

BRavo! NEWSLETTER

BLANGAH RISE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEATURED CONTENT!

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Welcome to the fifth edition of BRavo!, Blangah Rise's very own newsletter written by students for students.

In this edition, you'll find helpful tips on managing video game addiction, staying calm during exams, and guarding against peer pressure. Learn more about our Basketball and Football CCAs, take a look at a day in the life of an SP student, and revisit special celebrations in school. You'll also read a heartfelt appreciation for our teachers and explore a creative vision of a dream canteen and playground — and more!



This edition was proudly put together by Ms April's 5 Opal English Language class, who worked collaboratively to write, edit, and design each article. Their teamwork, creativity, and dedication shine through every page.



Ms April's 5 Opal EL Class

How To Manage Video Game Addiction?

Written by Fuadah and Anson Goenawan

Have you ever got so addicted to video games that you do not know how to stop? In this article, you will learn how to manage your video game addiction!

What is Video Game Addiction?

Video game addiction is when someone spends so much time on their devices playing video games and becomes too difficult to control or stop.



Risks

Immoderate use of video games can cause loneliness and introversion, as well as low self-esteem. A person who is too addicted to a specific video game can spend thousands of dollars from their parent's bank account to buy a special or VIP pass in the game. It can also lead to loss of sleep, poor appetite, mood changes and damage in relationships with loved ones.

Managing addictions to video games

Don't worry if you want to quit your gaming addiction. Every problem comes with a solution. You can start by putting away all devices in your room. If you want to do something as challenging as video games, go hiking with your friends and family, build challenging legos, take part in competitions or join a sports CCA. If you want to do something less challenging, you can draw a picture, paint a beautiful and calming landscape, listen to your favorite songs that make you calm, bake cookies or other nice food.

Did you know?

Serious gaming addiction is as dangerous as drug addiction. Gaming addiction can cause changes in the brain similar to those seen in alcohol and drug addiction. Not everyone on gaming platforms can be your friend. Digital footprints can reveal a person's identity, allowing strangers to track down a person and potentially exploit that person in the real world.

HOW TO STAY CALM DURING EXAM PERIOD

Written by Krystal Ye and Angie Kong

Have you ever felt stressed during exam period? Well, if you have, it's perfectly normal for you to feel nervous or unsure. In this newsletter, We will be sharing some helpful tips on how to relieve stress and keep calm during exam period.

One of the best things you can do is make a study plan. Instead of trying to learn everything at the last minute, spread your studying over several days. Study in small sections and take some breaks to rest your mind. This will help you remember more and feel less overwhelmed.

study for a while



.....
break for a while



.....
continue studying



It's also important to stay active. Even a short walk, stretching, or playing outside can help reduce stress and clear your mind. Exercise helps you feel better and focus more easily when it's time to study.

Getting enough sleep is another key part of exam success. Aim for at least 9 hours of sleep each night. Your brain needs rest to help you remember everything you've studied. Staying up late to cram usually makes you more tired and less focused the next day.



Exams are important, but so is your well-being. Taking care of yourself will help you do your best every day. Wishing you all the best for your upcoming exams!

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST PEER PRESSURE

WRITTEN BY: MYA NADZIRAH FARISHA

STANDING STRONG: HOW TO GUARD AGAINST PEER PRESSURE:

In a world where fitting in often feels like everything, it's easy to fall into the trap of doing things just because *everyone else is doing it*. Whether it's skipping classes, trying something risky, or just going along with the crowd, peer pressure can push even the most confident person off course. But here's the truth: You don't have to follow the crowd to belong. Here's how you can stay true to yourself—no matter what's going on around you.



3 SMART WAYS TO GUARD AGAINST PEER PRESSURE:

Choose your circle wisely, Practice saying "NO", and have a support system.



WHAT IS PEER PRESSURE?

Peer pressure happens when people your age try to influence our decisions especially when it goes against what you believe or what to do. It can be direct—like someone telling you to try something—or more subtle, like feeling left out if you don't join in.

REMEMBER: YOU'RE IN CONTROL!

Peer pressure may be powerful, but your voice is *stronger*. You get to decide who you are and what you stand for. Trust yourself, and don't be afraid to walk your own path. It's the one worth taking.



