



# THE *Highlight*

44<sup>TH</sup> EDITION • 2020

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SPH and Siloam Hospitals  
Collaboration in COVID-19  
Prevention

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Parents' Testimonies on  
How SPH Implements Home  
Learning

## *Thriving* IN HARD TIMES

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

- Romans 12:12

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TRUE KNOWLEDGE • FAITH IN CHRIST • GODLY CHARACTER





















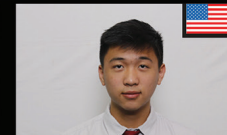






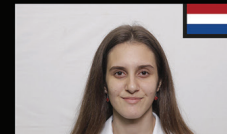











# SPH

# Our Proud Graduates

## Class of 2020

### University Attendance Highlight

 <b>Agnes Kezia Arianto</b> Emory University Human Health	 <b>Amanda A. Teramihardja</b> Columbia University Political Science	 <b>Andrea Tiana Kangmasto</b> New York University Business Administration	 <b>Angeline Kayla Sutanto</b> University of California - Los Angeles Sociology	 <b>Annette Gisella</b> Georgia Institute of Technology Industrial Engineering	 <b>Aziza Al Halim</b> University of Auckland Science and Business	 <b>Bryan Alexander</b> Santa Clara University Electrical and Computer Engineering
 <b>Cassia Tandiono</b> Stanford University Economic	 <b>Catherine Guswidi Putri</b> Northeastern University Business Administration Entrepreneurship Innovation	 <b>Chery Natalie Susanto</b> University of Waterloo Mathematics	 <b>Cho Young Jin</b> Korea University Business Administration	 <b>Chrysella Kwok</b> University of Melbourne Commerce	 <b>Dhira Vidhea</b> Yale NUS College Social Science	 <b>Emma L. M. Huizenga</b> McMaster University Arts and Sciences
 <b>Gisella Roselyn Kontaria</b> University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Computer Science and Economics	 <b>Jonathan Widjaja</b> Waseda University Political Science and Economics	 <b>Judah C. Purwanto</b> University of Virginia Economics	 <b>Kelly Vimala Tanim</b> University of Edinburgh Architecture	 <b>Kenzie Evan</b> College of William and Mary Data Science	 <b>Kezia Nathaniel</b> Wheaton College English	 <b>Koo Yoo Na</b> Yonsei University Bio-Convergence
 <b>Margareth Felicia Gono</b> New York University Human Health	 <b>Maria Abigail Effendi</b> University of Pennsylvania Business and economics	 <b>Matthew Alexander Foo</b> Hongkong University of Science and Technology Information Systems	 <b>Mia Isabelle Usman</b> Emory University Film and Media Studies	 <b>Nadja Dimic</b> University of Amsterdam Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics	 <b>Nelson Kartika</b> University of Southern California Energy Engineering	 <b>Nisya Tiffany</b> Calvin College Secondary Education
 <b>Pamela Emanuelle</b> University College London Bioprocessing of New Medicines	 <b>Oeza Amarys Wibisono</b> University of Southern California Business Administration	 <b>Rohan Singhvi</b> University of Waterloo Mathematics	 <b>Soo Hyun Cho</b> The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Biology	 <b>Soomin Han</b> School of Visual Arts Illustration	 <b>Vanessa A. Shimon</b> Parsons New York - The New School Communication Design	 <b>Wilson Sugeng</b> Wheaton College Biblical and Theological Studies & Economics

...and 91 more graduates

The SPH Class of 2020 earned:

**76** SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS from  
**52** UNIVERSITIES in **16** COUNTRIES

**WORTH \$ 4,585,000 USD**

\*Scholarship, Grant & Aids for 4 years of studies

## MAJOR PERCENTAGE

**36%**  
Business & Finance

**33%**  
STEM

**16%**  
Social Science

**13%**  
Arts & Language

**2%**  
Hospitality



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“This current situation helps me to see that God never leaves us. At the end of the day, I see nothing but He who is stretching us to reach a bigger world.”

(Elisabeth Pristiwi, SC Teacher)

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# THE *Light*

The Light is published two times a year by the Public Relations and Promotions Department at Sekolah Pelita Harapan to inform, equip and inspire our community and others who read this. 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.

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**SPH**



# Thriving in Hard Times

When my dad was four years old, his father died in a car accident. His mom worked hard to raise him as a single mom, and had to move in with her parents in another province. With their help, she taught my dad strong character. He devoted himself to sports, sailing, and gymnastics, eventually winning Athlete of the Year in his university. Devoted to excellence, he studied medicine and became a doctor. A busy man, he was also a family man: growing up, my siblings and I knew that our Dad loved us. He somehow managed to work a doctor's long hours but still make us feel like he was around and always available. He served and led in multiple community organizations.

When I was still young, my dad developed a serious hip condition – perhaps as a result of his intense gymnastics years – that eventually led to total disability. His pain forced him to stop work, moving to life in bed. He couldn't sit or stand. He even needed help getting out of bed, sliding over into a recumbent wheelchair. In good weeks, he could get to the pool a few times, but 99% of his time was spent on his back in bed. He was only 56.

Seventeen years later, I can honestly say I have never met anyone more resilient than my dad. He has been an incredible example of strength, demonstrating grace, joy, and hope amid trouble. He is always reading, always learning, eager to spend time with people. And his faith is secure. He knows that he will be fully restored one day.

In their school-age years, our children are impressionable as they acquire the building blocks of character. They are preparing for life's many obstacles. Troubles are guaranteed – serious troubles – business failure, illness, loneliness, and worse. How will they handle it? Will they have the strength to thrive?

SPH partners with you in teaching your children resilience. We are dedicated to building godly character. We empower children to persevere through challenges. We do this by holding them to high standards of character. We hold them accountable, not letting them get away with what's unacceptable. Our approach to discipline helps them to learn through natural consequences how they should live. We also show grace and mercy when they fail.

At the same time, we are also grounding children in strong faith, leading them to Jesus, for our "all-surpassing power is from God and not from us":

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed (2 Cor. 4:8-9).

In this edition of The Light magazine, you will read wonderful examples of teachers, students, and alumni who have learned how to thrive in hard times. They are the clearest evidence of the tremendous value of an SPH education.



**MATTHEW MANN**

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



# SPH & Siloam Hospitals Collaboration in COVID-19 Prevention

Public Webinar, Campus Assessment, and Trainings



In collaboration with Siloam Hospitals Group, SPH held a public webinar titled “Health, Habit, Hope” on August 1, 2020. This webinar aimed to address the concerns regarding the future school life of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This webinar presented a number of notable experts namely:

Dr. Yogi Prawira Sp.A(K) – Chief of COVID-19 Task Force, a member of the Indonesian Pediatric Society, and Pediatric Consultant in Emergency and Intensive Care Siloam Hospitals TB Simatupang.

DR. Dr. Allen Widyasanto Sp.P. – Chief Pulmonologist and Leading Medical Expert in Siloam Hospitals COVID-19 Response Team as well as the Vice Dean of UPH Faculty of Medicine.

Julie McCaughan, Chief of Quality and Clinical Operations of Siloam Hospitals Group and JCI Consultant.

In addition to these experts, other leaders were also present during the webinar including Caroline Riady – Chief Executive Officer of Siloam Hospitals Group; Aileen Hambali – Associate Head of School SPH; and Alex Tho – SPH Infection Prevention Control Team Leader and Administrative Principal of SPH Pluit Village.

Rachel Ho (SPH LV Alumni 2009) was present as the moderator for this event.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools, including SPH, to transition towards Home-based Learning. As SPH looked at the

coming year, they began to work with Siloam hospitals for training and guidance. Caroline Riady, Chief Executive Officer of Siloam Hospitals Group, said that Siloam Hospitals is conducting consultations for multiple corporations and entities in different settings about Infection Prevention & Control (IPC). These consultations helped SPH to work on preparing any possibility to reopen the school upon entering the “New Normal” phase.

SPH collaborated with Siloam Hospitals to evaluate the school and held COVID-19 IPC training at the end of July 2020. This training was aimed at giving detailed, practical guidance about health & safety protocols that would reduce and prevent the spread of the virus.

This training is part of SPH’s effort to prepare the school for future reopening. The goal of this training session was “to train the



trainers.” According to Aileen Hambali, Associate Head of School SPH, this effort was made in order to educate the whole community about this virus.

Aside from conducting trainings, SPH also consulted with Julie McCaughan, the Chief of Quality and Clinical Operations of Siloam Hospital Group and the key person leading the SPH and Siloam Hospitals’ strategic partnership upon the assessment of the schools’ facilities and procedures, to conduct testing and IPC training for SPH. Julie and her staff trained SPH staff to assess and identify infection “risk points” that may occur in a school setting. They also helped evaluate the healthcare & contact tracing procedures to prevent COVID-19 and other infectious diseases from spreading at SPH.

SPH’s leaders have been busy preparing, seeking understanding, and determining solutions, for whatever risks may occur once students return to campus. Siloam made many recommendations to help SPH minimize infection risks in the school setting and helped evaluate the many types of activities that occur throughout campuses.

The Siloam and SPH collaboration included: assessing existing policies and protocols; recommending facilities and system improvements to meet and accommodate the new normal; screening everyone that comes on campus; and securing school’s entry points and procedures to minimize infection risks while on campus.

The school includes many different areas—classrooms, libraries, laboratories, sporting facilities, canteens, etc.—and each is subject to different infection risk factors. Siloam help analyzed potential risks in each area and presented a finding table with thorough risk matrixes. Suggestions to minimize and sanitize risk points were then provided. Different activities in different settings held various risks, and the very comprehensive and extended audit of facilities and procedures are needed to help keep our students and teachers safe as they come back to campus.



Serology Test for Summer Program Instructors



COVID-19 Infection Prevention Control Training for Staff



Siloam Hospital Visit for Campus Facility Assessment





## The First U.S. University Credit Earning Course for High School Students

For the first time, this year Sekolah Pelita Harapan—in collaboration with Biola University’s School of Cinema and Media Arts—offered a special online summer course for Senior School students. Taught by prominent Biola professor, Elmar Hashimov, the “Film Appreciation Summer Short Course” gave students the opportunity to learn about film and media right from their homes.

The college-credit film appreciation course is the first of its kind as it allowed students “to earn three transferable U.S. university credits with the added experience of their final projects being reviewed by media experts.” One of the media experts who reviewed final projects in this course was Hannah Chu, the Leadership Development Coordinator for Pixar Animation Studios.

Throughout three weeks, students explored the themes of art, history, and film appreciation theory. They learned about the creative tradition of Hollywood and world cinema and gained invaluable insights into how film/media shapes us and our culture. Those who participated in this course were both SPH and non-SPH students who have already given positive feedback about their experience.

“This course is very rare and different from other summer courses that we have here in Indonesia. I think this course is very

personalized because it gives students a head-start before they dive in into a specific career path in the film industry,” said Edward Franklin, a Grade 9 student from SPH Pluit Village.

We also had a testimony from UPH College student, Frank Yambe, from Papua.

“I really value the benefit of university credits and the recommendation letter that I gained from this course. I believe these will help me to pursue my studies abroad and therefore achieve my dream to become a director. In Papua, we have so many talents which I think needs to be known by more people in the world. And through this course, I think I can achieve that.”

Due to the time difference between Jakarta and Los Angeles, Hashimov had to start the sessions in the evenings in order to give live presentations and host the discussions. Along with Hashimov, there were two others—Camille Tucker, Biola Professor of Writing for Film and TV, and Dean Yamada, Professor of Cinema and Media Arts—instructing the class. As they saw how students were engaged and interested in the class, the time difference did not seem to be a significant obstacle.

Yamada shared another positive note about teaching this course. “Having directed a feature film in Jakarta with a class of Biola students, it was a joy to interact with vibrant,

high school students from SPH. They showed a real passion for cinema, and I hope to have the privilege of teaching them more about film in the School of Cinema and Media Arts.”

Both SPH and Biola University share the same vision—to offer an excellent education integrated with the Christian faith. For many years several graduates from SPH have attended Biola University; including some who graduated with a degree in Cinema and Media Arts. Tom Halleen, founding dean of the School of Cinema and Media Arts highlighted the importance of this online course.

“This is an exciting first step to expand Biola’s School of Cinema and Media Arts internationally,” said Halleen. “We look forward to building additional partnerships that will open the doors for students from across the globe to receive their media education through our excellent programs.”



# Penerus Perjuangan Kemerdekaan



SPH



SPH ALUMNI



INDONESIA  
MAJU

## Commemorating the Republic of Indonesia's 75th Independence Day

To celebrate Indonesia's 75th Independence Day, Sekolah Pelita Harapan held an Online Alumni Talk under the title: PENERUS PERJUANGAN KEMERDEKAAN. The aim of this Alumni Talk was to share the experiences and journeys of seven SPH Alumni in serving the nation through various fields: politics & government, science education & research, technological start-ups, agricultural enterprises, law, business & venture capital, as well as socio-entrepreneurship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was moderated by Giovanni Prayitno, SPH Lippo Village 2009, the Associate Director of Grace Alone Ministry.

