



Merahan Mosaic

A publication of Bukit Merah Secondary School

Principal's Message



In this 48th anniversary year, Bukit Merah Secondary School (BMSS) learnt that we had been identified by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to merge with Henderson Secondary in January 2017. The merged school will function at the present Lengkok Bahru location based on the standard of existing facilities and ease of accessibility by public transport.

The enlarged student enrolment following the merger will give the school strategic depth; and provide us the opportunity to widen the range of educational programmes and co-curricular activities (CCAs). We look forward to welcoming our friends from Henderson Secondary to our campus.

In the meantime, BMSS continues to press ahead with its infrastructure upgrading plans. Construction of a performing arts studio has begun and we expect to have the facility ready for use at the start of Term 3. We have also received long-awaited good news that MOE will be building an Indoor Sports Hall at BMSS next year. This will allow us the space to run trainings and programmes without different groups having to compete for venues.

The school had a busy and rewarding first semester as we strove to balance student endeavours in both studies and CCAs. All our uniformed groups (NCC, Scouts & SJB) are anticipating Gold awards in their respective unit assessments for excellent standards of performance. In Floorball, our Girls 'B' Division team regained the National Schools Championship title; and the Boys 'B' Division team took home the bronze medals. On 30 April, our Concert Band, Dance & Drama artistes together with talented Sec 2 students showcased their gifts in 'Festivo IV: Rhapsody of Youth' at the Victoria Theatre.

I am delighted to report that at the GCE 'O' Level Examinations 2015, our Express course candidates attained their strongest value-added performance in the past three years (and second best of the past ten years). It marks the ninth occasion that our graduates have recorded value-added results over the past decade. This enviable track record was made possible only through the hard work and perseverance of students and their teachers.

I thank parents and stakeholders for their unstinting support of our events and initiatives which has unequivocally contributed to our many successes. We remain committed to working together in partnership with you to nurture Resilient Merahans with Character and Heart; and bring BMSS to a higher level.

Yours truly,
Sim Chong Boon
Principal

Sedia – Always be Prepared

Issue 1 ♦ May 2016

Achievements

- Secondary 1 Orientation
- 2** CCA Orientation
- Secondary 1 Transitional Workshop
- Sec 2 & 3 NT Experience ITE Programmes
- Sec 2 Study Skills Workshop
- 3** Career Fair @ BMSS
- Out-of-School Curriculum Week
- 4** Sec 1 Readiness Camp
- Sec 2 AEP Camp
- Out-of-School Curriculum Week
- Sec 3 Bonding Camp
- 5** Sec 4 Academic Excellence Camp
- Lunar New Year Celebrations
- Total Defence Day
- International Friendship & Youth for the Environment Day
- 6** Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight
- English Language Week
- 7** Twinning Programme
- Annual Cross Country Run
- School-Parent Conferences
- Upcoming Performing Arts Studio
- 8**

Results of GCE 'O' Level Examination 2015

At the GCE 'O' Level Examination 2015, the school achieved value-added results for the ninth time over the last ten years in the Express course. Our top student was Ding Zheming who scored 8 distinctions.

The Express Course demonstrated a stellar performance with improvements in distinctions in 11 subjects and distinctions above the National level in 6 subjects. 72.6% of Express students qualified to pursue 'A' Level studies, and 87.1% qualified for Polytechnic studies.

The Normal Course saw commendable improvements in terms of percentage passes in 5 subjects. In addition, they attained distinctions above the National level in 2 subjects: Malay and Combined Humanities. 61.6% of the Normal Academic students qualified for Polytechnic education.

Our heartiest congratulations to the class of 2015 and we wish them a bright future ahead.



Top Performers	
4 Express	Ding Zheming Loh Kai Mun Shi Xiang Lai Sha Tan Megan Nawat Kawkeeree Huang Caoling Tiah Jhan Rei
5 NA	Tristan Lew Zhong Sheng

Achievements



Floorball 'B' Division Tournaments

The 'B' Division girls fought hard against Orchid Park Secondary School. Their sheer hard work and dedication paid off when they managed to clinch the championship title for a record seventh time since the competition began.

The 'B' Division boys gave their best shot against Coral Secondary School and emerged third at the National level.

