



## RELENTLESS RAINS RAVAGE \$\$ WHAT WHY & WHERE ?

### Ground Zero: School Library



Anderson LAM 5D

As we all know, during the rainstorm, our beloved library suffered the most.

The cause of the severe aftermath of the library was surprisingly the main entrance door of the library not being fixed in time. Why? Due to the prolonged rainfall, a huge flow of rainwater from

the slope right next to our school campus broke into the library, so the place was immediately filled with water. However, since the water had nowhere to go, the library was partially submerged within a few hours, and over ten thousand books were "swimming" in the flood. According to Ms. Lau, the teacher in charge of the library's management, the highest level of the flood was approximately over a metre tall.

However, when the glass door was broken, the rainwater further washed away many of the books that were already floating in the water, resulting in a large number of books and even personal belongings of the library staff being washed to Chai Wan Road and even Shau Kei Wan Road. So you can see, the library was severely damaged after the flood; the floor was covered in dirty water and books, which made the library smell quite unpleasant.

The fortunate thing is that most of the SBA books, as well as some computers, were not harmed during the flood. If you love the library, you're in luck! Because the library will take about 2 to 3 months to be fully repaired. This time, the library will replace all the furniture with the assistance of the Education Bureau. Cabinets of different colours will be expected; however, the library will still be the same old place where we learn different knowledge and enjoy the peace. Are you looking forward to the restored library?



### Why Us? Now What?

Some of you might be curious about the destruction of our campus. Why were we the victims of this rare phenomenon, while other campuses like SKWGSS were not affected? In the interview with Vice Principal Chow, we discovered that a landslide behind the Salesian Missionary House caused blockage of the ditches, resulting in muddy water entering our football court. This led to overflow and major

destruction to the first three floors of our campus. According to Mr. Chow, the damaged library might be able to be restored within this academic year. The total loss in this incident was around 1.8 million, with 1.3 million allocated for the library alone.

The school was damaged by a severe flood, leaving the staff with a sense of despair, but we are not in a hopeless

situation. The library was particularly devastated, with shelves and books completely destroyed. Therefore, the school's first priority is to repair the damaged library to provide students with a safe and comfortable place to study. However, due to the significant financial loss, the school's funds were not sufficient to cover the expenses. Thankfully, the school received unconditional support from the EDB,

Drainage Services Department, and Highways Department. Although the EDB covered most of the costs, the school's funds were still insufficient. Fortunately, the school also received a generous donation from our Old Boys and the PTA. Without the generosity and efforts of different parties, the restoration would not be possible.

Andre LAU & Alvin SO 5D



Most people know the devastating effects that the black rain had on our library, but did you know that there was a place that was equally or even more severely damaged than the library? Here, we ask Joseph, the security guard at the school's reception, some questions about the untimely event.

How were you notified when the rain was damaging the school?



My colleagues informed me around 5 or 6 am. By the time I clocked in at 7 am, the devastation had already occurred.

Did you take any measures to minimise or prevent the damage?



There was nothing we could do. The stream was too intense and fast, so we were instructed to evacuate as soon as possible.

What did you lose in the flood that affected your work or personal life?



A lot, actually. Everything was submerged in water, even our guard uniforms became unusable.

Has the office been fully repaired yet? If not, how long will it take?



I believe it will take at least six months. There was just so much that was lost.

When you pass by the school reception on your way in and out of the school, take a glance at it to spot any signs of the storm.

### Students and Teachers' Responses

Edric LEE 5B

With the catastrophic damage done to our school and its facilities, students and teachers express their thoughts and concerns regarding the situation.

Although being able to relax at home and have lessons through the use of Zoom, students state that the damage disrupts their school life. The use of facilities is reduced due to the massive impact of the flood. Everyone cannot visit the library as usual, thus being unable to learn more through reading. Getting closer to DSE, Hobie Teng (6C) was disappointed by the fact that he couldn't access the library and the lack of research material from books. The reconstruction process for the library will most likely take a long time, delaying the students' learning progress.

On another note, both students and teachers have gotten used to Zoom during the pandemic. Andy Wong (2D) thinks that it is genuinely a great and convenient way of learning. He can easily access and navigate to different rooms after each lesson. Mr. So, however, gives a big sigh as he thinks that it is a dull way of learning, making the experience super boring. He wishes that things will get back to the way they were through everyone cooperating and lending the campus a hand.

Do you still remember how you felt when you first heard that face-to-face lessons were suspended due to the rain? Were you excited or worried?





# The Leader of the Disciplinary Prefect Team

Martin Tsui 5C

Within the prefect team, a student is chosen annually to become the head leader for all of them. This year, Alvin So, from class 5D, has proven himself worthy of the prestigious position of Head Prefect. We conducted an interview with the newly appointed Head Prefect to learn about his journey to this position.

