

PTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN 2022

Background

The SJI Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) was formed in 1969. It is a registered association with the Registrar of Societies, with both parents and staff as members and it was set up to benefit all our pupils.

The PTA is 54 years old this year. It is one of the few schools that has a PTA unlike other schools that has a PSG (Parent Support Group).

The PTA Management Committee (PTA MC) had set up sub-committees to help run and manage the various activities. In 2022, unlike 2020 and 2021, the PTA was able to carry out more activities that had been curtailed the previous two years' due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are the activities that were carried out in 2022

PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The SJI Junior PTA began 2022 with the AGM which was held on 26 February via Zoom. The AGM was attended by over 100 parents and teachers. The members were informed of the activities that were carried out by the PTA's Management Committee in 2021. The event also saw the new management committee for 2022- 2023 being elected into office. Mr Mark Lim was re-elected as the PTA president.

There was also a workshop for parents conducted by Mr. Peter Chua, Senior Consultant of Franklin Covey Singapore. The topic was "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families®". It was held after the AGM proper.

Project GOOD

Project GOOD stands for Gift Of One Dollar. This annual project by the school's Religious and Moral Education (RME) Staff Committee was organised during recess from 11 to 13 April during the season of Lent to encourage pupils to share God's love and blessings by donating generously. The project was supported by the PTA Management Committee Members who manned the donation station during all the recesses for the three days. This year, **Project GOOD** proceeds of \$1,856.45 went towards supporting **Charities Week 2022**, an annual fundraising campaign to empower the work of Caritas Singapore Catholic charities that serve a diverse group of marginalised brothers and sisters, including low-income families, children, youths-at-risk, elderly, the incarcerated, people with life limiting illnesses, those with physical disabilities, people with mental health, and low-wage migrant workers.

Appreciating our Migrant Workers

“Appreciating our Migrant Workers”, a community outreach project held during the Easter season, was part of our celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the La Salle Brothers’ Arrival in Asia. Our tie-up with Migrant Workers’ Centre (MWC) kicked off a month before with a zoom presentation by Mr Bernard Menon, Director of MWC, who is also one of our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Management Committee Members. The boys were made more aware of the life of our Migrant brothers here in Singapore.

Thereafter, the boys were tasked to prepare the Labour Day Care Packs with their families. During the 2 days of collection in mid April, there were a total of 296 care packs. Our boys and their families lovingly packed bags loaded with day-to-day necessities, complete with an appreciation note to thank them for their tireless efforts to work on this island. We were delighted to bless some of our Migrant brothers with our very own Labour Day Care Packs!

1st Town Hall Meeting

The PTA also organised two “Town Hall” meetings. The first one was held in the evening on 6 May in our school hall for over a hundred eager P5 & P6 parents. Our guest speakers were from St Joseph’s Institution. The principal of SJI, Mr Justin Arul Pierre, spoke about its programmes offered namely, OP and IP leading to the IB Diploma. He also shared about entry requirements by the PSLE and DSA routes. The audience was wowed by the many interesting and innovative teaching techniques used at SJI.

Deans from SJI and Darren, our former 2020-2021 Head Prefect (currently studying in SJI) shared at the event as well.

PTA BYO Dinner & Movie Nite

“PTA BYO Dinner & Movie Nite”, our PTA’s annual signature family bonding event was back on 29 July after a 2-year hiatus! Over three hundred parents and children signed up for this event.

The evening began with families of the SJIJ Community bringing their dinner and eating together in the canteen, followed by the screening of “Encanto”, a musical fantasy comedy animation movie in the school hall. Popcorn and cotton candy were also provided for the movie-goers for their enjoyment. Many feedback that they had an awesome family bonding time that evening.

Teachers Appreciation Luncheon

The PTA and parents organised a “Teachers Appreciation Luncheon” in our Staff Lounge on 30 August. Our Staff Lounge was beautifully decorated and set up with scrumptious spread of food and delectable desserts prepared by the parents. Both teaching and non-teaching staff enjoyed

the heart-warming luncheon and greatly appreciate the kind thoughts and well-wishes from the parents.

PTA Family Community Service

76 participants made up of pupils and their family members came together to share their time & effort in blessing others through volunteering in the SJJ PTA Family Community Service Activity at the Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen on 11 September.

The Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen is run by volunteers who prepares, cooks, and distributes 11,000 meals each day for 365 days a year, for the elderly, the disabled, low income families, children from single-parent families or otherwise poverty-stricken families.

Participants of this PTA Family Community Service activity got hands-on in various tasks from peeling and chopping vegetables, packing lunch boxes to delivering the food to different places all over Singapore. Though tiring, it was definitely a purposeful experience for all the participants who had come together to serve the community as a SJJ Junior family, living out our Lasallian values of faith, service & community!

PSLE Prayer Vigil

It has been the tradition of the Catholic parents in SJJ Junior to come together to pray in the school chapel for the Primary 6 pupils during the entire duration of their 5 days of PSLE written papers.

The 2022 PSLE Prayer Vigil from 29 September to 5 October in our school chapel was spearheaded by the PTA President Mr Mark Lim and the Primary 6 Parent Volunteer Catechists. Invitation was also extended to the parents of fellow Lasallian primary schools (De La Salle School, St Anthony's Primary School and St Stephen's School) to join in the Prayer Vigil via zoom. More than 100 parents came together (inclusive of onsite and online participants) as a Lasallian family to pray for all our Primary 6 pupils.

In September, the PTA also set up a "PSLE Padlet Wall of Encouragement" for P6 parents, pupils and teachers to post their words of encouragement or well wishes for any of the P6 pupils: <https://padlet.com/sjjjunior/v7ghycncqsouydl>.

Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day was a whole-day affair for the boys on 6 October.

The highlight of the Children's Day Celebrations had to be the Recess Carnival organised by the PTA Management Committee and Parent Volunteers! The boys enjoyed an extended recess and had fun playing at the various games booths set up at the Recess Carnival.

The finale to the day's programme was the movie screening of the film "Rumble" in the school hall. Popcorn was also provided for the boys' enjoyment.

PTA Father-Son Camp

The Father-Son Camp was held from 5 to 6 November in the school. 135 Father-Son teams took part in the camp. The programmes included outdoor cooking, low elements challenges and water activities at Sentosa Beach and a telematch on the second day. The highlight was a campfire held at night in the school. During the campfire, heartfelt letters were written and exchanged between the fathers and sons. This was to get in touch with their inner emotional bonds.

2nd Town Hall Meeting

The second Town Hall meeting was held on Saturday, 20 November for parents of P5 and P6 pupils on "Choosing a Secondary School". This time it was held via Zoom. Mr Mark Minjoot and Mr Shawn Lim, principal of St Patrick's and St Gabriel's Secondary Schools respectively were present at the talk as guest speakers. They informed the parents how the AL scoring system might impact secondary school postings and gave advice on how to choose the right school. The two Principals also shared about their respective schools' ethos and programmes.

PTA Facebook Page

The PTA Facebook page continued to be active in 2022 where parents were informed of what was happening in school. Parents are invited to join the PTA Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4189925327763897>

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Compiled by Mr Anthony Monteiro
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