



**ST. FRANCIS  
METHODIST SCHOOL**

*Possibilities to Realities*  
 4000A 40 0000 100000 100000

### Upcoming Event

Come join us for our  
**SFMS Family Carnival 2014!**  
 8 August, 8.30am to 12pm

### Inside this issue:

**Speech & Thanksgiving  
 Day**

**Tiomán Eco Educational  
 Tour 2014**

**Earth Day**

**2014 Staff Retreat**

**Science Week**

**Community Involvement**



# The Beacon



## 2014 Speech & Thanksgiving Day - Mr. Akbar Hussain

“You are the Light of the World” was the theme of our 54th Awards and Thanksgiving Function which was held on 9th May 2014. Parents, guardians, teachers, students and distinguished guests gathered to celebrate the achievements of our school and many of our students who had done well academically the previous year.

The celebration kicked off with the Call of Worship and Songs of Adoration by Mrs Joyce Seet and her team. The audience were led to a time of singspiration by the dynamic team.

The interest group showcase started off with a video montage showing the various interest groups in school and thereafter, a stunning performance was put up by Mr Eguia Tito. The skipping performance was refreshing and captivated the heart of the audience. Mrs Lenie Cho, our principal then presented the Annual Report of the school which showcased the various aspects of school activities, student development and future prospects of St. Francis Methodist School. Bishop Wee gave an inspiring message on the theme, “You are the Light of the World” and challenged students to excel in their studies for the glory of God. St. Francis prepares students for three different examinations, i.e. Singapore Cambridge ‘O’ Level, IGCSE and AUSMAT examinations. In order to recognise our students’ achievement, trophies were given out to high achievers from every level of our programmes. At this occasion, long service awards were presented to 8 recipients in recognition of their contribution and loyalty to the school. All 8 recipients have served a minimum of 5 years, with the exception of Ms Kristin Lim who joined the school 15 years ago. Congratulations, Kristin!

St. Francis is definitely a place with many hidden talents. Many students came on stage to perform and put up a captivating performance. The audience was mesmerized by their outstanding and graceful performance.



## Tioman Eco Educational Tour 2014 - Mdm. Neeti Pal



No place other than Tioman could have been the perfect place to acquaint the students with the diverse marine life and spectacular coastal landscape. A four-hour long bus and ferry journey took us to our ultimate destination of sparkling blue waters and the white sandy beach of the Juara Island in Tioman.

Soon after lunch, all the students jumped into the turquoise blue sea water to test their swimming skills and get themselves ready for the water activities. Activities like Mountain Trekking and Scuba Diving provided students the opportunity to work as a team and build closer bonds with their classmates. Trudging through the thick tropical rainforest proved to be exciting and challenging. The students were able to experience first hand, the natural treasure of the flora, fauna and vast rubber plantations in Tioman. The trek at last led us to an amazing sight of cool and refreshing waterfall.



Surrounded by numerous coral reefs, Tioman is an ideal scuba diving spot. During the scuba diving session, the students encountered many beautiful fish, sea shells and colourful coral gardens. This was indeed a once-in-a-life experience! The students had a chance to visit the Juara Turtle Project, which is run by some volunteer groups as well as the local villagers, to save the endangered Green and Hawksbill turtles.

The students also participated in many fun activities such as Kayaking and Jetty Jumping to boost their self-confidence, taking them to new levels of self awareness/conference. The students displayed their talents by providing entertaining group performances during the Coco House Session. They shared their thoughts and experiences with each other during the camp fire in the evening. The Tioman Eco Educational tour 2014 was a memorable trip. It provided us an experiential learning that supports the learning in a regular school setting.

## Earth Day - Mdm. Neeti Pal

“Mother Earth” is a common reference to our planet, Earth in a number of countries and regions. This reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet. Earth Day began on April 22, 1970 and has been an important day ever since. It is a day to reflect on our environment and how we can help keep our planet healthy. Earth Day celebration aims to inspire people to re-correct their actions which may bring harm to the environment and natural surroundings.



Every individual should make a positive contribution to the environment by adopting a change of mindset to develop a positive attitude towards Mother Earth. At the school level, we tried to inculcate these values to the students by organising various environment related activities on Earth Day. We celebrated Earth day on 22nd April 2014 by wearing green and/or beige colour clothes to school. We conducted activities like Recycled Art Competition and T-Shirt designing competition on the theme “Nurture Nature for Our Future”. All the classes took part in this competition and the winners were presented with token gifts at the School Assembly.



