



THE THERESIAN TRIBUNE

ISSUE 1 SEMESTER 1 2020

Preamble

In our first issue of 2020, get to know **Mrs Jenny Leong**, newly-posted to us as **Principal**, and why she thinks Prayer is the superpower that will change the world! Find out more about what our **School Staff Developer (Mr Bryan Lim)**, **Senior Teacher Educational Support (Mr Dill)**, and **AVA Technician (Mr Kua)** do with such zeal for effective teaching and learning to take place smoothly. We take a look at what our students have been learning beyond the classroom this semester, and also hear from a newly-minted member of the Parent Support Group about what she thinks of the Light on the Hill!

We wish you good health and cheer as you enjoy the issue, and remind you in all earnestness to not crowd your colleagues' favourite corners in STC! #socialdistancing

Yours in this journey of love, no matter the distance,

The Newsletter team

My favourite corner in STC is



Our little demonstration organic edible garden
~ Ms Emily Koh

Canteen when it's empty
~ Ms Angela Yang

Staff Resource Room
~ Mr Steven Lim

The gym
~ Ms Wong Li Ling

Editor's note

Dear Theresian community,

we are excited and proud to launch the revamped Theresian Newsletter with issue 2020/1, Journeying Together with Love.

Beyond updates of events and activities that took place in the semester, we hope to provide content which puts a spotlight on what each section of our community is up to. After all, there really is no better way to appreciate those in our midst other than by getting to know them better. What makes you laugh? What motivates you? What do you stand for? And how do these things shape you as a Theresian student, staff, alumni or parent?

Our Theresian Newsletter is about Voices and Perspectives. It is also about the Quirks and Delights of our everyday life. Let us gain Inspiration and Energy from the unique individuals whose little lights make up the blazing Light on the Hill. We hope you find yourselves included and represented!

Please enjoy the issue, and let us know what else you would like to see featured. Thank you & God bless.



I like it there because

It is alive, vibrant and filled with diversity. I go there when I need to be reminded of important truths: the plants and insects show me that Nature is a patient and resilient teacher, and that it takes so many different parts to create a strong and beautiful whole. Some parts of this garden are wild: I love that Life in all its splendour cannot also all be tamed and cultivated; there exists a dynamic tension between boundaries and freedom. Finally, the garden reminds me that we must care: the land feeds us, and in return we must take care of the soil. I will always treasure the life-giving learning that has taken place in our garden; to share memories with students and to become a student again has been such a privilege.
~ Ms Emily Koh

I enjoy doing my workout there as it is usually not crowded and it gives me personal space and time to do some reflection on my teaching.
~ Ms Wong Li Ling

It is a comfortable place for meetings and meals with colleagues.
~ Mr Steven Lim

It is where I can recharge, be away from the noise and have some alone time, admiring the greenery :)
~ Ms Angela Yang

MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT

In January and February 2020, Secondary 1 and 2 Chinese Language students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the unique cultural activities of blow-painting and umbrella painting as part of this year's Mother Tongue Fortnight. The Mother Tongue Fortnight is organised in order to give the students an opportunity to explore and experience the Chinese culture and appreciate its associated art forms. Also, it gives students the chance to connect art with speaking their Mother Tongue language. A win-win situation on all fronts!

Mdm Zhang Hai Ying, Teacher



A superpower you'd like to have, and how you would change the world with it.

Actually, we can all have this superpower. It is called prayer. As a Catholic, I believe that prayer can work miracles in our lives, even when it may seem the most desperate or desolate of times. A simple, heartfelt prayer is a superpower which we can exercise any time, any day. Use it more often!



Mrs Jenny Leong
Principal

3 things about yourself that you'd like to share with everyone

1. I was in all girls' schools for my primary and secondary education. My first experience of a co-ed classroom occurred on my first day of JC1.
2. I like travelling to South Korea and I have been there for winter at least 13 times already.
3. I love cats but I can't keep one because I have asthma! I love their feline grace and independent spirit. In Seoul, I like visiting their cat cafes.

Your first impression of STC was

I met some of our student leaders at the NSG Closing Ceremony which was held in STC last year. They impressed me as confident, mature and welcoming. I must say that since joining STC, I have found our Thesians to be caring, sweet-natured and persons of integrity. You are a joy to be around and it is wonderful to be part of this school.

