PANORAMA
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MARCH 2014
NEWS AND EVENTS FROM SEMESTER TWO 2013

华助会“优苗培育计划”
扎根华中

HCI Educator Wins
Prestigious Teaching Award

Serving Singapore –
Our Collective Responsibility

Graphic Design by Nguyen Ha THien Kim (13S6D)
IN THE NEWS

Stable and energetic... 

Sharing the stage with small students... 

In their own way... 

 bite-sized reading... 


HIGHLIGHTS

- Number of teachers here with master’s on the rise, Sunday Times, p10, 06-10-13
- PSC Scholars come from a variety of schools, Today, p6, 07-10-13
- Lim breaks national mark but Games slot not certain, ST, pB18, 07-10-13
- English lessons come to life with these six, ST, pB4, 09-10-13
- 参加天文奥林匹克赛我国学生再夺金牌奖, ZB, p13, 13-08-13
- 以辩才勇夺“两岸杯”亚军, ZB Now, p4, 04-09-13
- 首届孝道奖10人受表扬, ZB, p11, 02-10-13
- 把握中国脉动,激发探索学习, ZB Now, p6, 07-10-13

NOTABLE STORIES
Clinched a record number of Public Service Commission Overseas Scholarships, the highest number over the last 3 years. Awarded the highest number of Economic Development Board Scholarships amongst all Junior Colleges in Singapore.

**Scholarship Awards** (Class of 2012 - Accurate as of January 2014)

- **President’s Scholarship**
  - 1 Awardee

- **Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship**
  - 2 Awardees

- **Singapore Police Force Overseas Scholarship**
  - 1 Awardee

- **Public Service Commission (Overseas Merit Scholarship)**
  - 17 Awardees

- **Public Service Commission (Singapore Government Scholarship)**
  - 8 Awardees

- **A*STAR Scholarship**
  - 9 Awardees

**Defence Science & Technology Agency Scholarship**
- 10 Awardees

**Economic Development Board Scholarship**
- 3 Awardees

**Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Global Scholarship**
- 1 Awardee

**Ministry of Education Teaching Scholarship**
- 16 Awardees

**Monetary Authority of Singapore Undergraduate Scholarship**
- 2 Awardees

**Community Awards**

- **Nanyang Confucian Association Filial Piety Award**
  - 1 Winner

**Academic Achievements**

- **4th World Mathematics Team Championship**
  - 1 Gold Medal

- **1st Asian Chemistry Research Fair 2013 – in Conjunction with 15th Asian Chemical Congress**
  - Top 3 Winners

- **2013 Singapore Biology Olympiad**
  - 1 Gold Medal

- **25th Singapore Chemistry Olympiad**
  - 3 Gold Medals

**Performing Arts Groups, Uniformed Groups and Others**

- **The President’s Scout and Guide Awards**
  - 1 President’s Scout

- **International Mandarin Debate @ Taiwan**
  - Best Debater

- **National Student Translation Competition**
  - Champion

- **National Mandarin Oratorical Contest**
  - Champion

**Sports**

- **27th Southeast Asian Games – Myanmar 2013**
  - 1 Gold Medal Recipient in Men’s Water-Polo
Looking upon a full auditorium of Hwa Chong Secondary Four students on 8th May 2013, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing saw a young aspiring generation, eager for his sage words.

With an enthusiastic smile, he posed three simple questions to the audience. "What do you want to be when you grow up? What do you need to achieve your aspirations? What are the obstacles you might face?" We were challenged to seek solutions for Singapore’s future.

As members of this generation, with no direct recollection of the Japanese Occupation, racial riots, the communist insurgency, or the turmoil and unrest that Singapore faced in its nation-building years, it is no wonder that many of us have enjoyed the success of our nation but not given conscious thought about the contributions made by our predecessors.

Throughout his speech, Mr. Chan emphasised that the growth and social stability of Singapore required consistent effort and commitment. This is especially so for a small and fragile nation such as ours, which depended heavily upon Singaporeans who had the gumption to step up to the mantle of leadership and make tough choices for the greater good.

Mr. Chan urged us to make necessary sacrifices for the sake of our nation’s survival. His concerns were not unwarranted; indeed, he candidly revealed that once-coveted government scholarships and jobs during his school years have now been overtaken by the desire for freedom and happiness that youths today prefer. Mr. Chan stressed that we have the challenge to break the complacency bred by our unprecedented success.

After his speech, one student queried whether giving up one’s aspirations to serve in the Government was a vocation that could be readily achieved by youths in this day and age. After a moment’s contemplation, Mr. Chan answered that it would certainly not be an easy decision to make, but was quick to add that it would be a noble and important sacrifice to give up one’s aspirations in favour of an active role in ensuring social stability in Singapore. This would create a long-lasting and stable nation.

Our school’s mission focuses on nurturing leaders in research, industry and government to serve the nation. On this note, Mr. Chan Chun Sing’s visit has definitely reignited our sense of purpose to emulate our pioneers and serve the nation.
12月28日，华社自助理事会（简称华助会）的“优苗培育计划结业典礼”在我校中学部会堂举行。一群活泼可爱的小朋友在家人的陪同下，前来参加这简单而又隆重的仪式。他们都是华助会援助计划下表现优秀的小学生，是幼苗，也是优苗。典礼于上午10时拉开帷幕，社会及家庭发展部政务次长刘燕玲女士担任主宾，她亲手将证书递给每一个获奖者手中，鼓励他们再接再厉，更上层楼。

华助会结业典礼一结束，手里还捧着证书的小学生便兴冲冲地分组。其中小学高年级学生参加的是由中学部同学所组织的科学营和数学营，其余的小学低年级学生则过来参加华文营。早在三个月前，我和几位同学便开始联系一些课程辅助活动的执委。我们热切期待小客人的到来，希望能利用此次机会准备丰富多彩的节目，让这些来自低收入家庭的小朋友能在华中度过美好的时光。在组长的带领下，小朋友分别前往醒狮团、武术队和象棋社的活动地点。这三项与华族文化息息相关的活动，是许多小朋友的最爱。

在训练场上，小朋友聚精会神，认真学习一招一式。武术套路虽陌生，但他们可是一丝不苟，有板有眼地耍起拳来，有的还架势十足，虎虎生威呢！至于舞狮团那边，只见有的小朋友纵身跃起地舞起迷你狮子，有的很有节奏地敲打大鼓，锣鼓喧天的热闹表演让他们兴奋不已。在游戏中，小朋友紧密合作，舞狮的技巧和配合都越来越好。

在象棋社，小朋友的思维也得到了锻炼。他们有些是首次接触象棋，但在听完讲解后，便马上投入到“运筹帷幄”中。

带领小朋友逛校园时，适逢高中部开放日的彩排，不同表演团体和学生理事都在全力准备演出。小客人仿佛都被吸引了，好奇地驻足观看，并主动和同学们打招呼，相信他们也都感受到我校热烈的校园气氛。通过活动，小朋友很快便与我们建立了友情，交流十分融洽。刘燕玲女士所言：“华助会与华中的深化合作是互惠互利的，这有助于打造一个更具关怀及包容性的社会。”
Hwa Chong alumnus Chin Guo Jie (07S66) lives by his motto to “never confuse ‘what is’ with ‘what can be done’” and challenges himself “to constantly redefine the standards of excellence.” Indeed, he persevered each day to seek new ways of improvement.

Guo Jie is a recipient of the Sibley Prize and the Merrill Presidential Scholarship at Cornell University. The former is awarded to the top graduating student from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, while the latter is awarded to the top 1% of the graduating seniors.

