

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

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

Closing Message from PSG Exco Chairman, Robert Leong

Dear fellow parents,

It has been a meaningful and eventful 2008! Parent Volunteers (PV) have helped our teenagers in numerous activities of Geylang Methodist School (Secondary).

Teenagers have felt the parental love through PVs helping out at camps and National Education Learning Journey; sponsorship and distribution of 'love food' like ice cream, curry puff and chocolates for the 4 Pupil Welfare Days. The other interesting activities conducted are listed in the school's website.

For this coming year-end holiday, we encourage parents of Secondary 1 and 2 students to spend time with your teenagers. This is a very important time of their life. There is much impact on the character and behavior of our teenagers. These years can also be a challenging time for parents when a teenager is not doing well academically or whose identity search leads to 'rebellious' behaviour. This is part of a phase that some teenagers go through. Thus they need love, time, effort and open communication. We also need to spend time to maximize their strength to boost their self esteem and this will naturally result in academic improvements.

A recent development is that parents can request for prayer support by accessing blog <http://ptprayer.blogspot.com/>. Do lookout for 2009 Parent Support Group (PSG) calendar on GMS(S) website and commit in small or big ways to partner the school to help your teenagers! Contact Kelly at 91886558 to be involved in terms of time or monetary sponsorship.

PSG Exco wishes you a wonderful and meaningful year end!

2 Parent Volunteers' recount on the National Education Learning Journey

- **"The Battlefield Tour" 22 May 2008(Sec 2), by Mrs Sandra Teoh**
- **"Malay Civilisation Trail with Indian Cultural Aspects" on 22 May 2008(Sec 1) by Mrs Patricia Tham-Neo**

Wow! What an interesting and enriching day it was accompanying a Secondary 2 class on their tour of the Labrador Battery, Bukit Chandu and Kranji War Cemetery as a Parent Volunteer.

Originally, I had volunteered to accompany a different class for their half-day outing. However, on the day of the outing, I was encouraged by the PSG Exco to accompany a Secondary 2 class for the full-day battlefield tour instead. They said I would not regret it and they were absolutely right!

Our first stop was the Labrador Battery located in Labrador Park. Enroute to the park, the guide explained the importance of the Labrador Battery for the protection of Singapore; what made up a battery site and what happened during World War 2. The students were told that a gun battery site refers to a collection of 2 or more artillery guns. When we arrived at the site, we were shown where the guns were originally placed and the views from the observation areas and the ammunition stores. Although the guns are no longer there, we were able to walk through the tunnels to the underground storerooms and see the areas where the soldiers worked. You could also visualize how the ammunition was hoisted up from the underground store to the guns.

Next stop after lunch was Bukit Chandu. The museum is housed in a beautifully restored old colonial house on the hill. Here, we learnt how the brave Malay Regiment fought the Japanese to their very end on this hill and highlights of the young 2nd Lt Adnan Bin Saidi and his men who sacrificed their lives to put up a heroic 48-hour struggle. The key highlights of the museum were the multimedia presentation called "Sounds of Battle" and the hologram show.

While enroute to our last stop, Kranji War Cemetery, our guide told us the history of the war cemetery. She also shared some of the soldiers' brave deeds and told us she would point out their headstones to us when we were at Kranji. This was my first visit to Kranji War Cemetery. It was an awesome yet poignant sight to see the 4,500 graves. The place looked so peaceful and well kept. Most of the headstones had names, age, rank, serial number, regimental details and date of death whilst some were those of unknown soldiers. The main Memorial had the names of over 24,000 men and women whose bodies were never found. To close off the day, a remembrance ceremony was held with all the students gathering to observe a minute's silence after the bugle player finished playing. Everyone was given a copy of the Japanese surrender documents as a souvenir.

I am so glad I volunteered for this trip. In my years of helping out at my three children's schools, this is the best outing I have been. History was brought to life and I personally learnt so much from the outing. The children of today are fortunate to have such outings. I would also like to thank the school and the PSG Exco for supplying volunteers with school caps, snacks and drinks which came in handy.



22 May 2008 marked my initiation as a parent volunteer at GM(S). I accompanied my son, his classmates and teachers for a Learning Journey specially organized for Secondary 1 students.

The half-day programme entitled 'Malay Civilisation Trail with Indian Cultural Aspects' started with a briefing by an external training provider on the places we would be visiting on this journey. The objective was to highlight to our students the contributions of the Malay and Indian community to Singapore.

Our first stop was a visit to Sultan Mosque where the guide from 'Singapore History Consultants' explained to our students the 5 pillars of Islam. The highlight of this sector was the Malay wedding ceremony where a pair of students, one male and one female donned on traditional costumes to play the role of bride and groom. This activity was rated with a high fun quotient as the students enjoyed teasing the 'Bride and Bridegroom' mercilessly.

