

THE RAFFLES WAVE



RGS Sports Fest 2023 was a blast filled with non-stop fun activities for everyone! From inter-house novelty relays to game stations and virtual reality games, there was something for every student and staff member to enjoy!

NATIONAL SCHOOL GAMES

At the National School Games (NSG), which runs from March to August this year, our student athletes continue to make the school proud. They have not only achieved success in various competitions, but have also displayed exceptional sportsmanship while overcoming challenges. In the upcoming weeks, we will continue to support our 'C' division teams as they prepare for their respective competitions.



SINGAPORE YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation is a performance and benchmarking platform that offers opportunities for continuous learning and improvement through feedback from industry professionals. Our performing arts CCA performed exemplarily and made the school proud with their accomplishments.

LEARNING JOURNEYS WEEK

We concluded Term 1 on a high note with exciting and experiential Learning Journeys (LJ) and Regional Immersion and Community Exploration (RICE) trips for all our girls.

Our students participated in a variety of activities such as volunteering to clean homes for the elderly and interacting with them through service learning (Year 1s), exploring a kampung (Malay village) in Malaysia and places of worship in Singapore as part of RICE (Year 2s). Other students learnt about the importance of sustainability in Singapore through a visit to Gardens by the Bay (Year 3s), and gained insights into the challenges faced by Singapore's air hub and how Singapore overcame it (Year 4s).

At RGS, LJ and RICE week is a crucial aspect of our Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) programme, providing immersive learning experiences beyond the classroom. We are thrilled that our girls were able to have an even more enriching LJ and RICE experience this year.



PLANTING OF CACAO TREES @ RGS



As part of our Environment Sustainability efforts at RGS, five cacao trees were planted along the strip of land between our school field and neighbouring Braddell Heights.

The seedlings and planting of the trees were sponsored by Ms Janice Wong, who is on her quest to plant 1,000 cacao trees across Singapore. Ms Wong will be sponsoring a total of 20 cacao trees that will be planted around our RGS Campus. Our RGS Alumnae (RGSA) is also supporting this effort.

RGS hopes to educate our girls on sustainable planting and growth, nurture citizen farmers among our staff and students. We also hope to encourage them to be active creators in environmental stewardship through contributing to the Million Trees and Bean to Bar Movement, among other initiatives.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2023 WORLD FINALS

At the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Michigan State University, our teams demonstrated exceptional performance, securing remarkable results in their respective divisions. In Problem 5 Division 2, titled "The Most Dramatic Problem Ever," they claimed an impressive 2nd place out of 65 competing teams. Additionally, in Problem 4 Division 3, titled "Where is the Structure?", they secured a commendable 15th place out of 36 teams, while in Problem 3 Division 3, titled "The Walls of Troy," they achieved a noteworthy 16th place out of 46 teams.



FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Congratulations to our students who represented Singapore in the Future Problem Solving Program International Conference at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, from June 7th to 11th. We are proud to announce that Tana Leong achieved first place in the Scenario Writing category, while our Global Issues Problem Solving Senior and Middle division teams secured second place out of 44 teams and fifth place out of 57 teams, respectively. Well done to our teams and their teacher-mentors for their outstanding performance!

SINGAPORE YOUNG PHYSICISTS TOURNAMENT 2023



Our students took part in the Singapore Young Physicists' Tournament (SYPT) 2023 on 4 February (Category B) and 11 February (Category A). Both teams clinched the Silver awards in their respective categories!

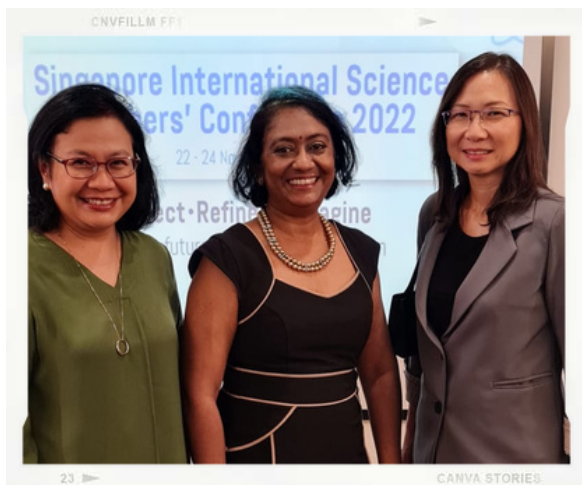
SINGAPORE AMAZING FLYING MACHINE COMPETITION 2023



Two teams represented RGS at the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition on 1st April 2023. Team Painted Bunting came in 3rd in Category B and Team Fantastic Flyers came in 3rd for Best Presentation in Category C!

SHINING STARS

Spotlight on our Staff!



