West Grove Primary School



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

West Grove Primary School



We asked our principal, Mrs Siva, what it was like to experience Joy of Learning and Entrepreneurial Dare during her schooling years and how Joy of Learning and Entrepreneurial Dare can be encouraged in school and by parents at home.

Life was very simple in those days. I spent my first 17 years living in a shop house in the Tanjong Pagar vicinity. Living in such a challenging neighbourhood and with parents emphasizing the value of education (which they had been deprived of), I took my learning very seriously from a young age and in due course I began to enjoy every bit of my schooling. I began to see purpose and meaning in what I wanted to do and achieve.

Hence my first joy of learning came from Books. I read voraciously and by the time I had turned ten, I had devoured the entire series by Enid Blyton, Nancy Drew, Famous Five, Secret Seven and Hardy Boys. Then I moved on to other authors and one of my still favourites are Agatha Christie and Roald Dahl. I owned few books and they were mostly borrowed from cousins and school. I derived a lot of pleasure reading for hours and this joy extended to my studies and I must say that I did exceptionally well at primary school and went to a premier secondary school.

I was doubly happy when I won book prizes for doing well at school. This meant that I could go down to MPH in Stamford Road with my teacher to pick my own books. So I always did my sums right and ensured that I got the most number of classic books with that prize amount, ensuring good value for money. That's how my early book collection grew during the primary school days.

School was very much teacher-directed and there was a lot of rote learning but the recess times and after school times were pure fun playing. I was allowed to do so many things and found myself actively involved in every aspect of school. I found joy in being a Brownie in primary school which meant a lot of outdoor activities and extra outings. I took part in quizzes, essay- writing and oratorical competitions both in and out of school. Looking at it now, it was rather funny that I had even taken part in a 3 member school skit. As a School Prefect, I had added responsibilities and that helped to grow my public speaking, confidence and never

give up attitude. Even at that young age, I realised that joy of learning is something you carve out for yourself and you have to decide that whatever you do, is it a joy or a pain for you?

How can I not mention the joy of playing? There was this long back lane near my house – certainly not clean by today's standards, and every day without fail, the neighbourhood children would gather, irrespective of age, gender and background and we would just play under the scorching sun and rain. We played anything and everything- sometimes running, sometimes hide and seek or hopscotch and sometimes cycling, a game of 'roundas' or just kick a football around. There was no planned agenda and we always improvised whatever available resources to make them into play items.

Our playing was mainly outdoors but we knew when to go home to do our homework. Nobody had to call out to us. Surely there were accidents but we picked ourselves up and continued playing. This vibrant and carefree environment grew us much not just our physical well-being but also our social skills. We made so many friends and our parents allowed us to bring our friends home to also play and watch television. There was this strong community feeling where we always shared our snacks, looked out for one another, celebrated each other's success and even shared our joys and pains.

Was there entrepreneurial dare in those days? I am sure there was but in my young days, I cannot recall doing anything significant. But I must say that there was this 'DARE' or 'FIRE' in us. We wanted to try anything put in front of us. We took up little challenges in our own ways. We took certain risks and never feared failures or falls. We just did what we felt was good to do and that sometimes got us into trouble with our parents. But this never hindered us from trying it out again.

I think both Joy of Learning and Entrepreneurial Dare is a 'FEEL' or 'thing of the heart' and that opportunities to grow these should be seamless in the daily lives of our children both at home and school. Certainly, it shouldn't translate into enrichment classes to teach Joy of Learning and Entrepreneurial Dare.

Childhood comes only once in a lifetime and our children should enjoy and treasure it. For a start, as educators we need to have a mindset shift. We need to be less prescriptive and less 'protective' of our children and not just perk them for success. This can be tough because of expectations and expected outcomes but if we want to nurture entrepreneurial dare, we may not have much of a choice. Within our broader curriculum framework, each subject can identify how some of our teaching approaches and student activities can be modified to allow more scope for our children to discover their own joy of learning. Both in our curriculum and co-curriculum, through our various programmes and events, we can encourage our children to think differently, involve them in decision-making, teach them to take risks and sometimes to experience 'failures'. We can experiment with scenarios and case-studies during our lessons. We need to grow our children's socialemotional competencies, get them to be more resilient and also to have a deeper understanding of today's world. Parents can also do their part by creating similar experiences at home and work in close partnership with the school.

