

THE RAFFLES WAVE



**RAFFLES
GIRLS' SCHOOL**
*Nurturing Daughters
of a Better Age*



RGS Open House is happening on Saturday, 14 May 2016! Come visit our campus to learn more about the opportunities and experiences RGS has to offer. For updates on the event, join our Facebook event page [here](#).

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY!



The 10 booths featured fun and exciting activities for some 1,300 participants, which included games such as photo hunt and puzzles, and the making of crafts using scrap materials.



(Photos courtesy of Gardens by the Bay.)

As part of the slew of activities lined up for the Youths Celebrate Earth! Festival 2016 from 23-24 April 2016, eight Year 4 RGS students (Shen Hongyi, Leong Mun Yee Elizabeth, Foo Jing Yi, Sophie Low Hui Tong, Oh Shu Xin, Neha Dharma, Soh Jing Wen and Geraldine Lee Wen She) from Project SPARKS (a Community Problem Solving team) have collaborated with Gardens by the Bay to plan and run a series of activity booths for visitors to take part in and gain more knowledge about the importance of sustainability and conserving nature. The collaboration, which took about half a year from conceptualisation to fruition, saw the girls working on their planning, organisation and communication skills, winning them praise from the team at Gardens by the Bay for their “infectious enthusiasm, positive attitude, display of flexibility and initiative, as well as being open to suggestions and displaying a keen willingness to learn.”

ACHIEVEMENTS

*For more Achievements, please click [here](#).

Young Defence Scientists Programme Congress 2016

The Young Defence Scientists Programme (YDSP) Congress was held on 30 March 2016, marking the end of all YDSP activities for the year. This year, the annual event celebrates its 10th anniversary, and Guest-of-Honour, Acting Minister for Education and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung, remarked on the amazing level of vigour and excitement participants have injected into the programme over the past 10 years. He also presented five RGS students with the following awards:

- Rachel Chew Shu Yan (Year 3) - YDSP Scholarship Award
- Ng Jing Ni (Year 3) - YDSP Scholarship Award
- Wong Zi Xin Avellin (Year 3) - YDSP Scholarship Award
- Teo York Tiang Andrea (Year 4) - YDSP Academic Award (Physics)
- Li Anqi (Year 4) - YDSP Academic Award (Mathematics)

19th Nanyang Polytechnic Astronomy Competition

Nine RGS students from Cogitare participated in the 19th Nanyang Polytechnic Astronomy Competition. Held on 11 March 2016, the competition saw participants from 15 other schools battling it out for the top spot. After an intensive preliminary round, the top three students from RGS proceeded on to the final round of the competition and emerged Champions for the competition!

Singapore Science and Engineering Fair 2016

The Singapore Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) is the pinnacle of science and engineering research competitions locally. Held from 9-10 March 2016, the fair this year saw close to 600 students and 320 research projects on display during the final judging. RGS Year 3 student Chan Hsi-Min was awarded the best project under the Junior Scientist Category for her project on 'A biocompatible, non-fouling twitter-ionic hydrogel for biomedical applications' and will be part of the 2016 Broadcom MASTERS International Delegate for Singapore (internationally, only 25 middle school participants from 18 selected countries have been chosen for this honour). RGS alumna Clara Keng Hui Lin (class of 2015) was also awarded Gold for her project on 'Hydrothermal synthesis of hematite' and will represent Singapore at the 2016 Intel ISEF. For a list of all the awards received, please click [here](#).

SAY 'GOODBYE' TO FOOD WASTAGE



From left: Year 4 students Lim Li Ting, Rayasam Harshini (Team Leader) and Abhysha Panickar came up with the idea for the app as they thought about the problems they faced in their own homes. In order to create their 'dream home', they decided to create the app to target the problem of food wastage.

