



Message From Archbishop Simon Poh

**"May your light shine forth before all people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:16)**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on education for the poor. First, I would like to give thanks to the Lord for the good works of YLK for 2017. You have kept the vision of providing holistic education for the poor and disadvantaged children in both rural and urban Sarawak, as our Irish La Salle Brothers have done.

During recent years, we have bid farewell to Br. Albinus, Br. Mark, Br. Columba and finally Br. Adrian. I thank YLK for faithfully carrying on their education legacy. For many of us who have studied in St. Joseph's School in Kuching or Sacred Heart School in Sibu, we are indeed the direct beneficiaries of such education from these Brothers.

It was clearly pointed out by the State Education Department that the rural primary schools have poorer examination results compared to the city schools. I am grateful that YLK has responded by setting up Tuition Centres in kampongs at Entubuh, Bunan, Sinjok, Saga, Sibuluh, Skibang and Stass. And for the urban poor in Kuching, you have provided tuition at the Brothers' Quarters in St. Joseph's School and at Stutong. I would like to affirm that, all who are involved in running these centres or contributing in cash or kind, are offering hope and preparing these students to become "stars for tomorrow".

With these Centres, YLK has provided the structure and process for collaboration by the village community and church leaders. This has enabled them to be co-responsible for the education of their

children and grandchildren, ensuring effectiveness and sustainability. You are also my co-workers in the empowerment of our indigenous communities in Kuching Archdiocese. Let us pray that we will be able to set up more YLK tuition centres in the near future. I am a firm believer in education for life and that the future of our nation begins with the values we inculcate and nurture in these primary school years. Do continue the good work and together, let us build the next generation of students and youth who will continue this legacy for the future generations.

May I take the opportunity to wish everyone a Holy Christmas and God's blessing for a Blessed New Year 2018!

+ Simon Poh
Archbishop Simon Poh

Opening of New Centre, Bunan

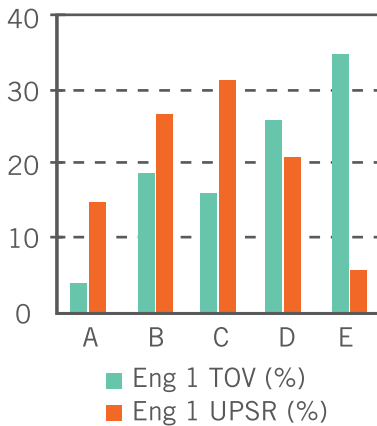


Photo on the left shows YLK Chairman, Mr Peter Yap (middle) declaring open the 10th La Salle Centre, Bunan on 16.9.2017 witnessed by Mr Alban Bong (left) and Fr Galvin (right). Photo on the right shows the centre which was built by St. Jude Parish with the help of donors from near and far and with gotong-royong of the villagers.

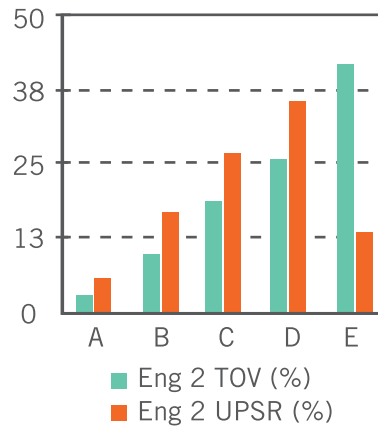
An Analysis of the Performance of YLK Students in UPSR 2017

In 2017, most of the students of our centres did well in all the four papers in the UPSR examination. By comparing their initial results (TOV) with their UPSR results we notice that most of them could acquire basic knowledge of the three subjects which is indicated by the drastic drop in the Grade E red bars in the graphs below. On the other hand, a new approach in teaching may help mediocre students to achieve better grade.

