### **Racial Harmony Day**







Racial Harmony Day (RHD) was commemorated on 18 July during the assembly programme with a skit, *The Singapore Way*, to reiterate the importance of living with diversity and good neighbourliness. This was followed by the F.U.N. Concert which brought together students of different races through their common interest and passion in music. The school also celebrated its unity in diversity through a series of activities which included a cooking competition, *The Singapore Way Cook-Off*, and the *Groom Your Classroom Competition*.

The commemoration had the support of the Parent Support Group which organised a carnival during the recesses. There were titbits stalls, game stalls and even a paper-cutting art display! The students and staff immersed themselves in the festivities as they got to enjoy the ethnic food as well as learn about and appreciate the cultural diversity in Singapore.

### **National Day**





On 8 August, the school celebrated Singapore's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday firstly with a specially planned Character and Citizenship Education lesson. The students were challenged to express their interpretations of being one nation together through the #onenationtogether Photojournalism Challenge. Many entries expressed heartfelt sentiments, demonstrating loyalty to the nation and unity within the nation regardless of race, language or religion.

This was followed by an exciting assembly programme, comprising an observance ceremony led by the Uniformed Groups and a medley of Singapore-themed performances put up by the Guzheng Ensemble, Concert Band and Ethnic Fusion Dance. The celebration ended on a high note when a group of students and the Music teachers led the school in community singing, with the top entries for the #onenationtogether Photojournalism Challenge running in the background in a montage put together by the Infocomm Club.

### Rethinking National Education: Empowering Hearts and Minds of Newtowners







National Education (NE) for Newtowners has always been linked to cultivating heartware and rootedness to Singapore. With the contemporary challenge in engaging students in NE today, NE has moved beyond raising the level of awareness and appreciation of Singapore, to empowering the students. That is to say, more opportunities have been created, not

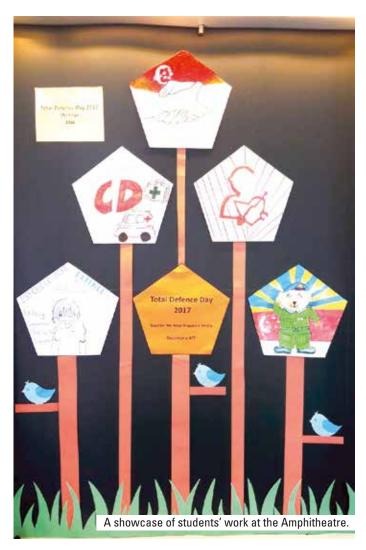
just for the NE Ambassadors but for all Newtowners to have a say and lead in NE.

One empowerment platform to hone student leadership skills in NE is the involvement of the NE Ambassadors and students in co-organising segments of the four NE commemorative events within the school, as well as beyond the school at the cluster level.

At the school level, the NE Ambassadors promote citizenship values by sharing their personal experiences during the *Morning Inspiration* segments on Thursdays. During the assembly programme on the NE Commemoration Day, the NE Ambassadors shared their Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) journeys in equipping them with life skills and they called out to all to stay strong and united to defend Singapore. In addition, the NE Ambassadors also garnered the support of their schoolmates to perform during the assembly programme to celebrate the harmony and diversity in Singapore.







At the cluster level, the NE Ambassadors and a group of Newtowners mentored and guided students from Yuhua Primary School in their Racial Harmony Day (RHD) projects and oral presentation skills. These concerted efforts brought about a successful RHD Carnival at Yuhua Primary School on 21 July.

Another empowerment platform, known as the Student Voice, is a talk held at the Amphitheatre every semester where the NE Ambassadors share their knowledge and views about the current issues which Singapore is facing.



The NE Committee also adopts a whole-school

approach to cascade a values-based NE programme through integration into its formal curriculum, Character and Citizenship Education lessons and NE learning journeys. These are avenues to enhance the *Student Voice* as the students engage in discussions with their teachers and classmates, present their thoughts in reflective writing and drawing, then display their work in the Amphitheatre.

### **Learning for Life Programme**







The school adopts a whole-school, integrative approach where every teacher is involved to develop the student leaders to achieve the following outcomes:

- i) An ethical and reflective leader who shows concern for the community.
- ii) A skilled servant leader who is competent to serve and lead.
- iii) An empowered contributor who exerts positive energy to his/her spheres of influence.

A three-tier developmental approach is adopted to develop the student leaders. Tier 1 engages the entire cohort of students in self-mastery and developing awareness of the community. Tier 2 involves training the various student leader segments with specific skills and competencies needed for their respective areas of service. Tier 3 develops the Student Councillors (SCs), Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) and Co-Curricular Activities Leaders to have competent and exemplary leadership in serving the school and community.

