage all students to join SMESA upon graduation from St Margaret's and stay connected with the St Margaret's Family. There is much we can do together!

May the Lord bless you in all the work you are doing in the schools, for the members and in the community.

I look forward to receiving the next Newsletter!

Soo Kwan: Though June has been away from Singapore for more than a decade, she keeps in touch with several of us. Many have visited her in Canada and we all remember her very warm hospitality. June was President of SMESA from 1996 to 1982.



SMSS School Leavers - Reflections

Being part of the St. Margaret's family has been an eye-opening experience for me. Through participating in various VIA projects at St. Margaret's, I was given the opportunity to serve the community, allowing me to become a more other-centred person. The leadership opportunities offered by the school-initiated programmes have also encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone.

As the Vice-Chairperson of Malay Dance, I had the opportunity to choreograph dances for school events, as well as to guide and motivate my teammates during practices.

It was during the pandemic that my creative thinking and resourcefulness were truly put to the test, as my team had to adapt to having practices and bonding activities via online sessions. It was then that my fellow leaders made the collective decision for the team members to record individual practice videos and submit them to us. This not only allowed us to monitor their progress and give them personal feedback; it also enabled us to strengthen our teamwork despite being confined to our individual homes.

St. Margaret's has instilled values such as devotion and kindness in me, as well as broadened my perspectives on various social issues. My most memorable experience at St. Margaret's is the friendships I have forged during my time here. Regardless of the situation, my friends would always be by my side – my source of comfort and motivation to press on. I was also surrounded by teachers who constantly supported me through the various challenges I faced.

Our unique school culture has shaped me into the person I am today. I will surely miss the heart-warming atmosphere in St. Margaret's Secondary School.



Insyirah Bte Mohd Razif
S4-1



Tanisha Mei Murugesh
S4-4

I have been greatly blessed during my time at St. Margaret's. When I joined the school in Secondary 2, I was worried that I would have problems making friends and fitting in. However, I soon realised that these worries were unfounded as my classmates and teachers welcomed me with open arms.

In Secondary 3, I was given the privilege to hold leadership positions in both my Co-curricular Activity (CCA), Girl Guides, and in Student Council. My role in Student Council allowed me to learn about different leadership styles and how to work together as a team and play to everyone's strengths to achieve the best possible results.

In Girl Guides, I learnt how to better engage my peers and encourage them to finish set tasks. It was through these lessons that I became better equipped to make each CCA session engaging and enjoyable for the members.

Aside from the invaluable experiences that I had at St. Margaret's, I am also grateful to my teachers who constantly guided and encouraged me and pushed me to do my best. Indeed, it was my friends and teachers who made my time in St. Margaret's memorable, and my 3 years here is something I will always cherish and look back fondly.

SMSS School Leavers -- Reflections



Yeong Qin Yeng
S4-7

If I have to use one word to describe my four years in St. Margaret's Secondary School, it would definitely be 'fruitful'. Throughout my years here, I have been given multiple opportunities to learn and grow. Despite being an introvert, I was given leadership opportunities to broaden my potential, forge many unforgettable friendships, and ultimately, gain a deeper understanding of the value of giving back to society.

Additionally, school-organised programmes such as Values In Action (VIA) projects and learning journeys helped instill in me the importance of being open to others' opinions and perspectives.

The multiple setbacks that I encountered in my studies and relationships did not prevent me from persevering and striving to learn. I remember how my amazing teachers and friends stayed by my side through those trying times, providing me with encouragement and support to boost my strength and keep me going.

It was also during my time at St. Margaret's Secondary School that I discovered my passions and interests, and was able to ascertain my strengths and weaknesses in Arts and Science subjects.

Without a doubt, my experience at St. Margaret's Secondary School has been an enriching one. Beside discovering my own potential, I also gained a greater sense of self-identity and confidence. I will always fondly remember St. Margaret's as my second home – a place where I was accepted and was encouraged to grow.

I will definitely miss the St. Margaret's culture.

SMPS School Leavers - Reflections

My time in SMPS has been a wonderful learning journey. I have made many friends and cultivated values that will help me in the secondary school. I am thankful to all the amazing teachers and staff who have guided me these six years and helped me to learn and grow. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to be a prefect captain. It has helped develop courage in me to do the right things.

I liked the morning devotions most. We were asked to recall what we were thankful for. I also love the verse and prayer.

In the six years, there have been many challenges, such as learning to adapt and cope with the covid-19 pandemic. I will definitely take these lessons with me as I move on to the next phase of my life. Although I will be sad to leave SMPS, I know that the lessons learnt, the values cultivated and skills acquired will continue to serve me well as I grow up.

SMPS is a precious place that will always be close to my heart. I will never forget the support the school has given me. Through my teachers, I have learnt to serve, not for recognition nor reward, but that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Various experiences have taught me values that are critical for secondary school and beyond.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to my learning and growth. There were many times I wanted to quit, but my teachers would push me to give my best shot and not to give up. I am very grateful to them for pushing me beyond my limitations or I would never be who I am today. I'm also thankful to my friends for being there for me during challenging times. They helped to mend the broken pieces in me.

During the daily morning devotion, we are asked what we are thankful for. I am indeed thankful for my time in SMPS. It has filled me with joy and love. It is with great reluctance that I say goodbye to SMPS.

