

# The Beacon



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## Global Youth Forum and Global Academic Olympiad in Mungyeong, Korea 2016

By: Ms Dymphna Tay Aik Yong and Mr Tommy Kei Siu Tung



During the June holidays, a team of 9 students and 2 teachers represented St Francis Methodist School to participate in the Global Youth Forum and Global Academic Olympiad in South Korea. The event was organised by Global Education Mission and the schools from different countries that participated in this event. During the trip, the students and teachers stayed in the student hostel at Global Vision Christian School (GVCS).

From this trip, we are glad to announce that our student, Wang Yuxin from Pre-U 2A1 did us proud by winning the Bronze Medal for Mathematics in the Global Academic Olympiad in Korea!

From left to right: Wang Yuxin, 2 other Bronze Medal winners and Mr. Park Ju Young, Principal, GVCS

The Forum targeted high school students from various countries to find solutions to global issues through discussions. This year's theme, entitled "My Loving Country", examined patriotism and nationalism, as well as each country's culture and history. It also encouraged students to explore issues surrounding their home countries while discussing each country's strengths and weaknesses.



Group shot !



Receiving a token of appreciation



Presenting on the topic " My Loving Country "

During the 5-day stay in GVCS, the students had the opportunity to mingle with students from other schools. They also had the opportunity to take a closer look into the various cultural aspects of each country during the exchanges and hence fostering better relationships with each other. This was truly an enriching experience for our students !



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# Summer Exchange Programme to Jeonju Geunyoung Girls High School

By: Ms Tan Shue Er Maybelline



Welcome photo with the staff

On 5th -13th June 2016 ,7 of our students and 2 staff went on an exchange programme to Jeonju Guenyoung Girls' High School in South Korea.

We were touched by the warm hospitality of our host throughout the journey. Jeonju literally means "Perfect Area" in Korean. We were pleasantly surprised to find that the Heritage sites were well preserved despite continual economic development. As we indulged in retail 'therapy' and scrumptious Korean cuisine, we found ourselves in the midst of traditional Hanoks with its unique roof edges. The students also had the chance to try the traditional Korean costumes (Hanbok) and struck poses in the renowned Hanok Village in Jeonju.



Group photo with the Korean students

This exchange programme had given the students opportunities to expand their understanding of Korean culture and lifestyles. It had also provided a platform for them to appreciate an unfamiliar culture and to learn to interact amid the language barrier.

## Thai Exchange Program

By: Mr Sirajuddin Jamat (Jude)



Our Vice-Principal receiving a token of appreciation from the Director of English program of Sa-Nguan Ying

Every year, students from our Sister-school, Sa-Nguan Ying School from Suphanburi, Thailand, participate in a 3-week-long Exchange Programme with us. This year was no exception.

With a total of 52 students, it was the biggest number of participants for the programme that we have to date!

The students were placed into various classes based on their English Language proficiency. On alternate days, they visited many local attractions including the must-visit Universal Studios Singapore!

The collaboration achieved yet another milestone this year when the two schools launched an eLearning programme. Sa-Nguan Ying's students learn the Chinese Language from our teacher while our Thai students get the chance to learn their native language conducted by a Sa-Nguan Ying's teacher over Skype.

We hope that this strong partnership will further strengthen the bond between St Francis Methodist School and Sa-Nguan Ying School and provide our students with unique learning experiences much needed in the changing education landscape.



Class photo !

## Visit of Chisholm Catholic College Band

By: Ms Johanna Rivera Austria



Mr Evan Eble kicks off the performance

On 26 July, the Chisholm Catholic College Band from Perth, Western Australia gave a delightful and rousing performance at the Sanctuary, the BPMC Recital Concert Hall.

The event is part of the Chisholm College Concert Band triennial band educational tour in Singapore that gives young and talented musicians an opportunity to showcase their music to various Christian schools and concert halls in Singapore.