The school is proud of both teams for displaying unwavering tenacity and a strong fighting spirit during the tournaments.

SJAB Inter-Corps First Aid and Home Nursing Competition 2016 (Zone 6)

During this annual inter-school competition, teams are assessed on their level of ability and vigilance in home nursing, transporting of casualty and facilitating First Aid during emergency. Teamwork and communication skills play a vital role too. Displaying commendable confidence during the competition, our SJB Nursing Adult Team managed to achieve the 3rd placing.



PICO-Mouse Race 2016

The PICO-Mouse Race is an annual competition organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Engineering Explorer for students who have a passion for robotics. This competition encourages the inventive spirit, and teams were challenged to showcase their creativity and problem solving skills. This year, two teams of Merahans proudly achieved the First and Third Position in the competition. Congratulations, boys!



South Zone Millennium Challenge

On 14 April, the Sec 3NT Design and Technology (D&T) students participated in the South Zone Millennium Challenge organised by Saint Andrew's Secondary School. One team came in 5th in the Motorised Car category and two other teams achieved 4th and 5th positions in the Bridge Strength category.



5th Inter-School History Challenge

On 13 April, eight Sec 4 History Elective students participated in the History Challenge which comprised of a card game and a History Character Dress Up competition. Muhammad Sufi of 4F who was dressed as the late President Suharto, came in third in the dress-up competition.

Secondary 1 Orientation

At the beginning of Term 1, Sec 1 students took part in an eventful and fun-filled 3-day orientation programme. The theme for this year's orientation is "Together We Achieve". The new Merahans were given opportunities to interact with their fellow peers through an array of class bonding games and level activities. With the help of the school prefects, the Sec 1 students were brought around the school to familiarise themselves with the new environment. In addition, they were also introduced to the school's vision, mission, values and culture. The main highlight of this event was the Orientation Finale where each class was tasked to create a class banner and put up performances such as skits, singing or dancing.



CCA Orientation

On 16 January, a CCA Orientation cum Meet-the-Parents session was held to share information on CCA-related matters to Sec 1 students and their parents. CCA booths were set up in the canteen to allow both students and parents to find out more about the various CCAs before making an informed decision. Some groups like the Modern Dance Club, Concert Band, NCC and SJB put up impressive showcases to promote their respective CCAs. Not only were the parents and Sec 1 students able to garner a deeper appreciation of the school's vision, mission and values, they also understood better the importance of CCA participation in contributing to the overall character and academic development of a student.

Secondary 1 Transitional Workshop

As part of the Sec 1 Readiness Programme, all Sec 1 students participated in a 2-part Transitional Workshop on 13 January and 10 March. Various activities were held to help them cultivate a positive attitude towards learning. During the workshop, students were actively engaged in discussions on topics such as making positive choices and resisting negative peer influence. In addition, they learned the art of time management by creating their own study schedules using the concept of "Power Zones". This workshop has helped to equip students with skills to better manage the transition from primary to secondary school life.



Secondary 2 & 3 NT Experience ITE Programme



Sec 2 and 3 NT students had the privilege of visiting ITE College West and ITE College Central as part of the Experience ITE Programme. The students participated in learning journeys and workshops and were given opportunities to try out fun and exciting hands-on projects which helped them to understand the ITE curriculum better. They were also introduced to the 'Hands-on, Hearts-on' programme which provided rich information on the career prospects of ITE education. Equipped with a clearer understanding of the various courses offered in ITE, the students are better placed to make decisions on their post-secondary education.

Secondary 2 Study Skills Workshop



On 14 January and 7 April, a two-part Study Skills Workshop was organised for the Sec 2 students during curriculum time. The workshop aimed to equip students with useful and effective study habits. In addition, students learned important tips on time and stress management. Students were taught how to plan their weekly timetable and carry out active listening and note-taking skills. The concept of PowerZones was introduced to students where they learned to concentrate fully in 45-minute blocks.

Career Fair @ BMSS

This year, the Career Fair @ BMSS saw expanded partnership between the various stakeholders, namely alumni, parents and the community. On that day, Sec 2, 4 and 5 students were engaged in various level-based activities. Our guest speakers included engineers, psychologists and social workers who shared on their respective fields. This gave our students a deeper insight into each of the professions. The five polytechnics, as well as ITE, NAFA and LASALLE, also set up booths at the Career Fair. Students who are interested in pursuing tertiary education in a junior college (JC) benefited greatly from the JC talks conducted by ex-JC students. These meaningful collaborations have brought forth a better understanding of post-secondary education opportunities for our students.



Out-of-School

Sec 1

Readiness Camp

This year, the Sec 1 Level Camp was held from 7 to 9 March at the Singapore Discovery Centre. The theme of this year's camp was 'Together We Achieve'. Students participated in exciting activities such as pitching their own tents, outdoor cooking, completing the Challenge Rope Course and Rock-climbing. These activities taught them valuable life skills such as how to work well with fellow school mates, to bond together as a class, and also to learn more about themselves. The daily debrief sessions provided opportunities for character building as the students reflected on their experiences for the day. At the end of the camp, the students created a group flag as a symbol of commitment to stay united and work together as a team.



Sec 2 AEP Camp

As part of the Arts Education Programme (AEP) which began in Term 1, Sec 2 students were offered one of the following electives: Bollywood Dance, Digital Animation, Digital Music, Hip Hop Dance, Mosaic Art, Percussion or Street Jazz Dance. Every week, students participated in their respective workshops which culminated in an AEP Camp at the end of Term 1.

The theme for this year's camp was 'Rhythm of Youths in Action'. A series of team-building games and a mass dance activity were organised for the students during the camp. They were entertained by an external performing group which shared on Korean culture and K-Pop dance. The main highlight of the camp was a concert which served as a platform to showcase their talent and hard work to the parents, teachers and peers.



Curriculum

Sec 3 Bonding Camp



As part of the Out-of-School Curriculum Activity, a bonding camp was organised for the Sec 3 students at St. John's Island. The theme for this year's camp was 'Making the Impossible Possible; Dreaming the Impossible Dream'. The students participated in a series of activities that put their team work, communication skills, courage and mental strength to the test.

The highlight of the camp was the Camp Appreciation Night. Despite the lack of rehearsal time, the students were able to put up impressive performances that were both entertaining and engaging. During the camp, bonds were strengthened amongst the students and teachers and many returned with unforgettable memories and experiences.



Sec 4 & 5 Academic Excellence Camp

Our graduating students participated in a series of workshops which were specially tailored to their needs. During the Personal Effectiveness cum Academic Excellence workshop, the students learned how to prepare themselves for the upcoming national examinations and how to handle examination anxieties effectively. The Oral Communication Skills and Reading workshops imparted valuable strategies in tackling the challenging sections in the English Language paper. In an effort to serve the community and put into practice their school values, the students participated in a Values-in-Action (VIA) programme which saw them embark on a newspaper collection & recycling drive in the community.



Lunar New Year Celebrations

The school celebrated the Lunar New Year with much enthusiasm this year on 5 February. The celebrations started off with performances by the Rui Long Dragon and Lion Dance Group. This marked the first time that a Lion Dance troupe performed at BMSS after a gap of many years. It was followed by an outstanding dance item put together by the An Hui Performing Arts Troupe and a captivating magic performance.

Our school concert band enthralled the audience with two melodious music pieces. Amazing performances were also showcased by our very talented Merahans. Sec 1 students from 1C, 1D and 1E presented a song while our upper secondary Higher Chinese students recited a poem on reuniting and celebrating the festive season with family and friends.

Elderly from the Lions Befrienders and Redhill Senior Moral Activity Centre also joined us in the celebration of this festive occasion. The school presented mandarin oranges and red packets to the elderly as a token of our appreciation. The celebrations ended off on a high note with the teachers singing the traditional Lunar New Year songs.



Total Defence Day

On 16 February, the school commemorated Total Defence Day. The theme for this year is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". Students were brought back in time with the Total Defence Song, "There's a Part for Everyone". For this year's campaign, the song was adapted by MINDEF and introduced to schools. During the assembly programme, Funplay Workshop presented a meaningful and engaging skit entitled 'My Strategy, My Part' in which students learned about the five pillars of Total Defence. Game-based activities were also incorporated during the curriculum to increase awareness about the role that students can play in defending the nation.

International Friendship & Youth for the Environment Day

Celebrations for IFD spanned through a week with level-wide activities aimed at integrating and engaging international students in our school. During the assembly programme on 12 April, students were brought through the history of ASEAN and its aim in promoting peace and stability in the region. Students also learned that Singapore plays an integral role in sharing her developmental experiences and knowledge with the other ASEAN countries.

In conjunction with YED, simple green habits were introduced to students during the assembly programme. It concluded with an exciting quiz where students stood a chance to win prizes.



Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight

The MTL Fortnight is an annual programme organised by the Mother Tongue Department to encourage a greater appreciation of the rich Chinese and Malay cultures.

The Chinese-speaking students embarked on an informative learning journey to the Tea Chapter where they learned the art of Chinese tea-making. The Sec 2 students learned to make dolls out of air clay and paint on gourds while our Sec 3 students were taught to make tea bags. The graduating classes enjoyed an array of language games during their Mother Tongue lessons.

As for the Malay-speaking students, many workshops were organised to better appreciate the Malay culture. Through an engaging assembly programme, 'Rentak Akar-Rhythm of the Roots', the school enjoyed the charms of traditional Malay music. The Sec 1 students created Malay music during a workshop using traditional Malay musical instruments such as the kompang and angklung. The Sec 2 students explored their creativity through the Songket and Khat (Malay Calligraphy) workshops. As for the graduating students, they enjoyed a scrumptious Malay feast while learning more about the Malay dining etiquette and traditional Malay cuisines such as Nasi Ambeng and Nasi Kerabu.



English Language Week



As part of a whole-school approach in promoting literacy, lessons were set aside on 5 April and a series of engaging and interactive English Language games were conducted in school. The day began with a Book Buzz by the National Library Board which introduced some of the latest storybook titles to the whole school. Following that, classes moved to the respective game stations. A buffet of exciting games such as Taboo, Pyramid Game and Charades were organised for the students. They also participated in the level wide Spelling Bee.



Other than the activities on English Day, after-school level activities were also organised throughout the week, ranging from role playing fairy tales with a twist, song writing performances to impromptu speeches. It was indeed a fun and enjoyable week of learning for the whole school!



Twinning Programme

A group of students, accompanied by our teachers, visited Jiangnan Middle School (JNMS) At Wuxi, China, for an immersion programme during the March term break. The annual programme saw a new initiative of having our BMSS basketball team join in the trip and play friendly matches with the host school team. An excellent opportunity for students to experience the teaching and learning environment in China, our students had the chance to attend various classes such as the Chinese, Art and PE lessons. The highlight of our Twinning Programme was the homestay experience in their local buddies' homes. They also had the pleasure of visiting tourist attractions such as the Dragonwell Tea Village, West Lake in Hangzhou, and the Oriental Pearl Radio and TV Tower in Shanghai. This memorable school trip allowed our students to better understand China's history and culture, as well as develop stronger team spirit, independence and adaptability in life.



Annual Cross Country Run

This year, our annual cross-country run took place on 24 February at the Macritchie Reservoir. During this event, students displayed grit and resilience as they persevered to complete the run. Students were determined to earn points for their respective houses.

Hawk House showed their strong competitive spirit by emerging as the Champion House for the second time in a row. Congratulations, Hawk House!



School-Parent Conferences



In Semester 1, the school organised two School-Parent Conferences to update parents and guardians on the level-wide programmes for the year. Held on 4 February, the upper sec conference gave the Year Head an opportunity to outline the school's focus for the upper sec students.

The conference for Sec 2 students was held on 1 April where students and parents were informed of the streaming exercise to be conducted at the end of the year. Both sessions gave parents an opportunity to interact with form teachers. The events allowed the school to maintain close communication with parents and update them on school developments.



Editorial Board

Editors

Ms Samsiah Kushen
Mrs Letchimi Elangovan
Ms Swapna Teckwani
Ms Natalie Cheng

Design and Layout by

Mr Rasyiq Rahman

Upcoming Performing Arts Studio

Merahans are able to look forward to a Performing Arts Studio in Semester 2. The studio serves as a rehearsal venue for the Dance & Drama CCA groups in BMSS. It also doubles up as a conducive learning space during curriculum time. The official opening ceremony of the studio will be held on Speech Day in August.



For more information, please visit our website

www.bukitmerahsec.moe.edu.sg

or scan the QR code below

