NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS: What does 2013 entail for us all?
Current Affairs

What is the White Paper?  4
How the new population paper and its implementation will affect Singapore

The Pope Resigns  5

North Korea’s Nuclear Test  6
North Korea’s third nuclear test, and the effects on the politics of the region

Sports

U19 Boys Football Trip  7
Aidan Sim recaps his experiences with SJII’s U19 Football Team to Kuala Lumpur

U19 Girls Basketball  8
The report on the Girls Division 1 Finals

U19 Boys Basketball  9
The report on the Boys Division 3 Finals

AC Milan vs. Barcelona  9

Victory for United  10
Rafael Rockets seals the victory for Manchester United

City vs. Chelsea  11
Joe Hart’s heroics save the day

U19 Boys Basketball  9
The report on the Boys Division 3 Finals

Arts

TV Series Review  12

Book Reviews  13
A Thousand Splendid Sons
Samir and Samira
The Handmaid’s Tale

Movie Reviews  14
Beautiful Creatures
Lincoln
Ah Boys to Men Part 2

Creative Corner  15
This week we take a look at two poems that reflect the mood of a new school year

Lifestyle

Fit Is In  16
The active lifestyle seems to be taking over many of the students at SJII

Food Review  17
SJII’s very own Culinary Appreciation Society review
Casuarina Curry

Morals from a Meteor  17

A ‘Sweet” Valentine’s Day  18

Green Corner  18
Simren of the Green Team suggests simple ways to do our part for Mother Earth

Learn with a Passion  19
You Know You’re in IB  12
Vienna’s lighthearted comedy column on the trials and tribulations of taking the IB
Interested in joining the One Voice Team?

The One Voice Team meets every Wednesday Lunchtime (Mr Guiney’s Room) for short meetings to allocate articles, and discuss the direction of each month’s issue.

We are always looking for new and interesting viewpoints to be presented in each issue.

Please email jeanette-ho@hotmail.com or mingquek@gmail.com if you are interested in joining!
What is the White Paper?

By Charmain Huang & David Singh

Singapore’s White Paper has been the most debated topic as of the past few weeks, with the most recent developments being claims of xenophobia, not to mention the monstrous gatherings at speakers corner. For those of you who do not know what the white paper is, it is essentially, the government’s attempt to combat Singapore’s aging population.

It seeks to take in more foreign workers and permanent residents as a way of providing more job opportunities for the growing community, should the paper work the way it’s intended to. Singapore’s position as a well-developed Asian based economy puts it in a position of great pressure to live up to the expectations of other countries. Evidently, Singapore’s government hopes that the white paper will serve its purpose of both encouraging productivity, and population growth.

This however, does not sit well with what would be most Singaporean citizens. A great majority argues that the government seems to be lacking in its ability to respond well to the voice of its people, and does not seem to be placing the needs of its people above all else, but would rather catch up on its newest ranking in the global social hierarchy system.

Some find it unsettling to see how much confidence the PAP (People’s Action Party) has over their research and data put into the white paper, which has been inherently tailor made to further encourage support of it, evident from its propaganda-like structure, with the classic “don’t do this and this will happen” messages.

THE PROS

The White Paper isn’t all that bad. It has advertised what seem to be great improvements from Singapore’s current state by 2030, should the White Paper go through. It discusses limits upon how many new citizens maybe introduced per year, (about 15,000 to 25,000), and also decreased permanent resident approval rates from what used to be 79000 a year in 2008, to a surprising 30,000 a year. This is apparently to create a stable and sustainable population.

The White Paper has also placed plans to accommodate an increasingly qualified Singaporean workforce. It is estimated that 2/3rds of Singaporeans will have professional, managerial, executive and technical job by 2030. The White Paper aims to create a
balance between the number of skilled and less skilled workforce, while creating a more “dynamic” and economically successful city.

THE CONS

Social
The Population White Paper projects the total population in Singapore to be 6.9 million in 2030, with only about 3.06 million local-born, which is less than half the total population. This will further dilute the country’s core and weaken their national identity.

With the challenges of competition from the cheap foreign labour, the locals have to struggle with problems such as low pay, long work hours and lack of job security. This will fuel xenophobia and anti-foreigner sentiments.

The Pope Resigns
By Tuan Doan Nguyen

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the solemn liturgical period of all Catholics, as well as their fellow Christians: Lent, in the preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This year, Ash Wednesday comes about with stunned and perplexed minds as our current Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation from the papacy, making him the first one to do so in the last 600 years, ever since Pope Gregory XII in 1415.

Pope Benedict XVI made his announcement on Monday 11/2, referring to his health status and age as an obstacle for him to fulfill his mission as the head of the Catholic Church and wishes to stay hidden to the world and wholeheartedly serve his days for God. “In order to govern the bark of St. Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary – strengths which in the last few months, have deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me”. The pontiff delivered the news in the Vatican (by CTV news).

The pope will remain in the Vatican and be available as an advisor to the newly elected pope. The papal position will be empty until the Cardinals decide on a new Pope, who will be installed and greet his people at St Peter’s Square in Rome. One of the most well-known traditions of the papal conclave is the process of proclaiming the result of the election by the smoke from a chimney of the Sistine Chapel. White smoke means a successful election, dark smoke dictates that another election process is needed.

Economic
Though a lot of foreign workers were brought in to help fuel the economy, most of them are unskilled or semi-skilled. This means workforce expansion does not equate to productivity growth. As a result, achieving no significant improvement on Singapore’s economy at all.

The influx of cheap imported labour has worsened the income disparity and only depressed wages at the lower end. The lower income group have not benefited from the economic surge. This problem would only deteriorate with increasing immigration rates.

Environment
The Singapore government keeps destroying forests and flattening land in order to build more HDB flats. Singapore used to be a home to rich native wildlife. However, she will soon be transformed from a garden city into a concrete jungle if the government does not stop bulldozing the natural gardens that already exist in the backyard. With an increasing population, the demand for land will only increase and aggravate the problem. To cope with the significant population increase, the government also plans to double the MRT network by 2030. Some proposed lines would disrupt areas like parks and reserves, which are much-needed space for recreation and community building.

The reliance on foreign workers does not address the core issue of the low fertility rates. The government should focus on other problems such as the high cost of housing, lack of work-life balance and the competitive education system, which deters people from having children.

