

St. Paul's Convent School
2013 – 2014
Annual Speech Day
7 November 2013, 6.00 p.m., School Hall
‘The JOY of Scaling New Heights’

St. Paul's Convent School feels deeply grateful to be joined by prominent guests, well-wishing parents, and friends aplenty. In particular, we feel thoroughly privileged to have as guest of honour the eminent Ms Christine Fang Meng Sang, BBS, JP, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service; Rev. Mother Jacqueline Ho, Provincial Superior of Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres; Archbishop Charles So; Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar; Rev. Noel Saw, Director of Education Commission of Yangon Archdiocese; Professor Patrick Lau, President of the UNESCO HK Association; Professor Lee Ngok, Vice-President of UNESCO HK and Chairman of the Education Commission; Ms. Michelle Li, Deputy Secretary for Education; Mr C. M. Cheung, Senior Education Development Officer of Wanchai District, and many other honoured guests.

Our Principal Rev. Sr. Margaret Wong, in her welcoming address, shared invaluable gems of wisdom. Importantly, she urged Paulinians to be a force for good, not frustrating but supporting others' good work, helping 'the New Poor' 'trapped by the callous decisions of those in power', and promoting peace and harmony wherever they go. Paulinians, she said, should face negatives and crises with the positive and creative mindset they cultivate here at SPCS. This way, they turn adversity into opportunity, and confrontation into integration and collaboration, just as Christ suffered and died to sow seeds of love in our hearts and to bring fullness of life to all. This, she underlined, is 'the Paulinian heritage that stamps all of us, the great daughters of St. Paul'.

Rev. Sr. Margaret Wong noted that visitors the world over (like last week's visitors from Boston, Cardiff, and Foshan) applaud the stimulating learning environment prevailing in our School's campus infrastructure, the curriculum design, technology application and interactive pedagogy, and the teachers' mindful attention to learner diversity, as a result of which each Paulinian succeed in furthering their tertiary studies here and abroad.

Lastly, she saw in Ms Fang an inspiring alumna who 'embraces all that is good, true, and honourable', as manifested in the way she works tirelessly to improve social equity and welfare for the marginalised, whether as the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Red Cross, as Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, or as member of diverse government and non-government steering committees, such as those on population policy, the HK Housing Authority, and university advisory boards.

Ms Fang, in her address titled ‘Begin with the End in Mind’, fondly recalled the Paulinian heritage that she and her daughter feel privileged to share with our students. In gist, she counselled Paulinians to take their ‘end game’ as a voyage of self-discovery, where they set their moral compass and discover their core identity and true worth. She also urged Paulinians to do more particularly for the disadvantaged, and to build a just and caring environment where equal opportunities thrive and everyone can live a decent and rewarding life. As for moving up the ‘game ladder,’ the secret is firstly, a positive attitude imbued with genuine appreciation, and secondly, it is the commitment to put what we have to good use, fearing only missed opportunities rather than the prospect of making mistakes. And she cited what the esteemed poet T.S. Eliot said, “Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far we can go.”

In closing, Ms Fang thanked Rev. Sr. Margaret Wong for inviting her to celebrate this special occasion, which marks again the many milestones that the Lord has blessed SPCS with, and they include, for example:

- Value-adding IGCSE and GCE AL programmes that translate into a wide range of options in further education locally and globally.
- Top-notch immersion programmes that foster globalised learning, like UK’s Imperial College ‘STEM World’ summer course (on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for S.4; the Stanford University International Youth Camp for S.3, and Beijing’s Putonghua Immersion Course and National Education Programme for S.2.
- Other 2013 life-wide learning programmes that foster creativity and the caring spirit include the “Switch on 60 Dreams” Campaign (promoting philanthropy and social integration, and organized by Shun Hing Group), the “Cleft Lip and Palate Forum between Huiyang People’s Hospital and Medical Missions for Children” in Huiyang, China, the “Health: Fountain of Happiness” Health Assessment Day, co-organized by the Rotary Club of Kowloon Golden Mile and St. Paul’s Hospital, and the HK Young Ambassador Scheme where Paulinians (picked from over 600 nominations) honed their service skills in an intensive training course organized by the HKSAR Tourism Commission and the HK Federation of Youth Groups.
- SPCS champions the performing arts and is a staunch advocate of joyful living, as showcased in its mega event, Joie de Vivre in Music and Dance, held at the Polytechnic University Theatre (Oct. 2013).
- SPCS acts as Centre of Excellence in IT in Education, hosting international events such as the 2013 International Conference on ICT in Teaching and Learning (co-organised by HKU SPACE, City University of Macau, and SPCS).

