

West Grove Primary School

Newsletter • Issue 2 • Oct 2018



ACTIVE MINDS, GRACIOUS HEARTS



SENSE
THINK
ACT

Vote
Up!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

From the VP's Desk	2
School Celebrations	3
Joy of Learning	4
Active Minds, Gracious Hearts	6
Entrepreneurial Dare	8
Partnerships	10
Spotlight on staff	12

FOREWORD

In the recent MOE Work Plan Seminar, Minister for Education Mr Ong Ye Kung announced that the education landscape is preparing to enter a new phase of change. The new phase is entitled "Learn for Life", which is about equipping our students with the values, attitudes and skills for them to thrive in the future. In line with this, the school will review the curriculum and assessment structure for 2019 to maintain a good balance between the rigour and joy of the learning process.

At West Grove, we believe in the holistic development of our students and while examinations and tests are important, it should not be at the expense of other aspects of their lives. After all, we should be preparing our students for the tests of life, and not for a life of tests. Along the same vein, in this newsletter, I would like to share a little more about myself and perhaps after reading, you may agree with me that there is so much more to life than merely tests and examinations, especially for a primary school student.



TEA TIME WITH MR FOO!

**What is your favourite activity on the weekend?**

I try to create opportunities for my kids to be engaged in outdoor activities so as to minimise screen time. Spending too much time on their electronic gadgets is detrimental to their long-term development. Therefore, I like going to the parks to cycle with my family.

What brings you the greatest joy?

I derive joy in learning something new because there is so much to know about the world. New knowledge is created every day due to the rapid advancements in technology and research.

What is on your bucket list?

Top on my list is to bring my wife to see the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). It is said that the phenomenon is going to appear less frequently so we would like to see it before it is too late.

Who are your heroes?

My father has been a guiding beacon for me. He has never imposed his wishes on me. Instead, he shares his philosophy of life and trusts me to make my own judgements. I appreciate his approach because it makes me feel empowered. It helps me understand that I have to be responsible for the choices that I make.

What is the best gift you have ever received?

An education opens doors in a way that nearly nothing else can. We learn to distinguish right from wrong which forms the foundation of our moral compass in life. An education gives us the ability to think for ourselves, for others and for the community. It is the best gift that any parent can give to their child.

What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I have a Powered Pleasure Craft Driving Licence (PPCDL) that allows me to drive boats up to 24 metres.

What advice would you give to West Grove students?

I came across a quote by Earl Nightingale: "Your attitude towards life determines life's attitude towards you."

I believe that someone who has a "Try Me!" attitude rather than a "Why Me?" when faced with difficult situations will certainly go far in life.

Interviewed by:
Mdm Sarifah Azlin

WE SHOW

With this year's theme 'We are Singapore', the P5 students were inspired by stories of hope and saw among the crowd, Mrs Mary Klass, 83, Singapore's second female Olympian. In her interview, she hoped that she could give her story to the young generation and that they "can be not like me, but be better than me."

Both teachers and students were not dampened by the rain that showered for a while. We were indeed privileged to be part of the National Day celebration and felt truly that 'WE Are Singapore'.



NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

At West Grove, aligned with the theme 'We are Singapore', the celebration consisted of the Observance ceremony, the principal's speech, a concert and finally, classroom activities. The theme emphasised on the importance of people coming together as one nation. While the uniformed groups that marched in looked smart and polished, the concert items were fun and exciting. There were Chapteh and Zero Point challenges, singing of community songs, a dance performance by our Dance Troupe and even a trivia on old and new landmarks.



TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION

With this year's theme, 'You are my Sunshine', we celebrated Teachers' Day with a kick. There were special performances by our dance troupe, students from the talent programme and even our PSG. P6 students even gave their appreciation speech to their teachers. Teachers were delighted to receive a D.I.Y. gift by the P5 and P4 prefects.

