

JH and SH1 Orientation Genesis: Unravelling A New Beginning

Exhilarating Orientation activities awaited the new members of Junior High 1 and 3 (JH) and Senior High 1 (SH1). This marked a new beginning for the newcomers. Apprehension in some students was quickly dissipated by the bonding sessions led by the Student Councillors and Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs).

Even though Genesis was held in January and March for the JH and SH freshmen respectively, the students enjoyed similar bonding experiences through thrilling station games and groovy mass dances. To bring the level of fun to a new height, the JH students had the opportunity to participate in an external hunt in Sentosa!

During both Orientations, resounding cheers were heard throughout the day as the Orientation groups were engaged in fun-filled activities. Through the cheers and games, friendship was forged among students who were once strangers to one another.

The Walk-In, a highly-anticipated dance item the OGLs had prepared since November 2009, even managed to attract some ex-NJCians to join in the fun. All good things will eventually come to an end. With a big bang, the week-long Orientation came to an end.



NJC Road Run 2010

The NJC Road Run was held this year on 26 February. The run took place outside the school compound, in the beautiful and tranquil neighbourhood.

"I understand that the PE teachers have been giving the students plenty of opportunities to familiarize themselves with the route," commented Mrs. Cheng.

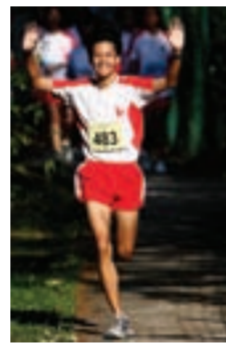
"Being physically fit is necessary and essential for students, especially when we are grooming them to be leaders. A person must be fit, in order to be able to take the rigour of any programme, be it academic or physical," replied Mrs. Cheng when asked about the purpose behind the annual run.

Moreover the annual Road Run is one event which binds three groups of stakeholders: the faculty, the parents and the Alumni. Road Run 2010 was

also significant in that the Parents-in-ACTION Support Group (PAACT) raised funds for the College. Mr. Tajinder Singh, Chairman of PAACT and the Guest of Honour for the event said, "The fund-raising conducted before the Road Run brought greater awareness to the existence of this year's Road Run and its underlying purpose."

The apparent excitement of the students as they gathered at the starting line and the smiles on their faces after they had completed the route, despite being physically stretched to their limits, showed that they thoroughly enjoyed the run.

So, what can we expect in the next Road Run? "A more interesting and a longer route, making use of all of our new facilities, including our indoor sports hall, once they are ready," Mrs. Cheng said. That certainly sounds like something that everyone can eagerly look forward to!



NJCians Did the College Proud With Stellar 2009 A Level Examination Results!

Much anticipation filled the air as the batch of students that graduated recently gathered in the College Hall waiting eagerly to collect their hard earned results. Our Principal, Mrs Virginia Cheng, addressed the 2009 cohort with much pride as the students had turned in a stellar performance in the 2009 A Level Examination.

There was a record number of 10 students obtaining 8 distinctions and 51 students obtaining 7 distinctions. 1 out of every 2 students achieved at

least 3 H2 distinctions and 62 students concluded their stay in NJC with perfect A Level scores. There was a joyous roar when Mrs Cheng announced that we achieved 98% pass and 26% Distinction in General Paper. Students applauded the excellent performance of the cohort as their hard work coupled with the teachers' guidance reaped excellent results.

Congratulations to all the NJCians who have done the College proud!



NJC Alumni Past-Versus-Present Games 2010



About 70 current and past students of the College turned up on 13 March 2010 (Saturday) for a morning of good fun and interaction on the soccer field. Two games were played with the Alumni teams facing off in the second match, showing that the Alumni members were still in good form after leaving College and the watchful eyes of their Physical Education teachers!

If you are an avid football, basketball or tennis player, please watch out for the next Past-versus-Present Games which will take place next year. This is a regular feature on the NJC Alumni Calendar and is jointly organised by the NJC Alumni and the College's PE Department.

JH2 Drama Night

The Junior High 2 (JH2) drama production, Spotlight, was held on the evening of 26 March 2010. It was an important event for the JH2 students as the preparation for the event took over one year. Every class staged a play, some with quirky titles like 'Hungry' and 'Sitting Down to Stand Up'. The air was thick with anticipation and excitement as parents and other family members of the JH2 students streamed into the Shaw Lecture Theatre, eager to see their children or siblings perform their best. Our Principal, Mrs Virginia Cheng, and Vice-Principals, Mrs Poon Wai Chin and Mr Yeo Sho

Hor, also attended the event to lend their support.