- SPCS serves as Professional Development School and is currently working with partner schools on the 2013-15 theme of `Conceptualization: A Pedagogical Tool for Learning and Teaching of NSS Liberal Studies', which aims at bolstering students' integrative skills and fostering student-centric teaching.
- SPCS serves as a host school for major events like the 2013 UK Roadshow (involving 34 universities and the British Council), the globally renowned John Main Seminar 2013 (on Christian meditation), and the 2013 Edexcel Workshop on AL Mathematics for teachers from Hong Kong and Macau. SPCS also hosts year-round visits by academics and administrators such as the entourage from Brescia University College, Canada, and from Foshan, China.
- SPCS consolidates home-school partnership by working hand in hand with the Parent-Teacher Association, with the latter playing a premier role in hosting parent seminars, running service projects, and chaperoning Paulinians during important competitions and exchange programmes.
- *On the awards front, SPCS has distinguished herself, thanks to collective efforts:*
- SPCS was presented whole-school awards such as the `UNESCO ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) Exemplary School in China' Award, as well as the 11th Hong Kong Green School Award 2013 (organized by Environmental Campaign Committee, Environmental Protection Department and Education Bureau).
- Pertaining to external scholarships, Paulinians have been awarded, namely, the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Prize, the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund, the Murjani Scholarship, the HK Island Outstanding Students Award (Senior Section), and the Hong Kong 2013 `I love Hong Kong: 10 Model Teenagers' Award.
- In the Mathematics Book Report Competition for Secondary Schools, Paulinians won the First Class and Second Class Award.
- In the Science and Technology domain, in the China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest, a Paulinian was the only representative from Hong Kong to attain the First Place Award in the Category of Student Organized Science and Technology Activity.
- In the language arts domain, in the 64th HK Speech Festival, Paulinians clinched 7 championships, 12 1st runners-up, and 13 2nd runners-up in the Chinese Section, and 36 championships, 30 1st runners-up, and 30 2nd runners-up in the English Section. In the 12th Putonghua Hong Kong Competition, Paulinians won 3 championships, one 1st runner-up and two 2nd runner-up places. As for the 3rd

French Speech Festival, Paulinians were the champion and also attained 1st and 2nd runner-up in Solo Poetry Speaking. Taking two writing competitions as an example, in the 11th CILTHK Essay Competition, Paulinians clinched the championship (Senior Section) and 1st runner-up position (Senior and Junior Section), and in the 28th Annual Book Report Competition, Paulinians won the championship (Junior Section) and 2nd runner-up position (Senior Section).

- In the performing arts category, in the Tsuen Wan District Dance Contest 2012-13, SPCS won the Gold Award (Group) for the Oriental Section, and in the 49th HK Schools Dance Festival 2012-13, SPCS was the overall champion in the Chinese Dance Section and the overall 1st runner-up in the Modern Dance Section, and received many Honours Awards for the Group section.
- Music Awards included 2 championships, five 1st runners-up, and seven 2nd runners-up in the 65th HK Schools Music Festival 2012-13, as well as 1st Medal for the 4th French Harp Competition in Limoges (Grand Harp Group E2).
- For Arts Awards, under 'Visual Arts', Paulinians secured the Championship for the Young Achiever's Gallery Window Design Competition, and in 'Creative Media', Paulinians produced a short film for the "Short-film Go!" contest of the Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme held by the HK Arts Development Council.
- In Domestic Science, Paulinians were awarded the Championship as well as the Food Technology Award in the "3rd Healthy Choice Cooking Competition".
- Sports Awards span an impressive spectrum:
 - Regionally, in the 2nd Asian Youth Games 2013 held in Nanjing, China, a Paulinian received the Silver Medal in the Women's Epee (Individual Section).
 - Locally, Paulinians obtained team championships in the Watson Annual Challenge 2013 (organized by the Watson Athletics Club) and the TCAA Age Group Competition (organized by The Citizen Athletic Association), and individual championships in the Hong Kong Age Group Sprint Canoeing Championship 2013 (organized by the Hong Kong Canoe Union), the Youth Windsurfing Competition held at Tai Mei Tuk Water Sports Centre, and the Panasonic 9th Hong Kong Synchronized Swimming Open Competition 2013 (the Free Duet International and Free Duet Local, age 13-15).
 - 1st and 2nd Runner-Up awards were secured in other sporting competitions, namely, the HK Athletics League 2013 Final (run by the HKAAA), the TCAA Age Group Competition (run by The Citizen Athletic Association), the LCSD Open Fencing Competition 2013 (run by the Hong Kong Fencing Association), the Sai Kung

Long Distance (5K) Canoeing Competition 2013 (run by the HK Canoe Union), the Junior Fencing Championship 2013 (run by the Hong Kong Fencing Association), the BOCHK Youth Badminton Championship 2013 (Women's Doubles, run by the HK Badminton Association), and a Paulinian was the `Girls Overall' 1st Runner-up in the District Squad Training Programme 2013 (run by the HK Badminton Association).

Above all, we firmly believe that with the Lord's blessings, and under the leadership of our Principal Rev. Sr. Margaret Wong, Paulinians present and past will burn on as beacons of light, and thus perpetuate our heritage as the great daughters of St. Paul.