

True Knowledge | Faith in Christ | Godly Character

# THE LIGHT

32<sup>nd</sup> Edition/May/2015



# *Faith in Christ*

# THE LIGHT

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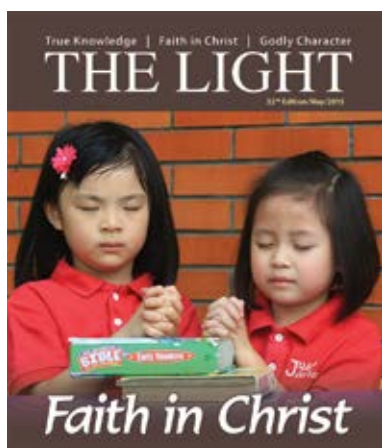
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COVER : Alexandra Christy Untono – K3 (left),  
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K2 Fieldtrip to Heliport  
27 February 2015



# FAITH IN CHRIST

Welcome to the final edition of *The Light* for the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Our theme for the year (Just Believe) has been centered round part of our vision statement: **Faith in Christ. We have explored what it means to do just that: put our faith in Christ.**

**J**UST like the Synagogue ruler who came to Jesus concerned for his daughter who was sick, when the bad news came that his daughter had died Jesus said to him, "Don't be afraid, just believe." And we know the rest of the story—she was restored to life again. So we work to present this same message to all those who come to us. Faith in Christ restores our humanity, transforming us from broken, lost, purposeless people into the marvelous creation we were intended to be. This transformation leads us to view the world differently. In this edition you will find examples of teachers who are working to help their students understand how God's perspective makes a difference in our lives.

Dan Fennell reminds us however that believing is not always easy. God's perspective is very different from ours and he reminds us that 'God never sacrifices an ultimate reality for immediate relief.' Belief however is never meant to be a blind step into something unknown. Belief for the Christian is in a person not a system or set of ideas. When we know whom we have believed, like Paul we can say that we too are persuaded that he is able to keep what we have entrusted to him (ourselves) to the very end (2 Timothy 1:12). That is why the Scripture writers call us to know Christ, the one in whom we must believe.

Ezra also speaks of the challenge of believing as he ponders how we can believe but doubt at the same time. His story reminds us that believing does not mean standing still and just accepting whatever happens but pushing on through until we find God's answer and response. Peter had to step out of the boat, the disciples had to leave their livelihoods to follow Jesus, the blind man had to go and wash in the pool of Siloam and so on. Belief in the Christian faith is about action not just ideas.

In English and Science classes at SPH, teachers are attempting to put this into action by leading students to a new perspective of God and his world. Believing in God the Creator also means being prepared to find him in the world. Science, as Rod Lambert explains, is the process of discovering God through his handiwork. Science and faith are not contradictory but complementary to each other. We want our students to be excellent users of the scientific method recognising God as Creator and Sustainer and watching for his revelation of his world as they study it. Kemang Village's theme of 'Inspiring Scientists with Truth from Above' captures this well.

The Arts and Sport feature strongly again as we expose students to these worlds and encourage them to approach their work and play on the basis of God's design and desire. The SPH Biennial Concert gives students an excellent opportunity to showcase their gifts and bless others with fine music and dance. Kemang Village's performance of the musical *Annie* was outstanding and gave many students an opportunity to express their creativity in a different way. Sport and Art competitions bring students together and allow them to experience the fullness of what it is to be human.

We continued with a number of excellent parent seminars organised by Ibu Mini and her team. These opportunities not only give parents some excellent advice and direction in regards to their parenting but connects this to what SPH is doing with their children. Taking every aspect of life and presenting it as an expression of God at work, guiding and directing his people back to his original design. It is great to read the parent reflections and know that these seminars are helping them to carry out their responsibilities as parents.

I trust that this magazine will not only be an encouragement to teachers, parents and students as they see what God is doing in our schools but challenge us all to recommit to the task—preparing well equipped disciples for the ministry of reconciliation that God has called us to in a broken and hurting world.

By **Phillip Nash**

Head of School SPH Lippo Village and  
Coordinator of Pelita Harapan Schools



# 'Just Believe' - A Look at Lazarus

To 'Just Believe' in Jesus isn't as simple as it sounds! Has that been your experience? The story of Lazarus in John Chapter 11, which takes us to the extremities of human emotions, highlights how faith in God is sometimes disappointing and frustrating.

It was winter in Jerusalem and at the temple there were worshippers whose hearts were cold towards the Christ. *'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah tell us plainly,'* they said. *'I did tell you,'* Jesus replied, *'but you do not believe ... because you are not my sheep.'*

Outside the city, across the Jordan River, others did believe. Belief and unbelief are the backdrop to an emergency in Bethany. Jesus' good friend Lazarus was very sick. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus. **'Lord, the one you love is sick.'** This word *'love'* indicates that Jesus loved Lazarus like a brother. Jesus often went to Bethany to relax with this family. To their urgent call Jesus said to his disciples, *'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'*

We know, of course, how the story ends. Death will not be the end. The grave will proclaim God's glory. But Mary and Martha didn't know. They expected Jesus would come and cure their brother. Instead Jesus was distant and silent. John continues, *'Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.'* This word **'loved'** suggests Jesus loved them with agape love, God's eternal Love, a love that is stronger than death (Song of Songs 8:6).

Jesus loved them so much that *he stayed away*. Didn't he care? That's the accusation of atheists, isn't it? *'If your God is real,'* they say, *'he would stop children suffering, prevent natural disasters, cure malaria and intervene to end wars.'* Christians also wonder where God is in times of loneliness, loss and grief. When our prayers seem to go unanswered and Jesus doesn't come when we call, we suffer the delay and the silence of God's love. C. S. Lewis writes, *'when pain is to be born, a little courage helps more than much knowledge, a little human sympathy more than much courage, and the least tincture of the love of God more than all.'* Yet Jesus gave no indication of going to Bethany or of caring about Lazarus. Only after continuing in his work for two more days did Jesus say to his disciples, *'Let us go back to Judea ... Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'* As was often the case, Jesus' disciples were clueless, thinking that he meant Lazarus was actually sleeping and simply needed

waking. So Jesus told them plainly, *'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. Let us go to him.'*

Does it seem incredible to you that Jesus would say he was glad he wasn't there to heal his good friend? What we are meant to hear is Jesus' concern going far deeper and his purpose extending much wider. While Mary and Martha could only think of Lazarus, Jesus had a lesson for his disciples to learn, and for us too—that God never sacrifices an ultimate reality for an immediate relief—so that we may truly believe!

