

The Privilege Walk



Ong Wee Yong
*Outstanding Youth in Education
(OYEA) 2019 Nominee*

All About Me

Teacher/Chemistry

**NUS HIGH SCHOOL OF
MATHEMATICS AND
SCIENCE**

ABOUT THE IDEA

This activity helps students develop greater empathy for one another as they learn about the personal struggles of their friends. They are also able to visualise, understand and develop a greater sense of gratitude for their personal level of privilege.

HOW TO DO IT

Students stand in a straight line and move forward or backward after reading pre-prepared statements based on privilege flashed in succession. Statements are prepared based on the teacher's understanding of his/her students. At the end of the activity, students could see where their peers are standing and the teacher can facilitate a discussion on the distribution observed.

IMPACT

When students see the distribution, those standing nearer to the front develop greater awareness of the privileges they enjoy in life. The teacher then used the opportunity to stress that these students should use their privileges to help others progress in life. At the same time, those standing further behind would understand that their position does not define them as individuals, and their friends are their pillars of strength and will not judge them because of their background. Through this activity, students developed greater self-confidence and empathy for one another, as they share their thoughts and inner feelings about social issues. The teacher was particularly surprised and impressed by how students at that young age is about to mask pain and circumvent difficulties in their lives.

TRANSFERABILITY

This activity is easily carried out so long as the teacher has good rapport with the students and is sufficiently skilled to manage students' responses and emotions, as the emotional load is high. This is recommended for upper secondary and older students who are more emotionally mature.

DIY Water Filtration System

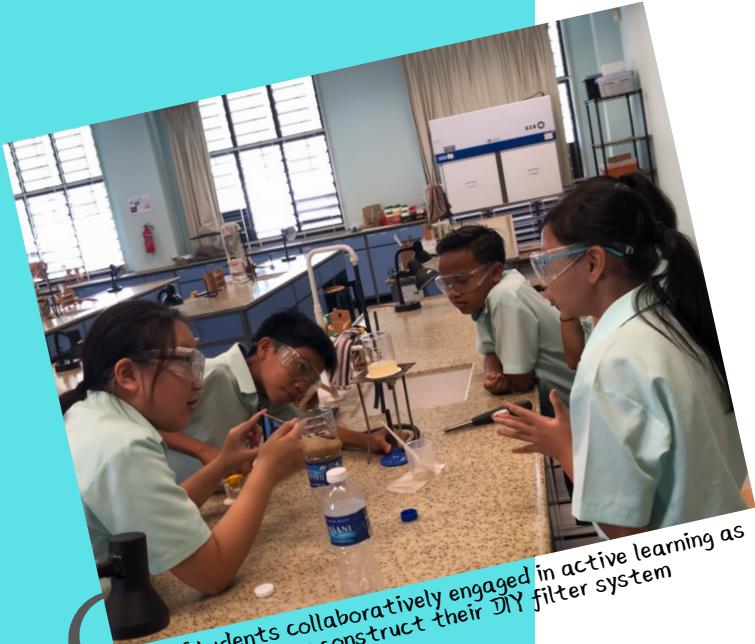


Janani D/O Balakrishnan
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all about Me

Subject Head/Science

PUNGGOL SECONDARY
SCHOOL



ABOUT THE IDEA

Students were given authentic case studies on the lack of clean drinking water in developing countries for in-depth discussion about global environmental issues facilitated by teachers. Students then applied science concepts to research, brainstorm ideas, design and construct a DIY Water Filtration system to filter muddy water. Students tested their prototypes and recorded their processes in a video to facilitate peer feedback via padlet.

IMPACT

The programme has resulted in the following outcomes:

- As the Science topic on ‘Separation Techniques’ was taught concurrently with this project, students’ understanding of the concept was reinforced.
- Students were able to use scientific knowledge to create and construct a filter system, leading to a real-life application beyond the classroom. This helped to increase their intrinsic motivation to learn.
- Articulating and explaining the processes taken to filter muddy water helped to encourage active student participation and build students’ confidence in communicating science concepts. The latter is an important science process as well as a life skill.
- Students were more aware of and developed greater empathy for environmental issues. Some became more enthusiastic about advocating for the green cause.

TRANSFERABILITY

This project has been carried out annually for the Sec 1 students since 2017, in conjunction with World Water Day. There is high potential for transferability as the required logistics are simple and the Science topic is aligned with the syllabus. Key success factors are teachers’ competency to design and facilitate an authentic problem-solving process and sufficient curriculum white space for students to engage in exploration and prototyping.

'4+1'

Programme

Bringing meaning into education, bringing education to life.



Lim Bing Hui

*Outstanding Youth in Education
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All About Me

Subject Head/
Normal Course Programme

**ST. MARGARET'S
SECONDARY SCHOOL**



Canvas Art (Shoe Designing)

ABOUT THE IDEA

The "4 + 1 Programme" comprises a 4-day academic curriculum and a day of enrichment programmes in Semester 1 for the Normal(Technical) students.

The reduction of assessments in Sec 1 from 2019 has freed up a day per week for the students to learn new skills beyond their normal curriculum and participate in activities that will help them draw connections between theory and authentic experiences.

IMPACT

The '4 + 1 Programme' strives to help students derive greater joy and intrinsic motivation in learning, deepen their learning and see education beyond examinations and grades. We also hope to inculcate good values and develop critical soft skills.

Most activities planned in the '4 + 1 Programme' are related to the subjects in the curriculum. Such hands-on and authentic learning experiences enhances students' appreciation of what they have learnt in the curriculum. We also hope to improve their self-esteem through the small successes which they experience. Individuals may also discover talents and interests during the programme, which leads to better decisions made when choosing their pathways or future careers. With increased intrinsic motivation to learn, we hope to improve their attitude towards learning and develop sound character through the values learnt.

TRANSFERABILITY

Idea can be implemented in schools with the reduction of assessments in Sec 1 and a review of the number of periods each subject requires so that one day per week can be freed up to conduct enrichment activities.



Outdoor Education



Learning through
music - Cajon