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Recruiting committed Christian educators.

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Three generations serve with Pelita Harapan Foundation (Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan) for more than 20 years.

# THE GORY OF Leanning

42 ND EDITION • 2019

### Knowing God, Ourselves & The World

"The light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6



### Passport to the World

UNIVERSITIES THAT ACCEPTED OUR 2019 GRADUATES

### **North America**



Canada: Carleton University, Fraser International College, Lasalle College – Vancouver, , The University of British Columbia – Okanagan, The University of British Columbia – Vancouver, Western University,



 $\bullet$ 

United States: Alaska Pacific University, Arizona State University, Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, California Polytechnic State University, California State University-Fullerton, California State University-Long Beach, Christian Baptist University, Claremont McKenna College, Clarkson University, Coastal Carolina University, Corban University, Culinary Institute of America, DePaul University, Dordt University, Drexel University, Emerson College, Fordham University, Hannibal Lagrange University, Itacha College, Lee University, Lindenwood Belleville, Lovola Marymount University, Massachussets University of Arts, Michigan State University, Occidental College, Ohio State University, Ouachita Baptist University, Pace University - New York, Pepperdine University, Point Loma Nazarene University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Saint Mary's College, San Diego State University, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, Santa Monica College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Scripps College, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, Sheridan College, Shoreline Community College, Southern Methodist University, Stony Brook University, Syracuse University, Temple University, The New School – Parsons, The New School University, University of California-Irvine, University of California - San Diego, University of California - Santa Barbara, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Iowa, University of Kentucky, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, University of University of Notre Dame, University of Rochester, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, , University of Utah, , Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Wentworth Institute of Technology



Australia: Curtin University, Deakin University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Swinburne University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney New Zealand: University of Auckland



Germany: University of Duisburg-Essen Netherlands: Radboud University, The Hague University, Tilburg University, University of Groningen, University of Twente, Vrije Universiteit Switzerland: Glion Institute of Higher Education United Kingdom: City University of London, King's College London, Leeds Arts University, Leeds Beckett University, Royal Holloway University, SOAS University of London, Southampton Solent University, University College London, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Dundee, University of East Anglia, University of Edinburgh, University of Leicester, University of Manchester, University of Nottingham, University of Southampton, University of Surrey, University of Arts London, Westminster University

### Asia



China: Dongbei University of Finance & Economics, Jilin University - Lambton College, Wuhan University Hong Kong: Hong Kong University, Savannah College of Art and Design Indonesia: Bina Nusantara University, International University Liaison Indonesia, Triatma Mulya Stenden University, Universitas Atmajaya, Universitas Diponegoro, Universitas Gajah Mada, Universitas Pelita Harapan Japan: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Tokyo International University Korea: Korea Aerospace University China: National Tsing Hua University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong – Shenzen, University of Nottingham -Ningbo Singapore: Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, NUS Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, Singapore Institute of Management Malaysia: Monash University Philippine: University of St. Benilde

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and Promotion Department at Sekolah Pelita Harapan to inform, equip and inspire our alumni and friends. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and they do not necessarily reflect the views of Sekolah Pelita Harapan or its administration.

Sekolah Pelita Harapan's vision is **True Knowledge, Faith in Christ and Godly Character.** Our mission is to proclaim the preeminence of Christ and engage in the redemptive restoration of all things in Him through holistic education.

### STAY CONNECTED!



GET THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES FROM OUR WEBSITE AND ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS.

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# Journey into Light

As I held our firstborn in my arms, I wondered, "How will we be able to raise this child? How will we educate him? To whom will we entrust his learning?" From the moment we became parents, my wife Natalie and I have been on a search for the very best schooling possible. We eagerly desired for our children to be academically challenged. We yearned for them to have teachers who would support them in their spiritual journeys and encourage overall health. Thus began a career-long search for the very best Christian schooling we could find!

Our family journey unfolded in a very unpredictable way when we moved to Indonesia from Canada almost four years ago. We came because of SPH. We were clearly called, and we were delighted to join this amazing group of schools. We also came because we wanted our children to be blessed by SPH too. What we quickly grew to love about SPH is clearly reflected in this edition of The Light magazine.

- Our schools believe in the glory of learning: that true learning occurs when the Lord Jesus inspires our study with His light, and we learn to view the world as He views it.
- Our teachers are inspired, gifted, and caring. They have beautiful "Deep Hopes" for their students.

- 3. Our schools have energy and momentum. We have tremendous assets and a strong reputation in providing students with fantastic educational programs.
- 4. Our five schools' leadership teams are high-performing, professional, creative, and dedicated. They constantly dream of newer and better ways of running our schools.
- 5. We have a rich heritage of blessing children. In our alumni stories you will see glimpses of the tremendous impact our students have on Indonesia. These are beautiful stories that represent an immeasurable effect of undeniable blessing.

In this Advent season of light shining in the darkness, I give special thanks for how God is moving in our students' lives and in our five schools. This year our communities are clearly growing as "Children of Light." On behalf of the entire SPH community, I extend our deep hope for you and your families to be blessed with the light of Christ this Christmas.



MATTHEW MANN HEAD OF SCHOOL SPH LIPPO VILLAGE AND COORDINATOR OF PELITA HARAPAN SCHOOLS

# SPH Lippo Village Hosts a Masterclass in Collaboration with Biola Conservatory of Music

A few years ago SPH LV began a musical partnership with Biola University's Conservatory of Music. The Biola quartet – Jerri Lee Owen, Marlin Owen, Robert Feller, Manami Kawamura – visited three times prior to this year's event. They have performed for the community, coached 3 Diploma music cohorts, and offered masterclasses for the afterschool band and strings.

This partnership commenced when SPH graduates were studying at Biola Conservatory of Music. Professors found our alumni's values and commitment to excellence remarkable, so they visited to see the music programs we offer. As a result they sought to do artistic ventures with us.

A masterclass is a European concept of learning. Novice and developing musicians learn from distinct artisans. SPH has been blessed to have guest musicians and highly accomplished and respected lecturers in their fields come and participate in our music education programs.

This year's activities were called: 'Excel and Equip'. The Ministering Arts faculty is always seeking to inculcate excellence in our students. We have performances for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students. Wherever students are in their skill level, we encourage them to give their best and to continually develop their musical abilities. We have also expanded this year by conducting 'Teacher Training'. As part of our commitment to the community and to life-long learning, music teachers continually seek for ways to improve their craft, reflect on student achievement, and develop effective teaching practices. Teachers from SPH Kemang, Pluit, Sentul, and Cikarang also joined with us.

Our guests were impressed by how our students responded.

"I have been so impressed by the music program in this school. I see the quality of the students is improving every time we visit here," said Mrs. Kawamura.

"What I appreciate so much is the willingness of the students to apply every input that we give to them. That is truly a product of great teaching," said Mr. Owen.

Performing in an intimate setting can be very intimidating for a musician. Not everyone wants to open themselves to constructive public critique of their performance ability. Our students rose to the challenge. On the Monday we had performances from Year 9 and 10 Improvisation and Gamelan. On the Tuesday we had solos, a duet, and group items from the piano, band, and strings from Junior to Senior School. Hosting guests from California is an endeavor worth investing in.









### SPH Teacher Recruitment 2019

Teacher recruitment is something SPH leaders prioritize. At Sekolah Pelita Harapan we recruit competent and experienced Christian teachers who align with our vision and mission. For expatriate teacher recruitment, we visit universities, partner with churches, attend international education conferences and recruitment events, and post job openings in Christian job boards.





Teachers impact lives. They have a pivotal role in optimizing students' success in and beyond the classroom. Their influence extends well beyond the school. In our Christian education context, teachers invite students to know and love our Triune God, lead and equip children to see the Lordship of Christ in their subjects and relationships, and encourage them to use their gifts to bless others in society. Humanly speaking, this is impossible without the work of the Holy Spirit who points students to Christ and changes hearts and minds as students seek to honor Him with their best.

SPH understands the key role Christian educators play in schooling. We actively seek teachers who are willing to be godly mentors by investing in the lives of our students. We seek teachers who have a mature and growing personal relationship with Jesus which informs their thinking about their subject and their daily preparation for instruction. In this way they lead students to have a love for learning. We seek to attract and retain teachers whose mission it is to transform and not just inform, and who offer their lives to God to fulfill this glorious, eternal calling.

A teacher with a heart for Christ and for people is the starting point. It is equally important to hire and retain teachers who are well prepared for the classroom. Highly qualified teachers have meaningful engagement with their students as they support learning. They care for students and nurture growth as they challenge students to stretch in ways they might not have believed possible. Investing in the recruitment of highly qualified Christian teachers is an important pursuits and responsibility of the SPH leadership.



Sekolah Pelita Harapan's recruitment process for the next school year begins every August, especially for expat teachers. We utilize several channels for recruitment:

### Visiting universities & partnership with churches.

Our leaders visit universities in North America, especially Christian universities that have strong education programs. There we introduce SPH to key faculty representatives, and speak with students about the unique opportunity to teach and work at SPH. In September, Ibu Aileen Riady (Associate Head of School) led a team from SPH to Calvin College, Covenant College, Dallas Baptist University, Dordt University, Hope College, Samford University, Trinity Christian College, Trinity International University, and Wheaton College. This year we hired Mr. Gregg Thompson as a Senior Advisor in our schools. He has led Christian schools for over three decades and is currently visiting universities in the US, attending recruitment fairs and Christian School conferences, in order to recruit experienced teachers on behalf of SPH.

For the past several years, Mr. Siu Tjoe has played a key role in helping to build relationships with the education departments in the above mentioned universities and many others. Mr. Tjoe lives in the USA and promotes SPH by investing in building connections and networks with universities and churches. He has been instrumental in establishing a partnership with a growing number of churches in the USA and Canada.



### International conferences & recruitment events.

Representatives from SPH attend international conferences, recruitment events, and job fairs. Our Senior School Principal, Mr. Douglas Zylstra, attended the 2019 Christian Schools Queensland State Conference, a teacher conference in Australia. The conference was held on July 15, 2019. He presented about SPH in a workshop and at SPH's booth. From July 15-17, 2019, Mr. Dan Fennell (Biblical Foundations Coordinator) attended and spoke at ITEC 19 - the CEN (Christian Education National) conference - in Adelaide. More than 1000 educators received an information pack that outlined the opportunities available for employment at SPH schools. In October, the five heads of SPH schools, along with Ibu Aileen and representatives from the Yayasan, travelled to Singapore for the biennial ACSI Pacific Rim Roundtable.

We participated in the Global Christian School Leaders Summit (GCSLS), which serves as a platform for our leaders, leading workshops and sessions as conference speakers and meeting with key educational leaders from around the world. At last year's GCSLS, Mr. Phillip Nash (SPH's former All Campus Coordinator) and Ibu Aileen Riady, both served as panel speakers. Attending international conferences is a vital way that we build our international network.

#### Christian teacher job boards.

We also use various teacher job boards and recruitment agencies to post job openings. The job boards expand our reach around the globe for teachers and administrators who are seeking international education opportunities.

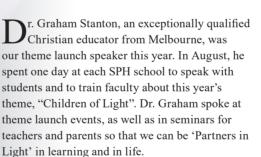
One of our new teachers at SPH Lippo Cikarang, Ellyn Hamon, is a graduate of Corban University. She decided to join SPH after hearing Ibu Aileen Riady's presentation at Corban. Ibu Aileen came to Corban in Ellyn's first year of college to share about SPH. She was impressed with what SPH is doing to impact Indonesia through Christian education (find her testimony in the Teacher's Testimony on page 54).

Mr. Matthew Mann, our Head of School, knows that teacher recruitment, like every aspect of SPH, requires us to give our best efforts. Please join us as we continue to pray for the Lord's provision of gifted Christian educators to partner with us in the dynamic learning communities at SPH. Pray that we will honor God with faithful stewardship in the area of recruitment, and in all our endeavors, as we seek to raise up future leaders and influencers for the glory of Christ.

# Rethinking our Identity as "Children of Light"







At each Whole School Theme Launch, Dr. Stanton emphasized that Jesus is the light of the world. As we believe in and are rooted in Jesus, we become children of light. The main purpose of these events is to equip SPH faculty and staff, students, and parents, to think deeply about being "Children of Light" throughout the year. The school theme is intended to shed light on and permeate our classrooms, our conversations, campus events, and life beyond our campuses.

Gary Hopkins in EducationWorld.com states that a year-long school theme is a highly beneficial way to unite a school community, by building school spirit and morale. At SPH school themes





do more than unify. Their primary purpose is to ensure that we understand and keep fresh our Christian identity by exploring the meaning of our vision, mission, and relational context statement.

"Few schools intentionally investigate their vision and mission year after year. Through our theme launch events and throughout the school year, we engage in 'thinking themely' about the work God has given Christian educators to do," said Mr. Dan Fennell, our SPH Biblical Foundations Coordinator.