It was now the fourth day. In Bethany Lazarus' body had been wrapped and sealed in a family tomb carved out of a rocky hillside. Many Jews had come to comfort the weeping women. When Martha heard that Jesus was on the way, she went, weary with grief, to the outskirts of the village to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. *'Lord,'* Martha said, *'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'* How many times had she said those words during the past week? Martha's words echo our own exasperation when we walk through despair and disappointment. *'Lord—where were you when I needed you?'* Martha told Jesus exactly what she thought. It isn't wrong to tell God how you feel. There are people who think it irreligious to speak to God in this way. It isn't! God is the safest refuge for raw emotions. Jesus didn't rebuke Martha, instead he said to her, *'Your brother will rise again.'* Martha answered, *'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'* Jesus said to her, *'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'* 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, **'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'**

Returning to Mary, Martha called to her, *'The Teacher is here and is asking for you.'* Mary rushed to Jesus. He had not yet entered the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When Mary reached Jesus she fell at his feet saying, *'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'* Jesus saw her tears and the tears of the Jews who had come with her. Deeply moved in spirit he said to them, *'Where have you laid him?'* *'Come and see, Lord,'* they replied. **Jesus wept.** Jesus weeping with us and for us is the perspective we must have amidst our pain.

The Jews said, **'See how he loved him,'** but notice how the motifs of belief and unbelief again shadow this story. Others said, *'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'* Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. *'Take away the stone.'* **'But, Lord,'** said Martha, *'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.'* Martha believed

in a Last Day resurrection (as all Jews did), at the end of the age, but now resurrection life was breaking into the present, and into her pain, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'** So they took away the stone. After praying, *'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me,'* Jesus called in a loud voice, **'Lazarus, come out!'** And he did, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, **'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'** Jesus had done more than Mary and Martha could imagine. Their brother was alive, and so was their faith. So too *'many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.'* Belief or unbelief are the only responses possible to Jesus' power.

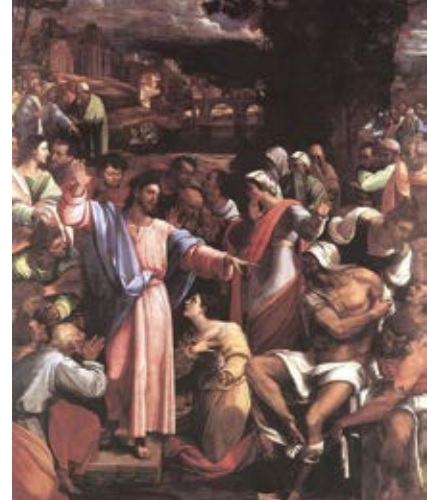
Some days later those in the crowd who had believed went to a dinner where Jesus was guest of honor, but also to see Lazarus. The chief priests however made plans to kill Lazarus, for on account of him many Jews were believing in Jesus. (John 12:9–11)

By contrast the believing crowds *'continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"* (John 12:19–21). Now we know why Jesus waited. He wanted the whole world to know of his resurrection power, not just two women!

*Sometimes our faith needs the silence of God's love, and His delays, in the midst of our pain, so that our faith will deepen through patient trust, and allow God to use our pain and grief in order to bring Life to a world weary of death and grave clothes.*

**"Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.  
Sing his praise without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise  
With him mayst rise."**

George Herbert, English poet (1593–1633)



By **Dan Fennell**  
Biblical Foundations Coordinator  
SPH Lippo Village





By **Teresa Renee Lubbers**  
Senior School Teacher – SPH Lippo Village

# Incorporating a Biblical Christian Worldview

I feel privileged to be an English teacher in a Christian school. Faith and the topics explored in literature naturally align themselves in an incredibly rich way. My approach to incorporating a **Biblical Christian Worldview** in my classes is to consider myself as a facilitator of students realizing the truth of life, including Truth—with a capital "T."

**I**n the English classroom there are consistent opportunities to look outward at the state of the world, but also inward at ourselves and what we need to do to grow as individuals and followers of Christ. Mercy and grace, for example, are virtues at the heart of the Christian life, and are concepts that are easily explored in the literature works we study.

This term my Grade 11 students have been studying short stories written by Flannery O'Connor. O'Connor was an American author who wrote stories as Christian allegories. Her stories are brutally honest portrayals of sinful humanity, not a sugar-coated view of the Christian life. In class, students have discussed and reflected on how we often miss moments of grace we are given as sinful people. O'Connor directly points to characters that are so caught up in their own versions of righteousness that they miss what God truly intends.

This makes my students realize exactly what grace means, they often say that certain characters do not deserve the grace they are given. I am then able to point out that is exactly what grace is!

We do not deserve it by definition. When students see that become a reality for a character in a story, I think, and hope, that it becomes more of a reality for them. Images and characters are not the only things that come off the page anymore, but the reality, challenge, and rewards of the Christian walk become clearer as well.

My Grade 9 class was also able to look into two themes that Christians often see as difficult to fully comprehend as followers of Christ: sacrifice and servant hearted relationships. While studying *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, students were able to have conversations about what is right and what is difficult when it comes to our relationships. They wrote, reflected, and discussed what mercy and friendship looks like in a sinful world.

Unfortunately, a large amount of literature displays the depraved situations that sinful humans are

surrounded by. In order to meaningfully incorporate a Christian worldview into my classes, I aim to show students that the ideas and struggles of a character in the book they are reading go beyond the page and beyond the classroom. This is what I am encouraging students to capture in their writing.

There are big ideas that matter and students will hopefully realize that they can carry and use them in their own Christian walk—especially the idea that God is bigger than all the discouraging situations they read about, experience, or see on a regular basis. His sovereignty will last beyond any of the classic stories that we read, and that is the Truth that matters most.





By **Rodney Lambert**  
Grade 3 Year Leader – SPH Lippo Village

# The Value of Science in a Biblical Christian Worldview

Grade 3 have been learning about **HOW THE WORLD WORKS**, specifically how the *Scientific Method* functions to help us know more about the physical world. The purpose of the unit is to help students develop conceptual understanding through experiencing hands-on science experiments. Key concepts included **function**, **perspective**, **reflection** and related concepts were **origins** and **evidence**.

**A**S students learned how to conduct fair tests, change variables, take measurements, record, represent, analyze data and make conclusions they were challenged to consider the things which influence the process or method of science.

In addition to the obvious factors of inaccuracy or errors in measurement/ equipment/materials, they were also encouraged to consider the effects of prior beliefs on sensory-perception and how this stops people from being an independent, objective or accurate observer. Real-world examples of scientists whose beliefs about origins prevented them seeing what was demonstrably there (**Dr. Phil Currie – Paleontologist**) or seeing what was proven later not to be there (**Sir Percival Lowell – Astronomer**), were provided to help students grow in their understanding.

Videos were also watched providing eye-witness testimony and scientific experiments demonstrating the powerful influence

of belief and perceptual-blindness upon our physical senses. With this in mind, we reflected upon sources of information and how we can really know that which is true. The scientific method was supported as a good way of confirming knowledge of the physical world.

The Bible however, was also included as a source of Divine revelation providing factual and truthful information about origins and

events of the past. Evidence for creation and the world-wide flood were provided in order to demonstrate the Bible's consistent message about and correlation with the physical world.

That is to say; what we read in God's Word agrees with what we see in God's world. This has encouraged students to see the value of science as a pathway to knowledge within the context of a Biblical Christian Worldview.







