

# THE RAFFLES WAVE



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



*Farewell & Graduation Assembly 2014 - Click here to view a tribute video.*

## ACHIEVEMENTS



RGS Year 1 student Jodie Lai won a **Gold for sailing** at the **2014 Asian Games**, making history as Singapore's first-ever Asiad Gold in the Optimist class, and also making her Singapore's youngest Asian Games gold medalist.



*Hildy with RGS Deputy Principal (Student Development) Ms May Tan.*

RGS alumna Sy Hildy Lynn (Year 4, 2013) has been awarded the **Singapore Red Cross President's Youth Award**. As a Senior Warrant Officer, Hildy inspired a shared vision among her peers and under her leadership from 2012 to 2013, the Red Cross Youth unit of RGS achieved the Gold Excellence Unit Award.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### FAREWELL ALMA MATER 2014



*The girls dressed to the theme for the evening, Masquerade.*



*With the passing of the flame, one of the symbolic activities during Year 1 Orientation, it brings the class of 2014 full circle in their journey here at RGS.*



*Cheers to long-lasting friendships and memories forged over the past four years and to exciting, new beginnings ahead!*

All the best to our graduating class of 2014! May you continue to shine bright wherever you may be, fulfill the promise of your potential and make a difference in society, community and nation.

For the first time, 20 Year 3 students from the Raffles Academy (Mathematics) took part in the **Design with GC (Graphing/Graphics Calculator) Competition 2014**. Jointly organised by Texas Instrument Pte Ltd and Hwa Chong Institution, it is an annual event that allows students to showcase their creativity through the use of mathematical equations with a GC.

Though taking part for the first time, the students have done the school proud, with RGS taking the top spot in the School Category (secondary and junior college levels) for the school with the most number of awardees in the Individual Category.

Charmaine Ho, who clinched the Gold Award for her design said, "The award is an added bonus for me as the experience in learning more about the transformation of graphical equations as well as FIFA as a game and sport was certainly fruitful."



*The theme for the competition this year was FIFA World Cup and Charmaine's award winning design made use of linear graph equations to portray how FIFA has been able to bring people from all over the world together.*

Congratulations to the following Year 3 Raffles Academy (Mathematics) students who received awards in the **Individual Category**:

*Gold Award*

Ho Li Yun Charmaine

*Silver Award*

See Kaye

Valary Lim Wan Qian

Wang Huaijin

Zheng Yaxuan

*Bronze Award*

Amelia Chay Fang Ting

Jacqueline Kwa Xinyi

Kelly Teo Jia Hui

Koay Tze Min

Lok Qi Ying Amanda

Oh Hui Xin

### RGS STAFF FAMILY DAY 2014

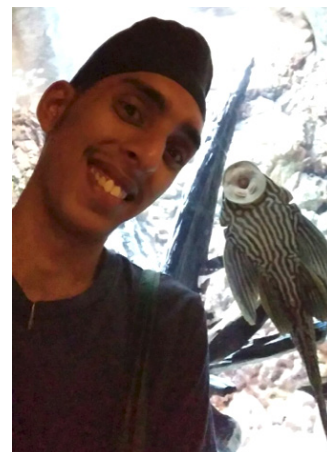
On 30 August 2014, RGS staff, together with their families, gathered for a day of fun at the River Safari and Singapore Zoological Gardens. Besides exploring the grounds of the two iconic attractions of Singapore, they also got a chance to take part in a quiz and photo contest for the "Most Creative Family Portrait" and "Best Selfie with an Animal".



*A happy day out for Ms Ng Zhao Yue (Assistant Head, Chemistry) with her husband and adorable daughter!*



*Mrs Alina Wee (Assistant Head, PE) and her lovely daughters take a walk on the wild side.*



*Selfie with an animal: Our very own ICT Assistant Mr Jagmeet Singh with an exotic-looking fish!*

### PRGS-ORA FUNDRAISING GOLF EVENT 2014

In support of the RGS New Campus Development Fund, an afternoon of golfing activities was jointly organised by members of both the Old Rafflesians' Association and the Parents for RGS Association. Held at Orchid Country Club, the event brought together the Rafflesian community not only for a good cause, but also for a round of golf and dinner. Over \$95,000 was raised from the event, which will go towards providing a new RGS campus that will meet the learning needs of future generations of RGS girls.