In this SPH ALUMNI Public Talk, alumni shared about their various experiences in serving

our nation wholeheartedly through their work, life stories, journeys, and challenges. The seven SPH Alumni who were the speakers of this Alumni Talk are:

- Charles Honoris, SPH Lippo Village 2002: Member of 1st Commission & Vice Chairman BKSAP DPR RI (Indonesian Parliamentary)
- Dr. Eden Steven, SPH Lippo Village 2002: Researcher & Physicist, Director of Applied Science Academy
- Diera Y. Hartono, SPH Sentul City 2007: VP Merchant Marketing of GOJEK
- Andrew Darmawan, SPH Lippo Village 2010: Founder of Kisah Tani
- Andrew Marsha Mulia, SPH Lippo Village 2011: Former Legal Aide of Governor of South

Sulawesi

- Melvin Hade, SPH Sentul City 2013: Forbes Indonesia 30 under 30

- Nathania B. Zhong, SPH Lippo Village 2019: Co-founder of The Spring and Anak Indonesia Bersatu

The speakers began by sharing a little about their background, how life and SPH helped shape them and encourage them to love and serve in their home country. They then went on to share some of the challenges they have faced while pursuing their paths to see Indonesia thrive. Even though their experiences and life paths have been very diverse, all of them agreed that building the nation is a form of love for God and others, which they consider to be their life's calling.



As a politician, Charles Honoris faces more challenges than most since he has a double minority background being both Chinese and Christian. However, he has shown his tenacity and hard work in fighting for the right causes and now has been serving in the House of Representatives of Indonesia (DPR) for two periods.

***"I am very happy to be able to contribute in the political field. If we can influence government policy then we can influence the lives of many more people. Once again, don't be allergic to politics and government because whatever we do, as long as we can have a positive impact on others and stick to our core values, this is more than enough. Being able to be of service to others has always been a trigger for me to continue working in this field."***



Andrew Mulia who worked as a legal aide for the South Sulawesi Governor also remarked that working in the legal field needs patience and perseverance. This is what he specifically learned from his experience in implementing a legal electronic signature system in the provincial government.

***"From a legal perspective, I think it is a must to have more people with callings and desires to be able to be patient and continue the process until their vision and mission is attained and achieved in Indonesia. Indonesian law works and functions well, but most people don't have enough patience to read the law and to go through the process."***



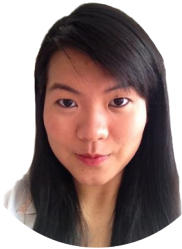
*We have to grow where God has planted us. SPH always talked about not forgetting to return to Indonesia, “Don’t forget to come home to build your nation and country.” (Andrew Darmawan)*



Andrew Darmawan explained a little bit how his background and time experience at SPH helped shape who he has become today. “What is very clear to me is that we have to grow where God has planted us. We have been planted in Indonesia & as an agricultural country, Indonesia’s backbone is the farmers. Now we are moving from a top-down to bottom-up approach in order to help farmers directly. With that approach, we can advance together with farmers so that farmers are strong, villages are strong, and Indonesia is strong. ***SPH always talked about not forgetting to return to Indonesia. Don’t forget to come home to build your nation and country.***”



Dr. Eden noted that a challenge he faced when he returned to Indonesia was that developed countries, such as the US, already have a culture of innovation and advanced technology unlike developing countries, such as Indonesia. “Indonesia has extraordinary potential and has a very large population, but we are known as consumers and users, not creators or innovators. ***Therefore, one of my visions for Indonesia is to be able to help the culture of innovation. We, myself, and several colleagues are trying to establish a startup, collaborating with the Applied Science Academy which aims to increase the space for innovation from childhood learning through university.***”



Diera Y. Hartono is the Vice President for Merchant Marketing in Gojek and a 2007 Alumni from SPH Sentul City. Through her work, Diera has had the opportunity to help and directly impact the Small Micro Medium Enterprises (UMKM) in Indonesia so they can operate efficiently and thus increase their sales and distribution through technological means. This has been especially important in the middle of this pandemic when everyone has had to use technology or be “technology literate” to a certain degree. She believes that ***“Collaboration should exist to motivate people to grow and innovate.”***



As a 25-year-old, almost half of the years of Melvin’s life were spent at SPH Sentul City. He recalls how his experience at SPH SC shaped his life purpose. “In one of Biblical Studies classes, my teacher asked something very fundamental and very challenging about my life principles. When I was younger, I thought that life was about having fun now, but I had never thought about the future. That class made me realize ***the purpose of my life and look ahead at the future. This later helped me make difficult decisions and face life’s challenges. Thanks to my education at SPH, it was easier for me to overcome those challenges.***”



Nathania shared her struggles as she thought of not staying in Indonesia and had so many reasons to leave, but a crucial moment changed her mind. “Even though there was so much conflict going on in my head, I found the answer to the question of what I wanted to do: I wanted to stay and support our country. ***I’m pretty sure a lot of us here, and obviously, all the alumni speaking, love this country. There had to be a feeling of strong attachment to this country for me to stay despite having so many reasons to leave and wanting to live a more comfortable life outside. That to me was the sign that this was my calling. It was this part of me pursuing something that I thought might lead me to a more meaningful life.***”

It is easy to see the overarching theme that binds the minds of all the alumni speakers: the desire to contribute to and build up Indonesia through what we are called to do. Indonesia needs young people from many different fields who are standing firm on what they believe in, are willing to fight for the right cause, and can be innovative and creative: who can find ways to be a blessing to this country. Challenges or hardships are inevitable; however, if we have the courage to keep moving forward, and if we stick to what God calls us to do, we will see the fruit of our labor in the end. We might not get to see the direct impact of what we are doing, but that is not a reason to stop doing it. The path towards a meaningful life might not be easy, but it will all be worth it. Let us keep on serving Indonesia wholeheartedly for the glory of God and our nation’s future development!



# SPH Virtual University Fair 2020

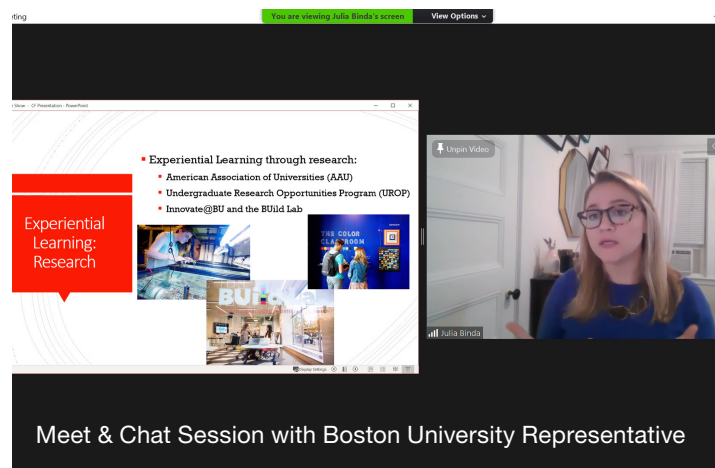
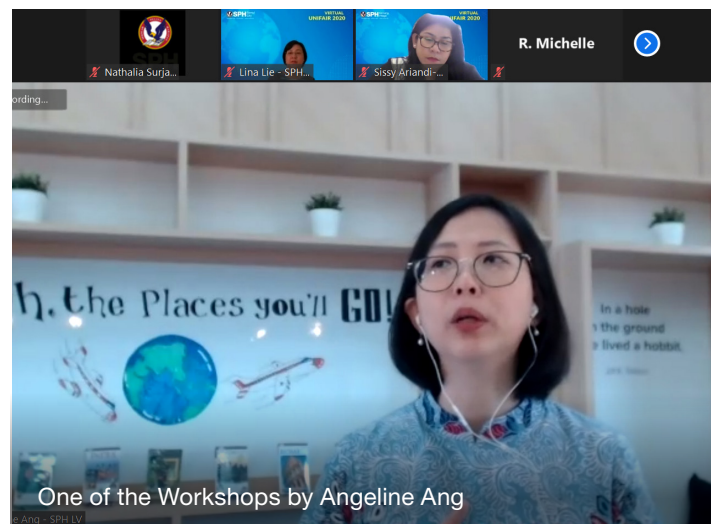
Every year, Sekolah Pelita Harapan (SPH) is set to impress with its connections to the world's best universities during its annual University Fair. This year, SPH held its first Virtual University Fair (Unifair) and opened it not only to the SPH community, but also to all students across Indonesia.

On October 6-7, 2020, SPH brought more than 40 world class universities to parents, junior high students, and high school students, who were given the opportunity to meet and chat with direct university representatives. Some of the universities who joined this year's Unifair included Boston University, University of California-Riverside, King's College London, University College London, Emory University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Monash University, University of Leiden, and many more.

The event also featured workshops on how to apply to universities around the world, how to prepare academically for higher education, and industry insights from education experts. These workshops were led by SPH's Counsellor Team Leader, Angeline Ang. Many parents and students benefited from both the Meet & Chat sessions and workshops, as we can see on the testimonies below..

The event is right in line with SPH's academic track record of sending students to some of the world's most respected universities. 95% of graduates from SPH pursue tertiary studies outside of Indonesia in top tier universities. Acceptances annually include universities such as the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California Los Angeles, Columbia University, and The University College London and King's College.

SPH has adopted the IB curriculum across its schools for the final grades 11-12, and it is well known that the IB diploma programme is seen as a proverbial passport for international higher education as it develops important skills needed to thrive at university. The International Baccalaureate programme aligns with SPH's core values, where the academic development of each child is of paramount importance alongside the development of strong character traits, and the pursuit of truth.





TESTIMONIES

“I joined 4 out of 5 workshops available, and they help me understand more about the university preparation for both my children who are in Grades 10 and 11. The workshops opened my mind to search for more university options to find the best fit for my children.”  
*(Fiona Hadinoto, Parent at SPH Lippo Village)*

“I am impressed with the way Ibu Angeline presented the workshops. It was very clear and straightforward, and I could see that she is very passionate about this. Overall, I am really happy with the Unifair, and I feel very blessed that SPH provides this program.”  
*(Sisilia Tjandra, Parent at SPH Lippo Village)*

“SPH’s Virtual University Fair was a true success! It allowed me to broaden my horizon and consider places that I would have initially ignored. The best thing about it was the way that it was organized. Having one-on-one conversations with the representatives allowed us to gain a better understanding of what the university was really like, and being able to hear the answers to other questions being asked provided clarity as well.”  
*(Gautami Dubey, Grade 11 Student at SPH Lippo Village)*

“University Fair was definitely a beneficial experience, especially since I am a senior. The unifair helped me explore other universities that I was not familiar with, and the experience provided clarity on my future study path. I also really liked how there was a specific website that split the sessions, and I think the registration was really organized and easy to understand.”  
*(Kyleen Josephine Hardja, Grade 12 Student at SPH Sentul City)*

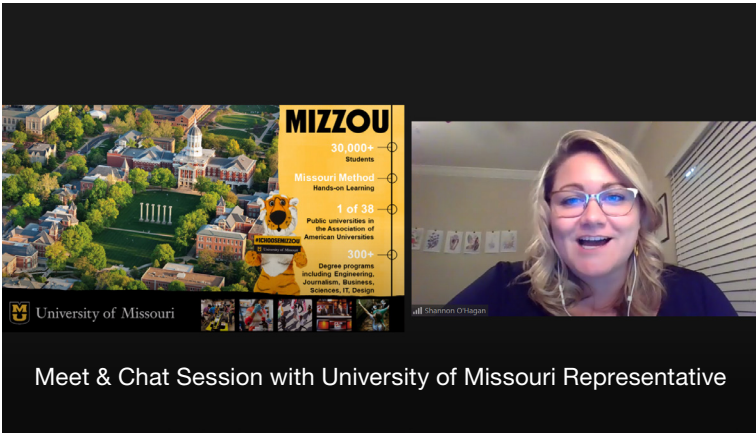
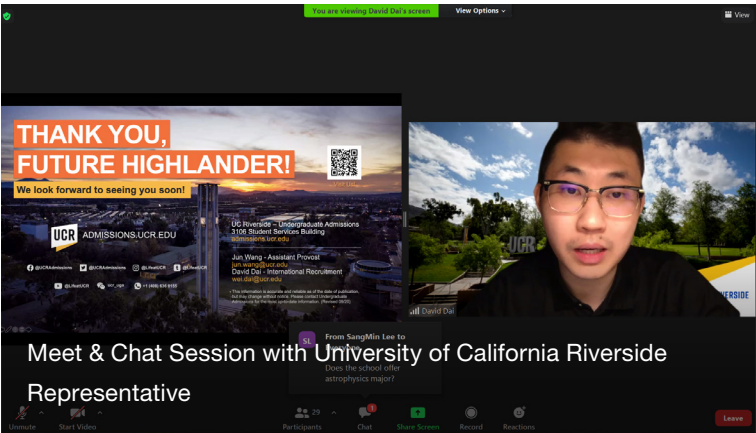
“The Virtual Unifair was a great experience since I gained lots of information from different countries. I joined four Meet & Chat sessions: Leiden University (Netherlands), the University of British Columbia and the University of Waterloo (Canada), Handong Global University (South Korea), and Yale-NUS College (Singapore). Since each university has different requirements, it helped me know what

I should prepare in the future. I appreciate SPH for providing an opportunity to explore universities and contact people from various countries.”  
*(Kim Min Sol, Grade 10 Student at SPH Lippo Cikarang)*

