



Minister's Visit to New Town



Perspective sharing with Minister Ong



Minister Ong taking a look at the answers on Padlet



A memorable moment



Group discussion during a CCE lesson

Since 2019, our school has embarked on a trial cyber wellness lesson in partnership with the Ministry of Education's Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) Branch and Student Development Curriculum Division. Being one of the pilot schools in the West Zone for the implementation of lessons on contemporary issues, several trial lessons were conducted with ongoing efforts in building teachers' capacity in the facilitation of contemporary issues.

On 13 February 2020 morning, Minister for Education, Mr Ong Ye Kung sat in a CCE lesson and participated in a group discussion. Students in the class had the opportunity to share their personal views and gain different perspectives on cases related to cyber bullying. Minister advocated the need for stronger emotional resilience and wise decision-making on the internet. Our students were able to recognise problems such as cyber bullying, scamming and spreading of fake news as inevitable offshoots of the cyber world. The lesson emphasised the need for stronger help-seeking and help-giving behaviour among peers as more and more teenagers were turning to their friends for support.

Cyber Wellness Efforts & Peer Support Leaders

Aligned with the MOE Cyber Wellness guiding principles, our school's Cyber Wellness programmes aim to inculcate the following in our students:

- Establishing healthy self-identity in the cyber world
- Building of positive online relationships
- Encouraging responsible decision-making for a safer internet

To achieve these objectives, a 3-tier approach has been undertaken: Awareness, Advocacy and Action.

(I) Awareness of Cyber Wellness

Every Newtowner to be equipped with the basic skills of cyber wellness through school-wide activities. Students learnt about trending issues such as cyber bullying and evaluated online news. Contemporary issues were also incorporated into Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons where students were engaged in classroom discussions facilitated by our CCE teachers.



PSLs sharing their role in the school



Using Art therapy for emotional healing



A wefie moment with Minister Ong!

(II) Advocacy for Cyber Wellness

Our Student Leaders advocated good online habits through the sharing of personal experiences on cyber wellness issues during the weekly Morning Inspiration Programme.

Through these stories, the Student Leaders were able to inspire fellow Newtowners to act responsibly in the cyber world.

(III) Actions to Promote Cyber Wellness

Since 2019, the role of the Cyber Wellness Ambassadors was taken on by the Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) as they played an important role in providing emotional support for their peers, not only in the physical space, but also in the online realm.

PSLs were trained on identifying the types of cyber bullying, applying the C.H.E.E.R model when peers were emotionally affected and learning the know-how of various cyber threats such as phishing and online scams. They also took the lead in deploying facilitation skills and applying them in classroom discussions and activities during the Form Teacher's Period.



Minister Ong affirming the importance of peer support in school

Cyber Wellness Security Workshop

With students being actively engaged in online activities, it has become increasingly important for them to learn about cyber security and netiquette. To keep up with current trends and to gather relevant information on Cyber Wellness, our Upper Secondary Information and Communication Technology Ambassadors (ICTAs) attended the 2020 Cyber Wellness Forum on 24 January at the Millennia Institute.

Our ICTAs participated in two keynote sessions and a series of structured reflections and dialogue. Through the sessions, they gained clarity on issues such as cyber bullying and identity theft. The ICTAs were also equipped with skills to navigate the cyber space safely so that they can be savvy digital learners.

With the newfound knowledge and motivation, one of our ICTAs, Matthias Lim (3E2) contributed his learning points by sharing his knowledge with all the students in school during our Morning Inspiration Programme. Through his heartfelt sharing, Newtowners were reminded of the C.H.E.E.R framework and how they could assist peers who are victims of cyber bullying.



An engaging keynote session and dialogue



A fruitful experience as ICTAs consolidated their learning points through a series of reflection

Social Responsibility during the COVID-19 Situation



Fixed class seating arrangement



Social distancing while queuing in the canteen



Wipe-Down Routine

Our school has taken numerous measures to safeguard the well-being of every staff and student and shifted all the programmes meant to be held in the school hall to the classrooms. Our students' learning continued in a class-based mode with programmes such as Morning Inspiration and F.U.N concert.

