



NEWS FROM THE



1967



2017



Swiss School Celebrates 50 Years in Singapore

On 2 May 1967, the Swiss School in Singapore opened its doors for the first time for a small group of 18 excited pupils. At the time, the kindergarten was located in the outer room of the former bowling alley. Today, fifty years later, the Swiss School proudly celebrates its golden jubilee.

LOOKING BACK WITH FONDNESS

Back in the day, lessons for the primary classes were held on the terrace of the clubhouse of the Swiss Club. The mandate of the Swiss School was to enable children to connect with the Swiss educational system and curriculum. The first two teachers, Marie-Therese and Werner Kaufmann-Sialm from Switzerland, arrived on a three-year contract with 1800kg of school material.

“We were in our mid-twenties and thought we could move mountains and had the courage of a lion,” recalled Mrs. Kaufmann-Sialm. Indeed, the inception of the school in the 1960s would not have been possible without a spirit of adventure and pioneering. Connections back to Switzerland were difficult and cumbersome; there was only airmail (as opposed to electronic means of communication); and phone calls were prohibitively expensive. Certainly, not everybody could afford flights for holidays back to Switzerland; however, everybody was full of energy and enthusiasm to create the school. One year later, the school moved into its new building with proper classrooms.

During the following years, the school grew and grew. Although there were

many farewells, even back then, luckily, there were even more families moving to Singapore as the economy and the role of Swiss businesses in the market advanced. Soon, the classrooms became crowded and additional buildings were needed. The original bungalow style was preserved in the new building, which suited the beautiful lush, green surroundings.

HALF A CENTURY OF SWISS CULTURE AND EDUCATION

For 50 years, SSiS has followed its original aim to provide a high level of education according to Swiss standards, while being an international school conducting classes in both German and English. In doing so, it has undoubtedly become an important pillar of the Swiss community in Singapore. The school's openness to children and families of other nationalities and its various outreach programmes have promoted the Swiss culture and ‘Swissness’ in Singapore, serving as an important source of support for many families far away from home.

In celebration of the jubilee, various activities will be held from 2 May 2017, over a period of 50 days. On 20 May 2017, from 4pm to 8pm, a fun-filled family event will be held on the Swiss School premises. The event is open to all families, interested

parties and friends. Please, join us to celebrate this momentous occasion for the school and our community!

For more information about the jubilee activities, please visit <http://www.swiss-school.edu.sg/>