

THE RAFFLES WAVE



Decked out in our House colours, we brought the Rafflesian Spirit to Serangoon Stadium for our annual **RGS Sports Fest 2024!** Despite the drizzle, the Rafflesian community was all set to end the semester with a blast, filled with non-stop fun activities for everyone!

LEARNING JOURNEYS WEEK

We concluded Term 1 with 'Learning Journeys (LJ)' and 'Regional Immersion and Community Exploration (RICE)' week.

Students immersed themselves in the exhilarating realm of civic engagement, forging strong ties with the community and gearing up for impactful social action.

The week-long activities included volunteering to clean homes for the elderly and interacting with them through service learning (Year 1s), exploring a kampung (Malay village) in Malaysia and visiting places of worship in Singapore as part of RICE (Year 2s). Other students gained a greater understanding of advocacy efforts by environmental and social welfare organisations (Year 3s), and gained insights into the challenges faced by Singapore's air hub and how Singapore overcame them (Year 4s).

LJ and RICE play integral roles in our Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) programme, offering immersive learning experiences beyond the classroom.



HUSH-STEM WEEK

Jointly organised by the Humanities and Science departments, this year's theme "Step Out, Start Up" ignited a spark in our hearts, inspiring the school community to step out, create, connect, and contribute towards a brighter tomorrow.

From captivating Start-Up Showcase hall assemblies to interactive workshops and informative learning journeys, students had the opportunity to engage in deep discussions with young trailblazers from diverse start-ups and enterprises, sparking our creativity and fuelling their aspirations.

The week's experiences reaffirmed our commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and social responsibility. Together, we can inspire each other to become advocates for positive change in our society.



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.

NSS ESN BIODIVERSITY RACE

Students from TheWildSide, Cogitaire, and other passionate RGS girls showcased their enthusiasm and skills in the 3rd NSS ESN Biodiversity Race. This exciting event saw participation from 40 teams representing twelve primary and secondary schools across six locations on the island. Their mission was to record research-grade observations of various species, including amphibians, birds, butterflies, moths, mammals, and reptiles.



ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2024 WORLD FINALS

At the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Michigan State University, our teams delivered an exceptional performance, securing remarkable results in their respective divisions. Problem 3 Division 2 (P3D2), titled "Classics...Opening Acts" came in 2nd out of 62 teams and was also awarded the special OMER's Award! The OMER's Award was presented to the P3D2 team for their exemplary sportsmanship and kindness to others amidst the heat of competition.



FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In June, four exceptional teams represented RGS at the international competition in Indiana University Bloomington from 5- 9 June! Our Community Problem Solving teams, Project Praesidio and Project Majulah, achieved an impressive 3rd place in their respective divisions. Our Global Issues Problem Solving (Senior Division) team also excelled, securing 3rd place!

YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Our Y3 ASEAN Scholar, Narudee Teplertboon, earned second place in the Young Reporters for the Environment writing competition with her compelling article on climate change. Titled 'Saving The Earth's Biggest Brains,' the piece delves into the plight of sperm whales, highlighting their vulnerability to threats induced by climate change.

THE MEDIA CHALLENGE



Our students participated in Republic Polytechnic's The Media Challenge on 11-12 March 2024 and emerged as champions. Competing against 21 teams from 16 schools, they created content packages on mental wellness among Singaporean youths. Workshops led by industry experts and lecturers enhanced their digital media skills. Pitching to a panel of judges, they received valuable feedback and honed their presentation abilities.

Farewell Ms Chin Jen Fu!

We bade a fond farewell to our beloved Deputy Principal, Ms Chin Jen Fu on 21 May 2024. Ms Chin embarked on her illustrious journey with RGS back in 1987, for over three decades, Ms Chin has been a guiding light, shaping various cohorts of girls into Daughters of a Better Age.

In this special feature, Ms Chin shares with us some of her fondest memories of her time in RGS, the key figures who influenced her leadership style and her all time favourites!



