



THE THERESIAN TRIBUNE

SEMESTER 2 2022

Dear Thesians, happy holidays! Wherever you're reading this from, sipping hot tea in the plush comfort of your sofa, waiting for your movie to start in a quiet weekday theatre, or even on the wintry streets of an exciting city full of foreign sounds and smells, I hope you're having the long-awaited break you well deserve. Looking back on 2022, it felt like the thawing of spring after a two-year season of COVID-winter. Beloved activities that had been put on hold - EFL, national competitions and performance festivals, mass celebrations and stage events, OBS, lunches with colleagues, and perhaps most memorably the IFD Carnival - stirred and sprouted once again this year, and what a welcome return it was! Nonetheless, as much as it was great to bring back the most vibrant parts of school life, we all have worked extra hard to make these changes possible. Well done, everyone!



And since you're already here, why not take a gander at this year-end tribute issue! We look back on our students' favourite school experiences in 2022 and some of their best essays, as well as how our parents felt supporting their daughters through the challenges of Sec 2 streaming and national examinations. We also feature holiday and vacation plans from staff and students as well as recommended books and movies to inspire your own holidays, and a closing note from our incoming Central EXCO President, Syadiyah Qaisara. Check out our feature interview with two unsung heroes, you'll definitely know their faces, find out who in these pages!

Writer's Talk – Ms Jean Tay (Organised by English Department)

Understanding a text can be a challenge as readers have to decipher the nuances of the language formulated to set the narrative in a particular time and place. Therefore being able to hear the details of how the story was crafted is indeed a fortunate opportunity to learn more and deeply about the literary work of art.

The upper secondary Literature students had a chance to do so during the online talk arranged by the department in Term 3 with Ms Jean Tay, the playwright of 'Boom', a current Paper 2 text that the Sec 3 and 4 cohorts are studying. Ms Tay revealed how she was inspired to write the play, and the process of crafting the ideas and its plot development based on real events that took place in Singapore.

'Boom' is based on the en-bloc housing fever and examines the consequences of what happens to family and friends' relationships when the temptation of making money out of property redevelopment descends on a mother and son. Through Ms Tay's engaging revelations, students were able to connect more deeply with the text and to see the impetus behind the themes and issues within the story. More importantly, Ms Tay's discussion opened the audience's eyes to how literature can represent concerns within society and present a voice to the underrepresented in voicing out social as well as national developments.

Written by: Mrs Maggie Lee Dabbs, Literature teacher

Our Unsung Heroes – STC’s Security Team

Tell us a bit about your family and what you enjoy doing!

Mr Tan: I live with my mother and brother. I do try to meet my friends but we’re all working so it’s hard to find the time. When I can, I like to watch television and videos on YouTube, usually English and Chinese movies. Some of my favourites are the first two Ip Man movies. I don’t have time to exercise often, but I try to stay healthy by not eating too much. Don’t eat supper, it’s the worst! My favourite meal is Hokkien mee with prawns - ABC market’s used to be my favourite, their chilli was excellent - but their standard has dropped. Maybe the hawkers are getting older, and don’t have so much energy, or the suppliers might have changed. I heard Geylang Lorong 29’s is good, maybe I’ll try it someday.

Mr Lam: I live with my wife, son, and daughter. My children are both working, but when they aren’t we try to go for breakfast and spend the morning together. My job lasts 12 hours each day, so sometimes I just have my dinner and sleep, but in the evenings or spare time I try to stay in touch with my friends or watch Korean dramas on my phone. I like the gu zhuang types, set in an ancient era with royal families and soldiers, usually they’re about revenge. My family watches movies together sometimes, and my children like animations and Korean movies. I think the last movie we watched was Ajoomma, the one with the local actress and Korean actors. It was a pretty good watch!

What was your best memory as a student?

Mr Tan: It was fun to do everything together with classmates and friends - studying and playing football. We didn’t have computers last time so we were more active. We played all sorts of different ball games or flew kites. My working hours are quite long so it’s hard to find the time, but I wouldn’t mind learning how to play computer games if I could.