The Scholarship award also acknowledged the pivotal role educators play in the recipient’s success. The awardee had the opportunity to invite one teacher to attend the prize presentation ceremony at Ithaca, New York, in May 2013.

Unhesitatingly, Guo Jie invited Mrs. Jacqueline Tano-Phua (Lecturer / Chemistry), his Civics and Chemistry Tutor at Hwa Chong 2007-08. She was a major influence in his College years and he is grateful for her advice and encouragement.

In the same vein, Mrs. Tano highlighted how the spirit of the scholarship reflects Hwa Chong’s core value “饮水思源.” The award urges the recipient to celebrate his journey with others. Mrs. Tano said, “Success is not an individual process, as there are many people who have helped you along the way.”

Indeed, Guo Jie believes that “nothing great is ever achieved alone.” He attributes his success to his teachers who sparked his interest in the sciences, and to Mrs. Tano particularly for her unwavering faith and guidance that “achievement requires character just as much as it relies on one’s inherent ability.”

“Guo Jie is a very driven person who knows what he wants in life,” said Mrs. Tano, “and someone who does not take things at face value and explores them in both breadth and depth.”

After graduation, Guo Jie will work as an investment-banking analyst in New York. His long-term goal would be to aid emerging market economic development and be a step closer to “create a world where everyone has the chance to pursue their dreams regardless of where they come from.”

Guo Jie advises his Hwa Chong juniors to be open to new experiences and relinquish the “personal insecurities and desires to impress others,” while learning to have fun as “Life is what’s right in front of you.”

Panorama congratulates Guo Jie, Mrs. Jacqueline Tano-Phua and all his teachers on their achievement.

“NOTHING GREAT IS EVER ACHIEVED ALONE.”
– Chin Guo Jie
Having never topped the school in the subject, Darrel Chang (11A1) was understandably surprised when he found out that he topped the world, outside the United Kingdom, in the Literature A-Level examination.

Darrel won the Angus Ross prize in 2013, an accolade awarded each year to the best performing non-British candidate in the GCSE A-Level English Literature examination. His success is a product of the individuality and passion he channels into his work. "Personal style helped my piece[s] stand out", he said, "and I've always been very comfortable with my writing style because it feels like I'm 'owning' my work, and not simply rehashing generic ideas.”

To Darrel, Literature is far more than just an A-Level subject – in fact, he often avoids “thinking about the academic aspect of the examination”, preferring to place his focus on the deep intrinsic value of Literature in helping us “connect with people from all over the world”.

In his view, Literature wields the tremendous power to help us “sympathise with the human condition, and enable us to truly understand the complexity of human beings”.

The classroom is not the only arena where Darrel shines. He is also a talented footballer and the lead guitarist of his band “Fancy This Progression”. Darrel dreams of one day making his name as one of the “Top 100 Guitarists of All Time”. Indeed, he cheekily muses, “I'm a musician that somehow won the Angus Ross!”

Darrel's accomplishment bears testament that passion lies at the heart of any success and academic excellence is intrinsically bound to holistic development.

Darrel is immensely grateful to his Literature teachers – Ms. Heng Siok Tian (Senior Consultant / English), Mr. Noel Koh (Education Consultant / Student Development), and Mr. Mark Tan (Lecturer / General Paper & Literature) – for unravelling the intricacies of the subject, and nurturing his passion in Literature, especially as the build-up towards the final examination became “fring and unnerving”.

Darrel is also appreciative of the other tutors who have inspired and helped him cope with his different subjects. In particular, he would like to thank his Mathematics tutor, Mrs. Lim-Liaw Lin Eng (Senior Consultant / Counselling) and his Secondary 4 English and Literature teacher, Mr. Adrian Chan.

Panorama wishes Darrel all the best in his future, as he plans to pursue a Liberal Arts Degree in the Yale-NUS College.
香港青年音乐训练基金成立于2009年，其宗旨是通过乐团训练培养青少年不怕吃苦，不畏艰难，自律尽责，努力求上进的精神。虽然成立只有短短的四年，基金会属下的民族乐团和西洋乐团却已多次参与当地及海外的交流活动，举办多场深获好评的音乐晚会。最近一次的演出，就是和我校的华乐团、交响乐团和弦乐团同台演出。

7月20日，“华中音乐会”在诚毅楼大礼堂举行，台上台下一片热闹，不少嘉宾和观众还是专程从香港前来支持的，其中就有胡文虎基金会创办人胡仙博士。年逾八旬的她如此热心推广音乐教育，委实令人感动。

华中华乐团和香港民族乐团的合奏掀开音乐会的序幕，描写渔民生活的《渔乡组曲》赢得阵阵热烈的喝彩与掌声，接下来由两地的弦乐团和交响乐团合奏《天鹅湖》与《谜语变奏曲》，压轴是由华乐团的《三国》，中西乐器经过特殊编排，巧妙融合，140多人把乐曲演奏得气势磅礴，获得不俗的反响。

香港的乐手们风尘仆仆地于7月16日晚抵达狮城，次日一早就赶来华中，和我校三大表演团队聚在一起积极排练四天，其中的辛苦可想而知。团员们抓紧时间，并肩协作，以极大的耐心与热忱换来无比的默契。乐团中不少小团员年仅七、八岁，却十分谦虚好学。华乐团弹拨组组长林芮嘉（13S68）说：“他们虽然年幼，却很努力弹好每一个乐句，正式演出时，面对众多观众，也能顶住压力，尽力完成演出的独奏部分，令人钦佩。”

青年音乐训练基金主席萧炯柱先生一再强调：“演出最重要的是享受其过程和乐趣。”正是这种积极的态度让全体表演者发挥出他们的水平，为观众奉献一场完美的演出。通过此次合作，两地的青年乐手不仅展示了演奏才华和敬业态度，更增强了对彼此的了解，建立了深厚的友谊，磨砺了克服困难的意志品质，增强了团队合作精神。
HCI EDUCATOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS TEACHING AWARD

By Rachel Er 13A12, Koh Han Yi 13S70

Mr. Tan Wah Jiam (Senior Consultant / Knowledge and Inquiry) is known as the “walking encyclopaedia” among his students, who “seems to know everything about anything, ranging from politics to art to science”, according to his student Wee Lin (12S7F).

Hwa Chong’s outstanding educator Mr. Tan, who teaches both Knowledge and Inquiry (KI) and General Paper (GP), is one of six winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2013, which honours outstanding teachers of English Language, English Literature and GP.

Mr. Tan sees the essence of teaching GP as inculcating “an intellectual curiosity that drives students to want to read more, so that they can learn more, in order to become genuinely well-read and educated people.”

Cultivating this curiosity in his students is of utmost importance as he believes everyone “as citizens in a democracy has a responsibility to be aware of what’s happening in our country, and our world, so that we can make the right decisions”.

Engaged in a constant process of improvement, Mr. Tan evolves and adapts his teaching style to maximise his classes’ learning experience. For one, he believes the “old model” of teaching, “akin to that of data transmission”, has to change as we live in an age of such rapid transformation that processes and technologies can become obsolete overnight.

It is at this juncture where he likens a teacher to “a guide, facilitator or coach” rather than “a repository of knowledge”. Hence, instead of merely explaining the technicalities of an essay, he delves into the essay-writing process with his students.

Glenn Hay (12A10) highlighted that “Mr. Tan would often write his own essay outlines under the same timed conditions we wrote ours under. Showing us that it can be done inspired many of us to strive to become better writers”.