By **Ian Sembiring**  
Science Teacher – SPH Kemang Village

# Inspiring Scientists with Truth from Above

SPH Kemang Village has just held our Science Week this year from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Science Week was initially started with an annual Science Fair but the program has now grown into a week long program from two years ago.

**T**HE Science Week is a one week event with various activities for Senior School grade levels. Grade 7 students present a *Science Fair Exhibition*; Grade 8 students a *Science Investigatory Project*; Grade 9 and 10 students compete in a *Science Quiz Bee*; Grade 11 students do *Science Magic Shows* and Grade 12 students teach a thirty minutes science lesson in Junior School classes. Junior School students were invited to visit the exhibition, presentation and the learning about science from the Grade 12 students.

The purpose of this event is to develop knowledge and understanding of scientific facts, concepts, methodologies and communicating scientific information. Students are challenged to apply their learnings to solve real life problems in a practical way. The theme this year was *Inspiring Scientists with Truth from Above* and the key verse for the theme was taken from the book of Daniel 1:17 (TLB) *'God gave these four youths great ability to learn, and they soon mastered all the literature and science of the time; and God gave to Daniel special ability in understanding the meanings of dreams and visions.'*

The preparation for each event was integrated with the science curriculum. Students have been learning the skills and knowledge which they need to demonstrate through their projects for Science Week. A month before Science Week, science teachers spent more class time in helping the students to finalize the presentation ideas for Science Fair, Science Investigatory Project, Science Magic Show and Science Teach.

Students had limited resources available for them to make their projects. They were challenged to creatively invent ideas with no duplication from their peers. From this years' experience, we need to extend the preparation period to at least six weeks before the Science Week for students to prepare their projects.

This event effectively challenged students to demonstrate their scientific understanding. It provided a great opportunity for teachers to assess the students based on Assessment Objectives too. They were engaged and have shown a great deal of enthusiasm in making their projects successfully. They enjoyed presenting their scientific findings to audiences too and are looking forward to Science Week again next year.

Two possible ideas being considered for the future to improve our Science Week are first, we establish a stronger connection between the theme and the events themselves. This is to ensure the theme gives real direction to the work undertaken by students. Secondly, we will look to strengthen the links between Science week and our regular classroom program so that students



can see the relevance of classroom work. We also want students to really make a connection between God as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and the work of scientists in seeking to uncover God's handiwork in that. So, we focus not just on the problem of origins (where a lot of work remains to be done) but the exciting journey of uncovering how God's world works.



# “I BELIEVE, HELP MY UNBELIEF”

By **Ezra Yoanes Setiasabda**, SPH Lippo Village Alumni 2011

**This statement was proclaimed by the father of a demon-possessed son. He came to Jesus in the hope that the demon could be cast away. He cried to Jesus, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus, knowing the doubts in his heart, then said, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” A miracle then happened and Jesus did really cast the demon away from the child (Mark 9).**

**W**HAT a contradicting statement, I thought. If I *believe*, then I *believe*. If I *don't believe*, then I *don't believe*. I simply cannot believe and not believe at the same time. It's logically flawed. For a long time I could not understand this statement and yet now in my own life, in my prayers, I have come to God and often say, “I believe, help my unbelief!”

Many times I feel as though I am stepping into a long and dark tunnel, not knowing what's ahead of me. Nothing seems certain. This brings me to my knees, to pray to my God, the One

who created me and has redeemed me. I make my wishes known and I confess that my faith is very weak. Cognitively I know God will take care of me as He says “*Do not be anxious about your life*” (Matthew 6:25). But doubts shroud me. Following God is always “a leap of faith”. It is always “belief and unbelief”. It always seems beyond what we can handle, but throughout my life, God has been gracious in leading me, His weak and sinful son, step by step.

I will take this opportunity to share just one particular event in my life. Upon my graduation from SPH in 2011, I went to Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to further my study. But entry wasn't all that smooth. I was given a conditional offer by HKUST—which means I would be admitted only if I fulfilled certain conditions. Unfortunately, for one or more reasons, I did not.

I still remember that night when we could log in, online, to check our IB results. I called my parents and my girlfriend immediately as I was not home and yes—I cried. My whole world shattered at that point. I was lost. I simply didn't know what to do.

At that difficult time, I prayed and God strengthened me through a song: “*Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.*” I told myself that I do not know what's going to happen in the coming days, but I do

know one thing: that wherever happens, I know God is holding my hand. I said that I believed God can do anything and I needed Him to overcome my unbelief.

Long story short, through the appeal processes in both the university and IB, I was finally admitted. With hindsight, I would say that this experience was very valuable. It taught me to be humble and to believe in God's guidance, and not trust in myself. My three years of undergraduate study and one year of work experience in Hong Kong have been abundantly filled with the grace of God. Every morning I wake up, I just praise God and thank Him for all His goodness to me.

As a conclusion, I want to say that faith is never static. It grows with time. No matter how small our faith is, God is always faithful. I pray that in each of our lives, we can live by faith, acknowledging our weakness and unbelief and constantly seeking guidance to overcome our unbelief.

*... I know God is holding my hand. I said that I believed God can do anything and I needed Him to overcome my unbelief.*



Ezra Yoanes Setiasabda



# Body Exercise: Part of Our Worship to God



*"Too busy. I do not have time to do even the smallest workout."*

*"Is that so important? I have plenty of work to do."*

*"I will do it, as soon as I have time, errr ... maybe when I am on holiday I will take a minute to exercise."*

**T**HOSE were my statements. Even though in school I joined the volleyball and basketball teams, when I started work a couple of years ago, daily exercise became an impossibility for me.

Did that really happen because I am so busy and do not have any time for exercise? When I am honest with myself, I realize one thing, I am lazy.

Then I remember what Apostle Paul wrote in the Bible about physical training or exercise connect it with spirituality:

*"<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

*<sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*

(1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

*<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—" (Ephesians 5:29)*

*<sup>8</sup> for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8)*

Exercise is definitely good for us. We should not be physically lazy. There is also a spiritual aspect. We are to serve God with our earthly body! We must care for the health of our earthly body for a higher purpose. Even if we have an illness we should praise Him, much more than when we are in a good condition.

When I read what the apostle Paul said my motivation for exercise increases, not just to have a slimmer body, but to be healthy. He used sporting or physical training terms in some of his letters and connected it with preaching the Gospel and how Christians should live their lives. It is about self discipline, perseverance and also focus.

In the Community Connection Mr. Phil also wrote about the need to exercise from a Christian perspective. Being in good physical shape helps our ability to think and enables us to persevere through difficult and demanding tasks.

If we exercise in a group, we also train our ability to socialize, to be tolerant to others and also to be supportive! Not just young people will benefit from this, elderly people also benefit from regular exercise and it helps to delay the onset of conditions such as dementia.

I believe that the SPH Community is a fit community. There are so many excellent sporting programs and events from the PE Department, such as the SPH Cups which involve junior to senior students, also the Athletics Day, Soccer Carnivals, Rugby Competitions, Swimming Competitions and so on.