Your favourite book and/or movie and why

I don't have a favourite book or movie and it is very hard for me to choose but I have 3 all-time favourite authors:

I have read all the novels and short stories by **Haruki Murakami** as I love his evocative style of writing and his touch of magical realism.

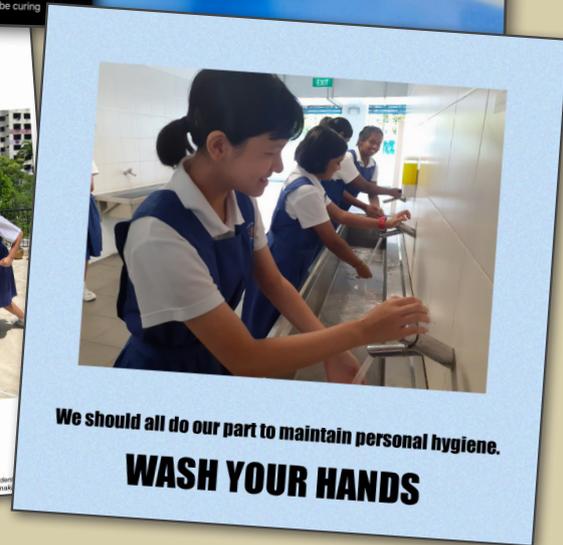
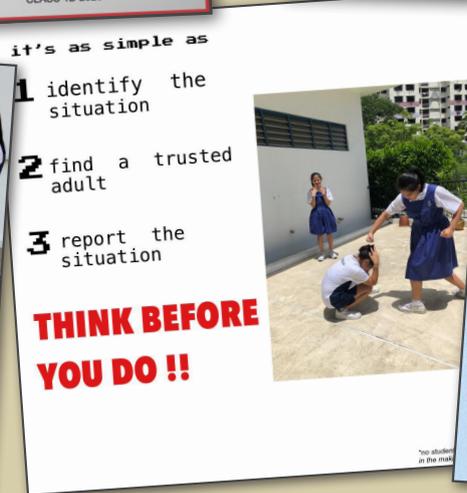
Maurizio di Giovanni's detective novels are also excellent. I love his Commissario Ricciardi series as it is about a talented, aloof Commissario with his tortured history, in love with a woman that he cannot have. He has a magical gift of seeing and hearing the dead person at his/her moment of death, which he uses to solve crimes.

My third favourite author is **Andrea Camilleri**, whose detective protagonist is grumpy, overweight, surrounded by enthusiastic but distracted colleagues, and who solves crimes intuitively, often right at the last moment in an inspired moment.

SECONDARY 1 EL CAMPAIGN POSTERS

As part of the Secondary One English Language programme, students are introduced to the world of visual texts. They learn about the purpose, target audience and key messages behind each visual text. The Secondary One English teachers facilitated hands-on learning by having each Secondary One class create their own

campaign posters which had to address issues they commonly encounter in school. These include latecoming, bullying and other scenarios frequently experienced by Thesians. Here are some of their creative and meaningful works!



STUDENT VOICES

What is something you appreciate about your form class now that you're in Secondary 3?

Harshita Reji, 3J

We are probably more sensible and ready to listen to our form teachers than we were before. Even though there are still differences between us as classmates, I realised that this means that we bring different strengths and abilities to the same class.

Which subjects spark joy in you and why?

Science because it fascinates me and makes me want to discover more about the world around me!

One useful piece of advice for surviving Secondary 3 is...

to be open to feedback from your teachers because it is important to learn how to improve yourself. And the teachers are older and wiser than us so they can advise us properly.

Sinead Eva Portia D/O Shawn Ganasan, 3MM

We are a lot more mature now that we are in Secondary 3 and more understanding towards each other, meaning a lot fewer conflicts between classmates! I appreciate how we are more caring towards each other and can work as a more united team now compared to when we were Secondary One students.

I really enjoy the Humanities subjects such as Social Studies and Literature because they help me to think about life from different people's points of view. I think this is important because I'm learning to have empathy for others.

to be consistent in doing your homework, if not things will pile up and you would end up drowning in way too much revision to complete!