Pope Benedict XVI began his papacy in 2005, after his predecessor, Pope John Paul II passed away. During his eight years of papacy, he has encountered a lot of adversity, polemical issues such as the abuse in the US church, and challenges which he acknowledged to pertain to the church in the new era. At the same time, the pontiff has succeeded in reviving many Catholic traditions, such as promoting the use of Latin, he also renewed the relationship between the Church and art, which he saw as “beauty as a path to sacred”.

ONE VOICE March Edition
North Korea's Third Nuclear Test
By Jo-Ann Li & Simren Sekhon-Atac

On the 12th of February 2013, according to the Korean Central News Agency, North Korea announced that it had successfully completed its third underground nuclear weapon test. This was in defiance of a resolution passed by the United Nations, drawing condemnation from governments all over the world.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, the third of his line to rule over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has overseen two long range rocket launches and now a nuclear test merely within his first year of power, thus pursuing policies which have propelled his malnourished and Communist nation into further becoming an international power in nuclear weapons.

In the report which recently announced the successful nuclear test, North Korea had also stated that they had used "greater explosive force" than those used in the tests conducted previously in 2006 and 2009. The Korean News Agency even said that a "miniaturised" and lighter nuclear device was used as a wake up call for several countries as this indicated the usage of plutonium, which is suitable for use in the production of a missile warhead.

As soon as the news was published to the global community, the members of the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting; major international powers voiced out their opinions regarding the issue. Let's take a look at what they had to say.

North Korea said that the nuclear test was merely an act of self-defense against American "hostility" and even threatened to take stronger steps if necessary. This put immense pressure on Barack Obama, the President of the United States of America. In response, he called the test a "highly proactive act" which he felt hurt regional stability. He continued to state, "The danger posed by North Korea's threatening activities warrants further swift and credible action by the international community. The United States will also continue to take steps necessary to defend ourselves and our allies."

Surprisingly, China being North Korea's only major ally also disapproved of North Korea's surprise nuclear test. This is due to the fact that it came in defiance of Beijing's admonishments to North Korea, which is aimed at avoiding the escalating tensions.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said China was "strongly dissatisfied and resolutely opposed" to the nuclear test and therefore urged North Korea to "stop any rhetoric or acts that could worsen situations". He continued to state the importance of returning to the "right course of dialogue and consultation as soon as possible."

South Korea, who is still technically at war with North Korea after the civil war in 1950-1953, which merely ended in truce, also denounced the nuclear test. South Korea's newly elected female President, Park Guen-Hye, announced that she is in full support for efforts to demand North Korea to drop its nuclear ambitions and to stop wasting it's resources on arms when it could be used on the deserving and malnourished citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea less than two weeks after the North Korean Nuclear test was complete.

Other countries continued to reiterate the points of prior mentioned countries. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that the nuclear test was a "grave threat" to the international community which can no longer be tolerated. In addition, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged North Korea to abandon its nuclear arms program and return to negotiation. Alongside these countries, NATO condemned the test as an "irresponsible act".

Is this nuclear test truly a threat to global security or can it be viewed as merely a precaution for whatever threats the future may hold? No one can predict the future and know what will happen for sure.
SJII U19 Boys Football Trip
Reflecting on their first overseas tournament in Kuala Lumpur

By Aidan Sim

As the final whistle blew after the ultimate game of the National ‘A’ Division Football Championship in 2012, a curtain was drawn on an overall satisfying maiden voyage through rough, uncharted seas. The SJII Football Team had achieved a quarterfinal berth in its first year in the competition. Indeed, as the warriors in battle sheathed their swords to acknowledge the end of their own hard-fought journey, a new group of ambitious, young soldiers would arm themselves for a battle of their very own – beginning on an unkempt football pitch somewhere in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Led by teacher-in-charge and head-coach, Mr. Justin Toh and Mr. Charlie Bull respectively in preparation for the National ‘A’ Division Football Championship 2013 which begins in April, 20 members of the SJII Under-19 Football Team travelled to KL to train and play 3 Malaysian sides, Cempaka International School, Victoria Institution and Youth Football Association, in the space of 48 hours. However, numbers only tell half of the story.

Playing the number of games we did against formidable teams in such a short period of time while simultaneously adapting to their unique style of play pushed us not only physically, but also mentally. In particular, the game against the Youth Football Association, where we faced a team that primarily consisted of players from the prestigious National Sports School. These games against experienced Malaysian teams tested our resolve to keep united, but united we remained to overcome adversity.

The outcome of the games was a win and two narrow defeats, however the results were hardly the most significant take-away from our experience in KL. Teammates had the opportunity to bond with each other; new friendships were made, while others were strengthened. An evident sense of unity had been instilled into our team, while each player demonstrated newfound character and strength not to play as individuals, but as a one team.

The story of the Team’s experience in their short time in KL cannot be easily summed up in a mere sentence, but it’s fair to say that this trip was nothing short of unforgettable.

As the soldiers departed the rugged terrain of Kuala Lumpur, they returned with weapons of their very own – confidence, mental strength, belief, camaraderie and most importantly, an
Girls U19 Basketball Team
By Gunin Singh

SJI International Girls U19 basketball team played against Tanglin Trust School in the ACSIS Division 1 finals game. The match began at 8:30pm at UWC’s East Campus. The girls had been there since 5pm as they were supporting the Boys team who were also playing their final game in the division 3 category.

The Girls team had worked extremely hard to reach this final game, and had acute shortage of players but they overcame that problem through their sheer determination and commitment to the team and game. They even came back on Saturday’s to train. This combined team effort has resulted in them winning the silver medal in the ACSIS Division 1 category. The division 1 category is the most advanced division in which any team in the ACSIS league can play in. To reach that division is no mean feet for any team. It’s an honor by itself.

The team has performed extremely well in this year’s competition as they have won most of their games with a few hiccups. During the final game at UWC, our girls were playing extremely hard. But they were unable to lead the game at any point of the game. Even when they were down by 10 points they did not give up, and continued to attack the basket. They scored and scored but their defense let them down. The opposing team was continuously passing the ball and wearing down the defense. The game was also rather physical; many of the players were falling to the ground. It was only right they did, both teams wanted to win the championship badly. But in the end the opposing team won. Our girls lost the game but they never lost hope and kept attacking till the final whistle. The final score was 43-31.