We have a responsibility to exercise because it is part of our worship to God. It is gratitude to Him, the Giver of all things in life.

By **Kho Sin Lo** – SPH Lippo Village PRP Staff



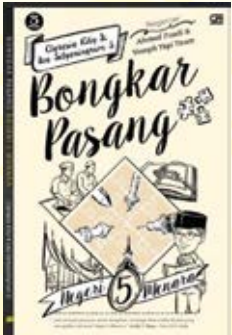
Kho Sin Lo (right)

After Muaythai training with Chalermchon Ratchakhom, Muaythai Champion





# Book Launching Bongkar Pasang Negeri 5 Menara



Maybe we do not know that Indonesia once faced a literature crisis called Zero Book Tragedy; the lack of supply of good books. Unfortunately,

even today, Indonesia is still experiencing this kind of crisis. Is there any hope for Indonesian literature?

**W**E thank God the answer to that question is, yes! SPH Lippo Village felt so proud of Clarasia Kiky and Lea Setyaningrum, two young teachers and talented writers who are currently teaching in Senior School at SPH. Both are writers and have launched a book together called, *Bongkar Pasang Negeri 5 Menara* at Gramedia Store, Central Park Mall, West Jakarta.

*Negeri 5 Menara* is a novel written by Ahmad Fuadi, a famous writer in Indonesia and *Bongkar Pasang Negeri 5 Menara* is the commentary on *Negeri 5 Menara*.

Lea and Kiky have worked hard work to write this book with the aim being that their book can be used as a guide or manual for how to read and research and show how to create a good essay and improve student's writing skills.

We do hope in the future there will be many more young writers who will produce good literature materials, love Bahasa and are concerned about the significant of literature.

Congratulations once again to Lea and Kiky!





# Love of Books in Sekolah Pelita Harapan

The whole community in SPH (Sekolah Pelita Harapan) urge to read. The significant of reading should be planted from the youngest one. In our school, we dedicate a certain whole week in our Junior School to apply this. In some campus like SPH Sentul City, SPH Pluit Village and SPH Kemang Village, they held Reading Week, SPH Lippo Cikarang held Book Month and in SPH Lippo Village, there was Book Week.

**R**EADING WEEK or Book Week is always full of fun and interactive activities that encourage students to read, read, read! Throughout the entire week, the school also hosted a Book Fair, at which students could purchase new books of interest.

In **SPH Pluit Village**, on all the days we had a book fair, DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time, and the classrooms worked on a door decorating contest. **Monday** was a treasure hunt. Students followed a map to discover book treasures with special characters. All the teachers dressed up as book characters on this day. **Tuesday** was treasure in your pocket. The students buried a favorite poem in their pockets and uncovered it with their teachers and friends. Classes paired together so students from different grades could read to each other and share their poems.

**Wednesday** was sharing treasures. Dads shared book treasures with the students by reading to them. **Thursday** was hidden treasures. Treasures came to life as the students performed Reader's Theater and had a Pajama Reading Day. We had a team that planned and divided responsibilities.



**SPH Kemang Village** would like to share their fun Reading Week activities:

- **Monday:** Family Fun Read Aloud Day. Parents came to students' classrooms to read their favourite books out loud.
- **Tuesday:** Teacher Swap Tuesday. Teachers swapped classrooms to expose other students to new and different books.
- **Wednesday:** Reading Day. This was an all-day event for Grades K–12. Kindy, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students wore their favourite pyjamas so they could enjoy the comfy coziness that often comes with reading at home—at school! Junior School students enjoyed a special book video presentation while Senior School students practiced and perfected their readers' theatre performances. Throughout the day, Junior School and Senior School students paired together to enjoy different stations: Readers' Theatre; a Reading Trivia Relay game in the 7F Gym; and a special Story Land station, where students were challenged to create scenes from classic fairy tales, using a box of props and backdrops.
- **Thursday:** Future Authors and Illustrators Day. Junior School students enjoyed a special presentation from a local author.
- **Friday:** Book Character Day. Junior School students dressed up as their favourite book character and paraded through the Senior School hallways for all to see.

## Some feedbacks from teachers in SPH Kemang Village about this activity:

*"I just wanted to say thank you to the reading day committee ... The day was well planned and the Senior School students did a great job with our younger kids."* (Peter Randall, Grade 1 Teacher)

*"I think it was the best run 'special event' day."* (Glenn Crane, Senior School ICT and Business Teacher)

## Below are some of the responses:

In SPH Lippo Village also had quite similar reading activity called Read with Dad. Below some comments from fathers who participated in this activity.

*"Sometimes I read with my son, 10–15 minutes before he goes to sleep. I think it is very important to read books. Children can learn many important life lessons from a good book."* (Sadu, Father of Sebastian K3B)

*"Every night I read a story for my son. I don't give a time limit I just read until he falls asleep. For me, reading time is very important for children, they can gain more knowledge and sometimes it helps them to fall sleep easier."* (Ferry, Father of Landon K3B)

In the future, we need to find some more activities geared towards the older grades and make some of the activities more challenging for them. We would also like to get the moms involved as well. See you on the next year Sekolah Pelita Harapan Book or Reading Week event!

Contributors: **Madison K. Lewis** and **Sarah Seibert** (Teachers of SPH Kemang Village), **Laura Lynn Michaels** (Teacher of SPH Pluit Village), **Kho Sin Lo** (PRP Staff SPH Lippo Village)





This year, Yayasan Sekolah Pelita Harapan held the third combined **Biennial Concert** after it was held for the first time in 2011. It all started with a simple conversation about routine activities of music teachers of each campus, which developed into serious discussion about the longing to hold a combined concert.

# BIENNIAL Concert 2015

## The Successful Biennial Concert

**T**HIS was the result of a strong unity of the SPH vision and mission among SPH campuses. We hoped that through this program the students of all SPH schools would get the opportunity to get to know each other and together develop their God given talents and share them with others. This idea was welcomed by the Yayasan and it was planned to be held alternate years.

The concerts were successful and impacted students, parents and the schools positively so that this year's Biennial Concert was highly anticipated. Back in November 2014, guided by Mr Philip Nash we, the music teachers and staff, came together to plan the program. The emphasis was on celebrating students' God-given gifts by using them to glorify Him and serve others.

After determining the songs to be performed in early 2015, rehearsal schedules began and there was support and cooperation from the schools, coordinators and teachers and assistance from leaders and staff. Students participated enthusiastically in rehearsals.

That night each campus performed beautiful musical and singing performances. A variety of music genres from several eras were performed in this grand concert. The orchestra from SPH Lippo Village performed the original soundtrack of *Sherlock Holmes* the movie (by E.S. Posthumus). SPH Sentul City pop band played *Titanium* from David Guetta plus popular songs by *Brave* by Sarah Bareilles and *Counting Stars* by Ryan Tedder.





# BIENNIAL Concert 2015



Gospel songs were performed by SPH Kemang Village Concert Band, *Abide with Me* and *Amazing Grace*, gracefully visualized by ballerinas from SPH Lippo Village.