And like a coach, Mr. Tan motivates his classes by never failing “to add some colour to an otherwise mundane topic” with his collection of TED Talks videos and personal anecdotes, said Glenn. More importantly, Mr. Tan easily unravels “convoluted concepts explained in jargon”. He presents them as “digestible bits of information” to enhance his students’ learning.

Definitely a teacher who has made a significant impact on his students, Panorama congratulates Mr. Tan Wah Jiam on his achievement!”

GENERAL PAPER INCULCATES “AN INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY THAT DRIVES STUDENTS TO WANT TO READ MORE, SO THAT THEY CAN LEARN MORE, IN ORDER TO BECOME GENUINELY WELL-READ AND EDUCATED PEOPLE.”

– Mr. Tan Wah Jiam (Senior Consultant / Knowledge and Inquiry)
Gratitude was the first thing on their minds when Lim Tze Etsuko (13A14) and Hia Rui Le, Joshua (13A15) found out that they were recipients of the Lee Kuan Yew Award for All-Round excellence. Incidentally, the highest number of winners for this award was conferred on Hwa Chong students in 2013.

For Etsuko, the award was a form of recognition, “of not just individual effort but everyone who has helped me along the way”, while Joshua echoed the same sentiment in acknowledging his teacher mentor, Mdm. Chan May Lun (Principal Consultant / Humanities) and the Ortus consortium directors for spurring him to think independently.

The award recognizes well-rounded students for achievements in the academic and non-academic spheres and is presented at the end of their secondary school education. Both recipients served with veritable conviction as the Captains of the school’s Debate and Track and Field teams respectively.

Taking their commitment a step further, Etsuko is currently the Captain of Singapore’s student debate team and additionally, Joshua serves as the Social and Relations Head in the Student Council.

Undoubtedly, it is difficult to juggle multiple commitments at the same time — with debate training close to five times a week near competitions — but Etsuko contends that it is all a matter of prioritizing her commitments. Joshua, the high jumper with a personal best of 1.86 metres, believes that self-discipline and the joy in his sport kept him going despite the inevitable sports injuries.

Yet, Joshua can find optimism amidst these challenges as he attests, “Even though setbacks like injuries can last, they also serve as a test of character and personal beliefs.” Keeping his spirits up against stiff competition during a memorable C-Division competition and combating poor form, Joshua rose to the occasion and worked doubly hard. He actively encouraged the team and persevered in his strict regimen.

Similarly, Etsuko recalls the initial parental opposition towards her debate participation and the problems she faced in asserting herself as the only female in the Singapore team, times that hardened her resolve. Indeed, her steel determination paid off when she was ranked individual first in the Eurasian Schools Debating Championship 2014, with the Singapore team emerging top as well.

For our two recipients, staying grounded is an essential cornerstone of all their endeavours. In Etsuko’s words, “It is important to stay grateful because a lot of privileges and advantages we have are very arbitrary and earned not by own merits”, and even now, after a recent spontaneous lung collapse, Joshua hopes to return to the track for “a sense of closure”.

Such enduring faith humbles and inspires all of us to strive for excellence as a frame of mind.
GLOBAL INCLUSION, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

REVISITING THE 7TH ASIA PACIFIC YOUNG LEADERS’ SUMMIT

By Foo Jie Min, Jamie 13A14, Long Jun Da, Darrel 13A15

The 7th Asia Pacific Young Leaders’ Summit (APYLS), held from 22nd to 30th July 2013, saw the convening of 79 delegates from 26 premier schools across the globe to network and further develop their social and political awareness.

Right from the start, delegates were pumped up with excitement—as stated by Alastair Pang from Hwa Chong Institution, “This is a superb bunch of people to be with, and I will grab this opportunity to make as many friends as I can.”

One of the key features of the summit was the Student Dialogues, where delegates discussed pertinent issues such as Gender Equality and the Responsibility to Protect in relation to the theme “Global Inclusion, Shared Responsibility” and sought to generate innovative solutions.

Andy Wang, an Australian delegate, said, “The student dialogue was undoubtedly one of the most intrinsically fascinating discussions I have ever experienced. It was incredible to see every delegate [contributing] substantial amounts of information in addition to their own logic, philosophies and arguments behind them.”

Delegates also derived greater insights of daily summit themes through discussions with guest speakers at the Summit Dialogues. In particular, Mr. Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, frank discussion about his role as a diplomat prompted a spirited debate that left delegates with a deeper understanding of international diplomacy and geopolitical issues.

The highlight of the Summit was undoubtedly a trip to the Istana, where delegates met and interacted with President Tony Tan Keng Yam. Delegates took this time to share their opinions about Singapore as a city-state, as well as issues pertinent to the Summit over a delectable tea session.

The concept of shared responsibility extended beyond verbal discussions to the community conservation projects delegates participated in led by Mr. Law Hock Ling (Lecturer / Biology). Delegates gained a better understanding of the natural biodiversity in Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Labrador Park.

As aptly summed up by Kim Mi Yeon (13S61), “APYLS is an experience that allowed every single person involved to bring home something, from friends to new knowledge about the world. It is a fond memory that never fails to make me smile every time I look back on it.”

Facilitators and delegates left the Summit with mixed feelings, saying their goodbyes with heavy hearts but comforted by the continuation of the APYLS legacy. It is with hearts full of anticipation that we await the 8th APYLS in 2014.

“APYLS IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT ALLOWED EVERY SINGLE PERSON INVOLVED TO BRING HOME SOMETHING, FROM FRIENDS TO NEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORLD.”

– Kim Mi Yeon (13S61)
儒家文化是华中学子必学的内容之一。从“己所不欲，勿施于人”到“己立立人，已达达人”到“老吾老以及人之老，幼吾幼以及人之幼”等，我们不仅接受语言文字上的熏陶，也通过各种活动亲自实践古圣先贤的教诲。

如同两千多年前孔子带着弟子们周游列国，到处学习，开拓视野，学校也让我们一群中三的学生在六月假期里，参加了由南华中学举办的“首届全国儒学研习营”，在不朽经典所营造出来的儒雅敦厚的氛围中好好浸濡了一回。

6月4日至5日的儒学营主要是根据孔子所提倡的六艺，分成“礼”、“乐”、“射”、“御”、“书”、“数”的活动，让学生从书法、茶道、数算等活动中了解当时社会对人才各方面的培养和需求，也让我们思考这些技艺和素养对今天的我们又有什么现实意义。

儒家的核心思想是“仁”，即“爱人”，要成为真正的君子，就要表现出仁爱精神，献出自己的爱心，给社会带来温暖。儒学研习营中，参加者会分成小组，以便开展各种不同的献爱心活动，例如免费赠茶，帮助老人家从超级市场把所购买的物品提回家等。简单的举动，既体现了自己的人格之美，也温暖了陌生人的心灵。

活动结束前，同学们还做了集思板，把在儒学研习营里学到的道理，用极富创意和趣味的方法记下来，不仅留在画板上，更是铭记在心里，当然，大家更决心一直实践下去，将仁者爱人的精神传播给身边的每一个人！
跨学科研究，打开学习的另一扇窗

李文豪 中一聚英一班

编者按：跨学科研究是近年来讨论的热点。它要求研究者在对一个课题进行研究时，融合不同学科的知识，多角度地进行审视观察，从而使得研究更全面，更科学。中学部早在几年前就已经开始进行这样的尝试，每个学生每年都有机会参加跨学科研究。