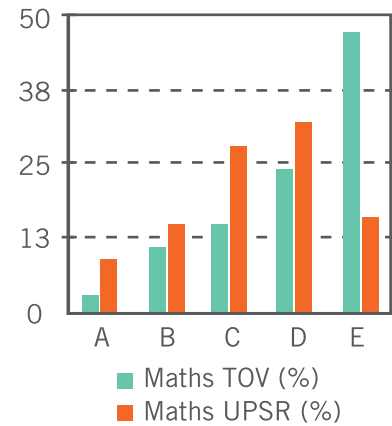
ENGLISH 1



ENGLISH 2



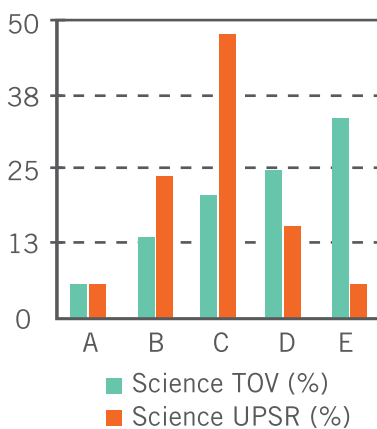
MATHEMATICS



Most of our students have shown improvement in the command of English. In English paper 1, there is a significant increase in the number of students scoring Grade A. As a whole, the number of students who scored Grade E dropped drastically.

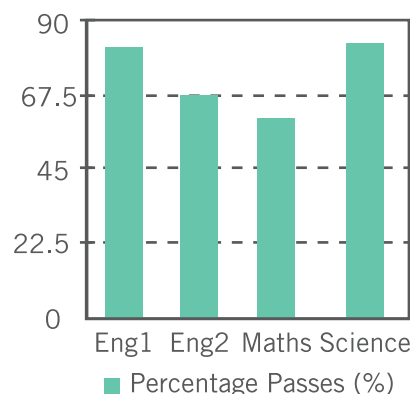
The tuition classes have benefited most of the students. Noticeably the bars indicate the percentage of failure (Grade E) drops from 47% to 16%.

SCIENCE



There is some improvement in the Science subject. A significant drop in the percentage of failure, from 54% to 6%, is worth mentioning here. Acquiring higher level of understanding on the scientific process is essential for students who aimed for higher grades.

FROM FAIL (GRADE E) TO PASS



The centres had benefited greatly the students who were poor in their studies. More than 80% of the Grade E students could at least obtain a pass in English 1 and Science. And more than 60% of these students managed to obtain a pass in English 2 and Mathematics.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Photos above from Left to Right. This year Cikgu Rita ak Hentry (Supervisor of Stutong Centre) and Cikgu Justina ak Guwing (facilitator of St. Joseph's Centre) were awarded Diploma in Early Childhood Education, and Cikgu Jesrim Ak Akok, Cikgu Noheng Ak Nyadei (teachers of Singai centre, not in the photo) graduated with a Degree in Early Childhood Education through distant learning Programme. YLK Committee members sincerely congratulate them for their academic achievement. The knowledge acquired by them will benefit our students too.

Lasallian Corner



So far, in the last three issues of our Stars of Tomorrow we considered the following:

- A We look at ourselves and see how we slowly develop our way of life: basically we move from Dependence (on our family, our school, our culture, our religion) to Independence (we earn our own livelihood, we choose our own career, and we stand for what we believe) and finally we learn to be Inter-dependant (we realize that if we want to make the world a better place, we must learn to live and learn and love each other).
- B In choosing a way of life and a way of work we often look for a model, someone who inspires us to live a good life. In this Lasallian Corner we are slowly beginning to understand La Salle's way of life and work so that we too, can lead a meaningful life and inspire others to be involved with education and help the last, the lost and the least so that they can empower themselves and develop their potential.
- C We had a glimpse of La Salle and how he developed himself in a large, rich family and chose to be a priest. He was a good man: he had a close friendship with God, through prayer and reflection; as the eldest, he took responsibility for looking after the family; he studied very hard in his preparation for priesthood; he saw the work of Providence in all the difficulties he faced especially with the early death of his father and mother.
- D As he developed his life in favour of the poor, he chose a small group of schoolmasters to look after the poor children in the streets. Slowly we begin to see the values he believed in: a spirit of poverty by which he loved the poor and followed a simple way of life and share his material goods with them; he respected each poor person and made sure he did not use or abuse them; and thirdly, he lived in community with his fellow-teachers and was obedient to the way of the Gospel values.

And so in the next newsletter, we look at ourselves and see if his way of life is also our way of life!