TOILET CLEANLINESS IN SCHOOL



BY ANG ZI NING CARYS AND MYA NADZIRAH

Have you wondered how you can ensure toilet cleanliness in school? Well, you can learn all the helpful tips in this article! I will share all the great tips you can use the next time you use the toilet.

First of all, I will share what NOT to do when you are using the toilet. Firstly, don't step on the toilet bowl to prevent having dirty shoe marks on the toilet seat, this will make the next user feel uncomfortable. Secondly always flush the toilet after use, this is so the next user will not feel disgusted.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

Germs spread easily in shared spaces. Washing hands and keeping the toilets clean helps prevent illness.

Now, what you SHOULD do when you are using the toilet? After washing you hands, shake the excess water in the sink then dry it with the hand dryer. You should also respect all the items in the toilet by using it correctly and wiping the seat.



RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD HABITS

Learning to care for shared spaces is part of being a responsible member of the school community. Cleanliness is a life skill—one that shows maturity, self-respect, and consideration for others. Developing these habits now will help you take good care of your surroundings at home and in future workplaces.

This is to also to prevent the spread of germs in the toilet lastly, after washing your hands, shake the water off over then sink and not on the floor to prevent the chance of someone slipping and falling.

All this is not just for the next user, but also to help the cleaners. By doing all this, you will lighten the burden for the cleaners and also you will feel happier as you know that you have done something right!

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Every person who uses the toilet after you, deserves a clean and comfortable space. When you leave the area as you found it—or better—you show respect for your classmate, teachers, and cleaning staff. It's a small act of kindness that makes a big difference.

My CCA, Scouts

Written by Ayden Akshaan

Introduction

Do you want to learn more about Scouts CCA? Well I have learnt a lot in scouts. In this article, I will share more about what Scouts CCA is and some of the activities we take part in through our CCA.



What is Scouts CCA

Scouts CCA is made up of fun activities that help students grow in leadership, resilience, and teamwork through camping, cooking, and service. Guided by the Scout Law and Promise, Scouts learn values like honesty and respect, and earn badges for challenges.



What do we do in Scouts CCA

Scouts CCA sessions include skill-building and games like "catch the pole." We scouts also join events such as Job Week and National Day, serving the community.

Arianna, a Club Scout, said, "We led residents in the National Pledge and it was memorable." I love Scouts—and maybe I'll be the next founder of Scouts Singapore!



The Scouts Symbol

Pictures from: <https://www.scout.sg> and <https://www.blangahrisepri.moe.edu.sg>



OUR NSG EXPERIENCE

BY MAHASINA AND LEE DOYOON

WHAT IS NSG?

The National School Games (NSG) is a sporting competition where schools compete against each other in various sports, similar to the Olympics format. Students participate in a wide range of sports including football, basketball, badminton, netball, and many others. The competition is open to students from primary school through to secondary school levels.



DOYOON'S STORY

I play for my school's basketball team. Our school basketball team is currently at Tier 3. Before NSG season started, we had training every Thursday after school. The training was not easy as we had to master the basic skills and memorise the different tactics our coach had taught us. However, my mother said I could be studying during the time I used for training. Despite my mother's words, I did not give up and continued to work hard.

Last year, our school basketball team got 2nd place and we got a medal. This year, only the schools in first place can get medals. That motivated me to get one. Soon, the NSG season started. There are two different rounds in NSG: the first round and the tiered round. In the first round, we played against three schools: Punggol Cove, Fengshan, and Beacon. We lost to Punggol Cove and Fengshan but won against Beacon. We put in our best effort but still lost. Our coach comforted us and said the first round is not important, the tiered round is. Listening to our coach, we continued to work harder.

