<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>one</td>
<td>College Day 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>two</td>
<td>Pre-University Seminar 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>three</td>
<td>Community Builder Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>four</td>
<td>ST Andrew’s Hall Racial Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>five</td>
<td>Saints Advocate LCIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six</td>
<td>Saints Advocate OCIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seven</td>
<td>Student Council OCIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eight</td>
<td>Drama Club’s Kopitiam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nine</td>
<td>PW Department Learning Journey to River Safari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PW Department Learning Journey to Maritime Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ten</td>
<td>Saints Advocate Inauguration Ceremony 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saints Advocate Residential Stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back</td>
<td>An Afternoon with Eileen Chong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our College Day was held on 25 July 2014. It was certainly a day for celebration, and commemoration. The College was lavishly decorated with flags and flowers. The guests and award recipients were formally attired. It was a day when our seniors were acknowledged for their excellent efforts in their academic, athletic and artistic pursuits. They had done themselves, the College and their parents proud.

The proceedings started with a dedication service by Canon Daniel Tong. This was followed by a speech from our Principal, Mrs Lee Bee Yann. Mrs Lee reported on the school’s achievements over the past year. She saluted the staff for their dedicated work in bringing out the best in our students. This was followed by the speech by the Guest of Honour, Mr Ching Wei Hong, Chief Operating Officer of Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation. Mr Ching gave a jocular yet sobering account of the competition in the working world. He emphasised the importance of hard work, and diligence in our work and society. He related his own stories which amused and captivated the audience. But the message behind them was a reminder of our need to strive for excellence.

The final speech was given by the valedictorian, Mr Nathaniel Loh, who was also the 35th Student Council President. Nathaniel spoke of the obstacles he faced in his time as a student in our school. He shared his experiences, the sacrifices he had made and the amount of effort he had put in in order to deal with the workload and achieving excellent results in the A Level Examinations. We could not help but respect and admire his steadfast resilience and discipline, traits of which we hope we will be able to instil in ourselves in the course of our time here.

The speeches kept the audience captivated. They conveyed that sense of solid maturity, of understanding: their speeches forced us, the audience, to re-evaluate our priorities in life and how our present actions would affect our long-term goals.

After the speeches, the awards ceremony began, and as SAJC students, we could not have felt a greater sense of admiration and pride for our school to have educated such outstanding individuals. As we watched our seniors go up on stage and collect their rewards and scholarships, we felt a greater respect and love for the College.

The proceeding ended with a rousing rendition of the College Song led by Mr Yee Teck Peng, an old boy of SAJC who is 83 years of age. The whole audience sang along and I for one found new meaning in the words of the song.

By Sonya Ng (14A03)
As newly minted JC1 students, the opportunity to make new friends, give back to Singapore and represent the College in a prestigious gathering such as the ‘Pre-University Seminar’ was an amazing way to start the school year. After a daunting but thrilling and thought-provoking round of interviews, twenty of us were selected and brought together on a weekly basis to prepare for the various aspects of the seminar. As this year’s seminar was based on the recently concluded ‘Singapore Conversations’, the prelude to the seminar was different from previous seminars, which focused more on research on national policies.

Interacting with peers who had varied interests and came from different Junior Colleges and Polytechnics came together to tackle various local issues under the themes of ‘Trust’, ‘Spirit’, ‘Purpose’, ‘Opportunities’ and ‘Assurance’. Put simply, the seminar was a lot like a magnified College camp, with a huge group of students from across Singapore, all learning from each other’s experiences and opinions.

From the initial brainstorming session at Raffles Junior College where the foundations of each group’s approach was laid, to the practices on protocol, questioning and interviewing, to the residential stay at the Prince George Park Residence of NUS, the lessons learnt and the time spent together truly brought us closer to our teams. We were more aware than ever before of the fact that, despite many of us having different backgrounds, the true meaning of being Singaporean can be found in each one of us and what we do to make a difference to our society. It may not seem very evident to the casual observer but gatherings such as the Pre-University Seminar debunk the claim that Singaporeans are too diverse to have anything in common and instead, strengthen the unity that comes from working together on a socially-relevant problem. When this seminar is hosted by St Andrew’s Junior College next year, I hope to be able to help this idea of a closer and warmer Singapore become a fully-fledged reality.

By Ashmika Prasad (14S22)
Community Builder Week (CBW) was held from 28 April to 2 May 2014. Themed “I’m Possible”, this year’s CBW aimed at raising public awareness of the disabled in our society. The Saints Advocate also endeavoured to foster courage, endurance and resilience amongst Saints, to enable them to cope with the demands of Junior College life, and approach their challenges with a more positive outlook.