Mr Lam: I was in the Scouts and during the holidays we had a ‘job week’ to raise funds. It was really fun to go with my friends, door to door, offering to wash cars or polish shoes. There was a card for the residents to sign, they could contribute whatever they wanted for our services. Job week was also wonderful because we could interact with scouts from other schools. As scouts, we also went camping, learnt how to set up fires and cook. After learning how to tie different knots, we would tie rope to trees, and climb up the ropes or swing on them! I think in our time, studies were not so stressful. We didn’t even have streaming back then in the 1960s. Maybe because our parents had no time to teach us, the syllabus was simpler. But now education standards are so high, students have to learn with technology and work so hard. But overall I think it’s better now, our education is as good as any in the world.

What is the best part of working in STC, and the most challenging part?

Mr Tan: Our students are well-behaved, only a few are playful sometimes,



Mr Patrick Lam (left) and Mr Phillip Tan (right) - how much do you know about these two men who work tirelessly to keep us safe?

.....
and the teachers are polite and courteous! I think the challenging part has to be managing peak hours during morning and dismissal time. There is so much traffic, we have to stay very alert.

Mr Lam: The best parts are the five-day work week and our well-behaved and polite students. They will say good morning uncle and goodbye uncle, and I think I say it back hundreds of times each day. The school leaders and teachers are friendly and approachable, I think that’s good because the students can approach the teachers whenever they need to. The challenge is making sure safety comes first, no such thing as safety second! Thankfully our parents are very understanding, like when we stop the traffic to ensure children can cross safely. Hopefully everyone keeps cooperating so that we can keep our students safe.

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Is there anything you’d like to say to our students or teachers?

Mr Tan: Jiayou (Keep it up) everyone!

Mr Lam: I’d like to thank the children for their appreciation and respect. And to teachers, well done! You take care of so many issues, more than just studies. Teachers are not just educators but like a second set of parents also. Your student’s well-being is to your credit, kudos to you!

Many of the older generation have asked: what makes social media so irresistible to young people? Truth be told, I do not know. As a teenager in this modern age, I see my friends all around me using a plethora of different social media sites from Instagram to Twitter and it makes me wonder, what is it that makes social media so addictive?

I am, what many of my friends and family describe as a cavewoman. That is because I do not have any social media applications, only the essential WhatsApp Messaging application. I virtually do not exist in the social media sphere, so social media is truly an enigma, an unknown world to me. Although I exist only in the physical realm of reality, I might be able to help some of you who do not have social media, to explore the complexities of the rabbit hole we call social media, that makes it so enticing to those my age.

At the cusp of adulthood, my peers and I are finding our way around this world. We are exploring the different future pathways we each can take and discovering new possibilities in which we can make our mark. Social media plays a big part in this discovery journey and greatly influences our choices. In a recent survey in America, it was found that 7 in 10 teenagers wish to become TikTok stars. The pragmatic person in me frowned at that. Social media, especially TikTok is dominated by the influencers you constantly see on your feed, or as TikTokers (yes, that is a real occupational term) would say, For You Page (FYP). These teenagers, unlike my peers and me, are deemed to be living the life: they drive G-wagons and Rolls-Royces, they own multiple properties in Beverly Hills and own walk-in closets filled to the brim with Louis Vuitton bags. The image of wealth is what makes social media so enticing to young viewers like me. Seeing these teenagers who are of the same age as me having millions of dollars in assets really puts things into perspective. It makes some teenagers ask: is the education I receive now really going to make me successful? Or is becoming a famous influencer a more promising route to fame and fortune? Young, impressionable and naïve, young people only see the glitz and glamour social media can provide and we start to think that we can also achieve that amount of success by becoming TikTok famous as well. The casualization of success is what draws young people into the rabbit hole of social media.