“The Unifair was very effective and informative for me personally. It informed me about certain goals I should achieve in order to enter certain university choices which also allowed me to have clearer goals for my upcoming future. I also invited some friends from outside of SPH to join, and they all thought it was very helpful as it would otherwise be quite difficult to receive such specific information for respective universities.”  
*(Aisha Menon, Grade 11 Student at SPH Kemang Village)*

“We strongly believe in preparing and planning ahead, the same goes with our children’s higher education. The SPH Virtual Unifair provided ample amount of information from universities & representative all over the world. The advice from both the workshops and the sessions helped us to instill and develop our children’s interests and properly plan our financial decisions. It was two days well-spent, and we look forward to more sessions in the future. We really appreciate SPH for arranging such a unique education fair experience.”  
*(Johan Fanggara, Parent at SPH Pluit Village)*

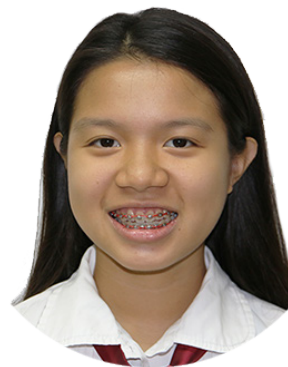
“Thank you to SPH for all the time and effort that was poured into organizing this fair! The whole process was very smooth and easy from start to finish. I also saw that the students and parents were enthusiastic to ask questions throughout the sessions. For SPH’s first time doing it virtually, you’ve done very well and you should feel very proud for adapting to technology so seamlessly and quickly! I know that this virtual fair required monumental effort, and I’m really grateful to you for keeping all these opportunities open for students during these uncertain times.”  
*(Christopher Tee, Yale-NUS College Admissions Counsellor)*





SPH SENTUL CITY

# Winning Gold Medals from Two International Science Competitions



Amrita Wikara (Gr. 12)



Maria Dyandra (Gr. 12)

Amrita Wikara and Maria Dyandra Sucianto (Riri and Dee), two SPH Sentul City students, joined online science competitions and won Gold medals in both the International Conference on Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (ICSTEM) and the Perlis International Engineering Invention & Innovation Exhibition (Pi-ENVEX). These competitions were international events with participants from various countries around the world. Their research fell under the topic of the environment and renewable energy, and the title of their presentation was “The Extraction of Amylase Enzyme from Fruit Waste to Enhance the Production of Bioethanol from Carbohydrate-Waste.”

Dyandra wrote this about their experience of participating in these science events:

*“Since being exposed to various scientific breakthroughs in this modernizing world, and seeing students like us going far with a simple idea, we were inspired to put our own ideas into practice. Because of our deep-rooted respect for the earth, knowing that our Creator put humans in it to take care of*

*it and not damage it, Riri and I started with a vision of a cleaner environment and wanted to find the most abundant source in our daily lives that we could transform into renewable energy. Of course, this did not come easy.*

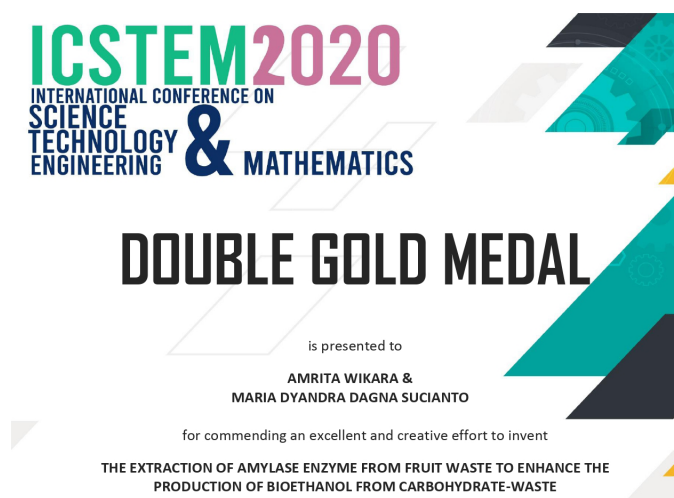
*The first day required a brain-racking session and tough criticism from lecturers in UPH about our ideas that were either too ambitious or too common. Afterwards, it took us a whole week of lab experiments at a level of complexity like never before to acquire results we didn’t know would even work in the first place. Yet, with strength in our faith that there must be a reason for us to be doing this, we kept persevering. Our efforts paid off and the data supported our hypothesis which made us very excited to present our findings to the world. Despite all our setbacks—and all the times we got lost in the hallways at UPH—we were guided by God to taste success and satisfaction.*

*We came with no expectations whatsoever on winning any competitions, but we were blessed to succeed in both ICSTEM and Pi-ENVEX. For ICSTEM, we presented our findings by sending in a video with our recorded presentation on it. Riri can testify*

*how much of a hassle I was when trying to present properly at home, as well as my need to restate the same sentence over and over because I was laughing at myself in the camera. Pi-ENVEX was a separate competition for which the full credit is due to Riri. She created an A0 digital poster inscribed with details of our experiment from start to finish. With God’s grace, we won golds for both these competitions!*

*A lesson we learned from all this was that with enough effort, we don’t have to let our dreams stay dreams. We will continue to be inspired and hopefully inspire others to join our quest for a brighter future, as cliché as that may seem. Most importantly, we would like to emphasize that all these achievements wouldn’t be possible without the support of our loved ones, Pak Okem (his patience, his attention, his criticism and endless motivation) and the Lord’s supervision.”*

Amrita & Dyandra joined these competitions during the last academic year when they were still in Grade 11. We are proud of them for receiving gold medals from both these competitions.





# SPH Lippo Village Student Received the “Social Impact” Award from APEC Conference 2020



Carys Mihardja (Gr. 11)

Carys Mihardja (Gr. 11) from SPH Lippo Village joined the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Conference virtually on November 12-13, 2020. She represented Indonesia with her independent, non-profit business called Carys Cares. Carys founded Carys Cares as a non-profit organization that empowers Down Syndrome individuals. Carys was the youngest participant in the contest but was awarded the Social Impact Award in the APEC contest!

APEC Conference is an international conference for women entrepreneurs from many countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The contest aimed to highlight the region's best women-owned and women-managed small and medium businesses as well as promote women's entrepreneurship. The event was supposed to be hosted in Russia this year, however, the pandemic changed the platform to a virtual event via Zoom conference.

Many inspiring women entrepreneurs worldwide joined this conference and Carys was the youngest participant. Here is Carys's personal testimony:

*“At first glance, I knew it was an unmatched opportunity and found it quite daunting to be one of the representatives of APEC economies and nominated for the award—especially as a younger nominee. In the event, when surrounded by women entrepreneurs and leading social impact advocates worldwide, none of the fellow nominees were domineering. Instead, they all created a supportive environment. The nominee from South Korea had an AI Technology she was developing, the one from China had a sustainable food supply chain enterprise, and there were many more. Our collective goal was to pay it forward towards the betterment of the world in our own way. This opportunity has been a stepping stone for growth, and I am grateful for it.”*

At the age of 16, she has contributed to the world and created a positive impact for others by empowering many Down syndrome children through art and creativity. One of SPH's educational outcomes is to educate world changers, and we can see how Carys has already started this through this project that she is passionate about. We are very grateful for Carys's achievement & we hope that she can inspire you too! It's never too early or too late to start change and make a positive impact!



Carys Mihardja in a Carys Cares Event: Batik Coloring Competition for Down Syndrome Children





SPH LIPPO VILLAGE

## Achievements in Various Debate Competitions



Students from SPH LV have been actively joining virtual debate competitions and have earned outstanding achievements from various competitions throughout this past year.

Katiana Indrasasana, grade 11, joined this year's Young Thinkers' Trophy competition and won Best Speaker. Young Thinkers' Trophy is a prestigious debate competition for high school students from all across Indonesia organized by @america. She then teamed up with two other high school students from Banten and proceeded to the Grand Final. The motion of the debate was about USA's political context of the right-wing vs. the left-wing. She was then chosen as the Best Speaker in the competition.

Katiana then joined another competition with two other SPH LV students, Bara Salim and Chaeyeon Hwang (Gr. 11). They joined an English debate competition hosted by Universitas Indonesia (UI), specifically by the Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA) UI. ALSA UI E-Comp is a prestigious competition and the participants come from all over Indonesia.

In this competition, they discussed the most recent issues in the society such as "Cancel Culture," "Fear Mongering," and many more. By the end of the competition, all of them were chosen as the top three Best Speakers in the High School category. Bara & Chaeyeon were tied for Best Speaker, while Katiana won third place Best Speaker.

Gwen Veerada (Gr. 10) joined HighScope Model United Nations (HSMUN) 2020 and received the Best Delegate Award. This year's HSMUN theme was "Ensuring Global Welfare in Times of Crisis."

In order to master debate competitions, participants have to delve into wide range of political and social issues. We can see how these students excel in their public speaking, critical thinking, and research skills. These outstanding achievements are a living proof of their competency and hard work!

SPH LIPPO VILLAGE

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Global Research & Consulting Case Competition



Global Research and Consulting

### Global Case Competition Winners

#### Now for the announcement...

After an amazing effort from GRC High School Chapters across the world, we are announcing the top three highest performing teams:

1. James Clemens High School, Alabama
  - Team: Khayla Chabot, Neil Smith, Sarah Gao, Marshall Ogle, Rita Smith, Aaron Singularity
  - [Video](#)
  - [Presentation](#)
2. Sekolah Pelita Harapan, Jakarta
  - Team: Nicole Utomo, Gracelyn Sukandi, Ryan Wangidjaja, Kimi Salimin, Samantha Subali, Valerie Laju, Audrey Kristiali, Josephine Jukita
  - [Video](#)
  - [Presentation](#)

Global Research Consulting is a community that was first created among universities in US with the aim to create a positive social impact through aiding NGO's by providing professional consulting. This year, they branched out to different high schools to provide younger students with consulting experience.

A total of 20 teams from different countries participated in this competition. They were each given a problem and the task to create a solution to the problem. These case studies involved collaborative thinking, cooperation, and hard work from all the members in the team in order to solve a real business case study.

SPH Lippo Village sent two teams—one of which won 2nd place. The winning team members are Nicole Utomo (Gr. 10), Gracelyn Sukandi (Gr. 10), Kimi Salimin (Gr. 10), Angelique Valerie Laju (Gr. 10), Ryan Wangidjaja (Gr. 10), Samantha Subali (Gr. 10), Audrey Kristali (Gr. 9), and Josie Jukita (Gr. 8).

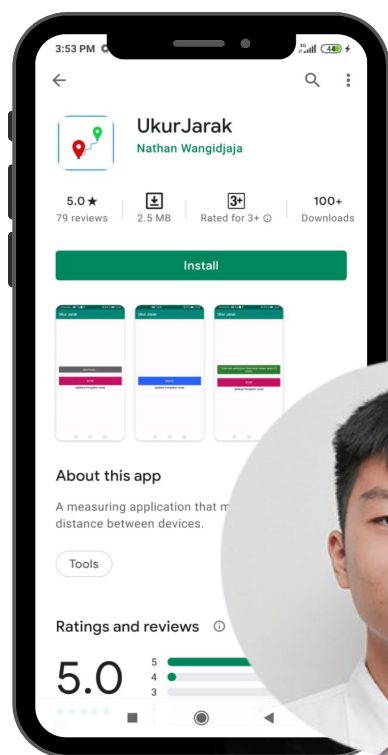
SPH LIPPO VILLAGE

## Physical-Distancing Mobile App by Nathan Wangidjaja

Nathan Wangidjaja (Gr. 12) is one of the students in the Applied Science Academy—our advanced, scientific enrichment program for Grades 10-12. He created a mobile app that was just released called “UkurJarak” that helps with social distancing.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Nathan & other students from ASA have been brainstorming ways to be a part of the solution towards the COVID-19 pandemic. After noticing how people often ignore the social-distancing rule, Nathan had the idea to create an app that could raise people’s awareness on this matter. The UkurJarak App measures the distance to the nearest device by through the devices’ Bluetooth.

At SPH, we educate our students to become world changers: to think on their feet about how they can propose a solution and initiate change towards a real problem. We thank God for Nathan, Pak Eden Steven & other ASA students who have actively initiated change and work to contribute solutions to the world’s problems!



SPH SENTUL CITY

## Bronze Medal from Southeast Asian Mathematical Olympiad 2020



More good news from SPH Sentul City: Ernza Nicholas J. from Grade 5 earned a Bronze Medal in the Southeast Asian Mathematical Olympiad (SEAMO) 2020!

Southeast Asian Mathematical Olympiad (SEAMO) is a global mathematical Olympiad competition that provides opportunities for young mathematicians to gain global recognition in Math Olympiad by competing against candidates from many countries. This year the competition was held online on October 3, 2020.

“It humbles and encourages me even more knowing that there are so many talented and passionate young mathematicians out there. Praise be to God for this accomplishment. With this, I will have the opportunity to represent Indonesia at the global SEAMO X 2021,” said Ernza.



