

THE RAFFLES WAVE



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



In commemorating Singapore's Golden Jubilee, National Day Celebration at RGS this year was a particularly memorable one. Besides the usual highlights of the parade contingent march past and the entertaining LuvSG Performances, a quadcopter by the Year 3 Junior Inventor's Cluster made a special appearance over the parade square carrying a mini Singapore flag. A surprise drill performance by the various uniformed groups also kickstarted the concert segment on a high. Guest-of-Honour Ms Judith D'Silva too gamely performed her self-composed song, strumming and singing her way into the hearts of the audience. [Click here](#) to view photos from the celebration by the RGS Photographic Society.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RGS!



Happy 136th Birthday RGS!

RGS celebrated her 136th Founder's Day on 22 August 2015. The event highlighted the pinnacle achievements of our students and contributions of our staff for the past year. In a special segment 'To Cher With Love', our RGS pioneer educators were honoured for the legacy they have left in the school, which continues to impact future generations of our daughters of a better age.



Guest-of-Honour Ms Denise Phua delights the audience with her recollection of her days as a geeky teenager at RGS and gave a meaningful reflection on life's greater purposes.

Click [here](#) to view photos from the event by the RGS Photographic Society.

PAYING IT FORWARD

In looking for a meaningful way to give back to their alma mater, the RGS Alumnae presented the inaugural RGS Alumnae Awards at the RGS 136th Founder's Day. Presented to two deserving Year 3 students who have demonstrated excellence in leadership and character and have the potential to be mentored, it is hoped that they will eventually be able to inspire and engage the community as ambassadors for education and egalitarianism. A cheque of ten thousand dollars was also presented by the Alumnae to the school during the celebration, which will go towards the New Campus Development Fund.



Lim Zhi Yi Vanessa (left) and Gob Shi En Ruth receives the inaugural RGS Alumnae Award from RGS Board of Governor member Professor Jackie Yng. In addition to the cash award of \$500 that each recipient will receive in Year 3 and Year 4, a unique and meaningful component of the award will see them being offered opportunities to be mentored by selected members of the RGS Alumnae.

ACHIEVEMENTS

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

International Mathematical Modelling Challenge 2015

A team of RGS students (Year 4s Kelly Siah Xinjie and Wang Huaijin, and Year 3s Li Anqi and Lee Estelle) participated in the inaugural International Mathematical Modelling Challenge (IM²C) 2015 and was awarded the Outstanding Award, the highest accolade of the competition, along with three other teams from China and the United States.

GMAC Students Challenge 2015

Two teams of Year 4 students from RGS Cogitare participated in the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) Students Challenge 2015 and clinched the top two spots of the competition.

Team 1, consisting of students Kelly Siah Xinjie, Deanna See Xuhui, Wang Beini and Swathi Nachiar Manivannan, was awarded first prize for their infographic on mosquitoes and ways to prevent dengue fever.

Students Chloe Young, Nerissa Loe Yue Ling, Chloe Chia and Brenda Yeong Si Min made up Team 2 and won second prize for their infographic on genetically modified salmon.

MOE-NUS Amazing Lab Race

Held on 12 August, the MOE-NUS Amazing Lab Race saw a total of 18 teams from various schools racing around the Faculty of Engineering at the National University of Singapore solving problems that involve the practical applications of Physics and Mathematics. Despite the intense competition, the RGS team (Year 3 students Chin Shuen Ern, Wong Qi Hua, team leader Liu Xin, Ying Fangfei Anna and Jacqueline Tan Hui Juan) achieved a commendable 2nd Runners-up for the race.

STEM IN EDUCATION

Organised for the first time by the RGS Science Department, Cogitare, Robotics Club, Junior Inventor's Cluster as well as Fi in Schools, STEM Week saw a variety of workshops held for all categories of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Amongst the slew of activities such as ice-cream making and 3D printing, students also had the opportunity to learn about the science of motorsports behind the glitz and glamour of the F1 Grand Prix as they got behind the wheels in driving simulators set up in the canteen. A sharing by prominent women scientists and engineers including Professor Jackie Ying, Ms Hannah Leong, Ms Clair Deevy and Associate Professor Soh Khim Ong also gave students an insight into the challenges and opportunities available in STEM related careers.

TEACHING AND LEARNING TOGETHER



Mr Has Gunawan, Subject Head (Science) at Whitley Secondary School, signed up for the Open Classroom as he was curious about how lesson delivery was being done at RGS. He also picked up on the use of case studies during the lesson he observed, and shared that it will be one of the useful things he will take back with him for use in his own teaching.