Much to everyone's delight, the plays were polished and entertaining. There was high-quality acting as the students got into character and played their parts. The students also made use of lighting and space effectively to involve and engage the audience. The event ended with a rousing round of applause and everyone was in high spirits. As the JH2 students gathered to take a final bow, one of the drama facilitators spoke for us all when she said, "I am so proud of them!"



News Flash!

NJC Car Decal

If you would like to display our very own NJC Car Decal on your vehicle, please collect your FREE decal from College from 1 June 2010 (Tuesday) at NJC's General Office during office hours (8 am to 5 pm).

Seize this chance to reconnect with the College by updating your particulars at the General Office.

Do note that the decals will also be distributed at the Homecoming Dinners!



NJC Homecoming Dinner for Alumni from 1969 to 1979

3 July 2010 (Saturday), 7.30 pm at the NJC Boarding School

Menu: 4-course Western Sit-Down Dinner
Number of Persons Per Table: 10
Cost: \$300/- per table
Dress Code: Smart Casual

All are welcome but priority will be given to +NJCians from the 1969 to 1979 batches and +those who make their payment by 7 June 2010 (Mon) at the General Office of NJC and +those who make their booking by the table.

Please book your table by emailing Mr Kenneth Tan at tan_keng_ghee@moe.gov.sg.

If you have any queries, please direct the email to Mr Kenneth Tan or call 64661144 (Gen Off).

Please make your cheque payable to "NJC Alumni" and indicate your name, year of graduation, email address and contact number on the back of the cheque.

Book early as only 30 tables are available!

The NJC Alumni meet the NJC Student Councillors

Reflections by Faisal B Johandi, President of 39th Student Council

As an alumnus, I felt that the session was very fruitful. Having the NJC alumni members interact with present Student Councillors provided an informal platform for the Councillors to learn how the NJC experience left a deep and positive impact on the lives of the alumni. We shared our memories of our school days with our juniors and learnt more about the current students' perspective of the College. One of the issues discussed was the NJ spirit and how it can be strengthened amongst NJCians. The Councillors were given an insight into why members of the NJC Alumni are so proud to be NJCians with each alumnus sharing his own exciting NJC story. During the session, the Councillors also got to learn more about the NJC Alumni and its contributions to NJC.

Reflections by Yee Jeng, President of 42nd Student Council

At the meeting, my Councillors and I had the opportunity to know first-hand how the NJC Alumni operates. I found that the NJC Alumni has been contributing tirelessly to the school behind-the-scenes. For instance, it organized the NJC 40th Anniversary Golf Tournament and raised funds for the needy students in NJC. It was definitely heartening to see NJCians who graduated decades ago come back and serve the College with honour.

Awed by the pride that these ex-NJCians still have in the College, my Councillors and I engaged in an in-depth discussion with the Alumni on the various factors to consider in building a strong school spirit. I gained an insight into what NJC was like in the past. Despite the lack of facilities on the previous NJC Campus, the Alumni developed a sense of belonging to the College through the friendships they had forged and the fond memories they had cultivated with their peers in the College.

We asked what could be done to help build the NJ spirit now. An alumnus shared, "The NJ spirit is what you make of it. It must be in you. It will not take effect even if many people push for it, but they do not believe in it in the first place. The school itself is an inanimate object. You cannot expect a non-living object to provide school spirit, for it is the people who matter most."

All in all, this gathering with the Alumni definitely re-ignited in my fellow Councillors and me our passion to continue serving the College! Service with Honour!

Interview with Mr Edward Chia Class of 2001/2002

Mr Edward Chia was the Vice-President of the 34th Student Council. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Business Economics and Political Sciences) from the National University of Singapore. In 2003, he started Arts for Us All (AFUA) and is currently its Founding Chairman. To date, AFUA has raised a total of \$60 000 for various charities in Singapore. He was also awarded the National Arts Council Arts Supporter Award. A young and rising entrepreneur, Mr Chia is the co-owner and manager of Timbre Music Restaurant and Bar. This venture was a marriage of his two passions - music and business. As an acknowledgement of his contributions to society, he was appointed a council member of the 9th National Youth Council in 2005. We had the privilege to speak to Mr Chia to gain some insights into his life as an entrepreneur.