SPH SENTUL CITY

# Grade 10 Virtual Home Concert

## How Students Continue to Flourish through Music amid Quarantine

During this Home Learning period, SPH Sentul City Grade 10 students showcased their musical talents and ability in the Grade 10 virtual Home Concert. The concert was launched virtually via the SPH YouTube channel on October 1, 2020 and currently has more than 800 views. There were nine Grade 10 performers performing with a variety of musical instruments and genres. Here is the complete list of performers and musical pieces:

**1. Joshua Efraim Rawatan (Drum)**

“Nothing is Impossible” by Planetshakers

**2. Ryan Tristan Hariyanto (Piano)**

“Waltz in A Minor B150 Posthumous” by Chopin

**3. Azrielle Nathania (Harp)**

“Sonata in D Major” by John Parry

**4. Akasa Swarga Abighair (Piano)**

“River Flows in You” by Yiruma

**5. Anthony Felser Sutanto (Acoustic Guitar)**

“Vals Venezolano no.3” by Antonio Lauro

**6. Josephine Clarissa Yulianto (Piano)**

“Dream” by Ernest Bloch

**7. Kelvyn Henrich Hardja (Drum)**

“Mr. Blue Sky” by Electric Light Orchestra

**8. Elena Hanifah van Meeteren (Drum)**

“From Yesterday” by 30 seconds to Mars

**9. Vivian Angelina Tjo (Vocal)**

“Welcome to Mystery” by Plain White T’s

In accordance with this year’s School Theme, “Made to Thrive”, the Home Concert centered on the concept of how students continue to be flourishing learners even in limiting and difficult situations. Mr. Brett Bonnema, the Head of School at Sentul, opened the concert with these encouraging words, “The Home Concert is a tradition here at SPH Sentul City, and we usually gather in person. This year, it might be even better with the recorded version since we can enjoy it multiple times.”

At SPH, we strive to develop students to flourish in all aspect of their lives, including developing their God-given gifts. One of the performers, Azrielle Nathania, shared what being a flourishing learner means to her, “For me, being a flourishing learner means not only growing personally as a student, but also inspiring others to do the same. With our condition right now, in a global pandemic, we must remember to keep on thriving by using our talent and abilities.” Mr. Brett added, “...students as learners who have gifts and abilities in many different areas; music is just one of them. This concert is an opportunity to celebrate their gifts and hard work as they have put much effort in preparing this final product.”

Despite the recent limiting conditions, students continue to thrive and flourish as was demonstrated in this virtual Home Concert. Let us pray that in God’s time, we can gather together again to enjoy and celebrate students’ gifts in person!

For those of you who would like to watch the students’ performance, click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4p6LVJ8i5s>



# Virtual Open Mic Night 2020

## Sharing Talents and Gifts Virtually in Difficult Time

SPH Kemang Village holds the annual Open Mic to bring the whole school community together to share their musical talents. Teachers, staff, field staff, students, and parents are welcomed to perform and showcase their gifts and creativity. This year, however, the Open Mic went digital and the community watched the concert online via YouTube, which premiered on October 23, 2020.

Since this year's Open Mic Night went digital, the preparation looked a little different. A lot of time was spent behind the scenes—contacting acts, sending backtracks and recording guidelines, compiling videos and audio clips, and doing lots and lots of editing! Some of the challenges we faced were: collaborating with each other, the amount of time it takes to create a quality video versus simply performing, and how to make this event interactive.

We were overwhelmed by the amount of talent that came into play during this showcase! It was amazing to see people be creative in new ways through technology, and it was such a blessing to have a time where we could gather together, even if it was virtual. Our behind-the-scenes crew did an incredible job pulling this off with the support

of our leaders and the willingness of our participants.

Sometimes it takes a little bit of extra effort to put yourself out there, to reach out to others, and to be vulnerable and share your gifts, but—in a time when the world is suffering—people reach out to artists and musicians for beauty, truth, encouragement, and joy.

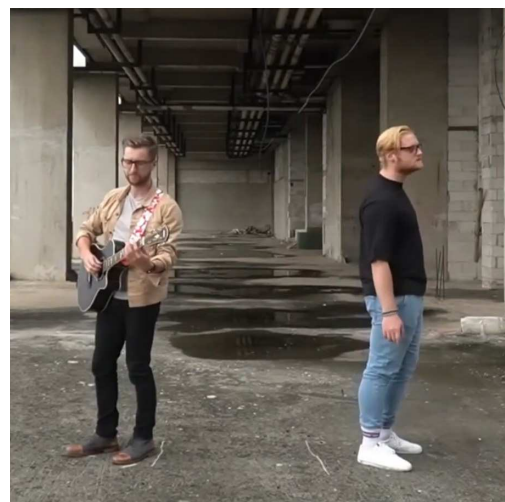
Whether or not we think of ourselves as artists, we all have the ability to celebrate others' gifts and talents and share small bits of creativity and encouragement.

We might have to think outside of the box to do it, but little things like sharing a doodle or a Spotify playlist, sending a creative YouTube clip, having a dance party, making a delicious meal, or decorating for the holidays are all small ways we can spread positivity with those near and far during this time.

We look forward to the time when we can all gather together again to experience community and creativity in the same space, but until then, we are thankful for technology and the opportunities God gives us to connect and be a light in our school, our city, and our world.

Watch Open Mic Night 2020 here:

<https://youtu.be/EtND8OGr2DM>





SPH LIPPO CIKARANG

# Maintaining Eye Health during Home Learning: A Health Talk by SPH Lippo Cikarang and Siloam Hospital Lippo Cikarang



**Dr. Marjasa D. Dicky,**  
Siloam Hospital Lippo Cikarang

The discussion about eye health has been gaining more popularity these days as almost every child in the world has to study remotely from their home. Home learning means more time spent in front of the screen: whether through laptops, tablets, or smartphones. Many studies – even before the pandemic – show that staring at a screen for a long period of time can be detrimental to our eye health. Digital Eye Strain is one of the phenomena that occurs when our eyes are exhausted due to long exposure of the blue light from our screens.

To answer this emerging issue, SPH Lippo Cikarang collaborated with Siloam Hospital Lippo Cikarang to hold a health talk on the topic of “Maintaining Eye Health during Home Learning”. The health talk took place via Instagram Live on November 25, 2020, with Dr. Marjasa D. Dicky from Siloam Hospital as the speaker and Ibu Sisca (HRD of SPH Lippo Cikarang) as the moderator. The health talk had attracted parents to join, both from within and outside the SPH community. We could see their enthusiasm from many questions they had

regarding their children’s eye health.

In the health talk, Dr. Dicky highlighted the importance of duration. The key to maintaining eye health is to be mindful about the duration of gadget usage. Taking a break between online learning sessions is the key. During our break times, Dr. Dicky suggests we relax our eyes by looking at an object about 2 meters away from us. Let us be more mindful to take care of our eyes, especially during this pandemic when we spend more and more time in front of our screens.

Besides this health talk, SPH Lippo Cikarang has also collaborated with Siloam Hospital Lippo Cikarang & Bekasi Timur to hold other health talks. On November 19, SPH Lippo Cikarang held a pet talk titled “Basic Knowledge of Raising Pets” and the next day held one about children’s tonsil health. SPH Lippo Cikarang will continue to collaborate with Siloam Hospitals to provide beneficial health talks not only for the SPH community, but also for the public.

*“The key to maintaining eye health is to be mindful about the duration of gadget usage.”*

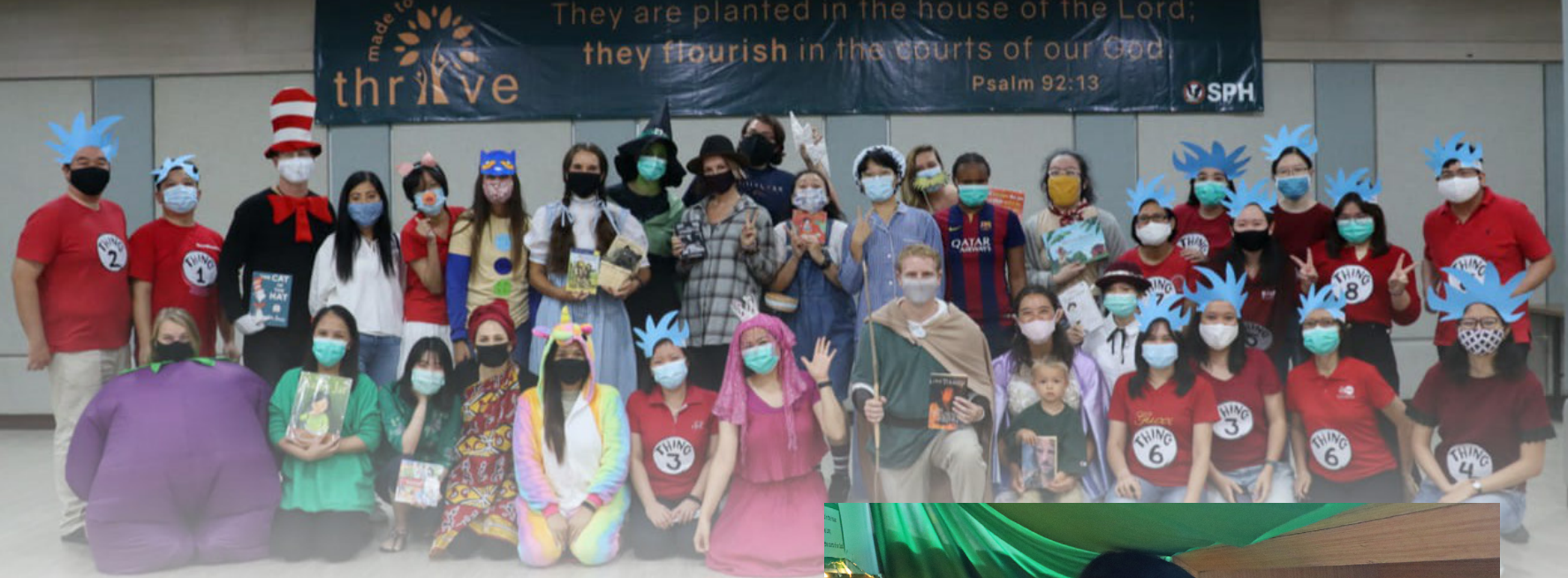


“Basic Knowledge of Raising Pets” Talk



Eye Health Talk with Dr. Dicky  
moderated by Ibu Sisca (SPH LC HR)





SPH PLUIT VILLAGE

## Online Book Week

This year SPH Pluit Village's annual Book Week was a bit different: Book Week went virtual! Our book week was held from October 19-23, 2020. We tied it in to this year's theme and made the slogan "read to thrive" then shared different ways we thrived through reading different stories.

Our Book Week activities included:

- Day 1: Book Week Launch
- Day 2: Book Art Day
- Day 3: Pajama Day & Fort-building Competition
- Day 4: Guest Reader
- Day 5: Whole School Assembly & Character Day

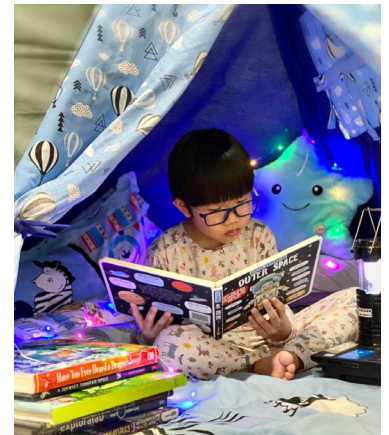
The event went smoothly with each grade participating in their own way! We made some fun videos to help promote book week as well as changing the name to OBW (Online Book Week) which I think helped carry good momentum. We gathered some pictures from students' homes and put them together as a slideshow at the end of the week. Throughout the weeks leading up to book week, we had a reading competition called "read-a-thon" which also motivated the kids to read more.

Reading really brings out the imagination and creativity within the students. It also helps with their language development and vocabulary. Even though we may not be able to go to many places due to the quarantine, we can access a whole new world through books.

Mason Cooley said, "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are," and Stephen King said, "Books are a uniquely portable magic."

Let's keep reading and let our imaginations wander!