MS CHIN'S FIRST DAY IN RGS & HER ASPIRATIONS

"I first stepped foot in RGS@Anderson on 2 January 1987, feeling a mix of excitement, anticipation, and anxiety. Having studied in a co-educational school and briefly taught at The Chinese High School (now Hwa Chong Institution), I was approached by the Gifted Education Branch to teach in the nascent Gifted Education Programme at RGS. I wondered if I would be able to establish rapport with my students quickly and gain their confidence.



Having experienced both inspiring and less inspiring teachers as a student, I aspired to be the kind of teacher whose students eagerly anticipate coming to class, feeling inspired to learn in a caring and safe environment. When I later took on a leadership role, this aspiration extended to my colleagues. My purpose has always been to create an enabling culture for this vision to come to fruition."

Farewell Ms Chin Jen Fu!

MS CHIN'S MEMORABLE MOMENTS & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"One of the most memorable moments in recent times was working with colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the well-being of both staff and students, and to facilitate smooth and effective online teaching and learning. It was a challenging period, but I am proud that through the concerted efforts of all staff, we managed to navigate it reasonably well.

Serving as the pioneer Head of the GE Department (1993), Director of Talent Development (2006), and Deputy Principal for Organisational Development (2008) are among my most memorable moments. Those were exciting times, rallying staff and collaborating with like-minded colleagues to envision and create new possibilities for both staff and students.

As the first Director of Talent Development, I introduced Treffinger's Talent Development (TD) framework, which takes a systematic and coherent approach to developing talents. This framework aligns with the contemporary conception of giftedness, viewing it as a set of characteristics and traits that can be nurtured through appropriate instruction and experiences, rather than a fixed trait determined by a single score like an IQ index. At RGS, we have developed a comprehensive TD programming, believing that every girl has valuable potential and that talent can emerge from sustained involvement in areas of strength, interest, or passion.

Another highlight was the successful implementation of RA 1.0 in 2007, working alongside GE pioneers such as Ms May Tan, Ms Yeo Soo Ling, and Ms Foo Ling Ling."



Farewell Ms Chin Jen Fu!

MS CHIN'S KEY INFLUENCERS: HER PARENTS

"My leadership at RGS has been deeply influenced by watching my parents, both primary school Chinese Language teachers, dedicated themselves to the teaching vocation. My father, now 104 years old, still reads the Zaobao daily with a well-worn dictionary by his side, reflecting his lifelong commitment to learning. Their work ethics instilled in me the values of tenacity, responsibility, and compassion, which have consciously and subconsciously shaped my leadership style."

FINAL WORDS FROM MS CHIN: "PAY IT FORWARD"

"Many people, often unknown to the students and staff, have contributed generously to the programs and facilities they enjoy today. I hope they will pay it forward, continuing this legacy of generosity and support."



Ms Chin's Favourites!

Ms Chin was asked to list the first thing that comes to mind for each category and these were her favourites!

Favourite School Cheer
"Raffles Unite!"

Favourite School Song
Dedication

Favourite Spot at Braddell Campus
Parade Square

Favourite House
Buckle! 

Favourite School Event
National Day Celebration

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

BREAKING BARRIERS IN THE SKY: LEE MEI YI'S TRAILBLAZING JOURNEY FROM RGS TO THE RSAF

In a world where the sky is literally the limit, Lee Mei Yi (Class of 2001), has soared to unprecedented heights. As the first woman in Singapore to command a fighter squadron, Mei Yi has carved her name in history with her indomitable spirit and exceptional skill. Her leadership reached a breathtaking pinnacle when she led the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) fighter team in the awe-inspiring "Salute to Nation" bomb burst at the National Day Parade in 2022!

Mei Yi's trailblazing accomplishments were formally recognised in 2023 when she was inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, cementing her legacy as a pioneer and role model for future generations. But what motivated Mei Yi to pursue a military career and how did her formative years at Raffles Girls' School influence her path? In this feature, Mei Yi shares about her journey, the reasons behind her unconventional career choice, the challenges she has overcome, and the memorable experiences at RGS that shaped her ambitions and her commitment to public service.



