

# The Raffles Wave

RGS Parents and Alumni Newsletter

JULY 2013

[www.rgs.edu.sg](http://www.rgs.edu.sg)



RGS cheerleaders - Open House - 25 May 2013



**RAFFLES  
GIRLS' SCHOOL**

*Nurturing  
Daughters of a Better Age*

## RGS Head Prefects 2014

Elections for the 2014 Head Prefects have been completed and the following girls have been elected to take up the following positions:

Head Prefect 2014  
- Phuah Hui En Shannon (Class 304)

Vice Head Prefect 2014  
- Agatha Sacha Lim Lee (Class 301)

Vice Head Prefect 2014  
- Freda Mah Cheng Yee (Class 304)

Vice Head Prefect 2014  
- Tao Ming Hui (Class 308)

There are many roads to being a leader and every RGS girl is developed to be a leader in her own right. At RGS, leadership is not about status, but stature. It is a vote of trust by peers, by teachers and by the school. Leadership in thought entails caring and responsible thinking. It is not about who you are, but about transcending personal achievement to make a difference, no matter how small or invisible the action.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Home Based Learning (HBL)

In preparation for the event of an emergency school closure (due to a crisis e.g. bird flu, SARs, Haze etc), the school will be closed for a day on Friday, 12 July 2013 for this exercise. All students will stay at home to complete HBL activities. The e-lesson brief and instructions will be posted on iNet. All students are to check that they have iNET, CyberSphere and Live@edu access before HBL day. Students who do not have internet access at home, can go to the library or computer labs in school on HBL day.

### Asian Youth Games 2013 - Flag Presentation Ceremony

The Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) is the body responsible for the selection and sending-off of Singapore's athletes for all major Games, which comprises: the Asian Youth Games; the Youth Olympic Games; South-East Asian Games; Commonwealth Games; Asian Games and the Olympic Games. Prior to the Games proper, the SNOC would hold a flag presentation ceremony, where SNOC President, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, will hand over the National flag to the Chef De Mission for the Singapore contingent, who would then hand it over to the flag bearer for the Games. RGS is honoured to be the host of this event which will be held on Wednesday, 24 July 2013, 6.30pm to 8.00pm. In addition to the flag presentation ceremony, RGS girls will also be putting up a performance at the event.

### Speech Day 2013

RGS Speech Day will be on 24 August 2013. The Guest-of-Honour for the event is RGS alumna Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Communications and Information.

### Other upcoming events include:

Racial Harmony Week, 15 to 19 July 2013; Racial Harmony Day, 19 July 2013  
Mother Tongue Fortnight, 15 to 27 July 2013  
Really Arty Week @ RGS, 22 to 26 July 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Kingdom of Raffleshire



The RGS Renaissance Faire was held on 22 May 2013. The annual Elizabethan-themed Renaissance Faire promotes interest in Shakespearean works, allowing students to dress up in the attire of the era and experiencing games and activities popular during that time.

*Pictures contributed by the RGS Photographic Society, courtesy of student Pearlyn Chang (2016)*

### One Voice

The RGS Choir performed at the OCBC Banking Hall on 28 May 2013. The 30-minute lunch time performance provided a pleasant interlude from the hustle and bustle of the day's work for the busy crowd at Raffles Place.

The RGS Choir has a long tradition of choral excellence, performing and clinching awards in both local and international competitions. In 2011 alone, the RGS Choir was awarded the Gold with Honours award at the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Central Judging for Choirs; competed in the 21st International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music with Petr Eben Prize held in Prague in December, bringing home the top female and overall homogenous choir award with a Gold diploma. Additionally, the choir attained a special Petr Eben prize and ultimately emerged as the overall champion of the competition, with the grand title of "Laureate of the Festival". This year, the RGS Choir won the Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation.



*RGS Choir's resident conductor, Ms Anna Loo, and the RGS Choir (Picture courtesy of OCBC)*

Under the conductorship of the school's resident conductor, Ms Anna Loo, the RGS choir has been active in their outreach to the community. In 2012, the RGS Choir staged "A Cantare I: Can You Feel The Love Tonight", performing a repertoire of popular Broadway tunes at the SOTA concert hall. In addition, the Choir has performed at worthy events to raise funds for various causes and visited senior citizen centres to perform and interact with the elderly. The RGS Choir will continue to reach out to the community with their collective voices.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2013 Google Science Fair

Creating a world-class science project is no easy task and this year, thousands of 13-18 year olds from more than 120 countries submitted their project to the third annual [Google Science Fair](#). Upon deliberation, Google announced the [15 finalists](#) from their top [90 regional finalists](#).

