

The Raffles Wave

RGS Parents and Alumni Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

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Drum beats ushering in the Year of the Dragon - RGS Chinese Orchestra



RAFFLES GIRLS' SCHOOL

*Nurturing
Daughters of a Better Age*

Dear Parents and Alumni

Every year, a new theme representing the spirit and vigour of the school is crafted by the students and teachers. This year's theme is *"Our Hearts Ablaze"*.

"Our Hearts Ablaze" encapsulates the deep passion for inquiry that is present in our girls. It embodies a pride for the school, interwoven with the aspiration to be trailblazers, leaders and pioneers. It also crystallises the heart of an RGS education, that of the desire to give back to society and in doing so, embody the school's motto "Filiae Melioris Aevi" - Daughters of a Better Age.

We look forward to working with you in providing the best education for your daughter. We wish all parents and alumni a blessed and fulfilling 2012.

Sincerely,
Raffles Girls' School

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Founder's Day

Founder's Day celebrates and commemorates the fine traditions and rich history of RGS. It is a reminder of how far we have come since the founding of the school, what we have achieved and the greater heights that are still to be scaled. Celebrated bright and early on a Saturday morning, this year, Founder's Day is on 3 March 2012. Always a joyous occasion, we are honoured to have as our Guest-of-Honour, Ms Claire Chiang, who is not only a member of the school's Board of Governors but also an RGS alumnus.

Math Active Day (MAD)

MAD strives to bring a fun and interactive dimension to Math. This programme, for all Y1 students, will allow students to design their own Math games based on a set of given criteria. About 40 secondary 1 students from another school will also be invited to take part in it as it is our outreach activity to share ideas on how Math can be fun for students and teachers. This event, on 5 and 6 March 2012, will see a total of 15 games selected to be showcased during Math Exploration Day (MED) for Primary 5 students from all Primary schools. MED is another outreach activity by the RGS Math Department, jointly organised with Raffles Institution and the MOE Gifted Education Branch.

"Nature! Cook-off"

For the 3rd year running, RGS, in collaboration with Lam Soon, will be inviting secondary 1-3 students from all secondary schools to participate in the competition promoting healthy cooking. Finals of the competition will be on 24 March 2012.

RGS 1:1 roll-out

The move to integrate pedagogy with technology has been in the works at RGS for the last two years. After rounds of rigorous pilot programmes, RGS 1:1 will be rolled out to all RGS Y1 students this year.

From Term 2, all RGS Y1 students will employ either a MacBook Pro or MacBook Air as a tool for collaboration, communication and learning. The computers will be used to facilitate learning and to access the information resources of the internet as part of their classroom routine. Teachers will also explore the possibility of tapping into student views using micro-blogging platforms. Face-to-face interaction will however remain a cornerstone of teaching and learning in RGS. Our teachers will inject variety in their lessons so that they strike a good balance between using the computer and interacting with their classmates.

Beyond teaching our students to be tech-savvy, RGS 1:1 aims to teach life-skills and inculcate values that are critical in an age where information is constantly available, where boundaries between private and public are increasingly blurred and where the need to be connected is a necessity and not a frivolity.

By 2015, all RGS students will be included in the digital collaborative learning platform. The staggered roll-out is to ensure smooth implementation as well as capacity building. RGS 1:1 aims to produce active, critical and responsible citizens who are able to participate in learning communities within and beyond the school.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Badge Initiation Ceremony

The Badge Initiation Ceremony, held on 6 January 2012, is a rite of passage for every Y1 RGS girl. During the ceremony, each girl receives her school badge for the first time, signifying that she has earned her right to put on the school uniform and badge, and be officially acknowledged as an RGS girl. Class representatives receive the badges from the RGS Principal and the senior girls (Y4s) pin the badges on the uniforms of each of the Y1 girls, symbolising the welcome to a new member of the RGS family. This ceremony also marks the end of their orientation.



Welcome to the RGS family

Inter-House Games

The Opening Ceremony of this year's Inter-House Games (IHG) took place on 31 January 2012 with the unfurling of the five House Banners with the House Captains leading the House and School cheers. This ceremony marks the start of the 2012 IHG season of activities which runs from January to September.