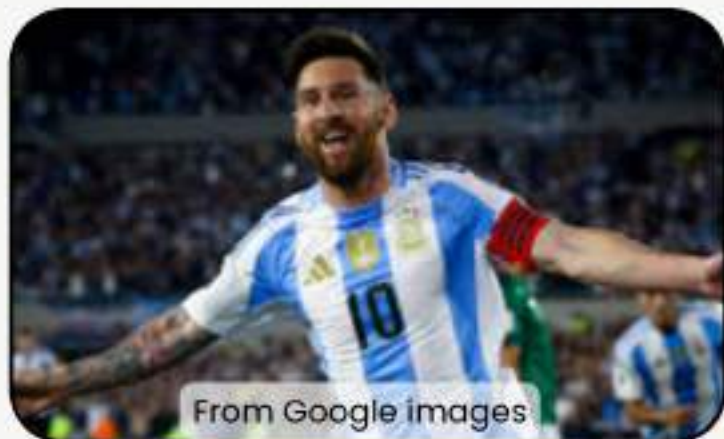
In the tiered round, we against three schools: Oasis Primary, Princess Elizabeth, and Bukit Timah Primary. We won against Bukit Timah and Princess Elizabeth. However, we lost to Oasis Primary. If the school wins, they get 3 points; for a tie, 2 points; for a loss, 1 point. Our school got the most points out of all the schools. What an experience it was!

MAHASINA'S STORY

I have been playing basketball since I was in Primary 3 and was able to get an opportunity to play for the Junior girls team. For this year, my NSG experience was a chance to discover my true potential. I played against a lot of schools, for example, Radin Mas, Canberra, and First Toa Payoh Primary School. I was able to play in all of the games except for the last one, as I was not feeling well, which I was really sad about. All in all, the competitions have been great so far, and I was able to learn new things. I also think that NSG can benefit us and motivate us to achieve greater things.

My experience as a football captain

Written by Jay Fradji Abitbol



Plot twist

Of course, not everything went smoothly. We lost a couple of games, and I could see my teammates getting discouraged. As captain, I knew I had to step up. I reminded them why we were here and pushed them to keep fighting. We trained harder, stayed focused, and ended up winning the next few matches. It was all about teamwork and determination.



Introduction

This year, I was chosen to be the captain of the BRPS football team for the National School Games. It was my first time leading a team, and honestly, I felt a mix of nerves and excitement. I didn't know exactly what to expect, but I was ready to give it my all.

Our first match was against Greenwood Primary. Before kickoff, I got the team together in a circle and told them to play with heart, give their best, and not give up no matter what. The game was intense, both teams were strong, and no one scored in the first half. Then came the moment I'll never forget, our left winger sent in a perfect corner, and I jumped and headed the ball straight into the net. The whole team exploded with cheers. That goal felt amazing. I felt like prime Lionel Messi.

Flat on field, stronger as a team

There were funny moments too, like during one of our Wednesday trainings when I slipped chasing the ball and fell flat on the ground. Everyone burst out laughing, including me. It was one of those moments that brought us closer as a team. Looking back, NSG taught me a lot, how to lead, how to stay positive, and how to keep going even when things get tough. I'm proud of my team, and I'm already excited for next year's NSG. We've got unfinished business.

A day in a life of a SP student

Written by Dylan Choo

The day starts with you carrying a really heavy bag. Unlike being a Junior Primary student, where you carry bags that are not so heavy, you know have the infamous mountain of homework.



Taken from BRPS Website

The SP students are really used to homework almost the size of our textbooks. I mean, only on some days, and it is not for each subject! Nonetheless, its something to get used to compared to Primary 1-4.

Where we go during main lessons

We usually change classrooms for different subjects, especially our core subjects such as English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue. For other subjects, we stay in our form classrooms.



Exams and Summary



The stressful thing about being an SP student is that we have assessments every term. I am pretty sure that it is only for the P5s, but I could be wrong. The assessments every term affect our grades, but most importantly, the EYE (End Of Year Examination) counts for 70% of our grade, which means that we could not do well for the assessment, but if in the last term we get full marks, we would still technically pass. Another challenge is that you pretty much have to stay back at least once a week for remedials or enrichment. All in all, being an SP,MP or JP student has a lot of pros and cons. We'll just have to do our best in learning!

CELEBRATIONS

Written By: Judah Maqdiel

5 Topaz



P4 Inter-House Games 2024

How do We Celebrate in School?

For celebrations, we usually sit in our school hall to watch student performances such as dancing, and playing musical instruments. We also have special activities during recess, such as playing games, doing arts and crafts, and trying different foods. On some occasions, we even go outside of school for events like our annual walk-a-jog on Children's Day and Inter-House Games!