Besides the band, the strings, choir and handbells from SPH Lippo Village performed two songs: *Over the Rainbow* and *The River*. Some folk songs from Indonesia like *Yamko Rambe Yamko*, *Manuk Dadali*, *O Inanikeke* incorporated the Kolintang and Angklung

instruments which created a very ethnic Indonesian atmosphere!

This concert was so elegant and dynamic with the performance by SPH Sentul City ballerinas. They danced so gracefully to *Follow the Yellow Brick Road* by Harold Arlen.

The finale was a grand performance from combined choirs singing the song *Tanah Airku* composed by Ibu Sud accompanied by

an angklung and kolintang ensemble from students of all campuses.

Twenty- three kinds of outstanding musical items were performed by SPH students in this Biennial Concert. All parents, teachers and members of the audience really enjoyed this event. All students went home full of joy and told of their unforgettable experience. This activity is very useful for us in getting to know each other better, appreciating and supporting each other and praying for each other.

We certainly look forward to the next concert. Bravo to all talented SPH students!

Contributors: **Melinda P.** (Music Teacher of SPH Lippo Cikarang) and **PRP** (SPH Lippo Village)





# SPH Lippo Village Young and Talented Artists

Near the end of academic year 2014–2015, the Art Department of Sekolah Pelita Harapan Lippo Village was involved in two significant art activities. First, the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Visual Art Exhibition and Contest** at the Art Gallery in Universitas Pelita Harapan and the second, was the **Ciputra Youth Art Appreciation 2015** at Ciputra Artpreneur, Ciputra World, Jakarta.

**I**n the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Visual Art Exhibition SPH Lippo Village students' painting and visual art works from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students were exhibited. The art works communicated deep messages about gender, social, spiritual to psychological issues and certificates were awarded as the most skillful or creative certificate for their tremendous art works.

SPH, together with thirty-five students from seven other schools in Jakarta, also participated in the first Ciputra Youth Art Appreciation 2015. There were ten art pieces from SPH Lippo Village exhibited there.

*"Art is a medium to communicate social issues of the world. I felt so proud that my art piece was exhibited. This was a very great privilege for me. My art work can be used to represent issues in this world."*

(Jeanne Santoso – SPH Lippo Village Student)

*"My art work theme is pain. I am very concerned about poverty in Indonesia and feel very compassionate, also, I want to raise awareness."*

(Andrew Susanto, SPH Lippo Village Student)

SPH Lippo Village is committed to supporting students' love and motivation in producing art works. Hopefully the next school art exhibition will be on an even bigger scale so we can appreciate the work of more of these young and talented artists.

By **PRP** – SPH Lippo Village



3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Visual Art Exhibition and Contest



Jeanne Santoso (right)

Andrew Susanto (left)

Ciputra Youth Art Appreciation 2015





Science Week (30 March – 2 April 2015)



SPH Kemang Village



Chinese Culture Appreciation (17 February 2015)



Parents Seminar (26 February 2015)



Sekolah Lentera Harapan (SLH) Visit (13 March 2015)



SPH Pluit Village





WWF (12 February 2015)



K3 Art Exhibition (4 March 2015)



Book Bazaar (1-2 April 2015)



Medical at Health Center (6 April 2015)



Easter Celebration (10 April 2015)







PHH Heartbeat with JPCC (28 January 2015)



Field Trip to Outward Bound Malaysia, Lumut (2-5 March 2015)



Field Trip to Outward Bound Indonesia, Jatiluhur, Purwakarta, Jawa Barat (3-4 March 2015)



Spelling Bee (27 March 2015)



DP Arts Exhibition (10-14 April 2015)







*Soccer Carnival (3 March 2015)*



*Grade 1 Fieldtrip to TMII (7 April 2015)*



*Junior School Student-Led Conferences (15 April 2015)*



*Senior School Parent-Teacher Conferences (15 April 2015)*



*Bike a Thon (30 April 2015)*





# VISITING THE JAKARTA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



**A**NNUALLY, in certain grades, SPH holds field trips to many places in order to implement what students learn in the classroom.

Students gain information and observe then are able to relate it to the world. This kind of study method helps to broaden students' minds. Early in 2015, Grade 5 SPH Lippo Village students were given the opportunity to visit the Jakarta Governor's Office and everyone was extremely enthusiastic.

Basuki Tjahja Purnama, who is usually called Pak Ahok, warmly welcomed the students, teachers and parents. In the Question and Answer session one of the students asked Pak Ahok how does his faith influenced his government? Pak Ahok answered it wisely. He said that Christianity really influenced the way he works in government. As a Christian, he realizes that he should submit to the Constitution, but not always to his constituents. He also said that he is aware that he should try to show Christian character, especially servant leadership.

Students, teachers and parents could see Pak Ahok is a very transparent, open and humble person and how welcoming to others he is in order to share his knowledge and faith—a good example to the students. Meeting him was a great opportunity for Grade 5 Lippo Village students!







By **Rebekah Edith Schmidt**  
Junior School Teacher – SPH Kemang Village

# Musical Fun: Annie Jr.

The beginning of this year was filled with excitement as SPH Kemang Village prepared for our first ever musical production. One of the most important factors of any show is making sure the audience will connect easily with the show. We believed 'Annie' was a good choice because it was a well-known musical, easy to understand and had catchy, enjoyable music. In addition, we were confident that we could find students to fit the various roles. The roles in 'Annie Jr.' are not very big, and as a first time show, we were not expecting too many students to audition. Finally, the staging was not very elaborate and could fit into the school theater.



**H**AVING never been in a musical before, the students at Kemang did not know what to expect. Auditions were held in September, and many people attended. There were two different audition days (Monday and Tuesday) and one call back (Thursday). By Friday, the cast list was posted. A few students dropped out when they realized the time commitment that was involved. It is my belief that a musical production is equivalent to sports, and there would be just as many long practices as a sports team to prepare for our "game day." One of our biggest conflicts

was scheduling. Many students that were cast in were also participating in sport. As a result, we had to figure out a way to work our schedule around sports practices because we were the new 'sport.' When we have our next musical, students will have a better understanding of what to expect, and hopefully we will not have as many scheduling conflicts.

One of the biggest blessings during this performance was parent support. We were so thankful for the mothers of our cast members to help with the production. They advertised for our show,

found the costumes or organized to have them made, collected the list of props, prepared the food during performance week, and helped with make-up and hair. In addition, we had many student and teacher







helpers who painted some of the sets, helped back stage with scene changes, and worked the spot lights and sound board. There is no way this show could have run as smoothly without the support of the parents, students and teachers.

Some of my best memories from my senior school and college years are from participating in musicals and I wanted students to be able to experience this as well. There is quite a special bond that happens between cast members, especially because the cast consists of people you may not usually know or hang out with. By November we could see that the cast members were beginning to feel this bond. It was fun to see the twelfth graders interacting with the sixth graders as good friends.

