



**ST. FRANCIS
METHODIST SCHOOL**

Possibilities to Realities

WAWA MO'DHA S'KERT BELAKAH



Principal's Message



The school welcomes the inaugural publication of its Newsletter, The Beacon. As a Methodist Institution, St. Francis Methodist School will always provide guidance for its students, a moral compass and attitude to do what is right wherever they go and to be the best that they can be. While emphasis is placed on academic achievement, we strive to provide a holistic education with the aim at helping each student develop his own full potential so that he may become a responsible and upright member of the society.

We are grateful to our staff, past and present for their contribution to the school. Through their dedication and commitment, St. Francis continue to grow from strength to strength thus earning our Edutrust Award in 2011, a much coveted award that every private school strives for.

This year's theme 'You Are the Light of The World' Matthew 5:14 will encourage both staff and students to be a shining light for others and hence glorify our God in heaven.

Mrs. Lenie Cho, Principal | CEO

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Congratulation to our Ausmat & GCE 'O' Level Graduates!

GCE 'O' Level 2013 Top Student

Position	Grades
Su Shenru	5A, 1B, 1C
Wang Yuwen	5A, 1C, 1D
Lin Chia-Jung	4A, 1B, 2C

Ausmat 2013 Top Student

Position	ATAR Score
Li Qian	97.10
Ma Yiting	96.10
Jonathan Leong	95.20
Overall Passing Rate: 75%	

St. Francis Methodist School's Journey attaining bizSAFE Level 3 and Beyond

All workplaces including education institutions covered under the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSHA) are required to implement full Risk Management by September 2011.

Our journey to be part of the bizSAFE community started in early January 2013 with Senior Management fulfilling the requirements and was recognized as bizSAFE Level 1 Enterprise. After attaining the bizSAFE Level 2 status, with the help of our consultant, Green Shield Consortium LLP, the School set out to fully implement the RM plan and prepare for bizSAFE Level 3.



Milestone #1

biSAFE Level 3 requires the School to fully implement the RM Plan and to engage an independent MOM-approved WSH auditor to audit the effectiveness of our RM. SFMS successfully attained bizSAFE Level 3 on 17 March 2013. By attaining bizSAFE Level 3, it is one of the means to show that SFMS's RM implementation has been audited to the statutory requirements under the WSHA.

As part of our continuous journey to cultivate WSH as a school's culture, the School set up the Health, Safety, Security and Environment Council (HSSE) in May 2013. The aim is keep up with our continuous quest for the improvement of health and safety record in order to provide a safe and conducive working environment for our staff, students, education partners and contractors.

Milestone #2

We believe that we are one of the first education institutions to embrace WSH through bizSAFE programmes culminating in attaining the bizSAFE Level 3. The School then went on to win the coveted bizSAFE Enterprise Progressive Award on 28 February 2014.

Being safe and healthy is key to our business success. This has an impact on lowering staff absenteeism and this in turn leads to higher productivity and reduced costs and greater staff and student satisfaction. At the bizSAFE Enterprise Award ceremony, SFMS was singled out by the Manpower Minister:

"The school has set up a Health, Safety, Security and Environment Council and appointed middle management to oversee risk management (RM) matters. The Council has incorporated a string of safety measures during the renovation of their school last year. These include installing fans to improve ventilation as well as ionisers in toilets to enhance air quality. Fruits are also distributed to staff and students on a biannual basis as part of the school's "Fruit Day" initiative to promote their health and wellbeing. By winning the bizSAFE Enterprise Progressive Award, the school has raised the level of WSH awareness among the staff and students, and spurred them to continue with their efforts to adopt WSH as part of the school's culture."



WSH is not just an employer's responsibility. Everyone in the organization has a role to play. At SFMS, it is our desire to cultivate a strong and pervasive WSH culture so that we can continue to strive towards our vision of zero workplace accidents and a healthy workforce with low staff absentee turnover.