For the first time, RGS students from the Infocomm Club participated in the AppJamming Summit 2016 and came in 2nd Overall in the Secondary School category. They were awarded for their working prototype of app titled 'Mindful Kitchen', which allows users to input and store the expiry dates of their grocery items manually or through the scanning of QR codes. During the final stage of the competition, which was held in Hong Kong on 17 April 2016, the team of students had to pitch their app to a panel of judges, and present it to visitors at a booth in an attempt to garner as many votes as possible.

Started in 2014, the AppJamming Summit aims to build a community where young people are encouraged to create apps using their technological understanding and creativity. For more information, please click [here](#).

BLOOM & GROW TOGETHER

As part of community outreach efforts by RGS students from the Art Club, they collaborated with students from APSN Tanglin School to create floral arrangements. Through attending workshops, the students learnt about the various floral arrangement techniques as well as simple tips on maintaining the vitality of flowers in an arrangement. The skills and knowledge were then put into action as they created 13 different floral arrangements for sale to RGS staff. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the RGS New Campus Development Fund.



"It was a very interesting and memorable experience collaborating with the students from APSN Tanglin School. One of my partners was very shy the first time we met. However, as we grew more familiar with each other, she became very enthusiastic about contributing and was quite adept at cutting and arranging the flowers. Through working with them, I learnt to take life simply and see the happy moments instead of thinking about the negatives. Their learning attitude was also very admirable," said RGS Year 3 student, Lau Hui Min, Sandra (left).

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN THE ADVOCATE FOR RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS

The evidence of Mrs Mary George Cheriyan's passion for research in schools is clear, backed by her pioneering role in the RGS Centre for Pedagogical Research and Learning (PeRL) since its launch in August 2010. In her capacity as the Centre's Director, she has had to work on building a brand that would be synonymous with the professional development of teachers in the educational landscape of Singapore, and in creating an Asian discourse so often undermined by the myriad of Western literature. Fast-forward six years later, she is still as passionate, if not even more so about leading the centre, pushing out initiatives such as the successful PeRL Symposium that includes the Open Classroom segment and introducing the Consultancy arm of the centre to train teachers both in RGS and in other schools. As a newly-appointed Deputy Principal (PeRL & Community Engagement) of RGS, she now oversees two different areas of work that may be independent of each other, but ultimately, go towards building the RGS brand. We speak to her to find out more about her journey in education and work in PeRL.

Twist of Fate

"I went for the Public Service Commission scholarship interview all set on a career in Public Administration. Through the course of the interview, I was somehow led to taking up the MOE Teaching Scholarship instead when the interviewers told me how there was a shortage of teachers, especially ones who taught English, which was one of the subjects I took. Lo and behold, I said yes to taking up the teaching scholarship and came out of the interview room, still in shock at the turn of events as I told my friend who was waiting outside what had happened (laughs). After that, I went on to acquire a Diploma in Education from the National Institute of Education and subsequently joined Rangoon Road Secondary School. Up till today though, I still remain very interested in the area of public policy, and hence, took on a scholarship offered by RGS for a Masters in Public Administration by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in 2010."

My RGS Journey

"I joined RGS in 1986, teaching History to students in the Gifted Education Programme (GEP) and English to students in the Express stream. When I was made Head of Department for GEP, I supervised the curriculum and professional development of teachers, ensuring fidelity to principles of GE. When RGS embarked on the Raffles Programme (RP) in 2004, I was then appointed the Director of Academic Studies, developing structures and processes to facilitate the school-wide implementation of the RP curriculum. Subsequently, I moved on to PeRL as its Director before being appointed as Deputy Principal, PeRL & Community Engagement at the end of 2015."

Riding the Highs

"As a teacher, I've enjoyed thinking of novel ways to stimulate my students by trying out new strategies and seeing how they helped to intrigue them. It has been an amazing ride journeying with my students in their research projects as well, because I enjoyed the thrill of the quest. As a leader, I am able to share my experience and expertise. The belief I have in quality learning for high-ability girls continues to motivate me in my journey in education."