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think – Margaret Mead

What we learn with pleasure, we never forget – Alfred Mercier

Best Wishes

Mrs Chandler Jay Siva

Principal West Grove Primary School



P6 Science Learning Journey to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

The Science Department organised learning journeys to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve for our Primary 6 students. Our students were taken on a boardwalk tour of the mangrove forest led by our teachers where they spotted organisms like tree-climbing crabs and Malayan water monitor lizards. One of the classes was thrilled to have spotted an estuarine crocodile. The students learnt the importance of mangroves, the structural and behavioural adaptations of various plants and animals found there and how they depend on one another for survival. Most importantly, the students reflected on the importance of Sungei Buloh and what they can do to help protect its biodiversity.

"We believe in nurturing the joy of learning so that every child can discover his interests, grow his passions, and love what he is doing."

Mr Ng Chee Meng Minister for Education (Schools)

JOY OF LEARNING

West Grove Primary School

Cyber Wellness

Cyber Wellness (CW) refers to the positive well-being of Internet users. It involves an understanding of online behaviour and awareness of how to protect oneself in cyberspace. The focus of CW is about helping students to become responsible digital learners. When navigating cyberspace, students should demonstrate respect for self and others and practise safe and responsible use. Students should also be a positive peer influence by harnessing technology for collaboration, learning and productivity, as well as advocating positive use of technology for the good of the community. - See more at: https://www.moe.gov.sg/education/programmes/social-and-emotional-learning/cyber-wellness#sthash.plZ5ofS8.dpuf

Reference: https://www.moe.gov.sg/education/programmes/social-and-emotional-learning/cyber-wellness

Below are some activities that West Grove students had been doing to learn more about Cyber Wellness.

Cyber Wellness training for ICT Class Ambassadors





Termly Cyber Wellness recess games to learn more or review cyber wellness advices and tips





JOY OF LEARNING

West Grove Primary School

Chinese New Year

My Chinese New Year Celebration Experience (Toh Jing En, 6G)

For this year's Chinese New Year celebration, I was the host and I was very excited about the concert.

On New Year's eve at around 8:40 a.m., beautiful tunes of different Chinese New Year songs started playing, which really started the whole New Year's mood.

It was very crowded, many were waiting to watch the concert we had planned. The opening ceremony started with student representatives offering Mandarin oranges to our Principal and Vice Principals on the stage. Mrs Siva then hit the "Gong" which symbolized the departure of darkness and arrival of brightness and joy.

Backstage, everyone was busy practising their moves and it was really tense to see how all our hard work paid off. The choir sang a wonderful tune called "七色光". It was a really nice song!

The Guzheng members later played two Chinese New Year songs for us. It was really beautiful to see how the instrument produces such soothing tunes!

Next, was the Wu Shu performance. Even though our Wu Shu members seemed cute and adorable, they had amazing skills. It was terrifying but fantastic to watch their moves!

Next, we had a gameshow! It was very fun to see our West Grovians attempt all the different games to see them fail and succeed! We also had piano recitals and violin players to play three wonderful songs for us.

Also, we couldn't miss the dance presented by our Nascans performers. They were really good at it!

At the end, we had a sing-along together with the teachers and all our performers!



热热闹闹迎鸡年(林毓观6HCL1)

一临近华人农历新年,校园里到处喜气洋洋。 所有的传统新年活动中,除了领红包,另一个 最让我期待的就是学校的庆祝活动了。

大年三十,早被装饰得五彩缤纷、充满过年 气氛的礼堂里,一场精彩的表演即将开始。在 同学们到齐前,一首接一首的新年歌曲连续播 出,新年气氛越来越浓厚。终于,所有人都到 齐了!

学生代表首先上台为校长和副校长奉上象征大 吉大利的柑橘, 献上学生对师长的美好祝愿和 致谢之情。一声铜锣响后,令人兴奋的表演开 始啦!

