

The Beacon



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SFMS ORIENTATION 2015

By Mr. Wee Ngai Shen

The SFMS Orientation 2015, organized on 12 & 13 January, was a great success with management team along with every teacher and student coming together to participate in games and activities to foster rapport and bonding. The enthusiasm of the students hit the roof and they had a great time both indoors and outdoors. With the support of senior management, teachers and councilors put in a lot of effort to ensure the orientation was carried out smoothly. It was an event where the SFMS family spirit was clearly portrayed. From the feedback of the students, they enjoyed the activities greatly. The success of this event provided a blue print for the planning of future orientation programme, an event which will enhance a sense of belonging to SFMS!



"Let my aeroplane soar through the paper hole! Bullseye!"



"Forward we march! To embrace nature!"

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CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

By Mrs. Florence Lim

Jia Anjie from 4G2 and Yan Sihao from 4C1 were the emcees for the Chinese New Year Celebrations held on 13 February 2015. They spoke effectively in Chinese and English respectively as they welcomed the performers and interacted with the student population over a question and answer session. It left many students in a happy mood as they walked away with little prizes after having given correct answers to the questions.

A total of four performances were held which included a traditional Chinese song item, a traditional Chinese dance, a Modern dance and the most well received item, a Martial Arts performance by three Sec 2 students.

The celebrations ended with our Principal, Mrs Lenie Cho, handing out Mandarin oranges to the staff and students and wishing everyone a "Happy Chinese New Year!"



ENGLISH WEEK

By Mrs. Florence Lim

English week was held from the 26th to the 30th of January and we saw all students participating excitedly and echoing our tagline of Enjoying English.

A plethora of activities allowed teachers and students to interact freely with fun games and activities thus setting the tone to learning and mastering the English Language in a fun and interactive way.



The range of activities included:

Debate: Preparations for our maiden debate started in early January when our SFA students went through three weeks of intensive training to learn the skills of debate from an external coach. By the end of their training, the students were equipped with the skills to debate and deliver speeches which greatly impressed the judges and teachers.

Recital: Students from 3G1, dressed totally in red, put up a wonderful choral recital entitled, 'Tiki Tiki Tembo' retelling a folktale on the origins of names. The performance was well choreographed and the recitation in rhyme and rhythm received great applause from the audience.

Games and Movies: Four game booths attracted students to collect points on a 'Passport' to determine winners and winning classes. The game booths included Taboo, Catch phrase, Scrabble and Word Search. Laughter and happy faces could be seen at all booths and long queues were found at the Scrabble and Word Search booths. Many students enthusiastically played multiple times at the various booths.

The English trail was completed daily as teams of classes looked for colour coded clues of idioms culminating in a showmanship of good team work. Movies were specially selected for the different levels.

Prizes were given out at the end of the English Week to classes and to individual winners with the most points. The proposition team won in the final debate and best speakers were also presented with Certificates and prizes.

Overall, this year's bold attempt at holding new and different types of activities was well received. Students and teachers look forward to organising new activities next year.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY GCE 'O' LEVEL STUDENTS IN 4 YEARS

By Mr. Seah Chee Siong

Our school performed well in the 2014 Singapore-Cambridge 'O' Level Examinations. Overall, the percentage obtaining 3 credit passes jumped to 88.9% which was slightly below the National Average of School Candidates of 95.9% for the first time in 4 years. As usual, 100% of our students have been awarded certificates and this figure well surpassed the National Average total private candidates of 89.5% being awarded certificates.

The percentage passes in many subjects had significant improvements. We were particularly proud of our performance in Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Physics, History, Business Studies, Accounts and Chinese Literature, all of which improved by more than 10% in terms of percentage passes. Of these, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Physics, History, Business Studies and Chinese Literature had also improved by more than 1 point in MSG (Mean Subject Grade). These results reflected not only the diligence of our students, but also the unwavering dedication and expert tutelage of our teachers. Congratulations to all of them and we look forward to achieving even better results for the cohort of 2015.

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL (IAL) EXAM RESULTS

By Mr. Eric Yeong

The school was pleased to announce that our students had once again done well for their January 2015 International Advanced Level (IAL) Examination. This was their second of the three external examinations that they had to take to complete the course.

Cumulative Results													
S / N	Student	Accounting		Core Maths		Further Maths		Chemistry		Chinese		Physics	
		100%	grade	100%	grade	100%	grade	100%	grade	100%	grade	100%	grade
1	Lin Chia Jung	94	A*	84	A	85	A	76	B	87	A	75.1	B
2	Wang Yu Wen	98	A*	93.4	A*	90	A	75.4	B	90	A*		
3	Li Qing Yang	75	B	85.8	A	88	A			83	A	75	B
4	Lin Yi Chen	82	A	93.6	A*	96.3	A*			93	A*	77.4	B
5	Liu Ai Ai	82	A	90.2	A*	93.3	A	80.6	A	83	A		

Base on their cumulative results from the first and second examinations, we believed that our students would be able to achieve the following projected grades.