Performance week, is always the most exciting and the most demanding. Students must commit to around five hours of practice every day because practices and performance involves make-up, costumes and full performances. During this time, everyone pitches in and helps one another like one

big happy family. After the last performance, the students ate dinner. They sat in a massive circle, making jokes and taking pictures together enjoying the last few moments together. Realizing that this drama group was finished, is usually overwhelming for students because they are glad to not have a big time commitment any more, but sad to not have this special group to hang out with.

I believe our show was a success in many aspects. With the help and support of everyone, we were able to have three shows, two of which were sold out! In addition, everyone involved had an invaluable experience that will not easily be forgotten. I believe now that people know what to expect, we will have even more enthusiasm and support for a future production. In addition, perhaps more students will audition because they now understand what it means to be a part of a musical production.

I love dramas and musicals, and was so thankful to be able to pass that love on to these students. Before we began, our purpose for having a musical was to give these students a chance to learn what it means to perform on stage by speaking, dancing and singing. We also wanted students to gain the confidence and feel the excitement of becoming a different person as the character in front of a paying audience. This musical was a way for artistic students to learn about and develop an artistic skill that they previously did not have a chance to learn.







By **Richard Lasut**  
PE Teacher – SPH Lippo Cikarang

# AVENSIS – To Move Forward!

Each campus of Sekolah Pelita Harapan usually has distinguished a sport event. For example Sekolah Pelita Harapan Lippo Village has SPH Cup that is held each year. Recently another SPH campus, SPH Lippo Cikarang, held a Sport Fest called Avenir.



It was held on February 5–7, 2015, from 8 am–5 pm. There was a bazaar organized by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to support this event. SMA Springfield, SPH Sentul City, SMA Karya Iman, SMA Don Bosco, SMA President, SMA Anglo Cikarang, SMA Mahanaim Bekasi, SMA Bogor Raya, SMA 1 Cikarang Pusat, SMA 1 Cibusah and SPH Lippo Cikarang participated in this tournament.

The original idea was to have a basketball and soccer competition that can be used to evaluate the results of the After School Program (ASP) in the academic year of 2014/2015. Every year, students who join an ASP (basketball, badminton and soccer) will be given a chance to take part in some competitions in regions of Jakarta, Bogor, Tangerang and Bekasi to practice their skills that they have learned in the ASP. The Student Council arranged for the school to host a sports festival which we called AVENSIS (which originated from the French phrase meaning to move forward).

## THE RESULT

### Basketball Winner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SMA 1 Cikarang Pusat
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SMA Don Bosco
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SPH Lippo Cikarang

### Soccer Winner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SMA Mahanaim
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SPH Sentul City
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SPH Lippo Cikarang

Avenir's goal was to establish a healthy communication and friendship among national and international middle and high school students in the Cikarang and Bekasi Area, not just to find winners. Besides that, to also increase the potential to participate

in sporting events and increase fair play awareness.

It was a very successful event and demonstrated great support for the SPH family and the wider community.







By **Yulvita Yarti**  
Senior School Teacher – SPH Sentul City

# Feel the **VIBE!**

Our Student Council would say something like this, as the background why they have the passion to run an Arts Festival: Our relationship with God is the most important aspect of our life. It is something that cannot be detached from our daily activities, or, most importantly, expression of thoughts. The expression of our relationship to God can also be seen in our lifestyle.

**G**OD gave His blessings for us to share it with others in order to bring Him all the glory. We, as the young generations have to be the light as it says in Matthew 5:14–16: *'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

Therefore, we cannot keep our talents to ourselves. Instead, we should express them through our actions in the community to create a positive vibe.

The event included some arts competitions, both visual and performing arts. They

were Painting, a Photo Rally, Film Making, Mural/Graffiti, Coloring, Solo Singing, Modern Dance and Pop Band. Besides that, Encounter Friendship was a program provided as a stage for those who want to perform non-competition arts. The levels of participants were from Kindergarten up to Grade 12 students. There was a total 274 participants from 39 schools.

SPH Sentul City held VIBE to interact with a wider community, to give participants an opportunity to express their creativity through their talents, develop godly character by helping participants to express their talents throughout the events because talents are a gift from God so that can encourage people to be aware of the importance of appreciating the values and virtues of the arts.





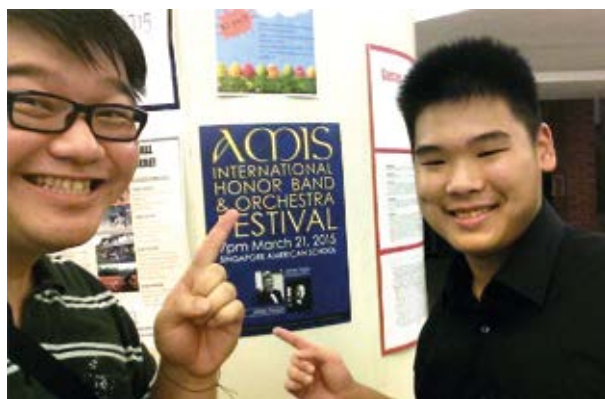


# AMIS

(Association for Music in International Schools)



**C**OMING to the festival I was amazed at the number of countries that participated—from Abu Dhabi to Zurich—all boasting talented musicians. Musically, it was challenging as the repertoire was quite unique. However, to me what truly makes AMIS so special is the feeling of getting to know other people by the time we leave the festival. It was a challenge to be the only Indonesian participant, but being unified through making and enjoying music is what makes AMIS special.



Mr Prapto and Patrick (right)

**Patrick Theodore Kurnia**

Year 9 SPH Lippo Village

AMIS Senior Honor Orchestra

Singapore American School, Singapore



**T**HERE is nothing better than to share your passion for something with the people that have the same passion that you do, and this opportunity to go to Beijing and play cello, did just that. I got to make new friends, try new things, while enhancing our skills and having a good time all together. The highlight of my experience was the time that I spent with the host family eating Sichuan peppers and playing Nerf with "Rock" (youngest from the host family).

**John Patrick Salim**

Year 8 SPH Lippo Village

AMIS Asia Middle School Honor Orchestra

International of School Beijing, China



John

**AMIS**

was a great experience! This was my second time of going and yet I had more fun than the first! Every year the AMIS orchestra gives opportunities to all International Schools in Asia to be auditioned and to be sit in one of the leader's seats is amazing! I was accepted

last year as a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Violin 7<sup>th</sup> stand, this year I was chosen as Leader of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Violins! I was also given the opportunity to give a solo performance at the concert. Most of all, I want to thank my teacher Mrs Therese Wirakesuma for teaching and bringing me all the way from the start. The most memorable part is the friends we made there that are still in contact with us including our host families. AMIS is friendship in French and I'm sure that the purpose of this trip is that we made friendships that will last longer than a few days!