5月27日，我和同学有幸参加了跨学科学习之旅。我们的研究课题是：“690万人口白皮书，我们能为可持续发展的新加坡做些什么？”首先，各科老师跟我们讲解了如何从数学、地理、历史、华文、英文等不同学科的角度来分析这个问题。接着，我们实地参观了市区重建局，通过图片、影片、模型对新加坡的未来城市建设做进一步的了解。最后，在5月28日居家学习日，我们分小组完成作业：“重新规划乌敏岛，打造一个宜居的迷人岛屿，以满足新加坡迅速增加的人口需求”。

这次的跨学科研究，我们满怀兴奋而去，满载而归。户外的参观学习活动，让大家第一次站在国家的高度来审视岛国多年后的愿景图。流连在新加坡市中区的微缩模型旁，我们实实在在地学到了各种设施布局的考量及优点。

市区重建局负责人恰好是校友，他清晰严谨的讲解让我们知道不同学科知识的相通之处以及学以致用的重要性。通过当场完成设置的作业，我们普遍都掌握了可持续发展的概念。一些看似简单的规划，却要求考虑慎密，安全实际、兼得人文关怀。我们充分明白应对不断增加的人口需求，在乌敏岛上重新设置基本设施的同时，也要确保新加坡本地的可持续发展，照顾到全体国人的生活。

这次的跨学科学习，让我们更贴近新加坡的现在与未来，并意识到原来我们的生活完全可以由自己掌握。更让大家知道，土地是极其宝贵的资源，不容随意浪费！
CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR ECO-PLANNING CHAMPIONS

By Christopher Chew 3S2

“Planning a Clean and Green Waterfront” is an annual town-planning competition organized by Activistar Pte Ltd. The competition raises awareness of sustainable development, a pressing issue due to the rapid rate of urbanization in many parts of Asia.

In April 2013, the competition focused on Iskandar, a region in Southern Johor, Malaysia. The team comprising the leader Christopher Chew (3S2) and members Tan Hong Kai (3B1), Lim Shengyuan (3A2), Chua Tsao Harn (3A2) and Marcus Goh (3S2) had to pit research and evaluative skills against competitors from many top schools in the region.

Given the large size of Iskandar, planning an area that encompasses 124 km of coastline was not an easy task. In addition, teams had to go through a rigorous round of judging based on the multimedia presentation, and build a prototype of the waterfront within 3 hours.

In preparation for the competition, teams attended workshops organized by Activistar Pte Ltd., where they were taught the fundamentals of town planning. The talks covered a wide spectrum of issues, from social problems like poverty and migration to environmental problems like global warming. These workshops were insightful for our team and enabled the group to be more conscious of the important issues that had to be addressed when planning and writing the proposal.

The team concluded that the Prototype Building round was the most tedious and challenging as it involved massive handicraft work for a team of amateurs. Undeterred by the difficulties, the team clinched the 1st position in the region. From this experience, we gained valuable insights and developed a passion for geography and town planning. It was a great joy working with our mentor and an enthusiastic team.

The team would like to express their gratitude to their mentor Mr. Vincent Tan (Senior Consultant / Community Projects) for his invaluable guidance and assistance throughout the competition. We would also like to thank Mrs. Giam-Lim Shiau Yean (Principal Consultant / Humanities), for giving us the opportunity to participate in this competition.

The group is looking forward to the 2014 iteration of the competition, featuring Yangon, Myanmar. They have also initiated a sabbatical programme to excite like-minded individuals in town planning and environmental protection.

Panorama wishes the team all the best in the competition!
Two teams from Hwa Chong Institution (High School) have triumphed at the annual Panasonic ‘Eco Ideas’ Challenge. The Challenge is jointly organized by Panasonic and the National Environment Agency and aims to encourage students to develop and implement environmental outreach projects within and outside their schools.

In this competition that spanned an entire year, teams had to go through various stages of conceiving, executing and educating the public about their project. Additionally, they were expected to undergo several rounds of judging, with the final round held at the Panasonic Asia-Pacific Office. Every step of the competition was invariably gruelling and intense, but our teams have outdone themselves and clinched the Champion and Merit titles.

The team comprising Han Ruobing (3S2), Bryan Lim Cheng Yee (3S3) and Tan Wei Heng (3S3) garnered the Gold award. They impressed the judges with their innovative use of durian waste — removing heavy metal ions from wastewater. Such wastewater contains heavy metal ions which are toxic and known to bioaccumulate inside living organisms, posing a threat to our lives.

Not only is their solution economical, it also addressed the major environmental issue of managing industrial discharge. The team, with the other winners, was also given the opportunity to showcase their project at the Annual Clean and Green Singapore (GSS) Schools’ Carnival held on 12th and 13th November 2013.

The second HCI team, with their project “The Hanging Gardens of Hwa Chong”, won the Merit award. Their project gauged the potential of integrating hydroponics and vertical farming, while optimising land space. They tested their set-ups by growing different types of vegetables to determine the effectiveness of the system.

Despite describing themselves to be amateurs in such competitions, the team comprising Ching Kai Xiang (4I2), Koh Qian Xiang, Gordon (4I2) and Kevin Loo Yuquan (4I1) found it especially rewarding when their project emerged as one of the top 5 winning teams.

The teams would like to express their gratitude to their mentors, Ms Sow-Peh Yoke Keow (Principal Consultant / Research), Dr Tan Kok Kim (Principal Consultant 1 / Science) and Mr Carl Baptista (Director & Head of Research and Development, ORIGIN Exterminators) for their guidance.
吟诵诗词名篇，
徜徉百花之园

李宜幸 12A11

“大江东去，浪淘尽、千古风流人物……”晚上11点30分，小小的录音室里传出铿锵的吟诵之声。“江山如画，一时多少豪杰！”“好！那个‘如画’的意境出来了。”录音室里的老师和同学们纷纷击掌称赞。

吟诵诗词名篇，是以2014年启用的H2华文与文学新教材为蓝本，同学们的吟诵作品有望配合未来的教学使用。此外，潘教授以及母语部的几位老师也现身说法，令同学们大饱耳福。

诗歌吟诵的魅力究竟何在？潘教授娓娓道来：“所谓‘诗歌’，诗本就具有可歌性，但长期以来，‘歌’的部分常在教学中被忽略。诗歌吟诵首先可以加强印象，让人多年不忘，就好像大家对流行歌曲总是朗朗上口一样，这是对学习的一种正增强，更重要的是，诗歌的意境、声情，是讲义中找不到的，通过吟诵，才能感受到那种画面感、空间感。”

对于这一点，参与吟诵的同学感同身受。13S6T的郭雁潮说：“《锦瑟华音》激发了我们学习的热情，可以把平日书本上学到的诗词按照自己的理解加以发挥，并录下来，是一次让每个参与者难忘和自豪的经历。”

《锦瑟华音》已与7月成功出品。但这仅仅是开始。潘教授说：“相对而言，新加坡的学校在诗歌吟诵方面比较薄弱，华中作为先驱，希望会开花结果。华文教育需要讲究情意的陶冶，不只是知识的灌输。教育者的责任，是要把孩子们领入‘百花园’，让他们的心柔软。”
居安思危
——看“沙斯10周年纪念展”
巫许华杰 中四聚英二班