After the game, when both teams shook hands and the team began to warm down, I noticed that there was a smile on each of our players. Each and every member of the SJI Girls team was smiling. Some of the girls were playing jokes on each other while some of them were sitting together and laughing together. In my eyes they were the real winners.

Instead of thinking of their loss they were having a good time and celebrating their silver medal victory with joy. A real winner is one who accepts defeat graciously and moves on.

I am sure that SJI is proud of the U19 Girls team with providing such excellent results throughout the competition.

Kaitlin Koh
U19 Girls Basketball Team
Boys U19 Basketball Team

By Benjamin Yoong

SJII’s Boys Under 19 Basketball team had a memorable finish to the recent Athletics Conference of Singapore International Schools (ACSIS) division 3 basketball competition where after a long and tough season, they managed to beat Waseda in the finals to come in champions overall.

The journey towards the finals was tough and tiring with the team training three times a week for the past 5 months and even coming back during the December holidays. The team’s trainings have paid off with them beating most of the other teams but losing only a couple of games.

The finals on the 6th of February were intense with SJII having a 2 point lead most of the game which made it nerve-racking for the team and for them to push on to keep the lead for the entire game and were determined not to lose the game the same way they lost another game by only a mere 1 point. Their determination to win showed when they got a final score of 35 – 29, winning the final match of the league and emerging champions of the ACSIS league competition.

The 19 and under boys basketball team are continuing to train hard and will be participating in the upcoming league where they will face local schools which will be much tougher than the ACSIS league but they are confident that they can do well in this league as they have done in the other.

AC Milan vs. Barcelona

By Nam Vu Duc

Though the match between Milan and Barcelona ended one week ago, Milanistas still cannot forget the moment their heroes in San Siro became so big and brave in front of the Catalan giants.

Before the match, Barcelona was still very positive yet tentative about the big match at San Siro. Williams House bet that the chance of AC Milan winning is one sixth that of Barcelona.

Barcelona is still at its peak while Milan shows a fluctuating form since the beginning of the season. However, everything was the other way around during the match that took place on the 21st of February.

There are not many beautiful words to depict the strategy that Milan adopted. Coach Allegri simply put a two-storey bus before Chirstian Abbiati’s goal. The thing to say here is how well the formation worked to make Barca – known for their beautiful tiqui-taca, failed at every attempt to score a goal.

Back to the match, El Shaarawy, with an agile style of playing, became a nightmare for Barca’s defenders. Keven Prince Boateng showed that he was not only good at wing attacks but was also good at defending. And Muntari showed his sensitiveness by sealing a win for Milan at 81’.

Losing two goals at San Siro, Barca, from being highly expected to win the Cl again, has become one of the teams, which can be eliminated the easiest. And if there is no impulse from either side, I can say that Milan has put one foot into the quarterfinal and they deserved it.
What was expected to be a routine win for Manchester United as they marched towards an unprecedented twentieth League title was made spectacular by a touch of Brazilian brilliance, courtesy of Rafael da Silva’s blazing long-range strike and a clinical finish from the ageless Ryan Giggs. The match was a clash between two contrasting teams, table-topping United against Queens Park Rangers, languishing at the very bottom of the standings.

Incidentally, Rafael was being watched from the stand by his twin brother Fabio, who is on loan at QPR from United and is therefore ineligible to play against his parent club. Fabio later revealed his desire to celebrate his brother’s wonder goal, though he could not do so at the time as he was seated next to the president of QPR!

The Red Devils’ joy was QPR’s agony, as the London side continue to plummet deep into the relegation zone, seven points away from safety. It did not take United long to produce their first goal scoring opportunity in the match, as Luis Nani’s deflected header sailed past the goalpost in the 13th minute. This seemed to wake up QPR as the mercurial Adel Taarabt saw his attempt go wide soon after.

However, Taarabt could be blamed for United’s opening goal, as he lost possession in his own half, which led to Robin Van Persie crossing into the penalty box and QPR’s Brazilian ‘keeper Julio Cesar was forced to punch the ball away. Little did he know that his countryman was prowling outside the box, and Rafael’s cannonball of a shot scorched the inside of the net.

Javier Hernández seals United’s victory with their third goal against QPR
The right-back kept himself in the limelight by clearing Christopher Samba’s header off the line and also feeding Van Persie’s excellent effort which was denied by Cesar, who was up to the challenge this time. This was to be the prolific Dutchman’s last contribution as he limped off the field due to a knock to the hip, which he sustained in the build-up to the opening goal.

Later on in the second half, QPR introduced their new January signing, Frenchman Loic Remy. The former Marseille man equalised almost immediately, had it not been for United’s goalkeeper David De Gea. The visitors soon put the game to bed though, via a tight finish from the veteran Ryan Giggs. The Welshman coolly slotted past Cesar after a neat assist from Nani.

In the aftermath of the game, United manager Sir Alex Ferguson showered praise on Rafael. The 71 year-old said, “I said to [Rafael] he must have closed his eyes. He has three goals for us this season. The lad has had an absolutely magnificent season and is maturing all the time. He has had a fantastic game.” Ferguson’s counterpart, QPR manager Harry Redknapp, agreed with this viewpoint. “The little right-back hits a ‘worldie’ – he won't hit another goal like that as long as he plays football. He’s hit one out of the clouds that’s gone in the top corner.”

Due to their ‘noisy neighbour’s’ (Manchester City) victory against Chelsea the next day, Manchester United’s lead at the summit of the EPL currently stands at 12 points. While the red half of Manchester may be rejoicing at this seemingly insurmountable gap, there was no such elation at Loftus Road, despite Redknapp’s optimism. “This leaves us bottom today, but we won't be bottom at the end of the season. I still feel we'll get out of it. You probably think I’m mad, but I don’t think I am. Everybody else has written us off, but I haven't. I still feel we have a chance.” Only time will tell, ‘Arry.
Manchester City 2-0 Chelsea - Joe Hart’s Heroics Save the Day

By Sergio Moreno

There was quite the excitement at Etihad Stadium on Sunday as Manchester City took on a potent Chelsea. The atmosphere stood up to its reputation after an exciting game took place as City took their chances and played some good football.

