

# **GMS(S)>>> PSG LINK <<< PSG**

*A Newsletter of the Parent Support Group at Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)*

## **From the Editor, Catherine Tan**

The year is drawing to a close. Soon the school will bid farewell to its graduating students even as it prepares to receive a new cohort of students next year. In this last issue of the PSG Link for the year, we want to say thank you to all parents who have participated in the various volunteer activities in the school. At the same time, we hope that more parents will step forward to offer their services after reading the articles in this issue.

The closing message by PSG Chairman Eric Wee provides a round up of PSG activities during the second part of the year. This year also witnessed the completion of the school rebuilding project and the PSG would like to congratulate the school management board for overseeing the prompt and successful completion of the project. We bring you reports of the school's 83<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving cum Prize Presentation Day which also witnessed the dedication of the new school campus and the Arts Nite in which parents performed a line dance item. A new PSG member writes to share his first year impressions of being more closely associated with the school. The last article in this issue is an update on the Pupil Welfare Programme .

Thank you for reading the PSG Link and may you have a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

## **Closing Message from Eric Wee, PSG Exco Chairman 2007**

As we are approaching the December holidays of 2007, the Parent Support Group [PSG] Executive Committee and all at GMS (Sec) would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all parents in their unwavering support over the past six years. Parent Volunteers have made it possible for PSG to continuously work with and support GMS (Sec) with their school events that embrace the school vision and core values.

Looking at the bigger picture, this is not just about PSG or about what task we parents have volunteered for over the years. It is more than that; it is about spreading awareness and inspiring actions based on GMS (Sec) core values and vision led by the GMS leaders, pupils and parents, so that all may start thinking and start acting in responsible and effective manner that would drive our GMS youths in a forward direction towards excellence, consistent in competition with major schools.

We are reminded by God that much is given, much is expected. We must take the concept of stewardship of GMS (Sec) and our youths seriously in instilling good values and moulding characters. It is true that all it takes for evil to triumph is for good men and women to sit back and do nothing. Let us get together this coming January 2008 and triumph for God!



On behalf of GMS (Sec) and PSG Executive Committee, I thank parents for all that they have done and look forward to their continuous support for next year, 2008. May God bless each and every one of you this holiday with peace, joy, safety and a good family time together.

*Let us all work together for the good of our children and GMS. Be a parent volunteer by committing at least one day a year.*

**Thanksgiving cum Prize Presentation Day & Dedication of New School Building,  
25th August 2007 by Catherine Tan.**

Congratulation to all parents who attended the above event in which your children received commendations for their various achievements. The Parents Support Group (PSG) would like to thank the school for the kind invitation to be a part of this memorable occasion and the presentation of tokens of appreciation to the members.

We together with other parents and our children eagerly awaiting the completion of the new school building rejoice with the principal, the school staff and the school management board upon the successful and timely completion of the building project.

The Principal, Mr Lim Yan Hock, recounted the humble beginnings of the school- its first 27 students in 1924 commemorated in the 27-point starburst on the new school crest, and paid tribute to God, teachers, parents, the education ministry and well-wishers for the various accomplishments in the school's history to-date.

The Guest of Honour, Bishop Dr Robert Solomon, presided over the school dedication. He reminded all present of the school's Methodist origins and how this heritage can act as a beacon to help students discern and hold on to what is desirable and good in a rapidly changing world. Schools, he iterated, are not just physical structures for the conduct of education, but they also exist for the purpose of building character in young people. A fundamental principle which can be relied upon in the latter undertaking, he emphasized, is trust in God and reverence for His ordinances.

The school choir gave a resounding rendition of 'Antiphonal Alleluia' and 'I will shout! Sing Praise', bringing down the curtain on a solemn but joyous finale to the proceedings. The evening culminated with a simple dinner for student awardees, school staff and invited guests.



Bishop Dr Robert Solomon unveiling the plaque, which marks the official opening of the new school



PSG Exco Catherine & SuFun at the Thanksgiving cum Dedication dinner at the Indoor Sports Hall

## Kelly Lee, PSG Exco member reports on Arts Nite - Tapestry

**"Mummy, in fact you all are not that *aunty* ! Your costumes are so *hip hop*! "**

Parents were once again invited by the school to take part in the Arts Nite this year which was held on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 June 2007 at the Singapore Polytechnic Convention Centre. 12 of us parents gallantly took up the challenge to fly the PSG banner at this year's event where we performed a line dance item.

It was not easy for us to meet for dance practice sessions but we did our best. We were very excited and nervous on the actual nights of the performance itself, perhaps more so than the students. We sang, joked and prayed to calm ourselves, and by God's grace we were able to remember our steps and to coordinate them well enough to give a decent performance. We had a good time together for those two nights.

We will remember the event for the camaraderie we shared rehearsing the dance item and putting together our costumes, even the stage night jitters! A big bonus for me after all the sweat and anxiety was the delightful compliments given by my son, Ian. For a few hours on those two nights, we not only shone but we felt 'young and hip' again!

On behalf of the parents who participated, I would like to say a big thank you to the school for giving parents the honour of participating in this year's Arts Nite. And, to parents whose children will still be in GMS(S) next year, "Do watch out for this event next year and take up the challenge to present an item."



