

## Student Council Elections by Chris Rowlands, Vice Principal



Saying farewell to the incumbent Student Council will be tough. They have been a cohesive, pro-active and industrious team. We have relied upon them to lead. They've also had to demonstrate initiative, to address complex and multi-faceted issues and we have challenged them to communicate with diverse groups of people from different sectors and with disparate demands. Both teachers and students have been impressed with the calibre and commitment of the 2010-2011 Student Council.

They were led by the Chair, Owen Chan, and the other able members were: Austin Lee, Justin Lee, Alex Wang, Adeline Chan, Amy Middleton and Wei Wong. I certainly learned an enormous amount from them. Here they reflect upon their year in post:  
Chairman: Owen Chan

I am extremely proud of the team and all the things that we accomplished during our term, ranging from implementing a noodle bar in the Cafeteria to installing an Octopus-card value checking machine. We even took the initiative to build a covered walkway between Block 3 and the Sports Hall. We've tried our best and we have no regrets!

Advice for the next Chair: To be a good Chair is simple – you must have a very strong passion for improving this school. Use this passion to motivate your team and achieve this goal together. It may be tough and demanding, but it will definitely be equally rewarding and satisfying. Good luck. I am sure you'll do a good job.

### **Vice President- Wei Wong**

It has been a long year since I was first appointed as one of the two Vice Chairs of the Student Council. I remember when I first stepped up on the stage and made my speech. There was a sense of emptiness that came with the lack of actual knowledge. I looked

down at the faces of eager students, all 1200 of them, and hoped I wouldn't be making any false promises.

Now, I know. The way I thought about it before was wrong, very wrong. The Student Council isn't limited by some pre-defined barrier, but rather by what the Council members are willing to fight for. Here are some guidelines for the new Vice Chairs.

Part of what makes a good Vice Chair is simply knowing. Know the project, know what other Council members are doing; know what the Chair is planning. This will help the Council run smoothly when initiating projects.

The makings of a good Vice Chair lie in his/her ability to channel assertiveness into a positive force - one that values other people's opinions whilst bringing a productive atmosphere into the Student Council. Above all else, be a dependable member of the Student Council- everyone plays a crucial role. After a while you will understand what I mean and it will become second nature to you.

### **Vice President - Momo Mertens**

I feel that all of us worked to the best of our potential. Our major achievements include getting in contact with Chartwells and bringing in a larger variety of food that the students wanted. Although we had some trouble with communication at the start of the term, we managed to make the student body more aware of our on-going projects.

For the next Student Council, the only thing that I can suggest is to listen to the students. Without them, we would never have even thought of different aspects of the school that required improvement, such as the school environment, which we are so used to seeing. Being part of the Council was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for me, and I wish luck to all members of the next cabinet as they represent the school.

### **Secretary - Justin Lee**

I have been extremely privileged and honoured to serve the Student Council cabinet this year. It is with great pleasure that I pass this role on to the new Secretary. Through our motto of "Represent, Reflect and Respect" we have achieved many things that have benefited all members of our school community. I envision the next Student Council as building upon these achievements and initiating new projects for the school community. My advice for the next Secretary is that organization and efficiency are pivotal to the job. Being constantly aware of matters will be critical to organize meetings and Minutes. Don't be afraid to make suggestions to the Chair, as you can just as equally affect decisions that concern our school community.

## **Treasurer- Austin Lee**

Working on the Student Council this year has been an amazing experience. Not only have I learnt to work with many talented and helpful people, I've learnt how to take various suggestions from various people and to take realistic approaches in helping the school. We made many small improvements that made a big change to the school. Along the road to improving the school, we've met road blocks and faced tough challenges, but we stayed together as a Council and were effective in 'Representing, Reflecting and Respecting' the student body.

Advice for next Treasurer: Carefully keep track of the money that flows in and out of the Student Council. Plan the prices of certain events very carefully before enacting them. Be active in discussions and assist other members.

## **ICT and Communications Representative - Alex Wang**

Despite what my title says, my duties have not been limited to that of ICT related tasks. I am glad about this, as a member of the Student Council should do all that they can, not all that is asked.

To any ICT representatives to come, you must have the qualities of a versatile and creative student. One day you may be asked to design a certificate or a poster, the next to devise a new surveying system. Whatever it may be, you must be full of ideas and energy. For me, it has been an enjoyable experience tackling problems on behalf of the students and hope that any new members will have a just as good, if not better, experience.

## **Advisor – Adeline**

Being as an Advisor with the Student Council has been very inspiring. True, this is not a designated position, but this was a role that gave me the opportunity to do service for my school, and I can't be more thankful to have joined.

Advise: give some advice! Speak up! Suggest something and don't be shy to share your opinions! Because your Chair and Vice-Chairs and everyone else NEEDS your advice.

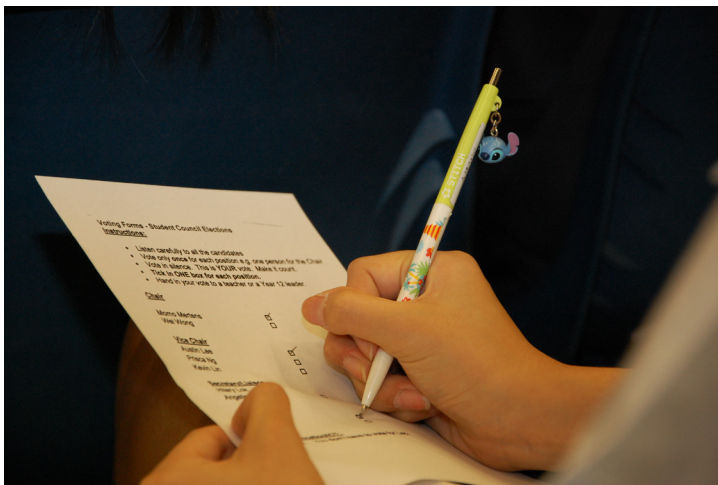
## **Amy Middleton:**

As one of the first advisors on the Student Council it was hard to find a place where it could benefit the students of the school. I have had an amazing experience on the Council, though, helping to improve the environment and supporting my fellow Council members. My advice for the next Advisors in my position is to help in any way you can.

Try to act as the 'glue' that help keeps the Council together. Take initiative and try to accomplish something you and the rest of the school can be proud of.

At the end of the calendar year; however, it is traditionally the time to offer opportunities to others who may be keen to represent the student voice; the Student Council Elections have been under ways for several weeks. Applications were completed by candidates. These were then available on our SMART system for everyone to read and then vote for their preferred choice in each of the following categories:

- o Chair
- o Vice Chair (two positions)
- o Secretary/Liaison
- o Treasurer
- o Communication/ICT



Those with the highest number of votes, then proceeded to the next stage which was involved delivering a two minute speech. These Middle and Senior School assemblies were on December 8 and 9. Speakers aimed to convince voters that they were the most worthy.

The new Heads of House and Service: Katie Chin, Angie

Wakefield, Nick Ngan Kee, Juanita Chui, Joyce Leung, Jason Fan, Serena Yung, Sophie Carroll, Elok Cheung, Seraphim Lee, Joel Leung and Jason Lin agreed to assist manage the voting. They also volunteered to count all the voting slips and, although they were unaware of the final outcome because they did not see the teacher, these Heads of House and Service were very discreet and trustworthy. I was extremely impressed by their maturity and leadership, too, in addition to being grateful for their practical support.

Our hopes are that the incoming Student Council of 2011- 2012 will optimise the marvellous work of the outgoing team. We all want to witness remarkable leadership from them.