Next stop was 'Little India', an area that spans Tekka and Serangoon Road. Here, our students learnt Indian culture through the use of their 5 senses. We smelt, touched and tasted naan and papadam. At the sari shop, we were treated to a sari demonstration where one lucky female student was taught how to wear the sari. For her participation, she was given the sari as a goodwill gesture.



The climax of the journey was the Asian Civilisation Museum. We explored the numerous galleries and learnt about the founding of modern Singapore. Through studying the ancient artifacts, we realized that the Malay and Indian community had left us a rich historical legacy. This was evident as the artifacts reflected the layers of cultural influences the early Malays and Indians had on ancient mainland and maritime South East Asia.

It was indeed a fruitful and interesting journey, one that all of us enjoyed tremendously. Throughout the visit, the teachers were very

hospitable, warm and friendly. I would not hesitate to participate in the next learning journey as it not only provided me an opportunity to get to know my son's teachers and classmates but it also enabled me to acquire a better appreciation of the cultures of our Malay and Indian friends.

PSG Vice Chairman, Chan Su Fun reports on Thanksgiving cum Prize Presentation, 2 August 2008

This year, GMS(S) celebrates her 84th year of Thanksgiving cum Prize Presentation Day on Saturday, 2 August 2008 at the school hall. The Thanksgiving service honoured God's 84 years of grace, mercy and steadfastness. The school further commemorates this celebration by making a beautiful programme card in the shape of the cross that was given to all invited guests. Students from the graduating classes and prize winners were also present.



The celebration started off with music and dance performances by GM's school band and Chinese Dance Club. It was followed by worship and prayer.

The Principal gave the opening address followed by exhortation from the Guest of Honor, Rev. James Nagulan, President of Emmanuel Tamil Annual Conference. Invited guests were treated further with two songs from the school choir before the presentation of awards.

Students from all levels were recognized for their academic achievements and students in leadership role were awarded for their contributions. There were also four special awards: Eric Chan Award to acknowledge students who take the initiative to serve the community; ES Lau Award to recognize the top GEC O level student; Doreen Chan Award for the Head and Vice-Head Prefects and the Principal Book Prize to recognize the top GCE N level student. It was indeed a very proud moment for these award recipients.

As in all celebrations, Thanksgiving cum Prize Presentation Day ends with a sumptuous lunch held at the school indoor sports hall. All guests were treated to a multi-racial selection of food and dessert.

Indeed, as in the Thanksgiving worship, Psalm 100: 4, 5

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Reflection on Partner's Hobby Day 24 May 2008 - A letter from Parent Volunteer, Adeline Goh





To: GMSS

Re: PARENT HOBBY DAY is 24 MAY 2008

Thank you for letting me be part of the Parent Hobby Day Event.

I really enjoyed this event, especially the cooking class lead by Mr. Lim where I had the opportunity to learn to bake a muffin with lots of fun.

I have also been able to participate in the line dancing jam but was unfortunately not able to join in the Karaoke session due to the lack of time.

It could be great if the event is for a full day. In addition, I would like to suggest that a few stalls be set-up for some empty stomach to make it a really perfect event in the future.

Adeline Goh

Adeline Goh

Parent of Amelia Sug P2/1 &

Edel Sug P4/2 &

PSG of GMSS 14.08.2008

A Run-down of PSG Pupil Welfare Days 2008, by PSG Treasurer Kelly Lee and Editor, Karin Koh

A big round of applause to all Parents of GMS(S) students for your great participation and contribution. If you recalled, we set out in the beginning of 2008 to embark on this project "Pupil Welfare Day" and we delivered the results with great success. Here is a quick snapshot of the 4 pupil welfare days (PWD) in 2008.

Objective:

Create awareness in students that parents of GMS(S) care about their welfare. This is expressed through providing "comfort" food or relevant items for the entire school cohort on Welfare Day.

Specifics:

- 4 welfare days per year, 1 per school term
- Total amount spent for Pupil Welfare Day annually is around \$6000/-
- Require monetary sponsorship from parents of GMS(S) & continue search for corporate sponsorship
- Food distribution during recess time on Welfare day by Parent Volunteers

Term 1 PWD

Date: 4th March 2008
Item: Donuts
Quantity: 1500 pieces

PVs' and Pupils' feedback: During recess, we distributed different flavoured Donuts to the pupils. Some were shy but the joy on their faces made us happy.



Term 2 PWD

Date: 23rd May 2008
Item: New Zealand Ice-cream
Quantity: 1500 pieces

PVs' and Pupils' feedback: The pupils were so excited, screaming; "Wow! Ice-Cream!" as they queued orderly for it. Majority of the pupils preferred Chocolate to Cookie n Cream and we're pleased that they appreciated our efforts.