The game kicked off with much enthusiasm from the crowd and the players, at first not much was happening as both teams were settling down and trying to set out a play in order to score. Chelsea and Manchester City seemed very much at the same level in this game as most of the ball was in the midfield where most of the battle took place in the 37th minute.

Ramires collected his eighth booking of this season for a blatant trip on Yaya Toure.

Then just a few minutes later Manchester city player Kolo Toure was rightfully booked for a trip on Mata and the final card came a few minutes after Toure’s tackle were Zabaleta pays the price after numerous fouls.

After half time things tensed up and that’s when the real action begun as Kolo Toure was struggling to deal with Ba at a through ball and Hart rushed in from his goal to bring down the Chelsea striker in a tangle of legs. Lampard was to take the penalty.

After not missing 10 of his penalties strikes in a row he was expected to score but Hart made a slightly lucky yet heroic dive into the right and saved Manchester City.

After this penalty Manchester City’s confidence grew and in the ’68 minute Yaya Toure cuts in from the left and goes past some very half-hearted players and then takes a shot which deflects of the defender’s heel on its way inside the far post.

After this goal Chelsea shut down and were making too many mistakes both at in the defense and offense. They were later punished once again as in the last 5 minutes of the games Aguero carried the ball down the left and then, via Silva, it was played to Tevez which then smashed it from 25 yards out into the top corner.

The game then ended with the score 2-0 to Manchester City.
TV Series Review

Cult

By Stephanie Yap

Recently aired by The CW in the United States just last Tuesday, their newest television series Cult takes the phrase, ‘They’re just fans,’ to a whole new level.

The psychological thriller stars The Vampire Diaries star Matthew Davis as Jeff Sefton, a journalist-blogger who is drawn into the world of a popular television show (within the show) similarly named Cult, following the mysterious disappearance of his brother Nate.

With the help of Cult’s research assistant Skye Yarrow, played by Melrose Place’s Jessica Lucas, Jeff realizes that Nate’s disappearance, and the mysterious suicide of a role-playing fan parallels the happenings within the TV show.

Together, they attempt to investigate Cult’s rapidly growing fan base, and the possibility that some of the show’s underground following may actually be behind his brother’s disappearance and the multiple homicides that are investigated throughout the pilot.

Cult is definitely not for the faint hearted, or those used to associating broadcasting channel The CW with their iconic teenage dramas like One Tree Hill or Gossip Girl: plot wise, Cult carefully withholds information from the audience while dropping subtle hints that things in Cult are definitely not what they seem.

Judging from the pilot, Cult looks as cryptic as it is promising: it comes across as the type of thriller you’d re-watch multiple times in attempt to pick up seemingly insipid details and concocts wild theories while you eagerly awaiting the next installment.

With Rockne S. O’Bannon, director of the legendary series The Twilight Zone, taking on this project, this might just be the show to look out for this year.

I’m certainly quite taken by the show already: the pilot seems to be developing quite grippingly with Jeff’s staunch pursuit of his brother, his newfound relationship with Skye and the involvement of the fan base; the obvious that so much effort has been put into the production of meticulous details found in props, the style of cinematography and even the choice of lighting.

ONE VOICE
March Edition
A Thousand Splendid Suns
Khaled Hosseini
By Aditi Nayak

The book focuses the story on two strong female protagonists (Mariam and Laila) and their story through Afghanistan, their unconditional love being the fuel that drives them to move forward in life.

The novel can be divided into four main sections on the basis of subject matter.

The first part focuses on the upbringing of Mariam, a child of illegitimate birth who was raised in a small hut outside of the city of Herat.

The second section focuses on Laila, who is a generation younger than Mariam. Laila is born in Kabul to two parents, and her father hopes that she will contribute to Afghan society by being an educated woman.

The third part follows the unfortunate events that lead to the intersection of Mariam and Laila's lives. In the last part, they travel their separate ways.

Overall, this book was a really great read with the few exceptions of things being unlikely to happen (namely the fact that Mariam and Laila start off hating each other's guts but suddenly love each other like they're blood related).

I give this book an 8/10 rating based on how vividly I remember everything and how long the book has stuck with me. Hosseini is just one of those authors with the power to put you right into the plot of the story.

Samir and Samira
Siba Shakib
By Alexia Panos

Samir is the first born of the tribe’s chief, and his wife and son seem to be living a normal chief-son’s life; he learns how to ride, how to hunt and takes part in meetings only men can attend.

However, Samir’s life is more complex than that. Whom we call Samir, should be called Samira. Samir is in fact a girl and as a first born, she should have been killed on the spot.

Fortunately, her father decides to raise her as a boy and her real identity is very quickly forgotten.

This only lasts for a few years until she figures out that she isn’t like any other boy. She does not want to accept it out of fear of losing her freedom she gained as a man.

However, things in her life take a new turn when her father passes away and the tribe is forced to move to a new settlement. There, Samira meets Bashir, a boy her age with whom she builds a very strong and intimate friendship.

The girl has to face a crucial dilemma; either ignore these feelings and continue her life as a man until someone eventually finds out, or reveal her true identity and lose all her freedom and power.

This book tells the story of both love and courage of a young girl in Afghanistan, different from what we all know.

Based on a true story, this book will open your eyes on what life is like, regardless of gender, in a country where discrimination and oppression rule.

The Handmaid’s Tale
Margaret Atwood
By Nguyen Thuy Linh

Gender equality is gradually being achieved all around the world. However, there are still parts of the world where women are not treated the same way men are.

That must be the motive why Margaret Atwood (a Canadian author) imagined and wrote about a world of a near future where women have absolutely no rights and are treated as machines.

It is a world where the population is worried over not having enough babies, so women who are young and healthy enough to bear children are forced to be Handmaids (concubines).

Offred is a Handmaid in this world. She lies on her back and prays that she is becomes pregnant to be continued to be considered valuable by her society.

Through the life of Offred, The Handmaid’s Tale illustrates many trends which exist today and stretches them to their logical and chilling conclusions. Unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing, The Handmaid’s Tale deserves the highest praise.
This year’s Valentine’s Day movie was the new release Beautiful Creatures, a love story between a caster, or witch, Lena and a human, Ethan set in a small southern town. It is based on the book of the same name.

