Greetings from all of us in CCPS.

CCPS happily returned home in Dec 2014 to our upgraded school and very quickly, six months have gone by. With the efforts of the whole school community, we were able to shift back smoothly and settled in well. We are happy that with the upgraded premises, we are back in our familiar warm and cosy Eduplex community, and our staff and pupils can enjoy the benefits of more spaces and facilities to study, play and work together.

While CCPS operates in our new home, what CCPS stands for still remains; we believe in the importance of character development and values education as pillars in our educational experience, anchored in our school values – our 3Cs Commitment, Compassion, Cheerfulness in which the CCE (Character and Citizenship Education) values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Care and Harmony are embedded. Through various platforms such as values education lessons and Form Teacher Guidance Periods, team building activities, student leadership roles in class, CCA and school level and our Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) Service Innovation through Design Thinking to develop empathy and problem solving skills, our CCPS girls are richly nurtured to be Compassionate Leaders and Passionate Learners in service of God, country and family as set out in our school vision.

Our 2-year journey from Sallim Road to the holding site at Circuit Road and now back home would not have been possible without the tremendous support from various groups of people. Our staff who have been painstakingly ensuring that our pupils continue to receive the quality educational experience in a conducive and caring environment; our parents and Parent Support Group members who have been tirelessly supporting in preparing and carrying out the Monday activities and special events such as our Starlight Camp and Rainbow Programme as well as the multiple fund-raising activities; our Eduplex partners who have been a constant source of encouragement and advice; our School Management Committee members who were providing much advice and support throughout this PRIME project; our Canossian sisters who have been a powerhouse of prayer and pastoral support whenever we needed divine intervention and encouragement; our neighbours along Sallim Road who have been patiently putting up with the inconveniences during the construction period and our team of consultants, contractors and MOE counterparts who have worked hard to ensure we were able to move in to our school. It certainly takes many helping hands to make our upgrading project possible and we are grateful to God for blessing us with all the support.

With the second half of 2015 to look forward to, I wish everyone a fruitful rest of the year filled with much joy, peace and purpose.

For virtue, true nobility we strive.

God bless
Ms Grace Tan
On the 26th of March 2015, 15 P6 pupils went to the Parliament House with Ms Grace Tan (Principal), Ms Tan Wei Wei (HOD CCE), Mdm Chua Boon Ling (HOD MT), Mrs Esther Geh (Senior Teacher) and Mdm Faezah (Administrative Manager) to pay homage to our late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, our first generation leader and founding Prime Minister of Singapore.

I personally felt honoured to have this opportunity to represent the school. We brought along all our tributes to Mr Lee, packed nicely in a box. The day before, all the staff and pupils came together to write tributes for Mr Lee, expressing our respect, appreciation and love for him after our teachers shared with us on Mr Lee and his legacy. The tributes were packed neatly in box filled with folded stars. Mr Lee is one of the founding stars of Singapore and he will remain a star in many of our hearts.

We left for the Parliament House at about 9.30am and reached Padang after about half an hour. We started queuing at the priority queue. Although the queuing process was long, the “hardship” was nothing comparable to that which Mr Lee went through, giving his life to serve Singapore. While queuing, I learnt a lot from my friends on why they respect Mr Lee.

After about one hour of wait, we reached the security checkpoint. All of us cleared the security check and we were glad that we were approaching the Parliament House. We placed our school tributes on a table, together with many others, before we entered the Parliament House. Upon our entry, we shook hands with some ministers and representatives from the government.

Nearing the coffin in which Mr Lee’s body was laid, I saw many people from different walks of life. Some were crying while others were mourning in silence. When I passed the coffin, I bowed to Mr Lee, showing my respect to him. My heart was filled with gratitude for him. After which, we were ushered out of the Parliament House.

It was a very short moment (as many might have felt) but it was definitely a very meaningful one. I am thankful beyond words to Mr Lee for what he had done for Singapore. Mr Lee is a well-respected man and will forever be one.
A Community Tribute site has been set up at the Kampong Kembangan Community Club Foyer from 25 March 2015 to 28 March 2015 as an alternative venue to allow Singaporeans to pen their condolences and pay their respect to Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

A total of 15 junior and senior prefects and 4 teachers had the honour to pay our last respect to the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew on 27 March 2015. Before we left for Kampong Kembangan Community Club, we had the chance to write personal messages on heart-shaped papers which we then string together. The hearts represented how we all felt about Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s contribution.

It was a very solemn affair. Many pupils from other schools came too. After we paid our respect, we placed the string of hearts together with the rest of the tributes. There was a video of Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s life story and his contributions. We walked around to read and learn more about Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

As we boarded the bus to go back to school, I overheard one of the prefects said, “I really appreciate what Mr Lee had done for my country!” I agree with her. We would not be the way we were now without all that he had done...
18th February 2015 was the eve of Lunar New Year. We came to school in our Chinese traditional costumes to attend the Chinese New Year (CNY) celebration in school.