第一个节目是合唱团合唱流传已久、人人喜爱的新年歌——《七色光》! 所有人跟着合唱团演唱起来,个个都十分投入! 合唱团的歌声让我念念不忘,至今还在我的脑海中回荡。

下一个节目是古筝表演。他们以古典的中国乐器表演了两首传统歌曲——《新年联奏》和《 喜洋洋》。这两首乐曲能够表达出人们对新年 浓浓的喜爱之情。

接下来,武术社团以他们利落的剑法、棍术和 拳术展现了华族传统文化的精髓,让没有看过 武术表演及其他种族的同学们了解了武术的意 义和它有趣的一面。

之后,老师和同学们玩了一个简短的抢答游戏。得到了奖品的同学们乐得心花怒放,而所有的观众们也全情投入,个个笑逐颠开。 紧接着的是钢琴和小提琴演奏。弹钢琴的同学弹了《迎春花》和《新年好》,而拉小提琴的 男孩则演奏了《新春乐》,乐曲优美,令人陶

之后, 低年级的舞蹈社团随着《恭喜发财》的音乐纷纷起舞, 优雅又整齐的舞步让所有人都拍手叫好。

最后一个节目是母语老师、合唱团和同学们扮演的舞龙舞狮一起同台欢唱《恭喜恭喜》。在台上老师和同学们的带动下,台下的同学们纷纷站立起来,一起加入合唱,欢乐的气氛达到了高潮。

在热闹的气氛中,这个令人难忘的新年庆典圆满闭幕。



Reading Festival

"Read, Play, Imagine" – is the theme for the Reading Festival this year. Students learned more about Science Fiction books through a simple lesson and attempted to complete missions in their "Dare to Read" booklets and cards to win tokens.

Upper Primary students learned about stars and constellations such as Hercules, see and smell different spices such as cinnamon and star anises, read up on spiders that do not spin webs, tried map reading and learned other interesting knowledge through the challenges. Lower Primary students also learned more about Singapore through a time travelling adventure story.



Pupils using ipad to translate English words into French! "Library" is called "bibliothèque" in French.

JOY OF LEARNING

West Grove Primary School

"Schools should not just be about doing well in exams. It should be an exciting place to acquire knowledge and skills, where learning is fun and with the necessary rigour."

Mr Ng Chee Meng Minister for Education (Schools)



A lesson on Science Fiction which usually deals with imaginative concepts such as futuristic science and technology, space travel, time travel, faster than light travel, parallel universes, and even about life on other planets.



Students are trying to find out alternative names for Kansas. It is also known as the Jayhawk state, Sunflower state and Wheat State.

Arts Fiesta

Arts Fiesta is a yearly event helmed by the Aesthetics department for the entire school. It takes place across an entire week to celebrate the arts in our lives.

This fiesta, students were involved in a great variety of music and art games. P3 and P6 students attended special lessons conducted by dance and Acapella external trainers where they were able to experience a class of a different art form, trigger their interest and inspire them to pursue that art form.

Information on composers and artists, as well as famous works, and information of art schools were introduced to increase students' exposure and promote better understanding of the art scenes in Singapore.

Auditions for talent time took place online through Microsoft office platform. Students voted for their favourite performances from the online platform. This year, the audiences were really blown away by the awe-inspiring performances of various genres.



International Friendship Day

Our school celebrated International Friendship Day on the 11th of April 2017 with this year's theme, ASEAN 50. Pupils learned about the importance of Singapore's role in ASEAN and how, as a Singaporean, appreciate other cultures and their contributions to Singapore. During the assembly, our school choir performed two lovely pieces and pupils were also enthralled by stories on the importance of friendship told by a professional story teller,





Total Defence Day

On 14 Feb 2017, the school commemorated Total Defence Day. The theme for this year is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". Pupils learnt the importance of Total Defence and recognised that Singaporeans should take personal responsibility for and get involved in the defence of Singapore. Classroom activities emphasizing on how the pupils could do their part for Total Defence were conducted. The assembly programme focused on the history and significance of National Service. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the video clip showing photographs of their teachers during their NS days. An important takeaway for the pupils from the commemoration was that they understood their part in Total Defence and put Total Defence into action in their daily lives.