The storyline follows the couple as they anticipate Lena’s claiming. When a female caster turns 16, she is either claimed for the light or the dark. Lena’s family, The Duchannes, have a curse set upon the women, causing each one to be claimed by the dark, no matter what. Lena has a specific amount of days left before her claiming.

The plot continues to thicken as she encounters problems with her mother, Sarafine, and her cousin, Ridley, who have both been claimed by the dark. She also must find a way to break the curse before her time is up.

The movie’s plot was fair, but many people agree that it was very similar to the story of Edward and Bella in Twilight, just with new characters.

I feel that the movie had a more interesting theme, with the casters and curses, but it still held that forbidden love vibe that we link to The Twilight Saga.

The cast of this movie includes familiar names like Emma Thompson (Nanny McPhee), Thomas Mann (Fun Size) and Viola Davis (The Help), as well as less known actors such as the leads, Alden Ehrenreich (Ethan) and Alice Englert (Lena).

Lincoln, directed and produced by Steven Spielberg follows the tense struggle of Abraham Lincoln (Daniel Day Lewis) to pass the 13th amendment to the US Constitution and lead his war-torn nation to a historic abolition of slavery.

The odds are however heavily stacked against him with vociferous opposition from both sides of the political fence, including his own party.

The movie follows Lincoln’s delicate yet determined march through the trials and tribulations in which he is called to draw upon every ounce of his considerable will and courage to pass one of the most pivotal landmarks in human rights history.

Anyone who has been following the Academy Awards knows that Lincoln entered with the highest number of nominations including a nomination for Best Actor. Therefore it won’t come as a surprise to you that the acting, for the most part, was simply sublime. Daniel Day Lewis, a British method actor known for his prodigious acting skills and his ability to pertinently portray the President as not only a hero but more importantly, a person.

However, not all acting credit should go to Mr. Lewis. He was backed up with a very strong supporting cast in Tommy Lee Jones and David Strathairn (just to mention a few) and the movie’s success lies in the chemistry between the main characters which is created in part by tightly-written dialogue pieces, invoking where necessary, the understated wit of Lincoln, the tension of volatile moments when determined men tussled with their wits, to the tender moments which revealed Lincoln’s soft underside.

The soundtrack was decent and commendable in some areas, subtly adding to the mood yet it was not a trademark association made to the film like the pirates of the Caribbean by Howard Shore or inception by Hans Zimmer.

The film however, falls short as its target demographic is very narrow range, ie mainly Americans and those familiar with American history. For the rest of the world, many of the subtleties and the political references are probably lost on us. This being said the movie can still be enjoyed simply from the almost faultless acting.

Overall Lincoln is a gripping and polished adaptation of history coming to life on the big screen, with stunning performances by its cast and sententious dialogue. Even if you aren’t at all familiar with American history it is still very possible for you to enjoy this film and who knows, develop a burning interest in political American history.
Ah Boys to Men Part 2

By Jonathan Ong

Ah Boys To Men 2 is the direct sequel of Ah Boys To Men, directed by Jack Neo. With its prequel gaining the title of the highest grossing film to date, earning more than S$7 million in the local box office, many Singaporeans were looking forward to the film. Released on February 1 2013, the movie runs for 113 minutes and was distributed by most Singapore theaters.

Ah Boys To Men 2 picks up where its prequel left off, where Recruit Ken Chow (Joshua Tan) turns over a new leaf after he indirectly caused an accident, which resulted in his father becoming partially paralyzed. He becomes even more enthusiastic than “Wayang King” Aloysius Jin (Maxi Lim), and this puts him at heads with his partner, Recruit Lobang (Wang Weiliang), and many others in his platoon.

Much of the movie revolves around the idea of the platoon working together and solving the different problems that divide them, such as the enthusiasm of Recruits Jin and Chow. Many parts of the movie also contribute to character building, which seemed to be lacking in the first part of the movie.

Key themes in the movie include the camaraderie of the section mates, learning to respect and accept the higher-ups in the chain of command, as well as the value of family and friends.

There are also many crude, funny and very Singaporean jokes thrown into the movie throughout, which keeps much of the audience entertained, as it is a lot like an inside joke that all the Singaporeans are in on. The use of these jokes, I feel, really helps with the popularity of the movie.

All in all, many people I talked to say that they really enjoyed the movie, despite what the critics have said, and is it not the audience who count the most?

Creative Corner

Algebra

By Melanie Leow

I loathe the way you stay unknown,
x marks the spot,
Where you stand alone.
Shrouded by numbers,
Mysterious to the bone.

Locked in gold armour,
Like a turtleneck from your
Mouth to your toe.

Big expressive eyes taunt me constantly,
Laughing, laughing at my oblivious stupidity.

Popular with wrong-doers,
You shun us all.
But with the right click of the fingers,
You bare it all naked, cold, ALONE.

Thought

By Ruru Hoong

Throbbing aches
Of a newly formed notion
Coaxed out of tranquility;
Conjured from wispy thin air—
Forced to materialize,
to be made aware
Retaliating
Lashing out
Coiling spindly fingers throughout
Leaving us with no choice but
To live in perpetual fetters to inescapable contemplation
In transient delusions of liberation
Tied to aphoristic observations
Significance in the inane
Adherence to the insane
Thought
Remains
Fit Is In
By Carissa Kong

A runner ties her hair up in a blue colored hair-tie as she prepares to take part in the weekly Running Club. A footballer puts on his Nike neon stripped cleats as he prepares to go to practice.

This year, more and more students are taking part in sporting activities after school as the number of fit-driven students rise.

Throughout the last two years, there has been a soar in the number of new sporting CCAs to accommodate the students’ needs. This includes Rugby, Athletics, Trampoline, Ultimate Frisbee, Strength and Conditioning etc. Exercising is said to benefit the brain in numerous ways according to new findings from biology and education research. Not only can regular workouts in the gym or sports improve attention span, memory, and learning, they can also reduce stress and the effects of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and even delay cognitive decline in old age. Basically, staying in shape can make you smarter.