Our Joyful Moments and Memories

Over the years, my classmates, teachers, and I have experienced many memorable moments together! From the wholesome joy of teachers reading cards written by students on Teacher's Day, to the fun and wacky celebrations such as Wacky Wednesday – every memory is special. I will never forget these moments, as they are engraved in my heart!

The Heartbeat of Our School: Celebrating Together

What makes our school special goes beyond classroom lessons to the vibrant celebrations that unite us all. From the excitement of Inter-House Games to colorful cultural festivals like Chinese New Year, these events give us the chance to connect, share diverse experiences, and create lasting memories. It's during these moments that the true spirit of our school community really shines.



Chinese New Year Celebration 2024



Deepavali Celebration 2024

APPRECIATING OUR TEACHERS

Written by Clara Chu

In September, our school celebrated a very special event: Teachers Day. Where we all took a moment to celebrate our everyday 'heroes' who have always worked tirelessly—and with dedication—to guide and teach us.

Celebrating this event was a great way for the students to have a chance and express their gratitude through handmade cards or gifts. After all, our teachers don't just teach us subjects, they help us work on our problems so we can be better, and make lessons a lot less boring than they usually are. A particularly special moment was when the PSG (Parents Support Group) made a video with clips of them expressing their sincere thanks to the

teachers for making a big difference to the lives of their children.

Beyond the celebrations, this day reminds us of the huge and lasting impact our teachers have on us. Our gratitude isn't just for a single day, it's for the countless hours they put in, and the encouragement they give. So, a huge thank you to all teachers! Your work truly makes a difference in our lives.

THANK
YOU

FROM CANVA

A FEATURE ON OUR TEACHERS

Written by Deeksha Narayan

Teachers are the heart of every school. They guide us in our learning, support us when we struggle, and celebrate with us when we succeed. In this article, we would like to recognise and thank the dedicated teachers who make a difference in our lives every day.

What Do Teachers Do?

Teachers don't just teach us subjects like Math, English, Science, and Mother Tongue. They do so much more than that. They help us understand difficult topics, prepare us for tests, and encourage us when we feel unsure. They also make sure everyone in the class feels included and safe.

Teachers are also people we can talk to when we are feeling upset or confused. I've seen teachers notice when students are sad and quietly ask if they are okay.

In conclusion, our teachers do much more than teach lessons. They are role models, encouragers, and mentors. On behalf of Primary 5, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude. We thank you for your hard work, kindness, and endless patience.

Phoyos from
<https://www.blangahrisepri.moe.edu.sg/>



Our Dream School Playground

Written by: Lee Doyoon, Ong Han Hua, Seo Seo Jun, Du Hongyi

Our current playground has monkey bars, a disc spinner and more. The monkey bars help the students to train their core and help build arm muscles. The disc spinner is fun but it can make students nauseous.

We noticed complaints from students that our playground is too boring. Many students prefer going to the football field and basketball court to going to the playground. Recently, we observed that it is mainly our Junior Primary students who go to the playground. The Middle and Senior Primary rarely make use of the playground. We, among the 90 students, suggest that our school needs more entertainment in the playground.



We would like to propose for the playground to be renovated to include equipment suitable for all ages. Renovating the playground can have a positive impact on students' learning. For example, students can relax, talk with friends and play during recess. An exciting playground will also inspire students who do not like moving to be active.

Students want slides, swings and other fun equipment including trampolines. These could also help with our physical development. There should also be climbing structures which can help develop our reflexes and encourage us to interact with the surroundings. There should be no equipment that is too high or too dangerous because students may injure themselves during unstructured play.

OUR DREAM SCHOOL CANTEEN

Written by : Deeksha Narayan, Nur Rizqah,
Duong Lam Khai and Teo Kai Ting

Our dream canteen would be a clean, colourful, and cheerful place where students can relax and enjoy good food. It would serve a mix of healthy and tasty dishes like fresh fruits, salads, sandwiches, noodles, and even some sweet treats like ice cream and cakes. The food would always be fresh, affordable, and delicious.



The canteen would have bright walls, comfortable seating, and a pleasant atmosphere with soft music playing in the background. It would also use eco-friendly plates and cups to keep the environment clean. The staff would be friendly and quick to serve everyone with a smile.