RACIAL HARMONY DAY

To commemorate this year's Racial Harmony Day, students discussed topics on how Singaporeans can build a strong nation despite its diversity. Students also got to experience fun traditional games like '5 Stones' during their PE and Social Studies lessons. Through games, students were able to gain better understanding of various cultures and also foster stronger bonds amongst their peers.



JUNIOR MARITIME EXPLORER

Earlier this year, National Geographic, in partnership with Maritime Experiential Museum at Resorts World Sentosa, was looking for a Junior Maritime Explorer. Our NE ambassadors visited the museum to learn more about maritime exploration and explorers

such as Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo. One of our NE ambassadors, Dylan Tay, managed to win the grand prize and become National Geographic's first Junior Maritime Explorer! All the finalists and selected NE Ambassadors were lucky to meet Erika Bergman, an explorer for National Geographic.



GOLD RECESS ACTIVITY

The Mathematics department organises G.O.L.D. (Game Oriented Learning Development in Mathematics) once every term as part of recess activities. It helps students to apply Mathematical concepts learnt in the classroom through playing iPad Mathematics Apps. Students are given G.O.L.D. cards for them to accumulate points and exchange them for tokens.



READ FOR BOOKS 2018

The National Reading Movement, which was launched in 2016, aims to get Singapore residents to 'Read More, Read Widely and Read Together'. As part of the National Reading Movement, Read for Books is a charity book drive that combines sharing the gift of reading with the less privileged. For every 10 people who read for 15 minutes, one book will be donated. On 25 July, West Grove participated in the event, gathering a total of 591 students and staff reading together at one go!



LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAMME 2018

The Lighthouse Programme was initiated in January 2018 with the aim of helping participants develop a sense of belonging and building their confidence through varied activities. Examples of these activities include Mindfulness practice, balloon sculpting, Kinball, cooking, Augmented Reality (AR) gaming etc. The students enjoyed themselves tremendously at every session.

MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT

The month of July was an exciting and inspiring one for our students. This year, the Mother Tongue (MT) department had organised a variety of activities that promoted experiential and engaging learning through our rich local culture. The students participated in hands-on sessions such as clay sculpting, bean Art, blow painting and kite making.

2018年7月3日至7月13日，我校母语部安排了一系列精彩的母语双周活动，让学生通过快乐的学习经验多了解华族文化，并且培养学生对中华文化的兴趣。各年级的学生通过“动手做一做”认识不同的传统手工。活动包括泥塑制作、豆画制作、吹画、风筝制作。



DWI-MINGGUAN BAHASA IBUNDA 2018

Pada tahun ini, sebagai kegiatan Dwi-Mingguan Bahasa Ibunda 2018, murid Darjah 1 dan Darjah 2 diperkenalkan kepada asal-usul tembikar dan kegunaannya. Kebanyakan reka bentuknya berdasarkan elemen semulajadi seperti tumbuh-tumbuhan, bunga dan haiwan. Darjah 3 dan Darjah 4 belajar mengenai teknik tenunan benang-benang emas dan benang sutera dalam seni tenunan songket. Murid-murid Darjah 5 dan Darjah 6 pula diberi peluang untuk berlatih menulis nama mereka dalam kaligrafi menggunakan huruf Arab.



MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT (ML)

This year, for Mother Tongue Fortnight, Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils were introduced to the origins of earthenware and its uses. Most of these Malay traditional handicraft designs are based on natural elements such as the interlacing of leaves or vines, flowers and animals. The Primary 3 and Primary 4 learnt about the intricate weaving techniques of gold threads and silk threads in Malay songket while the Primary 5 and Primary 6 pupils were given the opportunity to practise writing their names in calligraphy using Arabic letters.