✍ SO YEON KIM (CHRISTINE), SPH PV TEACHER







## SPH LV Class of 2020 Farewell Ceremony







📍 LIPPO VILLAGE CAMPUS |  
ON-CAMPUS SUMMER PROGRAM



📍 LIPPO VILLAGE CAMPUS |  
ON-CAMPUS SUMMER PROGRAM



📍 LIPPO CIKARANG CAMPUS |  
ONLINE SUMMER PROGRAM



📍 LIPPO CIKARANG CAMPUS |  
ONLINE SUMMER PROGRAM

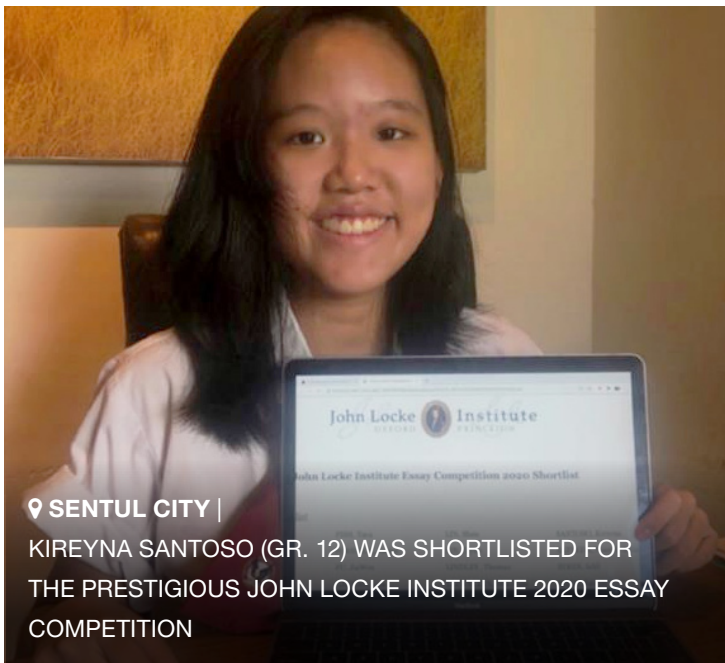




📍 SENTUL CITY | HOME LEARNING



📍 LIPPO CIKARANG | HOME LEARNING



📍 SENTUL CITY |  
KIREYNA SANTOSO (GR. 12) WAS SHORTLISTED FOR  
THE PRESTIGIOUS JOHN LOCKE INSTITUTE 2020 ESSAY  
COMPETITION



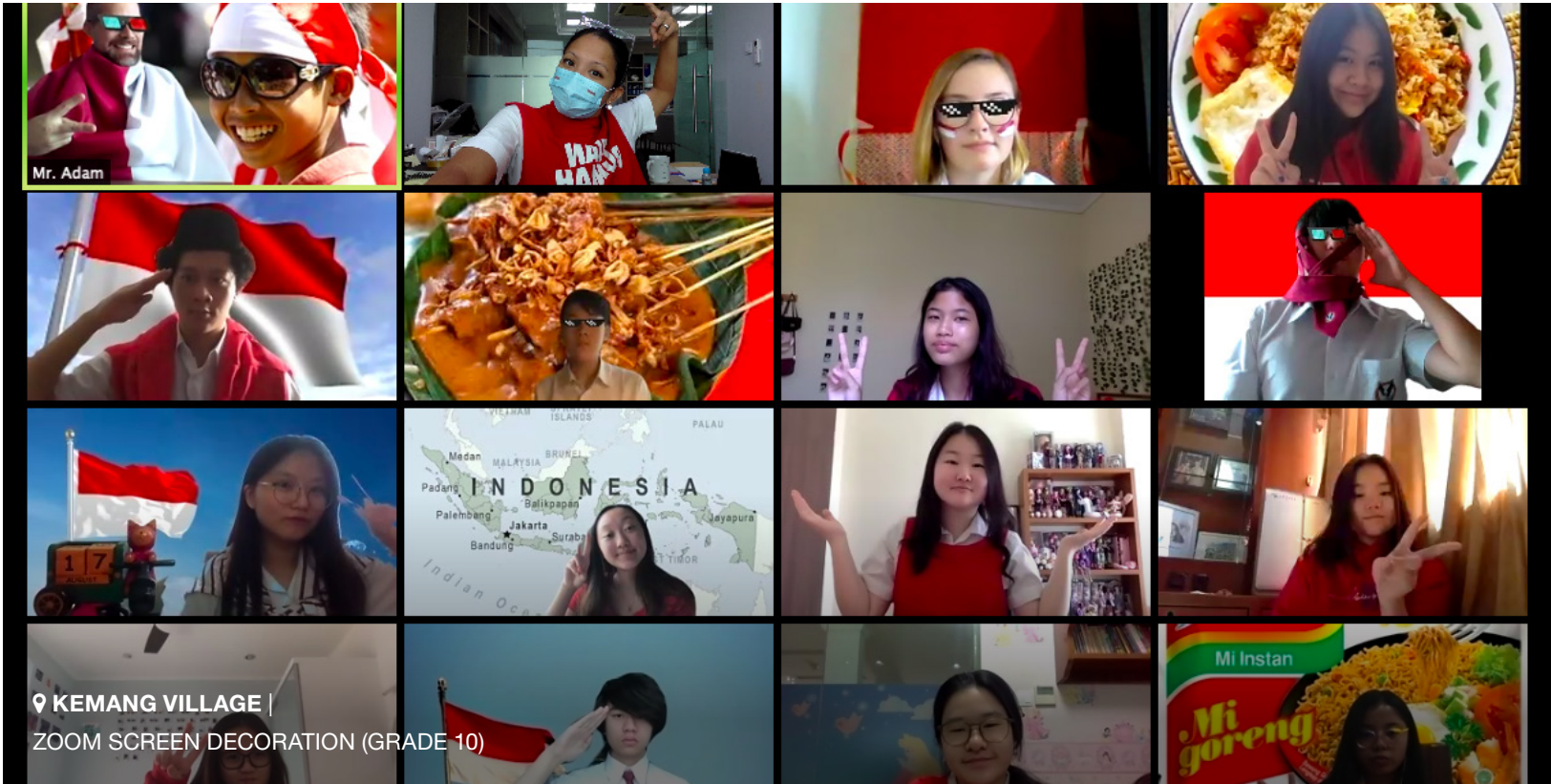
📍 LIPPO VILLAGE |  
VIRTUAL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE



📍 LIPPO VILLAGE |  
"A CLASS ACT" VIRTUAL CONCERT (RECORDING SESSION)



# Independence Day Celebration Special











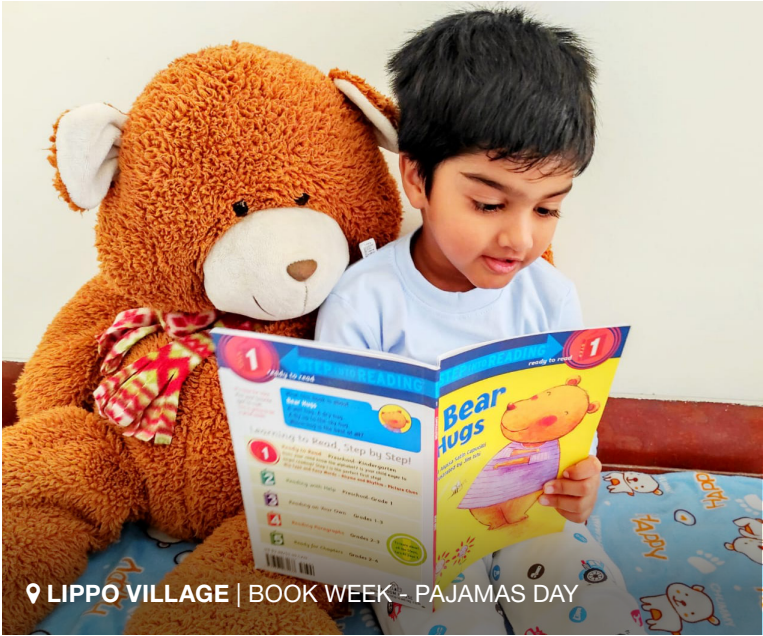
9 PLUIT VILLAGE | BOOK WEEK - CHARACTER DAY



9 PLUIT VILLAGE | BOOK WEEK - CHARACTER DAY



9 PLUIT VILLAGE | BOOK WEEK - CHARACTER DAY



9 LIPPO VILLAGE | BOOK WEEK - PAJAMAS DAY





# CHRISTMAS







📍 LIPPO VILLAGE | CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE



📍 LIPPO VILLAGE | CHRISTMAS CAROLING



📍 LIPPO VILLAGE |  
CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT



📍 LIPPO VILLAGE |  
CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT



📍 LIPPO VILLAGE |  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE



# Made to Thrive Beautifully

2020 is indeed a year full of challenges and difficulties. During this time, we tend to focus on the ugly, fallen side of the world forgetting that God initially created us to thrive beautifully. In the Whole School Theme Launch, Mr. Matthew Mann mentioned three things a gardener hopes for when he plants something. A gardener wants the plant to grow, to be fruitful, and to be beautiful. Here I want us to focus on the third idea of being beautiful.

We have heard the expression, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” The concept of beauty can be highly subjective. But let us shift our gaze to the idea of true beauty in God, the initial beauty in creation, and the beautiful redemptive work of our salvation in Jesus Christ. My prayer is that God will open our eyes once again to His beauty; that He may rejuvenate our weary and tiresome souls.

The Bible introduces the idea of “beauty” very early on. In the beginning, God – the most beautiful being – created everything beautifully. On the last day of Creation, God also created the human being as the crown of creation— which he declared to be very good. We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made.

As we move forward to Genesis 2, God gave Adam his breath and his Word (command). God created us beautifully to have an intimate relationship with Himself and to obey and follow His truth.

Then, Genesis 3 shows us how sin distorted the truth, and thus the perversion of beauty begins. Beauty is not completely lost in this sinful world, but it is surely corrupted. In our sinful nature, we are unable to see the beauty of God and His truth. We are already satisfied with earthly, perishable things. We are constantly seeking superficial beauty through the toxic trap of social media and the advertising industry. Our imagination and desire for true beauty are weakened. As C. S. Lewis said:

*“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*



# “My challenge to all of you as we end this ‘roller-coaster’ year is to continue to seek beautiful things that God had put in your lives.”

Because of sin, we have become less beautiful than what we ought to be. But praise to God, He did not leave us in our ugly state. While the first Adam failed, Jesus Christ came to the earth to be the second Adam and restore true beauty. He is the ultimate Beauty whom we should fix our gaze upon.

But here is the paradox: The Prophet Isaiah described the Messiah who “had no beauty to attract us to him... that we should desire him” (Is. 53:2, 5). We are gazing at someone who is seemingly not beautiful, and instead hung on the ugly cross, full of pain and suffering. Cicero said, “The cross speaks of that which is so shameful: so horrible, that it should not be mentioned in polite society.” A passage in the Scriptures mentions, “Cursed is every man who is hanged on a tree.” (Gal. 3:13).

However, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can see the beauty of Christ despite all the “ugliness.” **He was made “ugly” so that we can be “beautiful.” When we truly believe in Jesus, we are made beautiful like we ought to be.** We are enabled to love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbors in the right way.

Not only that, but the work of the Holy Spirit also enables us to gaze upon the beauty of God beyond this momentary world. He gave us a “new eye” so that we can see what the cursed world cannot see. Through Jesus, we are able to think on “whatever that is honorable, whatever

is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable... [and] worthy of praise” (Phil. 4:8).

My challenge to all of you as we end this “roller-coaster” year is to continue to seek beautiful things that God had put in your lives.

**Teachers**, guide your students to see the beauty of the subject that you teach and direct your students to their beautiful Creator and Savior.

**Staff**, see the beauty of your mundane administrative work and how it accomplishes God’s purpose for you.

**Parents**, immerse yourselves in the beauty of God’s word and teach your children about the beauty of God in all that He has done.

**Students**, consider yourselves beautiful—not because of how you look or what you are capable of—but because God created you in His image and Jesus has redeemed you through his precious blood. Seek to work out your inner beauty through your words and deeds.

May we always remember that we are made to thrive beautifully: no matter the circumstances that we and the world are facing right now. We can rest assured that, “He has made everything beautiful in its time,” (Ecc. 3:11) and “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).



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.



**RENÉ SOMPIE**  
BIBLICAL  
FOUNDATIONS  
COORDINATOR





It is hard walking through the empty school hallways that used to be filled with so much laughter and joy. But maybe, this is a wake-up call for all of us.  
(So Yeon Kim, SPH PV Teacher)



Challenges are opportunities for us to grow and to know more about life.  
(Melvin Hade, SPH SC Alumni)



When everything has looked different from what anyone expected in 2020, it is good to pause and trust that his goodness and mercy will follow his people.  
(Tiina Bynum, SPH KV Teacher)



Home Learning has been a challenge for all of us. I am glad that at SPH LC, the teachers have done their best to reach out to each student.  
(Esther Sihombing, SPH LC Parent)





# Thriving IN HARD TIMES

In this difficult time, we are grateful that God still sustains our community and enables us to thrive.

Alumni and students reflect on hardships they have faced and how they found they flourished from those hardships.

Through our teachers' testimonies, you can see how they continue to thrive and are models of resilience and dependence on God.

Finally, we are grateful for our parents' testimonies. Their involvement in the school enables them to see how SPH has adapted to the current situation and considers different learning methods in its implementation of Home Learning.

May these testimonies encourage us once again as a whole SPH community!



# MELVIN HADE

SPH SENTUL CITY CLASS OF 2013  
PARTNER AT GLOBAL FOUNDERS CAPITAL  
FORBES INDONESIA 30 UNDER 30

My name is Melvin Hade. I graduated from SPH Sentul City in 2013 then attended the University of Indonesia, majoring in Economics. I am currently a partner at Global Founders Capital (GFC), a billion-dollar venture capital fund that invests in early-stage companies across the world: including the United States, Latin America, Europe, China and Southeast Asia. We invest and provide capital to early-stage companies, supporting them in becoming world-class businesses by leveraging our expertise and know-how. We have supported transformational companies such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Slack, Traveloka and many other successful global companies.

***Tell us more about your experience studying at SPH Sentul City. How did it help shape you into who you are today?***

I see myself as a true product of SPH because I spent all 12 years of my K-12 education at SPH Sentul City. SPH had a significant role in shaping me as a person, my philosophies, my values, and my dreams. The IB curriculum especially prepared me very well for my university years. I was able to complete my bachelor's degree at the University of Indonesia in 3.5 years, graduating with Cum Laude honors and the Highest GPA Award. This would not have been possible without going through the IB courses.



***According to you, what are the most important 21st-century skills that our current students need to be ready to thrive in their future workplaces?***

I would say there are three key skills that increase the likelihood of success in anyone's professional career and more broadly in life in general.