Br John

5th Lasallian Family Day

On 7.10.2017, Lasallian Family Day was successfully celebrated at Kampung Sinjok. 250 students, parents, village heads, committee members and invited guest Dr. Teh Su Thye (photo below, seated fourth from left) from Global Peace Foundation, gathered at the community hall. They had a wonderful time, and were entertained with songs performed by students. After the family meal, we took the opportunity to have a dialogue session between the teachers and Dr. Teh. Teachers shared on the difficulties and challenges faced at the centres. Hopefully the dialogue session will help him to plan for a retreat for the teachers next year.



Kem Murni Diri



On 10-15 December 2017, 50 Primary Five students were selected from ten La Salle Centres to participate in the first 'Kem Murni Diri' as shown in the photo above. The aim of the camp was to build the character of the students physically, academically and spiritually. Besides helping the students in their studies, YLK is gearing up to organise more programmes for character building. This first attempt was headed by Mildred Jong, member of YLK

and the camp master, Alban Bong, and conducted at Bunan proved to be a success. The students became more responsive and sociable at the end of the camp.



Donations

Peter Yap received donations from Sacred Heart Alumni (top left) and St. Joseph's Old Boys-Class 64' & 65'(top left) witnessed by TYT Tun Pehin Sri Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud (top right).



Students from La Salle Centre, St. Joseph, enjoying the year end party (top). They also attended and sang in the Family Day (below). Performing on the stage was a memorable experience.



Visitors

Photo top left: Mr Craig Pilcher (middle) shared his experience of operating an Indonesian private school, Mount Hope, at Tebedu border, with YLK Committee Members.

Photo top right: St Joseph's Old Boy's team led by Alex Ling (far right) and Dr. Lim (nearest left) visited YLK Office to know more about YLK activities.



Personal Sharing on Experience at La Salle Centre, Singai by Dr. Esther Michael

I remember vividly, the time I spent attending my tuition classes at La Salle Centre, Singai. I was 10 (Primary 4) when they built the center and we were the first batch of students. I remember having my class everyday from 3pm- 6pm and weekend from 10am-2pm. There were 3 classes back then with approximately 20 students in a room. I really enjoyed my time at the tuition center especially when it came to Maths by Cikgu Ng Seng Hon. His teaching was simple, concise and very easy to understand and so were the other teachers. Class environment was not crowded and the teacher was able to focus on the students very well so much so that student attendance was good and our results showed marked improvement. One thing that I found interesting also was, we got to meet students from different schools in the same district. So it was more fun! We exchanged information, built new friendship and had healthy competition academically.

Now, 13 years after I left the center. I'm Dr Esther Michael, graduated with honors from First Moscow State Medical University, Russia with full scholarship from Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) and also founder of Borneo Medispa, Kuching. I also co-founded a community Initiative called Helpsomebody which focuses primarily on meeting the needs of the relatives of patients at the corridor of Hospital Umum Sarawak. Last May 2017, I was elected by Kementerian Belia & Sukan (KBS) as one of the Ambassador of Transformasi Nasional (TN50) programme. All these major achievements in my life wouldn't have happened if it was not for the early education I attained at SK St John Singai Bau and La Salle Centre, Singai. I owe it all to the dedication of the teachers and staff of this primary education center. I left primary school with the golden ticket to bigger opportunities in life after getting 5A's in UPSR 2004. This allowed me to be selected into MRSM Kuching for my secondary education in which I got 7As for PMR2007 and 7A+ 2A for SPM2009. I was then offered a scholarship under Skim Pelajar Cemerlang (SPC) MARA to pursue my study in Medicine in Moscow Russia.

I am a firm believer of a good early childhood and primary education. These few years of my life were shaped by the sweat and blood of my parents and teachers. Their commitment and focus shaped the world of the future generation. I would really support the Yayasan Lasallian Kuching to build more tuition centers as the one I attended in more areas in Kuching and Sarawak as a whole. I believe having extra and supervised classes after the formal school hours are vital for the academic excellence of the students. I also believe in the positive values instilled by the tuition centers which help students to grow up and become successful in the future. Looking forward for more great testimonies from the future Tuition Center leavers.

Yayasan LaSallian Kuching (49-03-15)

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