MT FORTNIGHT (TAMIL)

தாய்மொழி இருவார விழா (தமிழ்)

வகுப்பறை நடவடிக்கை

நமது பள்ளியில் தாய்மொழி இருவார நடவடிக்கைகள் பருவம் 3ல் நடத்தப்பட்டன. இதில் நமது பள்ளியின் அனைத்துத் தமிழ் மாணவர்களும் தமிழர்களின் கைவினைப் பொருட்களை செய்யும் விதம் பற்றி அறிந்துகொண்டு, அவற்றை வகுப்பறையில் செய்யவும் தெரிந்துகொண்டனர். இதன் மூலம் மாணவர்கள் வகுப்பறை தாண்டிய கற்றலிலும் முழு ஈடுபாட்டுடன் ஈடுபட்டு தங்கள் திறமையை வெளிப்படுத்தினர்.



P3 - Printing and painting on handkerchieves



P4 - Leaf Plate Making

The TL and NTIL students learned about the various Indian hand craft works and also about the methods to create those crafts. They also learnt how to do them in a very easy manner. From these activities, students were able to be independent learners outside the classroom which would allow them to showcase their talent.



P6 - Leaf Basket Making



P5 - Clay Modelling

DIALOGUE SESSION WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION (CURRICULUM)

Mr. Sng Chern Wei, Deputy Director-General of Education (Curriculum), visited West Grove on 25 July 2018. Through a dialogue session, school leaders and teachers discussed key developments in Singapore's education today. The students also shared snippets of school life with Mr. Sng. The school felt honoured to have been visited by a VIP!



PERFORMANCE ARTS AND WUSHU AT GARDENS BY THE BAY

Our West Grove Primary School's Performing Arts CCA as well as Wushu Team put up wonderful performances at Gardens by the Bay during Singapore Garden Festival 2018 on 2 August 2018. It was a fantastic platform for students to showcase their talents. We look forward to more of such opportunities in the near future.



PRIMARY 5 CAMP

On 11 April 2018, the P5 cohort descended on the Boys' Brigade / Girls' Brigade Campsite at Sembawang for the annual Camp Resilience. Armed with the camp motto, 'I Can and I Will!', students encouraged one another to conquer elements like abseil, zipline and archery tag. At the end of the camp, the students went home exhausted, yet more enriched after forging an even closer bond with their teachers and friends.



PRIMARY 3 AND PRIMARY 4 COHORT DAY

The P3 and P4 Cohort Day provided the students with an opportunity to bond with their teachers and classmates. Aligned with the School Wide Pedagogy – building relationships and providing an authentic learning experience for the students - the activities promoted positive teacher-student and peer relationship through exciting and challenging team-building activities. For P3 students, they got to apply their Mathematical skills in measuring length and volume and learnt about Singapore's culture during the learning journeys to the various heritage trails (Kampong Glam, Balestier and Little India). The P4 students had team-building games at Sentosa, a visit to the Singapore Maritime Museum and a Clean Environment Challenge.



WEST ZONE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)

Running its third year, the WZ CoP brought together teacher-musicians in the West Zone schools to perform at the National Gallery Singapore on 18 August. This platform, organised by STAR (Singapore Teachers' Academy for the Arts), is used to celebrate the creative musical expressions of their teacher-musicians. This year, they performed a special remix of some of Singapore familiar favourites, with an original arrangement for hand chimes, piano and voice led by West Grove's very own Mrs Irene Chin (LT Music).



W3 CLUSTER ICT CODING WORKSHOP

In July, ten students from Primary 4 and Primary 5 took part in the W3 Cluster Computational Thinking through Coding Workshop. This two-day programme was part of the cluster schools' initiative to promote computational thinking skills through coding activities. The activities brought about the joy of learning through solving real-world problems through gaming. It was also used to inculcate values such as awareness of water wastage and the broader National Education messages. At the end of the day, the students developed basic computational thinking, design thinking, problem-solving skills and learned valuable collaborative skills.



ECO-LIT

WGPS Eco-Lit programme aims to expose selected Primary Four students to the world of nature and act as ambassadors for conservation. This two-year programme provides the students with knowledge and critical thinking skills through field trips guided by experienced nature guides. Through these experiences, the students would in turn pass on their knowledge to their schoolmates through booth talks during recess. This dedicated group will also be publishing a book in 2019. So, stay tuned! Nature rules!