Students of all levels were involved in the promotion of personal hygiene. They followed a Wipe-Down Routine every day and cleaned up their classrooms and the canteen segment allocated for their seating. Interactions among students of different classes were reduced through staggered recess and dismissal time.

When full home-based learning was rolled out, students were provided with instructions and support to access a range of both online and hard copy home-based learning materials so that learning could continue. Various ICT tools and apps were used and some of these were Google Drive, Student Learning Space, Zoom and Loom applications.

These heightened measures to minimise the spread of COVID-19 have indeed propelled both teachers and students out of their comfort zones and enabled our students to be independent and self-directed learners.

Work Attachment and ECG Learning Journey



Working with butterfly pupas at Sentosa Butterfly Park and Insect Kingdom



Making the bed is not as easy as it looks!



Students got a rare opportunity to be in a Navy chopper

As part of our school's Education and Career Guidance (ECG) efforts, a series of learning journeys and a work attachment programme for the student leaders were organised in November 2019. These initiatives provide students a first-hand experience in a particular field of work, where they get to observe the industry practices and gain insights from the staff trained in the field.

More than 80 Secondary Two and Three student leaders signed up for the programme and they had the opportunity to choose the one they preferred, ranging from a two-day work attachment at the Sentosa Butterfly Park and Insect Kingdom or a learning journey to New Life Community Services, The Westin Singapore or to Navy@Vivo 2019.

The participating students have realised that while passion is one indicator of success in careers, resilience continues to be an important value if one wants to continue to remain relevant in this ever-changing future of work!

Service Learning Projects



Preparing goodie bags for ICA officers at Changi Airport



Sharing a message on the impact of plastics on the environment

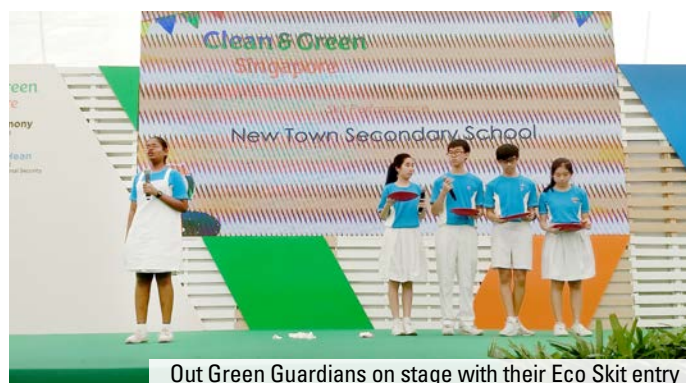
The Secondary Four and Five Values in Action (VIA) Service Learning (SL) projects took a different slant in light of the COVID-19 situation. Students embarked on various projects to show their appreciation to the frontliners in the fight against COVID-19, ranging from hospital and hospice staff to ICA officers, transport marshals and migrant workers. In groups, students prepared goodie-bags filled with hand sanitisers, biscuits and handwritten appreciation cards. They also prepared videos showing their appreciation to the staff for their hard work. A group of 4E2 students even choreographed a 'Thank you' dance as a way to show their gratitude to the frontliners.

Apart from these appreciation projects for frontliners, some groups of students raised awareness amongst fellow schoolmates on issues such as the harmful effects of plastic usage. The creativity, passion and hard work of our graduating cohort showcased through the various VIA-SL projects were truly commendable.

Green Schools @ South West Award



Our student volunteers at the Clean and Green Singapore 2019 carnival



Out Green Guardians on stage with their Eco Skit entry

To create environmental awareness, our school empowers its students to become active contributors. In recognition of our efforts, the school was awarded the Sustained Achievement Award under the South West CDC's Green Schools @ South West Programme. In 2019, the school attained first place in the Eco Skit Competition with a compelling story that highlighted key environmental messages such as reducing food wastage and the use of plastics. Our school's Green Guardians also participated in the Clean and Green Singapore 2019 Carnival where they engaged the public on environmental issues through interactive displays and games.