Qistina Camelia Binte Rahim, 3R

3R has grown closer as a class over the last three years. Even though we are not a perfect class, I enjoy the company of my classmates during recess and outside of school too! I am also grateful that my form teachers, Mr Toh and Mrs Gomez have been with 3R since our Secondary One days.

English is my current favourite subject because of all the interesting discussions that we have. It also helps me to learn how to communicate better.

manage your time wisely! There are many things that you need to do such as lead your CCA and complete your homework. So, it's good to build up this good habit of time management.



What is the role of a Senior Teacher Educational Support (ESU)? What do you do in your scope of work?

As a Senior Teacher in Educational Support (ESU), I am responsible for the development of our teachers' capacity in designing inclusive and engaging lessons for low progress learners. Low progress learners (LPLs) are students whose learning is hampered by three main issues - poor mental health, Special Educational Needs and low socioeconomic status. At any given time, LPLs sit among students without learning difficulties in our classes. Teachers worry about how best to address all learning needs in the class, without leaving any student behind.

As an ST in ESU, this means having to synergise the expertise of our school's dedicated team of TSNs (Teachers trained in Special Educational Needs), AED Learning Behavioural Support, Teacher Counsellors, Year Heads and IP heads. I am also working on helping teachers believe that designing lessons that provide effective educational support for low progress learners without slowing down the learning of others is possible, and showing them how exactly to do it.

Together, we can demonstrate that by making simple tweaks to our daily teaching routines, our lessons can become more inclusive, engaging and more importantly, effective for all students.

What do you most enjoy/ find most meaningful about your role as ST ESP in STC?

This role offers me the chance to work with all subject teachers across all levels in order to create support strategies.

I love the opportunity of bringing teachers together and allowing their different knowledge and skills to converge for the overall benefit of our students, especially, the low progress learners.

Tell us about how you go about ensuring the well-being and needs of low progress learners and students with SEN in STC.

Research has shown that both low progress learners and students without learning difficulties thrive in learning environments that contain the following five teaching and learning strategies:

1. Inclusiveness
2. Multi-sensory differentiated teaching
3. Autonomy
4. Growth Mindset
5. Employability skills development

This is the IMAGE framework for educational support which addresses the most pervasive physical, cognitive, social and emotional challenges faced by all three groups of low progress learners. With this framework, teachers now know that we need to be more deliberate in turning these strategies into the main features of our daily lessons. My role includes working with the staff developer and school leaders to facilitate our staff's growth by equipping them with knowledge and skills to be effective providers of educational support.

We are in the business of creating hope in each of our students. Without hope, our students cannot even begin their struggle to become better people. I dream of a day when all Theresian teachers are the epitome of confident, engaging and inclusive educators.

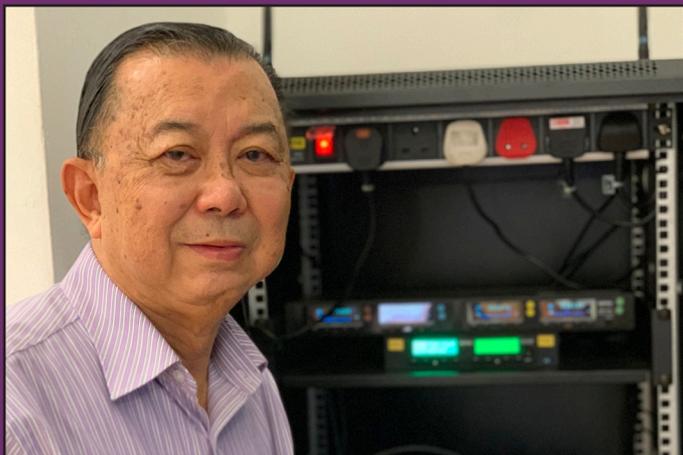
COVID 19

STAY SAFE. BE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE.

2m | Remember to keep a safe distance from others. | 2m

Mr. Kua Siew Sang

AVA Technician



What is the role of an AVA Technician? What do you do in your scope of work?