The annual school theme has been a unique feature of Sekolah Pelita Harapan for the past sixteen years. As a Christian school we intentionally consider how to grow in biblical truth as a five campus community. Our school theme is one of the best ways that SPH learns to live and work together for God's glory.



#### SPH KEMANG VILLAGE

### SPH KV's Moms Social Outreach to Palu



t the beginning of September 2019, I joined an outreach trip to Palu with other moms from SPH KV. The purpose of the outreach was to provide resources and materials to villages in the mountains around Palu. SPH KV moms worked together with an organization called Yayasan Rumah Gembira. Through this collaboration, the two groups provided support for the villages by funding and providing books for a local library called Rumah Baca. Sandals, water bottles, clothes, and medicines were also provided for the children. Ministry was conducted through preaching and counselling. This was done in local churches and in homes.

Visiting Palu showed me how serious the SPH KV moms are about mission service trips. I had expected we would provide resources and visit easily-accessible areas. I had been told that the trip would require us to ride on motorbikes for several hours at a time, but I didn't imagine it would be such a taxing trip. Most of our journeys lasted for over an hour. Some took up to three hours. We rode up steep inclines, on unpaved roads, with ravines next to the roads. It was dangerous work, but we were able to send the resources up the mountains and return safely.

In our downtime, the moms bonded with local people to get to know their stories and understand their struggles. They distributed medicine for the children and taught them how to read based on the children's strengths and needs. After the trip concluded. KV moms still keep in touch with the local pastors in the area, sharing the joy of what is being done there, and praying for the people they met.

Two factors drive why I joined this ministry. The first is my admiration for what SPH moms do (in the school community and outside). That motivated me to want to take advantage of this opportunity.

The second factor is that SPH supports teachers to join these outreach ministries. That impresses me. I am encouraged to work with a community that has the heart to serve God. The age that we live in allows us to do ministry in different ways and with different levels of commitment. It was inspiring to see the KV moms give not only what they have, but step out of their comfort zones to ensure that the people in the villages of Palu know that God cares for them and is looking out for them. The villagers expressed how difficult their lives are. We saw a glimpse of that reality. Yet, the KV moms were willing serv to ensure that the people are cared for – without a single complaint.

# The Hope Indonesia Mission Trip to East Nusa Tenggara Timur



The HOPE is a student-led organization whose mission it is to share God's love with underprivileged people. We conduct free medical programs with the help of experienced doctors to provide the best quality care to Indonesians living in isolated communities. This year the HOPE – with 27 students, 2 parents, 3 teachers, 12 general doctors and 7 dentists – undertook our 5th annual mission trip to 4 villages in East Manggarai: Desa Golo Lero, Desa Satar Tesem, Desa Beawaek, and Desa Bangka Kuleng.

Each mission trip mimics the service one would find at a regular hospital. Each villager we served had the option of getting a general checkup, a dental checkup, or both. Patients were then given a doctor's receipt and proceeded to receive medicine from the pharmacy. This year we provided 200 reading glasses to the elderly who have impaired vision. In order to have a long-term impact, doctors and students collaborated to offer health seminars on topics relevant to children and adults. As they are deprived of basic healthcare services, the villagers didn't understand the importance of hygiene or of maintaining their health. We conducted lessons to teach them how to brush their teeth, wash their hands properly, and to regulate blood sugar and blood pressure levels. The HOPE gave me an experience I would not find elsewhere. It motivated me to step out of my comfort zone. Not only did I have the opportunity to help others and pursue my interest in healthcare, the preparation for the trip was a great learning experience. For example, I had to communicate with real companies regarding sponsorship for the trip. However, despite the strenuous year-long preparation, the gratitude we have received from the villagers makes the whole process extremely worthwhile.

The Bible says that "each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10) While I went into the trip with the mindset of sharing God's love, I found that I received much more. This service trip helped me to realize that no matter what situation we are in, God will make a way for his love to be known. With the amount of love that I received on this trip, I cannot help but be more grateful for the blessings God has given me. The HOPE has given me many unforgettable experiences and has revealed the real purpose of mission trips. They are not only about empowering ourselves. They are about the people who we meet and share God's blessings with. I am sure that in 10 years time I will remember the smile on Pak Matius' face as he went around the room to shake everyone's hand, thanking us for our service, and telling us with the biggest smile, "May God bless you."

# Kepakkan Sayap, Terbang Tinggi "Flap Wings, Soar High"

As a Sayap Ilmu co-leader, I am impressed by our motto which explains what our organization believes. Taking on this role, I had thought the motto was just another way to promote our work. It wasn't until I went on this mission trip that I realized what our motto means.

I first joined Sayap Ilmu on its 4th mission trip to Maumere in the Sikka regency in Flores. My friend, Annette, invited me to go on the trip with her. She would later lead Sayap Ilmu with me. I researched Sayap Ilmu and discovered its vision: *"Broadening the insights of Indonesian children who reside in the remote areas of the country through improving literacy."* I had plans to pursue education studies after high school and this organization seemed to match my ambitions, so I joined. It is safe to say I did not regret the trip one bit.

I was impressed by how quickly the children whom I taught improved in the span of only two days through theatre performance. They went from being very shy, to playing charades and putting on a whole play. They just needed the smallest nudge to realize their potential.

I went on this mission trip to help children realize that they can be more than what they are now. My biggest takeaway was that I need to look for small victories when teaching children. I expected to see radical changes, but came to understand that even though there was no drastic change, we managed to improve some parts of their lives. In my village team the boys were quiet and reserved since the community dynamic places girls as the dominant gender. However, because we actively included the boys in class discussions, they became more open and willing to interact. Learning to look for these miracles made me feel that if we could change one aspect of their lives for the better then it is all worth it.

This year we conducted five programs - poetry, crafts, theatre, reading games, and mural making in three villages, Desa Pocolia, Desa Golo Nderu, and Desa Lento. We also held a two day reading camp in which a select group of 103 students were brought into Ruteng from their villages to be introduced to literary elements. The end goal was to have children write their own local folktales and to publish them as a collection of children's stories.

The team that served in Desa Pocolia taught the kids how to make piggy banks. Later, they shared during our team evaluation that some children missed the first day because they had to work in the coffee fields. However, they came the next day with their day's wages ready to put in their piggy banks, proudly saying, "*Kakak, I've put money in it, see!*" One of the children told our team members that with the piggy bank they would save enough money to visit us in Jakarta. That testimony brought our supervisor to tears.

We wanted the children we served to realize the potential they've always had: to exercise their 'wings' and to understand that it is not because of their *kakak-kakak* that they are able to perform or write poetry. We wanted them to know that they can soar high by the power of their God-given wings. Now I really do understand our motto: '*Kepakkan sayap, terbang tinggi - Flap your wings and you will soar high.*' Knowledge allows us to fly, and our organization provides this, not just for the children, but for Indonesia's future as well.



IEARN MORE, www.sayapilmu.org

# SPH's Youngest Participant Awarded at the ISMOA, an International Science Symposium



Jason Ken Adhinarta is a Grade 11 student in SPH Lippo Village's Applied Science Academy program. He recently presented his science poster explaining Modern Optics and Its Applications (ISMOA) at the 12th International Symposium and he won the Best Poster Presentation Award. We congratulate Jason!

ISMOA is an annual international conference for experts and researchers in the field of modern optics, hosted by the Indonesian Optical Society (InOS). ISMOA is organized in collaboration with the Department of Electrical Engineering (Faculty of Engineering & Computer Science) at Krida Wacana Christian University (UKRIDA) located in West Jakarta. It serves as a platform for an international community of distinguished professors, lecturers, Ph.D., and university students to discuss and network as they present their most recent research. This year's conference was held from July 1-4, 2019.

Jason was the only high school student (in Grade 10 at that time) to present his research in developing energy storage material. His research focused on light energy and was based on Strontium Aluminate crystals. He discovered that by exposing the crystal to either cold or

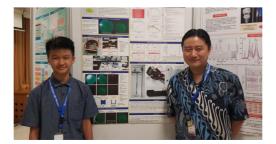
warmth, he could control the charging of the crystal and the storing of light within the crystal, just like a battery stores electrical charges. He hopes his discovery can help in the development of compact and rechargeable lighting devices. He envisions such devices providing light to remote areas which lack access to electricity. In his quest to understand the advanced physics behind this discovery, Jason also demonstrated an elaborate optical testing chamber which he built himself - involving microcontrollers, sensors, a virtual control panel, and a custom-data analysis program which allowed him to collect and analyze hundreds of hours of data. All of this was accomplished while he maintained his other demanding school duties.

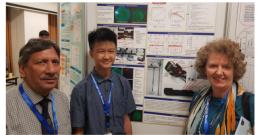
His mentor, Dr. Eden Steven, explained that such advanced physics investigation is incredibly difficult and can easily become a topic for a thesis at university. Besides theoretical understanding, instrumentation accuracy and repeatability are also very important but difficult to achieve. He also explained that Jason's accomplishment, as winner of the Best Scientific Poster Award at this high-level conference, is a feat few accomplish in their university or post-graduate academic career. Many senior scientists are intrigued by Jason's work:

"I am incredibly blessed to experience the poster presentation by our SPH Applied Science Academy student, Jason Ken Adhinarta! It is very refreshing to see how the experts in the field care about the next young generations of scientists" said Dr. Eden. Jason also shared about his once-in-a-lifetime experience at this international conference: "I was confident in my scientific thinking and understanding, especially with my Applied Science Academy project being a success. That was before I participated in ISMOA. In this symposium, I listened to lectures backto-back, and was exposed to mathematical equations explaining optical phenomena which I won't comprehend any time soon, and I feel that I have much more to learn. This valuable experience amplifies the long path

ahead for me as a life-long learner." It is remarkable and inspiring to see this hunger for science in the next generation of scientists. It is our privilege as educators to provide the space, opportunity, guidance, and support systems to let our students develop their talents and pursue their passions. We are excited to see how our Applied Science Academy is producing many young scientists who are working on redemptive restoration for the future.









#### SPH KEMANG VILLAGE

# Impressive Results in the World Schools Debating Championship 2019

Cassia Tandiono (SPH Kemang Village student) is a prolific debater. Last year she participated in the World School Debating Championship (WSDC) in Zagreb, Croatia – where her team was recognized as 4th Best EFL Team. Once again she has competed with the Indonesian debate team from July 24 to August 1, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. This year the team had an outstanding competition, finishing as the 5th Best EFL\* Team, with an overall ranking of 12<sup>th</sup> out of 63 participating countries. This is the first time Indonesia was ranked in the top 20!

WSDC is a global competition for national high school debate teams. More than 60 different countries regularly participate. National teams debate topics set by an international panel of experts. Cassia also has competed in various debate competitions throughout her years at SPH achieving:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Young Thinker's Trophy with SPH KV Debate Teams
- Best High School Category in the Fiscal Debate of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia
- Best Speaker in the SMAK 1 Cup and Eagles Debate Cup

Cassia leads the SPH KV Debate Club. She recently shared how this club has grown and improved greatly.

"The most exciting part is that we got to send two teams this year. Last year we sent one team of just three people....I'm happy about the growth and sustainability of this activity at SPH Kemang Village."

Cassia has clearly shown skill and finesse in debating. SPH KV's reputation in debating is the result of our students' hard work and our rigorous IB curriculum which stimulates students to think critically, be outspoken, ask probing questions, challenge views, and stand on their own in the fast-paced arena of presenting and defending ideas.



\*) EFL stands for English as Foreign Language, and it is a category aimed for non-English speaker countries or countries with English as the second language

#### SPH KEMANG VILLAGE

## SPH Kemang Village Team Win First Place in an Interschool Debate Competition

Grade 11 SPH KV students Philbert, Karen, and Gerard recently won first place in an interschool debate competition at SMAK 6 BPK Penabur. The SPH KV community congratulates them on their success. These award winning students shared their personal reflections on their achievement.

