



NEWS FROM THE



The Soul of the SSiS: Our Rain Tree

When the Swiss School was founded in 1967 by Marie-Therese and Werner Kaufmann-Sialm, a special rain tree was planted in the middle of the campus. Fifty years on, that small sapling is now a towering tree.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RAIN TREE

Today our rain tree stands at an impressive height and has just celebrated its 50th birthday. It is a fitting reminder of how far we've come and how much we've grown, with our roots firmly planted in Singapore and a far-reaching global outlook.

A MOST PUNCTUAL TREE

Native to Singapore, rain trees are also called Pukul Lima in Malay, which means 'five o'clock'. This is due to the fact that the leaves fold up just before evening. Hence rain trees were traditionally used as a primitive way of telling the time in the old days, as sunset in Singapore used to be at 5pm prior to various time changes starting from the year 1905. The leaves also close just before it rains, hence its name the Rain Tree.

THANK YOU, RAIN TREE

Over the years, our rain tree has not only provided us with plenty of shade under its thick foliage, but also served as a natural playground for our students.

Our affinity with the tree has grown and evolved over the course of its lifetime. In the past, children used to love climbing up the tree during break times. Even though its branches are way too high today to safely climb today, our students still enjoy hanging around under its branches to meet, eat, chat and play.

One cannot deny that the tree adds a sense of majesty to our open courtyard. We hope to preserve her for everyone to enjoy her grandeur for many more years to come.