Total Defence Day Commemoration

The school commemorated Total Defence Day on 12 February 2020. The theme for this year, "**Together we keep Singapore strong**", focussed on how everyone plays an important part in defending Singapore, through the six pillars of Total Defence. Students participated in an interactive skit activity based on a scenario of a terrorist attack in the city centre.



An extract of the comic strip used for the classroom skit activity



Students playing the roles of newscasters in the skit activity

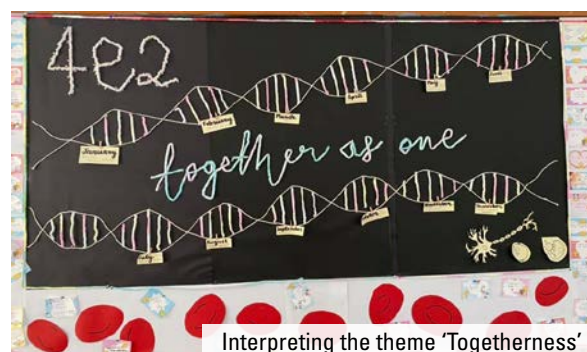
Our students had the opportunity to reflect on what they would protect and fight for if Singapore were to experience a crisis. As part of the CCE lessons, they learnt the importance of protecting their personal data and demonstrated their understanding and creativity by designing a logo for Digital Defence.

Groom-the-Classroom Competition



Preparing handprints as their noticeboard decoration

The Groom-the-Classroom Competition is an annual competition held with the objective to create and maintain a clean and positive learning environment in our classrooms for teaching and learning. The competition comprises two components - the classroom noticeboard decorations and the cleanliness of the classrooms. Following the theme of 'Togetherness', each class formed a class motto as well as creatively decorated their notice boards showcasing the ideas of bonding and friendship. The students certainly impressed everyone with their creativity!



Interpreting the theme 'Togetherness'



Using colour themes for the noticeboard

Learning for Life Programme

The Learning for Life Programme (LLP) aims to develop confident and compassionate student leaders to lead, serve and excel. One of the many student leadership segments include the Peer Support Leaders (PSLs).



Student leaders and PSLs united as a team

Positive peer relations among students are essential to building a warm and supportive environment with a strong sense of belonging to the school. Our PSLs have contributed to a strong peer support culture in our school. Trained to develop empathy and care, PSLs take the initiative to listen and encourage their peers to overcome various challenges they face. With the aim of making "Every Student a Peer Supporter", our PSLs will be at the forefront of this exciting next phase of growth in the school.



'Dialogue in the Dark' training @Ngee Ann Polytechnic for PSLs

Applied Learning Programme



Students exploring 'stopmotion' app on the iPad.



From sketch to animation cut-outs

This year, all Secondary Two students participated in a stop motion animation workshop during their Art lessons. During these hands-on sessions, they learnt how pictures are manipulated to appear as moving images, character design, and how one could tell a story over multiple frames. They learnt how to design a character of their own and animate it. Many of the students found the workshop enriching and enjoyed this platform which enabled them to create and collaborate.

Enhanced Art Programme



Products of the masterclass

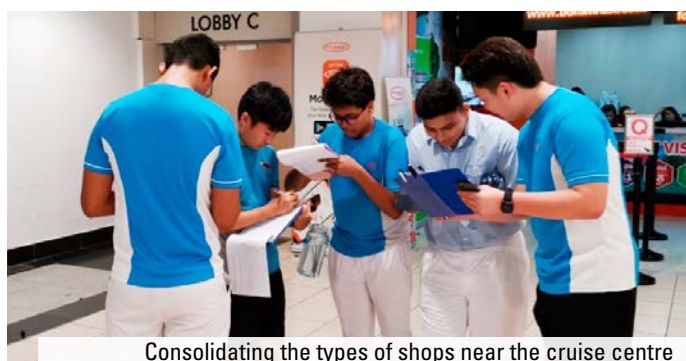


Presentation of collaborative artwork with other EAP schools

In the masterclass session conducted by artist Mr Jalon Tan, who specialises in painting animals using watercolour, our students had lots of fun. They painted their favourite animal and realised the powerful nature of watercolour as a painting medium. Students in the EAP programme took part in the Incubation Lab Enhanced Art Programme (I-LEAP) from 11 to 14 November 2019. Besides experiencing a series of learning processes with like-minded peers from other schools, they also worked with established art practitioners and presented a collaborative artwork at the end of the programme.