On October 9-10 2019, Karen, Philbert and I participated in SMAK 6 Penabur's English Debate competition. This was our first time competing as a team. Prior to the competition I felt like I was not ready shape to debate because I had few chances to practice with my team. However, we were determined to do our best to create good team morale, regardless of the result. After successfully debating through three preliminary rounds we proceeded to the semifinals, and eventually won the contest! Even though we won, it was a reality check for me. I had excelled in certain aspects of debating yet still had room for improvement. Nevertheless, through all the stress and surprises of this contest, I am very proud of our progress and of my teammates! This was Karen and Philbert's first time to break into the semifinals. I am glad to have been a part of this experience! We would not have had success were it not for God's guidance. We are thankful to God and to everyone who supported us. Hans Gerard G. Fajardo, Grade 11 This debate competition was the second competition I have attended throughout my involvement with the school's debate club. I took a break from debating in Semester 2 last year due to IGCSE exams, so it was difficult for me to retain my knowledge and skills. However, my teammates and coach gave me tremendous help and support prior to the competition, which all paid off. Winning first place is something I still find hard to believe. I remember going to the competition with my only wish being that our team would qualify for the elimination rounds. Waiting for the announcement of the winner of each debate was most nerve-wracking. The more we progressed, the tenser the competition became. Our worries were alleviated because we constantly reminded each other that it was okay if we left the competition without bringing back a title for ourselves and our school. After all, joining competitions is not merely about bringing home a prize, but about gaining experience and friendships. **Karen Irina Wiguna,** Grade 11







#### SPH LIPPO CIKARANG

# Medals from International Junior Math Olympiad & VANDA Science International Competition

On July 27, 2019, three SPHLC students went to Malaysia for the International Junior Math Olympiad (IJMO) and the VANDA Science International Final Competition, both of which were held at the same time in Kuala Lumpur. The students: Abigail Boen (Gr. 7), Owen Sidarta (Gr. 8), and Dayeon Moon (Gr. 10) brought home bronze medals as Indonesia's representatives.

IJMO is an annual international mathematics competition held in different Asian countries. It is an ideal platform to showcase students' potential and ability in math in an international arena. The VANDA Science Competition is an international science competition that is focused on students' ability to think critically and creatively solve scientific problems.

Abigail joined both competitions. She was honored to represent SPH LC and was eager to have the opportunity to join an international competition in a foreign country. She felt grateful being awarded a bronze meal at the VANDA Science Competition.

The purpose of joining a competition is not merely to win, but to participate in a global event and to experience the world outside of the SPH community. Students had the opportunity to face real challenges and develop endurance and hard work. They also become more confident in their ability, and this encourages them to keep studying math and science with passion.

The end goal is to teach students not to boast about their abilities nor rely on their efforts, but to be grateful to God as the giver of all good things, and give glory to Him.

### SPH PLUIT VILLAGE Silver Medal at IOEF

We are pleased to announce that students from Sekolah Pelita Harapan Pluit Village received silver medals at the Indonesia Orchestra Ensemble Festival (IOEF) held at Taman Ismail Marzuki from September 13-15, 2019. This was the first time SPH Pluit Village joined the IOEF. IOEF is Indonesia's first orchestra and ensemble festival, and the largest in Southeast Asia. This was the fourth annual IOEF.

IOEF serves as a melting pot for young musicians to meet each other, grow together, compete in a fair and healthy manner, and form precious friendships among musicians and music lovers. It is a celebration of young talent from across Indonesia. By participating in the IOEF, our students gained valuable experience representing SPH Pluit Village among many other school ensembles.

In order to be invited to perform at the IOEF, the students first sent in a demo video of their ensemble performance. We praise God that they were accepted. The students were thrilled. They had practiced hard and prayed, surrendering the results to God. Their Silver Medal award was beyond their expectations! God was gracious.

Andrew Loong, SPH PV ensemble teacher from Suzuki Music, was grateful for what the students achieved. He mentioned that this would not have happened without each musician's commitment, as well as their teachers' and parents' support. SPH Pluit Village is a wonderfully supportive community that allows students to thrive.

"We received a high score for a great performance with excellent technique. However, a beautiful, heart-warming performance is only possible with the support of a community and a humble desire to keep learning and serving one another as a team. From this experience, students learned about collaboration, communication, and perseverance," said Mr. Loong.

THE LIGHT 42ND EDITION 15

#### SPH SENTUL CITY

# Soccer 4 Change

Soccer4Change is an event hosted by Bye Bye Plastic Bogor, an NGO driven by youth just like us who say NO to plastic bags. This initiative was started in Bali by Melati and Isabel Wisjen. Our mission is to empower people to do what is right for the environment. We want to make a difference - one bag at a time. Soccer4Change is a soccer tournament hosted by SPH Sentul City. Participating schools included SPH Sentul City, SMA Babakan Madang, SIS, SMP Islam Al Multaqein, Bina Mandiri, amongst others.

Throughout the event we reminded participants about the importance of reducing our use of plastic by asking them to bring their own water bottles, using dispensers for drinks, and selling bamboo straws and toothbrushes.

In addition to hosting the tournament, the participating schools were involved in a Soccer4Change Tote-bag making event – which is the main focus for Soccer4Change. We aim to teach youths to reuse and recycle what they already have in their homes. Each participant was requested to bring an old t-shirt. We taught them how to convert shirts into tote-bags. Soccer4Change hopes to inspire Indonesia's youth to take action and to feel the urgency to care for God's beautiful world.

TO SEKOLAH PELTAHARAPAN

#### SPH SENTUL CITY

# Robotics Club Joins the Indonesian Robotic Olympiad



**S** PH Sentul City Robotics Club participated in the Indonesian Robotic Olympiad (IRO) for the first time on September 6-7, 2019 in Surabaya. Our students were given the opportunity to learn together in teams by using their skills and talents to overcome new challenges. Axl (G.7), Vikram (G.7) and Ziya (G.8) won 6th place in the Regular Junior category. Nathaniel (G.9) and Andrew (G.12) won 7th place in the Regular Senior category.

The IRO is an annual national robotics competition which partners with the World Robot Olympiad to bring together students from all over the world to promote robotics in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. Students use the LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 platform to design, build, and program robots capable of performing a challenge based on a theme prepared by the WRO's host country. This year's theme was "SMART Cities". It focused on new concepts, new ideas, and new technologies that will help build the cities of the future.

The robotics program began in the first quarter of 2018-2019 when the school purchased several LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 sets and opened up membership to Senior School students. Since the program started, 10 students have been involved at various times. The club has five regular members who have been with the program from the beginning, and who have received the most training. Those five members joined the Indonesian Robotic Olympiad.

We are preparing to open up membership to more students this year. With enough interest, we hope to to acquire more equipment and have more students explore robotics. Our members are planning specific projects that focus on novel mechanical applications (specifically robots that move using omni-directional wheels), and the associated programming. We are evaluating the possibility of participating in future World Robot Olympiads.

#### SPH SENTUL CITY

# Awards at The Asia-Pacific Conference of Young Scientists in Russia

Nicole Budiman, a Grade 10 student at SPH Sentul City, received a Bronze medal and a Silver award at the Asia-Pacific Conference of Young Scientists (APCYS) held in Yakutsk, Russia, from October 14-20, 2019. Nicole joined the competition with 7 other students from Indonesia. Twelve countries participated in total.

Nicole presented her research titled, "The Enhancement of Fecal Sludge Conversion into Biogas". Her aim was to investigate the enhancing effects of an electron donor from the methane produced by human feces. Methane is a biogas that can be used as an energy source.

Last year, Nicole won 1st place in the Young Scientists Competition with her research. She then proceeded to the National Young Research Competition and the International Conference of Young Scientists. The APCYS is the culmination of all these competitions. Nicole shared her journey with us:

"Starting from the YSC regional round held in Bandung in October 2018, I never expected to receive these awards. Even after winning 1st place in the regional round, and then 2nd place in the national round, going to Russia for this year's APCYS and winning the bronze medal as well as the silver poster award was surreal. More than the awards, it was the experience that is my real reward. I had the opportunity to make connections with fellow aspiring scientists from all over Indonesia and the Asia Pacific, as well as honorable professors and Science experts. I experienced a new culture while in Russia, as well as the cultures of the other participating countries. I am so grateful to the Lord for giving me this wonderful opportunity and privilege."

We hope this outstanding achievement will encourage our student-scientists at SPH schools to pursue science more diligently for the advancement of Indonesia.









### Grade 10 Spiritual Retreat: "Magnum Opus"







One of the greatest aspects of the Grade 10 Spiritual Retreat was being able to halt our daily routine and take time to listen to God's powerful word. Spending time with friends and teachers in the scenic 3G Bogor Resort was a wonderful way to end a week that had been occupied with a myriad of school assignments.

The retreat theme - Magnum Opus (Masterpiece) – was based on Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago".

Our speaker, Pak Rene Sompie, effectively delivered the message that God created us to be His masterpiece, hence we must live out the meaning of being God's Magnum Opus (Masterpiece). Aside from the spiritual discussions, we were stunned to receive letters from our parents which they had written to encourage us and to affirm their unconditional love for us.

The most significant takeaway from this Spiritual Retreat for me is the comforting message that God's love transcends all of our flaws, failures, and sins. Despite our doubts and insecurities, God remains loving and gracious, reminding us that we are truly His Magnum Opus.



To be able to rest is as important as working and studying. We all need time apart from our busy schedule to rest and reflect. Over the 2 days, we spent time with friends and teachers and got to know each other better. We played activities that included the whole grade level, competing in our house teams and classes. We enjoyed spending time with each other outside the classroom environment, building relationships and strengthening bonds.

Apart from the fun we had with friends, we set aside some time for our own spiritual growth. Each session was a time to shift our focus from academics to our spiritual lives. After each session, students gathered in small groups to discuss how to apply what we learned to our daily life.

At the end of the first day, we all gathered around a bonfire and took a moment to reflect while eating smores. The retreat is one of the highlights of the school year and we will all be looking forward to the next one.

Rayner Lee, Grade 10

Graciella M. Suman, Grade 10

#### **O CAMPUS NEWS**

This year's retreat theme was "Magnum Opus" or "Masterpiece". The theme was taken from Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (NLT). In my first session, I talked about how humans are created as God's masterpiece as the pinnacle of creation. We are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's own image – and therefore qualitatively different from the rest of creation.

In the second session, I introduced the themes of sin and redemption. God's masterpiece was broken because of sin. I pointed out how the effect of sin is so severe that God himself had to come down to earth and fix us since we cannot cure ourselves. I explained Romans Chapter 5 which reveals our condition in 4 categories, that we are weak, ungodly, sinful, and enemies of God. Yet, Jesus Christ died for us while we were still sinners. When we believe in him we are saved. "Broken masterpieces" are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus and are recreated to become God's "new masterpieces".

In the final session, I highlighted how we are called by God to do the "good things he planned for us long ago". Christians are not simply waiting for heaven. We have a new purpose to do good works for God's kingdom on earth in all areas of life – science, business, music, arts, law – and bring God's kingdom there. I encouraged the students to use their God-given talents and pursue their passion for God's glory.

After each session, the students were divided into groups to discuss the retreat themes with teachers. Students responded well. Some eagerly asked questions. Others wanted to renew their commitment to God. Our prayer is for these students to live out their identity as God's masterpieces.

**René Mario Unstrantianto Sompie,** *Biblical Studies Teacher* 



### SPH LIPPO CIKARANG Senior School Youth Camp

ippo Cikarang Senior School students had a blessed time at their retreat as they took a deeper look into the school theme: Children of Light. We were thankful to have Dr. Nathaniel Gray Sutanto, an SPHLV alumni, as our speaker. Dr. Gray is an ordained elder at Covenant City Church and also a published author. The students were challenged and encouraged by his sessions. They impressed him with their questions. Our students enjoyed fellowship through games and, of course, the amazing musical skits each class created to portray the theme of light. We are thankful for this time to grow closer to God and to one another. We thank God for the teachers who served our students throughout the retreat.

Helen Schleper, Head of School







I twas a blessing to experience this retreat. I learned a lot from God's Word. I have heard about the concept of "Children of Light" in Matthew 5:14 many times before, however I didn't really understand it. Pastor Gray told us that we were once sinners, but by the grace of God, we are now saved. Living in sin means living in the dark. Darkness is the absence of light and is not a secure place to be. As a child saved by God, I learned that I have to fight the darkness by becoming light for others, leaving my sinful nature and sharing about Jesus by spreading kindness. This retreat reminded me that I must share the goodness that I have received from Jesus and light up someone else's life. I hope we continue to seek God even though the retreat is over. I pray God will let us grow deeper in our relationship with Him as children of light, and apply what we learned at the retreat in daily life.

**Seo Ji Ho,** *Grade 8* 

### TEDxYouth @Sekolah Pelita Harapan

#### "Break the Ice": The Fourth TEDx Youth @SPH Lippo Village

group of high school students from SPH Lippo Village organized the fourth TEDx Youth @SPH held on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The event took place at @america, Pacific Place, Jakarta.

The students invited a lineup of interesting speakers from different backgrounds:

- Eddy Betty, a reputable fashion designer (Eddy Betty Couture)
- Kerri Na Basaria, an activist for women's rights (Organizer of Women's March Jakarta)

- Harrison Chandra, a professional barista (Owner of Ottoman's Coffee Brewers)
- Veronica Colondam, a social entrepreneur (CEO of Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa or YCAB)
- Pauline Boedianto, an architect (part of Taskforce Liveable Cities)
- Wishnu Dewanta, an aspiring musician (Director of the Bellevoix Orchestra)
- Ivan Chen, a game developer (Director of Antarupa Studios)

This year's TEDx Youth @SPH theme - "Break the Ice" – centred on the idea of how people have overcome tension in their lives – whether from a political issue, a cultural taboo, or personal issues. Speakers shared their experience of facing different kinds of tensions and challenges.

