

Principal's Message

135 Tiles: A Mural of Hope, Gratitude, Memories

Mr. Arene Koh

Principal, ACS (Independent)



On 6 July 2021, we opened Our SpACe - a new Student Integrated Hub that sites our college counsellors, school counsellors, and Christian Ministry Staff for our students to meet up with, and a venue where students can book meeting rooms for discussions, play board games with friends, or host a mini performance.

Along with the opening was also the unveiling of a new ACS135 Mural that is located in Our SpACe. The ACS135 Mural features 135 individual tiles in a 15- by 9-tile configuration, each one hand-painted, capturing the energy and vibrancy of school life in ACS(I).

Before Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) took effect on 19 May 2021, the whole school family came together on 17 and 18 May to complete this task. Stricter Safe Management Measures (SMM) owing to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) did initially

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throw plans into disarray. There was talk about putting the project on hold, or downsizing involvement. Yet there was also an air of determination and resolve not to allow the new guidelines to derail this work. After examining how to adapt plans with the new SMM in place, timelines were revised to set the project going before we moved into FHBL.

True to the intent to involve as many segments of the ACS family as

possible, every class from Years 1 to 6, and representatives from the ACS Board, ACSOBA, Senior Administration, Teaching Faculties, Executive Support Staff, and CCA groups came together to see this endeavour to fruition.

Beneath these tiles though lies another dimension. There are messages, written in invisible ink, conveying hope, gratitude, a positive memory, or an encouragement about ACS. When the mural is viewed under ultraviolet light, these “unseen” messages become visible.

The apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 to encourage and build one another up not just during more challenging times or on better days, but all the time. This was on the minds of the four student-leaders overseeing the project, their teachers and the Senior Administration when this idea became a reality.

For the ACS135 Mural is not just to occupy a space in school to showcase art.

It is not just about rallying the school family together for another meaningful cause.

It is a heartfelt aspiration that this mural, designed on 135 tiles to mark our 135th year, be one that shares an encouragement, a voice of hope, a word of gratitude or an

expression of memories that builds each other up.

Whether for good times, or a passage amidst the present COVID-19 pandemic.

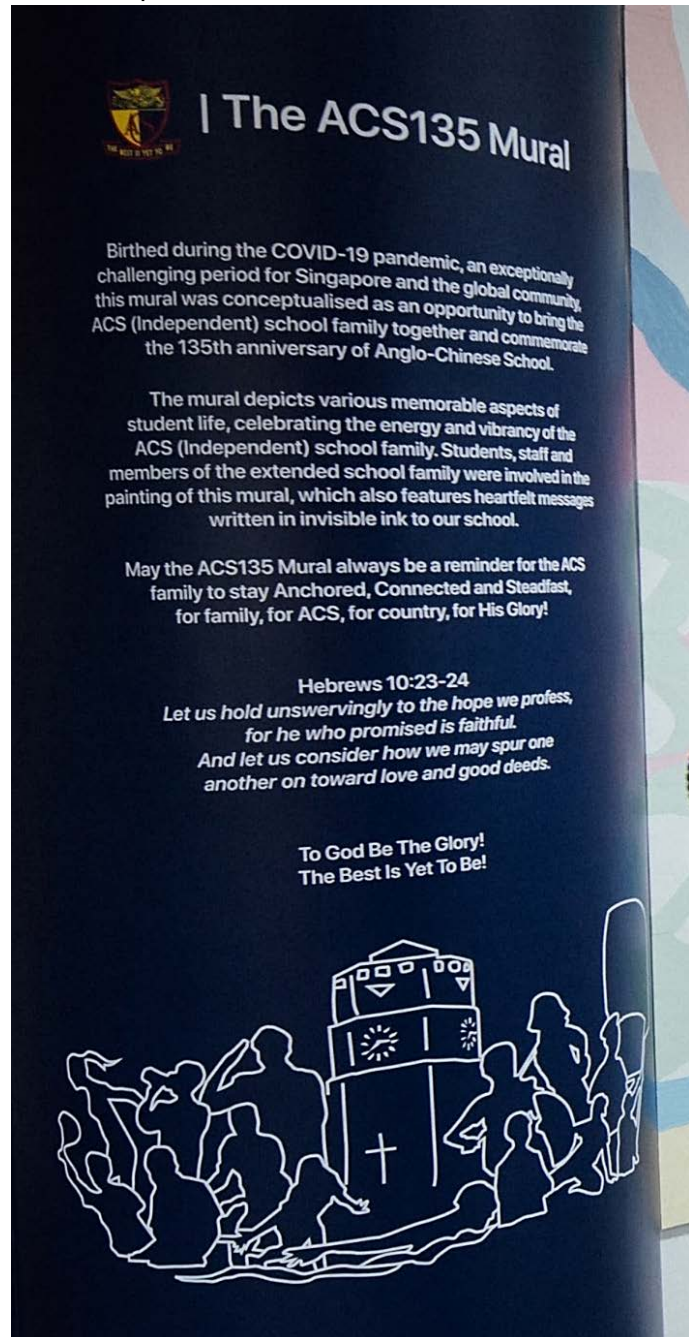


Photo: Hanson Lu

This message was shared at the school's morning devotion on July 6, 2021.