On 3 Nov, the Japanese Cultural Club (JCC) marked Japan’s Culture Day with a stress-buster origami workshop where participants learnt to fold flowers and teddy bears, among other finger-twisting activities. The club also held a Manga workshop, followed by a trip to the packed Anime Festival Asia held at the Singapore Expo on 10 Nov.

The last day of the school term was heralded once again by the perennial band extravaganza, Starry Nite. Themed Hollywood, this latest instalment featured rock bands from SoundFoundry who managed to keep not just the kids on their feet, but some gate-crashing staff and faculty as well, who made sure that they had one helluva party right into the wee hours of 16 Nov!

And then it was the exams and all was silent, calm and peaceful in school, if only for awhile.

Then, in December, our SMU students started making headlines once again, not just in Singapore but around the globe – because, as you’ve heard it before and you’ll hear it again – we ARE a different U! All the way from Prague, SMU’s oldest dance group Eurhythmix collected two coveted Firsts at the Prague Dance Open held on 15 Dec - in the Hip-Hop (Senior) and Hip-Hop Solo (Senior) categories. Emix Dance captain Sherrie Loe, who won the latter, was also named Best New Talent across all categories, winning her a chance to take part in the Paris Dance Open 2013.

At the 16th ASEAN University Games (AUG), SMU led the Singapore contingent as chair of the Singapore University Sports Council to the historical city of Vientiane in Laos. After nine days of glorious sporting action, Singapore came home with 3 Golds, 6 Silvers and 23 Bronzes, moving one up the medal tally ranking from its 7th spot at the Chiangmai games two years ago. Contributing to Singapore’s medal haul were our SMU athletes – Gary Yeo (Gold, Athletics - 100m); Aaron Tan (Silver, Badminton Men’s Singles); Chen Guo Rui (Bronze, Badminton Men’s Double); Matthew Goh (Silver, Athletes - Long Jump); Wee Pui Seng (Silver – Judo) and Anne Tan (Bronze, Tennis Team). Congratulations Team Singapore!
Finally, OSL’s International Students’ Unit facilitated two Business and Cultural Study Trips - to north Vietnam and India in mid-December. Both these trips were initiated by international students from the respective countries who wanted to showcase the beauty and diversity of their countries to their peers. For the close to 40 SMU students who were fortunate to participate in these trips, they had a chance to immerse in the countries’ culture during the two weeks, visit several prolific companies to study their business models, and tour famed spots such as Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay and India’s Taj Mahal.

In the meantime, till the next Campus Buzz, have a wonderfully bright New Year!