The psychedelic celebration began with a harmonious performance by our very own school choir; they carolled 3 Chinese New Year songs: HE XIN NIAN 新年, YU PENG YOU BAI NIAN 与朋友拜年 and GONG XI GONG XI 恭喜恭喜. Next, Shannon Yip from 6 Charity and Selene Yip from 4 Faith presented us with a vivacious performance to a jazzy song, “Wings by Little Mix”.

Other performances were Jazz tap dancing by Eunice Tan from 3 Charity who won the title of “CCPS Superstar of 2014”, Canossian School (CS) Choir members who sang beautifully and Lion Dance troupe who gave us a spectacular performance. They even had Wu Shu masters which impressed us with their well-rehearsed skills.

The school’s contemporary dancers were not left out from the celebration; they danced an energetic “Zumba” dance. Following in suit, pupils in Primary 6 sang a catchy Chinese New Year Tune.
Total Defence Day is marked annually on February 15 in Singapore to commemorate the anniversary of the surrender of the British to the Japanese on February 15, 1942, precursory 3 years and 6 months of Japanese Occupation.

This year, we had two significant individuals who led us in the commemoration of this year’s Total Defence Day. Phoebe Tan and Vaishnavi Singh of P6 Charity broadcasted this year’s Total Defence message. The commemoration was held on the same day as our Chinese New Year celebration. This also happened on the 15th of February 1942. Back then, people all over Singapore were celebrating the first day of Chinese New Year when the Japanese struck.

Pupils in CCPS learnt about the 5 aspects of Singapore’s Total Defence. They are:

"Military Defence" consists of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), including its citizen soldiers. Their mission is to "enhance Singapore's peace and security through deterrence and diplomacy, and should these fail, to secure a swift and decisive victory over the aggressor". As part of the mission, the SAF strives to maintain a high state of operational readiness 24/7.

"Civil Defence" is about ensuring that Singaporeans know what to do in times of an emergency. The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) supports this aspect of Total Defence. However, if Singapore encounters a nation-wide emergency (e.g. terrorism act or war), the SCDF will not be able to cope with the demands of the situation. Hence, it is crucial to rope in Singaporeans to help their fellow Singaporeans. To facilitate this, the SCDF recruits and trains civil defence volunteers in first aid, rescue and evacuation procedures, and shelter management.

"Economic Defence" is defined as maintaining the economy of the country and its ability to compete in the world, as well as environmental protection. It also involves helping Singapore and Singaporeans to stay relevant in the global economy and putting in place economic systems to ensure that the Singapore economy does not collapse in times of crisis.

"Social Defence" is about keeping the social fabric strong and ensuring that Singaporeans live in harmony regardless of race or religion. This is especially important because Singapore is a multi-racial and multi-religious society.

"Psychological Defence" is about loyalty, commitment to Singapore, and having the will power and resilience to overcome challenges. This is the component that would determine if Singaporeans will stay to fight or abandon the country when it is in trouble.

We commemorate Total Defence Day and remind ourselves that as a Singaporean, we should play our part in whatever we can do. Ensuring that we would do our very best to defend Singapore, our country and our home.
P5 and P6 Senior prefects had their Prefects’ Investiture on 27 February 2015.

On the 27th of February, we celebrated Canossian Saints Day. We had our mass in the morning, followed by the Prefects’ Investiture. We were honoured because Father was there to bless the prefects on stage. Together with his prayer, the prefects were entrusted with the duty of serving and showing compassion to those in need, just like our founders Saint Magdalene and Saint Bakhita.

Sister Dorothy was also invited on stage to place the badge on our then newly-appointed head prefect, Meg-Gayle Dean from 6 Charity and our Vice Head Prefects, Shannon Yip and Phoebe Tan from 6 Charity.

Meg-Gayle then led the senior prefects in their oath to serve the school followed by her Head Prefect speech. In her speech, she seeks the cooperation of both teachers and pupils, to work together in building a community of compassionate leaders and passionate learners, in the service of God, Country and Family.
27 February 2015 marks the day CCPS celebrates Canossian Saints’ Day in honour of St. Magdalene and St. Bakhita. As part of our celebration, in commemoration of our foundress’ spirit of serving the poor, our school had our morning mass and participated in many meaningful activities for the different levels of pupils including teambuilding games, Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP) lessons, Skipathon and Values in Action (VIA) at Willing Hearts and Children’s Cancer Foundation. The objective of these activities is to inculcate in our students the value of commitment, compassion and cheerfulness through service to the vulnerable in the society like our foundresses.