HUSTLE & BUSTLE

West Grove Primary School



- P1 Induction
- Parenting Talk
- ICT Orientation for P2 P6 classes
- Our Wonderful Library (OWL) lessons

- Total Defence Day
- Chinese New Year Celebration
- Memory Lane Activities
- Cyberwellness & ICT skills activities
- WGPS Reading Festival
- Buddy Clean Workshop





START

HUSTLE & BUSTLE

West Grove Primary School



MARCH



- Math GOLD activity
- World Water Week
- Science Centre Enrichment Lessons
- Science Parents' Workshop
- Earth Hour
- Prefects' Camp
- Math Parents' Workshop









ENTREPRENEURIAL DARE

West Grove Primary School

P5 Camp Resilience

It was an exciting day when the P5 cohort descended on the Boys' Brigade / Girls' Brigade Campsite at Sembawang on Tuesday, 11 April. It was the annual P5 Camp which has taken on a different slant this year. To strengthen the Teacher-Student Relationship and also Peer Relationship, the camp is placed under the P5 & 6 Year Head and thus Camp Resilience was born. This year, students were grouped according to their form class and were guided by their own Form and Co-Form teachers, and trainers from InnoTrek Pte. Ltd.

Together with Camp Resilience partners (PHE, SS, ICT, EL and Discipline) and armed with the Camp Motto, I Can and I Will!, the camp sets out to achieve the following objectives:

- To develop positive attitudes of resilience, self-confidence and self-respect towards learning through varied experiences in a natural environment
- To improve relationships among peers and teachers

Over the 3 days and 2 nights, students overcame their fear and encouraged one another to conquer high elements like abseil, zip line, and even climb trees. They then attempted backwoodsman cooking, learnt how to tie knots and lashings and pitched tents. The students also supported one another through the low element course.

At the end of Camp Resilience, the students went home exhausted, yet more enriched after forging an even closer bond with their teachers and friends.



"To "dare", resilience is key. Because it is often the fear of failure that holds many of us back."

Mr Ng Chee Meng Ministry for Education (Schools)



Achievements

Rope Skipping

Our Rope Skipping Club members have put in tremendous effort during their trainings for the past 3 months this year. Almost all our skippers managed to compete in the National Rope Skipping Championships 2017 which was held on 3 & 4th April.

This year is truly a memorable one as our Junior Girls & Senior Boys Divisions managed to achieve 4th in Divisional Championships at National Level for the first time!

Kudos to all our Rope Skipping competitors! All their hard work and perseverance during their twice weekly trainings had really proven that they could reach greater heights when they put their hearts and minds to what they do best!





Scouts

In conjunction with the "A Good Deed A Day" initiative, the Singapore Scout Association had organised the Good Deeds Day on April 1, which rallied all scouts in the nation to participate in community projects.

West Grove Cub Scouts took on the challenge and spent their meaningful morning, interacting with the senior





residents at the Marsiling Sunlove Seniors Activity Centre. The day ended with the cub scouts serving the residents a scrumptious lunch. The event had demonstrated our cub scouts' commitment to serve within their community, thus creating a better Singapore.

On this note, the school is pleased to announce that West Grove Cub Scouts Unit has clinched the Frank Cooper Sands Gold Award for the Assessment Year 2016. Well done, Cub Scouts!

Girls Brigade Awards Ceremony 2017

The Girls Brigade Awards Ceremony took place on 8 April 2017 at Singapore Chinese Girls School. Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister For Education (Schools) & Second Minister For Transport was the Guest-of-Honour at the event to acknowledge the achievements of the various Girls Brigade companies in Singapore.

Mrs Siva, representing the 80th company (West Grove Primary School) received the Gold Award for 2016.

The Girls Brigade started in 2007 in WGPS and will continue to help the Girls Brigade members to develop their character, leadership and responsibility, to be of service to the home, school, community and nation.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DARE

West Grove Primary School

Environment Education

West Grove Primary continually strives to instil positive values of kindness, respect, responsibility for the environment, in our students.



