



OVERCOMERS

Semester 2 / 2017

A Publication Charting the Journey of our Overcomers.... their New Beginnings, Progressions, and their Metamorphosis within PRCS.

Principal's Message



Above and beyond the emotional high of celebrations

2017 Term 3 was a term brimming with festivities. We celebrated Singapore's 52nd birthday through Crest lessons, a photograph collage challenge, and a National Day concert, which involved senior citizens from the Kheng Chiu Loke Tin Kee Home. Our Sec 2 Crestians, Sec 2 Year Head and Home Tutors, teachers in the Character and Citizenship Education Committee, and members of the Parent Support Group, put up a Racial Harmony Carnival, which showcased culinary delights and traditional arts and crafts across the ethnic groups, as well as games popular with teenagers. Our Crestian Student Leaders, supported by teachers in the Student Leadership Committee, planned and executed a series of activities during Staff Appreciation Week, which strengthened the bonds between Crestians and all staff of PRCS, and enabled Crestians to show their appreciation to them.

Given the cornucopia of celebrations, it would not be surprising if members of PRCS find Term 3 to be full of emotional highs and derive much pleasure from these. Yet, it would be naïve, if not dangerous, to equate such pleasure with (true) happiness. To paraphrase a quote by Helen Keller, *true happiness is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose*. If the celebrations in which we immerse ourselves bring us only pleasure, but no knowledge of a larger cause or a higher calling associated with these celebrations, then we run the risk of self-gratification. In an affluent society like Singapore, opportunities for self-gratification abound, e.g. bingeing, gaming, and ganging up with "friends" to hurl abuse at others, either face to face or online. Self-gratification, if left to fester, leads to addiction or/and legal consequences, which prevent us from unleashing the potential within us and the good we can do to others.

To guard against self-gratification, it is important to look beyond self and at the world around us. True happiness begins not with asking what we want, or even what we need; it begins with asking what others need, and thereafter identifying ways to help meet these needs.

It is my wish that, the next time we commemorate or celebrate any event, we not just indulge in the activities associated with these events, but also think more deeply about the people associated with these. Are there people in this nation, from other races, or in this school, to whom we can be more empathetic, more appreciative, and more caring? What can we do, not just during these celebrations, but also apart from these?

Despite the dark and silent world in which she spent most of her life, Helen Keller's writings have brought light to many.

May we be a beacon of light to at least one other person in our lives.

Mr Tan Shun Loong
Principal

National Day Celebration

Our National Day Celebration for this year was held on 8 August. Our celebration started off with a march-in parade by the various uniform groups in our school. It was followed by the singing of the national anthem, played by our very own school band (Crestwinds) and then the taking of our pledge. An enchanting rifle performance was put up by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) after that. Next, we proceeded to the hall for the annual Crestians' Got Talent show (CGT). There were only 3 selected finalists from each category, Junior (Secondary 1s and 2s) and Senior (Secondary 3). The CGT was very interesting as our schoolmates went onstage to showcase their different talents. The atmosphere was vibrant and lively as classes were cheering loudly, rooting for their classmates. Excitement filled the air as we supported them. We ended off our celebration by singing many different National Day songs from the past years, and of course this year's National Day song 'Because it's Singapore' too. It was led by our school choir, the Crest Voices. They put up a fascinating performance and coordinated their singing with hand actions! This celebration was an enjoyable and unforgettable experience for all of us.

Kimberly Lim Jia Yi (1/6)

How is National Day significant to you?

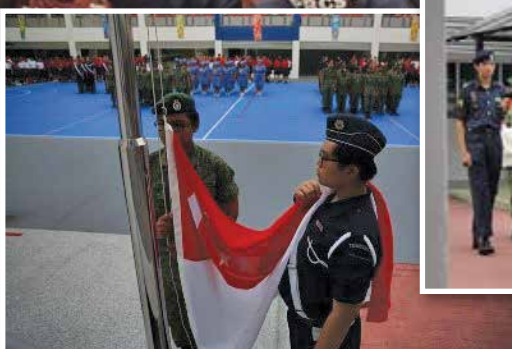
On the 9th of August in the year of 1965, Singapore was officially recognized as a separate country on the world map. It was a day of joy for many people as they had finally gained independence from Malaysia. So every year, the month of August holds special importance for the people of Singapore. The National Day of Singapore is a highly awaited holiday. People of Singapore belong from different backgrounds and cultures but this day brings them together. The unity between the people is increased and they forget their differences and come together as one. That is what the National Day is about - It is celebrated to remind us that no matter what hardships we face, if we remain united they can conquer everything.