Harrison Chandra's educational background, studying Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Queensland in Australia, has nothing to do with his current profession as a barista. After graduating he chose to pursue his passion for coffee. This created tensions in his family. Nevertheless, he worked hard as a barista and won the 2016 Jakarta Syphon Championship, the 2017 Indonesian Brewers Cup, and 7th place at the World Brewers Cup in the same year. He reminded the audience that it is okay to fail. What we need to do is to rise again and get better.

Veronica Colondam is the founder and CEO



#### **O CAMPUS NEWS**

of Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (YCAB), a nonprofit organization that improves welfare through education and inclusive financing. In her short yet impactful speech, she opened up with a story of pain and suffering that she had buried for 19 years. During her final exams at a high school she lost her father. That tragedy left her family penniless. After Veronica graduated from high school, she did not immediately attend university because she had to work. She was ashamed of this experience, but she realized that this critical moment in her life had inspired her to establish YCAB. Her goal was to help young people fulfill their dream to pursue education.

Many children in Indonesia cannot pursue higher education due to poverty. YCAB has provided benefits to more than 3.5 million underprivileged children throughout Indonesia through access to education, entrepreneurship, as well as providing financial access for over 150 thousand low-income families.

The event ended with Pauline Boedianto speaking about "Leaving My Comfort Zone to Comfort Indonesia". Having graduated from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, Pauline lived a comfortable life with her family in the Netherlands as an aspiring architect. However, she knew that her main goal in studying architect was to improve the lives of Jakartans by providing proper housing, especially to those living in slum areas. Following this calling, she left her comfort zone to return to Indonesia.

Pauline was assigned to a government project to build flats for Muara Angke citizens. Muara Angke is a slum area in Jakarta. Most of the citizens live in an extremely unhealthy environment. Surprisingly, the local citizens did not approve the project at first. Pauline faced opposition, including death threats. However, with compassion and determination she tried to negotiate with the locals and they finally approved the project. The challenges did not end there. Her daughter developed an auto-immune disease and Pauline had to juggle between work and taking care of her daughter. Despite facing many hurdles, she does not regret her decision to return to Indonesia.

Challenges, hurdles, and tensions are part of our personal lives and the people around the globe. The question is not how to avoid them, but how to face them so as to grow stronger and better to impact others positively.





#### "Sea of Voices": The First TEDx Youth @SPH Sentul City

SPH Sentul City's first TEDxYouth@SPHSentulCity was held on September 28, 2019, in the school's gymnasium surrounded by the peaceful green hills of Babakan Madang. The theme - "Sea of Voices" - had the goal of illustrating the world as an endless ocean of ideas and resources yet to be discovered.

6 speakers, each with extensive knowledge in their respective industries, illuminated our minds. Martin Anugrah, Tsamara Amany, Laksmana Fadilah Saragih, Slyvia Pie, Klemens Rahadja and Tifanie Habibie spoke on topics including business, beauty, and politics. Unlike most TEDx events, TEDxYouth@SPHSentulCity invited youth-initiated organizations from Bogor and beyond to exhibit their innovative work which is designed to bring about positive change. They included SPH's very own Bye Bye Plastic Bags SPHSC, Sayap Ilmu, and Shoptuary, as well as external organizations Woke Human, Rumah Faye, Imprints and JudgeDept.

The seminars inspired ideas and triggered questions such as, "What can I create that will improve life for those around me?" Martin Anugrah shared a testimony about his life to encourage the audience to rise above the expectations others place on us and thrive by ignoring how people might define us.

Tsamara Amany, one of the leaders of Partai Solidaritas Indonesia (Indonesia Solidarity Party), shared about her experience in politics. She inspired the audience to be principled in their beliefs and to stand strong no matter what others think of them.

The event's youth-led fair allowed visitors the opportunity to meet with inspiring founders and club-goers who had successfully fulfilled their vision for change through a product or movement they had created. Like the horizon at the sea's edge, the Tedx events will hopefully mean that human inspiration will never fade.

#### SPH PLUIT VILLAGE

### Culture Week

This year SPH PV introduced 'Culture Week' to their school community. It was decided to focus on Indonesia's rich culture because it reflects their majority student population. They wanted students to explore parts of Indonesia they were not familiar with to cultivate a sense of pride in who they are and where they are from.

A committee was formed to generate ideas about what was most important, and to design a schedule for activities that would build community and create hands-on learning. It was decided to divide the school into 4 Indonesian islands. Each hallway was responsible for representing their assigned island. A professional dancer came to PV and taught dances specific to each island. Pondok Taruna also visited to play the angklung. The week ended with a food exploration activity. Rubrics were made to judge the hallways, fashion shows, and the Senior School food competition.

The goal was for students to experience the richness of Indonesia by being responsible for research about their islands, dressing according to the culture of that island, and by listening to stories in Indonesian about each island. This was an immerse way to respect our diversity.

'Culture Week' creates a sense of belonging and pride in who students are and where God has placed them. Loving and respecting Indonesia and its diverse culture makes it easier to reflect the love Jesus showed all mankind on the cross. The PV community are proud Indonesian children of light.



### SPH LIPPO VILLAGE

### Wonderful Indonesia



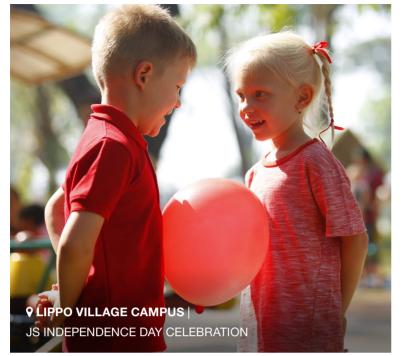


S ekolah Pelita Harapan holds annual events to appreciate Indonesian Culture and language. At SPH Lippo Village this event is called "Bulan Bahasa". which celebrates Youth Pledge Day (Hari Sumpah Pemuda), a declaration made on 28 October 1928 by young Indonesian nationalists in the Second Youth Congress. They proclaimed three ideals: one motherland, one nation, and one language.

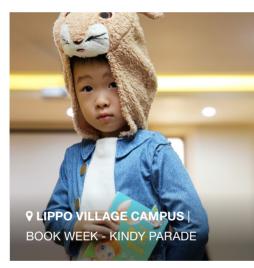
This year's Bulan Bahasa program at SPH Lippo Village included poetry and singing competitions, puppet shows, and book reading, all in Bahasa Indonesia. These activities ended with the Bulan Bahasa Finale on Monday, November 4, 2019, in which the entire community participated. Senior bands, a Gamelan ensemble, a Junior School choir accompanied by the Angklung and Kulintang ensemble, poetry readings, a traditional fashion show by Kindergarten students, as well as traditional dances performed by students, teachers and staff, were highlights. Students and teachers from SMAN 5 Tangerang also joined the event to perform a traditional dance from Jakarta called "Lenggang Nyai".

This event reminds the SPH community of how wonderful it is to be united amidst the diversity of Indonesian culture. We are unified by one language, Bahasa Indonesia, and this is a source of national pride. We hope students carry this message with them for the rest of their lives.

♥ LIPPO VILLAGE CAMPUS | INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE AT KARAWACI, TANGERANG













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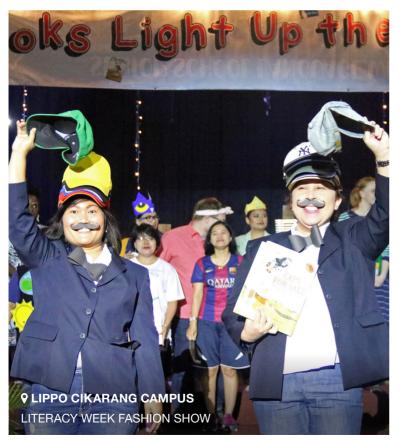








**9 LIPPO CIKARANG CAMPUS** LITERACY WEEK - READING BUDDIES











PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE



AGLES CO PLUIT VILLAGE CAMPUS JUNIOR STUDENTS JOIN SPH CUP AT SPH KEMANG VILLAGE

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 The Knowledge, Faith in Christ and Godly Character

 Proclaiming the preeminence of Christ and Ingging in the redemptive restoration of all ings in the through holistic education

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#### > THINKING THEMELY

Christian schools don't naturally happen. They naturally unhappen!

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Have you ever gone walking at night on an unlit path without a flashlight? In the light of day we stride out confidently, hardly noticing the ground, but in the dark we take tentative steps to avoid tripping or falling. Walking in the dark is dangerous. Learning in the dark without God illuminating our minds and hearts is disastrous. The Bible explains how from the earliest days after evil entered human experience, people 'groped in darkness with no light.' (Job 12:25) God's true light of wisdom is repelled because 'there are those who rebel against the light, who do not know its ways or stay in its paths.' (Job 24:13) The fight for light began when Satan tempted Eve saying, *"Did God really say?"* (Genesis 3:1). That skeptical question has echoed through the centuries - across continents, within cultures, and into classrooms. The locus of Christian education is the classroom. There Christian teachers pray, play, instruct, guide, inspire, and mentor eager minds. Yet, not all minds are open.

The Apostle Paul writes: "the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers... they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Cor 4:4) Even in Christian schools, cataracts can form across the lens of learning, obscuring the vision of what is central to biblical discipleship. Cataracts go unnoticed at first, grow over time, and gradually reduce sight. At its worst, a school gone 'blind' becomes 'respectably conformist and brainlessly pious.' (Jensen) What all of this means is that Christian schools don't naturally happen. They naturally unhappen!

What can remedy this regress except a vision of glorious learning.

"God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the **knowledge** of the **glory** of God **in the face of Christ**." 2 Corinthians 4:6

The Apostle Paul's words to the church in the ancient city of Corinth are astounding. Paul was a devout Hebrew, he spoke Greek, and he was a citizen of imperial Rome. In one verse he sums up ancient history by revealing how the Hebrew quest for wisdom (light), and the Greek love of philosophy (knowledge), and the Roman thirst for power (glory), could only be found and fulfilled by seeing God's glory in the divine Jesus – in his life, death, and resurrection.

People in every age have sought for enlightenment to gain knowledge so as to live with meaning and purpose. Education helps this endeavor. At school, students have opportunities to learn new skills, discover gifts and use talents, make lifelong friendships, mature in character, and then graduate into useful adulthood. That is a common description of what might be considered a 'good' education.

Christian education is more glorious! It shapes the conscience, redirecting students away from selfish entitlement to a life of humble service and grateful worship, bowing before Jesus as Lord and seeking first God's kingdom. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians are a vision of life and of learning that glorifies Jesus as the light of life. Rightly considered, his words will transform classrooms and curricula, beginning with God and ending in the experience of glory.

God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. The Covenant Creator revealed his beautiful truth by a deeply relational gift of salvation wisdom and transforming knowledge full of perfect goodness through his loved Son, Jesus.

Only in Jesus do we discover reality – what is beautifully true, relationally rich, eternally significant, intellectually satisfying, morally right, and lovingly blessed. The glorious goal of Christian Education is persuasively articulated by SPH parent, Dr. Leonard Sidharta:

"Many people do not fully live. Their lives are flattened, cramped in the thin dimensions of fleeting pleasures, money, looks, or fame. God wants us to passionately feel the invigorating breadth, width, depth, and length of life, attaining full-blown happiness. In Christian theology, to live to the fullest is to be filled and energized by the most perfect being of all, the Triune God, who gives birth to faith, hope, and love - the signs of flourishing life."

Is a curriculum without Paul's vision of glory Christian pedagogy?

In this, my final contribution to the biannual Light magazine, my challenge to the SPH schools is to keep Jesus' glory central to the community's life, and core to its learning. My prayer is that the Lord Jesus will never be traded for mere 'nods to God' - a Christ more cultural than biblical. Instead, be true children of light.

'Glory in Christ and you can bask in His light forever.' Woodrow Kroll



Each year SPH schools are united by a theme that derives from our Vision and Mission. Themes direct our community into biblical thinking and learning so that we will more effectively teach Christianly and live out our faith maturely.



DANIEL FENNELL BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS COORDINATOR

### "Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." John 12:36

It was a tremendous privilege to spend a week travelling to each of the five SPH campuses to help launch the theme for the year, 'Children of Light' taken from Jesus' words in John 12:36: 'believe in the light while you have the light, that you may become children of light'.

When Jesus spoke to his disciples in John 12 he was preparing them for his imminent crucifixion. Before the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion descended on them, Jesus urged his disciples to acknowledge him as the light of the world. The same invitation is offered to us: while we have opportunity, before the darkness of suffering, or crisis, or death descends, our opportunity is to come to believe in Jesus as the one who can also be light in our own lives.