Projected Result								
S / N	Student	Accounting	Core Maths	Further Maths	Chemistry	Physics	Chinese	Overall
1	Lin Chia Jung	A*	A*	-	B	B	A*	3A* 2B
2	Wang Yu Wen	A*	A*	A	B	-	A*	3A* 1A 1B
3	Li Qing Yang	A	A	A	-	B	A	4A 1B
4	Lin Yi Chen	A	A*	A*	-	B	A	2A* 2A 1B
5	Liu Ai Ai	A	A*	A	B	-	A	1A* 3A 1B

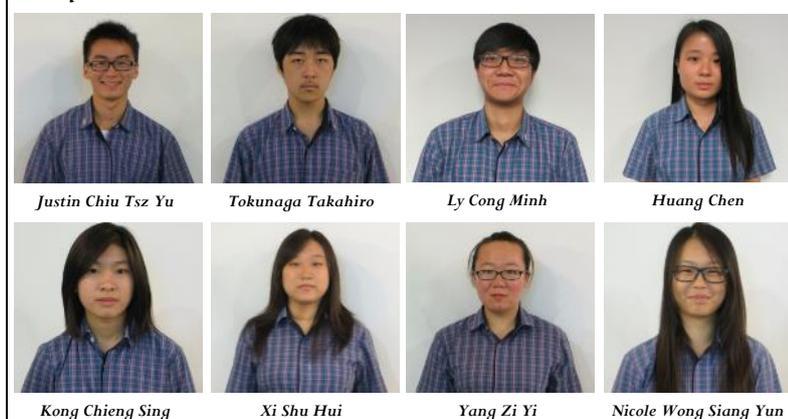
This would give them a very good chance to enroll in our local universities (namely, NUS, NTU) which require a good pass in 4 Advanced Level subjects.

INTERNATIONAL GCSE EXAM SUCCESS

By Mr. Hau Boon Huat

5 March 2015 marked a significant turning point in SFMS history with our students achieving record-breaking results in the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE examinations.

Top Students Who Score 6 and 7 Credits in International GCSE Exam



We are extremely proud to report that our top 8 students scored between 6 to 7 credits, from 2 to 5 distinctions, with MSGs between 1.40 to 2.40.

Our best performing student, Justin Chiu Tsz Yu, scored 7 distinctions, with a perfect mean subject grade (MSG) of 1.00. His results are: Chemistry (A*), Maths (A*), Chinese (A*), Physics (A*), English B (A*), Accounting (A) and ICT (A).

This spectacular result was the best ever achieved since International GCSE was offered at SFMS almost a decade ago.

Justin, along with 4 other top students, have chosen to continue pursuing the IAL programme at SFMS. This is a testimony of their confidence in the school's culture, ethos and dedication of our teachers. They strongly believed that they would be able to repeat the same feat in the IAL examinations.

2014 SFMS-WACE RESULTS

By Mdm. Johanna Austria

Just like the previous years, St Francis Methodist School has successfully helped the 2014 Ausmat Year 12 cohort to achieve their university goals. Leong Hui Ping Sarah top the 2014 SFMS Year 12 WACE results, achieved an ATAR Score of 97.00. She is now studying Bachelor of Science in Biomedicine, a pre-medical course, at The University of Melbourne, Australia.

Lao Huijun and Li Yutong, both from China, achieved ATAR Scores 95.65 and 93.30 respectively. Both students are studying in universities in Australia. Almost all 2014 SFMS Ausmat-WACE graduates were able to seek entry into tertiary institutions not only in Australia but in Singapore, New Zealand and other parts of the world. They are either enrolled in Bachelor's Degree, Diploma or Foundation courses.

TEAM EXCELLENCE, 3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS, CAMP CHALLENGE SEMBAWANG, 5 - 7 FEB

By Mr. Sri Ganesh Yuwen Raman

Recently, I was reminded of the power and rejuvenation of “connecting with one another” during the USD camp. In today's world, with the plethora of communication devices available for young people to connect with one another all the time, we brought it back to basics for 3 days, 2 nights.



On 5th – 7th Feb 2015, 153 students from the Upper Secondary Division chose to disconnect from technology; to re-connect with themselves and their friends at Camp Challenge Sembawang. It was a conducive and safe environment which made it a good place for a purposeful educational experience. The programme has been specifically designed with problem-solving based activities to maximize learning and development. Students were required to work in teams to take on and conquer various challenges. The instructors did an excellent job in organizing and facilitating all activities. Our students were satisfied with the food provided by an established caterer, Stamford catering.

Throughout their journey, I have witnessed students making quality connections that embraced positive mental and emotional feelings which in turn made them happier individuals. This was especially evident after the last debrief session where talented students like Xiancan (4A1), One Direction boys (4C1) took centre stage and entertained the campers while waiting for the school bus to arrive. Callysta Christy from 3G3 took home the “Best Female Camper” award, while Wang Sheng did himself and his class 4G1 proud by bagging the “Best Male Camper” award. The teachers witnessed a sense of bonding and camaraderie amongst students. We also met our learning outcomes which supported our pastoral care values.