IHG Opening Ceremony and the five House banners

Student Leaders' Investiture (SLI)

Student leaders in RGS are leaders in their fields, fully capable of planning and executing a multitude of events and leading their peers across a range of situations. Blazing the trail for others, it is indeed a higher calling for leadership. On 2 February 2012, RGS CCA Chairpersons, House Captains and Vice Captains, members of Students Congress, Peer Support Board, Prefectorial Board and the Evergreen awardees were officially invested as student leaders. The SLI was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Tan Chen Kee, who is herself an RGS alumna and former Richardson House Captain. Mrs Tan is currently the principal of Crescent Girls' School.



Head Prefect Genevieve Kong receiving her badge from GOH Mrs Tan Chen Kee

GCE 'O' Level Higher Mother Tongue and 3rd Language results



Good results? Good results!

RGS girls have once again produced excellent results in the Higher Mother Tongue and 3rd language GCE 'O' Level examinations.

Surpassing the National average of 93.8% pass in Higher Chinese, 95.7% of RGS girls received passes with 57% scoring distinctions.

Higher Malay saw an RGS pass percentage of 100%, against the National average of 90.9%, with 52.9% of RGS students scoring distinctions.

In Higher Tamil, RGS students soared with 100% passes and 91.3% distinctions against a National average of 97.9% and 37.2% respectively.

100% passes were also achieved in 3rd language subjects - French, German, Japanese, Bengali, Hindi, Chinese, Arabic, Malay (Special programme). A special mention must be made of the 3 RGS girls who took Hindi. All 3 scored distinctions surpassing the national average for distinctions in the subject by almost 50%.

AWARDS

National Arts Education 'BLAZE' Award

The National Arts Education "BLAZE" Award is a national arts award for schools in Singapore. The Award is conferred by the National Arts Council (NAC) to encourage schools to provide holistic arts education for all students and also serves as recognition for schools with good arts practices and programmes.

For maintaining a strong arts structure and championing a vibrant arts culture, Raffles Girls' School was awarded the National Arts Education 'BLAZE' Award in 2011, the pinnacle award in recognition of the various trail-blazing activities and initiatives that the school has done in the last four years.

2011 National Violin and Piano Competition

The National Piano & Violin Competition from 3 -11 December 2011, is a biennial event that provides young musicians the opportunity to perform before international adjudicators. A key platform for music excellence, it aims to develop the performing skills of musicians in Singapore, improve musical standards and identify potential music talent.

The following RGS girls (and alumnus) clinched awards in the following categories:

Violin Senior Category 2nd - Lanabel Teo Jin-Li (Class of 2010)

Piano Senior Category 1st - Li Chu Ren (Class of 2011)

Piano Intermediate Category 2nd - Tan Yu Jia Jessica (Class of 2011)

Congratulations to our RGS Choir

The RGS Choir won two grand prizes at the 21st International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music with Petr Eben Prize 2011 held in Prague, Czech Republic from 25 to 27 November 2011.

The Choir came in first in the Homogeneous (Girls) Choir Category. The top three choirs from the Homogeneous Choir, Mixed Choir and Chamber Choir categories then competed against each other in a face-off. RGS Choir emerged tops once again, winning the prestigious Overall Champion Award.

The RGS Choir also attended a master-class in Vienna and performed in a public concert in Vienna on 30 November 2011

International Youth Floral Art Competition 2011

Proving that there are no limits to the talents of our students, RGS girls did well in the International Youth Floral Art Competition 2011 held in conjunction with the 20th World Orchid Conference held in Singapore from 13 to 20 November 2011.

RGS girl Mridula Sairam (class 304) received the Bronze award - individual category (age 13 to 21), and the Gold award for the team category (age 13 to 21) went to RGS girls Tracy Koh Weiling (class 315), Goh Fang Qin (class 311), Denise Ong Rui Ying (class 310) and Grace Tern (class 213).

The competition, organised by Nanyang Primary School, serves to enhance artistic appreciation, interest in floral art and provides a platform for students to showcase their talents and creations in an international show.