

## MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP DATO JOHN HA

Stars are not born but formed. But of course they do possess innate qualities that need to be developed. This development comes about with formation. Formation is the entire process of building up the whole person – his/her character, qualities or potentials, acquisition of knowledge and sense of judgement to make right decision through wise application of knowledge to life situations. The common term for this formation process is education.

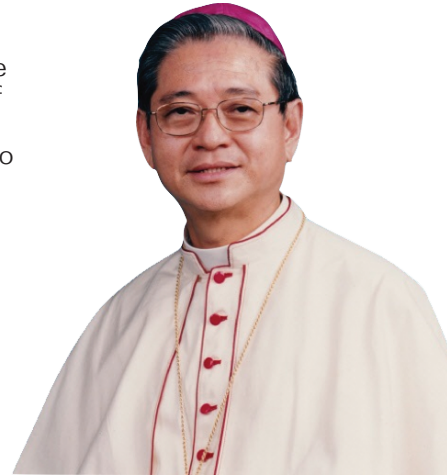
The level of education a person can reach depends on the qualities and the opportunities he/she has for growth – in the family, in school and in other support set-ups. As an example, let me take our Rio Olympic silver medallist, Ms. Pandelesa Rinong, from our own backyard – Kampung Kupuo, Jugan. She was spotted to have diving qualities at the age of 7 and selected as a State diver. Subsequently, after two years in SMK Tabuan Jaya, Kuching, she was transferred to the Bukit Jalil Sports School in Kuala Lumpur. There she received specialised training in diving. This helped her to develop her diving quality to the degree that made it possible for her to win the silver medal at the Rio Olympics. But her training did not dispense with her overall education which was duly taken care of in the Bukit Jalil Sports School. She is now pursuing a degree in a local university. Her academic education ensured her acquisition of knowledge as well as the development of her character and sense of judgement – qualities so necessary to propel her to stardom. From a kampung girl to a diving star! An inspiration indeed for all Malaysians regardless of their background.

One brilliant star in the field of education was Bro. Albinus O'Flaherty. He saw the importance of his students' acquisition of knowledge, the development of their innate qualities and the formation of their character to turn them into "Stars of Tomorrow". Born in Ballyhoneen in County Kerry, Ireland, he came to Sarawak as a young religious Brother of the Institute of Christian Brothers. In his years as a teacher and as principal of St. Joseph's School Kuching and Sacred Heart School Sibul, he had made many of his students stars in many areas of society and the State of Sarawak. After his retirement he dedicated himself to reaching out to students who did not have the opportunities students of the two mission schools he had headed enjoyed. So he founded the Yayasan LaSallian Kuching (YLK) to pursue his conviction and continue his legacy.

Today YLK is committed to continuing the legacy of Bro. Albinus. They have started and are running tuition centres in several kampungs and also in Kuching to provide opportunities for willing students to be "stars of tomorrow". Far from degrading the education these children are receiving in school, YLK seeks to take it further by ensuring that they shine in the subjects they learn in school. Many students have truly shone – each to their own degree.

All students from primary school are automatically promoted to secondary education. Given a strong foundation in their primary education, a number of students helped by YLK have even moved on to tertiary education while some to vocational schools for technical training. YLK has indeed put its students in good stead to brace their own future and become stars, each in their own different ways and degrees.

Any form of support in whatever amount given to the YLK is an invaluable contribution to forming less fortunate students into "Stars of Tomorrow".



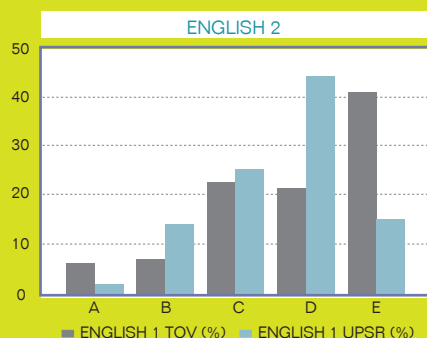
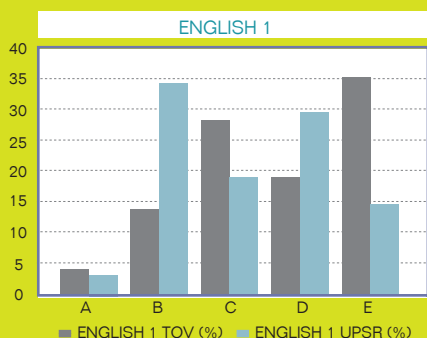
## ST. JOSEPH'S PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

This year YLK committee has received sixteen applications for St. Joseph's Private School Scholarships. After a stringent selection, the Selection Subcommittee felt that three candidates were qualified for the scholarships though only two scholarships are available. After much discussion, the Board of the School agreed to accept all the three candidates. The selected students are (front row left to right) Tracia Irene Ak Erik, Alicia Winnie Ak Punggai, both from La Salle Centre, Stutong and Mary Vanyly ak Stewart from La Salle Centre, Singai. Congratulations! We wish them all the best in their studies there.