The American Diabetes Association stated, “Working out reduces stress, lowers blood pressure and builds stronger bones and muscles.” Aidan Sim says that he goes to soccer practice 3 times a week. “Keeping me fit is one thing it helps me with.” Josh Ho, who is also on the soccer team, says that what motivates him is seeing the team play well together, winning or losing, which is why he works hard in training to reach that goal.

Besides school, students also manage to incorporate workouts in their daily routine on weekends. Keith Tan says, “I try to run twice a week, and at most once during the weekend when I’m not busy”. Brandon Roberts, who is on the SJII Rugby team, finds time everyday, including weekends, to go to the gym and on Sunday, goes to the Tanglin Rugby Club.

On top of the surge of adrenaline students get after exercising and sports, friends and appearances also motivate students to become fit. “I want to look better, be stronger and play lots more sports,” Roberts says.

Sim also believes that soccer enables him to adapt to different situations in a game and to ensure how to communicate effectively. “It gives me the opportunity to make friends and build stronger relationship,” he says.

In the simplest sense however, Ho can count on one thing after he exercises. “Your body feels accomplished.”

ONE VOICE March Edition
Food Review
Casuarina Curry
By Alexandra Lim

So. The second official session of Culinary Appreciation Society. Casuarina Curry, our group leader said. Typically when confronted with a familiar sound, I’d immediately feel a quick tinge of doubt, weighing the pros and cons of such an option. A little gem in Upper Thomson, bursting with gaudy color and advertising itself with greasy A3 menus, serving one of the most decent plates of hot, crisp and chewy prata in town. My mind opened its eyes once more to the delectable memories of brown, crisp rectitude. The humble paper prata, with its spongy egg interior and fried, chewy exterior. Couldn’t ask for any more, and frankly, afraid of going against gut-fired impulse.

The girls shared chocolate and onion cheese pratas. The former is a wafer-thin, crackly, chocolate descendant of the Tissue Paper. We decided upon those specific two to provide some taste variety; they nicely ticked the savory and sweet boxes. The only heartbreaking thing, unfortunately, is that they don’t use real melted chocolate. Chocolate tissue paper never was their specialty, let’s be honest, especially with those obvious Hershey’s stripes. These guys are famed for their fish head curry, prata and murtabak, not flimsy, left-of-field inventions to add some chimerical distraction for the children. The texture and infallibility is what I’d be happy to rave about, and not much else.

The texture of the onion cheese option could not be failed, though the onions were unimpressive. They were pastel to the core, with only a hint of translucency in some. I would have happily waited another 10 minutes if it meant superb onions lying in a formation fit to look part of one of Picasso’s modern day cubism pieces.

Scrub and crunch.

A flashing note: if there’s any drink to order here, it must be the teh tarik. Forget your kopi or iced milo (which is always diluted at this nook). Just get this creamy, provocative shade of sienna.

Sweet rendezvous.
Re-rating: 3.7/5

Morals from a Meteor
By Joanna Chuah

As I punch these words onto my Macintosh device, I feel its radiation seeping through to my bones. I fan myself with a stack of single-sided printed notes because the weather is blazing hot – but, wait… is that a drizzle I see? Is this even possible? I don’t think being situated at the equator justifies this. Hot and cold at the same time? (Suddenly, Katy Perry’s – Hot&Cold plays in my head) Strange…

Lets all admit it. Things have been weird, increasing temperatures, rising sea levels all that. But with 20,000 acres of land being deforested annually, who can still wag their finger at Mother Nature?

Well yes… You might have heard about the Russian meteor that hit the earth on 15th February; we can pin the blame on her for this fallen rock. But the 500 tonne moonstone hurled from the heavens teaches us a little lesson that might save us a few decades. Once it landed itself on the Urals (Russia), the super-sized rock released 30 times more energy than the Hiroshima bomb and… it was 1,000 times larger than scientist originally thought.

-- If that doesn’t scare you then I don’t know what does. How could the world’s “leading minds” get it so wrong? All the statistics and facts we’re suffocated in, the labeling on my burger being just 80 calories; it’s a conspiracy theory!

That aside, the Russian Meteor has taught us a little lesson on humility. There’s definitely a moral in the midst of all this space dust, and its; argument by authority is a logical fallacy. This is not a signal to spark a rebellion against your teachers or go on strike against the government, it’s a wake up call. We don’t know as much as we’d like to think.

With regards to our environment, governments and scientists tend to overlook the consequences of their actions or ignore them because they think that our planet is large enough for just one more oil refinery. Or they think that nature is a reasonable slice of cake to trade for the economy; tell that to Garth Lenz the man cries when he talks about oil extraction sites contaminating the fish of the Boreal’s indigenous peoples (there’s mercury in the meat).

So the next time someone says dumping metals into a lake or cutting down habitats is an economic necessity, just remember that there are other stakes to consider and we can’t predict who these changes are going to affect.

The last thing we’d want is karma, because when it hits, it hits hard.
A ‘Sweet’ Valentine’s Day

By Nguyen Thanh Van

Valentine’s Day this year unfortunately occurred on a holiday. This, however, did not stop students and teachers alike from being able to express their love, gratitude and friendship towards their special someone, teachers and friends on this special occasion.

From the 1st – 6th February, SJI International’s Interact Club organized a “Valentine’s Day Chocolate Delivery”. Students and teachers could come to their booth and pay $2 to get Interact Club members to make a special delivery of a nicely packaged Ferrero Rocher chocolate with a sweet note (handwritten by students, who have the best handwriting) attached to it.

The giver could choose to be anonymous or to have their identity known. The delivery took place on the 7th and 8th February, just before the Lunar New Year holidays began.

Hundreds of teachers and students were greeted with a lovely surprise in the morning as Cupid’s angels went around classrooms to deliver the chocolates to them.

The spread of love was not only limited to the boundaries of our school. Funds raised from the sale of the chocolates were donated to the Jakarta flood victims, who found comfort in the relief funds, especially during this season of love.

Green Corner

By Simren Sekhon Atac

Our Green Corner is written by Simren, a member of SJII’s Green Team. Every week she suggests simple ideas for student to do their part in protecting our Earth.

Green Fact:
Roughly 17 million gallons of crude oil is used on an annual basis to manufacture plastic bottles; this amount of crude oil is sufficient to fuel approximately a million cars for a whole year.