Up until recently, I never knew what streaming was. Is it a geographical term for how streams flow? I could not be further from the truth. Streaming is short for 'live-streaming', a type of entertainment on social media. It is where social media also, mainly influencers, go live and can interact with their viewers. Teenagers my age who put celebrities and their idols on pedestals and worship them no longer have to dream about the day they can finally meet their idols. They just need to log on to Instagram or other live-streaming social media sites like Twitch and comment on the influencer's livestream. During these streams, social media stars interact with their fans by answering their questions or giving their viewers an insight into their lives. The chance to interact with their idols is what makes young people so involved in social media. They no longer need to admire their idols from the photos they post but can 'speak' with them through live-streams. The bridging of the gap between regular folks like you and me and the influencers is what makes live-streams so addictive, interesting and attractive.

The social media space is where everyone can share anything that they might like with anyone on the planet. Posting something is more effective than shouting your news into a loudhailer now. The geographical boundaries that social media can overcome has made sharing your views, latest outfit or anything really, so much easier. Our voices are no longer confined to how loud we can scream, it can now be heard all over the world by anyone, any time. This freedom is what makes social media a space for activism and raising awareness on certain issues plaguing our society. During the #metoo movement in Japan, many women, protected by the anonymity of the Internet shared their experiences of sexual assault without having to deal with the public opinions or the backlash from those who maintained their traditional patriarchal views on such issues. No longer were women denied a voice in the patriarchal society. They were now heard and as more women read their stories, they themselves found courage to step forward. Social media allows for the voiceless to be heard, it allows young people to learn about issues they never knew about. It is a catalyst for change as the oppressed can now make waves in society by voicing their stories and experiences. This camaraderie is inspiring and influences young people to seek justice in social issues that were once the norm. The freedom of speech allows young people to question the things that they have been taught and to push for greater action to improve our society. Protests are a thing of the past now. Social media campaigns are much more effective in driving change as it has a wider reach. It empowers like-minded people to share their views and stories, it gives support for victims who were ignored. It is now a form of activism that makes great waves in society. It lets young people change the world. The power to influence major decisions and change mind-sets is what entices strong-willed and courageous young people to use social media to share their opinions or raise awareness for certain issues.

Social media in this day and age is a cornucopia of information, gossip, news and empowerment. It is a front-row seat that lets young people view other people's lives, a backstage pass to meet their idols, and a microphone that lets them speak. The ability to see the world beyond their surroundings, and reach many across the world is what makes social media so irresistible to young people.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR AND MY HOLIDAY PLANS

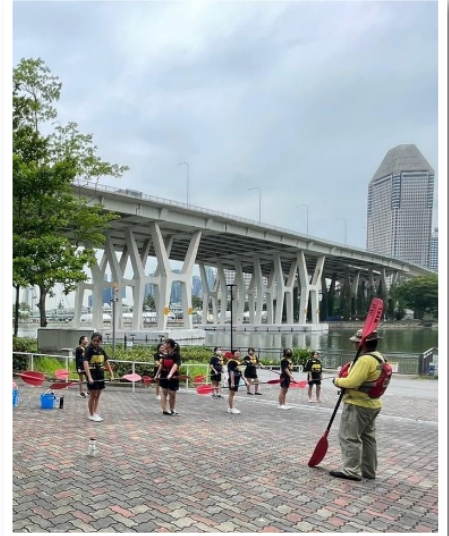
Highlight of my school year/ Most memorable event of the year

The event that really made me bond with my classmates was the kayaking activity in May. It was definitely very memorable as it helped my classmates and me grow closer to one another because we needed teamwork and good communication to kayak efficiently. The rush after the kayaking activity was also amusing and enjoyable, as we were given 30 minutes to change our clothes, yet, there were only 5 to 6 cubicles. It was so funny when people started shouting at each other to hurry up. The adrenaline rush and shared laughter was memorable.

My holiday plans

I have always wanted to read the book "The American Roommate Experience" by Elena Armas. This story about love and friendship sounds very appealing to me, and since I have a lot of time during the holidays, I will buy the book and spend my holidays reading the book, and maybe write a short reflection about my favourite moments in the book, etc. During the holidays, my family is planning to go to Malaysia and visit my mom's side of the family. In Malaysia, my relatives and I are planning a trip to the Genting Highlands Outdoor Theme Park. I am so excited as I haven't seen my cousins in a long time due to Covid, and I can't wait for the day to come!