*Year 3 student Gabrielle Lob, along with her other friends from RGS Golf, compete with participants in a par 3 challenge.*



*Guest-of-Honour Mrs Carmee Lim (former RGS Principal) together with RGS golfers and RGS alumna Ms Cheong Yoke Keng (far right).*

## PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

### AMAZING GRACE!

A brand-new section in the Raffles Wave, *Portrait of a Rafflesian* seeks to highlight the stories of inspiring Rafflesians who epitomise the spirit and strength that we have come to associate with RGS.

To kick-start this section, we caught up with 2014 Rafflesian Award recipient Grace Tern. Inspiring, humble, dedicated and thankful - those are words you will probably associate with Grace if you heard her speech during the school's 135th Founder's Day. Born with profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears, Grace thought that her life was destined for a world of silence. As it turned out, the fine young woman that Grace has grown into today, is proof that the imperfections of life and the weaknesses of a person can be polished away through acts of love, acceptance, belief and empowerment.



Grace writing calligraphy at various corporate events to raise funds for The Singapore Association for the Deaf.

### Receiving the pinnacle Rafflesian Award

*"I was absolutely thrilled, though I also felt a sense of disbelief, as there were many others in my batch whom I thought were far more deserving than I was. I am indeed very humbled that the school had deemed me worthy of the award."*

### Challenges she face on a daily basis

*"While I can now hear and speak with the help of bilateral cochlear implants, the 'sensation' of sound that I receive from them falls acutely short of normal hearing. Hence, listening under most circumstances is a physically and mentally demanding task for me. Having a hearing impairment is not just limited to the mere physical obstacle of not being able to hear as well as others can. It's also often the emotional isolation from my friends as well as the alienation from things that are happening around me which is most difficult to cope with."*

### Moments of despair and frustration

*"To be honest, I've been struggling with my impairment for a really long time. To others, hearing is a passive activity, but for me, the daily grind of straining to hear, lip-read and follow conversations and process incomplete information can be really stressful, frustrating and exhausting. I used to struggle with accepting that and constantly asked myself 'what if?'"*

### Turning point of her life

*"I chanced upon the Serenity prayer tattooed on a man's forearm while I was queuing up behind him to board a plane! It was at that moment that I realised that my impairment was a part of me and was unchangeable, that instead of viewing it as an insecurity and hindrance, I should openly accept it and focus on what I am capable of. It was after this incident that I finally felt liberated from the reservations I once had."*



Grace with Senior Deputy Principal, Mrs Shirley Tan - *"I owe my success to the unflinching belief, constant encouragement and unwavering support of all my principals and teachers, to whom I am immensely grateful."*

### Also a national fencer!

*"I was first introduced to fencing when my brother joined the sport and started teaching me a few fencing techniques. Unlike the general misconception that fencing is only about 'poking people', each fencing bout requires not just stamina, but also mental acumen in constantly developing strategies to counter the opponent's attacks or defences. Being in the National Team for the past three years has also taught me how to make sacrifices, though they have been worthwhile, as the sport has taught me resilience and determination to pick myself up from failures, time and again."*



Grace is an epee fencer in the RI school team as well as the Singapore National team.

### Her dreams and aspirations

*"I would like to be a dentist. When I was in Year 3, I was given the opportunity to be part of the school's Work Experience Programme, where I was attached to the School Dental Centre at the Health Promotion Board. The five-day attachment gave me the opportunity to observe first-hand the practice of paediatric dentistry and I realised that a big part of the job is handling young patients and winning their trust. I think it's a job I'd enjoy and probably do well in as I adore children and would love to be around them! Moreover, I'd like to think that I'm good with my hands, because I write Chinese calligraphy and do floral arrangements as well."*

### Biggest inspiration in life - her parents

*"They're the most positive and resilient people I know. My brothers and I have different health issues, but despite all the various setbacks, my parents pressed on and never gave up hope on us even at the darkest moments. I remember that as a child, my mother would repeat everything that was being said on TV to me so I could understand what was going on. To train me to hear, she would sit down with me every night and run through the syllables with me until I could make out even the soft ones such as 'shh'. Thank you Mum and Dad for loving me just the way I am and never measuring me against anyone else. With the both of you, it is never a question of 'why' but 'why not?' I love you Mum and Dad!"*