

## **Computer Programs – Games and simulations**

Section coordinators: Mee Ing Ong, Nazareth College and Lynette Lew, Balwyn High School

Saturday 14th August proved to be a wonderful and enjoyable experience for students as they demonstrated their understanding of computer knowledge, depth of expertise and creativity in their projects. It was obvious that the entrants had spent many exhausting hours after school and weekends to produce, develop and refine their final product.

Notably, some students were able to showcase their advanced skills in a computer language such as Macros or use of software such as Game Maker. Common scientific themes in this year's entries included: natural selection, survival of the fittest and adaptation.

It is important to note that judges can only award the major and minor prizes to those students who adhere closely to the criterion specified in the 2010 Science Talent Search handbook. In particular, successful students in this year's competition were able to show the amount and quality of science embedded in their computer application and how this information could be used to teach the intended audience. It is unfortunate that some students did not submit a flow chart or provide references or documentation or some of the guidelines was missing, perhaps due to last minute preparations.

The number of entries in this section was similar to the previous year. Whilst most participants were entered in the Lower and Upper Primary and Junior divisions, it is pleasing to note that the number of entries in the Intermediate division increased. Unfortunately, there were no students entered in the Open division.

Finally, to the science staff of Methodist Ladies' College, thank you again for your continuing support and assistance prior to and on the Special Judging Day. Thank you to all judges for your time, dedication and work.

For all participants we hope it was a memorable experience for you. We hope to see you and your friends on judging day 2011, to demonstrate your computer program or simulation.