Geographical Investigation at Harbourfront Centre

On 22 January 2020, our Secondary Four Geography students participated in a geographical inquiry on the nature of tourism in Singapore. Geographical Investigation is an integral part of learning in the Humanities curriculum. Students went through the process of crafting hypotheses and conducted fieldwork at the Harbourfront Centre. The fieldwork comprised three learning activities – (i) **Sound CD**, to allow students to observe interconnections between the physical and human elements of the environment; (ii) **Pedestrian Count**, to find out how footfall may differ in different locations; and (iii) **Land Use Survey**, to document observations made of shops and key features at a tourist site. The students were engaged, enthusiastic and had benefitted from the authentic learning experience.

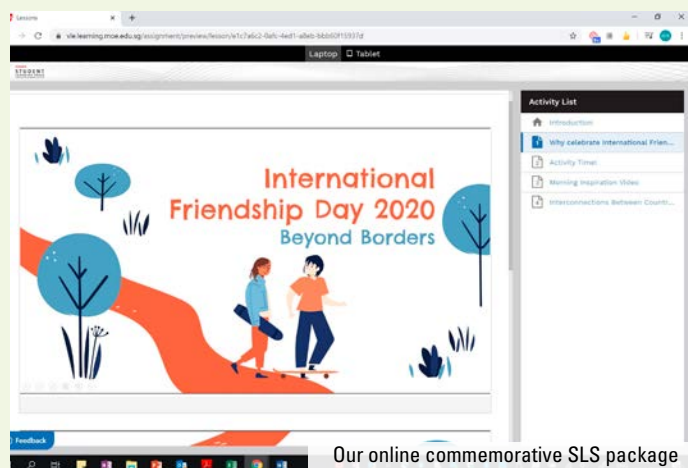


Consolidating the types of shops near the cruise centre

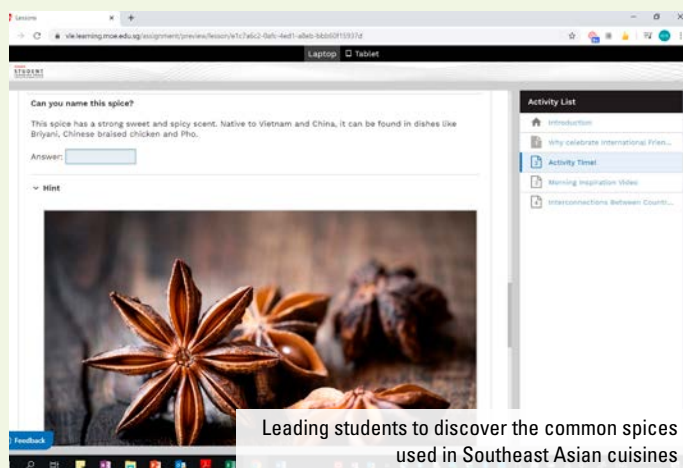


Counting the number of pedestrians at one of the sites

International Friendship Day – Beyond Borders

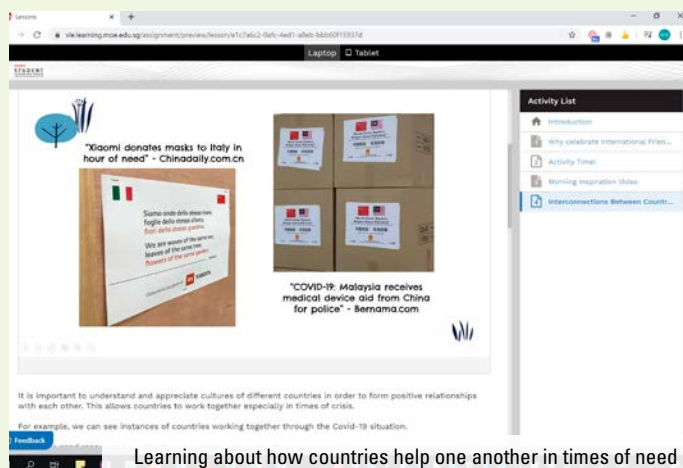


Our online commemorative SLS package



Leading students to discover the common spices used in Southeast Asian cuisines

The commemoration of International Friendship Day took on the form of online lesson packages through Student Learning Space (SLS) where our students were led to discover the importance of cultivating strong relationships with countries around us and beyond. These lessons emphasised how people in Singapore were connected with their Southeast Asian neighbours through the common use of spices. The lessons included a deeper investigation into how countries around the world have been working together to battle the effects of COVID-19. Farah Ashirin (3E2) also delivered a pre-recorded Morning Inspiration message reflecting on the interconnectedness between Singapore and other countries in managing various challenges such as ensuring Singapore's food security.



Learning about how countries help one another in times of need

Release of Results for GCE 'N' and 'O' Levels

The following Newtowners have achieved excellent results in the 2019 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations. The school wishes all 2019 graduands all the best in their future endeavours!



Top Secondary Four Normal Academic students



Top Secondary Four Express and Five Normal Academic students

Secondary One Orientation Programme

The Secondary One Orientation Programme aims to help students adjust to secondary school life and acquaint them with various school programmes. Our students also got to know their classmates better through team bonding games. This programme served as a good start to their journey in New Town Secondary School.

Some reflections by our Secondary One students after the programme:

Lycia Yew Wen Xuan (1E1): "The most memorable moment for me was when I participated in the class bonding games. I also enjoyed the activities at the Cabin Club."

Pandian Hema (1N5): I felt assured as the Student Leaders cheered us on during the team building activities and I learnt about the activities conducted by the various CCAs.

Ja'ariel Lim (1E4): "We had team bonding games and these games moved us from being strangers to becoming classmates and friends."



Enjoying the activities organised by the Cabin Club



Getting to know their classmates



Student leaders providing instructions for the team building games



Orientation Programme briefing for the students

Chinese New Year Celebration



Guzheng performers strumming with zest and joy



Concert Band performers played two enchanting pieces



Mickey and Minnie mouse mascots won cheers and applause from students

On 24 January 2020, our school ushered in the Year of the Rat with our annual Chinese New Year concert. The hype definitely began much earlier with beautiful decorations displayed throughout the school. Everyone gathered at the hall, eager to see the performances that had been lined up for them. The Guzheng Ensemble and Concert Band each presented two delightful pieces. Their performance got everyone into the festive mood. Talents from our Chinese Contemporary Dancers and some students from Secondary Two also amazed the school community with their fantastic dance and songs. All our talented performers won cheers and applause from the audience. The students also had a chance to learn and appreciate Chinese culture through a video presentation on traditional Chinese dishes. The climax of the celebration would definitely be the well wishes from our School Leaders, staff, Parent Support Group, students and our very own Mickey and Minnie mouse mascots sponsored by Alumni. It was indeed a joyous celebration!

First Invitational Softball Carnival



Cheering the team before the match



1st Softball Carnival group photo



Pitching against each other

On 18 January 2020, our school hosted its first Invitational Softball Carnival with the help of the teachers-in-charge, coaches and most importantly, the participating schools. The purpose of hosting this invitational match was to provide our team with more game experiences and at the same time to boost the confidence of our players as they prepare to compete in the National School Games Softball B Division Girls Championship. We were thrilled to have Raffles' Girls School, Tanjong Katong Girls' School and Assumption English School joining the carnival.

The excitement and thrill of the games were evident from the enthusiasm displayed by the players. Despite a tiring day, it was a refreshing and enlightening experience for our softballers as they were able to share the field and compete with players from different schools. The event provided the team with many opportunities to learn and hone their skills.