Green Tip:
Whether you’re buying a soft drink or mineral water, help the environment by recycling your used plastic bottle; recycling just one plastic bottle saves the same amount of energy as powering a 60-Watt light bulb for a whole 6 hours.

Do your part & save our planet.
Learn With the Passion Your Teacher Teaches With

By Red Jalleh

If you are fortunate enough to land yourself a place in the classes taught by the wisest and most experienced of teachers; Mr Scheelbeek, Ms Pamela Carter and Mrs Pauline Bull, you may realize that there is a common denominator to good teaching.

All these teachers come into class prepared with vast and deep knowledge of our curriculum that they can talk about comfortably for most of the class.

They do not come in and set a stack of worksheets for us to do. They teach and explain, and this draws the fine line between mugging through piles of worksheets at home and actually understanding the concepts. General consensus shows that students who are exposed to this form of teaching usually have an increased value of their every term’s grades.

Being a student of this school since the very first day of grade 7, I can fairly state that their way of teaching has benefited me the most. In the slight chance that you have been taught by all these three teachers, you will realize that what they all have in common is a strong passion for their subject.

If you have been taught by Mrs Bull, you will know that she always sits on the front table, at the stage of the class and she will have a tiny novel or poem in her hand ready. With that piece of literature, she will ring out its very bare essence of meaning and she talks about it as if she had lived the story itself.

Her wide knowledge of literature could easily make anyone believe that beneath her house she hides a dungeon jam packed with wrinkled paperbacks. Only a fool could not recognize her wide and deep passion for what she does.

Now, I’ll take Ms Carter as my next example. Mrs Carter’s passion and love for the study of biology and the natural world is as clear as how dangerous she may be if you ever throw away a clean piece of paper instead of recycling it. Only a silly man could miss her fiery and powerful passion for what she lives by. She lives and breathes what she teaches.

And lastly, we have Mr Scheelbeek. The first thing he said to me in grade 7 as I remember with uncertainty was “My name is Mr. Schoolbook, now take away the ‘o’s and replace them with ‘e’s.” Very much so, he is a living school book of Mathematics. He slips in witty mathematical jokes with every opportunity he gets.

He actually once lied to a class that Calculus was Latin for fun and some people actually believed it. And whenever he proves a complicated mathematical theorem, he would sign the word “Beautiful” with a dash underneath. Only a Neanderthal, “Someone lower down the evolutionary chain” as Mr Scheelbeek puts it, would not know of this exponential passion for mathematics.

To conclude (the cliché end start of our essays), the formula may be that a teacher who teaches with passion will inspire students to learn with interest and understand ideas instead of remembering them for the sake of it. These teachers will talk and explain for most of the lesson and get the most involved with everything you do.

Try talking softly in Ms Carter’s class and you would find her walking to the far corner of the classroom so you would start “Speaking with a clear sense of audience”.

Try asking your friend beside you for help in Mr Scheelbeek’s class and you may find your limbs at risk of being broken. I hope to stay certain that that’s just a figure of speech.

Try saying that a poet ‘Tries’ to convey something in Mrs Bull’s class and you find yourself in a lecture on how you are doing the long dead poet injustice.

Teachers, who are passionate, care every bit about their students and you will realize that they make the best of teachers.
Interviewing our Brothers
Brother George and Brother Arian

By Matthew Tan

Every week, our reporter Matthew Tan, takes the opportunity to interview our school community to find out more about their backgrounds and what brought them to SJII.

This week he interviews the two Brothers of our school to find out what motivated them in becoming Brothers.

Brother George

5 fun facts about Bro. George

1. He grew up in the tulip fields of Holland, and the vineyards of the Napa Valley, along with his four siblings.
2. He wrote and published a popular hymn for weddings.
3. He once did a voice-over for a dog food commercial.
4. He drove a school bus and cut the Brothers’ hair for many years.
5. He played a Fender Mustang in a rock group during high school.

Why did you become a La Salle Brother?

I was taught by the Brothers in high school, and I was impressed by them. Someone told me that I should think about becoming one. I thought about it and took a couple of steps in that direction. Gradually, it seemed more and more like the right thing to do. The life agrees with me in many ways, both externally in terms of the work and the community, but also internally in terms of the life of my soul, the rhythm of prayer, and the deep satisfaction of a potentially limitless friendship with God.

I’m very happy with where my life has come as a result of this path. My 42 years as a Brother have been more challenging, joyful, expansive, and rewarding than any other vocation that I can think of, and I thank God for it.

If you were not a Brother, what would you have been?

I really don’t know, but I suppose that I can imagine. Most likely, I would still be a teacher of some kind, perhaps on the university level, although I’ve enjoyed teaching at all levels. I’m also interested in writing and would probably be involved in many different educational projects.

How were you like as a student in school?

Generally, I was that quiet, studious kind of kid in school. I had a couple of good friends, but not a whole bunch, which was fine. My sports involvement was fairly broad – baseball, football, soccer, golf – and I enjoyed being part of the yearbook staff and service organizations.

I spent a couple of years in a boarding school during high school and really enjoyed the camaraderie and intensive study sessions. If something was creative and challenging, I would take a crack at it.

How’s life in Singapore?

Since I’ve already shifted between a European and an American culture, the “culture shock” has been minimum. The people here are hard-working and generally friendly; ditto for the students. The culture is fascinating and inviting. The food is way better than just the American ones, although I do miss In-n-Out Burger.

But I’ve really not yet experienced all the popular distractions that Singapore offers, spending most of my time at the school. I know my office much better than Orchard road.

What is your advice for Josephians?

I’m not sure that Josephians are very keen on getting advice, but I’ll take a stab at it. I like what Pope John XXIII said: “See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.” Combine that with “Know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em” and you have a whole philosophy of life. For myself, one of my rules has been “Do that which you would most regret not having done later.” The challenge is to combine a care for yourself, a care for others, and a care for God in such a way that joy results. In that respect, the best book is really the New Testament. I advise students to take the same amount of time they take to watch a movie and to simply read through one of the Gospel, front to back. I’ll guarantee that it will change you.
**Did you ever have a girlfriend?**

What makes you think that I don’t have one now? In fact, there are a number of wonderful women whom I count as close friends, and some of them I came to know many years ago. Friends are those who become more so as the years pass by; friends of all kinds, including girlfriends.