## Robert Leong, new PSG Exco member writes ...

***We learn something new everyday!*** This is a recurring experience for me as a new member of the Executive Committee (Exco) of the Parent Support Group in GMS(S) which I joined at the beginning of this year.

My son, Benjamin, is a secondary 2 student of the school. Prior to joining the PSG, my wife and I had attended several annual school events. My present level of involvement has made me aware that the school is not just concerned with the academic performance of the students, but that it places an equal emphasis on their welfare and character development. More importantly, it has deepened my understanding of the many ways that parents can work together with the school to accomplish these objectives on behalf of our children.

I read the school's website and found out more about the school and the PSG before attending my first PSG Exco meeting at the beginning of the year. I found out that the school organizes numerous activities throughout the year in line with its mission, vision and core values. Thus there is the need for parent volunteers to assist in these activities and a PSG Exco to recruit and coordinate parent volunteers throughout the year. I also found out that the PSG

Exco also initiates other activities, for example, fund raising for the recently concluded school rebuilding project and student welfare activities. I am particularly touched by the student welfare programme whereby the PSG arranged for complimentary snacks such as pizzas and curry puffs which were distributed on a quarterly basis. I hope your children enjoyed the ice cream that was distributed recently this term.

I am also very impressed with the partnership and courtesies offered by the school leadership to the PSG Exco. The Principal, Vice-Principal and a liaison teacher officer attend the bi-monthly Exco meetings. I see them as a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to working with parents to provide holistic learning experiences for our children.

The enthusiasm of my fellow parent exco members also stands out as a challenge to me. There is much teamwork among them even though they come from different backgrounds and have different temperaments. Here I am reminded by the oft noted Christian observation that it is not so much what we know and are capable of, but how willing we are to serve in ways big and small.

I would like to close this personal reminisce by sharing my experience of the secondary one orientation programme and how the focus has shifted from parents minding their children's academic development alone to the equally important task of building meaningful relationships with their children. The reality of today's dual income families has left parents with little time for their children and community work. We however can come together under the auspices of the PSG to support and to encourage one another towards the things that really matter. We are blessed to bless.

**Reflections on the PSG Pupil Welfare Project by PSG Exco Cindy Neo (in Chinese)  
- translated by Chng SP, teacher liaison officer**

As a member of the PSG Exco, I am honoured to be given the opportunity to pen my thoughts on the Pupil Welfare Project.

All parents acknowledged that school life is an important phase in a child's life. And I am glad to hear from my children that they are happy and privileged to be in Geylang Methodist. Here, the school leaders and teachers do their best to create a culture of care and concern for the students. In line with the school effort, the PSG decided to start the Pupil Welfare Project whereby parents come forward to contribute either in sponsorship of snacks or in service. The pupils were given pizzas in Term 1, chicken burgers in Term 2, curry buns in Term 3 and finally ice cream in Term 4.

I was able to be present on two occasions, the first being the event where a friend of the Principal, Mr Edwin Lim sponsored the curry buns. The minute the recess bell rang, the students made their way eagerly towards us to collect their share. From the faces of the students, the parent volunteers could see their enjoyment and satisfaction. The second occasion was the sponsorship of Wall's paddlepop cup ice cream by Mr William Tan, parent of Alicia Tan (Faith 1-4). Together with other parent volunteers, we called out to the students to queue up for the ice cream. What an exciting and refreshing experience to be an "ice cream woman"! I told myself I would do whatever little I can. I hereby urge all parents to consider being a part of the GM family to help build up and reach out to the teenagers. Let us get together for the young lives in GM.

## 家长感言

作为芽笼美以美中学的一位家长会成员，我深感荣幸，能有机会在这里发表一下我的感想。

实话说，父母的心里都盼望着自己的孩子长大后有成就，望子成龙。教育在人生阶段扮演着重要的角色，所以学校尤其重要。我儿子每次都告诉我：“妈咪，我很幸运能在这间学校读书，真的！”我也有同感，学校的校长，老师和家长们都尽心尽力地为这个学校的学生创造一切，让这些国家的未来对学校有归属感，认同感，热爱母校。

今年学校一连举办了几次活动，都令我印象深刻，有一次是在八月，校长的朋友

Mr Edwin Lim 赞助了一批咖喱包给全校的学生，那场面很是热闹。下课的铃声一响起，学生们像一群小鸟似的向我们飞过来，在分发咖喱包的摊位前，叽叽喳喳地排队拿点心来吃，有些要两份的还要求不同口味。可是为了全体考虑，Mr Edwin Lim 赞助的是咖喱味，也是 halal 的，真是设想周到，学生们都吃得津津有味。

另一次是九月，是由一位家长赞助的冰淇淋，我和几位家长会的朋友也都参与了，场面真是热闹，我感到很兴奋，因为这是我第一次尝试做“ice-cream woman”，心情紧张和激动，看着那一张张充满活力的笑脸，活泼的肢体语言，我也感到青春活力十足。我暗下决心：只要我能做到的，一定尽力。

在这里我也要呼吁一下：各位家长和家长会成员，大家团结一致，有钱出钱，有力出力，把这所学校打造得有声有色，让学生们更热爱这所学校，长大后成为国家的栋梁，作为学校的一分子也会感到无上光荣。