Alvin is very grateful for this experience and is ready to take on the duties. His experience as a project holder in the Joint School Science Exhibition has helped improve his leadership skills and is what made him the perfect candidate for this position. As the Head Prefect, Alvin has expanded his social circle and gained the respect of his fellow students. However, it's not always easy for him. Sometimes, students become uncooperative, and he has to persuade them to do the right thing, which is a major challenge. But despite all the

hardships he will face, he will gladly take on the responsibilities of head prefect because, as a teacher once told him, "It is your attitude, not your aptitude, that determines your altitude."



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## CAMPUS CORNER

STUDENTS' WORK



### Newlyweds at SS

Mr. Cheung and Ms. Chau were recently happily married. Let us congratulate them and give our blessings to this new couple! Are you curious to know more about the love story that blossomed in a boys' school?

The newlyweds got to know each other because they were both new to the Salesian Family when they started as teachers. As time progressed, they slowly developed their relationship from friends into closer friends. As time went on, their bond was strengthened.

Anderson LAM, Andre LAU & Alvin SO 5D

Now you may ask what their first date was like. Well, one time, they got stuck in a traffic jam for nearly an hour on the same bus. They then had dinner together and took a half-hour walk. And that's how they slowly fell in love with each other. Their relationship then developed into marriage! They were married in a church where they exchanged their vows and rings in June 2023 with the witness of their family and friends, and many of our teachers too!



## Welcoming New Teachers

Aeron LEE 4E

It's a new school year for everyone, and a few new teachers have joined the big Salesian family. We interviewed the new teachers in the school to know why they teach English and what their hobbies are.



Mr. Ko, who is a returning 'new' teacher, teaches English in the school.

"The reason why I teach English is that, for one, I've always wanted to be a teacher, and for two, English is one of those subjects that can be applied in our daily lives. My hobbies are playing football and video games, as well as football video games. I also enjoy playing board games, especially on Thursdays in the English Corner during lunchtime."



We have two new NET teachers, and Mr. Sala is one of them.

"I had wanted to be a teacher since I was young. I think that in Asia, it is the best thing to teach as a Westerner, and it is also my first language because I'm from Canada. My hobbies are photography and travelling."



Mr. Kevin is a new teacher who also teaches English in school.

"English is like a key that can open up many doors of opportunities, regardless of academics or for fun. For example, exchange students, if you don't have confidence in speaking, you will have a barrier in communication. I also hope that I can set myself as a good example to students for learning English. As for my hobbies, I like playing netball and basketball."



Mr. Steven is the second NET teacher in school.

"I teach English because I enjoy teaching it, but I'm also okay with other subjects. One of my hobbies is travelling. That's why we have World Tour Tuesday at the English Corner. Also, I've worked in 6 regions including Japan, Mainland China, and Canada."

## Teachers' Bizarre Hobbies

Edric LEE 5B



### Toy collecting

Everyone has their memorable childhood moments, and that includes playing with toys. Mr. Yip enjoys collecting mini toy buses as a hobby. He has loved buses ever since he was young, and now he owns an astonishingly large collection, with over 100 toy buses! It sure brings back good old times and a sweet scent of nostalgia.



### Trying new foods

On the other hand, as a person who loves trying out new things, Miss Lam often seeks out something unique and bizarre to experience with others for one sole, simple purpose – for fun! Her hobby mostly revolves around trying new food. Broadening horizons through new experiences can improve a better understanding of many things in life, and it is something that she and her friends can both enjoy.



### Moshing at rock concerts

This may come across as a violent act, but it is actually a quirky hobby – bumping into others while supporting rock bands at concerts. Mr. Ko really enjoys the thrill and the unity of everyone screeching and cheering for rock stars. The activity is often seen at the center of the stage, known as a mosh pit. He describes it as a cathartic activity, a way to release stress through strong emotions. Therefore, it gives him a sense of relief and enjoyment.

## From Player to Writer

Writing allows us to create a world entirely from our imagination. But writing also takes me to a world entirely different from my ordinary school life. Last Summer, I participated in the "Fromplayertopage Writing Competition," a writing competition for secondary school students in Hong Kong about games, by submitting two pieces of writing. I was truly grateful to be one of the finalists in the competition, and the prize presentation ceremony was another eye-opening experience for me.

To begin with, the venue is really modern, and

the organizers put in a decent amount of effort to decorate the space and make it look more welcoming. I was warmly welcomed and immediately invited to do a podcast. It was quite nerve-racking for me since I haven't done one in the past, but thankfully, the host created a relaxed atmosphere, so I was able to overcome this unexpected challenge more easily.

Since "games" is the main theme of the entire writing competition, we naturally "awarded" by playing games with other finalists from different prestigious schools in Hong Kong.



One of the games was a Super Mario Kart Race in which you could compete with others using a wheel-like console. Another game was a guessing game that asked you to guess how many chocolates were in the chocolate box, and well, I didn't win, but being able to play with other like-minded students who enjoy both writing and playing games is just another level of enjoyment.

Edward LEE 6A

All in all, I had not expected that writing could provide me with such a unique experience, so having the courage to step out of my comfort zone can definitely be a great start for more exciting things in my life. Last but not least, I would like to thank my English teachers for assisting me throughout this contest and making this success possible.