The celebration of our Foundress Day reminds us that the charism of Saint Magdelene continues to inspire many women and men. Pupils are reminded of her selfless love and dedication to provide for the poor. From Saint Bakhita, pupils learn the spirit of cheerfulness in hard times and to place their trust in God. They also reflect on how Saint Bakhita was able to forgive her captors and how they too can be forgiving.

Differentiated Activities

Pupils reflected on their experiences after their activities. Shannon from 2 Humility mentioned that she had learnt how forgiving St. Bakhita was despite her hardships and how loving St. Magdalene was towards the poor and needy. She was inspired to be like them.

Zenea from 4 Humility felt that the Skipathon activity that she was involved in was fun and meaningful as she had an opportunity to do something so that she can raise money for charity. “I also get to exercise to keep myself healthy while I raise funds!” she exclaimed.

“Can I help you with this?” Teachers telling pupils more about St. Magdalene and St Bakhita. “I can do it! I want to skip more in exchange for more food products to be distributed to the needy.”

“My P5 level was given a task of assembling and selling tulips. I was assigned to assemble the tulips in my classroom while some of my friends went around the school to sell the tulips. I had to carefully insert the leaf through the tulip stalk and this had taught me to be patient and committed. I displayed compassion and cheerfulness when I was helping my friends who experienced difficulties. At the end of the day, we sold all the tulips and earned money for the children in Cancer Foundation. It was a fruitful experience” shared Gien Kay from 5 Faith.

Kaylee from 6 Charity said that the VIA at Willing Hearts was a meaningful activity. It had given her a sense of satisfaction and had sparked her interest to be a volunteer with such organisations in future. Jasher from 6 Charity also shared that she was touched to see a lot of volunteers who were helping that morning at Willing Hearts. She was glad to be of help in preparing food for the needy families together with the rest of the volunteers.
Our class had a learning journey to the River Safari. It was on a Monday and we took a bus there. All the primary one classes had a different tour guide. Our tour guide was Mr. Yap. Mr. Yap was a friendly man who spoke loudly and clearly.

Everyone was very excited and happy. When we entered the River Safari, we saw many reptiles such as the crocodiles. There were also many fishes including the stingrays and manatees. Other animals that we saw include the otters, monkeys and pandas.

Our favourite animal was the red panda and the giant panda. We like them as they looked really cute.
One of the places of interest we should never miss in Singapore is Little India. On 2 March, the P5 pupils were brought on a trip to Little India with the aim of letting them find out the origins and developments of Little India in the context of the needs of a multicultural Singapore. We hope to let them experience how different races interact with one another. The pupils appreciated the sight, smell and sound of Little India as they explored the different trades and occupations carried out at Little India in the past and at the present.

Knowledgeable facilitators were able to engage the pupils throughout the journey and led them to places such as Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, The Five Foot Way, House of Tan Teng Niah, Tekka Food Centre, Campbell Lane and Little India Arcade.

Emeris Yeo from 5 Faith reflected and shared what she had learnt, "I’ve learnt about the some Indian spices like betel leaves, betel nuts and dried chillies. The jasmine garlands are made of three different colours. White symbolises the purity of heart, red symbolises love and yellow for peace. The Indian traditional costume for men is known as Dhoti Kurta and women wear Sari. I’m glad to have the opportunity to try on a Sari there. The Sari looks very colourful and beautiful."

Cheryl Sim from 5 Joy shared, "I was very fortunate to have the chance to try on a Sari with my friends. The lady showed us how to wear a Sari. It may look easy but it isn’t. I learnt how to layer the cloth when I wear a sari. My friends and I did henna at a shop. I’ve learnt that henna paste is made from a plant that has a strong smell. They grind the plant and make it into a paste. This is one of the best learning journeys I’ve ever experienced."
On 9th March 2015, all the Primary 6 pupils went on a fun and enlightening learning journey to Chinatown, a place that is rich in culture and heritage.

Among the many temples we visited, the Sri Mariamman Temple left an indelible mark. People from all corners of the world flock to the Sri Mariamman Temple to catch a glimpse of Singapore’s oldest Hindu temple. I got to know more about Hindu rituals and practices and was particularly impressed with the architectural design of the temple.

No trip is complete without satisfying our rumbling stomach. We went to the Maxwell Food Centre where we could sample a wide array of affordable hawker food. From this trip, I witnessed and experienced racial harmony in Singapore where different places of worship co-exist within Chinatown and learnt more about the life of the early Chinatown settlers. Looking back, this trip was truly a very educational and enriching one.
Whenever you want to gain new knowledge and enjoy yourself at the same time, feel free to make your way to the Singapore Zoo! My friends and I can guarantee that you will enjoy yourselves thoroughly!

Not too long ago, the P6 pupils went on a learning journey to the Singapore Zoo. We visited quite a fair bit of animals. To name a few, they are the proboscis monkey, white tiger, tapir and chimpanzee. We also learnt a lot of interesting facts! Did you know that when the tiger has a low twitching tail, it means that it is in a dangerous mood?