在沙斯爆发整整十年之后，几名聚英共识联的学生决定筹办“沙斯展”，让同学们了解十年前的那场“人菌之战”，呼吁大家团结一心以对付可能出现的突发事件。没想到，我们在光前图书馆的小型展览竟得到国家文物局、陈笃生医院、以及沙斯10周年纪念典礼筹委会的青睐，让我们有机会一次又一次走出校园，加入全国沙斯纪念展的行列。

本文记述的是在新加坡国立大学举办的“沙斯10周年纪念展”情形。

6月31日晨，从学校前往国大文化中心的路上，我们都在默诵着为展览而准备的文稿。这是一次十分隆重的典礼，李显龙总理和吴作栋资政都会亲临现场，我们主要的职责就是在典礼前后向嘉宾和医护人员分析我们制作的海报。

每当开口介绍海报的内容时，我们的心中都难免有一丝班门弄斧的不安：几个中学生怎么能比和沙斯疫情作战的医护人员更了解真相呢？不料好几位医生听了我们的讲解后，也纷纷述说他们在抗击沙斯期间的个人经验和故事。谈起医院和政府对抗沙斯的各种措施，加深我们对沙斯的了解。

典礼结束后，总理与部长过来参观我们的海报。凭着几个月来的搜集和从医护人员那里学来的丰富知识，我们的报告非常顺利。为了向因抗沙斯而殉职的医护人员致意，我们在一些特别安排的口罩上写下了感激之词。

当年沙斯爆发时，年仅5、6岁的我们还无法完全了解这种世纪病毒所造成的影响。但经过准备展览，我们走出校门，开拓了视野，丰富了知识，也让公众受益，这是最令人开心的事。
PROJECTING THE LOVE OF ART

A group of warm-hearted HCI youths used their artistic talent to serve the community. Team leader Low Wei Yang (4I1) and members Ng Shen Han (4I2), Tan Yong Yi (4I2) and Tan Ye Kai (4A2) came together for their community project “The Love of Art” in January 2013.

In their collaboration with Tung Ling Elder Care, the group reached out to 20 residents who live in government-subsidized 1- and 2-room HDB flats in the Dakota Crescent area. The first phase involved the students engaging the residents in a variety of interesting programmes, such as weekly painting and origami sessions, and ice-cream-stick-building activities.

These programmes were well-received by the residents, one of them, Mdm. Alice Lai, said, “I like painting on tiles because I like many beautiful diagrams.”

The second phase was even more ambitious, and involved a fund-raising programme for the elderly community centre where they sold off the artwork of these elderly residents to members of the public. The students were elated that $1,330 was raised for the centre.

The residents were also brought to the Singapore Art Museum, where they could appreciate and enjoy artwork in a relaxing environment. The trip ended on an exciting and musical note, thanks to a performance from the Hwa Chong military band.

The outing’s success brought many smiles to not just the elderly but also the team. At the end of the day, it was the smiles on their faces which made the students’ day. The latter were also proud to note that their efforts were also featured in a church publication, ‘Shield of Faith’.

Team member Sheng Han said, “It has been a great experience for us, as it is our first time being in a magazine. We are really glad that we can do something meaningful for our society.”

The group would like to express their gratitude towards their mentors Mrs. Susan Chang (Lecturer / Mathematics) and Mdm. Shirley Lim (Lecturer / English) for their invaluable support and guidance, as well as Mr. Vincent Tan (Senior Consultant / Community Projects) for his encouraging words.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “The purpose of life is not to be happy, it is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

Indeed, life’s happiness can be found in serving others. May these acts of service ignite the hearts of fellow Hwa Chongians also to live with passion and lead with compassion!
HWA CHONG’S
PROJECT GRAY
BRIGHTENS LIVES

By Han Zecheng 4P2, Wong Yang 2O1

For Han Zecheng (4P2), Eriel Rong’en Simatupang (4I2) and Joel Koh (4P2), Hwa Chong’s 2013 Projects Competition was especially memorable. Never had they thought that their brainchild “Project Gray”, which they conceptualised for the competition, would subsequently touch the hearts of many.

With new member Benjamin Lim (4S2), the team was also selected to participate in the Future Problem Solving Programme (Community Problem Solving category) Competition held at Raffles Girls’ School in November 2013.

Project Gray was a community project driven by the team’s aim to raise awareness amongst students about the social isolation of senior citizens, and stress the importance of interacting and caring for them. The team contacted the Lions Befrienders Services Association (LBSA), a voluntary Welfare Organisation (vWO) that seeks to engage senior citizens in active ageing. LBSA was where Project Gray held its student-facilitated games, performances and sharing sessions.

To raise funds and inspire more students to volunteer, Project Gray launched their Initiative Symposiums, which involved busking, roadshows and the sale of merchandise. By late October 2013, Project Gray had raised over $2,000 in funds for LBSA and organised more than 15 interaction sessions.

Student volunteer Phoebe Lam from Methodist Girls’ School said, “It was fun helping Project Gray in their activities, and I felt the entire experience to be very meaningful.”

Determined to empower even more youths to serve the community, the team held a symposium at the SALT Centre’s Moot Parliament Hall to educate participants on what initiating a service learning project entails, as well as to inspire their fellow students to take up service learning projects and serve the community.

The team’s dedication and effective two-pronged approach towards meeting their objectives left a deep impression on many. At the 2013 Projects Day Grand Finals, Project Gray clinched the “Award for Community Spirit” prize.

More important though was the impact Project Gray had on the senior citizens. Mr. Alfred Ng, a manager at LBSA, gratefully said, “I thank the Project Gray members for working so hard to make the seniors from Lions Befrienders (LBSA) very happy.”

Finally, the students would like to thank their mentor, Mr. Vincent Tan (Senior Consultant / Community Projects), for his invaluable advice and support. Guided by the school’s principle of 感恩, the team has decided to continue to serve and give back to the community, while encouraging more to do so.

1. The team performing their Projects Day Grand Finals presentation skit.
2. Project Gray with their trophy at the Future Problem Solving Program Singapore competition.
3. Project Gray at their booth with Mr. Vincent Tan (Senior Consultant / Community Projects).
PAVING THE WAY TO SAFER ROADS FOR CHILDREN

By Foo Jie Min, Jamie 13A14, Gerald Choa Kai Kit 13A15

A traffic accident that claimed the lives of two brothers in January 2013 struck a chord in many, including our student Marc Ong (13A14). He was inspired to write a children’s book on personal road safety in the aftermath of the accident.

“It seemed like the right thing to do, especially since worryingly, there are not that many resources out there specifically catered to educating children on road safety.” said Marc.

Seeing through the 8-month long charity project – from its conceptualisation to the book sale – was challenging. However, Marc received a lot of support from his parents, the Road Safety Council and the traffic police.

Marc said, “After I came up with the text, diagrams and scenarios, I had to ensure that the illustrator understood my intent and vision of certain scenes. The traffic police provided useful advice to make our drawings exact. Furthermore, I made a consistent effort to convey my message using only simple words that young children would understand.”

One young reader, 12-year-old Torrey Robert Djajong, liked the illustrations because they “helped to make the points even clearer and easier to understand.”

Veteran journalist Ong Soh Chin applauded the engaging manner that the road safety messages are presented and the timely release in light of the increasing frequency of road accidents involving young children.

During this venture, Marc found that he “had to be a salesman too, which was not easy”. Following the initial print run, he contacted schools to stock his books in their libraries. Also, he had to set up booths to sell the books.

Thankfully, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund, Mr. Han Jok Kwang, who turned out to be a fervent cyclist, came across the book and was so pleased with its contents that he decided to buy 1,000 copies for distribution within several GRCs. This enabled the second print run. Subsequently, Marc promoted his book to parents and children at a road show held in conjunction with the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and Star Learners Kindergarten.