The touch of modern jazz wowed everyone

The AUSMAT Concert was part of the SFMS project to promote the unique and holistic educational approach of the AUSMAT Programme. A short clip of the success stories of the 2015 AUSMAT alumni was showcased, highlighting that almost 80% of the 2015 cohort successfully enrolled in different prestigious universities around the world. It also featured top students like Amanda Yung who has been awarded a scholarship to study Medicine in University of Sydney; Shang Enyi, a recipient of SFMS scholarship and has been accepted in the prestigious Imperial College London, School of Engineering. It was also a double joy for SFMS when Raveen Kumar and Hagiwara Tomozumi have been both accepted into the School of Engineering by the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University respectively.

## Councilors Investiture

By: Mr Ang Yu Long



Our incoming councilors

It's the time of the year where we have our annual Students Council Investiture. The Students Council Investiture is held to recognize the contributions of the previous Executive Committee (Exco) of the Council and to formally welcome and officiate new councilors into our fold. It took the Council weeks to prepare for this event but it was worth it judging from the smiles and the celebratory mood of the councilors.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big "THANK YOU!" to our outgoing Exco and an enthusiastic "WELCOME!" to our incoming Exco and new councilors. The Students Council helps out at all major school events in St Francis Methodist School and represents the potential and talent of the student population in St Francis. We hope to live up to the idea of "Leadership through Service" and is confident that the exposure in the Students Council would nurture our students to be able leaders in the future.



Our outgoing councilors

## EIP Post Examination Learning Journey: Labrador Park

By: Ms Wang Gek Kiang Monica



Happy faces emerging from the Boardwalk



The serenity of Labrador Park awaits

On 25 May 2016, 52 English Immersion Programme (EIP) students and 4 teachers, set off early for an exciting learning journey at the Labrador Park. The objectives of the learning journey are:

Firstly, to be aware of conservation efforts to upkeep Labrador Nature Park ecosystem. Secondly, to explore and understand the value of Labrador's natural beauty. Thirdly, to learn lessons from Labrador's history with relevance to the present. Lastly, to use a pictorial representation (drawing or photo) to express learning points.

The first stop was the Berlayer Creek Boardwalk which was nestled among mangrove swamps. Here, the EIP students explored the rich marine ecosystem of the nature reserves and a picturesque coastline lined with mangrove swamps.

The students were required to take a photograph and provide a caption on how best the environment can be protected and preserved. For this activity, the winner is Li Ying Qiang from EIP 3, with his caption, "Let's not forget History. Let us love Nature".

Finally, the students completed a personal drawing illustrating the most meaningful part of the learning journey (LJ). One of the students, Zi Chao from EIP2, said this in his feedback, "What I like most about this LJ is that I can learn something which is not found in the books! ".

## Outstanding Alumnus: Chen Pengrui, Harry (BTEC)

By: Mr Lim Shi Fan Aaron



(Left): Harry was presented an award for good performance by his employer in China, Ping An Insurance Group.

Harry started his education journey with St Francis Methodist School (SFMS) in 2010. In the beginning, he was just an ordinary student in his cohort. Harry then decided to return to China after completing the Year 10 AUSMAT Programme with us.

With the support and encouragement from his teachers and parents, Harry was advised to further improve his English Language skill by taking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Prior to taking the IELTS exam, Harry received a conditional offer from SFMS for him to study the Pearson BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Business as he expressed a strong interest to embark on a career in Business. The condition was that he had to achieve a minimum score of 5.0 to be considered a place in the Diploma programme. Harry persevered and was eventually accepted into the programme in 2013.

Faced with many challenges along the way, Harry's determination propelled him to complete the programme and he was awarded with the Pearson BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Business in October 2015. Armed with a BTEC Diploma, Harry landed himself a lucrative job as a finance executive at Ping An Insurance Group in his hometown in Guangzhou.

Harry has plans to pursue a Bachelor Degree in Business in Australia sometime in the future. The BTEC programme's modular structure would enable Harry to enrol directly into the second year of many universities worldwide, giving him a headstart over his peers in China.

We would like to congratulate Harry on his success and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors!