Dear parents and students,

July was an intense month, especially for our Sports CCA athletes who trained hard for competitions. At the same time, our Aesthetics CCA performers trained hard for our biennial Synergy Concert, which is particularly significant this year as a prelude to our 60th year celebrations in 2017.

Academic Excellence

Advanced Elective Module

Secondary 3 Express students participated in a 4-day Advanced Elective Module course from 23 to 26 May 2016 in various Polytechnics. These courses, each involving 30 hours of contact time with polytechnic lecturers, gives students an opportunity to apply knowledge learnt to authentic learning contexts and help them discover their individual strengths and interests.

Our Secondary 3 Express students were exposed to the following courses: 3D Modelling and Animation workshop, Mechatronic, Reinventing the Play Experience for Traditional Games, Digital Publishing Course and Stem Cells Technologies for 21st Century Medicine. These course are aligned to industries in Singapore, giving our students a chance to experience the demands of various jobs in these industries.

“I learnt how to design magazines. At first, I thought making a magazine is not a big deal. Previously, I have made comments about magazines, such as ‘It’s not that nice, I can do better than the person who made this.’

After this programme, I’ve changed my mind. Creating a magazine is not as easy as I thought. Some challenges that I faced was learning how to work as a group. Every one of us had different ideas that we wanted to contribute. However, ultimately, we all had to compromise to complete our work.” - Charis Ng, 3A - Digital Publishing Course.

“The AEM course that I attended for the 4 days was ‘Stem Cells Technologies’. The first few days of the course involved a lot of content. We were given a problem and had to find the answers as a team. We were also tasked to present our findings to the rest of the class. It was a very stressful course but it was enriching as I got to experience the real life of a polytechnic student.” - Krishalini, d/o Krishnakumar, 3A - Stem Cells Technologies
Elective Modules

Similar to the Sec 3 Express students, the Sec 3 NA and NT students participated in their corresponding elective modules. Our Junior Chefs prepared some delectable dishes which were served by our Hospitality students, together with mocktails the latter concocted. The Aeronautics students assembled their own drones and showcased their skill flying these drones. The 3D Product Design students and Early Childhood students also shared their learning experience with our teachers.

Engaging Students in Science

The Science Buskers Festival 2016 involves students doing a ‘show and tell’ on a science topic. Our school sent two teams of Sec 2 students to the audition. One team, ‘The Bubbly Duo’, demonstrated how to make square bubbles and create a bubble tower while the other team, “Water Benders”, impressed the judges by demonstrating how to control the flow of water from a bottle with holes, and how to harden a liquid by using more force. ‘Water Benders’ made it into the finals, together with 11 other finalists, and presented their ‘show and tell’ at Vivocity, from 16-17 July. The two buskers were Leon Chia and Dedrick Koh from Sec 2B, guided by their Science teacher, Mr. Roy Tan.

“I found the Buskers really fun as not only did I gain a lot of experience, I also loved the way the kids in the audience loved us so much that after we ended one performance, they came back again to watch us perform. There was even once we were told to move our booth back as our crowd was getting too big! Even though we didn’t win, I think to be the only school in Punggol to get into the finals is already a BIG achievement!”- Leon Chia, 2B

Besides the Science Buskers Festival, our school participated in the 17th ELEMENTZ Science Research Conference. Our students experienced the whole journey of conducting a scientific research, starting from the ideation phase to the presentation phase. Our Upper Secondary team won a Bronze award while our Lower Secondary team emerged with a Silver award.

“Science is about experimentation and not about assuming the data; we have to be patient till we get the sufficient amount of data. We must keep asking ourselves further questions when looking at the data. It was a fun journey!” - Niviya d/o Parkash, 3A
Engaging Students in Literature

Our students took part in the National Schools Literature Festival on 16 July at CHIJ Katong Convent. Our lower secondary students from the ELDDS took part in the book trailer competition, where they showcased their understanding of their Literature text, “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”. They came in 2nd in this competition.

Our upper secondary students took part in 3 debates where they argue about a motion related to their Literature text. The 2 teams from Sec 3 Express won the debates against Bedok Green Secondary School and Serangoon Gardens Secondary School.

"My team and I participated in the set text debate competition based on the book, "Here and Beyond". I learnt the value of sportsmanship during the debate. I also learnt to be more confident in sharing my ideas in front of other people." -Chammi Leca d/o Ramesh, 3B

"This year, we chose to showcase "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas". At the beginning, we had a difficult time trying to act out the drama because the story was set in the past, which is a contrast to modern Singapore. We were nervous and uncertain when we began but with the guidance of our teachers (Ms Jean Ong, Ms Anju Babu and Ms Jaclyn Siow) and the determination of our ELDDS members, we managed to steady our nerves and clinched the second position in the competition." -O’rianna Yew, 2D

Engaging Students through ICT

Since 2014, Punggol Secondary has implemented 1-1 computing, starting with students in Secondary 2. This year, our school students presented their learning experience using ICT at the annual National ICT Sharing organised by Kranji Secondary School. Guided by Ms Tan Shu Yi, our students shared about their creation of a GPS-aided Chinese language audio guide for the school, used during the 2015 Open House. The student presenters were Sharon Lim (Sec 3D), Mika Lim, Lai Kit Mun, and Tan Jun Hern (Sec 3A).

“When we prepared for the presentation, we learnt about our flaws in presenting, and ways to improve them. It took us a lot of practice and courage to go beyond our comfort zone. Before we presented, we observed other schools presenting and learnt from them.” –Mika Lim, 3A
Aesthetics Excellence

For the first time in the history of PSS, our Choir participated in the B-dazzled Show Choir Festival 2016. Show Choir is an emerging art form in Singapore, where a group of people combine choral singing with dance. After 3 months of tiring and gruelling practice sessions, we managed to bag the Top "Diamond" Award as well as "The Best Newcomer Award".

Sports Excellence

Our Volleyball C Division girls beat Yishun Town Secondary to achieve 3rd in the North Zone, while our Volleyball boys achieved 4th in the zone. We are proud of our students for making it to the National rounds.

“During this competition, I learnt to appreciate the value of perseverance and hard work because the amount of effort we put into training paid off and contributed much towards our success. Also, I learnt that teamwork and communication is important, as each and every team member is needed in order to play well in a volleyball match.” –Jonathan Goh, 2D

Student Leaders’ Investiture

On 25 July, Punggol Secondary held the Student Leaders’ Investiture, during which our Secondary 4 student leaders handed over their role and responsibility to the Secondary 3 student leaders. The ceremony ended with the current student leaders taking their pledge to lead and serve the school. The Sec 4 Executive Committee (ExCo) and parents who came to support the ceremony were then invited for a small reception. We would like to thank our Sec 4 student leaders for their service to the school, and to congratulate the newly nominated President (Tanushrithi d/o Murugan, Sec 3 C) and the 8 Vice-Presidents.

Photos by our Multimedia Club
Synergy Concert 2016

Synergy Concert was initiated in 2008 to showcase our students’ talents and passion for the arts, in line with the 5 domains comprising moral, cognitive, physical, social, and aesthetics (德智体群美). This year’s Synergy Concert was especially significant as it marked the beginning of the school’s celebration of our upcoming 60th anniversary in 2017. The “Pei Dao Spirit” brings us on a journey down memory lane to reminisce on how the school started as a Vocational Girls’ School, and how we have created a holistic environment to develop every student, while remaining rooted in the school values of 礼义廉耻 (Propriety, Righteousness, Integrity, & Respect).

The ‘Pei Dao Spirit’ celebrates the school’s 60 years of excellence and resilience in its journey and growth since its establishment. Following the life of Joey, a shy Secondary 2 student who struggles to make friends and achieve good academic results, her personal boundaries are challenged when she meets ‘Pei Dao’, the school’s ethos and values personified in the form of a superhero. Pei Dao encourages her through anecdotes of the school’s history, forcing her to move out of her comfort zone by sharing tales of courageous leaders the school had encountered over the years. With the help of some peers, Joey finally musters enough courage to embrace her love for singing, and finds her voice. Our wish is for all our students to find their voices, which they aptly demonstrated through their performance at Synergy 2016.