Jubilantly, Marc said, “The road show was a highlight of the project. I learnt quite a lot that day – being a salesman is quite demanding. You have to show your audience how an issue matters to them and attract them to your booth.”

Finally, Marc shared that sales were encouraging, with 3,200 out of 4,000 books already sold and more schools to be approached this year, with all proceeds from sales donated to the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund. The book is also reviewed and stocked in National Libraries nationwide.

Panorama wishes Marc all the best in making a difference to the community!
承载爱和希望的轮椅

张珊珊 13A12、黄颖譞13S71

德育是在学校全人教育的基础，为了培育具有正直人格和献身精神的未来栋梁，老师春风化雨，教导学生正确的价值观，让我们明白做人贵在有恻隐之心，我们应该尽力付出，去传递助人为乐的精神。每年，同学们在选择课程辅助活动时，不少都会报名参加“社区服务计划(Community Involvement Programme)”，也有的会自动自发组队，展开“服务学习项目(Service Learning Project)”。选定受益单位和慈善机构后，社区服务小组或服务学习小组便会展开策划和统筹工作，进行公益活动。

同样是以“Wheelchair for Hope”服务学习项目小组为例，几位高一年级的校方代表参与合作，在一年一度的“扶轮社日联欢会”上售卖由饮料公司赞助的饮品，以便居民踊跃购买。通过活动，他们成功筹集善款，购买了10辆轮椅给联络所，供区域内的乐龄居民或体障人士免费借用。此举让行动不便者能够走出家门，参与户外活动，与其他居民交流。这不仅为他们的生活增添色彩，也促进了社区凝聚力。组员之一的林欣颖（13S71）说：“我和伙伴们最大的心愿就是改善他人的生活。虽然整个过程需要不少时间和精力，我们始终坚持下去。为了应付繁重的课业，我们只有在周末才能到联络所去开会，而对方也尽量配合，这点让我很感激。”

同样是以“AWWAreness”另一服务学习项目小组所筹得的善款则是捐赠给亚洲妇女福利协会所照顾的病童。组员们的筹款方式是每个月在市区和组屋附近售卖义卖产品，也有的会在校内售卖商家所提供的杯子蛋糕。经过半年多的努力，所筹到的善款数额远超预订目标。组员们兴奋地表示这些钱会充作病童物理治疗和康复治疗之费用。其中一部分会用来购买儿童轮椅，让小朋友能正常回到学校，不会荒废学业。

林林总总的社区服务活动和服务学习项目不但提高我们对弱势群体的认识，更让我们从中学习，回馈社会。“赠人玫瑰，手留余香”说明了这个道理：在方便别人的同时也会给自己带来方便，成就别人的同时也提升了自己。
The 54th National Inter-School Track and Field Championships in April 2013 were a windfall for Hwa Chong’s young athletes. Not only did they clinch the top spot in the Boys “A” Division Finals and place second in the Girls’ Finals, but three members also set new national records.

Pole vaulter Chan Sheng Yao (13S7A) cleared 4.82m at his event, eclipsing the previous record of 4.81m. Yet, he refuses to consider this a “high point” in his sporting career. “There is still more to go,” he says matter-of-factly. Specifically, he has his eye on a loftier target – clearing 5.0m.

Race-walker Tin Shu Min (12S70) set a new national record in the 3000m walk with her timing of 17min 53sec. Wary of letting her achievements get to her head, she views sport as more of an opportunity to “challenge herself.”

Owe Yong Yu Xiang (12S6E), who clocked 54.56sec in the 400m hurdles to break the 1986 record, meanwhile maintains that his most memorable opponents have not been other hurdlers, but rather “pain and hardship.”

The much-lauded accomplishments of these young talents belie their blood, sweat and tears. Shu Min admitted that she had struggled to pass her 2.4km run in secondary school. In an effort to push her limits, she tried out for the cross-country team in JC1, but did not succeed.

Yu Xiang has had his fair share of injuries, while Sheng Yao cited a sobering experience when he was tipped to win a medal at the IAAF World Youth Championships (July 2013), but failed to qualify at the last minute.

These setbacks, nevertheless, have done little to stymie the three athletes. Despite not making the cross-country team, Shu Min remarked that “race-walking is just as fun” and her achievements in this area speak for themselves.

Yu Xiang has likewise benefited from a “positive outlook.” He views his sport as recreation and this optimism helped him to recover from his injuries. So deep is the hurdler’s passion for his discipline that he plans to continue with track-and-field in university.

Similarly, Sheng Yao takes setbacks in his stride. He valiantly fought for a medal at the 2013 Southeast Asian Games despite being a “dark horse,” and has now set his sights on 2014’s Asian and Commonwealth Games.

Even the best sportspeople cannot go it alone. Indeed, the athletes express their heartfelt gratitude to their dedicated coaches and loyal teammates. This group is an important source of strength when their own reserves of willpower run low. Shu Min said of her coach and teammates: “They are the ones who motivate me to go for training on difficult days.”

Panorama wishes the young athletes all the best in their future competitions!
从跆拳道领悟
自强不息的真谛

唐嘉蕾 12A14

高中国跆拳道队在2013年的全国跆拳道“甲”组比赛中获得佳绩，女子组勇夺团体金牌，男子组则拿下团体银牌。队员们不负众望，实现了要加倍努力，超越自我的承诺。今年的比赛尤其突出选手们顽强的团队精神。当中，有几位还是负伤上阵的。男子组的傅振威在比赛中拉伤大腿肌肉，女子组的甘芷绮及杨舒怡也均有轻伤。虽然伤势不算严重，但多少还是影响了他们的发挥和表现。当问及如何克服伤病带来的困难时，三人都是潇洒含笑，轻描淡写，一语带过。没错，伤痛在团体比赛中不是个人独自面对的问题，所有困难在团结精神的光照下自然地被化解了。

为了备战，队员们对平日的训练不敢丝毫松懈，因为他们知道每届的队员都尽心尽力地为比赛苦练，这光荣的传统必须传承下去。更何况运动员专注的并不是夺名次，而是求进步。他们的确成功了，尽管成绩不是完美的男女组双金，也不是所有项目都得第一，但这并不表示他们对战绩缺少自豪感。这次比赛，跆拳道选手要超越的不是其他选手，而是战胜自己。让他们体验及领会“自强不息”的真谛，而所获得的成绩恰恰是对这种精神的最好诠释。

当然，胜利的果实少不了教练的辛勤付出，加上学长们在繁忙的日常生活中定时抽出时间回母校，细心给学弟妹指点。学长们也不遗余力，细心指点，这份心意令所有队员都十分敬佩。他们的坚持和激情感染了大家，也启发学弟妹，毕业了也不要忘记保持对这项体育的热情。

赛季结束了，同样的奖台见证了这一届又一届选手的轮流谢幕。比赛取得的成绩，对运动员来说，也许是一个总结，一个圆满的句号。但对华中跆拳道队而言，它其实更是一脉精神的延续。
FORCEFUL STRIKES

HWA CHONG’S CLEAN SWEEP OF FENCING TITLES

By Gaw Ban Siang 4H1, Kevin Jerrold Chan 3S2

From 8th to 12th April 2013, students engaged in furious duels at the Annual Inter-School Fencing Championships. Participants put their skills to the test as they fought hard to bring glory to their schools. This year, the Hwa Chong Fencing Club did exceedingly well by sweeping all 3 Division titles for boys.