As we read how the Gospel according to John uses these images of light and darkness, we come to see that 'believing in the light' means to trust Jesus life as the source of revelation, bringing direction, meaning, and purpose to human life. By trusting in Jesus we become his children. We can be beneficiaries of his light, and imitators of his light. Like John the Baptist, we are not the light, but we can be witnesses who testify concerning Jesus' light (John 1:7-8). And so we have the privilege and joy of being agents of Jesus' revelation, pointing others to Jesus so that they may also find in him direction, purpose, and meaning for their own lives.

As with all of the imagery used in the Bible, the metaphor of being 'children of light' is not just directed to our rational minds, but also to our imagination. Paul prays for the Ephesian church that 'the eyes of their heart' would be enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). That's a prayer for their imaginations to be shaped by all that God has revealed of himself to us in Jesus and the scriptures.

So as you meditate on the image of light, what do you see? And how does the world look to you from that perspective? Jesus, the light of the world, shines in the darkness, and is not overcome by the darkness. Jesus brings light to others, even to you, and not only to you but to Christian believers alongside you as well as across the globe and throughout time. You can be a child of light, a witness to Jesus' light, bringing the light of Christ to the dark places of the world. As you sit and ponder this gift from God, how does this make you feel? What does this image encourage you to say, and to do?

My time at SPH gave me the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the many different ways that your school communities are bearing witness to the light of Christ. As you think about this image of being children of light during this school year, our hope is not just that you would think nice thoughts, but that we would live transformed lives. My ongoing prayer for you all at SPH is that you would live and work in the light of Christ to the Father's glory.

During each theme launch we saw a video clip of a woman who suffered from cataract blindness. With the help of some skilled surgeons her sight was restored. But more than just being able to see again, in place of fear and helplessness this woman was transformed. Fear was replaced with joy and hope. Helplessness replaced with productive work. The same can be true for us as we come to put our trust in Jesus. Knowing him means more than just gaining new understanding about God and the Bible. The hope and new life that Jesus offers can transform our lives. Instead of a life turned in upon ourselves, Jesus draws us into his light to be productive in serving others. Filled with the light of Christ, the Spirit of God enables us to joyfully bring life to others, in Jesus' name.

I treasure the opportunity I had while at SPH to meet so many fellow children of light: school leaders, teachers, parents, students. What a gift it is to each of us to be part of such a global fellowship of brothers and sisters, serving alongside one another, sharing the light of Christ in all the dark places of the world.



### 2019-2020 School Theme

AN ARTICLE BY DR. GRAHAM STANTON

THE LIGHT | 42ND EDITION | 33





Sekolah Pelita Harapan

True Knowledge · Faith in Christ · Godly Character

History

# Knowing God & Ourselves in God's World

Have you ever asked yourself what it really means to learn in a Christian school? What differentiates us from secular schools? Is it only chapels, a devotion time in the morning, and mandatory Bible classes?

Zachary Garris, author of the e-book Thinking Biblically about Education, who received his Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary, states:

"When people think of a Christian school, most think of a school that includes prayer, chapel, and required Bible courses. But a Christian school should be far more than that, as every subject should be taught in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ." We do not study Christianity as one subject separate from other disciplines. Each discipline is connected because they derive from God, the creator of the universe and the author and source of true knowledge. There is no subject that God does not have authority over. Christian theology and worldview should permeate every subject. The true purpose of education is not merely to learn information, but to know God, and thus know ourselves in God's world through the biblical story given by revelation. This is the glory of Christian education. This article explores how different subjects help us to know God, ourselves and the world.

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# "History is a story written by the finger of God."

- C. S. Lewis



Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of **History** 

Many people's experience of studying History at high school did not leave them with positive memories. Because of rote learning teaching methods, many are convinced the study of the past has no applicability to real life. On the contrary, History is an exciting discipline with great value. The Bible reveals history to be the "finger of God" at work through the human story. By studying history we gain an understanding of human motivations and why the world is the way it is today. We had the opportunity to discuss this idea with Mrs. Judy Comrie, SPH LV DP History teacher, and with two Grade 12 History students, Wilson Sugeng and Nadja Dimic. How do they view God in history to understand the world?

#### Judy:

Let's begin by first hearing from Wilson and Nadja. What are some of the bigger understandings you are gaining from our study of the past?

#### Wilson:

What fascinates me is how complex the stories and details in history are. To see that God is in control of history and that humans can study this complex subject demonstrates how great God is.

In my DP History class, studying characters such as Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler to learn about their regimes and atrocities, demonstrates clearly how the problem of sin is so prevalent throughout the human story.

#### Nadja:

Adding to what Wilson has said, we also learn about different periods in history and how governments and rulers change. In certain periods of history, governments have tried to remove religion from society. Many of those regimes ended in failure. I have come to see that humans are inclined to believe in God and need God to guide them in life. I entered this class with a limited perspective of how our world has been shaped. To learn about the past really helps me to understand patterns in history that keep repeating. It seems humans don't learn from their mistakes, nor think enough about how we got here.

"All that we call human history – money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – is the long terrible story of a man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy." - C. S. Lewis

### Judy:

A challenge for any Christian teacher is to find ways to point their students to God's truths through their subject's content. In History, there are many examples of how we ought not to live. Pointing students to how they ought to live and respond to God through the study of the past is the ultimate goal of learning. This requires teachers and students to gain critical insights, a process facilitated by the relational atmosphere of the room. We engage in robust, yet respectful, discussion about key historical concepts.

### Wilson:

What I most enjoy in history class is the amount of freedom we are given to articulately argue and defend positions on history. This teaches us the importance of having and using critical thinking skills.

### Nadja:

In History class, students discuss issues from diverse perspectives and are given the opportunity to make their own judgments. This class is more like a discussion group than just a traditional class. We begin our classes by discussing recent news, and so we study the past in the context of the present.

### Judy:

I'll close this discussion by picking up on Nadja's last comments with a quote from C.S. Lewis, given to Oxford students in 1939, shortly after the beginning of WWII when he was asked about the practicality of studying academic subjects like History. He said,

"Most of all, we need intimate knowledge of the past. Not that the past has any magic about it, but because we cannot study the future, and yet need something to set against the present, to remind us that the basic assumptions have been quite different in different periods and that much which seems certain to the uneducated is merely temporary fashion. A man who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his native village; the [historical] scholar has lived in many times and is therefore in some degree immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his own age."

The goal of the DP History course at SPH is to enable senior students to appreciate the past and to have the ability to apply critical thinking skills to understand the 'finger of God' in discerning truth in our time.



Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of **Psychology** 

Hello. I am Christian Larsen – teacher of IB psychology at SPH LV. Psychology at its core is the study of human behavior and cognition, examined through the lenses of biology, cognitive processes, and sociocultural influences. At SPH we take a thematic approach to the study of psychology - looking at a single theme such as violence, love, marriage, or depression – to see how biological, cognitive, and sociocultural factors all interact and influence that idea. For instance, we investigate violence by examining how hormones or culture can influence violent behaviors.

## How do you integrate Psychology to Christian faith?

Our primary task is to study psychology through the Christian theological worldview. This relationship can be interesting and complex. Some people get nervous when trying to connect psychology and the Christian faith. There are varying degrees to which secular worldviews may compete with biblical values.

At SPH, we believe in the authority of the Bible and what it tells us about human identity. All we need to know about human flourishing is found in Scripture. We know that true peace only comes from God as we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (John 14:2 7). The Bible tells us that we sin by nature, but it does not go into great detail about personality disorders, mental disorders, and mental illness. This is where psychology gives us unique and helpful insights. With faith-inspired inquiry, we are best able to discern how to apply and better understand what we learn about humanity.

## Why is it important for students to study Psychology?

It is relatively uncommon to study psychology in high school, so I am thankful for what the IB curriculum offers. It is crucial for high schoolers to learn about psychology. Firstly, because it is fascinating! Ultimately, God loves people, and psychology is the study of people on an intimate level. When we understand more about who we are we can worship and honor God better. As we learn about how people function, we can extend empathy, maximize personal relationships, and be more aware of the real factors that influence our thoughts and actions.

Students will be living and working with people for the rest of their lives. Psychology gives them a great foundation to better understand human behavior and thought processes, and for them to leave a positive impact on the world around them.



KNOWING GOD, OURSELVES & GOD'S WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF

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loves people, and psychology is the study of people on an intimate level."

by CHRISTIAN LARSEN

KNOWING GOD, OURSELVES & GOD'S WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF

by David Hall

Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of **Theory of Knowledge** 

David Hall is teacher of IB Theory of Knowledge at Sekolah Pelita Harapan Kemang Village

## Can you please explain more about what Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is about?

Theory of Knowledge is a course that challenges students to consider the ways in which knowledge is developed, both individually and communally. Students are challenged to explore the question, "How do I know?" and also the question, "How do I know that I know?" This engagement with metacognition is intended to help students become more thoughtful people who can engage the complexity of our global world from a foundation that

is humble and self-aware in its approach to knowledge.

Unlike other courses in the Diploma Programme that may have significant content requirements (think of a course like Biology), Theory of Knowledge has little required content but is instead largely a skills-based class in critical thinking and epistemological self-awareness. Students explore various areas of knowledge (e.g., the Natural Sciences, History, the Arts) and knowledge is developed and verified within these different areas.

#### How does the Christian perspective shed light on TOK?

There is a temptation to see Theory of Knowledge as a course that produces skeptics and cynics by establishing human reason as the arbiter of reliable knowledge. However, such shallow claims, or fears depending on one's vantage point, are precisely the kind of one-sided thinking the course is designed to move past. A Christian perspective then is valuable and important for the Theory of Knowledge in at least three ways.

First, the Christian perspective provides grounds for our knowledge that is greater than ourselves. Crippling Cartesian doubt was the result of modernity and its reliance on reason, but neither Romanticism nor Postmodernism, and not even "Progress" whether construed scientifically, politically or culturally, moved us to a firmer epistemological footing. It is from the Christian concept of the world that we have proper grounding for our knowledge. Ironically, Christianity provides these grounds for human knowledge by taking it away from us and placing it in God. Christians can know things and know things truly because we are made with a capacity for knowledge by the all-knowing One.

Second, a Christian perspective on TOK allows us to enjoy and marvel at the breadth and complexity of God's creation, including our own ability to understand and engage with that creation. Surveying various Areas of Knowledge and the breadth of human creativity and ingenuity drives home the reality that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Such a posture engenders thankfulness and gratitude as the starting point for all our learning and knowing.

Third, a Christian perspective allows for a kind of open-mindedness and tolerance born not of obsequiousness, but rather from a humility anchored by the convictions of faith. As Christians, we understand that our perspective on the world is not universally shared, and TOK allows us to dialogue intelligently about why that is the case. Such dialogue need not be confrontational or polemical, but rather a conversation in which graciousness and humility characterize our speech.

### Some students see TOK as a less applicable subject. What would you suggest to students so they can see the beauty of this subject? What are the benefits of learning this subject?

On the one hand, I am sympathetic to these students. TOK is not "applicable" if by that we mean it will supply some sort of direct one-toone sort of correspondence to life, helping you balance a company budget, edit a college application essay, or successfully navigate relationships. TOK is a course that challenges students to ask big questions, the kinds of questions that are rooted as much in our heart as in our head, the kinds of questions that can give shape and direction to our lives. In other words, TOK is a course more about our telos - where we are going - than it is a course that gives step-by-step directions for how to get there.

God's creation can be understood more fully through the study of the order, structure, and design of mathematics."

Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of **Mathematics** 

ATHEMATICS

by Sara Admiraal

Sara Admiraal is teacher of IB Mathematics at Sekolah Pelita Harapan Lippo Village, Tanggerang.

### What lessons are you currently teaching in your classes?

In Grade 11 Analysis & Approaches HL we are just beginning our study of calculus. In both Grade 12 Math SL and 12 Math HL we are delving deeper into our study of calculus. Calculus is considered the math of the real world. Many of the math concepts that students learn in younger grades come together in real and applicable ways under the umbrella of calculus. We study such applications as the instantaneous rate of change, kinematics (position, velocity, and acceleration), volumes of solids of revolution, areas between curves, optimization in the context of business. Calculus gives a window into the beauty and applicability of mathematics.

### Math is usually perceived as a difficult and unapplicable subject. How would you suggest the students see the beauty of learning Math?

Math is perceived by some as difficult, and while it may be true that in the past some thought math was not applicable to daily life, today it is likely seen as one of the most applicable and relevant disciplines, what with the boom in technology and the importance of data in our world today.

A few years ago, The Economist published an article titled, "The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data." Whether or not that is true, data informs decisions in every field. It is more important than ever that our students are numerate, that they know how to problem solve (and persevere in problem-solving), that they can interpret mathematical results correctly, and that they can communicate mathematics clearly. Students must know how math is used to model the real world and to make predictions about the world around them. Additionally, they must be discerners of mathematical information and be aware of the potential that sometimes data is collected or presented in a way that is misleading.