### **Applied Learning Programme**

In Semester 2, the Secondary One students engaged in collaborative Art and Science lessons followed by a six-week photography workshop. During these lessons, the students had plenty of opportunities to handle a Digital Single-Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera and use it to capture striking images around the school. Other highlights of the ALP include:

#### **Assembly Programme**

On 22 August, Ms Aditi Shivaramakrishnan, a writer and researcher, shared the components of good visual story-telling and how local film directors use them to express their viewpoints effectively.

#### **Outdoor Photography Session**

43 Secondary One students visited the Singapore Botanic Gardens on 23 August to explore the role that light plays in outdoor photography and further hone the skills learnt during their Art lessons.



### **Enhanced Art Programme**







#### **Collaborative Design Workshop**

The Secondary Three Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) students took part in a combined EAP schools design workshop on 30 May at Jurong West Secondary School. The collaboration between the two schools aimed to provide opportunities for collaborative learning and making amongst the EAP students. During the workshop, students were introduced to Design Thinking Methodology where they ideated and worked on a prototype for an authentic recycling art project.

#### **Digital Filmmaking Workshop**

The students also completed a six-week digital filmmaking workshop where they were introduced to the filmmaking process. They learnt to direct, shoot and edit their own short films in digital format, and were equipped with skills and inspirations for visual storytelling through a digital medium.

# Secondary Two Educational and Values In Action Trip to Malacca







The school organised an Educational and Values In Action (VIA) Trip to Malacca for the Secondary Two students during the September holidays. The trip was organised as part of the overseas educational exposure and internationalisation programme. It aimed to widen the students' exposure to different cultures and provide opportunities for them to participate in a VIA activity at an orphanage or a primary school in Malacca.

Before the trip, the students worked collaboratively to come up with meaningful activities for the VIA activity. During the trip, they put their plans into action and displayed resourcefulness in carrying out the activities at the orphanages and primary schools. The students benefitted tremendously from the hands-on VIA experience as they were exposed to environments beyond their comfort zone.

The students also went on a learning journey to discover the historical and social-economic aspects of Malacca. It was a truly a memorable and meaningful trip for them.

### Singapore-Thailand Enhanced Partnership







From 9 to 15 July, ten students and two teachers took part in the Singapore-Thailand Enhanced Partnership (STEP) Programme, which was launched in 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was an eye-opening experience as they learned about the Thai culture, education system and way of life. Observing the Thai students' eagerness to better themselves and learn from others was both inspiring and humbling for the Newtowners.

The warm reception and time spent together showed the Thais' hospitality and spoke volumes of how much their guests mattered to them. The School Directors, Head of Parent Support Group, Head of Police Division and even the Governor of Trat Province accompanied the Newtowners in the various activities. We look forward to hosting them in 2018!

#### **F.U.N. Concerts**

Fulfilling. Uniting. eNgaging. – These concerts are platforms for Newtowners to develop their potential and skills for music expression. The Secondary One students had their very own F.U.N. Concert on 17 May, where representatives from every class showcased their learning from the music programme to their fellow schoolmates. The second F.U.N. Concert was held as part of the Racial Harmony Day commemoration. A group of Secondary Two and Three students, who share a similar passion in music, came together to put up a performance. The music teachers, ever so supportive, shared the stage with the students for the finale.



### Secondary Two Normal (Academic) Elective Module

During the June holidays, 14 students from 2N5 and 2N6 participated in a unique Elective Module to learn about business management in the aeronautics industry. The students were highly engaged as they created budgeting spreadsheets to track the expenditure incurred in the course of assembling their aeromodel artefacts. They even had the opportunity to test-fly these aeromodel artefacts! The rich learning culminated with a visit to the flight simulator at the Singapore Flyer where the students gained the rare experience of flying a plane simulator. They also interacted with a practising pilot who acted as their guide and trainer.







## National Day Observance Ceremony @ Clementi Community Centre

The People's Association invited the school to be a part of their National Day Observance Ceremony at the Clementi Community Centre. The Ethnic Fusion Dance Group enthralled the crowd with their graceful dance steps. The dance symbolised racial diversity in harmony, aptly conveyed by the Newtowners from the various races dancing to the same tune. During their free time, the students visited the numerous stalls at the fun fair and took in the lively carnival atmosphere. It was an exuberant celebration befitting the nation's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday!



### **Emergency Preparedness: Exercise Rhino**

As part of emergency preparedness, the school went through the School Emergency Training and Exercise (SEMTREX) conducted by the Ministry of Education in Semester 1. The SEMTREX culminated in Exercise Rhino which was held on 28 April.