OPS BACA

Sekumpulan murid-murid Darjah 2 hingga 4 telah menyertai Peraduan OPS Baca pada tahun ini. Dianjurkan oleh pihak Kelab Masyarakat Nanyang, dengan kerjasama MLLPC, peraduan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan minat membaca dalam kalangan murid serta mengasah kemahiran berbahasa para peserta. Dengan latihan yang dijalankan oleh para guru serta semangat dan kegigihan murid-murid yang terlibat, kumpulan Darjah 3 dan 4 telah meraih hadiah saguhati sementara kumpulan darjah 2 pula telah berjaya mendapat tempat pertama bagi kategori mereka. Sekolah Rendah West Grove telah berjaya mendapat tempat ketiga secara keseluruhan dalam Peraduan OPS Baca ini. Syabas kepada pelakon-pelakon cilik kita!

A group of our Primary 2 to 4 students participated in the OPS Baca Competition this year. Organised by Nanyang Community Club, in collaboration with MLLPC, the competition aimed to increase the interest of reading among students as well as honing the participants' speaking skills. With the training conducted by the teachers and the spirit and persistence of the students involved, the P3 and P4 teams won consolation prizes while the P2 team emerged champion in their category. West Grove won third overall in this OPS Baca competition. Well done to our budding stars!



2018 NATIONAL SPEAK-UP! KIDS COMPETITION

This year, members of Book Buzz Club (English Division) took part in the National Speak Up! Kids Competition. Created by Speech Academy Asia and Sphere Exhibits, the purpose of this competition was to enable participants to experience the importance of having good speaking skills and observe how one can be influenced by the power of speech. West Grove performed very well in this competition and we are proud of the winners and participants!

WINNERS

Champion

Teng Sher Shan Stanley –P2G
Sun Yuwei – P2H
Javed Barzin Mohamed Jul Behar – P2C

2nd Runner – Up

Austin Han Shengrui – P2H
Bernice Khaw Si Ting – P2H
Koh Jin Hao, Levin – P2H
Kang Jing Hui, Meryl – P2G



AR GAMING

In July, the Pupil Well-being Committee organised two sessions of Augmented Reality (AR) dodgeball for Primary 3, 4 and 6 students. Competing in teams of three, they experienced AR technology of combining motion sensors, smartphones and sports! They were challenged physically and mentally as they strategised to hurl continuous strings of energy balls at their opponents. It was an enjoyable moment for the students.



CCA ACHIEVEMENTS

Robotix Club

World Robotics Olympiad

- Best Robot Performance Award 1st Runner-up
 - Gao Zijun (Leader)
 - Leong Zhen Yu
 - Pour Yi Long



CHINA IMMERSION PROGRAMME

In June this year, 18 students and 4 teachers from West Grove Primary School embarked on a 6-day immersion trip to China. It consisted of total classroom immersion experience in Kunshan Experimental Elementary School, where the students learnt about Chinese poetry, as well as painted their first Chinese water-colour painting with the guidance from their local buddies. Besides that, our students also travelled to Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou to learn more about China's history and culture. It was truly an enriching experience for our students, as not only did they gain valuable knowledge about Chinese history and culture, they also got to understand themselves and their friends better over the short period of time.

2018 中国游学之旅

2018年5月，我们学校的三位老师以及数学部主任携18名学生前往昆山实验小学进行交流。我校的学生不但感受到昆山实验小学学生的学习氛围，也在与他们的共同课堂学习中加深了彼此的了解。同学们踊跃参与学校为他们准备的国画、书法、以及模型飞机制造活动。

除了在昆山实验小学的三天学习之外，同学们也一边游览杭州、苏州、上海的名胜古迹，听着导游讲解丰富有趣的历史和文化故事，让同学们感受到了浓浓的中华情。



HOSTING OF KUNSHAN EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM CHINA

In July this year, West Grove Primary School welcomed a group of 29 P5 Chinese students and four teachers from Kunshan Experimental Primary School, China. The entourage participated in classroom activities, such as Art, Music, Science and even specially-designed PE lessons. They also had the opportunity to experience the Southeast Asian culture through batik painting and Indian Henna painting. Although the interaction only happened briefly, the friendship between the two schools was fostered.



