



**WESLEY METHODIST SCHOOL  
PENANG**  
(INTERNATIONAL)

# WESLEY NEWS

A WESLEY NEWSLETTER, BRINGING YOU THE LATEST  
HIGHLIGHTS

## PRIVATE EDUCATION DIRECTOR RETIRES

BY MDM EVELYN SIM

6th July 2018 is a historic day for Wesley Methodist School Penang (International) and the Council of Education of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. On this day, the YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow officiated the official opening of WMSPI. Miss Jenny Qua was instrumental in the setting up of WMSPI in Penang to realize the Methodist Council of Education aspiration to give the people of Penang an affordable international school experience.

Miss Jenny Qua, the Private Education Director of the Methodist Council of Education, firmly believes that education is the foundational block to good citizenship of any land and an educated community will provide the latitude needed for the development of a country. For this reason, with steadfast faith and eyes fixed on God, she will cross rivers and valleys with fervency and vigour to ensure the success of the WMS school brand.

Despite her steely will and resolve, those who have worked with her also know that she has a soft and compassionate heart. She has said time and again that WMSPI is not about elitism, it is about the opportunity for quality education which puts equal emphasis on both academic and character development. Miss Jenny Qua officially retired in December 2020 and will be much missed by the community of WMSPI.

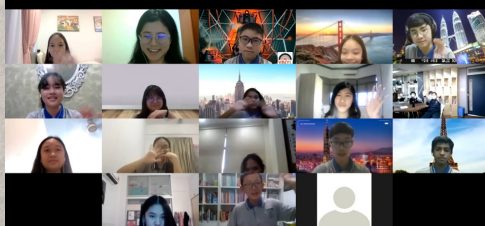
The school organized a farewell dinner for Miss Jenny Qua on the 18th December 2020 at the E&O Hotel to thank her for her dedication and to commemorate her service in WMSPI. Miss Jenny Qua will be succeeded by Mr Lim Kah Cheng who has been appointed as the new Private Education Director of Wesley Schools, overseeing all 7 Wesley Methodist Schools and 2 college campuses across the country.



Miss Jenny Qua Mu Im



Mr Lim Kah Cheng



## KOREA-MALAYSIA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2020

BY SECONDARY SCHOOL

As a physical exchange program is nearly impossible to be held due to travel restrictions, a virtual exchange program was organized in collaboration with Hyodon Middle School, Jeju.

On the 18th of December, sixteen year 8 students from each school met up virtually. After the warm words of welcome by the Vice Principal of Hyodon Middle School and Principal of WMSPI Secondary the participants and audience were given a virtual tour of both schools.

Then the students were introduced to their very own buddies. As their names were called, they waved to each other through the screens and cheered. For this first meeting the students shared about New Year Celebration in Korea and Christmas Celebration in Penang.



# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

BY DENISSE KHONG, YEAR 9

Diwali is called the festival of Lights because of the rows of clay lamps that Indians light outside their homes to symbolise the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. This metaphor of light can be found in many cultures and in the Bible light has always been a symbol of holiness, goodness, knowledge, wisdom, grace and hope. In John 8:12, Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

In conjunction with the Diwali the secondary school held several Diwali themed competitions based on the theme "Be the Light" leading up to the Celebration of Lights on 11th November 2020. It's spectacular how festivals bring people together! The competitions unleashed our students' creativity in enticing performances to eye-catching kolams and henna designing. The beautifully designed artworks added charm, sparkle, and excitement to the atmosphere in classes. The winners of the Colours of the Lights competition were chosen for their wonderful creativity, use of Indian elements and craftsmanship, with a winner from each year group.

When school had to go online again, the Celebration of Lights came alive virtually on 11th November when the students and teachers wore dazzling traditional Indian attire during their online lessons. Photos of students with traditional attire were taken for the Best Dressed competition. All participants received certificates and the winners received special prizes for their stellar contributions and efforts.

