



## Principal's Newsletter - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

*Gong Xi Fa Cai* to you all and I do hope that I have managed to greet you properly at this time of year which has been marked in fine style by the School, combining the concept of the Lunar New Year with Valentine's Day. As always our students have impressed with their energy, initiative and commitment to our ideals through assemblies, decorations and performances. As I said to the Prefects earlier in the day, I have enjoyed very much my first few weeks as Principal of this fine, distinctive gem of a school not least because of the sense of community inspired by our students, who are delightful in so many different respects.

### NEWSLETTERS

As I intimated in my last newsletter, I intend to write more frequently to provide a more regular flow of information about our achievements, and events in the future. I do not wish to contribute further to deforestation and will therefore restrict my letters to publication on the web site; copies of my letter will be available for collection by students or parents in reception should this be required. I do hope that these new arrangements will prove to be acceptable and popular with you all.

### THE CO-CURRICULUM

CCAs have started in earnest and I have been impressed by the commitment of students to a wide range of activities many of which see students spending much time in school and, I believe, gaining fulfilment as a consequence. Last week our debating team took part in the first preliminary round of the Julia Gabriel National Championships for Secondary Schools. We were represented by Maxine Tan, Jeremy Tan and Ashvin Niruttan in their bout against Serangoon Secondary School. We achieved a notable success with Maxine also winning the best-speaker award. There will be two more rounds next month to establish if we will progress to the quarter finals but, given our wide margin of victory in the first round, we should be in a strong position. I am, of course, grateful to the members of staff in charge, Ms. Audrey Moh and Mrs. Eniko Kiss, for providing the necessary inspiration and support.

Another success was seen in soccer where our under-twenty boys' team achieved a victory in a warm-up match against Dunman High School (3-2).

Our competitive badminton team is in the midst of their South Zone Badminton Competition.

There has been encouraging news from the game played by our 'C' Boys' team: although they lost the fixture to Kuo Chuan Presbyterian School by 3-2 this is the first time that our players have won any match at the National Schools Competition.

(1 fixture has 5 matches. 3 singles and 2 doubles. Each match has 3 sets, the player who wins the best of 3 wins that match.)

The two students who won in their singles matches were Reyner Sebastian and Chan Ka Shing; the doubles team made up of Lionel Loh Sheng Fhong and Achal Ajeet Rayakar nearly won their match but eventually lost 2-1 to a more experienced team. The other members of the team were Nathanael Hoe, Clifford Herbert Theodore, Shawn Chua and Glenn Wee. I am pleased to report that the team fought hard in every match to improve themselves and learned not to give up when facing stronger opponents. This stood them in good stead against Saint Gabriel Secondary when matches were won by both our doubles teams.

They also had a chance of winning the fixture 3-2 in our favour in our third singles game played by Chan Ka Shing. He was equally skilled as his opponent and had the upper hand in terms of physical stamina; however, he sprained his ankle halfway through the match but continued to fight on valiantly losing eventually 21-19 in a deciding set. After the match the umpire and St Gabriel's coach said that they were impressed by the spirit of our boys, especially our 3rd singles team. Although we did not manage to move on into the second round of the competition our boys are in high spirits over the wins they managed to achieve. I know this will inspire them to train hard for the International Schools Badminton League which will begin soon

The performing arts figure strongly in our repertoire this term with rehearsals beginning for *Twelfth Night* and proceeding apace for the student-directed production of *Monty Python*. Many of our musicians have performed in assemblies and it was good to see the creative talents of OGLs in a dance performance dedicated to Saint Valentine.

## **TRIPS**

I can hardly believe that another trip is being planned to enrich the lives of our young people. It is clear that such trips are popular and do much to complement of the curriculum, as well as providing the opportunity of enjoyment in different parts of the world. It is encouraging to report that the economics and business studies department is planning a trip to New York from 1<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The objectives of the trip are to allow the students to visit one of the world's leading international financial and business centres and to give some insights into the

intricacies of the financial world. The trip will also include a business workshop at Madame Tussauds and visits to three universities: full details are available from Ms. Pamela Ng on [pamela.ng@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:pamela.ng@acsinternational.com.sg) but if you are interested I would suggest a rapid response and certainly by the 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## **HOLIDAYS**

Mention of such trips prompts me to reflect on arrangements for vacations. Unfortunately, this New Year break has been characterized by a flurry of last-minute requests for leave-of-absence by students. Whilst I understand fully the wish of families to celebrate the New Year together I do wonder if it is absolutely necessary to disrupt the education of our young people to do so. Please may I ask for your cooperation in adhering to our term dates which are published well in advance and which provide ample opportunity for rest and relaxation. Of course I recognize that there will be extenuating circumstances in some cases – and I think you will find me sympathetic to these – but as a general rule please do not expect to receive permission for absence where this could be reasonably avoided. Thank you for your understanding and help in this matter.

I hope that the foregoing will not spoil the various celebrations that I trust you will all be able to enjoy over the next few days; I hope too that you will be inspired to reflect on the year ahead with the aim of making it as fulfilling as possible.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely,

P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles  
Principal