

Payasan LaSallian Kuching

ISSUE #21 DECEMBER 2023



## Message from Mr. Peter Yap, Chairman of YLK

#### Dear YLK Community,

This year, our collective efforts have yielded significant accomplishments, and I am thrilled to present a snapshot of our noteworthy achievements and activities. Despite challenges, our commitment to empowering the underprivileged children of Sarawak has remained unwavering.

In this fruitful year, we established our newest La Salle Centre in Padungan, and introduced IT-based teaching and learning in our classrooms. Our students have also participated in valuable experiences, such as an enlightening visit to the Borneo Cultures Museum and the unforgettable "Believe In Yourself" camp. Additionally, we take pride in awarding scholarships to two exceptional students, providing them with the opportunity to pursue their education at St. Joseph's Private Secondary School.

Looking ahead, we are contemplating the integration of Information Technology (IT) as an additional subject in our classrooms and plan to introduce Al to students. These plans distinctly underscore our commitment to providing a progressive and enriching learning environment.

Our journey, deeply rooted in the visionary ideals of Bro. Albinus, has flourished into a vibrant community passionately upholding the principles of St John Baptist De La Salle. As we gaze into the future, we remain resolute in our objectives—to maintain a LaSallian educative image, support rural educational programs, and establish centers that transcend cultural and religious boundaries.

In extending my heartfelt gratitude, I want to acknowledge the entire YLK community - our dedicated committee members, hardworking staff, supportive parents, enthusiastic students, and esteemed supporters and sponsors. It is your unwavering commitment that has consistently been the driving force behind the positive impact we continue to achieve.

Peter Yap

## YLK Committee 2023-2024

The 20th Annual General Meeting was held on 4th February, 2023. The new office bearers together with the Auditor for the year 2023 to 2024 were elected as follows:

Advisor : Datuk Christopher Sim
Advisor : Br. John Nycle D'Cruz
(Education & Training)

Chairman: Peter Yap Seng
Hon Secretary: Jacob Wong Wu Hing
Hon Treasurer: Benny Wee Hong Guep

#### Committee Members :

Callum Sia Peh Swee Mildred Jong Lee Phin Nicholas Hu Kie Lik Thomas Chan Hiok Ping Rhys Salang Agatha Lau Nguok Sing Edwina Tan Swee Ngo

### La Salle Centre, Padungan



Kuching City Council Community Library

La Salle Centre, St. Joseph's A was closed down as the demand for free tuition in the nearby area was diminishing. The volunteer facilitators of the centre were transferred to a newly opened La Salle Centre, Padungan where the B40 families stay. It was a joint effort of the Kuching City South Council and YLK to help the needy students. The Council provides two classrooms and other facilities at its community Library at the KMC Flats area for our facilitators to conduct lessons twice a week.



A lesson in action

# 8th LaSallian Family Day

On 9th October 2023, YLK restarted the annual event, the 8th Lasallian Family Day after the interruption due to the Pandemic. It was held at the Multipurpose hall of Kampung Entubuh at the border of Tebudu-Kalimantan. The Coordinators and teachers of La Salle Centre, Entubuh organized the event on behalf of YLK for the 200 participants from the eleven free tuition centres.

After the Chairman of organising committee, Mr. Carl's welcoming speech and YLK Chairman, Mr Peter Yap's speech, the centres competed with each other using English action songs on the stage which was the highlight of the day. Volunteer teachers were also given a chance to compete in English Karaoke singing.

It was the tradition of YLK to award those students who had achieved the target of the number of English story books read in a year. The aim of it was to encourage and inculcate good reading habit among the students. An award was given to one selected student from each centre who had improved most academically and in behavior. Prizes were given to the winners of the competitions. The Family Day ended with a family lunch.

YLK committee members would like to thank the organizer, the teachers and the Entubuh villagers for the use of the kampung hall and the facilities to make the event meaningful and successful.







(Top) The judges in action for the competitions, Students performing English action song.

(Left) The organising Chairman, Mr. Carl Davis and YLK Chairman welcomed the Lasallians, Mr Peter Yap delivering his officiating speech.

### La Salle Centres Adopting IT Teaching



Smart TVs

In 2022, after the MCO of COVID-19 was released with conditions, La Salle Centres entered into a new era in the teaching approach. The Chairman proposed and encouraged the teachers to employ IT in educating their students.

A considerable amount of donations was allocated to equip the tuition centres with smart TVs. Though many centres, particularly those in the rural areas, were having inconsistent, weak internet signal, it never dampened the spirit of the teachers to use TV as an aid in their lessons. Ways and methods were exhausted to overcome these challenges.

By the end of 2022, smart TVs were supplied to seven centres. The feedbacks from the teachers on the introduction of smart TVs in their lessons are very encouraging. The benefits outweighed the disadvantages.

The size of the classrooms at La Salle Centre, Skibang had limited space. Extension of the classrooms was done to accommodate the Smart TV.

Tablets were employed in the T&L for the Learning Programme classes. The children have shown increased interest in the lessons. All the other centres running Learning Programme will be provided Tablets in 2024.