Nur Hannah, 1E

**Highlight of my school year/ Most memorable event of the year**

My highlight of the school year was going on a Learning Journey to the National Kidney Foundation as my class had a lot of fun together. It was one of the rare times that we went out of school together as a class, and I really enjoyed the chance to bond and spend time together learning outside of school.

My holiday plans

I hope to spend my school holidays spending time with my friends and family, and studying subjects that I am weaker in.

Corrie Yeoh, 3R

**Highlight of my school year/ Most memorable event of the year**

The highlight of the school year for me was definitely this year's International Friendship Day-Sports Carnival. After two long years of needing to abide by safe distancing measures due to the pandemic, we were finally able to participate in a physical Sports Day! It was a very enjoyable event as we could finally take part in the different games and activities without worrying about any safe distancing measures, allowing us to mingle with our friends as we liked, which ultimately allowed us to have a lot of fun. It was also exceptionally memorable for me as it was my last IFD at STC, and hence, I felt more appreciative of this event, making the experience a more cherished one.

My holiday plans

My holiday plans definitely include catching up on some sleep, but other than that, I would love to spend time with my friends as we finally bid our 'O' levels goodbye. I'm also really excited to start reading the books that have been sitting on my shelf for ages, like the thriller, "Greenwich Park" by Katherine Faulkner.

Rachel Phoon, 4B



**TERM 4 2022
NOTABLE DATES**

NOV

CHIJ STC Open House '22
PSLE results day
Submission of Sec 1 School Choices

DEC

Sec 1 School Posting
Results
Christmas Day

When I was still in primary school, a sunbird flew into my living room. I didn't have a clue what could have spurred it to do so, or what made it think that doing so would be a good idea, but there it was; a single and very tiny bird, sitting on the hanging chandelier I had. I thought that the circumstances for the bird were dire. Not only was it the length of my index finger, my grandfather was an antique collector and the house was quite literally filled with old and rickety artefacts. One wrong move, and this bird would meet with a gruesome end. Back then, I didn't have much interest in live animals, preferring to see them on a tray in the science lab, peacefully in eternal rest, next to a scalpel for me to use, but even I knew it was dangerous. If the chandelier came down under it, we would both be resting in the ground. As such, I did the only rational thing any sane person would have done who met with such a predicament. I dragged a chair up to the light fixture, clutching a broom in my hand, and began to swat at it furiously. Alas, to no avail, and not only did the bird just fly elsewhere in the house, I heard it chirp as if it were laughing, mocking me and the way I told it to leave my residence. What happened to its dignity? As the national bird, shouldn't it be more respectful? Deterred, I remember just leaving it alone. Additionally, when my grandfather found out, I got berated for my actions. That probably supplied me with enough spite to remember the bird forever, but that was merely a contributing factor.

The little sunbird stayed overnight. It made a sleeping place out of a picture frame outside of my grandparent's room, as if it knew I wouldn't be able to get a hold of it there. A small slice of orange and a bottle-cap of water had been left out for it by my sister, to my chagrin. My sister never did anything like that for me. Not only was this bird intruding in my home, it stole my family! Regarding this, anyone could imagine my relief when my grandfather finally directed it out of the house... and my irritation, strong enough to be tangible in the air when it came back a few days later, bobbing like a buoy on the ocean's surface on a branch of the big magnolia plant we had on our front porch. Luckily, it made no move to enter the house again, only sitting on the plant, blinking at me with its beady black eyes.

My sister, still young at the time, left fruit out for it daily, and maybe that was why it kept on returning. Slowly, it became a normal sight – until one fine day, the sunbird returned with a partner. I had studied science well enough, so I knew its duller colour, slight size difference from our residential bird... the bird had literally brought its girlfriend home to meet us! My mind reeled. Should I have been honoured? Did the bird consider us as family? Was a shovel-talk required? With so many thoughts in my head, I said nothing but also continuously failed to notice the two of them each day, slowly putting together a crude-looking ball, hanging on the longest branch of our plant.