SG Clean Award



The team behind the SG Clean Quality Mark

Our school obtained the SG Clean quality mark in February 2020 and is part of the pioneer batch to accomplish this standard. This mark acknowledges the high standards of cleanliness in our school and our commitment in adhering to sanitation and hygiene checklists, covering areas such as cleaning methodology and general public hygiene.

This achievement would not have been possible without our Operations Managers, Office Support Officers and contract cleaners who have worked cohesively and conscientiously to keep the school spick and span!

Hosting an Art Learning Journey



Exploring the school's Art Gallery

On 24 February 2020, our Art teachers hosted a session for beginning Art teachers from other schools. The programme included sharing on the unit's belief, design of its programme, assessment in the Art curriculum as well as how to inculcate motivation among the students learning Art. It also included a visit to our Art Gallery. Indeed, our Art teachers have lived up to the school's motto, '*Nurturing Talents, Sharing Success*'.

Staff Learning Day

Embracing the 'Learn for Life' value, the Staff Development Committee organised a one-day workshop on 18 November 2019 to engage teachers in conversation about the Singapore Teaching Practice (STP) and provide a platform for Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) to share their projects.

Our Senior Teachers facilitated the first part of the workshop with discussions on the importance of creating a positive classroom culture when adopting Differentiated Instruction (DI) strategies. This was followed by the teachers reflecting on the impact of their current practices and enhancement of these practices for effective implementation of DI.

Besides the sharing by the PLTs, teachers from different departments also shared their good practices and how they created lessons that were meaningful, engaging and fun for their students. Through these rich sharing sessions, the teachers were able to inspire and motivate one another to expand their repertoire of teaching and learning strategies and approaches.

Teachers also got to relive their school days through the micro-lessons conducted during each Professional Learning Session.



Discussions on strategies for differentiated instruction



Collaborating as a group using Quizlet Live



Our Mathematics teachers showcased how they brought connections between different topics so as to develop in students a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and appreciation of the discipline. The participants also played a card game to learn more about significant figures.



The PE Department teachers shared how they have meaningfully designed their 'Spirit Score' to empower students to learn, reflect and respond in a more intentional manner through developmental feedback tools. Teachers also had a hands-on experience in the game of Tchoukball.



Our Art teachers shared the importance of understanding the learners and explained how they selected and sequenced the lesson to encourage learners to explore, push boundaries and develop studio habits of mind. The participants got to talk about Art and experience an Art lesson.

IDEAS Awards

As part of our school's efforts to cultivate an innovative mind-set amongst staff and to promote value creation, all staff would come up with at least two implementable suggestions each year. A panel comprising our School Leaders and some Key Personnel perused the suggestions and selected winners for the IDEAS Awards based on the extent of impact and influence on the school population.



New Staff



From left to right:
 Mr Mohamad Shukry Amin Bin Kaswan (Operations Support Officer),
 Ms Han Chin Woon Janice (School Staff Developer),
 Ms Tan Jiing Shyuan (HOD/Humanities),
 Mr Chan Kok Tung Tom (Vice-Principal)

SkillsFuture for Educators



In line with helping teachers to focus their professional development efforts and to strengthen their classroom practices, our school has identified e-pedagogy as one of the high learning needs.

Before the school closure for Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL), under circuit-breaker mode, a series of training sessions had been conducted on various video conferencing (VC) tools to equip teachers with skills that can support FHBL. The hands-on training on Google Meet and Zoom was conducted at various locations to ensure social distancing and to demonstrate the real-life application of VC.



Teachers trying out VC tools on 2 March 2020



Virtual meeting by the school leadership team

During the FHBL period, our teachers shared actively amongst themselves on how they had leveraged on the Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS) to integrate curriculum and technology for students' learning.

Publications Committee

Ms Malarvizhi Durai (Chairperson), Ms Lai Chiu Shuan, Ms Sandra Maria Gomes, Mdm Abirami Thavasumuthu, Ms Nur Syahirah Nahadi