Tiffany Chey Cheng Yi (1/5)



National Day is significant because of how we celebrate it – as a school coming together as one. The day was filled with the bold and symbolizing colors of red and white. There was singing, screaming, cheering, singing and ...even MORE singing. Literally. I'm glad that this year's NDP was truly much more fun than any other NDP celebrations I have ever had!

Averkieva Anastasia (1/5)



Racial Harmony

In School

The night before Racial Harmony Day, I was really nervous about dressing up as I thought no one would. However, as I reached my classroom, I was shocked to find many of my classmates dressed up in their ethnic wear. Some of them were wearing Chinese Cheong-sums and Indian bracelets. Not only were the different races using their own ethnic clothes, some celebrated other races by dressing up in another races' ethnic wear. The diversity of colours, patterns and costumes was a vibrant and beautiful sight to behold!

The Racial Harmony Carnival was the highlight of my day. As the carnival began, all the students rushed out like hungry for the fun and food prepared for them by our very own Secondary Two students. I was pleasantly surprised at how the Secondary 2 students decorated, planned and designed their booths. Each booth was carefully thought out and meticulously designed. They were selling beverages, food and snacks. Some of them were even in charge of games. Some of them includes minute to win it and darts. These were the two games that I played the most. The prizes given away were very attractive, and that kept many students coming back for more. Overall, I feel that the money is well spent especially since all proceeds will go to a charitable cause. In the end, I regretted getting only \$20 worth of tickets – I should've bought more!

I am really looking forward to next year's Racial Harmony Day carnival. I can't wait to contribute as a Secondary Two student through the planning and setting up of a booth!

Nur Umairah Binte Sani (1/5)



In my Neighbourhood

That's what I love about my neighbourhood – a representation of vibrancy and diversity within the everyday noise. I find vehicles annoying. The car engines are noisy. The exhaust pipes emit harmful gases. Some of our neighbours are just as noisy. They fight over insignificant matters. They quarrel over the 'unpleasant' smell of food and over religious rituals and practices. They sow discord with untrue hearsays. We 'pollute' the harmony when we are inconsiderate to the different practices and beliefs of the various races. We may not like it, but within the everyday, within the conflict and the resolutions... we learnt to adjust, adapt and accept. Harmony doesn't come as an ideal. It comes as an ideal working through reality.

This is my neighbourhood – an empty vast expanse of land filled with grass so green. The vast expanse of land is the big big world. Every single blade of grass represents us. We are strangely similar and different; similar because we are all members of the human race, different because we are born as different races, practise different religions and use various languages. I thought of my neighbourhood and how every single act of kindness, every single smile we give each other brighten up my world. I thought about what I ate just now. The spices, the ingredients all came from different origins yet the dish tasted flavourful.

I will never exchange this diversity for the world.

Chan Yi Qian (2/6)



Corrinne May Performance

All students and teachers gathered in the school hall during Crest time to watch an exceptional performance put up by Corrinne May, a 44 year old Singaporean singer-songwriter. She performed several songs of her own while playing the guitar and the piano at different points of the performance. Some of the songs included "Mr. Beasley" and "Same Side of the Moon", which conveyed the importance of being ourselves and hanging on to long distance relationships. At that point of time, not many of us knew who Corrinne May was. But this unfamiliarity soon dissipated when she sang the National Day Parade Theme song (2010) "Song for Singapore". Everyone then started singing and clapping along enthusiastically to the song. Finally, the session ended with a Question and Answer session where students could get to ask Corrinne May some questions regarding her career and some musical skills.

After everything ended, it was indeed no doubt that we had learnt to better appreciate music around us!

Elroy Quek Zijia (1/6)



Talent Time Competition

As a Secondary 1 student, I feel that this year's talent time competition was a fruitful one and the competition, fascinating. Competitors from different classes, be it upper or lower secondary, competed.

"Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine." I think this quote really applies to the competitors. Despite completing homework and keeping up with schoolwork, they were all able to allocate time to practice their performance item. I think behind the beautiful performances that were put up, there was more to that. On the surface, it might seem like an easy job. But have u ever wondered the amount of time and effort they forked out just for the performance? I think that they will be satisfied no matter the results they received.

Overall, what I enjoyed the most is of course the atmosphere created by the student body, the cheering and support given to competitors, and the screaming and shouting.