Exercise Rhino is a simulated exercise to help prepare the students and staff for evacuation and response procedures in the event of an actual emergency. It also helps to enhance the emergency preparedness of the school's Emergency Teams. Exercise Rhino is a realistic exercise which involves the Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force and Fire Department.

During the exercise, there was a simulated fire and explosion at the Science Laboratory. The students were swiftly evacuated to the designated assembly area and all the Emergency Teams were activated to secure the affected area and account for the safety of the students. All the students and staff contributed towards a successful simulated exercise.

### **Indoor Sports Hall**







Artist's impression of the completed ISH.

The school started on the construction of a two-storey Indoor Sports Hall (ISH) with a seating gallery in May 2017 and it is expected to be completed by December 2018. The support from the Ministry of Education to construct the ISH will allow the school to broaden the Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) experience and encourage sporting excellence by having more students take up competitive sports in their CCAs. It will also encourage greater mass participation in rugged activities by students who are not involved in competitive sports. The students and staff are looking forward to having this added facility to enhance their school experience.

### **Sports Carnival**







In the months of April and May, the eagerly anticipated Sports Carnival was held for the Secondary One to Five students. The Sports Carnival allowed classes from each level to pit their skills against one another after learning the rules, skills and strategies of the game from their Physical Education (PE) lessons. The games played included Frisbee, Tchoukball and Captain's Ball. More than just an inter-class competition, the Sports Carnival provided the opportunity for the students to display values such as teamwork, fair play and integrity. In addition, they learnt to win humbly and lose graciously. The games were definitely intense, competitive but spirited, portraying the students' excellence, sportsmanship and respect for one another.

### **Teachers' Day**

The school celebrated Teachers' Day on 30 August with an hour-long concert organised by the student leaders. The students from the different classes worked together to sing and dance for a very enthusiastic audience. The students and staff also participated in a game which shared interesting snippets of information about the teachers.

This year's Teachers' Day dinner was themed *Heroes vs Villains*, and the staff and guests turned up in different costumes, complete with props, ready to save or destroy the day. The ballroom was filled with cheers and laughter as heroes and villains fought each other, virtually of course, on the Nintendo Switch games of *Wizard*, *Quick Draw*, *Boxing Game* and *Sword Fight*. It was interesting to watch the usually mild-mannered colleagues wield their virtual swords to slay their opponents, and some of us learned how to throw a hook which has nothing to do with fishing. Team Heroes and Team Villains also fought with words, as they crafted stories of how they defeated each other using common teaching aids and with New Town Secondary School as their battle ground.









## Secondary Three thINK! Writing Mentorship Programme

A collaboration between the Department of English Language and the University Scholars Programme (USP), thINK! is a four-session programme designed to sharpen the writing and critical thinking skills of the students.

14 Secondary Three students go through the process of brainstorming, question formulation, researching for evidence, writing and finally, refining, their argumentative essays under the close tutelage of their USP mentors.

The anthology of the students' essays was printed and distributed to all the Secondary Three students. It was undoubtedly a rewarding experience for the participants to see their ideas come to fruition.





## Mother Tongue Languages Department Programmes







The Chinese Language Unit organised a book sharing session for the Lower Secondary Higher Chinese Language students on 19 May. The session aimed to provide a platform for the students to hone their presentation skills, as well as to promote reading in the school. During the session, the students took turns to share book reviews and had the opportunity to recommend good reads to their peers and learn from one another.

The Malay Language and Tamil Language Units focused on the feedback and assessment components in expository writing as their Professional Development (PD) project. This project aimed to enhance expository writing structure and ideas through the use of feedback rubrics. Such a learning strategy could deepen the students' understanding of the importance of quality essay writing.

## Secondary Three 3-Dimensional Visualisation Lesson





The visualisation of 3-dimensional models has always been a challenge to the students. Hence, the Mathematics Department designed a hands-on activity to enable the students to manage it. The Secondary Three students were engaged in building a 3-dimensional cube using straws. They used the model to visualise different triangular planes in a cube and learn about solving various problems. The students gained a greater understanding of 3-dimensional models and were more confident in solving similar problems.

### Secondary One Terrarium Making Workshop





In May, the Biology Unit conducted a Terrarium Making Workshop for the Secondary One students to complement the classroom lessons on the theme of 'Diversity'. The students worked in groups of four to create a natural living environment in a glass jar using a variety of mosses and other small plants. The terrarium was then used to investigate the factors that affect the survival of the flora and fauna in the miniature ecosystem.