This was done in the form of daily activities, which focussed on one different form of disability each day, with the goal of allowing Saints to empathise with the disabled among us. The various activities, which included Braille keychain making and even a wheelchair obstacle course, allowed Saints to put themselves in the shoes of the disabled and see them as more capable individuals. CBW ended off with a Convention on 2 May 2014, with our distinguished guests, Mr Yeoh Seng Eng and Ms Charissa Chan, sharing their invaluable and deeply inspiring experiences on Service Learning and what it truly means to be a servant leader.

Being in the Planning Committee for CBW 2014 has allowed me to see myself grow in ways that would not have been possible if I had been confined to the boundaries of a classroom. From the brainstorming, planning and execution of the entire week’s activities, I benefitted tremendously, not only by stepping out of my comfort zone in encouraging Saints to participate in our daily activities, but also by cultivating an appreciation of the people around me. I am also inspired and encouraged to be a vehicle of change, to bring the College to greater heights and to transform SAJC into a second home filled with love, care and concern, not only amongst the students, but also the teachers and non-teaching staff.

By Nicolette Joy Chen (13A03)
Half a century ago, Singapore experienced the most serious crisis since her independence; a racial riot which changed this country forever. I was quite puzzled. Why do Singaporeans celebrate Racial Harmony Day on this day and keep reminding themselves of this bloodstained memory?

Today, when I was sitting in St Andrew’s Hall, enjoying the fantastic performances brought by Saints from different races, I think I finally found the answer to that question. Racial Harmony Day was not meant to poke at the old wounds of society. It is a flower blossoming for multiracialism. During the Hall Dinner celebration, I saw a Vietnamese girl in a Japanese kimono, and there were Chinese youths in cheongsam and Tang suits, dancing to music while Indians and Malays, dressed in their distinctive costumes, embraced each other. All of them were proud of their own culture, and nobody queried the fusion of the many traditions.

Of course, the harmonious atmosphere does not merely exist on Racial Harmony Day. In fact, our Hall is a mini-United Nations, consisting of people from different races. The interaction among races takes place every day. In our student lounge, dining hall, computer room – anywhere within the hostel – you can see groups of different races chitchatting in English. Although their accents are different, it does not stop them from having fun together. Non-Muslims celebrate Hari Raya and non-Chinese cheer for Chinese New Year. Every night during roll call, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and freethinkers gather together and listen to the thoughts of the day, learning values. All these details in our daily life demonstrate racial and religious harmony. The utmost tolerance and acceptance of our Saints for our cultural differences makes the Hall a conducive place for all the residents, regardless of race, language or religion.

Together we put aside minor differences so as to seek common ground. We exist as a whole body but every single individual is special. That is the situation in St Andrew’s Hall. Personally, I think it is also the best definition of racial harmony.

By Zhao Chenyu (Secondary 3, St Andrew’s Hall)
The 5th Saints Advocate embarked on a series of local Community Involvement Programmes (CIP) during the June Holidays.

The first day of local CIP was spent interviewing the migrant workers in the Potong Pasir area. We were glad to see some of them showing a positive attitude towards Singapore. Before this activity, we always thought migrant workers disliked Singaporeans as they may have been negatively-judged and deprecated. However, the workers we met said that Singapore was a great place with good food and good people. It was also very inspiring to learn about their plans after finishing their stint in Singapore; one of the more common plans we heard of was to start up a business back in their homeland. This shows how ambitious and determined they are in the pursuit of their dreams.

On the second day, we helped at the Soup Kitchen with the Willing Hearts organisation. It was indeed a fulfilling and heart-warming experience. It was definitely tiring to work for six hours straight in an uncomfortable place. However, it was so touching to see many people from different walks of life come together for a common cause. We were very lucky to experience this with such wonderful friends too.

The third day of local CIP was something of an adventure, hiking from Hort Park to VivoCity. In addition to the great time we had, we were lucky to experience the beautiful scenery as we trekked, exemplifying teamwork in searching for the correct directions while exploring the area. It was really a fun experience with amazing friends.

By The 5th Advocate LCIP team
The 5th Saints Advocate went on an Overseas Community Involvement Programme (OCIP) trip to Batam, Indonesia during the June Holidays.

We first visited the orphanage which we would be spending the next few days in, helping with the building of classrooms for the orphans.

Upon our arrival, we noticed that almost every child was thin and the conditions of the orphanage were poor. For example, the fan in one cramped, dusty room was not functioning well. It made us feel guilty of our comfortable homes. On a bright note, this taught us to be more appreciative of the living conditions we are blessed with, and to empathise with those less fortunate than ourselves.