# COMPARISON OF INITIAL RESULTS WITH UPSR 2016 RESULTS OF YLK STUDENTS

The Education Ministry has implemented its new examination format for UPSR 2016. Students were required to answer more questions using higher order thinking skills (HOTS). Majority of them were struggling to express their thoughts in the examination rooms. In Malaysia, a total of 4,896 pupils scored straight A's under the new format. This is in contrast to the 2015 results, where 38,344 pupils secured all A's under the previous format. The new grading scheme is: 80 to 100 marks - Grade A (Excellent), 65 to 79 - Grade B (Good), 50 to 64 marks - Grade C (Satisfactory), 40 to 49 marks - Grade D (Achieved minimum level) and 0 to 39 marks - Grade E (Has not achieved minimum level).

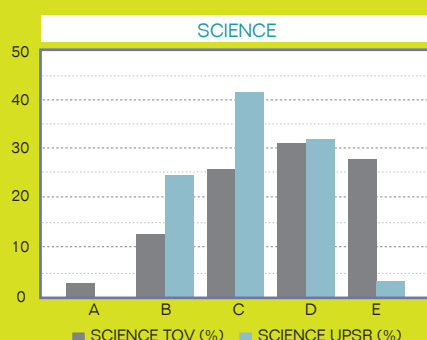
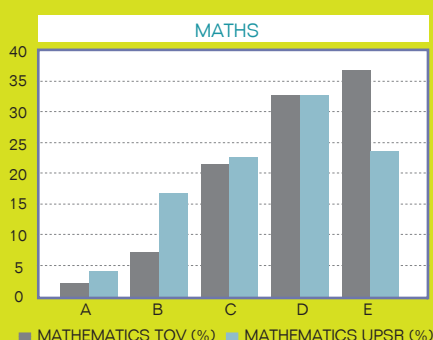
The following graphs show that our students are doing quite well though not excellent.



Starting from 2016, UPSR students have to answer two English papers. The graph for English 1 shows that the Red bars gain height towards the better Grades columns.

Percentage of Grade B students has increased from 13.5% to 34.4%. 35.4% of students who initially obtained Grade E in the paper has been reduced to 14.6% only. It indicates that most of the students had improved in this subject. The graph for English 2 shows that 41.7% of

the students who obtained Grade E initially has decreased to 15.6%. As a whole, students have to put in greater effort in order to master this language.



Many HOTS questions in Mathematics and Science papers in 2016 posed great challenges to the students. The graph for Mathematics subject shows that there is a slight improvement in each grade. For Science subject, 35.4% of the students who failed in this subject initially have been reduced drastically to 2.1% only. Though the percentages for Grade B and C have shown improvement, more effort is needed to help the students to excel in this subject.

Subject	Number of students		Percentage of Pass
	Initially Grade E	Pass in UPSR	
English 1	34	21	61.8%
English 2	40	25	62.5%
Maths	35	19	54.3%

## Percentage of Students from Grade E to pass in UPSR

The table above shows that the tuition service provided has helped more than 50% of those in Grade E to score at least a pass for each subject. 22 out of 24 (91.7%) who scored a pass in Science is an excellent achievement for the centres.

Improvement in Grades		Improvement in Grades			
School Assessment	UPSR Result	Eng 1	Eng 2	Maths	Science
E	D	14	17	11	16
E	C	4	4	6	6
D	C	4	2	7	16
E	B	3	4	2	
D	B	5	4	6	5
C	B	16	3	3	10
D	A		1		
C	A		1	2	
B	A	1	1		
Total No. of Students Improved in Grade		47	37	37	53
Total No. of Students Who Sat for UPSR		96	96	96	87
Percentage of Improvement		49%	39%	39%	61%

The table above shows improvement based on number of students. Many weak students managed to secure at least a minimum pass (Grade D). A lot more effort is needed for the students to achieve excellent grade (Grade A) in all the four subjects.

## DONATION TO YLK



The spirit of giving back to the society from the old boys of St. Joseph's School and Sacred Heart School is still burning high. In Photo 1, Raymond Teo of Sacred Heart Alumni and the team, has reprinted 1000 copies of the book, "Living Our Faith", for distribution. Donations were collected to fund YLK activities. Mr. Raymond Teo (2nd left) representing his team in handing over the collection to Mr. Peter Yap (2nd right), Chairman of YLK, and the ceremony was witnessed by His Grace Archbishop Dato John Ha (middle) and others on 20.7.2016.

On 7.10.2016, during SHS Alumni Dinner, Dr Paul Chew (right), the patron of the night, handed over a mock cheque to Mr. Peter Yap (middle), as an annual donation to YLK. Looking on was Mr Henry Chuo, President of SHS Alumni.



On 3.12.2016, Datuk Professor Dr. Sim (2nd right), Chairman of St. Joseph's Old Boys Association, handed over a cheque to Mr. Andrew Law (2nd left).