Then, we went to the Polar Bear enclosure to look at their feeding session. Polar bears are on the verge of extinction and it is truly a rare sight to see the Polar Bear face-to-face!

After that, we had the opportunity to have a Science lesson on adaptations at the zoo. There, we learnt about how animals adapt to the environment and even had a close-up view of the preserved polar bear, Sheba and a few skeletons of other animals!

I have learnt a lot of facts from that trip to the Zoo and did not regret spending my time there. If given another opportunity, I will definitely visit the Zoo again!
Our P5 camp came and went in a flash from 25th to 27th March 2015 at the Boys’ Brigade / Girls’ Brigade Campsite at Sembawang Road.

The three days two nights camp was packed with fun activities which were enjoyable and challenging. Highlights include abseiling, flying fox, challenge rope course, rafting, the much-anticipated campfire and even cooking our own meal together too! “The activities helped me overcome my fear of heights,” said Ng Qing Hui of P5 Faith.

Our beloved founding father passed away just before the P5 camp. Hence, the activities held at the camp commemorated the contributions of Singapore’s founding father Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

Pupils had the opportunity to express our creativity as we worked together quickly within a short time to come up with songs or cheers for the campfire. The campfire was the highlight of the camp as we combined pop songs and cheers to come up with uniquely Canossian songs which showcased the successes Singapore achieved from the guidance and leadership of Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Even our Principal, Ms Tan, Vice-Principal, Mrs Cheng and teachers were invited to join in the performance. What a showcase of talent the night was!

“I felt very honoured to be named the best camper of my group. I couldn’t have done it without the support of my teammates,” shared Safia of P5 Humility. “Best camp ever!”

When it was time to leave the campsite, many girls felt very reluctant to return home and wished the camp could be extended for a few more days. Many girls also shared that they would miss their kind and fun-filled trainers and teachers who taught what it meant to be committed, compassionate and cheerful despite adversity throughout the camp.
During the March holidays, P3 to P6 pupils enjoyed our Student Leadership Camp. Student leaders from P3 to P6 had the privilege to have our annual Student Leadership Camp on 12 and 13 March 2015. The camp was different unlike the ones we had in the previous years. This year, our camp was conducted by our very own beloved teachers, Ms Yati, Mdm Rosnah, Ms Rofidah and Ms Tan Wei Wei.

We also had a session where the senior prefects came together to discuss on how we can go about making the school a better place to study through design thinking tools that Ms Tan shared with them. We were also thankful because Ms Karen John came especially to share with us on what it was like being a Vice-Head Prefect in her alma mater and what are the qualities needed of a prefect.

What made this camp extra special was that our 6 prefect heads organised a special segment called, “The Amazing Race” for all the participants who attended the camp. The 6 of them, together with Ms Yati planned, prepared all the games’ resources and executed “The Amazing Race”. All of us enjoyed the race as it helped us internalise what it takes to be a leader in CCPS. Vice Head Prefect, Phoebe Tan said, “We were glad that the student leaders enjoyed it. It was worth the 2 weeks of work!”
On 6 April, the P5s went on a learning journey to one of the last few remaining heritage sites in Singapore, Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln. It is about 70 years and located at Jalan Bahar.

Pupils learnt the basics of ceramic making which include types of material and firing processes. Pupils even crafted a simple ceramic pot.

After a break, pupils learnt how a pot is crafted by in-house ceramic artist potters using electric wheels. They also learnt the characteristics and differences between wood firing and modern firing using gas and electricity.

Isabel Koo from 5 Faith shared that a worker who worked at Dragon Kiln told them that there were only 2 dragon kilns left. She was walking through the Dragon Kiln as she recounted that.

Julia Chiang from 5 Faith said, “I was mesmerised by the rows and rows of beautifully painted ceramic vases. I was excited when I had to make my own ceramic fish. I learnt many interesting facts from this learning journey!”
On 29 May 2015, the PSG ran an event ‘A Date with Parents’ which coincided with ‘Eat with My Family’ Day. The event was also graced by the presence of Mr Hawazi Daipi (Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower).

About 500 parents and pupils from Primary 1 to 4, came to CCPS dressed comfortably and ready to spend quality time with each other. Footprints from the school gate led smiling parents and pupils to the school hall where they were welcomed with music, laughter and fun. Parents and their children bonded over games and food. It was an evening with lots of fun and laughter.

“This is a successful initiative by PSG. I can see both parents and children enjoying themselves!” shared Ms Tan Wei Wei who is a teacher from CCPS. She was one of the many teachers who were mingling with parents and their children.

CCPS would like to thanks PSG, all parents and pupils who made the evening a success. It was truly a successful date for all of us as we ate as a family – a CCPS family.