



**ST FRANCIS
METHODIST SCHOOL**
Possibilities to Realities
Where no one is left behind

The Beacon



SFMS Family Carnival 2014

- Mdm Neeti Pal

The much awaited SFMS Family Carnival finally unfolded on the 8th of August, 2014. This family fun-filled event with food and games for all ages organized by staff and students proved to be a hit every year.

It kicked off to a breathtaking start to celebrate Singapore's National Day with an Opening Ceremony greeted by balloons and ear thumping music.

The Carnival was held in the Multi-Purpose Hall and Level 5. There was an array of mouth-watering eateries beckoning the crowd at the MPH and it was bustling



with noise of offers from various food stalls. Korean food, Thai food, local Singaporean delights, Japanese food, Western delights, satay, desserts, drinks and many more stalls provided a wide variety to choose from. The zest and zeal, by which students prepared and served these delicious food, revealed their culinary skills and discovery of many potential chefs in making.

Game stalls like Football Fever, Bowling Corner, 1 minute games and many more were able to pull the crowd. Henna painting and Tattoo stall added glamour to the fiesta. The novel concept of "Disco Club" was able to steal the show as it provided ear catching music, club feel and performances which made all eyes glued to their enactments.

The highlight of this event was "Haunted Hospital" located at the 5th level. It was a major crowd puller and guaranteed the participants a burst of adrenaline. This star attraction

showcased horror documentary followed by a visit to a haunted hospital and an experience of their life - ghost encounters. School Carnival Committee also arranged various competitions to boost up the competitive spirit of various student groups. To add up the zest, lucky draws were announced after every hour and exciting prizes were given out to winners. The carnival ended at 12 noon and overall it was a very successful event in 2014.

The Principal, Mrs. Lenie Cho, congratulated the staff and students of SFMS in making this Family Carnival a successful event. Special thanks to the parent/guardian community for their co-operation and contributions and the management team for their encouragement.



Australia Trip 2014

- Mdm. Johanna Austria

Every two years, SFMS organizes an educational trip to Western Australia to broaden the horizon of our students. In this learning journey, students were given a chance to attend selected universities and colleges in Western Australia and experience significant amount of time in classroom interaction to have better understanding of Australian culture and the education system.

On 2nd September, fifteen students and three teachers embarked on this journey with optimism and excitement. On the first day they joined the classes of the reputed Chisholm College. Students and teachers were partnered with Chisholm College representatives and observed different classes for one day. Meaningful learning was achieved as SFMS students became more aware of their strengths and weaknesses in their studies and behaviour. On the other hand, teachers were able to learn from their partner teachers, gaining some insightful strategies in teaching of the AUSMAT courses.



The next few days were equally exciting. The participants visited two major universities in Western Australia. At Curtin University, students were allowed to experience being a student of Business and Bio-Medical Science. Students eagerly listened to the lecturers as they were brought to high technology classroom that looks more of a creative room office of an IT company. Next, the students visited the Bloomberg simulated stock market trading environment proceeded by the faculty of Sciences wherein students were given a chance to use the laboratory and learn the human anatomy. They were also brought to the Faculty of Pharmacy and were given a brief idea of the course and how the pharmacists work in

their state of the art medicine dispenser, showing the innovative pharmacy of the 21st century. The most exciting part for the participants was the visit to the "THE HIVE", a 4D animation Visualisation Project of the Curtin faculty and students. Here, the participants used 3D glasses to experience a magic carpet like exploration of the Greek Ancient Temple and underground mining tunnel.



Unlike the high tech Curtin, the students had the impression of the old school feeling of Murdoch University, whereby they realised the strong ambience that Murdoch offers them. Being the oldest and the second most reputed university in Western Australia, the university boasts of its vast campus and multicultural student body. Surprisingly, many students were attracted to Murdoch's natural surrounding and atmosphere. Numerous questions regarding entry requirements to university were raised. It was a good indication that many of our students as young as Secondary 1 aspired to study in a prestigious university someday.

The rest of the activities included a close-up encounter with the famous Australia native animals like the kangaroo, wombat and koala in the Perth Zoo and a relaxing cruise along the Swan River that covered a bit of history of the Fremantle Prison. The tour without the delectable fish and chips lunch would not have been complete. Overall the mission of the school to provide students a taste of study in Australia and glimpse of life overseas through this trip has been achieved. The smile, comradeships and memories in every participant's mind tells it all.



IAL Result

- Mr. Eric Yeong

The school is pleased to announce that our students have done extremely well for their first IAL June 2014 External Examination. This was their first of 3 external examinations they have to take to complete their course. Our top students, Wang Yu Wen and Lin Chia Jung managed to score 4 A*s and this was achieved in only 6 months of study. The other students' results were, Lin Yi Chen 3 A*s 1 A, Liu Ai Ai 1 A* 3 As and Li Qing Yang 1A* 2As 1B. The entry requirement for local universities is a good pass in 4 Advanced Level subjects and entry requirement for overseas universities is a good pass in 3 Advanced Level subjects. These 5 students had been in our O Levels programme and had continued with us, achieving excellent results in the IAL examinations.