The first one is interpersonal skills, or the ability to effectively communicate and interact with other people. Interpersonal skills mean the ability to negotiate, persuade, present and influence others. In the 21st Century, knowledge is no longer relevant if you cannot then deliver it to the world and make other people understand.

The second skill is critical thinking and problem-solving ability. What I mean by critical thinking is that you should always be critical and skeptical about the information that is given to you by the world. When you look at a problem, you also should be able to identify the root cause—not only the symptoms—of that problem.

Last but not least is finding your life objective and goals. For me this is extremely important because what wakes me up in the morning is the same motivation and objective. When I identified my ultimate life objective, I become a very driven and motivated person to reach my next step in life.

***SPH is known for its Christian education, how has this impacted you?***

As a Christian school, Christian values were a big part of my SPH education and continue to be in my life today and throughout my journey. One of the most important things is that my Christian value teaches me is to persevere and stay content in very difficult times in my life. My life has not always gone smoothly, including my career journey, but as I go through difficult times, I lean on God and my faith.

I remember when I finished 6th grade in SPH, my family faced financial difficulty. At that time, the choice I had was to leave SPH or try to get a scholarship being offered by SPH Sentul. I was lucky enough to get a gold scholarship which allowed me to continue my education in SPH from Grade 7 through the IB Program. For this opportunity, I would like to thank SPH, YPPH, and SPH Sentul City for offering me that scholarship. Without that scholarship, I might not have become who I am now and would not know my life's purpose.

“My Christian value teaches me to persevere and stay content in very difficult times in my life. My life has not always gone smoothly, but as I go through difficult times, I lean on God and my faith.”





# NAOMI NIELSEN

## SPH KEMANG VILLAGE GRADE 12 STUDENT NATIONAL SOCCER ATHLETE

*Naomi Nielsen is a senior student at SPH Kemang Village who is also known as a young, aspiring, soccer athlete in Indonesia. She shared her story with us as well as some challenges she has faced as a student-athlete and how she has become a blessing to others through what she does.*

### ***How did you find your passion in soccer?***

I started playing in 4th grade on the school soccer team. Initially I was just playing for fun and soccer wasn't anything special. It was in 8th grade when I began looking for soccer options outside of the school team. I started playing for a club called Pro:Direct Academy Indonesia. It was at that time that I realized God has gifted me with an athletic ability. I enjoyed playing soccer and, since my parents were athletes as well, it felt good that I finally found a sport that I was passionate about.

From Pro:Direct Academy I received so many opportunities. I played in a lot of tournaments watched by scouts—including scouts for the national and the Jakarta teams, and, in 2018, I joined the Under-16 National team. After the whole selection process, I still wanted to continue playing soccer, so I played as a part of the Jakarta Provincial Team in December 2018. From then on, I started practicing every single week and eventually got the opportunity to play with Persija Club Jakarta. This was really when I got my exposure to professional soccer.

### ***What were the challenges that you faced as a student-athlete? And how has the school supported you?***

When I started getting into a more professional soccer, I had to miss a lot of school hours, and I was on the road a lot. Thankfully, my teachers and the IB coordinators supported me. Ibu Daisy, SPH KV Administrative Principal, also supported me a lot. Every time my parents would





“When I started getting into a professional soccer, I was the only player who had to bring an extra bag for all of my school works. During the time we were supposed to rest, I actually use it to study. It was difficult, but thank God I got through it.”

email them to ask for school leave permission, she always asked, “How is she doing? How did her games go?” All of them, including my teachers, actively reached out to me. If I was behind on anything, I could ask them for help. They weren’t demanding and didn’t criticize me. I’m very thankful for the support given by SPH Kemang Village. They really give us the opportunity to pursue our passion without sacrificing academics.

I really try to maintain my grades well and not fall behind even if I’m somewhere else, like Jogjakarta for example. I have to discipline myself; bring my laptop and all my books. I think I was the only player who had to bring an extra bag for all of my school works. And, during the time we were supposed to use for rest, I actually use it to study. It was difficult, but thank God I got through it.

***We heard you also have become a donator for Lentera Bagi Bangsa to support children in Papua to access a proper education. Could you tell us more about how you started this wonderful cause?***

I really considered myself blessed and I’m very grateful for the position that I am in because I do receive a salary through soccer, and—obviously at my age—I’m still blessed to be living under my parents’ roof. Knowing that I’ve been so blessed by God, when I came across the video of Papua which my mom showed me, I was so moved. I was so touched and felt so much sadness for those who live in Papua and can’t go to school.

When my mom told me about Lentera Bagi Bangsa that is reaching out to people in Papua in the remote areas, I knew that I could help with even the smallest action. Then I thought, “Why wouldn’t I give back?” It just feels like this is what I have to do—not because I’m forced to, but because I know in my heart that God blessed me with all these gifts and talents, so I should give back to Him. This is my way of thanking Him and glorifying His name. If the smallest action that I can do will help these kids, then why shouldn’t I?

***Lastly, how does SPH shape you the way you are now?***

SPH has watched my entire growth since I was a pioneer student of SPH Kemang Village. In the first year of its opening, I was part of the first batch at SPH KV. I entered in 2nd grade and have continued now through 12th grade. So, looking back, how did I get this far?





SPH KV stands on the Biblical perspective and Biblical worldview: True Knowledge, Faith in Christ, and Godly Character. That was instilled in me when I was very young, and so I'm blessed to have grown up with that vision and mission. We have Bible class and mandatory chapels, but SPH KV has managed to make it something that I look forward to, instead of something that I dread. I remember as a kid, when I was in my old school, whenever we had chapel or anything to do with Biblical stuff, I wouldn't look forward to it. I'd just think that it was something boring. Even though I was just a 1st grader, I remember my emotions and how I felt towards the Bible and God. I didn't really understand it because it wasn't portrayed to me in a way that I could understand.

However, once I went to SPH KV, things became so much clearer, I received guidance from the teachers and even the principal. Ever since I was small, there has been constant support and help. Even until today, it is an ongoing cycle of love and support. I know that they look out for me, care for me, and that I can talk to anyone. I never once felt scared to voice my opinion or how I was feeling to any of the teachers. Especially in my IBDP years, I have been supported by my IB coordinator and teachers since IB is very tough to manage. My counsellor helps me a lot, and, although it wasn't easy, they all have guided me through.

SPH KV nurtured me to be courageous, to pursue my passion, to not be afraid, and to develop a personal relationship with God. Those wonderful values have all been instilled in me ever since I was young, and they have a special place in my heart even today.

“I'm very thankful for the support given by SPH Kemang Village. SPH KV nurtured me to be courageous, to pursue my passion, to not be afraid, and to develop a personal relationship with God.”







# JASON ADHINARTA

SPH LIPPO VILLAGE GRADE 12 STUDENT | APPLIED SCIENCE ACADEMY

*Jason Adhinarta is a Grade 12 student at SPH Lippo Village who joined the Applied Science Academy (ASA) two years ago. ASA is an enrichment program at SPH LV for students who are passionate about science. It gives students the opportunity to engage in more advanced scientific research.*

*Over the last two years, Jason has worked on multiple projects ranging from physics to computer science related areas. One of his earlier scientific projects was investigating an alternative energy source based on a light absorbing crystal. Last year, he had the opportunity to present his work at an international symposium and received an award. But this year was even better. His work was published in an international journal – an achievement that every scientist pursues!*

*In this article, Jason and Dr. Eden Steven, his mentor at ASA, share about the process with us and how important this milestone is for a young scientist.*

## Jason's Testimony

After the Personal Project and Applied Science Academy exhibitions, Dr. Eden insisted that our work be presented to a greater public audience: a scientific conference. I was fortunate to be given the opportunity

to participate in the International Symposium on Modern Optics and its Applications (ISMOA). After several lectures addressing cool yet complex concepts within optics—in which I spent the whole time scratching my head—it was time for my presentation. I kid you not, it was nerve-racking, and never have I felt more incompetent amongst the Professors and researchers within the audience. During the discussion sessions, some of the Professors provided valuable feedback for use within our work.

After the symposium, during the academic holiday, Dr. Eden and I wrote the manuscript over an intense 2 weeks. We spent each day deciphering the published articles related to our work, aiming to obtain insights on the light storage and transfer mechanisms of the crystals. Being unable to understand most of the works, I am grateful that Dr. Eden guided me through the whole process. And just like that, our manuscript was submitted for the peer-review process.

A few months ago, we received the news that our publication was accepted, and a smile was etched on my face for a couple of days. Now I realize that all that time: the weekends and sleep deprivation on school-days, were put to good use.



Overall, participating in the Applied Science Academy has been a laborious yet rewarding program offering incredible results and unforgettable experiences in exchange for time. I would like to thank God for pulling me through the whole experience which I could not have been able to predict, my parents for supporting me despite my skewed time management, Dr. Eden for putting up with me throughout the years, and SPH for funding the whole project and establishing the Applied Science Academy which has successfully cultivated scientific inquiry in many.

### Dr. Eden Steven's Commentary on Jason's international journal publication

Following Jason's successful effort to publish his research in an international scientific publication, some might come to wonder – what is the importance and significance of publishing your research?

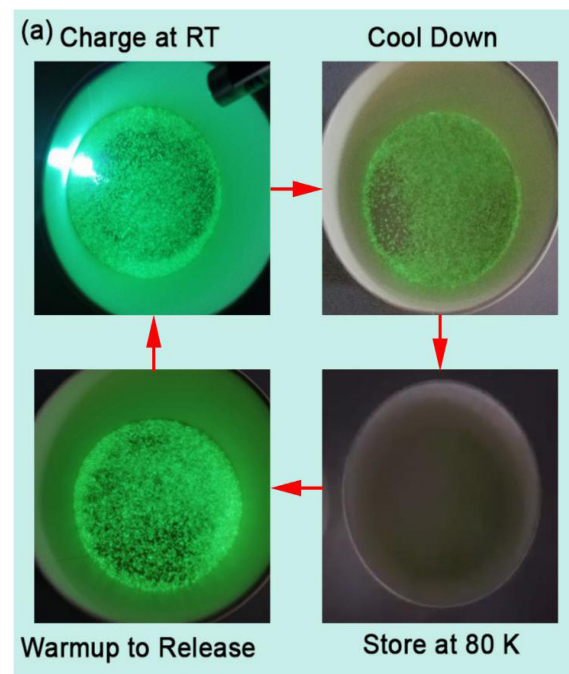
Science and how we understand the world are a collection of theories, discoveries, concepts, and observations that accumulate overtime. Each addition of new information, data, analysis, theory, concept, and prototype enriches the world's bank of knowledge. This collective knowledge is absolutely critical in empowering the society in solving the world's problems.

The key to sustaining and maintaining the accessibility of scientific findings for future generations is by collecting and organizing them in scientific journals as articles. A scientific article is a documentation of discoveries and innovations that has been subjected to thorough evaluation and made publicly available for as long as it is possible.

By publishing our work in a quality scientific journal, our work is now officially cemented in the global repository of scientific journals. We are now a part of history! It means that a hundred, two hundred years later, some researchers may stumble upon and read our work, utilizing the information to solve the problems in their era.

One of the scientific journal articles that Jason is learning from for this research is a publication from 1979. It is a work done and reported more than 40 years ago! It is fascinating to think about the legacy that was left for us by the scientists in 1979—how it helped Jason discover new science in the behavior of the light absorbing crystals. Likewise, I would like to imagine that one day Jason's work will help serve as a stepping stone for future development of novel alternative energy devices.

Scientific article publication is so important that in academia, it has become the number one currency that determines our career path. Since a scientific publication





is perpetual and highly important, a rigorous process is set in place by the scientific community to ensure that what is reported in the publication is according to the highest standard. This is referred to as the peer-review process.

Understanding the complexity of research publishing, it is therefore humbling to witness one of our students, Jason Ken Adhinarta, who was still in grade 10 at the time he joined the Applied Science Academy, achieving such an incredible accomplishment very early in his scientific career. He is now officially a part of the global scientific community, together pushing the boundary of knowledge.

Part of Jason's success was due to his genuine love for learning. It was really refreshing for me to work with Jason because he focused on the learning and discovery process rather than the outcome. Jason is a thinker, but first and foremost, he is a worker that manages his time well. He commits to his task without delay, is disciplined and respectful, and owns his mistakes then learns from them.

Jason spent uncountable hours self-learning, reading very difficult research articles, programming and debugging the codes for data analysis, repeating the experiments, developing and perfecting his automated optical measurement systems after school and during weekends and holidays.

So, congratulations to Jason for his first scientific publication as the first author for his work on an alternative energy concept using light absorbing crystals which was published in the Journal of Nonlinear Optical Physics and Materials.

Thank you to his parents for instilling the humility, excellent work ethic, time management habit, and giving full support to their son's education. Thank you to all of Jason's friends, mentors, colleagues, and professors who provided the encouragement, ideas and discussions that help shape the experiment towards the discovery. A special gratitude to the school leaders for their faithful commitment in providing a one-of-a-kind environment where students are free to carry out high quality research as they explore their passion. And to our God Almighty for letting us enjoy His beautiful creation, entrusting us with His creation, and giving us the privilege to take care and redeem the world through our work.

May we continue to seek true knowledge through our research, be faithful to His calling, and carry out our tasks with integrity, humility, and honorable character.