**Brian Thomas Chang**

Year 8 SPH Lippo Village

AMIS Asia Middle School Honor Orchestra

International of School Beijing, China



Brian





I enjoyed being a part of the AMIS festival for a second time. It was an interesting bonding experience. I got to make friends with students from fifteen schools all over the region of Asia. We played a repertoire of ten songs, specifically chosen by a conductor from a local school in Kazakhstan named Guime Odendaal. He acted as the guest conductor for the special event. I felt exhausted after a week's time in Beijing and was happy to be back.

**Justin Khouw**

Year 7 SPH Lippo Village

AMIS Asia Middle School Honor Orchestra

International of School Beijing, China



In this life there are several words that always go side by side. Two words that always surround me as a music teacher are the words competition and cooperation. These two words have the a positive and a negative side. Competition is usually the word that stands out more. But what happens when we combine these two words for the purpose of creating a bigger purpose and a better result? This is what I learned from AMIS (a French word for 'Friends').

**A**MIS stands for the Association of Music in International schools. This association was established in May 1975, starting from just five international schools in its first year. Now AMIS, based in the U.K., collaborates with 83 member schools from 53 countries from five different continents.

SPH Lippo Village joined AMIS in 2007. The



## Competition or Cooperation?

past festivals that SPH has been involved is was at: International School of Beijing, China; St. John's International School, Belgium; The American School in London, United Kingdom; International School of Manila, Philippines ; Jakarta Intercultural School, Indonesia; American International School of Vienna, Germany and Singapore American School, Singapore.

After a time of intense hardwork for their audition, three students from SPH Lippo Village middle school and one student from senior school passed the audition and practiced for at least three months before they headed to the festival. The Asia Middle School Honor Orchestra was held at the International School of Beijing, China from February 4–8, 2015 with the students: Justin Khouw from year seven, Brian Thomas Chang and John Patrick Salim from year eight. The Senior Honor Strings and Honor Band Orchestra level participant was Patrick Theodore Kurnia, the only Indonesian representative to join his fellow young musicians that gathered at Singapore American School, March 18–22, 2015.

This Festival has always been a tremendous experience for our students. Starting from the audition process, getting their results, practicing, traveling, enjoying the festival and concluding with the gala concert. Everything that we did really paid off at the end. The students were excited, they gained more friends from other internationals schools, and they played with a different standard, different people, different conductor and different culture. As their music teacher and the representative adult who went to supervise the students and official music director, I also felt proud to see that these young boys are truly serious about their music and education.

From this event, I learned that music has tremendous power. Music is not only notations, rhythm etc but it is a universal language for all to communicate, to relax, to enjoy, to love, to discipline, to share; everything is a perfect package. I had a chance to meet with the co-founder of AMIS and found out that their purpose is really simple, to create a family and friendship from people all around the world through music making. Yes there is competition at the first step which is the audition. Who plays best is the winner, but after that, there is a togetherness that they share among each other.

For me, as a music educator and their mentor I am so proud and so blessed. Blessed that we can be a blessing for our young students and we can direct them to use their talents to praise God.

**J. Suprpto W. Utomo**

Middle and Senior School Strings Teacher SPH Lippo Village





# Grade 12 Field Trip

## Learn and Loving the Art of Literature and Theatre

What crosses your mind if you think or hear about Yogyakarta? Maybe Candi Prambanan or Candi Borobudur or something equally ethnic?

**W**HAT Grade 12 from SPH Lippo Village experienced was beyond that, not just a simple fun trip or sightseeing. These students were so excited because they also learned to implement what they had been taught in Bahasa class with regard to different forms of Art.

Grade 12 students visited Sanata Dharma University to learn more about literature and the performing arts. Students studied excerpts from two novels: *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* (by Ahmad Tohari) and *Bumi Manusia* (by DR Yoseph Yapi Taum, M. Hum), and were also taught how to act in the theatrical workshop, led by Landung Simatupang.

The writer, Ahmad Tohari, visited SPH sometime ago, and was pleased to find that students are his readers too! He was impressed that in a school using English as first language, students are enjoying Indonesian literature. Students in SPH have to read 10–13 novels as part of the Bahasa Indonesian course.

“Students, especially in Grade 12, have to write good essays about novels they read, which really influences their final exam results,” said Pitaya Rahmadi (SPH Lippo Village Grade 12 Bahasa Indonesia Teacher). They have to analyze, critique and assess the value they can gain from those pieces of literature, which usually results in a love of the Indonesian language.

Learning is not restricted to the classroom. We can learn about courage, gain a lot of information, raise awareness about many issues and gain inspiration from the books we read. Reading good books is very beneficial to a student's education.

Through the Grade 12 SPH field trip learning became integrated. Students are reading the books assigned to them, then are able to discuss them in the classroom then study the deeper meaning on the field trip and will more successfully write the final essay. This is a valuable SPH learning process!





# National History Day South East Asia Regional Competition

Sekolah Pelita Harapan Lippo Village succeeded in winning 12 medals (six 1<sup>st</sup> place medals, five 2<sup>nd</sup> medals and one 3<sup>rd</sup> medal) in the National History Day (NHD) South East Asia Regional Competition held at British International School on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2015. Led by Jonathan David Steely (MYP Humanities Teacher), 23 students gained prizes in most of the categories.

**T**HIS is the third time Sekolah Pelita Harapan Lippo Village has entered this contest and continued to show tremendous improvement and success each year. This year SPH students competed with their peers from British International School, Global Jaya School, Muscat (Oman), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Karachi (Pakistan), Singapore and Malaysia.

National History Day is an American academic competition focusing on history for students in Grades 6–12. They construct entries as an individual or in a group in one of five categories—Documentary, Exhibit, Paper, Performance or Website. Students then compete in a series of contests (School, Regional, and State) to proceed to the National Contest.

“The goal of joining this competition is to push students to achieve the very best they can; to work harder on the project than they ever have in school. The interesting thing from this competition, win or lose, students get the chance to see what they capable of. They also get the chance to see other students from other nations; it also opens their minds when they see the fantastic work of others,” said Jonathan David Steely.

These outstanding students will compete in a final round at Washington D.C. on June 14–18 as part of larger regional competition held in the USA. In Washington D.C., they will compete against regional state winners.

They have worked incredibly hard for this opportunity and will continue to do so as they prepare to compete in the national finals in Washington D.C.





# Coaching Children to Be Responsible Learners

By **Charlotte Priatna**  
(In Parents Seminar – SPH Lippo Village, 25 March 2015)



What parents do not expect responsible children? Yet the reality is that parents seem to struggle in this area. Starting from waking up in the morning until going to bed at night, parents and children are hostile to each other with the problem of responsibility. Everyday, the same sentences are said to children to remind them of the many kinds of tasks and responsibilities they are supposed to do—starting from taking a bath in the morning, drinking milk, brushing teeth, doing homework, washing hands before meals, saying thank-you, and so on.

**C**HILDREN do not do their tasks not because they do not know, but because of one word, which is easy to say yet hard to do, that is **RESPONSIBILITY**. Do children forget or neglect to do things?

Do parents distrust their children so they usually remind the children over and over again for the sake of the 'comfort' which gives a feeling of 'done' when it is said. What actually is the problem?