In commemoration of World Water Day in March, students learnt about the 4 National Taps, how to read their water bills and the importance of saving water. For Earth Hour, our teachers shared with students about the impact of climate change and how all of us can do our part to protect the environment. Later in the day, classes had their lights and fans switched off for 15 minutes as a symbol of their commitment to their planet. In commemoration of Earth Day on 22 April, the school dedicated a week to getting our students to learn about biodiversity in Singapore. During one of the school assemblies, Ms Teresa Guttensohn from Cicada Tree Eco-Place (CTEP), shared with us about the biodiversity found in MacRitchie rainforest in Singapore. The students were thrilled to see the various kinds of wildlife found there. During the recesses, students had the chance to learn about horseshoe crabs from students of Republic Polytechnic and there were games that required them to match the name of native species to their pictures.

We hope that through these events and activities, we can inspire our students to be socially responsible individuals who respect and love the environment.

In recognition of our commitment towards environment education, the school has won the following awards for 2016.

- Green schools @ South West Gold Award
- Orchid Award in the SEC-StarHub School Green Awards (SGA) 2016

Online Arts Auction

2016 was the year where WGPS held our first online auction. In 2016, we finally took the Art Auction online with the intent of reaching out to a wider audience so that more may benefit from the efforts of our students. The website was made possible with partial funding from Art Community Participation Grant granted to West Grove Primary School by



the National Arts Council. Through Art Auction, our students learn concepts of demand and supply factors determining the art market. This helps them to move into the future of art neart is done not just to express oneself, but also to meet the needs of the community is indeed a valuable learning point for our students about the importance of giving back to society through their diverse talents and learn to be active agents of change.

Parents were encouraged to log on to http://www.whereartsgrow.com/ to indicate their interest to bid for artworks done by some of our students, as well as artworks contributed by invited schools. The online auction began on 14 November 2016 and closed on 19 November 2016 (2359). We are proud to announce that in 2016, we have raised a total of \$890 through the auction and have auctioned off 33 pieces of our stude works. 100% of the gross proceeds from the art auction have been donated to Children's Cancer

This year, our auction will be held from 22 May till 30 July 2017 and once again 100% of the gross proceeds from the auction will go to Children's Cancer Foundation. The auction will feature works done by our students as well as works contributed by invited schools. We invite all parents and students to show their support by registering at the website http://www.whereartsgrow.com/ to bid for the artworks that are up for sale.

Singapore Youth Festival Art Exhibition 2017

Selected art club students are participating in this year's Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). Based on the curatorial theme of Space, they have created 3 artworks called "Light Up Your Heart", "Space Monster" and "Our Brain, Your Problem" that are related to the theme. These projects have a stronger personal voice as the students are involved in charting directions right from the planning to the making. The SYF art club members have worked very hard. They have spent a lot of time and effort in creating the artworks. They have developed team work and perseverance.





Robotix

The Robotix Club often goes for competition as part of our training and club activity calendar. On the 4th march, we participated in the national based tournament - FIRST Lego League (FLL). FLL Singapore is part of a worldwide robotics competition that has been around for a decade and we have been taking part in it since its beginnings. Just like any other robotics competition, FLL is not simply about the robot games, there are other components such as research, presentation and reflection. Similar to



previous FLL competitions, it is based on a theme, which is inspired by real-world issues and concerns. This year's theme is Animal Allies. It encourages participants to research about the relationship between man and animals and how we can better that interaction. The teams prepared for three whole months, often spending extra time touching up on their research and presentations and fine tuning their robot's performance. In the end, the teams were awarded with two significant wins - Champions for Research Presentation and Overall Champions. We have proven that West Grovians have potential and can achieve that potential and that we should always give our best, no matter the odds. Our win has earned us a spot at the international rounds - FLL World Festival and at the time of writing, we are flying to Houston to represent Singapore. It is a historic moment for us. We hope to do West Grove and the nation proud.

ACTIVE MINDS, GRACIOUS HEARTS

West Grove Primary School



2017 marks the 5th year that our school hosted students and teachers from Kairos Gracia School, Jakarta, Indonesia. Prior to their visit, the P5 WG Buddies initiated the friendship by sending e-mails to their new friends.

Our new friends were able to experience first-hand, the everyday life of a Singaporean student through their P5 WG Buddies. The indelible memories and friendship fostered between them will remain strong in their hearts. We look forward to our visit to Jakarta in November.