**Colours of the Light competition winners:** Woo Hui Yee (7 Honour) Manissha Manickam (8 Faith) Denisse Khong Shin Whye, Isabelle Chai Yue Min, Loh Xiong Ze, Jeanni Khoo Li Jing, & Evan Ban Khai Siong (9 Faith) Priya Darshini (10 Grace) Alethea Yap Ren Ai & Lim Zhi Xin (11 Faith)

**Best Dressed competition winner:** Effie Chew Chen Yu (9 Grace)



## DEEPAVALI CELEBRATION

BY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are grateful for Mouthika Reddy, Akshath Narayana, and Sowmiya Subramaniam who generously gave us a tutorial on how to greet and wish each other a happy Deepavali in Tamil. Our students have also assembled a number of creative dance performances, namely, a classical dance solo by Shristi Sathananthan, a group dance performed and choreographed by Shristi Sathananthan, Susan Grace, Deyvina Kanthan, Ananya Karthik, Anwesha Verma, and lastly, a modern Bollywood dance solo by Anwesha Verma.

In her closing speech, Madam Julia reminded us that this Indian Festival of Light symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance, and she also encouraged us bring warmth, love, and kindness to the people around us in a Christ like manner. We would like to thank the students for making our online Deepavali celebration an unforgettable one.





# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

BY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas is a wondrous time for us. In her opening speech for our online celebration, Madam Julia wished everyone a safe Christmas and addressed the school community, saying: "May the spirit of Christmas fills your heart with joy and love as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Christ our lord, who is Emmanuel ("Christ with us"). In Madam Susan's words: "May the wonder of that first Christmas, the joy of God's abundant blessing, and the peace of Jesus's presence be with us always." Indeed, stripped of the bells and tinkles, there is much blessing – spiritual, emotional, social – even as we gathered online, for Christmas is not entirely about tangible things, but about our God who expresses His divine love for us by becoming one of us. We thank our primary students for a moving production of the nativity story. Let us bask in and absorb the greatest gift ever bestowed, Jesus Christ, who brings us God's comfort, redemption, and salvation. May we welcome this love into our hearts, and remember that Christmas is about giving and blessing the people around us.



## WARM AND COZY

BY LOH XIONG ZE, YEAR 9

On the 15th December 2020, a Christmas celebration was held among the school's community; it was a unique one as it was held virtually for the very first time. With the help of the students, they managed to hold this event despite multiple roadblocks caused by the ongoing pandemic. The event started off with an opening prayer and Christmas carol by our talented teachers and students. Next up, our chaplain, Reverend Ronald Yap, shared about the hope in Christ and encouraging us to give hope to one another during these trying times. The students actively participated in the Kahoot quiz which came after the sermon as well. It was later complemented by a sweet and melodious ukulele performance by our fellow students.

Later on, we had a heartwarming dance performance by Mr Jerry and some students. The message that the dance conveyed was about the hope that we receive from Christ amidst the pandemic. Christmas also reminds us of Jesus's birth into this world, and that His birth symbolizes new hope in our lives. Before the end of the event, a symphonious Christmas carol was sung by Mr Thomas and a team of talented performers. Finally, the Christmas celebration was drawn to a close with warm greetings from the school community. We thank everyone for their hard work that was put into this glorious event!