When your children grow up, what do you expect them to be? Do you want your children to be **obedient** or

**responsible**? What is the difference? Obedience needs no initiative, while responsibility will lead a child to act even without being told. Obedience is just good character, but responsibility is a character followed by many other good characters—deligence, orderliness, honesty, etc.

Children lack **knowledge, life experience, and discernment**, so the behavior—including words, attitude and deeds—become the responsibility of their parents as part of their social responsibility. Parents must **transfer** the ownership of behavioral responsibility to their children. In other words, parents are **to take the responsibility** until the children are able to take responsibility for their own behavior.

Along with their growth in knowledge and life experiences, children are **to take responsibility** for their own actions and attitudes. Thus, the more mature the children are, the more responsibilities should be **transferred** to them. In doing this, parents are to decide wisely which responsibility should still be theirs and which should be their children's.

Some principles for parents to keep in mind and to do:

1. Parents will never train their children to be responsible if they keep reminding their children of whatever tasks to do. The children will not be motivated to take their own responsibility.



2. Freedom is consequently related to responsibility. The more responsibility a child is able to take, the more freedom they will be given. Instead of constantly reminding them there is a key question parents can use "Do you have the freedom to do it?"
3. Train the children to make their own decision—make 'agreements'—and evaluate their decisions along with the consequences.

*Parents take the responsibility of their children until their children physically, intellectually and morally are able to take their own responsibility. Thus, along with the growth of their children, parents should gradually start transfer the responsibility to their children.*

(Reference: *How to Raise a Responsible Child* – Gary Ezzo)



Charlotte Priatna





By **Soekarmini**  
Parenting Center – SPH Lippo Village

## Coaching Children to Be Responsible Learners

# A Reflection ...

*Dear Lord,*

*You have entrusted children to us. In bringing up my children, I often wonder how You dare to put Your trust in us to be parents, while You know exactly who we are—useless dust! What a risk and potential for a total failure!*

*We tend to be small minded, the psalmist even called it 'brute beast' that we are unable to properly respond to Your glorious calling to be parents, Your co-workers, in bringing our children to Your Kingdom.*

*We tend to be unfaithful and unreliable. We easily lose and change our direction, especially when there are more attractive, exciting and beneficial things to do. Often the task to educate and edify our children becomes neglected; not a primary focus.*

*We tend to complain, get frustrated and easily give up as we encounter challenges in dealing with our children; we often escape and do not try to solve the problems; we even become apathetic.*

*We tend to be ignorant and disobey Your guidance that You need to use 'storm' and 'waves' in our lives to make us call on You and return to You.*

*We tend to be hypocritical and have no integrity so that our children get confused in looking at our actions differing from our words and teaching.*

*Oh Lord,*

*We are weak and powerless. What can we do without You? We do need You. For the sake of You, Lord, who loves, forgives, saves and sanctifies us, may You shape us to be more functional and effective parents. Please, help us to be more ...*

- *Serious and focused in Your calling and guidance in raising and educating our children, so that they become not only good children, but they also may grow in loving You and Your truth, grasp Your calling, and be prepared to be used for Your Kingdom.*
- *Authoritative over our children in living out Your truth through the routine and rules in our family life so that they may learn how to live as Your children since they are young, with our own lives as their models.*
- *Persevering and faithful in carrying out our roles with our eyes focused on You alone, especially when we are encountering various problems and 'deadlocks' in edifying them and communicating with them, so that at the end they may see and learn the eternal values that their parents strive for in life.*

*Thank You, Lord ... For considering us worth Your trust. You don't throw us away, instead You keep on loving, strengthening, comforting, and upholding us.*

*Thank You, Lord!*





# Parents Seminar

## Parents Reflection



**S**EMINAR'S themes was very interesting, the speaker also very competent. Parents have opportunity to share with other parents, so this made seminar felt very alive.

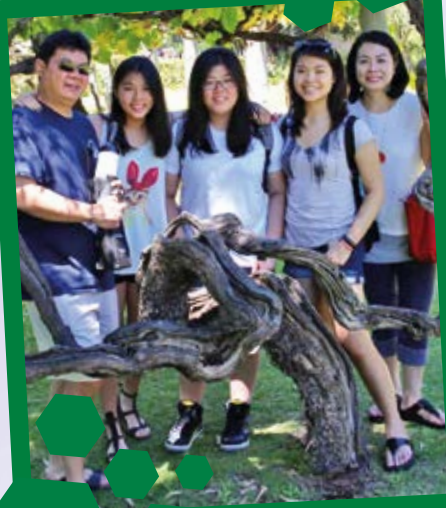
Parents could learn and understand their children's position, train heart, educate child with Christ as the center, not just based only on parents' humanistic. I feel so glad I can come to Parent Seminar which held by SPH Sentul City. I am so waiting for the next parenting seminar.

**Rosmala Rudy** (Mother of Natasya – Grade 10 SPH Sentul City)



**Ev. Lie Wei Tjen** presented a topic on “To be Number One” in a Parents Seminar. I learnt that as a parent, I need to express more to them about their many positives. I have twins—Robby Tan and Robert Tan. I usually express their shortcomings, thinking that this would give them motivation. But on the contrary, they become disappointed. In the future, I will build positive communication by encouraging them to be responsible and self-disciplined. I should not be too demanding in their study and daily activities. I am not supposed to compare them. When one of them asks me why they have different results, I will explain to them that God has given different capabilities to everybody and He has a plan for every one of His children.

**Jeannie Salim** (Mother of Robby Tan and Robert Tan – K2 SPH Pluit Village)



### The Biggest Challenge for Parents

I learn from this seminar about delegation, to let my child perform her responsibility and find motivation from it. Nowadays parents tend to take over their children's responsibility from which they can actually learn a lot from.

The biggest challenge parents may encounter with is to prepare their children to be ready to take responsibility and its consequences. Parents must overcome their over-controlling and over-protecting acts. Maybe they also have to change their mindset.

In my daily life, it is a reminder to teach my child to make the true and right decision by letting them to decide. When it's time to evaluate, at the end I will accept their mistake and love them for what they are, believing that by doing that mistake, my child has certainly learnt a value.

**Siusan** (Mother of Nadia Grade 11 and Audrey Grade 9 SPH Lippo Village)



**C**HILDREN'S identity crisis is a major issue for parents all over. We were truly blessed to have had a seminar regarding this by Pieters Pindardi at our campus, SPH Lippo Cikarang.

As an Indian who grew up in Indonesia and now watching my child grow up here I knew this could be an area of concern. Thus it was with much expectation that I attended this talk. With in-depth research, practical examples and wonderful technology the speaker probed this issue in a Biblical view VS the world's view.

It was a relief and comfort to know that our children's identity is not an issue or an area of crisis if they know who they are in Christ. When they know they are made by God and not a product of chance through evolution, children take on a whole new identity; one that is clear, confident and with a wonderful purpose.

**Sunita Girish** (Mother of Rhea Girish – Grade 12 SPH Lippo Cikarang)



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