Tiffany Chey Cheng Yi (1/5)

It had been an already fruitful morning with all of the programs for the day. I had been feeling a little down and was having a headache, but after watching the amazing performances done by the contestant it was truly an 'eye-full'. I didn't know such talent was present in PRCS. I especially enjoyed the k-pop duo as I am a big fan of it as well! Their dance and rhythm was definitely well rehearsed. A big *clap* to all the wonderful talent that was present on that day! And I hope to see even more talent next year!

Averkieva Anastasia (1/5)



Staff Appreciation Day

Our Staff Appreciation Day Celebration this year was held on 30 August. It was organised by the amazing Crestian Student Leaders (CSLs). We had to report in our Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) shirts that day. We started off with the enjoyable UG motivational games for the Secondary 1s to 3s. Each class could only send 20 people (10 girls and 10 boys per class) to participate in the games. It consisted of a series of small games that required us to work together. That was also a chance for our class to bond. As I was playing the games, I could hear the cheering of all my classmates. My sporty Home Tutors even came in to join us for the games. The Secondary 4s and 5s participated in the student-teacher games. After all the games, we had a short recess break, before proceeding to the hall to experience more fun!! We had to seat in our various clusters, which was made up of different CCA groups. This was why we had to wear our CCA shirts. Our emcees were 4 Secondary 3 CSLs, who dressed up as the different superheroes. For the first activity of the celebration in the hall, each cluster was to send 5 representatives, made up of teachers and students, for a series of small games. Then, we had to do a mass dance, led by the CSLs and our school's modern dancers. Many of us were shy to dance initially, but we slowly started moving our body. Following that, there were performances put up by one of the groups who participated in the Crestians got talent (CGT) and our school's modern dancers. Also, there was a collaborative performance put up by another group who participated in the CGT and the New Teachers. Not to forget the special saxophone performance by our principal, Mr Tan. The celebration was a fun and enjoyable experience for all of us.

Kimberly Lim Jia Yi (1/6)

What was the most memorable moment within Staff Appreciation Week?

The CCA mascots walked across the hall showing off the costumes made by their students. I am in the CCA, table tennis and our mascot was Mr Quek who wore a head band made of old broken table tennis balls. It was surely funny watching our usually stern teacher's in comical costumes.

Krish Gaurav (1/6)

The sales of ice-cream which – costs only a dollar per stick! The ice-cream stalls, stationed at the tower block during recess had a long queue and pupils would queue up to buy their desired ice-cream flavours at a cheap price. It was a hot deal that attracted pupils and teachers to come and purchase it, the offer of only \$1 for such a generous amount of ice-cream was a “Once in a life time opportunity” to most, especially those with a major sweet tooth. The most memorable part of the whole celebration was when the new teachers, who had joined the school this year, and two of the students (pro in dancing) dance together onstage. With the K-pop music, they teachers made their entrance as they started dancing along the beat of the music. It was so unbelievably funny yet amusing at the same time that some students even started whipping out their hand phones, hoping to capture the whole memorable moment. The performance was truly #amazing #hotteachers #younggenerations. Mr Tan started making his way on stage as he gives us a mind blowing performance of the playing the saxophone. #talentedprincipal. It was a memorable day for everyone!

Tan Yujing (1/4)



SECTION 6 CELEBRATING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Bringing the Classroom to Tourists

From 22 May to 24 May 2017, Secondary Two students from Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School (PRCSS) went on a trip to the Merlion Park where they posed as presenters of various icons to tourists in the area such as, 'The Merlion', 'The Water Taxis', and the 'Fullerton Hotel'. The tourists were also encouraged to give feedback to the students.

Before going on the program, the students were assigned into groups to do a research on the icon they had chosen. After looking up on the icons, they drafted a minute script and also drew up a board for additional information on the icon as well as feedback from the tourists they presented to. According to the students of PRCSS, they were also told to rehearse their script until they were no longer reliant on it.

An anonymous student from Class 2/4 said, "This Experiential Learning Programme not only raised my self-confidence and self-awareness when presenting in public but also allowed me to gain more knowledge about my own country, Singapore. This assignment also made as demonstrate speaking with understanding of Purpose, Audience and Context. At the same time, it helped me raise awareness about the few key icons in the area."

Rayne Lim from Class 2/3 said, "At the beginning of the programme, I felt awkward and uncomfortable having to present in front of complete strangers as it was my first time doing that. Fortunately, with the help of my group members, I managed to overcome these

anxieties. After this experience, I'm no longer afraid to speak up in public and can convey my message confidently. I'm thankful to my school for providing me with this opportunity and experience."