Vera Chan (P6 Tenacity, 2021)
Prefect Captain

Claire Chen Yi (6 Patience, 2021)
Assistant Head Prefect



**Vera Chan Qi'en (6 Tenacity, 2021)
Prefect Captain**

**Claire Chen Yi (6 Patience, 2021)
Assistant Head Prefect**

SMESA celebrates Christmas with residents at St. Andrew's Cathedral Home via ZOOM on 10th December 2021



A visit by SMESA President Siew Kheng and SMESA Members Suraja and Janet to deliver Christmas Gift packs to the residents of St. Andrew's Cathedral Home before the virtual online celebration.

Christmas Celebration with St. Andrew's Cathedral Home (SACH)

By Tay Ren Jee Renata

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" the residents at SACH chorused in unison on 10 Dec 2021.

SMESA hosted a Christmas celebration with the residents at SACH via Zoom on that day. Rev Joshua Raj and Pastor Chia Kum Meng joined in the celebrations. During the singing of carols, the residents accompanied the singing with their percussion instruments or shone torches that were provided by SMESA to increase their participation.

The residents then watched a video clip on the Christmas story with Chinese subtitles. This was followed by the sharing of God's Word by Rev Joshua with Pastor Kum Meng giving the Mandarin translation. Rev Joshua encouraged residents to press on during these challenging times when they were unable to go out or have visitors. He encouraged them from Nehemiah 8:10, that the joy of the Lord is their strength. As such, they can turn to God and not fear. The celebrations ended with Pastor Kum Meng saying the closing prayer.

Judy, a staff at SACH shared this after the celebrations - "Please thank your committee & members - from the bottom of our hearts. The residents will carry on with Part 2 of the celebrations tomorrow - enjoy the gingerbread cookie & chocolates for break. Today they had cupcake & twisted dough !! You all have put in so much effort to bring them cheer !!"

Introducing Azzah Fariha



Azzah Fariha

As a newly co-opted SMESA board member, I am honoured to be able to give back to my alma mater. I was in SMSS from 2000-2004, and I never fail to tell people that St. Margaret has instilled in me great values and good character and shaped me to be the person I am today.

I started my Secondary 1 in the temporary holding school in Commonwealth., Our principal, the late Mrs. Caroline Lee, was a huge icon for us. Her Cleopatra-like bob hairstyle, jet black straight hair, and uniform sleeveless work dresses became a familiar picture to us girls. She was stern and firm, but we could also see that she had a warm heart. I vividly remember crossing the road as we were walking back to our classes one morning after our flag-raising. Careless me just dashed across a small road, not seeing an oncoming car. She shouted at me, 'You silly girl!' and with just that, I learnt my lesson.

St. Margaret's teachers raised us to be well-spoken girls. Miss Noraini captured our attention through the English lessons. Her enchanting stories were what we *lived* for. Mrs Rajaendran was another teacher I will remember forever ('I am watching you like a hawk', she used to say to the class). We were also taught to have heart and learn teamwork.

Growing up for 5 years in SMSS (I was in the Normal Academic stream), I had ample opportunities to take on numerous leadership roles - Treasurer, Monitress, House Captain (Go Tolley!)... These developed in me confidence and the skills to manage people as well as to delegate work and work closely with teachers. Today, I am a mother, a teacher and an artist. I acted in the local Malay industry, met the love of my life there, got married and we now have 2 beautiful children.

Being an actress demands a lot of confidence. I have the school and teachers to thank for shaping me to be who I am today. I am so proud to carry my green polka dots close to my heart and I know our school motto and the school values are what make us great St. Margaret's girls. One day, I hope my daughter can experience the same thing I did in school.

SMESA BOARD MEMBERS 2021/2022

President

Ms Chew Siew Kheng

1st Vice-President

Ms Pamela Rachel Kwan Ka Foong

2nd Vice-President

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Honorary Secretary

Ms Irene Fong Wei Wei

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Ms Hui Choon Wai

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Adeline Sng

Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Ms Kalavathy d/o Suppiah

Committee Members

Ms Lee Soo Kwan
Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew
Ms Brenda Lan Shu Mei
Ms Juliana Tenggara
Ms Susan M. Wijaya

Co-opted Member

Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata
Ms Olga Bessarab
Ms Azzah Fariha

Honorary Auditors

Ms Joy Gillian Quek
Ms A Vani Aaliyah

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Editor

Mrs Tay-Lang Ren Jee Renata

Layout Artist

Ms Lina Wee Mei Ling

Advisors

Ms Pixie Ho Pik Yew
Ms Lee Soo Kwan

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240
www.smesa.org.sg
www.facebook.com/smesa1842
Email: smesa.sg@gmail.com
om
Fax: (65) 6534 5127
WhatsApp only : (65) 88524621

SMESA Youth Sector (Youth Wing Club)

St. Margaret's Ex-Students' Association – Youth Sector

- Below the age of 21 OR still in tertiary education
- Keep in touch with the school, teachers, and other graduates
- We serve all students (past and present!) of the St. Margaret's Family
- Membership is FREE



Staying in Touch...



smesa.sg@gmail.com



[facebook.com/smesa1842](https://www.facebook.com/smesa1842)



[@smesa1842](https://www.instagram.com/smesa1842)

Anyone below the age of 21 can join using the QR Code or go to <https://www.smesa.org.sg/membership>

Important notice to all members :

Please note that SMESA Newsletters will only be available in softcopy effective 2022. Hard copies will be available only upon request.