## LASALLIAN CORNER

Dear fellow Lasallians,

This is a continuation of the "Lasallian Formation" programme which we started in the last issue of our Newsletter. In this column we are looking at the first main aspect that is be more conscious of how we grow as human beings and how we can take responsibility not only for what work we do and how we do our work but also be aware of who we are and why we do our work.

So, let us begin by asking ourselves if we are conscious of who we are and why we are involved in our Lasallian educational work:

Here is one way of understanding this life-long process by which we slowly develop our own beliefs, our own values, and gradually take full responsibility for the way we live our life:

- Given values: we 'catch' our values from what our parents and family members emphasize in their lives and from the way they treat us. We learn these values mostly by imitation (roughly from 1 to 12 years)
- Organised values: we follow the values of our race, our religion but now we are challenged by other races and religions that we mix with... there is a sort of 'follow the crowd' mentality (from 13 to 19)
- Questioning values: slowly, towards the end of adolescence and because of peer pressure, we begin to ask questions of our parents or we begin to 'try out' other social organizations; in most cases, with little conviction as we are more concerned with our economic and social life (from 20 to 29);
- Personal values: we begin to search and practice the beliefs, values that we have studied and are convinced of. Also, many people get married at this time and so have to share their values/beliefs with their partners and gradually, be ready to inspire their children (from 30 to 45)
- Community values: by this time people begin to be more at ease in society and begin to associate with those who have similar beliefs and values, and they support each other especially if society values challenge their own beliefs and values (from 45 to 60)
- Universal values: as we grow older there is greater openness to other people's values and beliefs; and through dialogue, people tend to go beyond religion towards a greater understanding of spiritual values (60 onwards)

So, we can conclude by saying that on the whole there is a movement throughout life from DEPENDENCE to INDEPENDENCE to INTER-DEPENDENCE as we search for 'inside' meaning to life. And by "formation" we mean that we take the means to understand our Lasallian identity. For the moment let us spend some time reflecting on our inner life. In the next issue, we shall look a bit more closely at the Life of La Salle.

Sincerely,

*Brother John*





# YLK EX-STUDENTS HIGHLIGHT

In this new section we shall share with you on the help provided by YLK and the lives of some of our ex-students.

Since 2015, the committee of YLK has started scouting around to widen its areas of help besides providing tuition classes for Primary Five and Primary Six needy students. In the twelfth AGM, the committee members agreed to request St. Joseph's Private School to provide scholarships for YLK ex-students. After some discussion, the Board of Joseph's Private School agree to grant two scholarships annually for YLK students starting from 2016. It includes the annual school fee, two hundred Ringgit monthly allowance, free school uniforms, and text book on loan from Form One to Form Five.



At the end of 2015, Genevie Evelyn ak Gerald Ariffin, an ex-student from La Salle Centre, Stutong, was the first candidate selected for the scholarship 2016. Datuk Christopher Sim, William Chong, Martin Chai and Andrew Law from YLK committee are her mentors.

In the recent interview with her and her mother, we have a good feedback from them. Her mom was grateful for the offer given to her and had high hope for her future. Genevie aims to become a doctor. Though the school work was heavy and demanding, she managed to cope with it with strict discipline in her daily life. The mentors could feel that the new environment has built up her self-esteem as she could express herself with confidence. In order to assist her further in her studies and school assignments, YLK had provided a set of computer for her, and her parents would subscribe and maintain the internet access.

In school, she is a member of Cor Amoris Club. 'Cor Amoris' in Latin means 'heart and love'. It is a student charity body at school level set up to raise fund for the needy. YLK sincerely hopes that she can achieve her dream to become a doctor who will serve with her heart and love.



After the De La Salle Brothers closed the community in Kuching in March 2017, His Grace Archbishop Dato' John Ha has consented to permit YLK to occupy and use the facilities of the De La Salle Brothers' Quarters as their official office premises. YLK will set up its office there in March and a long term plan will be drawn up soon to plan for the use of other areas by the Lasallian family. Consequently a team, comprising Datuk Dr Sim, Chairman of St. Joseph's Old Boys Association, Mr Thomas Lau, Principal of St. Joseph's Secondary School, committee members of YLK met on 23.11.2016 for the preliminary distribution for the renovation of the De La Salle Brothers' Quarters at the Mill Hill Block. Everyone agreed with Datuk Dr Sim's suggestion to preserve the authenticity of the quarters. It will become a heritage to remind the younger generation on the contributions of the Mill Hill Fathers and De La Salle Brothers on the development of education in Sarawak. The simplicity of their lives and the spirit of discipline can be sensed by one who enters the quarters.



On 24.9.2016, staff of Yayasan Lasallian Kuching visited Satoyama Farm. The aim of the visit was to understand alternative farming with environmental friendly approach. Amongst these, the team learnt to make organic compost in a simple way, to recycle the kitchen waste water and to rear chickens with self-produced organic chicken feed. The farm is managed without using artificial fertiliser, pesticide and weedicide. It is hoped that the teaching staff can introduce this environmental friendly and healthy practice to the rural students in the La Salle centres.

Yayasan LaSallian Kuching (49-03-15)

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