Organised by the RGS Centre for Pedagogical Research & Learning for the second year running, the Open Classroom initiative on 31 July 2015 attracted more than 70 participants from 35 educational institutions. During the Open Classroom sessions, participants sat in during lessons conducted by RGS teachers and thereafter, were engaged in an Asian discourse on pedagogy and good classroom practice. This year, Open Classroom was followed by Good Practice Day, an internal platform for RGS teachers to share their practices with one another.

FUN IN THE WATER

The annual Swimming Carnival (Swim Carn) was held on 20 August 2015 at the MOE HQ Recreational Facilities, which saw the conduct of activities such as the Biathlon (200m-swim, 2km-run), 25m short events, mini water polo and Swimathon (where participants swam as many laps as possible). Our parent volunteers were also on hand to ensure the smooth running of the event, with one of them, Mr Bernard Mackenzie, even participating in the Swimathon (he swam 21 laps!).



From left: Ms Magdalena Suey, Ms Sandi Kum, parent volunteer Mr Bernard Mackenzie, Ms Katrina Adams and Senior Deputy Principal Mrs Shirley Tan. Teacher Ms Katrina Adams took part in both the Swimathon and the Biathlon, clocking a whopping 41 laps in total for the Swimathon, even after participating in the 200m-swim and 2km-run Biathlon earlier. Amazing!

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN



MAKING WAVES

RGS Year 4 student Samantha Yom Jingyi is no stranger to the world of sports. Sailing, to be exact. Having been in numerous competitions, both locally and internationally, she has received many awards and was part of the Singapore Sailing Team to deliver the nation's first ever Gold medals in an Olympic event. To top that off, she was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award with Distinction (Sports) at the school's recent 136th Founder's Day (Samantha is one of only three students to have received the award this year). We find out more about how she manages to keep a balance between school and sailing, and on the support structure that keeps her afloat.

Hectic training schedule

"I usually train four to five times a week. When competitions are nearing, it increases to almost six times a week. I train on weekends and weekdays, which means that I have to make my way to the National Sailing Centre right after school ends. There are times when I have to miss lessons because of overseas competitions, so I end up missing school for two to three weeks at a time."

Wind in her sails

"The school has been very supportive of my sporting aspirations. I consider myself very fortunate to be given the opportunity to pursue both sports and academics. As mentioned, I'm always missing lessons due to overseas competitions and my teachers have been extremely dedicated when it comes to helping me catch up. For example, I had a teacher who sat down with me a month prior to my competitions, just to come up with a plan on what I can do on my part to keep up with lessons. There are also many occasions when teachers have stayed back in school even during the school holidays to teach me the lessons that I missed."

My friends also help me by collecting the homework that had been given out while I was away (and then burst into a sheepish laugh when they hand me the thick stack of homework). I am most grateful to my friend, Wang Yuxing though. I often get very lost in class when I return and since she is my desk mate, I always turn to her for help. To be honest, I do this very often during lessons and every single time, she has never failed to help me, tolerating my endless questions."

READ TO CELEBRATE!

The Deborah Tan Library at RGS is organising the inaugural RGS Readathon to reinforce good reading habits and facilitate the broadening of minds. Starting from 18 August, the Readathon, which is also one of the initiatives by the school to celebrate SG50, is hoping that students and staff will be encouraged to read at least one book from the Singapore collection. The Readathon will culminate in an overnight camp at the library (limited to the first 50 signups by staff and students), which will also see participants creating a poem as a gift to the nation. Sign up for the camp [here](#) or make your pledge to read a book [here](#).



Samantha (middle) with schoolmates who went down to support her during the SEA Games. "They were there from 10am to 6pm and even made me a banner!"

Network of support amongst RGS athletes

"I think the best part is that we always offer each other words of encouragement. For example, when we see each other preparing to leave school for CCA or training, we never fail to smile and say something like "jiayou", "have fun" or "good luck". These words of encouragement always make me feel better inside and also make me very grateful to be part of this family of sports students in RGS."



Samantha receives her Outstanding Achievement Award with Distinction (Sports) from Honourable Justice Judith Prakash, Chairperson, RGS Board of Governors, at the school's 136th Founder's Day.

Takeaway from the 28th SEA Games

"I didn't win a medal at the SEA Games, but I did walk away with things far more valuable than a medal. My favourite part was the friendships that I had forged with Team Singapore sailors as well as sailors from overseas. Then again, I would be lying if I said I didn't come back in tears from losing out on the medal. But with encouragement from my team and friends, I learnt to pick myself up. I think this was a really important lesson for me, because many of us are 'over-achievers' and we always expect to emerge victorious every single time. The truth is, we can't. Some day, we will taste defeat and when that happens, we need to take it in our stride."



50-for-50 Readathon

● Appreciating Singapore's Literature and Historical Journey ●



In Celebration of  the Readathon aims for all students and staff to pledge to read ONE (just one!) book from the Singapore Collection.