During the intense competition, Hwa Chong’s fencers displayed tremendous fighting spirit and resilience. Having lost the ‘B’ Division title in 2012, the team invested an immense amount of effort in improving ourselves to prepare for this year’s competition. By learning from their past mistakes, they have triumphed in the ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ Divisions.

While fencing is an individual endeavour, the teamwork and the strength of the bonds among the members of the fencing team are by no means weak. Towards the end of the competition, the HCI fencers were all wholeheartedly cheering on their friends, offering invaluable support and encouragement to their teammates.

During one particular bout, one of our ‘C’ Division fencers, Daniel See (2A1), made it to the finals after many consecutive battles against strong opponents. His excellent performance was a pleasant surprise for everyone in the team.

In the finals, Daniel was up against a fearsome competitor who had more experience in the sport. However, by igniting the 自强不息 spirit within him, he continued to fight on despite being the underdog.

Much to everyone’s delight, Daniel conquered his initial fears and eventually went on to win the championship title. Adding to the team’s jubilation, 7 out of 33 members also made it into the Singapore national team in 2013.

During the year-end holidays, the team got together for a bonding session when they set team and individual fencing goals. With new targets in mind, the team is fired up to reach even greater heights in 2014.

The team has proven its mettle and it is with confidence that we will continue to keep the Hwa Chong flag flying high. The passion and commitment displayed by the members of our fencing team is indeed commendable.

Finally, the fencers would like to thank the coaches Mr. Wu Jie, Ms. Wang Wenying, Ms. Victoria Lim and Mr. Zhao Zhizong, and the teachers Mr. Fong Cheng Shek (Senior Teacher / Physics), Mr. Law Hock Ling (Lecturer / Biology) and Mr. Chen Zenghui (Lecturer / Mathematics) whose dedication, guidance and support made all these achievements possible.

Once again, Panorama congratulates the Fencing team!
HWA CHONG

By Danyon Low 4H1

Aimed at strengthening ties between St. John Ambulance Brigade Singapore and St. John Ambulance Malaysia, the biennial 29th Singapore-Malaysia First Aid and Nursing Competition drew to a successful close on 2nd June 2013.

Last year, Hwa Chong’s St. John Ambulance Brigade (SJAB) had the honour of representing the nation in this competition, participating in both the Ambulance Adult and Ambulance Cadet categories. The competition had exacting standards, and pitted the national representatives against their Malaysian counterparts in various components such as Foot Drill, First Aid, and Transportation of a Casualty.

Being evaluated on their coordination in foot drills, the flexibility and temperament to apply first aid techniques under different emergency scenarios, and the ability to transport a casualty safely to an ambulance while overcoming various obstacles certainly stretched competitors to their limits.

After training intensively for three months at our national headquarters, our teams have done the school proud by defending the Yang Teramat Pahala Tunju Abdul Rahman Putra Challenge Trophy of the Ambulance Cadet Category, and clinching the Dato’ Lee Kiong Chian Gold Challenge Trophy of the Ambulance Adult category.

Not only was it the first time in 14 years that Singapore emerged victorious in the Ambulance Adult category, but Singapore’s championship success in both the Ambulance Cadet and Ambulance Adult categories is also unprecedented in the history of the competition!

Furthermore, the team leader of the Ambulance Adult team – SSG Mervin Nathan Lim Han Hui – was awarded the title of Overall Best Leader in the Ambulance category.

The two trophies, which are together worth more than $250,000, are now safely kept by the National St. John Council.

The Hwa Chong St. John Ambulance Brigade would like to express its sincere gratitude to the school for its continuous support, as well as for providing excellent training facilities. The SJAB would also like to thank the teachers-in-charge – Mr. Sim Mong Chea (Lecturer / Physics & LSS), Mdm. Ng Hooi Hoon (Lecturer / Chinese Language) and Mr. Christopher Le Pard (Lecturer / English) – for their assistance and support throughout the course of this competition.

The SJAB will continue to strive for greater heights in its duties, training and competitions to fulfil the motto “For the Service of Humanity”.

(Additional writing credit from Mr. Sim Mong Chea)
我校中学部学生警察团（简称学警团）创办于1967年，至今已走过47年的辉煌岁月，是一支组织严谨，获奖无数的制服队伍。通过多元化的活动和训练，培育团员的领导才能，装备他们成为未来领袖。严明的纪律和优良的品德是学警团的核心价值观。无论是步操或是露营时的技能训练，学警团都以身作则，为学弟树立榜样。

除了学长的循循善诱，负责老师也扮演着举足轻重的角色。他们亲自监督，确保训练更有效。此外，为了培养团员的服务精神和服务合作，学警团也经常举办各项活动，其中最盛大的就是一年一度的“制服团体保龄球锦标赛”。这项活动始于1999年，当时只限学警团报名，由于活动深受喜爱，2004年起便公开给其他5个制服团体参加，为学生提供交流和切磋的平台。

说到比赛成绩，学警团是各项比赛的常胜军。无论是学生警察总部举办的步操比赛、手枪射击比赛、常识问答比赛以及露营技能比赛，学警团都拿下各种荣誉。今年的手枪射击比赛，学警团更是双料得主，既夺得团体冠军，又拿下个人冠军，缔造了史无前例的四连冠佳绩。相信学警团必将继续发挥自强不息的精神，为校争光！
Hwa Chong’s Clam Shell Water Purification System Represented Singapore at the STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE

By Yeo Kang Le 13S79

It all began with a plate of “Sambal Lala (clams)” shared among friends in an undistinguished food centre.

Having learnt the diverse applications of calcium carbonate in removing metal ions, Gong Wei Jin (13S67), Ong Yinn Jaye (13S75) and I were elated to have serendipitously discovered that clam shells might be a solution to the water problems prevalent in Third-World countries today. They are renewable sources of calcium carbonate.

After an arduous research process, our hypothesis eventually led to the creation of a functional clam shell water purification system. It unexpectedly won the hearts of the judges at the “Singapore Junior Water Prize” before we knew it, that fateful plate of “Sambal Lala” brought us on an adventure to Sweden, where we represented Singapore in the prestigious “Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2013”.

In retrospect, our one-week stay in Stockholm had been nothing short of amazing. This year’s competition saw the congregation of participants from 29 countries around the world and has definitely been an enriching experience.

Having interacted with participants from diverse nationalities, our appreciation of different cultures has undoubtedly been heightened. Moreover, the sheer ingenuity of the projects presented opened our eyes to the high level of research conducted by like-minded youths.

Who would have thought that commonplace “waste products” such as egg shells could be used to purify water too? Or that microbes like bacterial strains have the potential within them to clean up oil spills?

Needless to say, we had thoroughly immersed ourselves in thought-provoking exchanges with other participants during the competition and gleaned insights into cutting-edge water purification technologies.

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the meet-and-greet session with Sweden’s Crown Princess Victoria. It was a thrill to have a few words with her Royal Highness. Apart from the picturesque surroundings and comfortable autumn breeze, this trip to Sweden has provided us with an invaluable opportunity to hone our presentation and inter-personal skills.

Throughout this journey, we are grateful to our teacher, Mrs Siew Pei Yoke Keow (Principal Consultant / Research), who mentored us for three years.

The competition has been an outlet for youths to solve pressing real-life problems that plague the world today. As pollutants in water have inconceivably deleterious effects on human health, it is our sincere wish that the development of our clam shell water purification system can change the way things are little by little, day by day.