In 2024, YLK will continue to explore further on other means of IT, such as AI, which might enable the students to learn more effectively.



Tablets are employed in a lesson

## Primary Six Students' Camp 2023

The annual students' camp 2023 was successfully conducted at St. Lucas Centre, Padawan from 11-13 November, 2023. The theme of the camp is "Believe In Yourself". Twenty volunteer teachers sacrificed their holidays to facilitate ninety Year Six students from ten La Salle Centres in this 3D2N camp. An Out Reach Team comprised of teachers guided by Mdm Mildred Jong, the Chairwoman of Performance Monitoring sub-committee, was set up to organise the camp. The main aims of the camp were:

- To prepare YLK Year 6 students to discover their identities and potential so that they are mentally ready for their lives in the secondary school.
- To develop good character in them so that they would be able to live in harmony with others and become exemplary leaders of the society.
- To strengthen the spiritual life of the participants.

It was an experiential camp. The activities were tailored to bring them to the awareness in the following areas:

- 1.To discover oneself
- 2.To be a responsible person
- 3. Talents endeavoured to each person
- 4. How to improve oneself
- 5. How to express gratitude
- 6.To discover one's ambition
- 7. Each individual is wonderfully created.
- 8. Able to take challenge.

Through the activities, the campers also learnt to accept themselves and the differences among people. It is an important step for them to live in peace with themselves and others.

The feedback on the camps from the participants showed that above 80% of them found that the camp was useful to their character building and would like to recommend other students to take part in the future.

YLK would like to thank the Social Welfare Department, Sarawak for sponsoring the camp financially.

The Outreach Team thanks the teachers and parents involved directly or indirectly to make the event a success.

Gratitude is given to YLK committee members who were present to give words of encouragement to the students.





(Top) Activity on knowing each other

(Right) The facilitators

(Left) A camper share his thought in English

(Bottom) Group photos





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## St. Joseph's Private School Scholarship



Application for St. Joseph's Private Scholarship was opened for all the Primary School Year Six students besides the students from La Salle Centres. Widening opportunities for other needy students from other Primary schools is necessary to achieve the aim of helping the least, the last and the lost. In 2023, Ethan Liew Lik Hung, a Year Six student from SJK St. Paul, Kuching and Matthias Jamy Anak Michael Romeo from SRK St. Thomas, who was physically impaired and wheelchair bound, were awarded the scholarship to study in the secondary school from Form One to Form Five starting from 2023 academic year. Congratulations to both of them. Wish them all the best in their pursuit.

## Comments from Parents

#### From Joseph Adalrico's mum:

As a parent I am very grateful to the centre. It is a blessing to have Joseph as a part of the family. Now he is getting more confident in reading, speaking and solving questions such as mathematics etc.

Joseph Adalrico lebih yakin membaca, di rumah sekarang dia boleh lead rosary prayer. Sebagai ibu, saya rasa bersyukur atas didikan para cikgu di centre ini. Terima kasih banyak², God bless

### From Evan Aaron's Mum:

- Pusat ini telah banyak membantu anakanak yang lambat dalam pembelajaran mereka sehingga pandai membaca dan mengira.
- 2. Pusat ini perlu dibantu dari segi dana dan keperluan alat mengajar agar dapat menjalankan pembelajaran kepada anakanak berkeperluan dengan lebih berkesan.

### Messages from La Salle Centres Allumni



Estar Ak Nyamek Gabriel Raeng (La Salle Centre, Stass)

Estar started attending La Salle Centre's free tuition in 2007 at Kampung Skibang when she was in Primary Four. The ample time given for her to digest the lesson with personal help from the tutors was of great help in her studies. She reminisced about the teaching approach and the activities experienced during her childhood day at the centre. She was grateful and treasured this opportunity given to her to build a strong academic foundation at the early stage of her life. This, as a stepping stone, helped her greatly in her pursuit of higher education.

After she completed her secondary school education in SMK Lake, she received offers from different institutes with various courses and among them were electrical, electronic and English courses. Finally, she found her favourite Diploma course in ILKKM and graduated as a Dental Technologist. We wish her every success in her future undertakings.



Isaac Silas Wang. Form 6 SMK St Joseph

At the La Salle Centre, St. Joseph we learned to respect each other and not laugh at each other's mistakes. I am not afraid to make mistakes in my work. I learn from my mistakes. The centre helped boost my confidence. It helped me improve my skills in studying Maths and I can speak English better. The activities we did make me less nervous and shy in front of many people.



Zachery Dexter Form 6, SMK St. Joseph

La Salle Centre, St. Joseph helped me to build my self-esteem. I am more motivated and confident in everything I do. I am not afraid to try new things and also not afraid to ask if I don't understand anything. I learned that I need to give full focus on all subjects especially those that are harder.

### Yayasan LaSallian Kuching (49-03-15)



De La Salle Brothers' Quarters, St Joseph's School. Block Mill Hill, Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg,93000 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.



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