PURSUING A CAREER IN THE MILITARY

"As I was mulling over my future career choices in my JC days, I was certain about two things - I didn't want a desk bound job and I was keen to serve. I was in track and field in RGS, and later canoeing in RJC. So I had always been more active and enjoyed the sense of camaraderie with my teammates. Also, perhaps I was influenced by my seniors, many of whom had joined public service, and the ethos of contributing back to the community that RGS preached. Hence, the military became a natural choice for me. Getting through pilot training wasn't easy, but not insurmountable too. I didn't have any prior flying experience, so it was a steep learning curve for me. But I'm grateful to my coursemates. We were all in foreign countries, namely Australia for my Basic Wings Course and France for my Fighter Wings Course, and trying our best to get through pilot training successfully. We worked together by sharing our study notes or flight debrief pointers from our instructors, so that we don't repeat each other's mistakes. My course, as a whole, did very well to complete pilot training with a high success rate."

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

SALUTE TO THE NATION (NDP 2022)

"One memorable experience was when my squadron, 140 Squadron, was tasked to perform the F-16 'Salute to the Nation' bomb burst in NDP 2022. It was the last NDP to be held at the floating platform and my team had spent many sessions to perfect our execution of the bomb burst. It was a special day that we wanted to celebrate with our families, but we are technically working that day. So we invited our families to the air base for a family day on National Day itself. We launched for the flight and I led the F-16 formation for a flight around the heartlands, the total defence display, and finally the bomb burst during our National Anthem. We then landed and joined our families to watch the rest of the NDP performances over dinner. It was definitely special to share the honour of performing at NDP with our families."



F-16 'Salute to the Nation' at NDP 2022.
Image credit: Channel News Asia



Lee Mei Yi in the F-16 fighter plane
Image credit: Her World Singapore



Lee Mei Yi, Guest-of-honour at the 2022 RGS National Day Celebrations



Lee Mei Yi receiving a painting at the 2022 RGS National Day Celebrations

HER RGS EXPERIENCE

"I have very fond memories of my RGS days! RGS taught me to be independent and strong willed. In an all-girls school, we learned to do everything ourselves. The teachers also encouraged us to strive for our dreams; and I also hear of the old girls achieving great milestones in their careers. Having grown up in such an environment, it built my determination and confidence to step into and thrive in a male-dominated vocation in the RSAF, with little doubt that my gender will stand in the way.

Also, RGS provided a nurturing and supportive environment for girls to grow and to support each other. I was reminded of it when I returned to RGS for the NDP celebrations in 2022. It was heartening to see each Year's students cheering others on. Till today, my classmates in RGS remain as my closest friends who meet up frequently to talk about life and work, so I'm deeply thankful for the lifelong friendships that I made in RGS.

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

LARGEST IMPACT OF THE RAFFLES EXPERIENCE

"It was probably my decision to join the track and field team. I wasn't the top athlete bagging all the trophies, but the experience definitely shaped me into who I am today. The training sessions taught me discipline and hard work. The competitions taught me to perform under pressure, and to never give up. And training together and supporting each other as one team taught me that we could achieve great things - if I recall correctly, RGS came in as the champion in B div nationals for the first time when I was in Sec 4 in 2001!"



Lee Mei Yi and her track & field teammates

FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRADITIONS

"I enjoyed the celebrations when the entire school will gather at the amphitheatre, and we always would end the event by singing our school song and others like 'If We Hold on Together', while swaying together to the beat with our arms around each other. We also had strong affinity for our houses. I remember spending every Wednesday afternoon in our Richardson house activities. And of course, it was nice to be greeted every morning upon reaching school by the Athena statue at the RGS entrance."

ADVICE FOR THOSE KEEN TO PURSUE A CAREER IN THE MILITARY

"The thought of joining the military may be daunting. But you believe in service and making a change, the SAF would offer a challenging, exciting and meaningful career. If you are the type that goes off the beaten path and thrives under pressure, SAF will be the best choice for you."

Hopes and Wishes for RGS

"RGS has always been a nurturing environment for young girls to grow into strong, capable and community-minded ladies, who can then chart their own paths, whether in their work or family lives. I have full faith that this will continue for future generations of RGS girls."



Lee Mei Yi and fellow RGS alumna who were inducted to the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame

Image credits: Her World Singapore, Channel News Asia & Lee Mei Yi

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

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



RAFFLES
GIRLS' SCHOOL

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