OUTSTANDING STEM TEACHER AWARD 2022 - DR PRAMA SUNDARI

We congratulate Dr Prama Sundari, Head of Science, who was conferred the Outstanding STEM Teacher Award 2022. The award recognises a long career of refining one's craft, supporting colleagues and bringing forward the teaching and learning for Science in RGS, and for colleagues in other schools as well.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SERVICE - MR SHAUN DE SOUZA

We congratulate our Assistant Head for Talent Development, Mr Shaun De Souza, for his outstanding contributions to National Service. Click [here](#) to Listen to Mr Shaun De Souza share his memorable learning experiences during his National Service journey and how the unwavering support from his family and employer keeps him going!



REDESIGNING PEDAGOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Our teacher specialists from the RGS PeRL team authored a paper that was published in Conference Proceedings for the Redesigning Pedagogy International Conference 2022. You can read their submission via the link below: [An exploratory study on blended learning in a secondary school: teachers' perspectives by Ms Tan Yen Chuan & Ms Lucille Yap](#)

CONTRIBUTION TO SINGTEACH



Our Chinese Language teacher Miss Neo Jia Hui recently shared an article with SingTeach. Published quarterly by the Office of Education Research at National Institute of Education (NIE), SingTeach is an e-magazine dedicated to improving teaching and enhancing learning. You can read more about her sharing [here](#)

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

REDEFINING STRENGTH

In a world that often values mental toughness and emotional resilience above all else, Marianne Wang, a remarkable graduate from the Class of 2021 and recipient of the prestigious Rafflesian Award, dares to challenge the status quo. Her transformative journey at RGS has reshaped her understanding of strength in ways she never imagined.

From the fiercely competitive realm of sports, Marianne has witnessed firsthand the power of unity and resilience. Through both victorious moments and crushing defeats, she discovered the extraordinary strength that comes from standing together as a team, overcoming obstacles, and emerging even stronger. These shared experiences have taught her the immense value of human connections forged through adversity.

Marianne has become a symbol of RGS's commitment to redefining strength and resilience. She embodies a new perspective, one that celebrates vulnerability, shared experiences, and the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. In this feature, Marianne shares her personal triumphs, challenges, and the invaluable lessons she has learned along the way. Her journey serves as an inspiration for all, showcasing the power of embracing our humanity while striving for excellence.



PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

RECEIVING THE RAFFLESIAN AWARD

"It's hard to pinpoint the exact emotion I felt when Ms Yeo (nonchalantly) mentioned it to me actually! I remember briefly entering a state of shock and derealisation as a wave of memories rushed in - the award had always felt so far away from me, and seeing all the outstanding seniors had always made the title feel so incredibly untouchable and intimidating in the way it highlighted one single Rafflesian. Yet I felt none of that personal honour at that moment. Instead, it was a powerful feeling of connectedness and ownership as a member of an entire outstanding batch, because of how much I've been inspired by everyone around me in the past 4 years. I felt proud of myself for growing, but more so for the teachers and peers around me who have brought out the best in me and made me a better person, and shown me the irreplaceable value that we all had. The award felt very much like a reminder in acknowledgement of that very fact, and it made me feel extremely empowered and excited to see what all of us can do for society in the future."



Marianne receiving the Rafflesian Award from Dr. Sherry Aw at the 143rd Founder's Day.



Marianne and her Table Tennis team cheering wholeheartedly after regaining the Champion title at the National School Games (2019).

HER RGS EXPERIENCE

"The first adjective that comes to mind is humanising. I think we tend to value mental hardness and emotional impenetrability in our daily pursuit of individual achievements, but RGS has softened that perception for me. From experiencing excruciating losses with my Table Tennis teammates in NSGs and learning to come back stronger together, to being unwavering pillars of emotional support for each other throughout even the toughest of responsibilities in RGPB... all the challenges and stressors we've been exposed to in various fields have forced us to lay ourselves bare to one another, and more importantly, to appreciate that shared vulnerability."

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

HER RGS EXPERIENCE

"The strength of the RGS sisterhood is definitely what most of us treasure the most after the 4 years, because they not only left moving memories, but also a renewed maturity in how we perceive strength. I've discovered so much through working in all the teams I've been in, like my CmPs group Project Mindflayer, and in the Triple C Programme, and come to prioritise the personal connections and emotional depth from interactions more than tangible results. In that regard, RGS has made me - and many of us, who were conditioned to believe strength was standing alone - much more human, and I'm forever thankful."



Project Mindflayer after Nationals FPSP Finals 2021!



Marianne dancing with her classmates from 405 to their party playlist!

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT RGS?