One girl whom I really liked is now married and a grandmother. You just made me think of her. I’ve seen her occasionally at reunion events, and we’ve had some wonderful conversations. I still like her, but in a more mature and somehow deeper way. That’s the nice thing about friendships.

**If you were not a Brother, what would you have been?**

I’d probably be a graphic designer. I used to be part of my school’s newspaper team, so I’m quite good with Photoshop and designing.

**How were you like as a student in school?**

I was a nerd, still am one today actually. I wore glasses since I was in fourth grade, and back then it was the stereotype that if you wore glasses you were smart and responsible. So, I played along with it. Plus I wasn’t the very sporty type as I was incapable of anything athletic.

But, I was very active with many different extracurricular activities (ECAs) in school. For example, I sang in the choir, was part of the school newspaper and was on the school student council!

**How’s life in Singapore?**

Yea, it’s been good to me. The first overseas trip that I ever had was to Singapore with my family long ago. So it is definitely nice to be back. Life here is more organized and it is a safe place—not that the Philippines is not.

But I also enjoy the fact that it is different, like how there are so many cultures living together harmoniously because you don’t get that in the Philippines, we’re all Philippinos.

*chuckles*

**What is your advice for Josephians?**

Remember that this is an exciting time in your life now, but just because it’s your life doesn’t necessarily mean it only revolves around you. Yes though you play a big part of it, life is always lived with others.

You can’t call yourself a human being unless you accept the sad fact that your life is connected to others, that we all live in community. That is a key Lasallian value.

**Did you ever have a girlfriend?**

Yes. In fact I even attended her wedding. We were both in white, *chuckles sheepishly*, she in her wedding dress, and I in my habit with a rabah.

**Brother Arian**

5 fun facts about Bro. Arian.

6. He is the first of 4 children.
7. He enjoys reading comic books especially X-Men and Teen Titans.
8. He was a nerd in school.
9. He loves graphic designing.
10. He holds a Masters degree in Theological Studies.

So why did you become a La Salle Brother?

It first started when I quit my job at a firm after I found out it wasn’t what I really wanted to do. After that I was offered a teaching position at my alma mater, much to my own surprise—as I didn’t have any prior teaching experience. Even though at that point in time I actually didn’t intend to become a brother, I slowly began to love teaching.

Three years soon flew by, and before I knew it was studying at De La Salle University training to qualify as a teacher. It was there that I started seriously thinking about my vocation to join the Brothers after having spent more time with the Brothers and experiencing their lifestyle for myself.

*chuckles*
So yes, it is that time of the year where the workload starts building up again. For the grade 11s, this is when the IAs start spilling in and for the grade 12s, this is when the pressure of the EEs and major IAs are piling up again. So far, the whole lot of G12s have survived just about over a year of IB. How did we do it? Here's how:

1. When you get a new IA, disregard it. Complete the existing IAs first. Then make sure you take a rest. Make sure this rest is VERY LONG, because you never know when your next rest would arrive as short as possible. Then start on the new IA.

2. Befriend all your teachers. No matter how hard it is to handle the teacher, whether he/she is boring, strict or just explicable good at handing out mundane tasks, each and every one of these teachers are humans. Target their weak spots, and make conversation. When you are friends with your teachers, your life in class will be much brighter, you will see unicorns prance through the air, if you are a guy you will be buff and if you are a girl you will be slim and tall, feel rainbows and zest rushing through your body, your passion for the subject will glow through your clothes AND you will love the subject more.

3. If you cannot bring yourself to like the subject or the teacher, force yourself to do all the work anyway. You need it for IB.

4. Don’t come up with excuses for not handing in work on time. Teachers have been around for long enough to know when you are slacking and when you really had a technical difficulty at home.

5. When a school excursion arrives, SAVOUR EVERY MOMENT. Because with every school excursion, comes more IAs and essays. The same goes for when teachers are absent.

6. When all else fails, and when the future seems bleak, buy a Mars bar and eat it all at one go. Drink tons of red bull and live while you're young. Go to McDonalds and buy yourself Big Mac and your future will brighten up again.

Alright, GOOD LUCK.

DISCLAIMER: The author of this article constructed this list while she is undergoing tremendous stress. Unicorns will not prance through the sky, rainbows only appear after a storm and passion does not literally glow.
You Know You’re in IB When...
Comedy
By Vionna Lee

1. You thought SHM meant Simple Harmonic Equation instead of Swedish House Mafia. And you thought for a slight moment the world went crazy and people were looking forward to Simple Harmonic Equation.

2. Your eye bags are bigger than your school bag.

3. You know where every single power plug is located in every coffee joint within a 3-mile radius of your house.

4. Your local Starbucks barista knows your name. And your superfluous order that sounds like Tamil from a distance. (Do you really need soy milk? Do you even know what the soy in the soy milk does?)

5. You start TOK-ing everything. ‘My Grandpa has skin. Potatoes have skin. My Grandpa is a potato.’

6. You procrastinate by doing ‘less important’ homework. Note the quotation.

7. Retarded jokes that were never funny before are now hilarious.


9. Printers of the world unite to work against you. The printer at home breaks down the moment your IA is done. You go to the school library to print it. It tells you to produce your ez-link. It means: You need blood from a slain pig, soil from the Nanjing Decade, and patience to queue behind about 100 other IB students to do so.

10. The rainbow wheel is a wheel of doom. Command+S is your best friend. (Next to your TI-83. Do not forget your TI-83)

11. Happiness is when your IA is safely in the hands of your teacher. If they lose it, it is officially their problem. (Not really, but let’s not go into details here)

12. Working in McDonald’s and learning the S.O.P of making a McSpicy actually looks pretty tantalizing.

13. You can’t wait for IB to be over and you can move on to more pressing issues, like addressing world poverty and embarking on the journey of world peace, all whilst yielding your perfect 45 point diploma. Riding a unicorn. Wrapped in bacon.

Hey Guys!
This marks the end of our March Edition, and also the end of our first issue of the year!
Check back again after the Easter Holidays for our April Edition.
We hope you have enjoyed this issue, as all of our One Voice Team have put a tremendous effort into it.
Thanks You for your support!