The 15 finalists will join Google at their Mountain View headquarters on 23 September 2013 to present their projects to an international panel of esteemed scientists for the final round of judging. The Grand Prize winner will receive a 10-day trip to the Galapagos Islands with National Geographic Expeditions, \$50,000 in scholarship funding and more.

One of the 15 finalists is an RGS team consisting of team members Kang Yi Xi (401), Kwok Ling Yi Samantha (401) and Lim Guan Hui Tricia (401). The team's project, titled "Efficacy of Estrogens and Progesterone in Hepatic Fibrosuppression", explores regressive properties of progesterone, estriol, and estrone in hepatic fibrosis, a scarring process caused by liver inflammation. The project aims to find the hormone most potent in its regressive properties in rat hepatic stellate cell (HSC) cultures, to obtain the lowest effective dosage and hence, reduce side effects of the therapy. The team treated activated HSC-T6 cells with hormones, and quantified fibrotic markers to determine treatment efficacy. The research could provide insight into treatment modalities for potential estrogen-deficient patients.

### Odyssey of the Mind (OM) World Finals

#### Winners!!! - Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award

[The winning RGS team](#) (first time a Singapore team has won the Ranatra Fusca Creativity award) received outstanding comments from the organisers of the Odyssey of the Mind 2013 World Finals. A snippet of which stated - "This team transformed trash into a truly special backdrop and ramp. The team cut straws into various lengths that, when looked at from a distance, created Lady Gaga's face on the side of the ramp. The visually stunning face was adorned with a motorised flower that could spin. The team also constructed a mosaic backdrop with various trash items such as spoons, beans, pasta and more. It formed a portrait of the band KISS, and a Lady Gaga costume so over-the-top that it would impress the star herself."

The Odyssey of the Mind 2013 World Finals Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award is given to a team of individuals for demonstrating outstanding creativity. This award embodies all that the Odyssey of the Mind program represents. A total of [8 RGS teams](#) took part in the OM World Finals this year and have done the school proud by being placed in the top 20! The World Finals was held at the Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, from 22-25 May 2013.

### Future Problem Solving Program International Conference

At the 2013 Future Problem Solving Program International Conference held at the Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana, RGS teams once again did the school proud. Results:

#### 1. Community Problem Solving Competition

##### Middle Division

##### [Project W.I.S.H. \(Wings In Singapore Heartland\) - Grand Champion](#)

Synopsis: Project W.I.S.H. aims to tackle the problem of urban nature deficit, the lack of meaningful interaction between children and nature, caused by the rising trends of urbanisation. As a solution, Project W.I.S.H. chose to adopt the Butterfly Trail @ Orchard, a trail of butterfly gardens along the shopping district at Orchard Road, to encourage increased involvement with nature. With heartening responses towards the various workshops conducted, sharing and collaborations with various schools and organisations, outreach events, publicity campaigns, fundraisers and the publishing of a children's book, the team has been greatly encouraged to further inculcate a sense of stewardship toward urban nature in children and families.

##### [Project GOLD - 1st Place \(Health Concerns & Human Services\)](#)

Synopsis: Project GOLD aims to promote active ageing amongst the elderly in Singapore. The team's solution is to design and implement a series of activities targeting physical, social and intellectual health of the elderly in a selected Senior Activity Centre (SAC). Activities conducted were compiled into a programme (called the GOLD programme) that could be replicated in other SAC's nation-wide. Through an outreach programme, volunteers would be recruited and trained, and partnerships with relevant stakeholders would be established. This would, in the long run, spread the message of active ageing and see the adoption of the GOLD programme across the country.

##### Senior Division

##### [Project G.L.A.M. \(Great Labelling Awareness Mission\) - 2nd Place \(Health Concerns & Human Services\)](#)

Synopsis: 2 million people die each year from asphyxia due to food allergens. Locally, 40% of our population suffers from such allergies and yet there is a severe lack of awareness on the issue - with close to zero food enterprises labelling their allergens, posing a serious threat to food safety and human life. Project G.L.A.M. aims to advocate for the labelling of allergens in unpackaged food, by increasing support and awareness for this issue through outreach to key stakeholders in society, and the push for labelling legislations of common allergens in the long run.

#### 2. Global Issues Problem Solving

##### [Multi-Affiliate Global Issues Competition \(Team Competition\)](#)

RGS student Yong Xin Jie won 2nd place.