CYBER WELLNESS

On 25 August 2018, the ICT department organised a Cyber Wellness Parent Engagement workshop for the parents of Primary 4 and Primary 5 students. A total of 49 participants attended this event, which was sponsored by MDA and conducted by TOUCH Cyber Wellness and DQ Institute. The trainer, Mr Kenneth Wong, shared some useful tips on how parents can effectively help their children unlock their potential with core skills and values for the digital age. He also stressed on the importance on inculcating the key value – Respect, which is the key DQ Principle: “Treat others as you want to be treated”.



KINDERGARTEN VISIT IN WGPS

As part of our school's effort to partner kindergartens in an outreach programme, we invited a few kindergartens K2 students to our school to provide an opportunity for their students to have an experience of school life in West Grove Primary School.

The tiny tots got to experience PAL lessons with the P1, activities in classrooms as well as learning to navigate around the school and in the canteen as part of the immersion. Hope they would look forward to their primary school life!

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

West Grove Primary School is proud to welcome the new 2018 Parent Support Group Exco Committee. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the previous chairperson, Mr James Han, for his time and dedication in helping to ensure strong partnerships with the school.



The new Exco members are:

PSG Chairperson:
Mr. Kalaiselvan .M

**Committee Members
(from left to right)**
Mr. Jason Lim (Vice-Chairperson)
Mdm. Connie Lee (Vice Chairperson)
Mdm. Er May Hua
Mdm. Jeanz Tan Siew Li
Mdm. Joanne Pon
Mdm. Florence Goh
Mdm. Carolyn Tan
Mr. Chinna Durai
Mdm. Anna Ong

WHEN I WAS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL (EDITORIAL TEAM)



The most memorable part for me in Merlimau Primary was playing at the running track and at the fitness corner. I also took part in Malay story-telling competitions (where I won the first prize) and poetry recital called 'syair'. I really enjoyed school life and experienced the Joy of Learning back then!
- Mdm Sarifah Azlin



The best part of being in Pioneer Primary School was recess where I would spend 5 minutes on eating and the rest on playing a basketball game with an entire court of players, some of whom I didn't know. It was truly 'a world of friends'!
- Ms Pamela Low



When I was in Pasir Panjang English Primary School, I loved to go to Lorong Sari to buy 'batu kepal' (iced ball) before I went home. It cost only ten cents and it was yummy especially during hot days. My favourite games were Zero Point and 'Police and Thieves'. I would play those games during my recesses with my friends.
- Mrs Mashita Chua

PUBLIC SERVICE

Our school was awarded a Public Sector Transformation Award for the ExCEL Innovation Project 'Where Arts Grow', which was presented at the project showcase at iCTLT 2018. 'Where Arts Grow' is an Online Art Auction, a platform for parents and the public to appreciate our students' works and make a purchase of their favourite masterpieces. For this year we have raised \$934.00 and all gross proceeds will go to Children's Cancer Foundation. Some of the students' artworks from the auction were also exhibited at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong West Public Library this year.



WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR BAG?

What is the most treasured item?

Ms Tan Hui Yang

My most treasured item is my handphone because I require it for work and entertainment.



Mr Kenneth Tan

The most important item is my umbrella although it is the least used item. I have always believed in the motto 'Be Prepared' and it is a representation of being prepared for any change in weather and braving the storm!

Editor's Note:

In our previous issue, our badminton team was stated to have emerged second runner-up. Please note that they had actually emerged first runner-up.