Most importantly, our dream canteen would be more than just a place to eat. It would be a space to share laughter, make friends, and feel happy. Our teachers could also use the canteen as an extension of our classroom! It would truly be the heart of the school.

We could have learning spaces which allows us to watch our school mates perform during recess, and more hangout spots for us to chill out with our friends! Our dream canteen will also be inclusive, with calm corners which help us regulate our emotions if we need it.



Camps and exams we would like to have

Written by Nur Rizqah



School camps and exams don't always sound exciting... but what if we could design our own versions that make everyone laugh and learn at the same time?



Photos from: Canva

Imagine a camp where we do not just learn, but also laugh until our stomachs hurt. If I could choose, I would love a Superhero Camp. In this camp, we can wear capes, even if they are just towels from home, climb obstacle courses like Spider-Man, and solve mysteries like detectives. Science experiments could become superpower training. Who wouldn't want to shoot volcano lava from a bottle, make slime that looks like alien goo, or accidentally launch a paper airplane into the principal's office?



Another cool idea I have is a Cooking Camp. Instead of eating ordinary canteen food, we could learn to make our own food, such as pizza, cupcakes, and noodles. Though some of us might not be very good cooks, it would still be an enriching experience.



For exams, I always dream of Game Show Exams. Imagine answering questions on a buzzer while your classmates cheer. If you get it right, you win points. If you get it wrong, maybe you have to do a consequence like doing a silly dance, singing the alphabet backwards, or roaring like a lion while standing on one foot.

With camps and exams this fun, who wouldn't enjoy them? We would never want school to end.

HAPPINESS FROM SUCH LITTLE PETS

Written by Eliana Bansal



Do you need a reason for more pets in your biodiversity corner in school or a class pet in your classroom? Well you found the right article. In this article, I will tell you why we need pets in school and what they can contribute to children in school.

Why do we need more pets in school?

Here are two reasons. Firstly, interacting with pets helps children develop empathy, as they learn to understand and respond to the needs of another living being. More pets also means more happiness and relief from stress.



You may be wondering if the pets would be happy, given that they are stuck in little cages. I can answer your question. We can assign student helpers for handling or watching the pets. We could also invent a pet play area where pets can be played with and where they can roam around freely. We can set up a small, enclosed space like a playpen for cage-free time. We can also use cleanable flooring or mats for the pets. For hamsters, mice and gerbils we can use enclosed "run-about balls". For student involvement, we should teach students gentle handling and proper hygiene before they touch the pets. We can also create a "pet helper" rotation for responsible students. We should incorporate lessons about pet behavior and care once in a while. We should not let pets out of their cages during chaotic times like recess, arrival and dismissal. We should not let pets out also if students are allergic, scared, or too rowdy and if the pet seems stressed or unwell.

In conclusion, we should have more pets in the biodiversity corner in school. Please remember happiness comes from pets big and small.



Contemplations on a School Sleepover

Written by Yip Yuxi and Teo Kai Ting

We believe you definitely had sleepovers at your friends' houses, or maybe even a sleepover outside. But have you ever wondered what a sleepover in school will be like?



From Instagram

What the students will bring is sleeping bags, pillows, toiletries, school T-shirts, large plastic bags to carry their other clothes, their own, their own clothes and writing materials. At 1.30p.m. after school, the students will go to the canteen to eat lunch until 2.30pm.

The girls and boys from the classes will be separated to different empty rooms to put their things there. Then they will go and participate in games, creative crafts and also eat snacks. At 7.00p.m. the students will all head to the canteen and eat pizza for dinner!

At 8.00p.m., they will get back to their rooms, set-up their sleeping bags and change into their pajamas. They can stay at their spots and watch a movie, keeping everyone glued to their seats!

At 10.00p.m., there will be "lights out", everyone will settle into their sleeping bags and get to sleep. During this timing, students will have to prepare themselves after the movie for sleep. They must help themselves during this period to learn how to be independent and also how to help each other.

The next day at 7.00a.m., the students will wake up, clean up after themselves and head to the canteen for breakfast. After breakfast, they will return to their rooms, pick up their things, take pictures and then leave at 8.00 a.m.

This is what we think a sleepover in school will be like. Although many people would think that sleepovers are "age inappropriate" or promote fatigue due to the excitement and fear of the night, sleepovers actually strengthen friendships, help us learn to be independent and build a sense of community in a relaxed and happy environment.