To me, it looked incredibly messy. A strange hanging cumulation of thread, sticks and feathers with a little hole in front. It looked extraordinarily precarious, hanging like that. My grandfather saw me and laughed, but sternly told me to leave it alone. As it turned out, that troublemaking bird was house-shopping and ended up settling in our garden. The idea of that was rational to me, but yet stumped me at the same time. I remember sitting, wondering how that snide rebellious little sunbird had developed and was suddenly ready to have a house and a family.

However, the true memorable encounter and the definitive peak of my relationship with this bird lies here both in my heart and on this paper. In the spring of the following year, I was watching the news when a strange noise reached me. A short, high-pitched kind of chirping, coming from the inside of the nest. Could something have happened to the bird's wife? Why was the bird just standing there, staring? I got the chills then, and I knew I was supposed to leave the nest alone but I just couldn't curb my curiosity. Quickly, I pulled a chair up to the plant and peered into the nest, nodding to our household's original sunbird and taking its silence as permission to look inside his home. What I saw knocked the wind out of me. Two tiny chicks, maybe just hatched, pink and white with sparse down feathers, were chirping frantically. They were exceptionally hideous and loud, but that was not what made the encounter memorable. Firstly, the bird had allowed me to see his children. I felt like that was most definitely a huge step for the both of us, and that we had come very far from our first meeting where I had tried to evict it with a broom. Secondly and most profoundly, these two chicks were completely new to the world. They were as good as blank slates, having not even opened their eyes yet, and in soul as white pure as the little feathers that adorned their tiny pink bodies. They most certainly had strange faces only their mother could love, though in a way, I loved them too. As creatures, not a property due to them being here in my house or as playthings to become a science experiment. They were the beginnings of new life, the very starts of new cycles in the greatness that is Nature. That, and realising that, was what made the encounter so unforgettable to me.

STAFF VOICES — HOW STAFF WILL RELAX THIS HOLIDAYS

Every year-end, I hope to travel to relax my mind and take a break from work and enjoy immersing myself in another country and culture. I also look forward to spending time with my family, especially with my aged parents and my children, who are growing up fast. We will usually go out and spend quality time together, for instance, having a good meal together for dinner. Sometimes we will prepare dishes together too. As a form of exercise and for my physical and mental well-being I also go for walks.

Mrs Amutha Elangovan



The year-end holidays are especially significant as these bring the Yuletide season to mind. Wherever I am, shopping is a must during this season, and it may seem paradoxical to be in a crowd to relax but the music of Christmas songs and carols ringing aloud through the malls brings a joie de vivre atmosphere as well as a sense of peace. Buying presents can be calming if one plans ahead of time the kind of presents to buy. There are also the occasions to meet with family and friends and these are the moments to enjoy – be these over coffee or dinner. Spring cleaning for the new year is extremely therapeutic - I start with trying to weed out books that I have read; sometimes this is not successful as I end up keeping most of them and re-reading the same books I was going to take away! Reading is always a way to soothe and find solace in the midst of preparations for Christmas!!! I have taken to watching commentaries on Youtube - reliable sources for political, economic and social issues which can be stimulating, informative and relaxing (strangely) as it makes me feel in contact with the real world outside.

Mrs Maggie Dabbs

STAFF VOICES

I love watching Mediacorp's local Mandarin dramas and I think it's a very good way of learning Mandarin. One local Mandarin drama that got me in tears every night is 'Your World in Mine' 《你的世界我们懂》. This series depicts how a teenager with intellectual disability navigates through life and how his family deals with the everyday challenges. It really made me more aware of the many challenges faced by people with intellectual disabilities and their families as well. I realise that most people misunderstand them or are afraid of them. Actually there is no need for that – they just have their own unique way of expressing themselves. This series is very close to our daily lives and we often take things for granted, therefore watching it teaches me to be more content and grateful, and also see our friends who may have some special needs and disabilities in a more empathetic light. I would recommend everyone to watch it during the holidays!

Mr Loh Chiu Wai



A series that I recently watched on Netflix is 'Thai Cave Rescue'. It's a series based on an actual incident that happened four years ago near Chiang Rai, Thailand, where twelve young boys and their soccer coach got trapped in a flooded cave.