The role of an AVEM is to provide AV support for the school programmes and activities whenever necessary. My scope of work includes:

- Maintenance of AV equipment
- Proposal of annual budget
- Upgrading the AV department by purchasing new equipment and accessories (mic, portable PA, interlink cables, etc)
- Maintaining an AV inventory to do the stocktaking and condemnation of old and faulty equipment (more than 5 years old and beyond economical repair)
- Maintaining a loan book for items loaned to staff
- Liaising with the AV vendor (e.g. AV media, etc)

What do you most enjoy/ find most meaningful about your role as AVEM in STC?

I have been doing the AV job as a CCA since 1967 when I first started as a Physics teacher in Holy Innocents' High School. I retired in 2005, but I have continued working as a full time AV technician till now. It has been 53 years!

I have full satisfaction when the job is successfully carried out. It is a contribution to the school and everyone!

What are some of your most memorable experiences and biggest challenge overseeing AVA in our school?

I am proud that STC is one of a few other schools which has a full range and variety of AV equipment and accessories!

I am also very happy to have a very supportive RO (namely, Mr Ng Kok Huat) working with me.

I am happy whenever school events like our school mass, Chinese New Year concert and National Day celebrations are successfully carried out.

The biggest challenge for me most of the time is when external vendors and personnel visit our school for performances, bringing with them laptops, software, or accessories (adaptor, USB-3 drives, HDMI cables, etc) which result in faulty sound or projection. It will also be problematic when vendors arrive late resulting in insufficient time to test the AV system. Last minute requests to use the AV equipment for a school event or activity (e.g. hand set, gun mic) is also challenging for me.

STUDENT VOICES



What are the best things about STC so far?

The biggest challenge I face as a Secondary 1 STC student is...

My favourite new subject is...

What I love the most about my new class is

Ngui Jo Yi
Joey, 1R

The people in STC are all very friendly! I feel welcome here.

Learning English Language because all my life, I have only spoken in Chinese.

Computer Applications because I find it really interesting to learn how to use the computer.

that we like to work hard together and nobody bullies anybody.

Tan Xin Hui,
1R

The teachers are very kind to us and are encouraging.

Learning so many new subjects because some of them are difficult for me to understand.

Food and Consumer Education because I enjoy learning to cook and getting to eat the dishes I have made.

that we can try our best together even when work is challenging.

Laetitia Lim
Ruoyun, 1J

Being in the same class as some of my best friends from primary school and getting to meet more people.

Coping with the longer hours at school which makes me really tired. Also, trying to finish all my homework on time!

Food and Consumer Education because I never knew that cooking would be such an important skill to learn, plus I like to eat what I've cooked in school.

that we all have different interests and hobbies but we can still get along and cooperate with one another.



**What is the role of a School Staff Developer?
What do you do in your scope of work?**

The School Staff Developer ensures that the training and professional development (PD) programmes of the school are customised to the needs of the staff, while supporting the attainment of school goals.

Specifically, the SSD plays the following roles in school:

- a planner and designer for professional development who ensures training and PD programmes are customised to the staff needs,
- a champion for staff learning who facilitates training for teachers,
- an on-site coach and mentor who works collaboratively with Senior Teachers and Heads of Departments to mentor teachers and to guide them in developing their careers,
- a resource person with a source of expertise of good teaching practices, and
- a staff well-being sponsor.

What do you most find most meaningful about your role as SSD in STC?

In my role as SSD, I enjoy the process of talking to my colleagues and showing them care and concern, be it in their professional development, career progression or well-being.

While most KP roles are student-centric and student-focused, my role is staff-centric and staff-focused, allowing me to support the front-liners who positively shape and impact students' lives.

Tell us about staff development and wellbeing in STC.

Among the three schools that I have worked in, STC is easily the most collegial one with a strong culture of care. Many staff are not only colleagues but also friends. From my perspective, well-being in STC is generally well taken care of, as we have incorporated little things that make a positive difference to the various aspects of staff wellbeing, such as the provision of food and fruits, a music player and aroma diffuser in the staff lounge, birthday greetings and vouchers, a staff gratitude board and cards, staff innovation board, etc.

Having grown significantly in professional development, it remains important that staff takes this seriously as it helps us to constantly sharpen our saw and hone our craft so that we can help our students learn and grow in a nurturing environment.