### How does the Christian perspective shed light on Math?

Albert Einstein once said, "How is it possible that mathematics, a product of human thought that is independent of experience, fits so excellently the objects of reality?" Of course, this nicely leads into a fun question to debate, "Was math invented by humans or created by a higher power?"

No matter the answer, math certainly helps us to define, understand, and work with the world around us - the world God created. The world that we live in is creative, detailed, intricate and orderly, which speaks to the character of our Creator, who is absolute, consistent, creative, ordered, and eternal. God's creation can be understood more fully through the study of the order, structure, and design of mathematics. Through our study of math, we certainly gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the greatness of our God, who is the Creator of all things, including mathematics. & GOD, OURSELVES & GOD'S WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF

# SCIENCE

by Eden Steven



Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of **Science** 

E den Steven is an SPH Lippo Village alumni (Class of 2002) who now serves as the Director of Applied Science Academy. He is an aspiring Indonesian scientist, specializing in advanced material science and electronics. His story about how he views science from the Christian perspective is inspiring.

### How did you find that science is your passion?

It all started with my love of Math. I owe my versatility in Math to the inspiring private tutor I had when I was in elementary school. My love for mathematics was also inspired by my late Math teacher at SPH, whose motto was, "Math is easy, simple, and beautiful." In the same year, I encountered another inspiring teacher in my Physics class. There I saw the beauty of Physics from a Math perspective. My physics teacher showed me how formulas are connected to each other with absolute certainty and consistency. He demonstrated the simplicity behind complex phenomena. I slowly began to glimpse the inner workings and flawless design in nature. I was in love with Physics!

Some people assume that there is no feasible career path if we major in Math or Physics in college. At the University of Wisconsin, Madison, I took Electrical Engineering as my major, the closest course in line with my love of Math and Physics. I later pursued a double major, adding Physics as my second major. The way Physics describes nature is just too beautiful and useful to ignore. Physics is all around us. Our clothes, cellphones, construction, medical and transportation products are all applications of this science.

## How do you integrate the seeming opposites of science and faith as a Christian scientist?

I wasn't a Christian when I attended SPH. However, in 2003, whike attending university, I was moved by the sincere care of the Christian community there. I was particularly inspired by the group of people in the Indonesian Christian Fellowship. One of the members who was my senior, Yahya, was always willing to answer my difficult questions about God with humility and understanding. He gave me a book, "Letters from a Skeptic" written by Greg Boyd. That changed my life.

I was already passionate about science, especially Physics, but only when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior did I see the beauty of science even more. Science and faith do not oppose each other. When you do science, you find that there is nothing that is totally random. There is a law of cause and effect and consistency in how things work in nature. How can this be? Obviously, someone made all the natural laws. That person is God. When you believe in God, nature makes sense. To know God is to discover order and harmony.

However, when we realize that everything was created for us, that doesn't mean we become lazy. We have a duty to investigate the world God created. There is always something new to discover. God has given us the ability to explore new possibilities and create innovations in science for the common good.

Only when I became a Christian did I truly realize that science is not only my passion, but is my God-given calling to bring betterment to Indonesia. Indonesia might be lagging in terms of its science and technological development, but Indonesia has great potential. My prayer is that God will raise up a new generation of Christian scientists who are passionate about nation-building – to bless Indonesia.

Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of Economics

y name is Scott Schleper. My wife and I work at SPH Lippo Cikarang, where our sons are also part of the Junior School. I teach both Business and Economics but will answer these questions through the field that I have the most experience in - Economics.

### What do the students learn in your Economics class?

According to the IB syllabus, Economics, a social science, is essentially about dealing with scarcity, resource allocation, and the methods and processes by which choices are made in the satisfaction of human wants. We study microeconomics (focusing on individuals, firms, and markets) and macroeconomics (focusing on countries, governments, and societies). The study concludes with an exploration of international trade, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

## How does the Christian perspective shed light on this Economics?

At its most basic level, economics is a study of choices, and the consequences of those choices, both costs, and benefits. Notice that these are things we sing about at church every Sunday!

A biblical worldview allows us to consider these concepts through our knowledge of creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. The result is both challenging and exciting! Man's choices at the fall had enormous consequences. God's choice to redeem us bears an incredible cost. An awareness of that cost is surely a thing to delight in.

When I first accepted Christ as my savior, I did so recognizing that I was a demander of grace. As I've grown in my faith, I've become aware that my demands for that grace are ever-increasing. However, I've also recognized that God's supply of grace is increasing as well. Simply, my demands for God's undeserved favor will never be able to exceed his supply of it. This awareness has done much for my understanding and worship of God. I pray that it will continue to do the same for my students.

"God's choice to redeem us bears an incredible cost. An awareness of that cost is surely a thing to delight in."



### KNOWING GOD, OURSELVES & GOD'S WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF



by SCOTT SCHLEPER

# "Soli Deo Gloria, Glory to God Alone"

Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of **Music** 

y name is Sion Yang. This is my second year of teaching at SPH Sentul as music teacher.

## What makes the music class at SPH different? (especially related to our Christian, biblical perspective)

Christians have a unique perspective on music. We don't merely view it as entertainment. More importantly, it is a divine gift given for the purpose of glorifying our God. Music has the power to heal, to unite people, and to bring us closer to God.

## What should be the end goal of pursuing music & developing our musical talents?

God is the Creative Artist of all things. Humans make things by using what God has already created. In his *Lectures on Calvinism*, Theologian Abraham Kuyper describes this truth as "the unreal creations of art". meaning that humans can only imitate the works of God. The end goal of pursuing music and of developing our musical talents should be to live out a transformative vision within the distinct cultural sphere of music, which God has already created for us. This transformative vision refers to a way of life in which a person integrates his or her faith into every aspect of life.

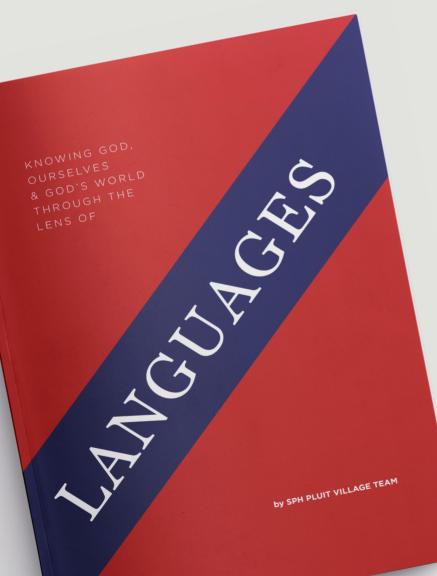
A role model who lived this vision was Johann Sebastian Bach, the legendary German composer whose works are considered ingenious and timeless. He signed S.D.G., the initials for Soli Deo Gloria (Latin for "Glory to God Alone"), at the beginning and end of his liturgical compositions, as well as on some of his non-liturgical works. Soli Deo Gloria is a term that grew out of the Protestant Reformation. It refers to the belief that salvation, sanctification, and glorification are accomplished solely by God, not by human effort. Through his use of innovative musical devices, Bach revealed this ultimate reality in the context of eternity. One of the mystical and divine tasks of music is to remind humans of the perfect state of the world before the fall. The reminiscence of that perfect beauty and purity before the fall portrayed in music gives assurance that through God's redemptive work, his creation will be restored back to its perfect, beautiful originality. Bach understood his identity as a Christian musician and the spectacular role of music in God's Kingdom. Likewise, the end goal of pursuing music and of cultivating our musical talents should be to glorify our God, the creator and restorer of all things.

KNOWING GOD, OURSELVES & GOD'S WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF

W SION YANG









Knowing God, Our Selves & God's World Through the Lens of Languages

PH provides excellent Mandarin programs. We recently interviewed Mandarin teachers at SPH Pluit Village.

### Why is learning Mandarin important?

Twenty years ago, people who could speak their own language as well as English had more advantages and opportunities. The world has changed. More and more people can speak 3 or 4 languages. Mandarin is the most spoken language in the world. Its popularity is increasing as technology and industry produce many products in China, and China's influence expands around the world. When you learn Mandarin you experience a different culture. For Chinese Indonesians who learn Mandarin, it is even more meaningful since the language is part of their identity.

### Could you please tell us more about your Mandarin class?

Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are the focus of our Mandarin classes. Students are given opportunities to practice communication with their classmates and their teacher. Mandarin movies and cartoons motivate students and help to immerse them in the language. Quizlet sets which use vivid pictures and accurate sounds help students learn Mandarin characters faster than more traditional ways. Besides writing characters in notebooks, our students are trained to type using Mandarin text as well.

#### What do the students learn in your class?

Students learn Mandarin by studying monthly topics which cover five areas: everyday activities, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work, and the international world. Students also learn about Chinese culture, which is vital if they are to understand the language. This also helps them to learn to accept, respect, and help each other with love and proper manners. The topics taught vary. Grade 7-9 students are assigned a pen-pal from Thailand. They have been writing letters to each other to ask questions, and to share what is happening in each of their lives.

### What makes the Mandarin class at SPH distinct?

Mandarin is not an easy language to learn. SPH teachers use modern approaches to motivate students. Apps, websites, language games, projects, face to face communication, cartoons and movies help students learn the language in a fun way. Most importantly, we always connect what we learn with the biblical perspective on life. We use Chinese characters to tell the biblical story and students learn bible verse songs to know God. We also incorporate Christian values in our units of learning. For instance, in a unit about shopping, students learn to buy things and to bargain. It is common for people to bargain, but how to bargain in a way that does not hurt people, and which also strengthens relationships, is vital.

# SPH TEACHERS DEEP HOPE STATEMENTS

At this year's Professional Development Day, teachers wrote statements that represent their deepest hopes for students. We are grateful for all our teachers who instruct and guide their students with hearts full of faith. The following deep hope statements are a selection of the many statements from each of the SPH campuses.



WATCH NEWS RECAP at youtu.be/Qj1USuq6xYU

My deep HOPE for my students is for them to know they are safe and loved in my classroom. I want them to know they are worthy of being and belonging.

My Deep Hope for my students is for them to believe & follow Jesus and become change makers in Indonesia & around the World.

Wy deep hope for my Students is to tocker a thirst for God ly Knowledge that opes beyond the classroom so that one day they become great Christian leaders who are lox more effective than I am.

... that every student of mine learns how to love God, love others, and love themselves, and understand their gifts 7 purpose on this earth.

My deep hope for my students is to

· See and feel the peace that surpasses all understanding

· experience the Jay that is everlasting . drink of the water that quarkers all thiret . trily undostand Godf grace

through my words, actions, and content taught.

My deep hope for my student is to seek the wisdom of God and explore the mysteries of his creation through content learning, relationships, and community Service.

My deep hope for my students at 2... TO feel the sympathetic reasonance of God's love To love their creator and his creation through their learning TO learn and improve their "benutiful work" and present it one day before the KM5

To <u>rule as a king</u> under God in the new creation with love compaction and homility

from your tenche

My deep hope is that, by leading my students into faith in Christ, they will experience unconditional acceptance, resounding affirmation and genuine love that is contagious.

I want my students to feel and Know that their identity, hope, and purpose are bound up in Jesus, so everything we read and learn points to Hom, and everything we produce is for HIS GLORY.

My Deep Hope for my students is for them to use their talents and abilities to find and fulfill God's calling in their life, and be a blessing to their community,

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whatever (wherever that might be.

# THREE GENERATIONS

We are grateful for families who dedicate their lives to serving the Lord and youth through Christian education. Stephen and Rebecca Metcalfe have served with Pelita Harapan Foundation (Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan) for more than 20 years. Mr. Metcalfe currently serves as the Executive Director of Mission Youth for Christ (MYC) Residence Life, Executive Director of Sport and Dorm Parent of MYC Residence Life at UPH. Mrs. Metcalfe serves as Year Level Lead Teacher for Grade 7 and teaches English and Biblical Studies at SPH Lippo Village. Their daughter, Kendal Metcalfe Thibault and her husband, Tyler Thibault, also teach at SPH Lippo Village in the Junior School. Read about their wonderful journey that began in 1997 and discover how God has led their family in Indonesia over three generations.

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### Stephen:

In 1996 I was serving as a youth pastor and finishing my second degree. Some friends asked us what we were planning on doing after graduation. Beck (Rebecca) and I always talked about doing something different and uniquely out of the ordinary. The parents of two girls in our youth group introduced us to their brother and sisterin-law. We went to their house for dinner and heard from them about Sekolah Pelita Harapan. They had previously taught at SPH when it opened in 1995. After hearing their story, Beck and I thought, "What should we do?"