In the six episodes, it shows events that are happening both inside and outside of the cave. What I really like about this show is the moments that come from inside the cave where they showed how coach Eak was a true leader and fatherly figure for the boys throughout the 18 days in the cave. He needed to keep the boys calm, collected, and hopeful in a world with scarce hope to cling to throughout the 18 days without food and fresh water.

I would recommend this series as you will get to see a more emotionally accessible perspective of the rescue, the massive efforts made to unite grieving parents with their children and human spirit when people come together and act as one to complete an unthinkable task.

Mr Toh Boon Hui



With the ease of accessibility to the Internet and online social networking platforms, it is with no doubt that young people, especially teenagers, even those of the young age of 13 years, are addicted to social media. With the slightest buzz of their mobile phones, showing a notification from their social media application would result in them immediately grabbing their phones just to check what the notification was about. So, what could the reason be behind their overindulgence in the virtual world?

Social media is prevalent in this day and age where young people have the ease of accessibility to the Internet and social networking platforms such as Instagram, twitter, Facebook, Snapchat and more. Some young people frequent such applications and websites due to their interest in a particular idol, drama, or shows. For example, a large number of young people are interested in the Korean pop boy band named 'Bangtanseoyeondan', more commonly known as BTS. In order to keep up with the group's latest updates and songs, or even tour dates and locations, their young fans would then be convinced to install and download social media platforms such as Instagram and twitter to follow the group's progress and timeline. With the posts of the group made by their social media managers, these young people would then be able to see the updated images and news of their favourites every hour, therefore resulting in the excessive use of social media just to chase their idols and indulge in this 'fan-girl' or 'fan-boy' action excessively. This would make social media irresistible to young people as they would be occupied in chasing and keeping up with their idols or drama shows so much that it becomes obsessive and they in turn, turn to social media platforms on their mobile phones and electronic devices every few minutes.

Another reason why social media is so alluring to young people is that they are able to make new friends and build relationships online. This is something they find easier as compared to making friends in person where interaction and communication is important. Just by logging on to any social media platform account, one is able to add and follow as many people as they like. If a stranger happens to follow you back and start a conversation, you would be intrigued by this mysterious person and urged to text back. This leads to one making a new friend, building a friendship, or even a relationship. This could be beneficial for some young people who do not really have friends in person, however, they are able to make friends online through social media. However well it may be for young people to make associations with the people they meet online, it is vital that they educate themselves on the detriments of knowing strangers online and prevent themselves from any type of danger. This could be by restraining from meeting their 'friends' whom they met on social media, in person, or asking a trusted adult to come along for their meeting. Therefore, I feel that social media is alluring and irresistible to young people as one is easily able to make friends and build friendships through social media where they get to know others.

Furthermore, with the developing identities and minds of young people, they are very impressionable at this young age, and are encapsulated by the lives of celebrities and social media influencers, resulting in them frequenting social media platforms to get a glimpse of them. Influencers and celebrities lead drastically different lifestyles as compared to these young people. Thus, when these young people see them leading the lifestyles they dream of, they look up to them, and soon become interested in following suit, by means of always browsing through their social media feed. For example, influencers like TikTok star Charli D'Amelio is known for her TikTok videos, however she also promotes body image positivity. Some of the young people who are her fans would then be persuaded to follow the ideas that she promotes, as they use the social media application, TikTok, to see her and follow suit. Thus, the young people are easily influenced by online stars, and are persuaded to use such platforms to follow them and learn from them, making it irresistible to them.

Lastly, social media could be irresistible to young people due to the availability of entertainment online. After a long day of school or class, one would desperately look for a source of entertainment in order to relax and relieve oneself of stress. With social media websites and platforms, young people are exposed to a variety of applications, information, and other games. This would lead to them overly indulging in social media as it is an outlet of entertainment for them, and they find it interesting. For example, after a long day at school, one decides to relax by scrolling through their Instagram feed. However, due to the wide variety of posts and information available on this social media platform, it becomes a habit, which eventually becomes uncontrollable and irresistible.