Over the years, we have grown in areas such as the Integral Pedagogy Process, Collaborative Learning (BUILD), Inquiry-based Learning, Differentiated Instruction, Assessment for Learning, and Skillful Teaching, thanks to our Senior Teachers' fantastic work in levelling us up in these pedagogies.

Our focus for the past few years has been to tap on our collective professional knowledge and wisdom, using teacher-collaboration and lesson visits to learn good instructional practices. This will help build an STC professional learning community where we freely open up both classroom and self to good ideas, suggestions and feedback. By acting as 'growth buddies', we help each other improve our classroom practice. For those of us who have taken this step, significant progress has been made on a whole; we have become better learners and more skilful teachers, while student engagement and learning has also improved.

I thank all staff for their support in my 39-month stint as the SSD so far. Let us continue to support and encourage one another as we enhance staff well-being through a positive work environment, and empower staff to contribute to the school and the growth of others through collaborative platforms.

THROUGH OUR EYES

REVISED TERM 3

2nd JUNE 2020
to
19th JULY 2020

TERM 3 PART 1

MID-TERM 3 BREAK 1
20th JULY 2020
to
26th JULY 2020

27th JULY 2020
to
6th SEPT 2020

TERM 3 PART 2

TERM 3 BREAK
6th SEPT 2020
to
13th SEPT 2020



STUDENT VOICES

Koh Siang En Glennice, Le Ann Loh Jia Ying, 3C 3B

Describe your new form class.

Quiet, geeky and bookish with a secret crazy side all rolled into one class.

We are an energetic and diverse bunch of chatterboxes learning to get along.

I love my new class because....

We share a similar interest in many subject areas such as the sciences and mathematics. It was not like this when I was in lower secondary.

There are many familiar faces from my lower secondary class. Also, there are classmates who are new to me and I have enjoyed learning more about them.

Which subjects spark joy in you and why?

Mathematics, simply because I find a lot of satisfaction in solving problems correctly, and I like working with numbers in the first place.

Though I am not good at it, I am beginning to like Chemistry more because it is fascinating to learn about many different types of chemical reactions. I didn't know that so many of these are part of everyday life!

One useful piece of advice for surviving Secondary 3 is...

don't be too hard on yourself while adjusting to your new class and new workload. Adjustment takes time and you will get there!

to be open to making new friends who were not previously in your class. It's okay to branch out from your cliques and connect with someone new. You will be surprised!

My favourite corner in STC is

The School Hall

~ Mrs Brenda Tan



I like it there because

It is where I get to see my students at the start of each day and exchange our "Good Morning" greetings.

~ Mrs Brenda Tan

Ms Ong Hwee Ling

Parent of Sec. 1 student

Two reasons why you joined the STC Parent Support Group

Joining the Parent Support Group (PSG) allows me to take an active part in my daughter's learning. I am able to better connect with her as we share about some of her school activities in our daily conversations. I also get the opportunity to contribute to the school and help enrich the students' lives.

Your first impression of STC was

My first impression of STC was that the students are reflective learners. I was very impressed to learn that students begin each school day with silence. Even now, I remember the simple but wise phrase inscribed on the wall of the school hall: "Pay attention to the inner silence".

Changes you have seen in your daughter since she started secondary school

I have noticed a renewed sense of enthusiasm when it comes to her learning. My daughter has also been more forthcoming about her school experience. All these changes, though subtle, do indicate that she is enjoying school. To me, that is important. Real learning can only take place when a student is engaged.

Advice you would give to fellow parents of Secondary One students

My daughter is my first and only child. So, I am hardly in a position to give advice as I have the same or perhaps even less parenting experience than fellow parents.

However, I would like to share something that a close friend once told me – every child is a work in progress. It is important to have faith and let your child experience the ups and downs in life. Mistakes are inevitable and every one of us learns through mistakes. Be with your daughter while she charges forward. Even when she slips and falls, take heart that every experience has its lesson, and that there is a reason for everything that happens in life.

Like what was featured?

Tell us what you want to see!

Teachers, share your marking essentials here:

<http://gg.gg/stcnews20201>