### Rebecca:

That couple recommended that we call the former headmaster of SPH. Later, during a long-distance hour-long phone call with him, I learned about how wonderful SPH was. I asked, "Do you have any regrets?" He replied, "I wish I would have never left SPH". He encouraged us to send in our resume. That led us to apply, be interviewed, and later be hired.

### Stephen:

After that, we heard that our visa might not be ready for another year, so we didn't sign a contract to teach in Indonesia at that time. Then, out of the blue, someone from Azerbaijan who had a connection with our university friend, contacted us to offer us positions to teach there. But God had put Indonesia in our hearts. We knew that we were going to Indonesia. One day, we received an email saying that SPH had prepared our visas to teach in Indonesia and that we would receive tickets to fly to Singapore. We didn't yet have official contracts, so we went out by faith. The journey to Singapore was my first trip overseas. In Singapore, we were met at the airport and then proceeded on to Indonesia. Our daughter Kendal was six years old and our son Jack was two years old when we arrived in Indonesia. It was amazing for us to arrive knowing that this was where we should be. We didn't know much of what lay ahead of us, but that is how we got here. I guess everyone has their own unique story.

### **Rebecca:**

We arrived in Indonesia on July 1, 1997. Stephen was hired as a PE teacher and he was later appointed as the Athletic Director. I was hired as an English teacher. At that time, Tyler's parents (the Thibault family) had been teaching at SPH for a year and that leads to Kendal & Tyler's story.

In 2002, we returned to the States due to an important family issue. That year was like a "sabbatical", but SPH never left our hearts. In January 2004, the late Bapak Johannes Oentoro met us in Seattle to ask Steve to return and serve at UPH. Steve started the Sports Department and was appointed as Executive Director. He extended his ministry to students by initiating the Mission Youth for Christ (MYC). We became dorm parents at MYC. UPH opened the International Teacher's College (ITC) in 2014, and I was invited to lead the English support team. I later added Preservice Teacher Placement to my role.

### Kendal:

I started attending SPH when I was in Grade One. When our family returned to the States, I really missed SPH, especially my friends. When we came back, I felt that I had come back home. I really enjoyed my SPH years, especially in high school. I was involved in drama, basketball, choir, orchestra, and student government. It helped me to become a very well-rounded person. After graduating from SPH, I went to Biola University in the United States. I also reconnected with Tyler exactly ten years after his family left SPH. At first, I didn't start as an Education major. Instead, I took the Communication major, but halfway through the first semester Ibu Aileen Riady came to Biola as part of her yearly recruitment tour. God reminded me of my passion for education. I knew that I was going to be a teacher, but I kept looking at other things that seem to be more fun and interesting.

That recruitment trip changed my direction and my college major. The following semester, I changed to an Education major. Having graduated, I applied to teach at SPH and was hired. Right after graduation, I taught at SPH Kemang Village for two years. I also got married to Tyler in 2014. Then I got pregnant and transferred to SPH Lippo Village. Our two boys, Theo & Zee, are both attending K1 and Pre-K respectively.

### Stephen:

Reflecting on our more than 20 years in Indonesia, the Pelita Harapan Foundation remains dear to our hearts. We feel deeply connected to the foundation's vision and mission.

Furthermore, the ministry does not stop at education. It is also expressed through healthcare. As a PE and health teacher, I care about people's health. To see how the foundation improves people's lives through education and health is amazing. Participating in campus ministry allows me to connect with students from all over Indonesia and other parts of the world.

God is using this foundation to impact many people, especially youth, to be a light and hope across Indonesia. Although we have been here for more than 20 years, we feel that we are just getting started. We are blessed, but we don't take anything for granted. We value the opportunity to help educate Indonesia's future leaders and be a part of God's work of changing lives. All that we do in our ministry is about being authentic Christians who live out our their faith and share the gospel of Jesus' light and hope.











SPH FILES

## **TinLit** A Student-led Business in Book Publishing

Dhira Vidhea (SPH Sentul City Grade 12 student) started her TinLit business to pubish books. We recently had the opportunity to discuss TinLit with Dhira.

### **()** LEARN MORE ABOUT TINLIT

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visit: www.tinlit.com

## Hi Dhira, can you explain to us what TinLit is?

TinLit.com is an online platform that connects authors with publishing houses across Indonesia, helping them to get published professionally by simplifying the process.

### How did you start TinLit?

It began with my passion for literature and writing. I have been writing online for 3 years, however I found it difficult to get my writing published. I started TinLit.com when I was in the eighth grade and a yet unpublished and aspiring writer. I was baffled as to how to get my manuscript published. Many young new authors are faced with the same hurdle.

I wanted to create a system to connect authors with publishers in order to increase the chance of getting our work published. Finally, I was able to start TinLit in February 2016.

### How did you gather the writers/authors? Were there any challenges that you faced?

When we launched TinLit we understood how big the challenge was to introduce the idea of a web-based literary agent to Indonesia because it had never been done before. For that reason our main focus has always been to build a community which serves as a solid foundation for growth. We have a Whatsapp Group for every TinLit member to access. We hold events in schools and institutions to connect our people through physical proximity. We also hold national online competitions which are free and open for submissions. This is what built our visitor-base, encouraged by wordof-mouth interest.

How has TinLit been progressing so far? We have gathered over 10,000 members, established partnerships with more than 6 major publishers across Indonesia, and facilitated the publishing of seven books in total, two of which can be found in Gramedia. The remaining five books are in the process of being published. Of those five, one has been scouted to be produced as a film.

### What are your goals for your business?

I hope that through TinLit the aspiration to get published can become a reality. Authors can focus on putting out their best work and we can help with the rest! The Tinlit team is incredibly grateful for the interest of Bisnis Indonesia and SPH. By furthering our message and making us more discoverable, we hope to extend more publishing opportunities and bring dreams to life!

## How have you grown since the first time you started TinLit.com ?

Reflecting back, I realize the great role TinLit has played in molding my character. I have come to recognize the gravity behind every opportunity. When an opportunity knocks, I must seize it - like the chance to connect with people in an event for later collaboration, or an inviation to share about TinLit. These opportunities might not knock twice and time won't bend for me. Therefore I must capitalize on opportunities as they are presented. I have learned to apply this understanding to my whole life beyond TinLit. It has allowed me to make the most of my time, my abilities and my circumstances.

We are proud of what Dhira has achieved in her business at such a young age. We are very excited to see SPH students initiate their own businesses to tackle real issues in society.

DHIRA VIDHEA (SPH SENTUL CITY, GRADE 12 STUDENT)

# **People Matter**

"A lot of schools are motivated to emphasize their academic results. To them numbers matter more than people. At SPH, people matter more than the numbers." Gray serves as an elder in Covenant City Church in Jakarta and as a part-time online faculty member of Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He is working closely with three other Academic institutions: Westminster Theological Seminary as an online instructor, Greystone Theological Institute (Pittsburg) as a Fellow in Modern Theology, and the Neo-Calvinism Research Institute at Kampen (Holland). Gray has just published an English translation of Bavinck's Christian Worldview with Crossway and finished proofreading his own authored book for Bloomsbury's T&T Clark Studies in Systematic theology on God and epistemology in Herman Bavinck's thought. Gray has been married to Indita Probosutedjo since June 2019.

My name is Gray Sutanto and I graduated from SPH in 2009. I went to Biola University where I completed a Philosophy and Biblical Studies double major. I then went to Westminster Seminary for a Master's Degree in Religion. I continued my Ph. D. at the University of Edinburgh in Theology as well. My time at SPH truly impacted me. There are at least two things I would like to say about this school. The first is to highlight the caring teachers and community. The second is the necessity of having and living by the Christian worldview.

### A Caring Community.

When I was at SPH, I was a delinquent student to say the least. I I never really listened to my teachers and often fell asleep in class. I even made some of them cry. I was not a Christian for most of my time at SPH. I now realize that even though I did not listen, a lot of teachers paid attention to me and cared for me. SPH is not a place that expels or rejects you, Instead, it is a community that pursues you because they truly care. They invite you back in to restore you. For example, Mr. Brian Cox, former Head of School, was my ethics teacher. I once asked a rebellious question in his class. He didn't shun me, but instead invited me for coffee in his office to talk. A lot of schools are motivated by achieving high academic results. To them numbers matter more than people. At SPH, people matter more than the numbers.

### The Necessity of the Christian worldview.

Throughout my learning journey, I came to realize why the Christian worldview should ground everything that we do. Without a Christian worldview, all we have is ourselves. If everything we do is motivated to glorify ourselves, we will always try to prove ourself to the world and try to make everyone acknowledge our achievements, which is fundamentally selfish.

The Christian worldview understands that everything in creation is created to glorify God. If that is true, then everything we do, whether in music, art, or business, must be redefined according to the Christian worldview. How should my work serve other people? How do I treat others as God's image bearers? How do I incorporate a different ethic that shows the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ? These are the kind of questions SPH encourages you to think about.

There is no better intellectual foundation for education (or anything else) than the Christian worldview. Education presupposes basic realities that the Christian faith accounts for: the laws of logic, morality, the importance of engaging global issues and knowledge, and the nature of humanity. The gospel allows us to use that education to love people and use things, rather than the other way around. C.S. Lewis famously said that education without Christ simply makes smarter devils. Knowledge needs both intellectual (theological) foundations and an ethical direction, and Christian revelation provides both.





NATHANIEL GRAY SUTANTO (SPH LIPPO VILLAGE ALUMNI, CLASS OF 2009)

# **Planting the Seed**

## How Student Discipleship at SPH Impacted My Life

Jeremy Hugo Enrico, SPH Kemang Village Class of 2015 alumni, became the only Indonesian student to join the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) World Assembly in South Africa. He has been actively involved in campus ministry. He is currently studying Management at the University of Indonesia and has just completed a student exchange program at the National University of Singapore. He shares his experience of the IFES World Assembly and how it all started at SPH Kemang Village.

This year I joined the IFES World Assembly held in South Africa from July 3-11, 2019. This conference happens every 4 years. IFES university students, staff and board members gather for fellowship to encourage one another in striving to be faithful to God's great commission on university campuses.

I have been involved in campus ministry ever since I began university. I was discipled in my freshman year at the University of Indonesia. We had a small group that God used to change my "mecentered mindset" – something this generation is bombarded with – into a "God-centered mindset".

After experiencing this for four years, God gave me an opportunity to see this unity on a global scale. A staff member of Indonesia's IFES movement (Perkantas) invited me to join the World Assembly. I left for South Africa with 5 staff workers. I was the only student from Indonesia to attend this assembly.

During my time at the World Assembly I heard diverse perspectives and viewpoints and yet all were united in devotion to the Triune God. I met with students from countries I didn't know existed. I also got to hear unique stories of hardship and hope. Ultimately, I saw how God has transformed so many people to completely love and be devoted to Him. I thank God for this amazing opportunity.

My time at SPH Kemang Village was a key experience that laid the foundation for my campus discipleship ministry today. When I was in 9th grade, Mr. Chris Trammell, who taught Global Perspectives, asked a couple of guys whether we would like to meet on weekends and study the Bible. This was my first ever experience of being discipled. I learned so much from Mr. Chris, not only as a student but as a young Christian man about what it means to live for Christ and who I am in Him. I thank God that SPH KV gives their teachers opportunities to disciple students in a biblical way.

It was because I tasted the truth at school that I was open to continuing to seek God in university. I thank the Lord for SPH KV, especially those teachers who planted the seed in my early teens. That seed has borne fruit, and I pray that God will enable me to bear more fruit in the future. I also pray that more students will experience Jesus and become true messengers of real hope for this generation.

JEREMY HUGO ENRICO (SPH KEMANG VILLAGE ALUMNI, CLASS OF 2015)

# The God I know. I know my God!

John A. Limanto is an aspiring Christian apologist in his local community. He currently studies computer science, mathematics, and statistics at University of Toronto Mississauga.





CHECK OUT JOHN'S BLOG
www.liberiapologia.wordpress.com

One of my earliest memories is of my mother reading the Bible to me with her calm, nurturing voice. When I was in kindergarten, I was too young to read for myself. I remember being fascinated with the austere idea of God. Later, I would lay on my bed at night and ask my adolescent self: **'Could God have been so kind to wait an eternity for me to exist? Did God always have me in his mind?'** 

My childhood theological reflections remind me that there is a real sense in which my knowledge of God remains unchanged. I knew my God then and I know God now too. I know that He loves me because the Bible tells me so.

Knowledge of God is twofold: knowledge as facts and knowledge in relationship. To know factual things about God should lead us to search for who God is as an active person in our life. Consider, for example, Paul's claim: "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called ... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:23). To preach Christ factually as the crucified one is, according to Paul, the power of God! Karl Barth says we know God as the One who loves in freedom, meaning that God didn't have to love us, yet he did. To know this holds our faith in daily life, even in our suffering. This knowledge of God should drive us into closer relationship with him.