Buddy Clean Workshop

On 10 March 2017, our Primary 4 students participated in the Buddy Clean workshop conducted by the National Environment Agency (NEA). In line with the Keep Singapore Clean Movement in Schools, NEA has launched a capacity



building workshop titled 'Buddy Clean Workshop' to assist schools to educate students on the importance of keeping the school clean as well as to train students in the various skills required for cleaning activities.

During the workshop, our students were introduced to the consequences of littering and why they need to keep the school clean. Furthermore, they underwent activities to learn how to communicate effectively, listen actively and work together as a team to keep the school clean. Finally, students learnt the various cleaning skills (e.g. how to sweep) and were assigned cleaning areas to clean such as their classrooms, the library, the science lab, the canteen and the school hall. We hope that the Primary 4s will share what they have learnt with their buddies in Primary 1 and together they can help to keep West Grove clean and green.



ACTIVE MINDS, GRACIOUS HEARTS

West Grove Primary School

Junior CD Lionhearter Challenge







Through this event, the CCF embassadors learned about the need preparedness, as well as, taking ownership of their own level of emergency preparedness. Furthermore, the participants were taught basic first aid skills, fire safety knowledge and basic financial literacy.

At the end of the event, the CCE ambassadors were presented with medals of participation.



CCE Ambassadors

14 March 2017 was an interesting and fruitful day for the P3, P4 and P5 CCE ambassadors.

They started their day early and arrived in the school hall at 8am to embark on their one day CCE ambassadors training.

The training aims to equip the CCE ambassadors with basic presentation skills. The trainers also shared on the Dos and Don'ts when doing a presentation. After lunch that day, is stime to put what they had learnt to practice. Each pupil did a mini presentation on the different parts of the Memory Lane and the Heritage Trail. The biggest takeaway for that day was EACH and EVERY ONE of the ambassadors was more confident of doing a presentation after the one day training.







Get-together cum Lo Hei

On 11th of February 2017, in conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebrations, PSG executive committee organised a Lo Hei cum PSG gathering to usher in the year of the Fire Rooster.

According to traditional culture, Chinese New Year must be celebrated with the ubiquitous "Yu Sheng". This raw fish salad is traditionally prepared in Singapore and it is believed to bring "abundance, prosperity and luck".

The school leaders, Mrs Siva, Mr Foo and Ms Jobina Tan as well as school representatives, parent support group and their families, got together to toss Yu Sheng, armed with chopsticks for the "Lo Hei". As the tradition the "higher the salad is tossed in the air, the higher the diner's growth in fortune".

2017 Math Workshop for Parents

13 March was indeed a learning day for 208 parents in West Grove. Armed with the intent to know more about what their children are experiencing in the Math classrooms, parents picked up heuristics and other problem-solving skills so that they can guide their children at home. They were enthusiastically jotting down notes and trying out different methods of solving problems, focusing on conceptual understanding. Kudos to our Math department teachers too for sharing their knowledge and expertise beyond the classrooms!



"Excuse me, are you my buddy?"

When a child begins to enter his next phase in a primary school setting, it is an important milestone in a child's life.

In Semester 1, Partnerships Committee from CCE Department is pleased to host two groups of pre-schoolers from Smiling Star Pre-school Centre and Chiltern House Forum. We engaged our junior student leaders from Primary 2 and 3 to be their buddies for the mini tour within the school.



The highlight of the visit was an experiential learning when the pre-schoolers had their hands-on activity at one of the stops - The Robotics Club. They had the chance to use the computer to navigate and made use of the Lego bricks to build the models with the help of their buddles and club members.

On the other hand, all the pre-schoolers were highly exuberant about their canteen experience. Both the two centers' staff highlighted that it was the children's favourite part of the programme. "It was my first time something for myself," Ethan said proudly. "I bought a packet of Milo and a fruit jelly!" exclaimed Maya.

At the end of the day, it was clear that such collaboration allowed greater respect and understanding to be forged between our pupils and the pre-schoolers. We also hope to work towards building a caring culture and paying it forward to the community.





We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to our Vice Principal, Ms Jobina Tan who has decided to continue her career in the Arts. Thank you Ms Tan for your service, contributions and commitment to West Grove. We wish you all the best in your endeavours.