IGCSE 2014 Result

- Ms. Beatrice Tan

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved outstanding results for the Pearson Edexcel 2014 IGCSE Examination

Zhu Hua

Passed 8 subjects, with 3 distinctions in Chinese, English as a Second Language and Mathematics, 2 'B' grade in Information Communication Technology, Physics and 3 'C' grade in Accounting, English and Chemistry.

Sae-Wang Phiraphat

Passed 7 subjects, with 3 distinctions in Accounting, English as a Second Language and Mathematics, 2 'B' grade in Commerce, Information Communication Technology and 2 'C' grade in English and History.

Zhang Shuai

Passed 6 subjects, with 4 distinctions Chemistry, Chinese, Mathematics and Physics and 2 'C' grade English and Information Communication Technology.

Osaka Japan Trip, 5th – 11th Sept 2014

- Ms. Wong Kah Yan



Otemon Gakuin Otemae High School & Senior High School

On 5 Sept 2014, a group of 10 students and Miss Wong Kah Yan embarked on a 7 day Exchange Program at the Otemon Gakuin Otemae Junior and Senior High School in Osaka Japan. Our students stayed at the homes of the Japanese students and were treated with great warmth and hospitality.

As we arrived on Saturday, the students spent the weekend with their buddies' families and got to know them better. Despite their initial apprehension about spending the weekend with the families on their own, they had gotten to know each other very well by the time Monday came around and school started. The hosts went out of their way to ensure that our students could fit in and brought them to some well-known areas like Kyoto and Namba for sightseeing. They also prepared bento lunch sets for the students every day.



Erwin and his host family

The students attended lessons from 8.55 am to 11.45 am every day and spent two afternoons sightseeing where we visited Osaka Castle, Shinsaibashi and Universal Studios Japan. On one of the afternoons, the school arranged for the students to visit the Minami elementary school located in the suburb. Our students were overwhelmed by the warm response of the children and spent an enjoyable and unforgettable afternoon with them.

In the evenings, we returned to school after sightseeing and the students went home for dinner with their buddies.

By the end of the trip, new friendships were forged with promises to visit each other and to keep in touch. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to immerse so deeply into the Japanese culture and way of life, something that no tourist would be able to experience. Through the trip, they also got to know one another better and learnt to look out for one another so that no one is left behind.



Minami Elementary School



Osaka Castle



Highlight of Universal Studios Japan – Hogwarts



Sec 1 & 2 Community Involvement Program (CIP) - Mr. Heng Tee Wee

CIP Talk: SAVE OUR STREET DOGS TALK

On Friday, 18 July, a Save Our Street Dogs (SOSD) officer shared with our Sec 1 and 2 students the plight of stray dogs and how SOSD helped to rescue, shelter and nurse these stray dogs back to health. The highlight of the talk was that our students got the chance to interact and took pictures with a mongrel named, Bui. Through this talk, our students were able to widen their perception of their community beyond their immediate family members, friends and teachers. As a stakeholder in our Singapore society, they were able to contribute in helping to better the welfare of the stray dogs in Singapore by raising \$500 during the Family Carnival as donation to SOSD.



CIP Outing: FARMART

The second part of the Sec 1 and 2 CIP was a Farmart trip on Friday, 25 July. Once again, the students were exposed to the wider community beyond their homes and school. They learned about the various farm animals in Singapore and even got the chance to feed them. These were unique experiences beyond the confines of the classroom in urban Singapore. At the end of the trip, each student were given a box of quail eggs to bring home.



Thanksgiving Dinner by ACS Oldham Hall

ACS Oldham Hall recently held our Thanksgiving Dinner on 20 September 2014. Staff from partner schools and working partners were invited to join us in the celebration.

In line with our theme of One OHANA (which means family in Hawaiian culture), our multi-national boarders came together and put up stunning cultural performances to make it a night to remember.

Different groups of students from Indonesia, Thailand, China and Vietnam performed various song and dance items. In particular, the Vietnamese boarders presented an interesting yet touching shadow skit depicting love in the different contexts. The portrayal was so powerful that it moved several members of the audience to tears.



Chen Xiancan displaying his singing



Shadow Skit by our Vietnamese boarders - Love in the family and Love for the country



Sleek dance moves by Zhou Yimei



Congratulations to Liang Minghao (5th from right) and Li Yulin (4th from right)

Merit and Service awards were also given out to outstanding boarders who exhibited exemplary behaviour or had served the Hall in some ways. Some of the recipients from St Francis Methodist include Wei Zijun, Chen Xiancan, Liang Minghao and Li Yulin. Congratulations and keep up the good work!