Therefore, even with the use of social media as a means of chasing our idols, drama series, talking to and making friends, following influences or even as a source of entertainment for relaxation, young people should regulate and be wary of their use of social media applications so as not to fall into its irresistible trap.

Written by: Henrietta Lim, 4B

Charyl Khoh, Sec 1 St Elizabeth

Chinese is a subject that I have always enjoyed as far back as in primary school. It has been my favourite subject for as long as I can remember. However, this year I found the lessons even more engaging and fun through the depth of the language as well as the ideas that we are taught during lessons.



Holly Chang, Sec 2 St Deidre

One of my most memorable experiences has to be the literature book trailer of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* that all the Sec 2 classes filmed this year where we each formed groups with different roles to film a basic movie trailer of what happened in the book by ourselves. I think it was especially heartening to see all the effort the class put in, and the clear fun everyone had, and that my class' book trailer was one of those that got showcased to the whole Sec 2 cohort. We got to plan everything ourselves and apply what we learnt in the book and our literature lessons in a very hands-on way. Overall, it was a really creative and fun experience for us, and satisfying to see just how far we'd come when we saw the finished project. It was definitely special and distinct for me :)



Bernales Beatrice Justine Lota, Sec 3 St Clare

An English lesson that we spent learning about poverty in Singapore as our expository essay topic was what struck me as a relevant lesson. Instead of just learning formats and suitable phrases for the expository writing preparation; we watched videos, read articles, discussed, and even challenged ourselves to spend only \$7 a day for a week to understand the topic of poverty especially that The topic itself was extremely interesting as we were able to learn about a very real, pressing, and ignored social issue that we do not usually get the chance to discover and acknowledge. This has not only helped me realise my passion for social issues but also deepened my thoughts and opinions about them. What was most memorable was the conversations and discussions with my peers that made me feel as if we were more than just 15 year-old students in school, and people with valid opinions who can make a real change in the world.



CHIJSTC
WILL BE CELEBRATING
90
YEARS
OF **THERESIAN** LIGHT
IN **2023**

CHIJSTC was founded in 1933 with 25 students and operated out of the rented Hood Lodge at 501 Kampong Bahru Road. The school offered lessons instructed in both English and Tamil.

St. Theresa's Convent moved to her second home in a house owned by the Christian Brothers who ran St. Joseph's Institution.

Our present site of 12 acres of land at Radin Mas was purchased by Rev Mother Charles. Today, CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent stands on land owned by the IJ sisters.

HOW
DO YOU
THINK THE
SCHOOL WILL
CELEBRATE
OUR 90TH
ANNIVERSARY?

— STUDENT SHOWCASE

It was a rich teal colour, blended with white. The colour was mesmerising and the swirls of white against the teal hypnotised me, as if I were in a trance. It was cylindrical in shape, perfectly symmetrical. I watched as my mother filled it up with water, looking as if the tide were coming in. It was a collapsible cup that my mother had bought for me. Not only was it in my favourite colour, but it was also my favourite product. I enjoyed using it every day. I would gently collapse the cup and stash it into my school bag, taking it out during recess and filling it with my favourite beverages. The satisfaction of collapsing the cup into its little compact shape from something three-dimensional and big in size really intrigued me and I would be fascinated by it the whole day. I enjoyed drinking from the teal cup and looking in wonder at its design, wondering how it even functioned. The cup brought me so much joy and transported me back to my childhood when I was deeply fascinated by the littlest things. At the same time, I was overcome by a stubborn desire to understand the mechanics of this little cup.

I would definitely recommend this cup to others as it is extremely convenient. How such a large object is able to become so small and compact is beyond me, but it allows you to bring the cup anywhere you desire. For example, if I were to go on a trip, I could just stash the little collapsible cup into my bag and take it anywhere with me. This function is truly convenient and can save one's time and energy when travelling, not having to worry about where to find something clean to drink from. Not only is the cup convenient, it is also environmentally friendly. Nowadays, many food and beverage outlets provide plastic or paper cups. These materials can lead to pollution and global warming, inevitably destroying the earth we live in with every sip of one's drink. However, this environmentally friendly and reusable cup helps to save the environment and lower one's plastic consumption. One would be able to enjoy a drink while protecting our precious earth, killing two birds with one stone. By using this cup, we can all do our part to protect the earth in small ways.