So, did you see how much a sleepover benefits the students in school? Would you hope to attend a sleepover in our school someday?



Sketches



Review of "The Faraway Tree"

Written by Chu Po-Wei

Have you ever seen the series "The Magic Faraway Tree"? If not, this introduction may give you an idea of the full series!

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK IN THE SERIES I AM CURRENTLY READING

I'm currently reading *The Folk of the Faraway Tree*, the sequel to *The Enchanted Wood* and *The Magic Faraway Tree*. The story follows Connie, a spoilt and curious girl who stays with the siblings while her mother is unwell.

Connie arrives saying that Rick (from the previous book) told her stories about the Faraway Tree, but she doesn't believe any of it. She is surprised that the siblings' mother believes the stories too. Later, Moon-Face visits and invites the children to dinner the next day. He already knows about Connie from Joe, but even after meeting him, Connie still refuses to believe he's real.

• SHORT INTRODUCTION OF THE SERIES

The book was made by Enid Blyton, a popular children's author who you may know. The series starts because one family moved to the country and the three siblings named Joe, Beth and Frannie found an Enchanted Wood. In the woods stands the magic Faraway Tree where lots of magical creatures live. Together they went up the tree to explore and met people. Joe, Beth and Frannie went up the tree with them to explore the lands on top of the tree that changes after some time.

The next day, they went up the tree to get to Moon-Face's house. During the climb, Connie got into trouble. She had ink spilled on her and got wet. Once they reached Moon-Face's house, Connie fell through the slippery-slip, a slide which you needed to sit on a pillow to go down. Her skirt wore out. Moon-Face came down and brought her up.

After that, she was VERY annoyed and decided to climb to the top of the tree. She ended up getting stuck on the land of marvels, since it was moving away already.



PICTURE FROM BBC IN GOOGLE

Krish's book reviews

-Title of the Year:

Percy Jackson [The Lightning Thief] Written by Rick Riordan

When I first opened the book, I was instantly struck with a warning from the author which was Percy himself. It was the kind of opening that attracts readers to read the book like a bee getting attracted to nectar.

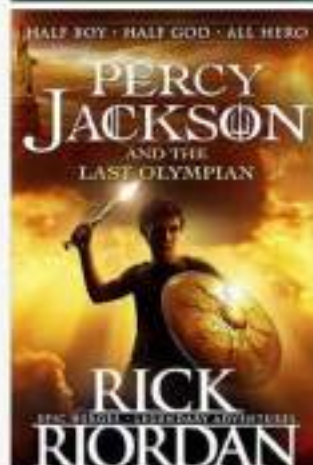
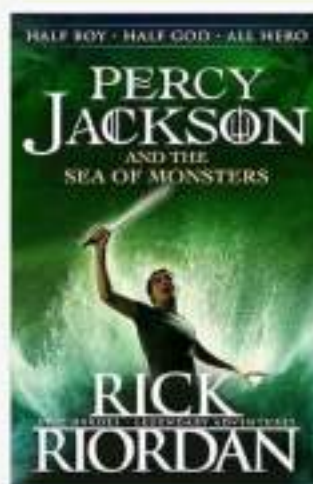
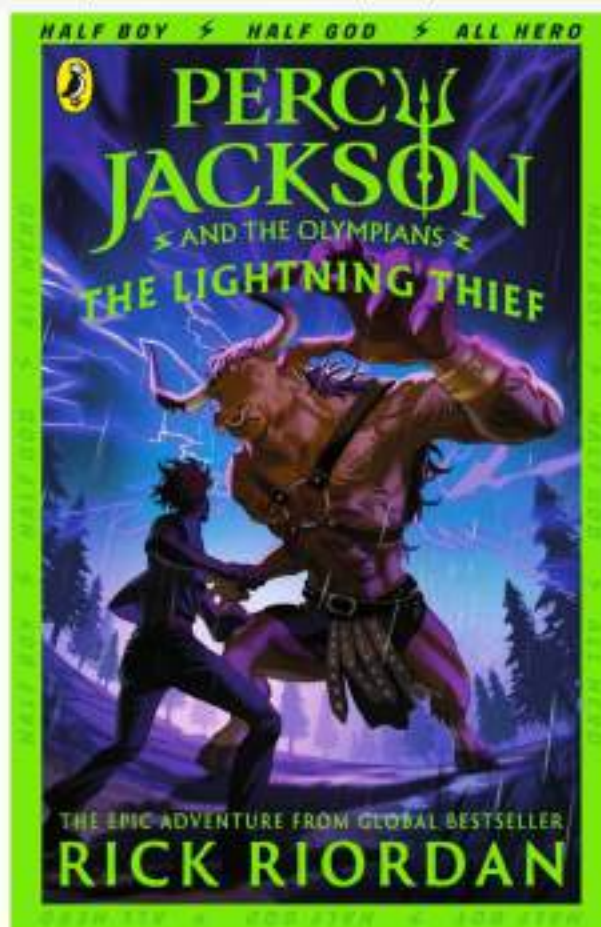
The chapters had funny titles such as "I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-algebra Teacher".

