

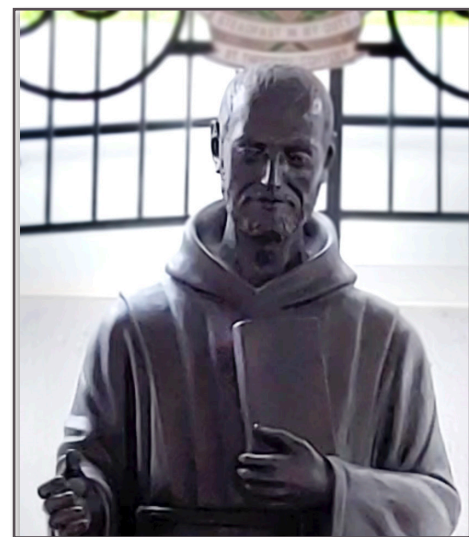


THE THERESIAN TRIBUNE

ISSUE 1 SEMESTER 1 2021



Dear Thesians, 2021 is extra meaningful as we commemorate our founder Blessed Nicholas Barre's 400th year of birth. How many lives did Blessed Nicholas Barre touch in his lifetime? How does his legacy continue to shape lives, centuries later? We surely don't spend enough time reflecting on how momentous births can be-- yes, they are meaningful, life-altering events (ask any parent who has struggled to interpret a newborn's cries and cues with his/her utmost care and love), but the births of important people in history have changed the world, one deed, invention, and movement at a time. It was certainly this way through the birth of Blessed Nicholas Barre, and how he pursued and exemplified Truth by educating poor, disadvantaged girls. Today, amidst the backdrop of uncertainty as the world grapples with COVID-19, the Newsletter team truly hopes to continue bringing you stories and soundbites of positivity and inspiration from up on the Hill along Lower Delta Road. This shall be our way of pursuing Truth in 2021 just as Blessed Nicholas Barre did so many years ago: with good conscience and in simple and steadfast ways, to show that life is indeed beautiful no matter what.



New Theresian Staff



Meninder Kaur

What are some of your interests/hobbies?

Singing, reading.

How are you coping/adapting in the school (especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic)?

It is unfortunate that the staff is not able to mingle at gatherings, but it is good to know that we are working together as a school to keep each other safe.

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

Mr. Dill, for being a great co-form teacher who is kind, patient and fun!

National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) in CHIJ STC (For Sec 1 to 3 students)

The National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) will be implemented for all Sec. 1 to 3 students from 2021 Term 3 onwards. All Sec. 1 to 3 students will own a school-prescribed Personal Learning Device (PLD). Alongside the fortnightly Home Based Learning (HBL) day, students will use their PLD for self-directed and collaborative learning both in school and at home on a regular basis. E-pedagogy will now be a heavy feature in classrooms, as teachers provide opportunities for a blended learning experience to develop future-ready Thesians.

Updates

What are some of your interests/hobbies?

I am currently exploring Virtual Reality through Oculus Quest 2 whenever I have the time. My favourite app has been Wander, which allows me to "travel" around the world during this pandemic.

How have you adapted to the new school, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Colleagues especially in my department (Samantha and Qiyu) have been supportive in helping me adapt to the school. Similarly, Samuel from the EL department helped me tremendously at the beginning of the school year.

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

My co-form teacher, Wenli. She is a role model to the students and working together has enabled me to learn a lot about the school culture and students.



Alfie Yang

What are some of your interests/hobbies?

Reading and watching TV.

How have you adapted to the new school, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The adjustment has been going smoothly so far. Teaching in a mask can be challenging but the microphone helps a lot, though hopefully, it doesn't distract the other classes. Having well-behaved students has also helped in classroom management, especially in the implementation of the SMM.

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

Mdm Jarina. Our work station is very important to us as we do so many things on it daily. I appreciate that on the very first day of the holidays when I came to spring clean my new table, Mdm Jarina helped me settle in. Thank you, Mdm Jarina.



Lee Boon Leong



What are some of your interests/hobbies?

Going for nature walks, visiting art museums.

How have you adapted to the new school, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I am adapting well to the school, thanks to supportive and helpful colleagues! Having to cope with the uncertainty and new demands due to the pandemic has been a challenge to everyone, but it is reassuring to know that I am not alone in this and that the rest of the school is all working to help one another and to make things work.

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

My buddy Valarie, who was one of the first few colleagues I turned (and still turn) to for help. She is always generous in sharing her experiences, information about the school, as well as loads of yummy snacks.