This hands-on workshop provided the students with an authentic learning experience where they could put the scientific method into practice. The students were visibly engaged in the activity as the concepts on ecology learnt in class was explained and linked to the terrarium during the specially-crafted lesson. The activity also provided an opportunity for the students to bond through the shared fun experience of designing and assembling the terrarium.

## Building Self-Reliance in the Social Studies Classroom

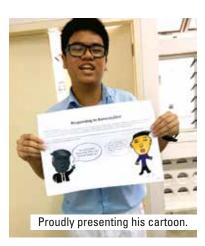
In the Social Studies classroom, the students need to develop a critical mind and acquire the appropriate vocabulary to construct their responses. The school's Social Studies Unit constantly strives to build students' self-reliance in the classroom.

Firstly, the students are guided through the analysis of various sources with the use of acronyms. For instance, in deconstructing the purpose of a source, students are taught to think about its Context, Aim, Audience, Message, Evidence, Explanation and Action (CAAMEEA). These acronyms function as a training wheel for the students to cultivate increasing levels of confidence to eventually analyse sources on their own.

In addition, the Social Studies teachers delve into the use of alternative mediums to bring across important learning points for the students. For example, the students have been tasked to present their opinions in the form of a cartoon which would allow them to develop a personal and affective connection with difficult concepts.







## Secondary Three Outdoor Sketching Experience







In order to develop Art students into independent learners who take ownership in their art exploration and making, the Art Unit included outdoor sketching sessions at The Metropolis as well as Gardens by the Bay as part of the Secondary Three Art Programme. The students learned to pack their own outdoor sketching materials, frame the subject matter and scenes, and have a better understanding of the various sketching materials. The students also gained confidence in their observation sketches through their experiences as well as the encouragement from public observers.

### Girl Guides







2016 was a rewarding year for the Girl Guides who achieved the prestigious Puan Noor Aishah Gold Award in recognition of the unit's excellence for holistic achievement. Moving forward, the Girl Guides had 24 Secondary One recruits and 4 graduated seniors joining the unit in 2017. The recruits were enrolled in February and had the privilege of celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the guiding movement through a massive celebration at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Through the guides' creativity and enthusiasm, the unit emerged first in the West Zone for the *Most Creative Picnic Competition*.

The weekly sessions also saw the guides acquiring various skills and knowledge. The guides went for a learning journey to the National Museum of Singapore, a hike at the Southern Ridges, and a visit to the Lions Befrienders where the guides presented a hand-sewn table-runner to the organisation. The unit will continue to encourage servant leadership in the guides through the activities.

### **Guzheng Ensemble**

Established in 2002, the Guzheng Ensemble aims not only to nurture Newtowners musically, but also inculcate resilience, responsibility and teamwork in them. This year is an important milestone for the students as they clinched the Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation. The SYF Arts Presentation is challenging yet meaningful to the students, who had to balance between their school work and intensive practices.

This enriching journey has moulded the Guzheng Ensemble to stay united and motivated, aim for excellence and put up a good performance for the audience. The memories made will be treasured by the students even after graduating from the school.



### Infocomm Club





The Infocomm Club had an eventful year working to re-align its goals and programmes to support the school's Applied Learning Programme in visual communication. The students took part in the annual *Voice Up! Challenge* organised by the Ministry of Education, Centre of Excellence for Digital Media. The original film produced, *From Keyboard Warriors to Haze Fighters*, clinched the third prize out of 132 entries. Six other teams also represented the school in the prestigious *Singapore Digital Media Awards*. From brainstorming of ideas and story boarding to outdoor filming and post production work, the students applied their academic knowledge and skills in the real world context.

#### **Football**





On 14 February, the students in Football celebrated their entry into the inaugural School Premier League (SPL). The SPL is the equivalent of the National Football Competition for Secondary Schools and was introduced as a new format to provide greater competitive opportunities for participating schools. Amidst a rollercoaster group qualification phase, the B Division team showed great resilience in overcoming traditional powerhouses, staging last minute comebacks when pegged down initially. This allowed the team to eventually finish in second position, ensuring their passageway into the SPL – the first time in recent years that the team has qualified for a competition at the national level.

### **Chinese Contemporary Dance**

The Chinese Contemporary Dance participated in the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation on 12 April and achieved a Certificate of Accomplishment. The dance, *Women*, portrays the intricate feelings and internal struggles of a woman who is getting married. The students spent six months practicing three times weekly to prepare for the performance, exemplifying the school values of self-discipline and resilience. They even assembled the chairs which were used as dance props. The many hours spent together, to perfect and execute the dance movements with energy and precision, was a great bonding experience.