They make no sense at the start but as you read on you realize how funny they get. This book is the first of it's series though there are many other collections of books with the 'Percy Jackson' title. The book's author had very good ideas combining comedy with action and suspense.

The choice of words were very funny but still made perfect sense. There was also a betrayal at the end of the book which shaped the next four books where Percy saved the world.

Here is a picture of the book's cover so that you know which book to buy if you are not sure which book is correct as there are many Percy Jackson books to choose from.

picture from popular



A Tasty Review

Written by Sean Andre Nequinto Hidalgo



From Canva

The recipe is, as I just mentioned, chicken or fish with wedges of papaya and/or chayote with leaves of chilli pepper. I do not know the name of the broth mixed with ginger, onions and fish sauce

Have you ever wondered what my favorite food is? If yes, then this is the article for you, today I'm going to explain my favorite foods origins, taste and more. Let's get to it!

If you're a Filipino you have most likely heard of Tinola, if you aren't then here's a quick and simple explanation. Tinola is a Filipino soup, usually served with chicken or fish with a side of rice.



From Canva



From Canva



From Google

Here's a quick history lesson, one of the earliest mentions of Tinola is from Jose Rizal's (Philippines national hero) first novel, Noli Me Tangere, where Kapitan Tiago served it to Crisostomo Ibarra after arriving from Europe. He was given the chicken liver and the Gizzard meanwhile to the disappointment of the corrupt spanish friar, Padre Damaso, who received chicken neck and wing which are considered to be the least favoured chicken body parts.

Food review by: Thaddaeus Yow

Malatang



array of food items



a bowl of fiery malatang



mala spices

Malatang is a popular street food in Sichuan originating from the Yangtze River area. Boat workers will cook ingredients with Sichuan peppers and chillies to warm themselves up from the cold weather. Customers will customize their meal to suit their tastebuds by selecting a wide array of fresh meats, vegetables, noodles and many other ingredients. The boat workers will then cook the selected items in a flavorful broth and serve it in a communal pot.

'Ma' means numb and 'La' means spicy. So Malatang means a "numbing-spicy-boil". Diners can also choose the spice level ranging from mild, medium, and fiery. Nowadays, you can easily find Malatang restaurants in Singapore. There are also other non-spicy soup bases such as tomato or pickled vegetable.



MY TOP PICKS

From previous experiences, I have rated the top three Malatang restaurants: 1. Yang Guo Fu (YGF) 2. Zhang Liang Malatang 3. Chuan Tai Zhi. I enjoy eating Malatang as I enjoy the spicy and numbing taste of the soup. The best time to eat it is on a rainy day when it's cool and the feeling of the steaming hot and spicy broth is perfect for my chili-loving tastebuds. For me, I can eat it anytime because it is my number one favorite dish. Another reason why I enjoy Malatang is that you have the freedom to pick ingredients of your choice from the neatly displayed containers in the chiller, filled with a buffet of food items. I hope you will give it a try and enjoy it.



1



2



3



A MINECRAFT MOVIE REVIEW

By: Yeo Zheng Hong

In this article, I will be talking about the Minecraft movie that I watched recently. The Minecraft movie was made based on the game "Minecraft". The movie was filled with a lot of fun and humorous jokes.