“IT IS OUR SINCERE WISH THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CLAM SHELL WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM CAN CHANGE THE WAY THINGS ARE LITTLE BY LITTLE, DAY BY DAY.”
Cultural and Scientific Exchange at the JAPAN SUPER SCIENCE FAIR

By Lim Zheng Sen, Joel 4H1, Li Lidao 3S2

The 11th Japan Super Science Fair (JSSF) was organised by Ritsumeikan Senior High School and supported by Ritsumeikan University and Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Held from 8th November to 12th November 2013, it attracted participants from over 40 schools in 19 countries and provided an excellent opportunity for like-minded students from different cultural backgrounds to exchange ideas, learn from each other and forge lasting friendships.

While most of the projects presented there were carried out in collaboration with established universities, HCI’s research efforts were conducted in its very own Science Research Centre. Many participants were caught by surprise that all of the experiments could be performed in the school laboratories.

Indeed, HCI’s students are fortunate to have a well-equipped research facility. Above all, they must not forget the invaluable support from the mentors because it was the mentors’ dedication and guidance that made all this possible.

Apart from attending project presentations and special lectures in Japan, workshops and industrial visits were also organised to let students interact with professionals from local companies and universities. These were fulfilling activities through which past breakthroughs, current research efforts, future challenges were learnt about and, most importantly, the students could observe the experience of working in a multi-cultural setting.

Furthermore, collaborating with students from different countries during the workshops was indeed a valuable opportunity to learn more about each other’s culture.

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Furthermore, collaborating with students from different countries during the workshops was indeed a valuable opportunity to learn more about each other’s culture.

The participants’ gratitude is expressed towards Mrs. Goh-Yip Cheng Wai (Senior Consultant / Biology & Research) and Mrs. Sow-Peh Yoke Kooi (Principal Consultant / Research) for their dedication and guidance. Special thanks are also reserved for Mr. Rudy Lee Chong Tai (Lecturer / Chemistry) for accompanying and taking care of the students throughout the trip.

This visit ended on a high note and the participants are more determined than ever to continue their pursuit in research and strive for excellence!
A REAL CHANGEMAKER

AN INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF HWA CHONG’S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, LEONARD CHEN

When Hwa Chong alumnus Leonard Chen (05S7C) learnt that he had won the Muriel Fan Sher Memorial Premium, awarded to students showing the “greatest promise in the field of psychology”, his initial reaction was one of surprise.

“I didn’t even know such an award existed!” he concedes, tongue-in-cheek. For the Brown University graduate, after all, prestige has always been peripheral to his fervent interest in the human mind – and his keen desire to apply his knowledge in the service of his fellow man.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the way people interact with the world”, he said.

This curiosity initially steered him towards Biology, his pet subject since secondary school; but at times, he found the syllabus “mechanical” and yearned to apply his knowledge practically. In his first semester at Brown, he took a course on Social Psychology and promptly found what he was looking for.

 “[Psychology] explained so many of the phenomena we see in our daily lives that we don’t always think about,” he said. “I love studying about psychology particularly because it is so observable in our everyday lives.”

Naturally, he found himself seeking to “live life beyond the textbook”; something he achieves through community engagement. In his time at Brown, he has worked with the homeless in Providence, Rhode Island and addressed wider social justice issues alongside like-minded peers.

Leonard is quick to acknowledge, however, the pivotal role his advisors at Brown played in giving him access to such opportunities.

Indeed, he credits much of his current success to the people around him, saying he is “fortunate to have been in Hwa Chong and Brown”, where mentors and friends alike inspired him not through competition, but through cooperation.

In particular, he is grateful to Ms. Clarinda Choh (Director / iSpark Consortium) for being a “major source of encouragement and guidance ever since [his] secondary school days”, Professor Joachim Krueger of Brown University, who gave him valuable advice in his undergraduate studies; and his mentor at Brown, Rabbi Alan Flam, whose insightful dialogues with Leonard always left him feeling like he could “make real change in the world”.

With his future plans to work with the Singapore government in the social services sector, Leonard certainly looks poised to be a real change-maker. Panorama wishes Leonard all the best in his future endeavours!

By Joel Tan 13A15, Clarence Cheong 13S6C

1 Leonard (middle) with fellow participants of Winter Breaks Project 2013, a programme to learn about social issues affecting the local community
2 Leonard (standing third from left) with the Brown Capoeira team
3 The delighted Muriel Fan Sher Memorial Premium recipient with his parents

Panorama wishes Leonard all the best in his future endeavours!
Angles of Austerity

“Angles of Austerity” is about the 2010-2012 Greek protests against the austerity measures.

The poem was awarded the first position in the Alan Brownjohn Prize for Poetry 2012, organized by Newstead Girls’ High School.

I scribble occasionally in trains. I have received a commendation from the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. My work has appeared in publications such as Cadaverine Magazine, Burnt District, SOFTBLOW, Quarterly Literary Review Singapore and Ceriph.

I would like to thank Mr. Denson Lo, Literature tutor; Mr. Noel Koh (Education Consultant / Student Development); Ms. Meng Siew Tan (Senior Consultant / English); Ms. Ho Javen (Education Consultant / Student Development); Mathematics tutor; Mr. Lee Choon Chou (Education Consultant / Faculty); Economics tutor; Ms. Evelyn Ong, and English Language and Linguistics tutor; Ms. Kimberly Tan, Ms. Vicki Tan and Mdm. Madhah (Education Consultant / English), for always encouraging me in my studies, and being there for me when I needed it the most.

By Nicholas Chng Wei Ming 12A10

Angles of Austerity

don’t mind if I take
a few shots
for my mother’s sake

she can’t get out of bed
it’d be nice
for her to see the red
running down the street

could you please
clench tight your slogans
and smile for the camera

she’d say the light
catching in politicians’ spines
the shades of insincerity
are just right

infrastructure is a lie
sitting in unheated apartments
crowded with unanswered sighs

at parties
they pass our rights
back and forth

mixing them with terms
like ‘austerity’

their promises are all we’ve got
before they default
on that too

let them hang loose
three hundred, on one noose
The Human Body

I am aware that the room is very cold, as they remove the sheet covering me. Young medical students poke and prod, preparing for their grand performance. They are the artists and I am the canvas, the stage is set for blood and beauty.

Cutting out my heart, they claim their trophy. “This is the ventricle; this, the atrium” They see all of this but they don’t see the cracks, sealed with superglue, where I pieced myself back together.

Evidence of cardiopulmonary arrest but no signs of a broken heart.

The muscles part like the red sea, whispering as they meet steel – veterans telling tall tales to no one. “This is skeletal, this is smooth” They feel the difference but they don’t feel the contours of countless battle scars earned through valour on the field.

I do not hold my gold medal and they do not say: “Here is a boy who fought.”

This is biology not history. We hear no echoes of memory, only the creaks of rigor mortis. Carved up and drenched in formalin, meat and bone will be worshipped. My body will live forever, it is the Story that decomposes.

“The Human Body” describes our victories and defeats as ephemeral. This fact empowers us to leave the past behind and live in the present. The poem was awarded the runner-up prize in the Alan Brownjohn Prize for Poetry 2013.

My JC life was hectic - I had to strike a balance between my academic work and canoeing training. This constant struggle was emotionally taxing and I thus turned to writing as a form of catharsis.

I would like to thank Ms. Heng Sial Tian (Senior Consultant / English), whose collections of poetry I stumbled upon in the school library, for reminding me that we all have a part to play in contributing to Singapore’s unique culture.