Interview with Mr Edward Chia Class of 2001/2002

What inspired you to set up Timbre?

As I was in the Student Council in NJC, I got the hang of organising events. When I stepped down, I got a group of friends from other JCs to stage a fundraising concert for the National Cancer Foundation. We got different arts groups together and that eventually started the ball rolling. That went on throughout my national service and eventually how Timbre came about was due to a lack of funds for the non-profit organisation. With the funding from the food and beverage sales, as well as the assurance of having a fixed location, it could then fund the non-profit organisation. That was also when I met my business partner who was a musician.

What would you attribute your success to?

Well I wouldn't say Timbre is very successful; it's pretty much a journey to me. Timbre, as a brand, is 5 years old. It's not the only thing that we own and run. We run the food and beverage in Studio M Hotel. We also hosted Asia's largest beer festival. I'd definitely say it's very much a team effort. Today as a group, we've got 140 staff. My job is just to lead them and provide directions. It's a collective team effort. On a personal note, obviously, I have to thank my parents.

What are some sacrifices you have to make?

Well I'd say personal time. I work between 12 to 16 hours a day. In the service industry, we work 24 hours 7 days a week. Now that we're running hotel operations, we serve breakfast to the hotel guests and we work late into the night. Of course, we work in shifts. I started Timbre at the same time I started my undergraduate studies in NUS. Obviously, I did not have a typical campus life, and I'll never get it back again. It's a fair level of personal sacrifice. When you run your own business, you choose to be your own boss and you can choose to slack or be hardworking. At the end of the day, you are governed by your own performance, so I guess it requires a lot of discipline.

Were there any difficulties faced in setting up your business?

Every day is still a challenge. Today, everyday is pretty much of a challenge. However, instead of looking at them as problems, I look at them as opportunities to solve problems. In fact, that's life - there is never a day without problems. In the beginning, financing was an issue. We're new and nobody knew us. We had to do everything from scratch.

In your two years in NJC, what do you remember the most?

Very much of my life as a Student Councillor and all the Student Council activities. I might not have done what I am doing today if not for me being in the Student Council. It was really at that point in time when I fell in love with organising events. Today, I'm still organising events; it's just that they are on a different level.

What do you usually do in your free time?

That's if I have any free time to begin with. I have very little free time. Whenever I have any free time, I exercise. When you're always working, you neglect your health. This is especially so if you are in the food and beverage industry as it's easy to overindulge. Whenever I have free time on Sundays, I go for a swim or exercise to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Do you have any advice for NJC students who want to be entrepreneurs?

I chose to be an entrepreneur at a young age due to a pragmatic reason. If I choose to be an entrepreneur in my thirties, the opportunity cost is very high. I might have a family and a mortgage to pay so the risk is a lot higher. At a young age without any commitments, the risk is not as high and I still had the energy to do it. To NJC students who would like to be entrepreneurs, the advice I can give is to do your research right and think carefully as most of the time what you plan does not turn out the way you planned it to be. It boils down to your level of perseverance and how positive you are as a person. Don't over analyze things. What an entrepreneur does is creating something out of nothing, so it's all about action as well as theoretical and statistical analysis.

News Flash!

NJC Homecoming Dinner for Alumni from 1980 to 1989

4 September 2010 (Saturday), 7.30 pm at the NJC Boarding School

Menu: 4-course Western Sit-Down Dinner
Cost: \$300/- per table
Dress Code: Smart Casual

All are welcome but priority will be given to +NJCians from the 1980 to 1989 batches and +those who make their payment by 6 August 2010 (Fri) at the General Office of NJC and +those who make bookings by the table.

Please book your table by emailing Mr Kenneth Tan at tan_keng_ghee@moe.gov.sg.

If you have any queries, please direct the email to Mr Kenneth Tan or call 64661144 (Gen Off).

Please make your cheque payable to "NJC Alumni" and indicate your name, year of graduation, email address and contact number on the back of the cheque.

Book early as only 30 tables are available!

NJC Alumni Adventure Hike

Date: 10 July 2010 (Saturday)

Meeting time: 7.30 am at NJC

Route: MacRitchie Nature Reserve to Bt Timah Hill (includes the Tree Top Walk)

Family and friends of NJC Alumni are welcome!

Please contact Mr Muhammad Faisal Johandi at echal97@hotmail.com to register for this walk.