“Jason spent uncountable hours self-learning, reading very difficult research articles, programming and debugging, repeating the experiments, developing and perfecting his measurement systems after school and during weekends and holidays. So, congratulations to Jason for his first scientific publication which was published in the Journal of Nonlinear Optical Physics and Materials!”

***(Dr. Eden Steven, Jason's Mentor in Applied Science Academy)***

Journal of Nonlinear Optical Physics & Materials  
Vol. 28, No. 4 (2019) 1950042 (10 pages)  
© World Scientific Publishing Company  
DOI: 10.1142/S0218863519500425

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# KRISNANDA SUPRAPTO

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SPH LIPPO CIKARANG CLASS OF 2019  
EU BUSINESS SCHOOL MUNICH, GERMANY

A portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue cardigan over a black top. She is sitting and looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through.

I spent most of my childhood and teen years in SPH LC. Since the age of 2-years-old, my parents have trusted SPH to provide the best education for their children which is why both of my siblings and I are all SPH LC graduates. I graduated in 2019 with 23 of my friends, and it's pretty crazy how we're all now located in different countries pursuing our bachelor's degrees. I am currently continuing my studies in EU Business School Munich, Germany, taking BSc (Hons) in International Business with digital business, design, and innovation as my specialization. I plan on graduating in 2022.

## ***According to you, what makes SPH LC different?***

The curriculum being taught in SPH LC makes education different, specifically the IB curriculum. Students are given the opportunity to choose any subjects offered from the school, giving us freedom to study what we actually enjoy learning about. We are also trained in how to write essays, give presentations, and answer exam questions which has helped a lot in university. The environment is very comfortable at SPH, and the facilities are another factor why students can be motivated to learn new things.

Another strong point of SPH is the bond between teachers and students that feels different from other schools. The teachers are always giving their best effort and always try to make the learning interactive for their students. Teachers are always available, anytime, and they are always there to support students—which makes their education holistic and better. Students are able to talk openly about their own struggles, and the teachers truly care about them. They are often available around the clock to help with student needs even offering after school hours.



### ***What are your fondest memories at SPH LC?***

Being at SPH LC for 16 years was not a short time. SPH was literally my second home. Friends turned into family, and I met a lot of friends that continue to be very special to me today. I cherish all my memories with all my friends and teachers. Fieldtrips, school events, retreats, class bazaars, and so many more. The teachers were not only my teachers, they were also my friend and mentor. We were always able to joke around with each other and share our thoughts and opinions without feeling judged. It was always a fun time at school. Having to run in the hallway just to get to class on time before the 2nd bell rang, laughing until our stomachs hurt, going to do CAS activities after school with friends: there are so many memories I have from SPH LC, and there is nothing that I regret doing.

### ***You just graduated last year, so, what do you think about the IB DP? What were the challenges that you faced & how did you finally cope with them?***

There were a lot of challenges and difficulties that I faced as an IB student. We had a lot of essays and assignments to do for each class and being able to do all of it was quite challenging. It was a mess at first, I had trouble in managing my time and felt like I was drowning in assignments.

The 2 years of IB DP was pretty rough since we started working on our EE pretty late. We got to the point where our teachers were pretty worried about our progress. DP is no joke. But as time went by, I learned how to manage my time better and started to become more productive. This was all thanks to my friends since we were all rooting and encouraging each other. We actually made study groups where we would go to cafes after school to work on our

essays and assignments. At the end of the day, we were able to pull it off and submit all our papers.

My advice for those coming up is that it is never wrong to start an assignment early, and do not procrastinate. Always go to your teachers when you need help because they will help you with open arms, and always listen to what your teachers have to say about your work.

### ***How did SPH LC shape the way you are now? What are the most important values that you have learned?***

My most valuable school experiences weren't academic: they were personal. While at SPH LC, I grew my social skills, respect, honesty, love, empathy, and learned about own potential. These were all developed through having CAS (community, action, service). Through my CAS hours I was taught sympathy and leadership skills. We had to come up with a CAS project which really put our leadership skills and collaborative skills to the test. We also had loving and caring week where we had the opportunity to give basic necessities to the staff working in SPH LC. All of these values are valuable lessons that I keep until today. I am blessed to have been able to not only learn academically, but to also develop my character and to also grow in Christ at SPH LC.







ELISABETH PRISTIWI

BAHASA INDONESIA TEACHER, IBDP COORDINATOR  
SPH SENTUL CITY

*“This current situation helps me to see that God never leaves us. He makes us explore different ways of teaching and different ways to become connected. At the end of the day, I see nothing but He who is stretching us to reach a bigger world.”*

## Stepping Out of Our Comfort Zone

I first came to SPH in the year of 2006 and have been teaching Indonesian Language ever since. SPH has witnessed my growth as a Christian as well as a teacher, and now even as a parent. One thing that makes SPH a comfortable home, a place more than just an office, is the close relationships among the people. From short chats in-between classes or loud laughter during events and lunches, we always find ways to connect with each other. Unfortunately, these days it is hard for us to become connected with the students and technology does not help in building a true community. However, I am so glad that God is always showing His greatness and love.

As a language teacher, I have learned to read my students' ways of communication. One language that usually speaks loudly is their body language. Personal, intensive relationships have helped me learn to read my students' feelings. Unfortunately, “personal relationship” is a bit hard to have through a screen. Even though we look at the same face when we teach, the screen makes it hard to see the student's whole expression. When they smile, I am not able to see if their whole body smiles too. This creates the risk of me sending a message that does not fit them and makes me wonder if I have given just what they needed that day.

Aside from the difficulty above, losing the physical connections can makes lessons harder to pass for students.

During home learning I realized that, when in person, students can talk about their struggles in certain classes while queuing in the canteen. This easily encourages other students to respond who are experiencing the same difficulties. This sometimes ends up in a more intensive discussion on the topic which creates a great learning experience. A teacher might even join in while also enjoying his lunch creating a context that helps us to remember and digest things deeper.

Now, many discussions walk through private channels and other people cannot contribute. Teachers have to find ways to help students be present at all time so that they will not miss any information in a lesson. This easily drains them, and students find it challenging as well.

However, this current situation helps me to see that God never leaves us. He makes us explore different tools, different ways of teaching, and different ways to become connected. I see how teachers walk out of their comfort zones to reach students better. We still listen and support each other, just now we are learning how to do it in different ways. We are still here for one another. At the end of the day, I see nothing but He who is stretching us to reach a bigger world. “Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.” (Psalm 144)





## His Goodness & Mercy

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.”*

Several years ago, a wise woman, who mentored me, brought my attention to the word “followed” in the last verse of the beloved 23rd Psalm.

It was the fall of 2009. As I sat in a conference room at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS (USA), I listened to a beautiful woman speak about Christian schools in Indonesia, and the Lord stirred my heart. Her name was Ibu Aileen, and as she was talking about SPH! I was captivated by her passion and humility. I loved hearing that the gospel of Christ was transforming hearts in Jakarta, Indonesia. “Is it your voice, Lord, whispering to me that this is where you are calling me?” I asked. In the following months, I pursued a teaching opportunity at SPH and was offered a job at Lippo Village. Simultaneously, however, God was working out a relationship in my

life with my now-husband that soon led to marriage. At the time, both of us couldn’t move to Indonesia, so I chose marriage over the teaching job. It seemed as though that door was closed, but the dream of teaching at the school in Jakarta never died in my heart.

In the years that followed, God gave us nine happy years of marriage, home on two different continents, three sons who keep us on our toes, one more seminary degree (my husband’s), more teaching experience, and the question of where He was calling us next. It was now the winter of 2019, and we began to feel called to ministry opportunities overseas. My husband, Joe, started a correspondence with Covenant City Church in Jakarta, Indonesia. Consequently, that dream that God once lit in my heart found new flames. Could it be that this is the time, Lord? Could it be that you would bring me there, to the place where Christ is proclaimed in a foreign land? Could it be that I could work alongside my

husband’s pastoral ministry and fulfill my calling to teach the children of God the things of God in Indonesia? Could it be that you prepared this place not only for me but also for my sons, who you gave me to cherish? Was this the plan you were writing all along? It was, and God brought us here to SPH KV!

When I look back at the path God had for my family and me, I’m reminded once again of the word “followed”. His goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life.

Dear friends, it is good to look back. When you do, you can see his goodness and mercy follows you as He unfolds his plan for your life. When everything has looked different from what anyone expected in 2020, it is good to pause and trust that his goodness and mercy will follow his people. I am grateful that God has made this my path of righteousness, and He continues to lead me on it for His name’s sake.





**TAREN IKEA**  
SENIOR SCHOOL TEACHER  
SPH LIPPO CIKARANG



## God's Providence through Obstacles & Challenges

Hello, my name is Taren Ikea. I am Chuukese-American and am married to my lovely wife, Sami. During my freshman year at Corban University, I attended multiple informational events about the potential of teaching overseas. These events were where I first heard about SPH although I did not originally think that teaching overseas would become a reality just a few years later. Teaching at SPH Lippo Cikarang was a dream that came to fruition. After praying with our friends and family we decided to commit to the new adventure of teaching overseas.

I remember when we first purchased our plane tickets and were finally able to give our families a departure date. This gave us a timeline so we could plan going-away parties to say "good-bye" to all of our loved-ones. What Sami and I didn't realize is that, though we bought our plane tickets for the beginning of July, we would not be able to leave for

Indonesia until the end of August. To put it simply, the pandemic made our trip much more challenging than we expected. Regardless of multiple flight reschedules and frustrating late-night calls with customer service, I knew that God wanted Sami and me in Indonesia.

One night, as Sami and I were discussing these matters with the HR staff at SPH, we realized that an important teaching licensure document had not yet arrived. This document was required before my work visa could be processed. In other words, if I did not have this document soon, Sami and I would need to reschedule our flights once again and further postpone our trip.

I needed that document as soon as possible, but my options were limited. After talking with our local licensing agency, I learned that the building was closed due to the pandemic. I was desperate to hear back quickly, so I sent multiple emails titled, "URGENT."

By the grace of God, I was contacted by a representative named Corie, and, after exchanging a few emails, I received a final email from Corie that said, "Let's see if this will work. I've created a license for you, please see attached." I was speechless and immensely relieved when I received this email. The situation was resolved in a matter of just two hours after my first email from Corie.

This instance reassured me that my wife and I were meant to come here to Indonesia because God works all things for those called according to His purpose.

Although new challenges continued to arise over the course of the next few weeks as we prepared to depart from our home country, God continued to provide and help us overcome those obstacles. I believe that Sami and I are at SPH LC because God wants us here and wants to use us here for His purpose.





## The Art of “Unclenching” Your Fist

2020 has been, by all means, a year full of unexpected twists and turns. However, it has also been a time of reflection and awakening because of the uncertainty.

Growing up as a MK (Missionary Kid) has definitely taught me a lot. I have lived in a number of different countries including Korea, U.S., and Haiti. One of the biggest lessons that I have learned from being a MK is how to let go of my “grip.”

As I moved from one country to another, I experienced totally different cultures and languages. Along with them came challenges that, at times, seemed impossible to overcome. Looking back at my life now, whenever God put those unexpected obstacles in my life, it turned out to be an opportunity for me to let go of my “grip.” God was teaching me how to loosen up the muscles that I was trying so hard to use in order to take control over my life. Then, he showed me how HE takes control. God has worked through impossible circumstances in my life in ways that I would have never even imagined. When I loosened up my clenched fists in the storm, I learned how to stay afloat in the waves of mercy and peace that God intended for me to dwell in.

As we are facing a worldwide pandemic that may seem like a wave too big to handle, it seems to me that God is once again at work, asking us to let go of our grip. It is hard not being able

to give huge bear hugs to my students. It is hard not being able to travel back home easily. It is hard walking through the empty school hallways that used to be filled with so much laughter and joy. It was hard when I heard that my parents in Haiti were battling a deadly fever caused by the Corona Virus. It is hard not being able to be with your loved ones during a time full of uncertainty and limitations. But maybe, this is a wakeup call for all of us.

We are going through a big wave together. Many around the world have lost their loved ones, their jobs, or their hope for the future. Despite the challenges, may we all listen to God’s voice in the storm, whispering to us to let go of our grip and look to him. Let us reflect and “unclench” together. Let us pray for one another and cry out to God, our ever-present help in times of trouble. For we know that even in the storm, his yoke is easy and his burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30 NIV*

*28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*



## Irwan Tisnabudi & Carolina Djaja (SPH Lippo Village Parents)

We are parents of Charlene Tisnabudi (Grade 9). Charlene is the younger of our two children. Charlene was enrolled at SPH LV for Kindy (K2) in 2010 until graduating from primary school (Grade 6) in 2018. She then pursued her passion by attending a full-time ballerina program at Marlupi Dance Academy for 2 years whilst completing her home-schooling program for Grade 7 & 8.

Charlene has become a professional ballerina, who participated in and won various ballet competitions both locally and internationally and received many scholarships from various ballet schools around the world. However, due to COVID-19, all of the training, competitions and performances can now only be done virtually. Thus, Charlene decided to return to school and, since August 2020, has been back to SPH LV as a Grade 9 student. She was very delighted to rejoin SPH LV and meet up with some of her old friends again. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, Charlene has not been able to meet directly with her friends and teachers and be physically at campus studying. She has had to compromise by learning and meeting online for the time being.

