

# THE RAFFLES WAVE



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



*Lunar New Year celebrations: (left) Students from the Chinese Drama performing arts group's energetic performance of contestants in a mock singing competition left audiences saddled in laughter, (right) while a surprise visit from the God of Fortune ended the celebrations on a high.*

## Dear Parents and Alumni

*Light* is a positive symbol of intelligence, direction and warmth. It is a source of energy that can shine bright even in the darkest of night. *Let Our Light Shine!*, the school's theme for the new academic year, focuses on the immense potential that is found in all RGS girls.

In embracing the *Light*, we aim to deliver an RGS experience that will ignite the spark in all RGS girls, allowing them to strive towards achieving their best and developing themselves to the fullest of their potential, and with that same amount of fervour, inspire those around them to grow and shine bright.

This year, RGS celebrates our 135th year of Nurturing Daughters of a Better Age. As we move forward, let us remember the Rafflesian community of parents and alumni, both past and present, who have worked in tandem with us throughout the years to provide the best education for our daughters. With all of your continual support and partnership, we can be confident of a successful and fruitful year here at RGS for our students.

We wish all parents and alumni a blessed and fulfilling 2014.

**Sincerely,  
Raffles Girls' School**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Shell *Live* WIRE Awards 2013

The Shell *Live* WIRE Awards celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit by recognising and rewarding young, innovative and promising start-ups. Tsai Yong Qing Shanisse (Class of 2013), received a Merit Award for her involvement in various projects such as a fund-raising concert *Lumiere*, a bazaar and street sales.

### National Climate Change Competition 2013

With a whiteboard and some marker pens, RGS Team Climate Crusaders Swan Yee Tun Lwin, Cynthia Tan, Mani Hemaavathi and Chian Ying Xuan (all from the Class of 2013) shared in their video a day in the life of a student named Sarah as she deals with the effects of climate change. The video won first prize for the Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges category.



*"To make things fun and help people visualise how much electricity we use, we translated the amount of energy consumed into the number of hamburgers. This way, people can understand the scale of the impact," explained the climate crusaders (from left): Mani, Swan, Cynthia and Ying Xuan (not pictured).*

Click [here](#) to view their work.

### Friend of Singa Award

RGS received the 2013 Friend of Singa (FOS) - Platinum Award at the Singapore Kindness Movement Friend of Singa award ceremony held on 13 November 2013. The Platinum Award is given to schools that have achieved the Gold Award in the FOS project for three consecutive years. As part of the FOS project, RGS students started a No Gadgets Day, where they stuck a 'place your devices here' sign on canteen tables and encouraged students to set their mobile phones aside during recess.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### WELCOME TO RGS!

With the start of the new school year, RGS welcomed a new batch of Year 1s. To address first-day jitters, help the new students prepare for a successful year and experience what it means to be a Rafflesian, the Year 1 Orientation Programme was packed with activities such as ice-breaker games, a Badge Initiation Ceremony and an overnight camp, which culminated in a concert specially for the parents of the new Rafflesians.



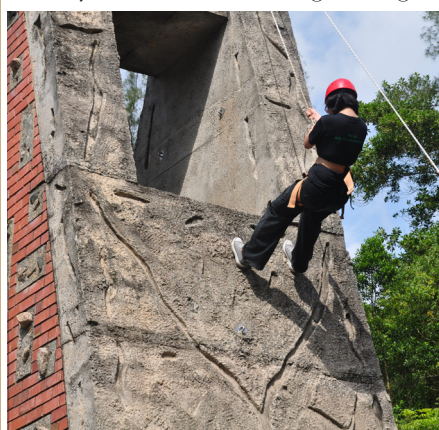
*During the Badge Initiation Ceremony, each Year 1 girl receives her school badge for the very first time, and has it pinned on their uniforms by their Year 4 seniors.*



*The passing of the flame symbolises how the Rafflesian spirit has sustained through generations and passed down from senior to junior, sister to sister.*

## ADVENTURE LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Year 3s kick-started the new school year with a 5-day 4-night camp at Outward Bound Singapore, Pulau Ubin on 13 January. Through expeditions and outdoor activities, they not only acquired new skills but also developed the tenacity to overcome challenges along the way by working together as a team.



*At OBS, students embark on expeditionary activities such as rope confidence courses, kayaking and trekking. These activities require students to constantly deal with unfamiliar situations and adapt to changes.*



*A visit by Principal Mrs Poh Mun See, Mr Ho Cheng Kam (Director, Student Guidance & Support) and Mrs Michelle Quek gave the students a morale-booster on Day 2.*

## OVERCOMING THE ODDS

At Hall Assembly on 6 February, Year 4 students Beatrice See, Belina Zhang, Cacia Tan, Hwang Kai Yun, Phyllis Loo, Rachel Chow, Zhu Yong Qing and Tan Yun Yee from CmPS Project THISAbility shared about their aims to raise awareness of the sporting needs of the disabled in Singapore. They also invited Paralympic Sailor Mr Jovin Tan, who shared with the school his experiences of setbacks and triumphs as he embarked on his journey to the Paralympic Games.

Click [here](#) to follow the team's milestones on Facebook.



The team from Project THISAbility shares with the school their hopes for their project in raising awareness of the sporting needs of the disabled in Singapore, and also increasing opportunities for the disabled to remain physically active through sports.

## AN AFTERNOON OF GRAND FUN!

In the hopes of promoting intergenerational bonds between the elderly and their grandchildren, Year 4 students Konstanze Tan, Zheng Lixing, Teo Jie Qi, Nadine Quah, Charmaine Chan, Fion Tan, Yurie Koey and Xu Peiyao from CmPS Project OAKS (Old And Keep Smiling) organised GrandFun. Held on 9 February at the Radin Mas Community Centre, the event saw pairs of elderly and their grandchildren engaged in games such as Toss the Ball, Blind Bowling and Ping the Pong.

Click [here](#) to get updates on upcoming projects by the team.



Born with cerebral palsy, three-time paralympian Mr Jovin Tan revealed that he initially used sailing as an escape from his bad-tempered father, but soon grew to love the sport. His motto in life? "Life is always about trying and not giving up. If you try, you can get at least one percent of success but if you do not even try, there will always be zero percent of success."

## MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT

As part of ongoing efforts to create a conducive environment for the learning and appreciation of Mother Languages, the Languages Department organised a fortnight of cultural activities, such as the making of Chinese dumplings, writing poems and reciting it during a Malay Literature Camp and also participating in a *Rangoli* drawing competition. This year, the first installment of Mother Tongue Fortnight was held for the week of 10 February. Students can look forward to another week of exciting cultural programmes in July (Term 3).

## Remembering Miss Noel Evelyn Norris

RGS Principal 1961 - 1976

A Rafflesian through and through, Miss Norris had the triple distinction of being a former student, teacher and Principal of RGS.

As a History teacher, she was a natural orator, seldom relying on textbooks; instead, she used her life's experiences and her sharp mind to deliver her lessons. As a Principal, she was a dynamic, 'hands-on' leader, with exacting standards and total dedication to the school. She made sure that RGS kept pace with the many changes in the nation's education policy.

For her selfless devotion to education, Miss Norris was awarded the Public Service Administration Silver Medal in 1964 and the Long Service Medal in 1977.

She will be fondly remembered for her unwavering love for the school, her intellect and her love of life. She will be dearly missed by the RGS community.

Share your memories and thoughts about Miss Norris at [rememberingmissnorris@rgs.edu.sg](mailto:rememberingmissnorris@rgs.edu.sg)



Miss Noel Evelyn Norris  
1918 - 2014