In view of the great success of this programme, however, there were some disappointment encountered by the students. For example, some tourists evaded the students, thinking that the students approaching were to conduct surveys. Nevertheless, some students also feedback that most of the tourists were really friendly and approachable.

Reese Ng (2/4)



SECTION 7 CELEBRATING CCA ACHIEVEMENTS

Volleyball	Participated in the National East Zone Volleyball Championship
Table Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in the East Zone Table Tennis (Team) Championships. Participated in the National Table Tennis (Individual) Championships.
St John Ambulance Brigade (Mixed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gold Award for the Corp Achievement Award (CAA) 13 cadets clinched the Chief Commissioner's Badge which is the highest award for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) Represented SJN in the National Day marching contingent Best in Transport-of-Casualty in the Zone 1 First Aid Competition under the Ambulance Adult Category Highest Amount Collected, Highest Average Amount Collected and Top 7 Corp Collection in the brigade for the Walkathon event Best Group Trainee in Basic Non-Commissioned Officers (BNCO) Course 2016 - Chia Bing Heng of Class 3/1
Softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The B Division participated in the Bedok Green Secondary School Invitational Competition and clinched the third position. Participated in Singapore Recreational Club Softball Competition.
National Police Cadet Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit Overall Proficiency Assessment – Gold Award
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The C Division participated in the National School Games Netball Tournament (East) and was one of the top schools to advance to the second round
National Cadet Corps (Girls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Unit Competition- Gold Award Precision Drill Squad (PDS) Competition- First Runner Up (Girls' Team), National Freestyle Drill (FSD) Competition- 5th in East District
National Cadet Corps (Boys)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gold Award for Best Unit Competition Outstanding Cadet Award 2017: Haizul Ali B Seron 1st in East District NCC Precision Drill Squad Competition 4th placing in Captain Ball East District (Secondary 1) Top 8 for Guardian of The City Competition (SG Secure) (NCC)

SECTION 7 CELEBRATING CCA ACHIEVEMENTS

Modern Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SYF 2017 – Certificate of Distinction Award • Super 24 Dance Competition – Champions (Secondary Category)
Media and Communications Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-Finalist of ACJC Orator’s Trophy- Iman Nur Hakim B Kamaruddin (Sec 2/6) • Best Speaker of Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championships Division 2 Preliminary Rounds- Kraven Tan Yew Wei (Sec 2/4) • Attained Competent Communicator Award (Toastmasters International Certification)- Sufyan Yusri B Sunariyo (4/5), Elshaddai Jeevanathy (4/4) • Participated in the YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards- Ahana Pandher (Sec 1/7), T Sreedharan (Sec 2/3)
Guzheng Ensemble	SYF 2017- Achieved Certificate of Accomplishment
Girl Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puan Noor Aishah Award (Gold) • First Position and Merit Award for East Division Day (Performance) Competition • Third Position for East Division Day (Recycled Toy Making) Competition
Fencing	<p>National Inter-School Fencing Championship 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Yu Yan Kun (4/6), Bronze, Individual Men’s Sabre (B Division) • Jerica Tan Jia Wei (4/7), Bronze, Individual Women’s Sabre (B Division) • Overall 3rd, B Division (Girls) • Overall 3rd, B Division (Boys) <p>Novices Fencing Championship 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yusuf B Abdullah (4/5), Bronze, Individual Men’s Foil • Yiu Valerie Recka (1/4), Bronze, Individual Women’s Foil • Jerica Tan Jia Wei (4/7), Bronze, Individual Women’s Sabre • Charissa Yip (4/5), Bronze, Individual Women’s Sabre • Siti Sarah Bte Ridzuan (4/7), Bronze, Individual Women’s Epee <p>2017 Singapore Minime Fencing Championships 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob Lim Yet Honng (2/2), Bronze, Individual Men’s Epee • Shawn Ong Jing Kai (2/4), Bronze, Individual Men’s Sabre
Drama Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Distinction for Singapore Youth Festival Arts Festival (‘Within Four Walls’) • Gold for Lower Secondary Book Trailer during National Schools Literature Festival
Chinese Instrumental Orchestra (Crest Cadenza)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SYF 2017 - Certificate of Accomplishment
Choir (Crest Voices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attained Certificate of Accomplishment for Singapore Youth Festival.
Boys Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Unit JM Fraser Award – Gold
Crest Winds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SYF 2017- Certificate of Accomplishment
AV/PA Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in external photography competition (eg. COL Young Photographer)

