

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2014

The new school year begins on 2 January 2014 (Thursday)



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*Education beyond
the Ordinary*

**News
& Updates**

**Issue 2013/12
(DECEMBER)**

SJS Band Concert

*131 Years of St Joseph's School:
A Celebration in Concert*



This year's St Joseph's School Band Concert was held on 15 December 2013 at Trinity Methodist Church, Jalan Ellis, Kuching, with the theme, "131 Years of St Joseph's: A Celebration in Concert". A special guest in this concert was BAM! Percussion Trio. This group is made up of Shi Boya from Malaysia, Joachim Lim from Singapore and Nguyen DuyAnh from Vietnam. The group's chemistry was apparent in their mixture of solo and ensemble works, capturing the audience with their astounding percussion music making. There were also pieces played by three SJS Band Staff Soloists, namely, trumpeter Yap Thien Soo (who is also the Wind Coach), saxophonist Anthony Wong (who is the Music Director) and programme coordinator, Jonathan Fox on the timpani.

Our students who are involved in this concert are:

Magdalene Lee Huong Yiing (flute), Ong Rui Jie (flute), Aileen Kwee Lin Rui (clarinet), Bianca Lee (clarinet), Irmina Mitia (clarinet), Marie Lee Huong Nee (trumpet), Sean Choy Wei Lun (trumpet), Emmelanie Anak Johnny (percussion), Germaine Cassandra George (percussion), Larissa Ping Liew (percussion), Selina Bong Pei Pei (percussion) and Jon Bonnar (colour guard).



Advent



Advent is the season leading up to Christmas. It begins four Sundays before December 25, sometimes on the last Sunday in November, sometimes on the first Sunday in December. Advent is the Latin word (*adventus*) which means "coming". For four weeks, it is as if we are re-enacting and remembering the thousands of years God's people were anticipating and longing for the coming of God's salvation in Jesus. It is a time of preparing ourselves to receive Jesus born in our hearts at the joyful celebration of Christmas. At the same time, Advent also prepares us for the second coming of Jesus at the end of time or at our own individual deaths.

The liturgical colour for Advent is purple which signifies solemn repentance. An advent wreath with four candles is usually used to signify the four weeks of Advent. The candles are lit progressively as the weeks move along.

You probably know that Christmas is celebrated on 25 December every year regardless of which day of the week it falls on. Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus.

Although the Church does not consider it the most important Christian feast, Christmas is certainly the most popular holiday, at least in terms of cultural and social significance. Liturgically, Easter is the greatest of feasts in the Church.

Christmas has its origins as a pagan holiday. 25 December was selected by the early Church to line up with several pagan Roman holidays that celebrated the winter solstice and worship of the sun. The Christian significance is that Jesus is the sun of justice. By celebrating Jesus' birth at the height of winter is to herald the sun of glory which is represented by the lengthening of daylight hours after the winter solstice.

Christmas

The Christmas Tree

In winter, evergreen boughs remind people of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun would be strong and summer would return. As Jesus is the sun of glory, the Christmas tree represents the freshness of life that comes with the salvation of Jesus.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated evergreen trees into their homes. Martin Luther is credited with being inspired by the starry heavens one night, and expressing his feelings to his family by bringing a fir tree into his home, and attaching lighted candles to its branches. Fir means fire, and fire is an ancient symbol for the Holy Spirit. The tree also points toward the heavens. The colour green signifies the life force through the year. Eventually decorative balls which represent the planets, while the star that radiates from the top reminds us of Bethlehem are added to the tree. Therefore, the entire tree and decorations teach us that the universe is a witness to the Incarnation of Jesus.



HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS
from

ST JOSEPH'S PRIVATE SCHOOL, KUCHING.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014