We were led to the building site where the local construction team briefed us on cement-mixing and plastering. Although it was physically demanding, we worked together and persevered. This taught us to step out of our comfort zones and cooperate with one another. At the same time, we appreciated the work of construction workers even more deeply, as the so-called menial tasks they perform really require much care and effort.

Amidst the construction work, we also found time to interact with the orphans and children from surrounding houses.

We were really impressed with how the children were content with the simple things they used for toys, which included rubber bands and styrofoam cups. Sometimes we are so busy attempting to find happiness in the pursuit of material possessions that we forget to see what joy there is in little things.

When we were playing games with the children in the morning, we observed that they were really polite despite our communication barrier. I also saw that the children cared for each other, and always kept a lookout for one another despite the large age differences between them.

Overall, this OCIP trip was a meaningful experience, and one that we will remember for the rest of our lives. We will apply what we have learnt during this OCIP trip in our Advocates’ journey so as to become better servant leaders and community builders.

By The 5th Advocate OCIP team
On 8 June 2014, the 37th Student Council embarked on an Overseas Community Involvement Programme (OCIP) trip to Cambodia, Phnom Penh. On the first and second day, we visited a school and village, and observed the condition of these locations. At the village, we helped the villagers to pick up litter from the area so as to make the place a little cleaner, and to set an example of environmental awareness for the villagers to follow. We also visited two non-government organisations (NGOs), the “Daughters of Cambodia” and the “Somaly Mam Foundation”, both of which aim to reach out to victims of sex-trafficking in Cambodia.

Building a house was truly a new experience for all of us; we learnt new skills such as cementing bricks and soil refilling. We also helped out in the school, cleaning their library, conducting lessons for the children, which included teaching them art and craft, English, Mathematics, games and songs. Then came Hygiene Day, where four groups of Councillors each took charge of an aspect of cleaning: tooth brushing, hair washing, hand washing and nail trimming. The students of the school visited each of our stations following the direction of the ushers. During the Cultural Day event, we danced a “couple dance”, as well as our very own SAJC mass dance, “Shake It”. Following this, selected students prepared meals of either chicken or pork for around 600 attendees. This trip was really a great opportunity for all of us to step out of our comfort zones and challenge ourselves with the many obstacles faced in Cambodia.

By Nicole Lim (37th Student Council)
SAJC DRAMA CLUB’S ANNUAL COLLEGE PLAY

The three shows by the SAJC Drama Club were staged over 16 and 17 of May 2014 at Goodman Arts Centre. An excerpt from the play was performed earlier in the year, on 30 April 2014, as SAJC’s entry to the 2014 Singapore Youth Festival (Arts), and was awarded the Certificate of Accomplishment.

For the cast, crew and the audience, the concept of a coffee shop may never be the same again. Kuo Pao Kun’s play “Kopitiam” may have been set in that familiar Singapore setting, but instead of just the half-boiled eggs and kaya with toast, what was served up was the raw emotion of conflict between old and new.

The play revolved around the tension between a grandfather who wants to cling on to his old kopitiam and the grandson who is impatient to move on and modernise. The kopitiam in question serves as a metaphor for the struggle Singapore continues to experience as she develops as a cosmopolitan city while still hanging on to the vestiges of her historical past.

The grandfather’s pain at his grandson’s perceived disloyalty and betrayal was interspersed with the stories of the kopitiam staff and its loyal customers, which traced the coffee shop’s history and its importance to the community though the years. Judging from the response of the audience these topics were ones they could relate to and they could empathise completely with the experiences and tensions so poignantly presented on stage.

By Christina Foo (14A01)
The first day of the June holiday saw 20 Project Work (PW) Supervising Tutors (STs) embarking on a Learning Journey in a classroom nestled in nature. We went on this trip to learn about the River Safari, especially the planning and organisation that went into the setting up of this new and exciting recreational attraction. For many of us, it was our first trip there.

First on the agenda was a comprehensive talk given by Ms May Lok, the Director Education at Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS). She enlightened us on the conception of the River Safari, as well as the day-to-day operations of the WRS attractions. Having gained insight into the background operations of the WRS, we then embarked on a leisurely stroll through the River Safari, admiring the river creatures on display and enriched by the explanations provided by Mr Haniman, our guide. The highlight of the visit, for many, was the shy pandas that provided us with some memorable photos by coming out of their dens.