To know God through relational knowledge is akin to when I say about a friend: *"I know him."* 

Do you know God as a friend?

One way the Bible speaks of God's love is with the Greek word philo (John 11:3, 36; 16:27; and 20:2). Philo is a specialized term for love between friends. For example, in John 16:27, Jesus says the coming of the Holy Spirit is due to the Father's friendly love for man. This is also true for man's love for God. We are to mimic Peter's reply to Jesus: "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you" (John 21:15). To know God in a biblical sense is to be in relation with Yahweh who says: 'The days are coming...no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saving, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest...' (Isaiah 31:31-34). This climactic, covenant passage presumes that relational knowledge is also the knowledge that brings Yahweh's forgiveness and restored fellowship with humanity.

To know God is the most exciting pursuit that a person can undertake. According to Saint Augustine, it is where your restless heart comes to rest. John Calvin wrote that every man has a sense of God for them (Inst. III. IV). His proof was that even pagans would rather assemble rocks together to be their god than lose the figure of God in their lives. Why? Calvin explains."Man never attains to a true self-knowledge until he has previously contemplated the face of God" (Inst. I. II.). If you know yourself to be one who needs God, and whose needs are fulfilled in the knowledge of who your God is, press on to know God.

# Serving a Bigger Purpose





GRADE 3 & 4 TEACHER, SPH LIPPO CIKARANG

My name is Ellyn Hamon and I am blessed to be a new teacher at SPH Lippo Cikarang. I grew up with my wonderful family in Tri-Cities, Washington, U.S.A. Most recently I lived in Salem, Oregon for three years where I studied at Corban University, graduating in May, 2019 with a degree in Elementary Education and an ESOL certification. At Corban I grew in my passion and desire to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ through education.

In July 2019 I arrived in Indonesia, eager to teach at SPH LC as a Grade 3/4 English and Bible teacher. I heard about the opportunity to teach with SPH when Ibu Aileen Riady visited Corban University in my first year of college. Her passion and vision for SPH was unlike anything I had heard before. The heart behind SPH is truly to impact Indonesia for Christ by offering excellent education for all children. I was driven to teach with SPH because of the widespread impact it has in supporting many children in all the schools under YPPH across the country.

I knew that if I were to teach at SPH I would be serving a bigger purpose; one that affects children across Indonesia and which is completely unique. I was immediately intrigued. Through prayer and conversations with many special people, I knew SPH was where I wanted to teach. It is an honor to be a part of a group of schools which seeks to honor Christ and serve its students well.

I am encouraged by how deeply curious my students are about God, life, and the world around them. They are the reason I am here and why I love what I do. The joy and light I see in them makes me want to work harder to create an exciting and high quality learning environment. I hope that my students and I grow in loving understanding and genuine compassion as together we seek to serve our surrounding communities, and this country for Jesus Christ.





# More Than to Teach



## JONAH NARCISO

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

left the Philippines fourteen years ago with a calling from God to go to Indonesia. My decision to leave my home and teach at a Christian School in a majority Muslim country was an excellent opportunity to serve God. SPH has taught me to be a teacher who educates children from the viewpoint of the gospel, moulding students to become disciples of Jesus.

Each year, under the leadership of Mr. Dan Fennell, SPH takes an aspect of its vision and mission and develops a theme for our schools to reflect upon. I believe the Scripture verses are not chosen by accident. Through God's divine power they unite the SPH community.

"Hearts Ablaze" was the theme in the year that I started teaching at SPH Lippo Cikarang. This was my first international teaching experience. During this exciting time in my life I started as a Kindergarten teacher. It was challenging, however I knew that my heart was in the right place because God put a fire in my heart that could not be doused by doubt or insecurity.

When the theme "Just Believe" was introduced, I was called to serve at another campus. Life-changing milestones happened during my time at SPH Lippo Cikarang - from starting as a young teacher to getting married and eventually having a child. Transitioning to another campus was challenging. The theme the year I joined SPH Kemang Village was "Don't be afraid; just believe." (Mark 5:36) God spoke to me through that verse as an assurance that when I follow Him, things will fall into place. SPH Kemang Village showed me the value of hard work, friendship, obedience, and of trusting in God. These lessons formed me into the educator that I now am, and I share these values with my

students.

When I arrived at my new home at SPH Pluit Village, the school theme was 'Simply Divine' based on the words: "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3). Being part of a new SPH school was an opportunity that I didn't want to miss. I had developed the confidence that only comes from knowing that God had equipped me with sufficient skills and knowledge to take on a new challenge. To say that God's blessing has been "Simply Divine" is an understatement as I have overcome personal and professional hurdles by His grace.

Teaching in an IB school was a helpful experience as I learnt to play an essential role in the development of internationalmindedness in students. My ability to understand in-depth programs and big picture curricula has developed dramatically while working with the Cambridge program. As a curriculum coordinator, having experienced both the IB and Cambridge programs, I am now well equipped to lead and work alongside passionate teachers so that they can better serve their students. Taking the best practices from both programs helps me develop a curriculum for SPH Pluit Village that fits our school's needs.

It is truly inspiring to be part of a school that trains Indonesia's future leaders and change-makers. I came to SPH with a single purpose - to teach. However, as time passed and I became exposed to the SPH community, my goal shifted to the burning desire not only to be a great teacher, but also a fervent Christian leader. The vision of 10 SPH, 100 SDH, and 1000 SLH schools is something that I would like to share and see come to fruition.



### **SPH** Parenting Initiative

# Moms Small Group





n 2017, Ibu Soekarmini, Director of SPH's Parenting Program, started a new initiative called Moms Small Group (MSG). We recently interviewed Ibu Mini.

### What motivated you to start Moms Small Group (MSG) at SPH?

I saw the need for Christian parents, especially mothers, to learn how to raise and educate their children according to the principles in God's Word. We provide space for mothers to support one another. God wants parents to be changed by the renewal of their mind - with mind and heart in sync with God's truth. I also saw the need for mothers to gather with other parents who understand, support and pray for one another. Raising a child is a serious and potentially exhausting project for parents.

### What are the activities of MSG?

We are currently studying 'Sacred Parenting' written by Gary Thomas. We have committed to taking part in 12 meetings and we are striving to apply what we learn.

### How many Moms have joined MSG?

The number of members ranges from 15-20 people. MSG exists in every SPH campus, except for Pluit Village. We are grateful to God for helping us make significant progress. KV campus has already started Batch 3, and LC already has 50 mothers joining the MSG there.

### What are your hopes for the mothers who join?

My hope is that more mothers will experience God and be affirmed in their calling as wives and mothers. They can renew their perspectives and attitudes in carrying out these roles so that God will be glorified in their daily life. The MSG is a movement for the revival of mothers to raise their children according to God's divine calling. We continue to ask God to call mothers to mentor other moms and to lead new small groups in the future.

### Is there a message you want to give to other SPH parents?

Be willing to learn about the worth of your child's soul. Seek to have God's perspective on your child's soul. God has entrusted our children to our care. Don't neglect their education and spiritual formation. Make it your aim to educate your children to love and glorify Jesus Christ.



SOEKARMINI

PARENTING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The **Parenting Program** equips and empowers parents with a holistic view of educating and training a child in the way of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). Parents learn new knowledge, beliefs, strategies and skills to make good and healthy choices in raising their children in the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7).



### **Parents' Testimony**

am Steven Lim and am married to Stepheny Ng. Our two daughters -Shermaine and Sherny - are schooling happily in SPH LV in Grades 6 and 3. Stepheny has served as the PAG secretary since 2018.

Our family moved to Jakarta in August 2015 due to my career. When we first started searching for a school, SPH was not on the list provided by the moving agent. Being on waiting lists at a number of schools, we were concerned about which school to send our daughters to. By God's grace, a home schooling family at our church who had previously sent their children to SPH, introduced us to SPH.

When we first visited SPH we were warmly received by Ibu Lisiana and Ibu Mini. We loved the school immediately - especially the lush green environment and the spacious campus. Being located in our neighborhood also meant our children could travel to school "trafficjam free". To our surprise, our children were invited back for an entrance test the day following our first visit. Soon after we received news that they had both been accepted!

This is now the 5th year that our children have attended SPH. They especially love their teachers. Sherny used to be a shy girl who was very attached to Mum and Dad. Today she runs to her teachers and hugs them. She has joined the drama club and is active in sports.

Shermaine is entering her teenage years quicker than we expected. She has made me realize that parents shouldn't use a forceful approach. I have learned from her teachers during PTC discussions and by observing their teaching methods, that a caring and friendly approach works best. I have been been surprised by Shermaine's success. She wrote a 7000 word book last year and is now writing her third book.

Stepheny and I feel very blessed that our children are able to grow up in SPH, a school that focuses on godly character and Christian values. As an Asian parent, we were concerned about the academic progress of our children. However, we are confident the school maintains high standards. I hope that SPH can become well known as a leading sports school as well, just like the famous UPH Eagles team.

We are thankful to SPH for providing a godly learning environment for children and parents to grow in faith and draw closer to Jesus. May God shower SPH with much grace, and use SPH to bless Indonesia.



### **Parents' Testimony**



My name is Christiawati Dewi Lugito (Chris) and my beloved husband is Hasan Tjong. We have 3 precious children: Deandra, Keanna and Benaiya. In 2016, Deandra announced that she wanted to continue her schooling at SPH LC. She thought the tree filled school environment and great facilities were perfect for students. We supported her decision because SPH LC is a Christian School which focuses on building godly character in students. We believe our children must grow their faith in Jesus with the Bible as their foundation. Otherwise, their life will be meaningless, even if they excel at academic learning. The second reason for enrolling her at SPH LC is because the school uses international curricula – IB and Cambridge programs. Deandra is now in Grade 9 and is happily settled in school.

I admire how SPH LC is always open to parents being involved in school activities, including praying together once a month for the students, teachers, school activities, and families. Last year we asked God to restore the relationships in a particular family. We are praising God for answering that prayer this year. SPH also conducts parenting seminars and runs a Mom's Small Group which I attend. All parents love their kids, but the way we parent is not always according to biblical principles. I am blessed to be a part of the Moms Small Group. There I learn how God wants us to parent our children. I hope we can all continue to learn together about how to walk in God's way.



My name is Jeny and my husband is Alexander. We joined SPH LV in 2012. Our son, Joshua Gabriel, is in Grade 8 and our second son, Isaac Michael, is in Grade 2. What makes SPH different from other schools is its vision and mission. I really appreciate the school's emphasize on biblical foundations and holistic education so that our sons can grow spiritually. I have been blessed by SPH's parenting program. At the Moms Small Group led by Ibu Soekarmini we learn how to be God pleasing parents. This group has given me a new perspective on the important role parents have as God's ambassadors in leading our children to know their Creator and Savior.

I have also had the privilege of joining the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) for the past few years. Being a PAG member is a great challenge. I can now see the perspectives of both the school and parents. I pray for God's wisdom when I share parents' feedback with the school. This can only be done by God's strength. He enables me to fulfil my role to be a blessing to the SPH community. *"The Angel of God, who had gone before the camp of Israel, withdrew and went behind. The pillar of cloud also moved from before them and stood behind them,* **so** that it came between the camps of Egypt and Israel. **The cloud was there in the darkness, but it lit up the night**.

**So** all night long neither camp went near the other. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and all that night the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind that turned it into dry land. **So** the waters were divided and Israel went through the sea on dry ground ." Exodus 14:19-21

On a hot desert night a world power threatened Israel with total destruction. Pharaoh and his army were racing to cut off and cut down the Israelites. Then God's glorious 'cloud' presence filled the night with light. He stood *behind* his people and *between* their enemies so that no-one harmed them. In their direst hour, God who is Light made a way through the darkness.

Israel's experience was not unlike what Christians have called *the dark night of the soul*. An event like an eruption of evil threatens our sense of meaning and purpose. Someone at school (a 'Pharaoh') keeps on bullying you. Somebody in your family faces a life-threatening health issue. We are downcast. The future seems bleak – black!

Three mentions of **'So'** in this story remind us of God's saving power.

**'So** the waters were divided and Israel went through the sea on dry ground.' Whoever or whatever causes your 'dark night', this is a promise that you can rely on.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

### God says so!





APPLIED SCIENCE ACADEMY Sekolah Pelita Harapan Center of Excellence

# CENTER of EXCELLENCE





SCAN TO READ OUR STUDENT RESEARCHES

## **Cultivating Young Innovators**

Applied Science Academy (ASA) is a research-based program dedicated to grade 10-12 students, where multidisciplinary science is explored. Students are paired with research professors to carry out scientific investigation in various area of interests, including biomedicine, food technology, advanced physics, electronics, engineering, and computational research.

Several of our students have discovered new science inventions and innovated new technologies that are being prepared for scientific publications and other dissemination. ASA is available at SPH Lippo Village.











