



# Merahan Mosaic

A publication of Bukit Merah Secondary School

## National Day Honours 2016

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The School Advisory Committee, staff, parents and students of BMSS congratulate both Mr Apollos Induchoodan (Vice-Principal) and Mr Wun Boon Leng (HOD Mathematics) on being conferred the Commendation Medal in this year's National Day Honours list. This has been awarded to them for demonstrating efficiency and competence in their duties. In addition, they have shown dedication to students and teachers; and the ability to promote team work.

## FESTIVO IV RHAPSODY OF YOUTH



Our bi-annual public concert entitled Festivo IV: A Rhapsody of Youth was held on 30 April at the Victoria Theatre. It was a showcase of the school's performing arts groups which include the Drama Club, Modern Dance, Concert Band and the Art Elective Programme (AEP) dance groups. The musical portrays a boy named Caleb who goes on a journey of self-discovery. He learns that with fear and doubt holding him back, he is unable to reach his full potential. Along the way, he also acquires wisdom and empathy while learning to be responsible for his decisions.



It was definitely an evening to remember. This grand affair was one of the largest public concerts the school has held, and it was one that was many months in the making. Rehearsals for the big day started in December 2015 and after many gruelling yet enriching hours of rehearsals for the show, our students persevered on and rose up to the occasion, putting on a spectacular performance befitting the grand venue.



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# Achievements in Academic & Holistic Education

## NUS Geography Challenge 2016

Three of our Secondary 4 students pitted against 102 teams from other schools in the NUS Geography Challenge 2016. The preliminary round of the Challenge consisted of an Individual Quiz and a series of Team Application Questions. Koh Guan Tsin from 4G achieved the Silver Award for the Preliminary Round Top Performing Individuals Category.



## All Singapore Secondary Mathematics Competition 2016

On 21 July, a total of 11 Normal Course students took part in an online Mathematics competition. This competition provided an opportunity for these students to challenge their Mathematical knowledge and skills. Ron Tan Zi Yu of class 2C came in 6th in the Lower Sec Normal Academic category.



## SYF 2016 Art Exhibition

This year's theme, Artist & Space, invited student artists to interpret the concept of space in personal and distinct ways. Two of our students, Daeng Muhammad Yasin, who graduated last year, and Andrea Low, who is in 5A this year, were selected for this event. Their works were published in the exhibition catalogue. Yasin's submission, entitled Transformer, was an artwork he had worked on during his last year in BMSS. His work was one of the chosen pieces to be exhibited in The Arts House from 1 to 10 July. Yasin was awarded the Certificate of Recognition for his artwork.



## South Zone 'C' Division Basketball Championships 2016

Our 'C' Division Girls Team had proudly clinched the 3rd position in the South Zone 'C' Division Basketball Championships 2016 that was held between 27 June to



27 July. This marks the first time that BMSS has achieved one of the top four places. In addition, our 'C' Division Boys Team was given the "Fair Play Award" for having the lowest number of fouls in all the preliminary games.

## Floorball 'C' Division Championship

Our 'C' Division girls went through a gruelling journey which put their resilience and skills to the test. The girls put up a good fight and managed to clinch the 4th position in the tournament.



## St John's Brigade Chief Commissioner's Badge

On 2 July, one of our cadets, Sergeant Christine Joy B. Demerey, was awarded the prestigious Chief Commissioner's Badge. Another two cadets, Chew



Hui Xin Ashlyn and Risha Banu Pereira, will be receiving the award later this year. This award is the highest accolade a cadet can get in his or her secondary school life.

## National Schools Literature Festival 2016 (Choral Speaking Competition)

The National Schools Literature Festival is the biggest literary festival for students in Singapore, and has provided a powerful platform to develop students' passion and love for Literature. This year, a team of 10 Secondary 1 Express students participated in the Choral Speaking competition, in which they were required to recite a poem together. Our students did the school proud by clinching the Bronze Award.



# 48th Speech Day cum National Day Celebrations



BMSS 48th Speech Day was held in conjunction with the National Day observance ceremony on 8 August 2016. At the start of the ceremonies, the Guest of Honour Mr Goh Kia Hong, Chairman of the School Advisory Committee took the salute from a combined Uniformed Group contingent in the school hall. The National Day observance was followed by the viewing of the 'Recollections' video and mass participation of the singing of National Day songs.

During the Speech and Prize Presentation portion of the day's programme, the audience were updated on the school's progress and achievements by the Principal.

One of the highlights of the day was the launch of 'The Class of 1982' awards to recognise Upper Secondary Merahans who had demonstrated qualities of resilience and/or enterprise, made contributions to the community and excelled in their respective Co-Curricular Activities. The first two recipients of the awards were Germaine Tan and Nur

Syazwani from Secondary 5. On hand to present the inaugural awards was Mrs Mok Choon Hoe, the former Principal of BMSS (1979-1982).