## SFMS 2014 Staff Retreat to Malacca - Mr. Wee Ngai Shen



Chicken rice balls, satay steamboat, the ever-famous iconoclastic red church and the bustling Jonker Street are the iconic features of Malacca in South East Asia. It can be the destination for a one-day tour, a backpacking trip, a short getaway trip or even a stopover for anyone over a regular weekend. However, this trip was different for SFMS. It was unique, peppered with nuances of teamwork and faith, and a sense of togetherness, making this trip unique for us. Our 2014 SFMS Staff Retreat fulfilled all that.

The Jonker Street night shopping, the questioning game which made us split our sides with the creative answers we all encountered, the interesting fish market investment game, the breakfast sessions left a deep impression on us. The fish market game was the zenith of events, where our group (comprising Akbar, Chee Siong, Ganesh, Liqing and myself), brainstormed and raised “profits” to a whole new level which surprised even us. Every member of the team contributed readily. The accomplishment and the sense of pride belonging to such a team were beyond description.

We felt a sense of belonging, and were proud to be part of this big family called SFMS. Relationships were strengthened over the three fruitful days. On a personal note, I am thankful to the school management for making this trip such a memorable experience. Indeed, SFMS turns possibilities into realities!

Overall, with enthusiasm, spontaneity, “young-at-heart” mentality and sprinkles of love, the SFMS culture was truly fostered and enhanced during this memorable Staff Retreat!

## Science Week - Mdm. Neeti Pal

In order to emphasize the truth and joy of Science, we celebrated Science Week from 14th to 17th April 2014. During the week, students explored various aspects of Science through interesting activities, workshops and competitions.

**Day 1** kicked off with a Assembly Demonstration of some famous eye-catching experiments conducted by teachers. This was followed by a Bio-sculpturing session where clay modelling of various anatomical shapes were made by the students. This gave them greater insights to the minute details of biological processes.

**Day 2** saw the Jump Rope Competition, a unique competition, which allowed us to identify talents in rope skipping. This competition taught the students the importance of balance and coordination of mind and body. The other activity was the Paper Air Plane Flying Competition encouraged students to use various principles of Physics to create innovative flying models.



**Day 3** was another intellectually stimulating day. The IQ Quiz Competition was a test of students’ abilities on various logical and reasoning questions. This competition helped the students to understand the perception of mind in a competitive environment. The Pet Rocket competition and Battery Car Racing competition also took place on the same day which were team events with the fun filled experiments.

**Day 4** was highlight of the week with the Excursion to the ART and SCIENCE Museum. All the classes from the Lower Secondary were given the opportunity to learn about dinosaurs at the “Dinosaur’s- Age of Extinction”. Students actively participated and enjoyed all the activities of Science Week. Besides the educational benefits, many valuable lessons were learned from Science Week which were really fruitful, helping us to realize the importance of Science in our daily lives.



## 2014 Community Involvement Program (CIP) - Mr. Lim Yu-Jin

### Highlights



Students playing a game of bingo with the elderly residents



Students sharing food and beverages with the elderly



Students engaging the elderly

### Fast Facts

This year,  
**221**  
 students visited  
**6**  
 non-profits  
 to bring cheer to

**> 500**  
 elderly / ill people  
 by designing

**100 +**  
 Cards to encourage them to  
 live well.

### For more information

Contact Mr Lim Yu-Jin at  
[yujin@sfms.edu.sg](mailto:yujin@sfms.edu.sg)

### Community Involvement Program

The community involvement program seeks to nurture young hearts to be passionate for community work through:

- ◆ understanding the importance of caring for the community
- ◆ familiarising with the real needs of the community
- ◆ serving the community
- ◆ volunteering
- ◆ student-initiated community involvement activities

#### Secondary 4:

Secondary 4 students helped out at various non-profits organisations by arranging a bingo game with the elderly, accompanying the elderly to participate in Taichi exercises and packing brochures for people with Alzheimer's disease.

#### Secondary 3:

Secondary 3 students participated in the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Young Champs Program, where they:

- ◆ learned about kidney problems/ diseases.
- ◆ showed empathy by designing cards to encourage people with kidney problems to live well
- ◆ embarked on social enterprise to raise funds for NKF