The PW STs were divided into four groups, each assigned to pay careful attention to different parts of the River Safari that are designed based on different river habitats around the world. As a result, we were constantly on the lookout for innovative and insightful ideas that were incorporated into the design of the various exhibits, snapping photos that we could use as part of the lesson plans we had to draw up as “homework”.

After an amble through the eight river-themed exhibit areas and a commemorative group photograph at the exit, we bid the River Safari goodbye and headed back to College. What remained was for us to share our experience by crafting our Learning Journey takeaways into lesson plans for our students.

By Miss Rani Suppiah (PW Department)

Thirty-two students accompanied by four teachers went on a Project Work Learning Journey to the Singapore Maritime Gallery on 6 June 2014. While the trip was to learn how Singapore became a leading maritime centre, we also hoped to find out how a thematic exhibition may be organised, with a mind to apply these insights into Project Work and help to generate innovative ideas. Along the way, we also became aware of employment opportunities in the maritime industry.

Besides the guided tour, there were many creative and interactive exhibits that enhanced our learning experience. As a result of going on the Learning Journey, we felt ourselves far better equipped to think up innovative ideas for our projects.

By PW Department 2014
THE 5TH SAINTS ADVOCATE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

It was an honour to receive the Saints Advocate badge from the Principal, Mrs Lee Bee Yann, in front of the JC1 cohort. The badge not only signifies the role that I play in the College, but also the numerous responsibilities that I have to take on as a role model and as a servant leader. As Saints Advocates, we will try our best to render our service to the less fortunate in Singapore.

Personally, I will aim to serve the needy through active participation in volunteer work with various Voluntary Welfare Organisations, apart from the once-a-month ‘Big Sweep’ organised by the Metropolitan Young Men’s Christian Association. I will do so especially during the school holidays by widening my interactions with the needy, so as to gain a better perspective of their needs and concerns. With more extensive connections forged between the needy and myself, I can better relate the emotions and struggles that the needy face in their daily lives to my peers, whom I hope to invite aboard this journey of volunteerism. In addition to that, I strongly believe that one should volunteer if he or she has the passion to serve others; because it is this passion and commitment to volunteer work that we are able to provide sustainable support to those in need.

By Carine Cheong (5th Saints Advocate)

SAINTS ADVOCATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

The activities I engaged in as a member of the 5th Saints Advocate for the past two weeks has been both an impactful and fun experience. The two-week residential stay at St Andrew’s Hall brought me closer to my fellow 5th Saints Advocate members, as we went through our day-to-day activities together. It pushed me to open up in order to learn more about people, their personalities, and to forge relationships with others. It changed my perception as an individual as I grew to understand the need for social connections. One of the workshops held during the stay – the Cultural Awareness workshop – was a very meaningful session for me, as I began to reflect on how quick I usually am in judging someone without understanding where they come from.

The National University of Singapore Community Engagement Festival that took place during the last day of our residential stay further emphasised the needs of our community, especially of those who have less of a voice in society, such as migrant workers. As an Advocate, it is important to hear and provide for the real needs of such communities. I was also able to take away several lessons from this program – things we as Advocates should do to minimise blunders during the execution of similar events. These include the need for mature facilitators who can look out for the group as a whole and keep on top of things, as well as the need for attention to details, such as the sensibility of scheduling rehearsals beforehand. At the same time, I became aware of what would and would not grab participants’ interest in these activities. All in all, I realised what it truly means to understand and integrate into the diversity in our community.

By A Subethira (1A05)
AN AFTERNOON WITH Eileen Chong
On 28th April 2014

Students and teachers gathered in the College Reading Room to interact with Ms Eileen Chong. She was a warm, charming and affable person who graciously answered questions and shared her funny anecdotes.

Eileen began her session with the title poem of her debut collection, “Burning Rice”. The idea for the poem came to her when she accidentally burnt the rice she was cooking. From this minor incident, she weaved a beautiful poem about heritage and the need to pass it on. We were brought to the realms of Chinese history through her poems, which invoked characters such as Lu Xun, Yang Gui Fei and Li Bai, who epitomised the resolve of the human spirit. Her narration of their stories brought to the fore the universal human emotions of joy and grief. Then she read poems that were born out of the interesting experiences she had in Australia.

Her poems are deceptively simple, and are often told with a first-person perspective that bring with them nuanced insights into human emotions.

The afternoon with Eileen was a wonderful experience for me. It was like reminiscing with a long-lost friend. She brought me into a world of imagination, and I could only think of flying on Aladdin’s magic carpet and of all the possibilities we can experience through poetry.

By Julia Tan (13S28)

Rene Descartes once said, “The reading of all good books is like having a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries.”