This cup was a present from my mother and is of symbolic value to me. Every time I look at it, I am reminded of what it truly means to me. The cup is a constant reminder not to give up when faced with challenges. The cup was given to me by my mother during a difficult period in my life when I was overcome with setbacks. The cup symbolises the ability to “spring” back after every setback. Just like how the cup can transform from its small, compact shape into something so large, it is a constant reminder that when life gets me down, I always have the ability to rise above the challenges and face them. This is especially important for me as I embark on the journey of life, and I am constantly guided by this image. I would thus gladly recommend this product to others not only because of its useful purpose and benefits to the environment, but also because of the symbolism behind it and what it may mean to different people as they interpret it in different ways.

This cup is my favourite product and I truly enjoy using it in my everyday life. It has made a difference in my life and in the world too, as I take small steps to save the environment in my own way. This cup brings me happiness and affirms me, and thus, I would definitely recommend it to others.

Written by: Jessica Chang, 4A

— PARENTS' VOICES

How can parents of a Secondary 2 student support their daughter/ward through the academic year and the Streaming/ Subject Option Exercise?

Our general parenting style is to prod and not push our daughters to do their best. If she was having trouble with any school subject, then tuition or enrichment would be offered but not forced.

For the subject option exercise, we encouraged her to think through her choices objectively, and to view things from a few angles. For example, students shouldn't give up on a subject just because they don't like the teacher.

Together, we also went through the polytechnic courses she found interesting, to check their admission criteria. This helped give her a clearer picture of what subjects are needed for the course that she is keen on.

Dayanandan Suvarna, parent of Giselle Gomez (Sec 2C)

How can parents of a Secondary 4/5 student support their daughter/ward through the academic year and national examinations?

Talk to your child to find out where her interest lies academically, and what her plans are, to help her prepare for the path she wants to embark on. Give them as much moral support as possible. Remember, forcing her to do what you want, and not what she wants, can have a very negative effect.

Let her choose her path while you give sound advice. Do not keep reminding them to “study, study, study” – they are at that age where they are able to plan their own schedule. Again, constant reminders to keep studying can have a negative effect, as teenagers that age can be rather defiant. If you are able to coach them, go ahead. But should your child not want that, then please respect her wishes and do not insist.

Just being there for her and giving her moral support is what she will appreciate. A simple act of preparing her favourite drink or snack, or even giving her a shoulder rub, a hug, etc (all depending on what your child likes), does help.

Mrs Monica Tan, parent of Marissa Claire Tan (Sec 4MM)



Dear Theresians

Just like that, another year is coming to an end. I am thankful to be given the opportunity to journey with you as the President of the Central Executive Committee, witnessing the Theresian spirit that is ever so present in all that we do. With the Covid-19 restrictions easing up, we got to partake in more activities this year as a school and through the resumption of learning journeys. One of the most memorable events for me was our International Friendship Day-Sports Carnival as it took place only a few months into the school year. It was heartening to see many Theresians come out of their shell and overcome their initial shyness to work together to accomplish a common goal. It seems like all of us enjoyed it tremendously!

I pray that by next year, we get to do more of such activities and attend all events without any restrictions. We can also look forward to the resumption of level-wide camps. These will not only help us to de-stress from our studies, but we can learn and grow as a Theresian community from it. Let us always keep in mind our fortitude and resilience which enabled us to overcome the last three years, which were lonely and challenging in many ways. This is a great reminder that when we join hands as a school, we can achieve anything we set our mind to. Now that we have come to the end of the year and sat for our examinations, please do get a much-deserved rest and enjoy your holidays! Pick up a hobby that you have long forgotten, and take the time to connect with a family member or friend whom you haven't reached out to in a while. It's always good to keep friendships strong and remind others of our care and concern. Take care and stay safe!

With love and blessings,
your Central Exco President

Syadiyah Qaisara, 3J



Syadiyah (on the left) at the Student Leaders Investiture in August 2022