### **National School Games**

Congratulations to the following Newtowners for their outstanding achievements in this year's National School Games!

- Selvam Vishnugandan (2E3) achieved the overall Champion in the National Inter-School Archery Championship for the C-R Individual Recurve Boys.
- Roshan Bagheri Aghdam (2E4) achieved third position in the National C Division Track & Field Championships for High Jump.

In addition, Roshan is also presented the Singapore Schools Sports Council Colours Award in recognition of his sporting excellence in Track & Field.





Selvam gearing up for his shot.

### **Design & Technology Awards**

The Design & Technology Unit submitted nine entries for the annual nation-wide Design & Technology Awards. Five students were shortlisted to pitch their ideas to the evaluation panel on 13 March and all of them successfully clinched the following awards.



Faylinn Wong Kwai Lei (4E5, 2016)





Creative Adaptation Award -Tan Jing Wen Valery (5N2, 2016)



#### Our Hearty Congratulations to our Outstanding Alumni (2017)



DAPHNE TAN TYNG SUE

SP Scholar Diploma in Food Science & Technology Singapore Polytechnic



GRACE WONG

Diploma in Visual Communication and Media School Singapore Polytechnic TBWA Singapore Silver Medal



TEO JUN JIE

Diploma in Sport & Wellness Management Nanyang Polytechnic Sport Singapore Silver Medal

#### **Junior College**

#### CHAN RUI QI, CAMMIE

Excellent results in GCE A Level Pioneer Junior College

#### CHEANG JIA WEI

Jacob Ballas Scholars'Awards St. Andrew's Junior College

#### LIEW MEI XIN

Excellent results in GCE A Level Anglo-Chinese Junior College

#### TOK YEK YIN, NATASHA

Excellent results in International Baccalaureate Diploma St. Joseph's Institution

#### Ngee Ann Poly

#### JACQUELINE CHOO WUN PIN

Diploma with Merit in Veterinary Bioscience

#### LIM SHENG WEI RYAN

Diploma with Merit in Marine & Offshore Technology

#### OH PEI PEI

Diploma with Merit in Banking & Financial Services Nikko Asset Management

#### ONG RUI XUN

Diploma with Merit in Automation & Mechatronic Systems

#### SARA ONG YU LI

Diploma with Merit in Real Estate Business

#### Republic Poly

#### CHIA CHEE HWEE

Diploma with Merit Outward Bound SG Gold Medal Award

#### TANG HANNAH

Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship in School of Technology

#### ITE College

#### TAN QING HUA

Course Medal Higher Nitec in Human Resource & Administration

### Staff Development





The school believes in equipping the staff with skills to deal with emergency situations. Nineteen staff attended a two-day First Aid Training, where they refreshed their knowledge and techniques. At the end of the training, all the participants were certified in Standard First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED).

## Presentation at Chinese Language Teachers' Seminar



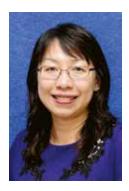




The Chinese Language Teachers' Seminar is an annual event organised by the Mother Tongue Languages Branch, Curriculum Planning & Development Division. This year, a group of Chinese teachers, Mdm Jenny Wee, Mr Zhou Wen Jia, Ms Ding Chao and Ms Shian Pui Kuen, was invited to present their project at the seminar.

The teachers shared about their scaffolding process through questioning in the teaching of narrative writing. Their aim was to level up the Secondary One students' writing skills by teaching them to ask relevant questions which will guide them prior to writing. The students were observed to actively use this process in their writing and there has been a marked improvement in the content and structure of their writing.

### **National Day Awards 2017**



**Commendation Medal**Congratulations to Mrs Chua-Teo
Ting Ting (Vice-Principal)!

The Commendation Medal is awarded to any officer who has distinguished oneself through commendable performance and conduct, or with significant efficiency, competence and devotion in one's duty.



#### Long Service Medal

The school congratulates Mr Gideon Yong Kek Shoong (Vice-Principal) for his Long Service Medal.

This award is for any duty-holder of irreproachable character and have completed at least 25 years of service.



## From the Public Service Division Facebook Page

The Public Service Division (PSD) frequently features public officers and the good work that they do. On 14 May, the PSD Facebook page featured Mr Ng Wee Choon, the school's technical support officer, who has guided many students and staff during Design & Technology lessons in his 24 years of service.

### **Welcoming New Staff**



(From left to right)

Mr Lim Wee, Mr Low Woon Kiat Nicholas, Ms Nur Syahirah Bte Nahadi, Ms Cao Leilei, Ms Chong Hui Min, Mr Siar Hao Ken Leonard, Mr Teoh Tick Meng