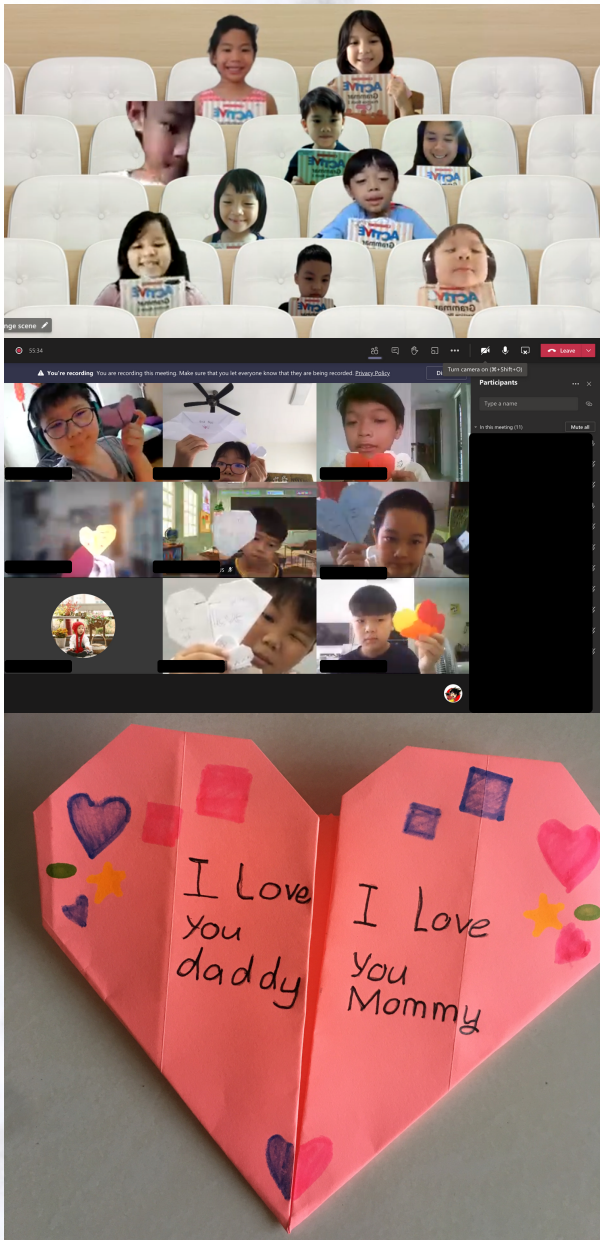


# EDUCATION ONLINE

BY PRIMARY SCHOOL

On 7th November 2020, our school began our transition to synchronous online classes on Microsoft Teams. Students suddenly found themselves still in school while in quarantine, and learning did not stop, for there were online meetings and assignments to attend to. As we were entranced by change, a relief of familiarity washed over whenever students and teachers meet online. Students also participated in online CCA sessions such as Origami Class, lessons on Dressing Sense, and Moral Studies instead of the normal co-curricular activities.

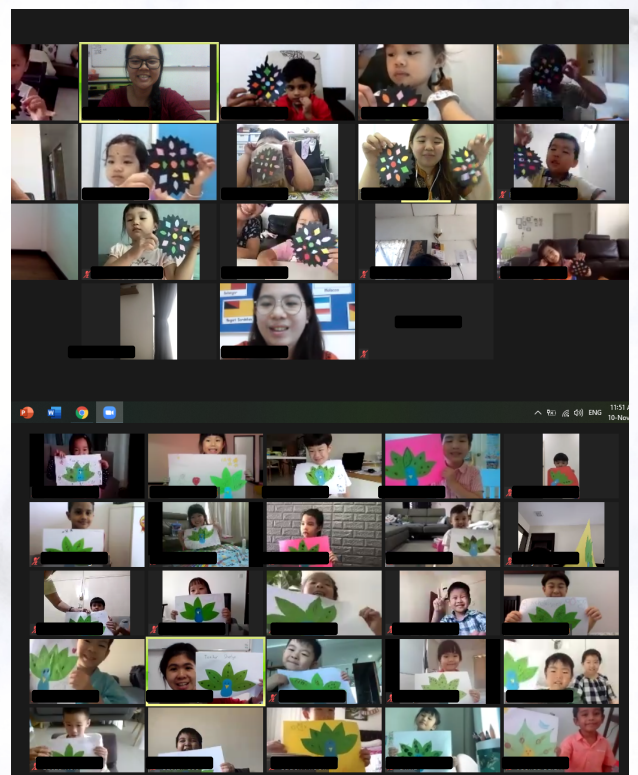
WMSPI primary students have very mixed views on the shift towards online learning. When asked about their learning experiences online, many indicated that they favoured face-to-face learning in school, as they find classroom activities more interesting. Many students also admitted that the hardest thing about online learning was dealing with the technological glitches such as lagging Wi-Fi and microphone issues, which caused students to miss out on chunks of conversation. Some students really struggled with missing their teachers and friends, whom they have not seen in a long time. Even though students did not think that online classes could substitute sitting in a classroom with their teachers and friends, students reported to enjoying certain aspects of online learning, such as not being forced to miss school even when they were ill, having the freedom to do whatever they want during the rest time between classes, and utilising online learning platforms (Kahoot, Quizizz, and Padlet).



# LEARNING NEVER STOPS

BY EARLY YEARS

Despite the return to CMCO, classes and fun learning never stopped. This time around, online classes were held throughout the day and each class followed its regular timetable as though the students were still coming to school. The youngsters were even encouraged to wear their uniforms during class time so as to cultivate a more studious atmosphere to learn in. Our teachers were so determined to keep things normal that even our Diwali celebration was still carried out as normal during Zoom classes. Such celebrations are not all fun and games, they also serve as an important platform for students to learn about other cultures and traditions.