There were many reasons that drove us back to SPH LV: the friendships between the children, parents, and teachers; good and homey facilities at SPH LV campus; use of the IB curriculum; good quality of teachers; various activities offered by SPH LV; the warmth of SPH LV communities; as well as

solid parents' involvement through Parent Advisory Group (PAG) / Class Parent Representative (CPR) activities. I also enjoyed the parent seminars sessions held by SPH Parenting department (which were always full of good reminders and new learning for me) as well as the music and ballet concerts and drama performances by the children. SPH often invited us to come to their Alumni Talks too, which were insightful events for us as we got to hear from SPH graduates and see how they had bloomed to become an inspiring, young generation.

As an ex-PAG member myself, I really appreciated how SPH treated us as equal partners and truly valued our input in raising our children by considering parents opinions in school decisions and policy.

I have always remembered SPH's slogan from the first time I attended Open House back in 2009 which was "A Second HOME for Your Children." I said to myself, "Yes this is so true, because we are sending our kids to study from 7am to 1pm (Kindy up to Grade 2), and then up to 3pm (Grade 3 onwards), which is already 1/3 of their day." Thus, for us it has always been important to send our children to a good, solid, and caring school, so that our kids will grow happily and make memories along the way. That will then become the foundation for their journey when they grow up and go to university later.





## Hindra Irawan & Henny Muljono (SPH Sentul City Parents)

We are blessed with three sons: Corneille Sebastian Irawan (SPH Sentul City Class of 2017), Adrian Francis Irawan (Grade 12), and Christian Owens Irawan (Grade 8). We enrolled our first son, Corneille, at SPH SC in Kindergarten in 2004, so we have been at SPH SC for around 16 years. All of our sons joined SPH SC starting in Kindergarten.

The first reason we enrolled our children in SPH Sentul City was because we were looking for a school with an international curriculum. Both of us graduated from a national school and when we studied abroad, we faced many hurdles and challenges in communication and public speaking. So, looking back on our own experience, we wanted our children to have the exposure of an international education with a global perspective and diverse community.

At first, we weren't looking for a religion-based school, but when we found out SPH Sentul City is both an international school and a Christian school, we were very glad. We are Catholics, but we have the same foundational values, especially in building godly character in our children's lives.

For 16 years, we have observed our children's development at SPH Sentul City. The education being offered at SPH Sentul City is very different from our school in the past. One of the most prominent differences is teachers' approach.

At SPH, the teaching and learning process is not a one-way approach. Students have the opportunity to ask questions, give opinions, and appropriately express themselves. Teachers do not force children to only memorize a lesson as it is, but aim to instill a love for learning process and help children to think critically and creatively. The most important thing is not only the result or grades, but the process.

Our children have especially developed their research skills and their confidence in communication and public speaking. I remember my sons were already giving presentations in front of a crowd since Kindy and Grade 1. I think this is highly important to lay the foundation for their success in the workplace in the future.

The most amazing transformation we witnessed was in our eldest, Corneille.

He is now currently pursuing his higher education abroad. We are amazed to see how well he managed to adapt to a new environment and to live independently. We believe that the values, skills, and work ethics that were implanted in him at SPH have shaped him to be the person he is now.

As for our other two sons who are currently still studying at SPH Sentul, now they are studying from home. During the Home Learning period, teachers play an important role, and we see again how amazing the teachers are. They have been very helpful and my sons have had no significant problems in their learning. Every day, we see our sons have been very independent and responsible on their own. Again, we believe this is the result of how SPH Sentul City has been educating them with good values and work ethics.

We have been a part of SPH Sentul for many years, and we are very grateful for it. We would like to thank SPH Sentul City for being the second home for our family.







## Daniel Simanjuntak & Esther Sihombing (SPH Lippo Cikarang Parents)

We have three children. The eldest, Aurora, is now seven years old. Our second son, Raphael, is five years old; and Zayin, our youngest, is now 20 months old. Aurora and Raphael have been a part of SPH LC ever since we moved to Lippo Cikarang in July 2018.

Aurora and Raphael have been international school students since both of them were just one year old. We have always wanted to make sure they had the best education with an international background. As Christians, we were also eager to enroll our children in a school with a Christian base.

When we moved to Lippo Cikarang, of course the first option that came to our minds was SPH, who was already famous for a high-quality, Christian education in Indonesia.

After two and a half years of our kids studying at SPH, we are really happy to see how our children have grown in their knowledge and in their spiritual level. The school's practices align with their Vision: True Knowledge, Faith in Christ and Godly Character.

Another thing that makes us happy is that our kids have grown in diversity.

Having friends and teachers that come from different countries increases their ability to adapt and mix with people of different cultural background and races. By meeting people of different ethnicities, they also learn how to treat people accordingly and respect them individually.

Home Learning has been a challenge for all of us; however, it is a new normal that we have needed to accept and become used to. During this home learning period as a parent, I need to be part of their learning activity. Having children who are still in Grade two and Kindergarten is challenging as they both still need extra guidance during their studies.

I am glad that at SPH LC, the teachers have done their best to reach out to each student in their isolation and examine the effectiveness of their teaching. With the use of technology, they have expanded their creativity in getting the children's attention. Lucky there are some interesting websites that have really helped us in learning online and exchanging worksheets. With the use of Seesaw, Mathletics, Raz Kidz, and so on, the children continue to be interested to explore each of their subjects. Also,

by having live teaching daily in each subject, the teachers really create a classroom-like environment. Instead of being an extended academic tutor for my children, I feel that we parents act as a beacon to build up character in the areas of independence, discipline and responsibility.

After 9 months of home learning with SPH LC, one thing that really satisfies me is that it has strengthened the bond between my children and me. And, of course, it also gives me a lot of new experiences and knowledge that I did not have before.

After seeing both the educational and character development of my two children, I would like them to always continue their study in SPH LC. The environment created by SPH LC—which is like a family in diversity—has taught my children to tolerate others and learn how to build trust and empathy among their surroundings. It is not just the SPH's excellence in building their knowledge but also their character.

Thank you SPH LC for being a second home for Aurora and Raphael. We look forward to our third child following his siblings in SPH LC.





## **Jemmy Chayadi & Melissa Welirang (SPH Kemang Village Parents)**

Our son is Benjamin Welirang Chayadi (Grade 2). We chose SPH KV because we were looking for both a Christian school and one that offered the highest quality education with a holistic approach. We truly believe in SPH's vision and want our son to get an educational experience with a strong Christian foundation. We wanted him to learn about the truth and faith in Christ, not only at home, but also at school as we knew that school would be his second home where he spends most of his days. Our hope is that our son can develop a godly character so he can grow up to fulfill his God-given potential.

Another strong point of SPH Kemang Village is how they allow us as parents to fully invest ourselves in the development process of our children at school. Parents are very much welcomed to get involved and to have an active role as the main partner of the teachers and the school. Jemmy has worked as the CPR to represent the fellow parents of Ben's class to the teacher as well as to work closely and directly with the teachers as an equal partner.

Home learning has obviously not been the natural environment for kids to learn because they need their physical and social environment. However, I think SPH has truly explored all of the options of many home learning styles and online teaching to find ones that work for the kids. I'm very happy with the approach that they have taken during this new school year, and I am also grateful that through home learning, we are even more actively involved in guiding Ben's learning by helping him with things he doesn't understand.

Despite the fact that home learning is not ideal, we have to make the best out of this situation, right? And I think, SPH's approach has been very good. My son, Ben, always says that he loves school and he really misses his teachers and friends. He is really looking forward to being back at SPH KV once the pandemic is over!



## **Johan Fanggara & Cynthia Tan (SPH Pluit Village Parents)**

Our son, Judah Elliot Fanggara, is now in Grade 5 while his younger sister, Annabelle Joy Fanggara, is in Grade 3. Judah enrolled in July 2016 since Grade 1.

We always want our children to receive a Christian-based education that does not only focus on academics but also other non-academic skills.

During the Open House, we have noted that SPH's classroom experience is hands-on and practical. Our children are given many opportunities to present, speak, and conduct student-led conferences that boost their confidence in speaking out their ideas. SPH also has diverse backgrounds of teachers and staff that will help our children to be more open-minded and expose to the outside world. All of these will create a more holistic experience for our children.

Home Learning is a new and challenging experience for all education systems. Since the pandemic, SPH has transitioned from several platforms to what we are using today. We can see that the SPH team strives to improve and evaluate for each phase, what works or not for each child and family. We think that the current schedule and learning experience are well-balanced.

SPH creates such a warm and welcoming environment that our kids just fit right in from the beginning. The teachers are well-screened, practical, and cared about the students. We know we made the right decision when we see our children are looking forward to school days and worry if they slept late and unable to wake up on time for school!



# Setting the “Tone” at Home

Taken from SPH Parenting Seminar “Set the Tone” by Charlotte Priatna, M. Pd.

As families need to stay at home due to the pandemic, most parents are feeling overwhelmed when it comes to handling their children all-day, every-day. So often things do not go as planned, and it is hard to manage. Children sometimes set parents on their nerves, make them speechless, frustrated, and even broken-hearted. Children do not like to be told what to do and want to make their own choices. How should parents “set the tone” at home during this difficult time?

## A Must: Parental Authority and Children’s Obedience

No matter the circumstances, parents need to set rules and boundaries for their children. Obedience is the key requirement parents are to demand from their children. Ephesians 6:1 states that children are to “obey their parents in the Lord for this is right.” Thus, obeying parents is uncompromisable. However, teaching them to obey is a process, not an overnight work.

## Ways We Fail to Teach Them Obedience

Why do our children not obey us? Why do they take our authority lightly? Here are some examples of our mistakes as parents which might make it difficult, or even impossible, for our children to obey us. You might use:

**1. Threats** – It might seem to be effective, but it doesn’t last long. Threats are often motivated by fear and are exaggerated and repetitive.

**2. Bribes** – This, too, can seem to be effective, but its effects are only temporarily. Children will not obey once the “bribe” does not cater to their desires.

**3. Negotiation** – Obedience is supposed to be immediate and unnegotiable. Negotiation gives children the “fake” right and opportunity to argue back—which means they are not actually obedient.

**4. Anger** – Parents tend to let their anger to sneak in and lose their temper. This usually involves a high tone of voice meant to intimidate the children.

Besides these points above, failure to obey possibly occurs because of a lack of role models. Parents should be role models in obedience to authority in their lives. If not, how can they expect children to obey them?

Obedience has to come out of a sincere and genuine heart, not a burdensome and unwilling heart. Above all, parents need

to cling to the power of the Holy Spirit to expect an obedient heart in the heart of their children.

## Expecting Obedience from Teenagers

Our children do not stay young forever; they will grow up as teenagers—some of you might already have teenage children in your house. We need wisdom in dealing with teenagers. We are in the position of a coach to them now. We are not meant to babysit or patronize them.

In order to teach obedience to your teens, you must first guide them instead of demanding from them. Second, try to build healthy communication through talking and discussing rather than insisting. Be their friend and mentor who walks together with them. Talking with them from heart to heart is the best way to win your teens’ hearts.

## Now, Practice!

In exercising authority, parents need to be reasonable in setting the rules and consequences. Avoid rigidity in applying rules. There are times when parents need to discern whether children’s misbehavior is an intentional act of rebellion or an unintentional mistake. Make sure that when the children do not do as we say, we do not immediately take it as a crime. Parents need to be corrective, but be wise with your words so you do not easily criticize them.

One of the practical ways to “set the tone” is to literally set the tone of your voice when talking to them. A high tone of voice can trigger children to talk back with the same tone of voice, while the conflict simply escalates and remains unsolved.

It is the parents’ task to win their children’s hearts. Reinforcing authority will surely fail without love and trust. Do you want to win their heart? Choose to build a relationship instead of venting your anger. Choose intimacy instead of your pride.

When our children make mistakes, we have a share in it. It is due to our own weaknesses and mistakes in parenting them. We need to humbly admit to God that we are not perfect parents and have a big heart to apologize to our children when we do something wrong.

This is not an easy job for parents, but don’t lose heart! We continue to pray that God helps us all.



# “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

- Romans 12:12

For Christians, things may go really bad and yet they cannot rob our joy. Our joy is rooted in an unwavering hope. So, why can Christians rejoice in the midst of tribulation? What is the bedrock of that unwavering hope?

The answer is both in the past and the future – the work of Jesus Christ in salvation and Christ’s coming in the future.

This deep understanding is also the source of our strength to endure any hardships. The concept of patience in the Bible has a specific meaning of “long-suffering” which means endurance in the midst of long, overdue suffering. Patience is the capacity to accept suffering without grumbling, anger, and resentment.

Lastly, joy and patience cannot be separated from prayer. What does it mean by constantly praying? In another

passage, Paul said, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). It doesn’t mean that we are to pray 24/7. John Piper interprets this with three meanings: (1) A spirit of dependence on God that permeates all things that we do, (2) Praying repeatedly and often, and (3) Not giving up on prayer.

As we gather together in this year’s Christmas, let us remember once again that the root of our joy is not based on our circumstances, but on our hope in Christ. We are to be patient in the midst of any hardships, because those “who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength” (Is. 40:31).

Let us continue to pray for the world, our brothers and sisters in Christ, our families, and ourselves. Pray for God’s strength to bear any hardship, pray for restoration and healing, and pray that His kingdom will come, not only in the future, but also through our lives today.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!





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