Eunice Hung



Sekaran

What are some of your interests/hobbies?

Travel and Sports.

How have you adapted to the new school, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I am slowly but surely getting used to the challenges and constraints imposed by COVID-19, especially in the teaching of PE. I'm definitely yearning for the pre-COVID days.

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

My co-form teacher, Ms Rachel Chong, for giving me time and space to settle down and showing me the ropes. And of course for being a great colleague and friend.



Alicia Lim

What are some of your interests/hobbies?

Watching movies/kdramas, listening to music, embroidery.

How have you adapted to the new school, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

As a Beginning Teacher, I'm learning a lot every day and growing more comfortable being in the classroom. I look forward to being more creative in my lessons with the introduction of the Personal Learning Devices!

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

Everyone in the library instructional room, especially Hannah for being incredibly caring and a great friend. And also Bryan and Veronica for being amazing mentors!

What motivates you as an IJ educator?

I am encouraged to see growth in these young Theresian ladies. Watching them grow in their character and values enable me to continue to give as a teacher even though it gets tough at times. As a teacher, we give and "water" our students regularly, and leave it to God to do the rest.

~ Mr Steven Lim

Being a part of a caring community to our girls and each other, being in a position to give to other's lives and to receive inspiration, grace and encouragement from students and colleagues.

~ Mr Samuel Zou

Knowing that what we do makes a difference is motivation enough to put in my best into what I do, teach. Nurturing and moulding students, instilling values such as honesty, care, kindness and appreciating everyone around them are some of the most precious gifts we can give our students to live their lives by.

~ Ms Meninder Kaur

"Different species of trees produce different kinds of fruit. We must not look for cherries on a plum tree. So, it is with people..." - Blessed Nicholas Barre

This quote by the IJ schools' founder, Blessed Nicholas Barre, reminds me that every single child who walks through our doors is a unique individual. As an IJ educator, I am then motivated to love, care for, and develop each child based on her unique talents and potential, differentiate her learning experience, and reach out to each unique fruit in the orchard.

I love the IJ values of Truth, Justice, Freedom and Love because they serve as a daily reminder and motivation not just to demonstrate these same values as an IJ educator, but to inculcate and develop them in our young ladies for their own future.

~ Ms Donna Koh

"What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches." - Karl Meninger

"If kids come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important." - Barbara Colorose

~ Mr Wang Qiming

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:14-16

Each and every one of us is gifted with talents and gifts from our creator. Our part is simply to allow our gifts and talents to bring light, hope and joy to others, so that the world can be a better place.

~ Mr Bryan Lim

Teaching is a calling and not a job: the ability to impact someone's life for the good; to be that still calm voice that the girls can trust and being that someone who believes in them; to be used by God as a channel to reach others.

~ Ms Ng Shu Zhen

STUDENT VOICES

How do you see truth demonstrated in your daily life at STC?

I see truth in my actions of reaching out courageously to help others to the best of my ability. When my schoolmates have queries on their homework or new knowledge learnt in class, I try to help them make sense of it through the use of examples. To me, learning is truly fulfilling when I am able to apply the concepts learned in class to my everyday life. So, to be a true friend to my peers, I take it upon myself to guide them. I feel a great sense of accomplishment knowing that my little actions go a long way in my journey to being a person for others.

Laura Ng, 1J



I see truth in everything I do daily. I stay true to my conscience as I treat everyone around me equally regardless of their age, gender or status. I stay true in my love for my classmates through my readiness to lend them a helping hand and a listening ear. I stay true in my friendships by casting jealousy aside and celebrating the achievements and hard work of my peers. I stay true to myself by embracing my strengths and weaknesses and being contented with what I have.

Angel, 1D



"Truth, justice, freedom and love" are the four Theresian values I encounter daily as I enter the gates of CHIJ STC. They remind me to search constantly for the value of truth through the academic and social challenges I face. By making an effort to have a clear conscience, I am able to evaluate situations around me in school. A clear conscience leads to clear thoughts, and with that brings rightful and just actions to bring about fruitful results. Only then, will I know and demonstrate Truth. Trying to understand the truth of things leads me on a path where there is absolutely nothing between me and God, nor between me and other people. Truth is truly the first stepping stone into my journey of growing into the exemplary Theresian that I aim to be.

