

# IN CROWD 2009

## This year's Media Club student council gets tough!

The older members welcomed the new arrivals, who are up for the challenge. By **Lim Jun Yi**



PHOTO: JOSEPH NAIR FOR THE STRAITS TIMES  
The IN Crowd this year: (back row from left) Mahirah Law, Phyllis Wan, Bhavana Sharma, Joshua Kor, Leong Jia Wei; (middle row from left) Chew Pei Shwen, Lynn Yang, Gowri Kanagarajah; (front row from left) Marissa Yeo, Lai Si Ying.

It was a reunion of familiar faces at the official induction of IN Crowd 2009 last Thursday.

Half the group of 10 members was part of last year's crowd, and joining them were five new members, who got to know each other over an hour-and-a-half-long session.

The council's newly appointed president, Lai Si Ying, 15, a Secondary 4 student at Holy Innocents' High, will head an executive committee of vice-president Marissa Yeo, 15, a Sec 3 student at Tanjong Katong Girls', secretary Gowri Kanagarajah, 14, a Sec 2 student at Bukit View Secondary, and members Joshua Kor, 14, a Sec 3 student and Phyllis Wan, 16, Sec 4 student, from St Joseph's Institution and Pei Hwa Secondary, respectively.

New members are Leong Jia Wei, 13, a Sec 2 student at Bowen

Secondary, Mahirah Law, 15, a Sec 3 student at Chua Chu Kang Secondary, Bhavana Sharma, 15, a Sec 4 student at St Margaret's Secondary, Chew Pei Shwen, 15, a Sec 4 student at Riverside Secondary, and Lynn Yang, 15, a Sec 4 student at Chung Cheng High (Yishun).

They responded enthusiastically to IN editor Serene Goh's suggestion for creative, cutting-edge ideas.

She said: "Every year the IN Crowd gets stronger and better.

"If there is a hip trend going on, or something exciting happening, you should be the first ones to break it."

Responding, members readily offered ideas and suggestions.

IN Crowd president Si Ying said she wanted to write "as many articles as possible" – far more than she contributed last year. Beyond this, she intends to be both "a leader and a friend" to her team.

Vice-president Marissa and executive committee member Phyllis have also pledged to manage their time efficiently so they can excel at studies and be active members of the IN crowd.

This is the fifth batch of IN Crowd members who act as youth

representatives for their peers.

They will attend editorial meetings and work with IN's editorial team as a sounding board.

The council works closely with IN's journalists, offering ideas and writing regular columns. They also go on assignments with The Straits Times reporters. They also attend annual overseas study trips to international newspapers, and have so far visited The Star in Kuala Lumpur twice, China Daily in Beijing and The Nation in Bangkok.

When asked if she is up for the challenge, new member Lynn flashed a bright grin. "No problem! Writing is my way of destressing."