Term 3 PWD

Date: 22nd August 2008
Item: Old Chang Kee's Curry Puffs
Quantity: 1500 pieces

PVs' and Pupils' feedback: "Yummy Yummy, Hot Curry Puffs!" This was announced during the assembly that Old Chang Kee's Curry Puffs would be given during recess sponsored by PSG. The pupils rushed towards us but queued orderly for their curry puffs. Some came back for a second serving which resulted in a shortage for the pupils in the 2nd recess. We felt sorry for those who missed it but happy that they enjoyed our treat very much.



Term 4 PWD

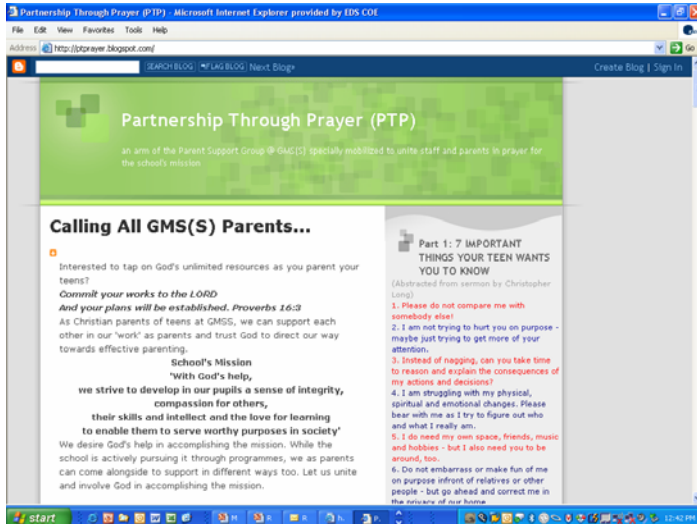
PWD date: 24 September 2008
Item: Nutymax Chocolate Snack
Quantity: 1500 pieces

PVs' and Pupils' feedback: This time the pupils were honest and took only one per pupil. The pupils have matured and learned to be polite, understanding and last but not least, honest. We had a great time interacting with the pupils, talking and laughing. Their smiles and the happiness made it all worth while. It was our final distribution for the year and we hope this will continue for many years to come.



Join our Partnership through Prayers (PTP) group

- from Parent Volunteer, Catherine Lim and PSG Secretary, Wong Seok Hong



Objective:

To mobilize parents and teachers to pray in unity for the school's mission

Specifics:

- Prayer meetings on Tues 12-1pm (week 1 and week 3 every month)
- Praying items from parents, PSG Exco and school staff as posted in blog
- More details on PTP blog <http://ptprayer.blogspot.com>

Happy Holidays and Catch-up in 2009..... from Karin Koh, Editor

It has been an extremely eventful 2008 for all of us and we couldn't have done it without your unassuming support and generous contributions. I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the newsletter which gave a good run down of the events which our parent volunteers participated actively. Hopefully, it will trigger your interest in future PSG activities.

As 2008 comes to a closure, I wish all parents and children a most wonderful holiday season. Don't forget to join us in 2009 to be a key part of our children's journey to success. Let us have your feedback or simply give us a refresher update by filling in our PV registration/survey form (**next page**) to re-kindle your interest in being a Parent Volunteer; highlighting your interest areas of participation on specific activities or sponsorship.

If you have any suggestion for the next newsletter or ideas on programmes that we, parents can embark for our GMS(S) students, please contact Karin (96186067) or write to karin_lim@hotmail.com. Cheers!



**Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)
Parent Support Group**

Parent Volunteer Particulars Form 2009

Name: Dr/ Mr/ Mrs/ Ms _____

Home Tel: _____ Office Tel: _____ Mobile: _____

Email address : _____

My child/children studying in Geylang Methodist School (Secondary):

Name of Child: _____ Class: _____

Name of Child: _____ Class: _____

The Parent Support Group invites you to be parent volunteers.

Please tick the relevant box(es) for school activities where you would like to volunteer your services:

- Accompanying pupils on Learning Journeys (May)
- Sub-editor/writer for PSG Link Newsletter [published twice a year, in May and October]
- Helping out at Pupil Welfare Days (termly)
- Study Night duty (for graduating pupils) [August – October 7pm to 9.30pm]
- Prayer Group - [Tuesdays 12pm to 1pm]
- Photography at school event
- Event Sponsorship for Sec 3 Camp, Arts Nite, Prom Nite, Pupil Welfare Project

- Supply food / drinks for pupils on rehearsal and/or performance days / Camp
- Donation for Pupil Welfare Day Project
- Door Gifts / Prizes for Prom Nite

- Line Dance
- Others, please specify: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your partnership.