# CHECKPOINT EXAMINATIONS

BY ISABELLE CHAI, YEAR 9

The occasional tapping of fingertips; the swish of turning pages; the gentle hum of the air-conditioner; it's the well-known symphony of an examination. This time, however, it was the nerve-racking Checkpoint that left students unsettled. The Cambridge Checkpoint exams are held twice every year for all Year 6 and 9 students as an indicator of their academic progress. Our current Year 7 and 10 students sat for this exam as per tradition, but due to the unprecedented and devastating Covid-19 outbreak, last April's exam was postponed to October.

Students had been anxiously awaiting the day of the exam, burying their heads into English, Science, and Mathematics past year papers and revision workbooks, diligently completing their exercises till the judgement day arrived. On October 7th 2020, students gathered in the exam halls with their hearts thumping with nervousness. With their stationery gliding on the paper, they successfully sailed through the three days of Checkpoint.

With the conclusion of the exams, our Year 10 students can fully place their focus on their IGCSE examinations, which serves as the final hurdle in their secondary school life.



## SPELLRITE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY SECONDARY SCHOOL

The inaugural Penang Inter-school Spellrite Championship was held from the 28th of November to the 18th of December 2020. Organised by the Penang Math Platform (PMP), its aim was to improve the spelling skills of secondary students around Penang while looking for the best speller among them as well.

Several of our students participated in this competition, which pitted them against more than 60 other students from 14 different schools across Penang. After several gruelling rounds, which saw the participants giving their all to finally emerge as winners, our students achieved remarkable results across 3 different categories:

Chong Le Yee (9 Grace) - Champion of the Form 3 category

Loh Yi Feng (9 Wisdom) - Champion of the Form 2 category

Lim Ee Jie Chloe (8 Honour) - Runner-up of the Form 1 category

A huge congratulations to the winners and other participants from our school who took part in this competition. Hopefully, other students can draw inspiration from their success and participate in similar competitions in the near future.

## PARENTING WEBINAR

With the Covid 19 pandemic still lurking around, a lot of our physical activities are disrupted. However, it also opens up new windows for us and has enabled us to provide more value-added activities for our community. WMSPI now also organises Free monthly webinars with topics focusing on parenting and children development.

On 23rd Jan (Sat), we hosted Datin's Indranee's webinar on Parenting to develop resilient, responsible Teens. The session which was practical and very informative was attended by more than 40 parents and was very well received.

To find out more about our monthly free webinar, do like and follow our Facebook page ( <https://www.facebook.com/wmspenang> ). Details including the registration link will be post on our page.

**Free Webinar**

**Parenting to develop resilient, responsible teens**

By Datin Indranee Liew

**Parenting skill #7: Don't do things for your children that your children should do themselves.**

- parents want their children to be responsible and independent.
- but, feel the urge to supervise their children closely
- do things for their children that their children ought to do themselves – helicopter parents
- research shows that **helicopter parenting** causes children to become less engaged in school, and causes their well-being to suffer too

Next...



# CONGRATULATIONS

*on your outstanding results in  
2020 Cambridge Checkpoint Exams*

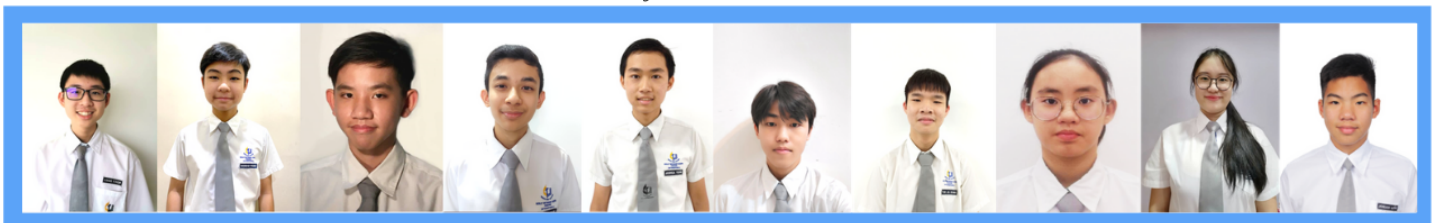
Secondary 3 Band 6 Scorers



Primary 3 Band 6 Scorers



Secondary 2 Band 6 Scorers



Primary 2 Band 6 Scorers



1 Band 6 Scorers



Primary

Secondary

Other students:

- Fong Kay Ley (1 Band 6)
- Wong Siong Yik (1 Band 6)
- Cao Yu Fei (1 Band 6)
- Tan Regene (1 Band 6)
- Tan Vee Ann (2 Band 6)