Cultivating an Environment of Pedagogical Sharing

"I think schools in general can do more to promote teacher research and sharing of knowledge amongst educators in order to better themselves in the classrooms. This can be done through giving teachers support and the resources to acquire the necessary skills to do so, and also by rewarding the good, reflective classroom teacher."



In recognition of her service to the nation, Mrs Cheriyan was awarded the National Day Award, Commendation Medal in 2015.

Feeling the Lows

"When I had my first daughter, I decided that I did not want to rely on a maid to take care of her. So I took time off from my education career until she was old enough for childcare. Even then, it was a challenge having to balance both family and work life, especially when I had my son as well. But what kept me going was my belief that woman should 'lean in' (to quote author Sheryl Sandberg) and not throw in the towel in the face of challenges so easily. With that, I worked extra hard and focused on the things that matter. I accepted the trade-offs in terms of reduced leisure time for myself, but no matter which stage of life I'm in, family has and will always be my priority."

Greatest Accomplishments in RGS

"Something that I would consider to be one of my greatest accomplishments thus far is the development of structures and processes to facilitate the school-wide implementation of the RP curriculum. Also, this notion of pedagogical leadership and content knowledge through teacher research that my team and I have worked hard to establish under PeRL. We've recently also been approached to offer consultancy for high potential Senior Teachers within our school cluster on topics such as developing a concept-based curriculum and strategies for good teaching. With that, it really further solidifies PeRL's credibility and standing as a centre of professional development for teachers even outside of RGS."

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Plans for PeRL in the Pipeline

"With our experience in setting up structures for the creation of knowledge, collaborative professional learning and knowledge sharing, we want to also develop a Knowledge Creating Institutional Framework. This can help to document and formalise our Professional Learning system, which can then be shared with other organisations that are interested in developing such systems for themselves (our systems are backed by school-based research)."

Hopes for RGS

"I hope that we will not just seek to lead and to always be ahead of the pack, but also to remain relevant, walking in tandem with society, feeling the pulse of the nation and be adaptable and receptive to changes even when they are unfavourable to us. This will open up doors to many more collaborative possibilities that would at the same time, keep us connected and engaged with the pace of the larger community."

Fan of Plays and Musicals

"I grew up in a family that loves music, so quite naturally, I love listening to good music as well, and that love for music extended to plays and musicals. While I enjoy the usual Broadway productions, I make the effort to support local and Asian ones as well."

LOOKING FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES



Some of the works that were on display include (clockwise from top left): 'Droplets' by Lin Ji Hong Amy (Year 3), 'Look Up' by Pinnamaraju Srilatha (Year 4), 'Fast-Paced' by Guai Tze Qian Chloe Nicole (Year 2) and 'Looking in a Different Light' by Bernice Tan Ee Suan (Year 2).



Looking from a different perspective - that is what students from the RGS Photographic Society and Art Club did as they held a three-week-long exhibition showcasing their works to the public in the form of photo series and silkscreen prints of their interpretations of the word 'perspective'. The exhibition, which opened on 23 March 2016 at the KS Chee Theatre at RGS, saw a large turnout of visitors that included teachers and students from other schools such as Whitley Secondary School and Raffles Institution. Visitors not only feasted their eyes on the works on display, but also had the chance to interact with and learn from professional local photographers Marvin Tang and Wilfred Lim, and watch a hands-on demonstration on how silkscreen printing works. Click [here](#) to view the full collection of works that were on display.

BROWN BAG SERIES

Earlier this year, the school kick-started the Brown Bag Lunch Series as part of the Staff Enrichment Programme. An informal opportunity for staff to learn at work and enhance their knowledge about non-work related topics, the initiative has since seen sessions held on topics such as Simple Massages for Common Ailments, The Fragrant Pharmacy and Eat Well, Live Well. An upcoming session on Financial Planning will be held on Thursday, 19 May 2016.