After the prize presentation ceremonies, Mrs Mok was invited to plant a foxtail palm tree to mark the occasion. Our guests were also brought to the library block to witness the official opening of our performing arts studio by Guest of Honour Mr Goh Kia Hong. This facility, simply named "The Studio", costing almost \$100,000, was built from funds raised by students, staff and well-wishers.



# Hosting of Jiangnan Middle School



Six teachers and 34 students from Jiangnan Middle School (JNMS), our sister school in Wuxi, China, visited BMSS from 20 to 22 July. The visiting team was led by the school's Subject Head, Mr Yuan Xiao Ming. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the twinning programme between the two schools.



From attending English lessons to trying their hands at Floorball, the students from JNMS were thoroughly engaged and mingled comfortably with BMSS students. To allow the students to understand and appreciate our multi-ethnic heritage, the JNMS students were exposed to the Malay and Indian cultures through the playing of traditional musical instruments and dance performances, as well as local cuisines. The students also visited various places of interests, such as the Singapore Zoo, a heritage trail along Little India and the Singapore Botanic Garden, where they learnt more about Singapore and its cultural heritage. It was truly an enriching experience for the students.



## Merahan Challenge

On 25 May 2016, the Secondary 1 to 3 students engaged in a day of fun and learning as they participated in the annual Merahan Challenge. This is a day for students to experience learning beyond the classroom as they foster stronger bonds among their classmates and teachers.

Every year, the class planning committee is in charge of planning a meaningful programme that includes a class bonding element as well as an out-of-school learning element based on the year's theme. This year's theme was "Our Heritage" for Secondary 1, "Greening Singapore" for Secondary 2 and "From Third World to First World" for the Secondary 3 students. The students were very excited as they visited iconic sites around Singapore such as Sentosa, Gardens by the Bay and Marina Barrage among many other places. They engaged in a myriad of activities such as heritage and food trails and games.

In Term 3, students undertook post-activity projects to consolidate and share their learning experiences through various platforms such as presentations and video montages. The Merahan Challenge is certainly a meaningful platform to allow students to build their leadership competencies, and confidence in organising and facilitating events.



## Racial Harmony Day

With increasing regional uncertainties, there is a need for Singapore to stay united and maintain social harmony. The theme for this year's Racial Harmony Day "Our Cultural Heritage" aimed to encourage the appreciation of diversity among the various races in Singapore.

During the assembly programme, members of the Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts Ltd, performed two dance sequences entitled, "Unity in Diversity" and "Dance Harmony". These provided an opportunity for students to learn about Singapore's multi-ethnic traditions and customs portrayed through dance. In addition, students were also able to appreciate the various dance forms of the different ethnic groups in Singapore.

To mark this special day, parents from our Parents Support Group (PSG) made and sold various traditional kuehs and snacks.





# Teachers' Day Celebrations



This year's Teachers' Day was an extra memorable one for both students and teachers as it was the final school event before the upcoming merger. The Prefectorial board had worked very hard in planning a concert as a wonderful tribute to the teachers' unwavering commitment to their profession.

The concert kicked off with the recitation of the Teachers' pledge, led by our school leaders. This was followed by a series of performances put up by the various CCA groups and the Secondary 1 Express classes. Our Parents Support Group and some of our students showcased an energetic dance. Then, a skit which touched the hearts of many was put up by the members of the Drama Club. Other CCA groups

such as the Modern Dance Club, NCC and Basketball also displayed their amazing talents in various lively performances.

One of the yearly highlights of the concert was the video montage showing lovely photos of teachers with their family and friends. Aside from that, the Teacher-Student Challenge, featuring an array of fun challenges between Merahans and their teachers, drew lots of laughter from the audience. The popular Teachers' Day quiz allowed students to learn interesting facts about their teachers. The celebrations ended with the prefects presenting teachers with handmade tokens of appreciation.

## Prefects' Investiture



The 2016 Prefects' Investiture held on 16 August, signified the passing of the baton from the current EXCO team led by Sohn Hyeon Jun of Sec 4G, to the newly elected EXCO team of 2016. As the school cheered on, our new Head Prefect Vanessa Kwa of Sec 3D promised to committedly serve the school, with the assistance of her deputy heads, Norman Azam of Sec 3E and Charlene Mae of Sec 3C together with the rest of the Prefectorial Board.

As the prefects stepped up to receive their badges from the school leaders, their sense of pride was evident. The ceremony closed with the entire Prefectorial Board joining their voices as one, to proudly pledge their loyalty and dedication to Bukit Merah Secondary School.

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