"Tom Yum noodles! Haha... food aside, while I am unreservedly enjoying JC life, I do often smile at the recollection of RGS vibes. The RGS community is a very close-knitted one, and we seem to have a lovely penchant for screaming! The never ending shrieks from students cheering Unite together from audiences supporting their friends at Student Leaders' Investiture or R-Factor is definitely something I miss (400 people screaming together is, shockingly, very hard to recreate). But on a deeper level, that thick-skinned teenage energy is also what has created a unique safe space across the years. RGS has always felt incredibly comforting - it was a place where we could be goofy with our friends, laze around carelessly, and cry when we needed to. It's hilarious when I think back on just how many inside jokes I've had with so many groups of friends, from silly panic moments in Mandarin Debate to Just Dance rave sessions with my Y34 class... Everywhere in the batch felt like home, and I think we only really realise how insanely precious that is when we leave that safe bubble."

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

Her Inspiration in Life

"In 2018, I attended a Meet-The-People Session in Marine Parade that left a lasting impact on me. The evening was filled with back-to-back requests from residents dealing with heavy family struggles, financial breakdowns, and serious illnesses. Despite their difficulties, I was struck by how these residents explained their situations with grace and courtesy. As I watched them hold back tears and patiently wait, I felt a deep sense of admiration and empowerment. It was a wake-up call for me, reminding me of the realistic struggles many people face and the incredible strength they possess.

Rather than feeling pity or compassion, I was inspired by their composure, determination, and graciousness. They showed unwavering dedication to their families while being understanding of the limitations we faced in helping them. These moments, where guilt mixed with admiration and tears mixed with smiles, instilled in me the realisation of the power each individual holds within themselves. Whether taking on unexpected responsibilities or embracing voluntary duties, everyone has an incomparable impact on those around them in their own unique way.

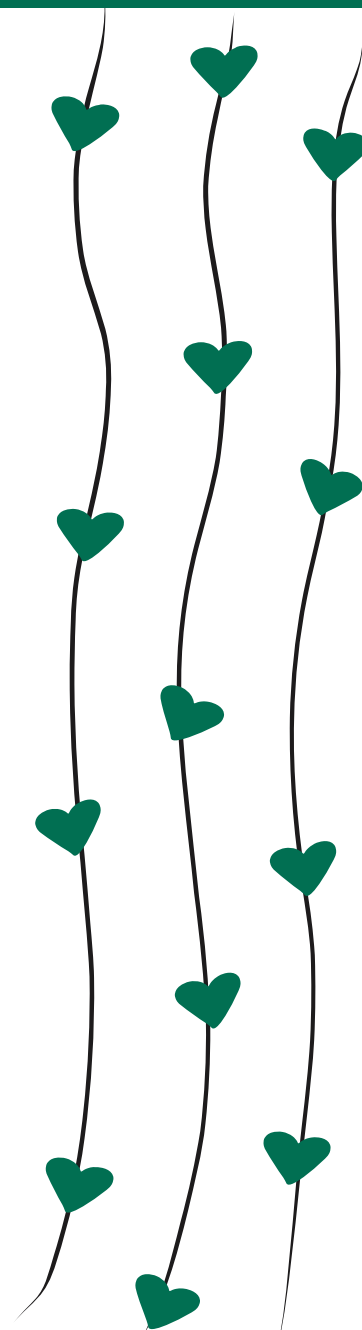
It's easy to overlook these sparks of strength in ourselves and others, but experiences like this remind me to notice and appreciate them. They fill me with hope and serve as reminders of the incredible potential we all have."

Hopes and Wishes for RGS

"I would like to share a valuable tip that I have learned over the years, especially when it comes to finding inspiration. I have realised that inspiration and motivation rarely come naturally, and their effects are not long-lasting. The inspiration I received from the kind residents I encountered could have easily faded away if I didn't consistently volunteer or make an effort to build personal connections with others.

Life's challenges can gradually erode my empathy and energy if I don't actively reach out to those around me. Conditioning and repetition hold significant power. Similar to a workout routine, it is essential for us to consistently step outside our comfort zones and explore areas beyond our immediate fields or social circles. This can involve reminding ourselves of familiar concepts or actively seeking new experiences that broaden our perspectives and understanding of the world and the people in it.

Opportunities for renewed motivation are often consciously pursued, more than we might realise. As I mentioned during Founder's Day, the true meaning of life lies in continuously seeking and redefining its purpose. I encourage you to stay resilient, never lose your hopeful spirit, and remain committed to growth, my fellow Rafflesians."



***Know someone who should be featured or have something interesting to share?
Write to us at corporatecomms@rafflesgirlssch.edu.sg***

Our latest Yearbook (2022) is available [here](#).
Past issues of the Yearbook are available at the National Library Board's [Online Catalogue](#).



RAFFLES
GIRLS' SCHOOL

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