English Week 2014

From the 24th to the 28th February, the English Department held our annual English Week. The theme for this year was Explore English @SFMS 2014. The aim of English Week was to encourage students' interest in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing English.



Besides Movie Screening, different activities were also lined up for all the levels. Learning about words was key to the ELF students as they participated enthusiastically in Spelling, Boggle and Word Chain activities. Creativity was the main focus for the Secondary One students as they tried to create Shape Poems. All Secondary Two students also showed their creative flair when they wrote Fiction 55, a short story consisting of only 55 words.



More fun and different activities were lined up for the Secondary Three students as they designed a poster and wrote a conclusion to the Movie, *Kite Runner* as well as played a game of Win, Lose and Draw. Writing was the key feature in the Secondary Four activity so students wrote Mini Sagas – an activity to hone their writing skills in 50 words.

Pitting their spelling skills against their peers and racing against time, the Pre U 1s and Pre U Two students enjoyed a morning of Vocabee – a combination of Vocabulary and Spelling which saw the Pre U 2A EALD class emerging as Champions.

Prizes were awarded to all winners and all activities were well received by both students and teachers as everyone enjoyed English week 2014.

Parents - Guardians Briefing - 22 February 2014

The 1st Parents-Guardians Briefing 2014 was held on 22 February at the Learning Centre, at 9.30 am. The objective of the briefing was to communicate important information about the school to the parents and guardians who were naturally concerned about the well-being and development of their children and

wards. Through such twice a year briefing, the school hoped that the parents and guardians would be kept informed and updated in order to better partner and support school policies and events.

Participation was encouraging as almost 70 parents and guardians came to listen to presentation by the school's key personnel.

The briefing started with the introduction of the Division and Academic Heads and a welcome speech by our Principal, Mrs Lenie Cho. This was followed by a presentation on the academic pathways in SFMS, information regarding assessment dates, school rules, roles and responsibili-

ties of guardians, enrolment procedures, academic achievement programme and interest groups. The event ended with a short IT training on our new SchoolBase system and a question and answer session.



Upper Secondary School Camp 2014

The 3 days 2 nights USS camp took place from 20th February to 22nd February in the forested Sarimbun Scout Camp. A total of 156 Secondary 3 and Secondary 4 students, slightly more than 76% of the two cohorts, participated in the camp, completing the camp with indomitable spirit in the hottest and driest month in Singapore since 1869!



In the three days together, the students were put to the intense test of various activities and took part in team building games that aimed not only to build and strengthen their bonds, but also to reinforce the five foundation keys they learned in their Pastoral Care lessons back in school, namely, resilience, persistence,

getting along, organization and confidence. Students washed their own utensils after each meal and took turns to serve other students dinner or lunch. There were many activities that gave the opportunities to every student to challenge themselves. They were also able to stretch their own limits and uncover their potential through activities like rock climbing and building the tallest structure with limited resources.

Despite the cramped sleeping quarters, very basic food preparation and harsh weather, the students' overall experience with the camp was very positive. Many participants commented that they went away with better knowledge of each other and were more ready to work together. Teachers back in school had also observed that students returning from the camp showed more self-confidence. They were able to work together better in the classroom and were more responsive to the teachers in their learning. We had also interviewed the winners of the Best Campers Award on the last day of the camp and this is what they have to say:

Kelly Vu (3G2) – Best Camper, Female

Before the camp, I really did not want to go thinking that it would be very boring. But during the camp, I felt energetic and the games are so challenging and fun. After camp, my body hurt so much. The camp has taught me more about teamwork. I gained more confidence and believed more in my friends and myself.

Ajmal (4G1) – Best Camper, Male

There were things in the camp that were uncomfortable. But through it all, our experiences made the relationship between my classmates and me better. The camp was all about working together and making new friends. In the “Gladiator” game, our class showed a “never-say-die” attitude. Everyone played a part in order to succeed. I am so happy and proud of ourselves.