Laura Binny, 1A



As a student in STC, I am able to express my feelings and present myself in a genuine way, without having to pretend to be someone I'm not. STC upholds the value of truth by creating a safe environment in which students can project their authentic selves without putting on a façade, which is further expanded by the professionalism of the teachers who respect students for who they are. Furthermore, there is a tight-knit community and good teacher-student relationships which make it easier for students to show their authentic self without fear of judgment.

Deline Ong, 3R



STAY SAFE. VACCINATE.

Vaccinations are *95% effective in preventing symptomatic and severe disease**. We should continue to observe Safe Management Measures.

**Ministry Of Health, 4th June 2021*

STAFF VOICES

What did you do recently that was interesting or memorable?

Mrs Amanda Tan

Inspired by the inline skating activities during Sec 1. EFL, I started learning inline skating with my family and godchildren this year. From not knowing how to balance on wheels, we can now roll around in the park!



Ms Miroshini

I finally visited the Coney Island Nature Park over the March Holidays, a day after I received my Covid-19 vaccination. While most visitors to the island cycled, I decided on a scenic walk to take in the sights offered by Mother Nature. I started at the Instagram-famous photo spot, Coney Island West Entrance, and finished at the East entrance. At some points during my walk, I veered off the main trail to the beach areas to enjoy the sea breeze as respite from the scorching sun. Despite the slight swelling and ache in my arm, the picturesque views of flora and fauna within the park encouraged me to finish my walk.



Thankful for the clear blue skies and picturesque views during my Coney Island Nature Park walk!

Mr Timothy Chow

I recently came across Dona Suzana while watching a show about street food in Latin America. Suzana is a hawker with an amazing life story. She suffers from speech deficiency and was cheated by labourers who allegedly engaged her to cook for many months but refused to pay her after that. She felt so disillusioned that she stopped cooking for a long time. After much persuasion from her fans, she restarted her business selling Moqueca (Brazilian Fish Stew, which looks Y-U-M-M-Y) and her business has been booming ever since. Her example impressed me and taught me the value of friendship and resilience.



Mr Bryan Lim

One book that I read was "Atomic Habits" by James Clear, and it inspired me to make small changes and improvements in my life, just like in the following quote by Mother Teresa: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." For example, I started doing 10 sets of push-ups whenever I laid my hands on my mobile phone at home, and started cleaning small areas of my home daily. It makes exercising and cleaning the house much more manageable and seemingly less time consuming. While I don't really have a sparkling clean house or a hot bod as yet, I am definitely breathing cleaner air at home and toning my body, slowly but surely.



And the term "atomic" resonates with me since I am a Chemistry teacher. With the right approach and mindset, even an inert element like neon can become a reactive one like sodium!



Mdm Haslinda
Bte Rahmat

I spent quality time with my children during the March holidays. We did not manage to go on a staycation as all the hotels were fully booked. Instead, I took my children to the National Museum for the first time. I thought they would be bored, but surprisingly, they enjoyed walking around and taking pictures in the museum. They enjoyed Story of the Forest the most because of the stunning artistry and creative technology, so much so that we actually visited the museum again that week!



What are you looking forward to doing during the June break?

Mrs Amanda Tan

Spending time with my family! The kids are growing up too fast. I am also looking forward to not waking up at 5.30 a.m.

Ms Miroshini

Organising my wardrobe and cupboards! I'll be packing away items (mostly clothes) that I no longer use but are still in good condition so that I can donate them or hand them down to my cousins.

Mr Timothy Chow

Spending time with my wife and family. Baking scones (my personal favourite) and cakes! Going for long walks and reading.

Mr Bryan Lim

This may sound ironic, but I am looking forward to clearing my backlog of work, and preparing ahead for Semester 2, so that I can breathe easier when Term 3 begins. I am also hoping to give each of my graduating students a report of their progress in Chemistry so far, and engage them in working towards their Preliminary and 'O' level examinations.

Mdm Haslinda
Bte Rahmat

I bought a few books which I hope to complete during the break. I also bought a few recipe books and would like to try to whip up new dishes for the family. I am definitely looking forward to spending quality time with my family.



Eugenie Pui

What are some of your interests/hobbies?

I enjoy travelling & watching Korean variety shows/dramas.

How have you adapted to the new school, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I am coping well, and getting to know the students and staff better through the months.

Name one person you would like to show your appreciation for in the school, and why.

Thank you Mdm Chin and Li Hsing for encouraging me and also helping me settle into STC. I would also like to thank Dora for helping me!