The movie story was about a mysterious portal that pulled four people from the real world into the Minecraft universe that Steve was in. This Minecraft universe was known as Overworld, a very strange cubic wonderland that thrived on imagination. To get back home, they would have to master the terrain while hopped on a magical quest with the crafter, Steve. As a fan of Minecraft game, it was such a joy seeing the game come to life and I was thoroughly entertained!



In the movie, the key characters include the notorious "Piglin" sorceress, "Malgosha", and good guys like "Steve" and "Garret Garrison" who were humans teleported into the game. Other supporting characters were "Nitwit", who were "useless" villagers added to the game as a fun element and "Dennis" the dog which eventually became Steve's pet.





PSG managed to win their first UEFA Champions League, breaking years of frustration and elevating the french football standard.

Barcelona clinched the La Liga title, with Lamine Yamal and Raphinha playing a huge role in it. Under former player Xavi as head coach, their more pragmatic style of playing proved successful.

Now, Bayern Munich returned to winning ways in the Bundesliga after a turbulent 23/24 season. Harry Kane, who plays for the club, won his first piece of silverware that season.



Despite a horrible and heartbreaking domestic season, Tottenham managed to win their first trophy since 2008! They won the Europa League Final against Manchester United. Very well done for a struggling club. Another Shocker came from Crystal Palace's FA Cup win against Manchester City. They won their first major trophy in the history of the club something nobody expected to happen for the next 100 years or so.

Lastly, new head coach of Liverpool, Arne Slot, proved the doubters wrong in every way. He won the Premier league with a measly 84 points! Something his predecessor Jurgen Klopp could not with 97 points.

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

WRITTEN BY CLARA CHU

"Teacher, can I go to the toilet?" I raised my hand, interrupting the teacher mid-sentence. She frowned slightly before allowing me to go. In case you didn't know, I was not actually going to the toilet. I was going to check out a supposed 'mystery door' that my friend kept bugging me about, and I was going to prove to her there was nothing special about it.

I walked towards where the door was supposed to be. It was made of wood, quite small, and had a patch of mold growing because of the humidity. I pinched my nose in disgust and tried to return to my classroom, but felt a slight pull, like it wanted me to stay and unlock all the secrets inside it. Without thinking, I pushed open the door.

I stared through the doorway, expecting to see a ray of light emit or a monster to jump out, but all I saw was... an empty hallway. I felt the pull again, and this time it was mixed with curiosity and fear. As I stepped into the hallway, I felt like I was being hypnotized, like I was a puppet on strings. Suddenly, I heard a low growl behind me, snapping me out of my daze, but by then, it was too late. I tried to turn around, escape from this horrible place, but my feet were stuck to the ground. "Oh god oh god oh god," I muttered to myself, "what mess have I gotten into now?" Suddenly, a hard object knocked into my head and I blacked out.

I woke up on a hard floor, my body covered in bruises. Just as I was about to

regain my senses, I saw a lamb, with wings made of what looked like gold. I stared in shock, my mouth hanging open. The lamb smiled sadly and said, "How did you end up here?" I was about to open my mouth to answer, but no words came out. "I guess I should tell you everything first," the lamb sighed.



"The ogre here is the one who captured you—and me. I wandered in here by accident, and the ogre caught me because he thinks my wings have value." The lamb nodded to his wings. "But whenever he touches them, they turn into plain feathers, he's determined to find a way to get my golden wings so he keeps me here. And as for you...he's going to trade you soon like the others before you girl," the lamb finished.

I was horrified at what the lamb said. I would never be able to see my family or friends again! "We have to do something!" I exclaimed. The lamb shook his head sadly. "I've lived here for years, there is no escape." I felt tears forming in my eyes. No, I couldn't give up now. My brain was trying to formulate a plan, trying to find a way to

escape. "I know! Once I read about prisoners hiding in their cell, and when the guard comes to check on them, they're gone. So, he leaves the door open and runs to search for them, while the prisoners escape."

The lamb brightened, "I've never thought about that, but where will we hide?" I explored around our cell, and discovered a door, perfectly camouflaged with the moldy walls and opened it, discovering a space where it could fit at least three adults. We might have sounded too happy to the ogre as I could hear him heading towards us, footsteps causing the walls to shake. I quickly pushed the lamb inside with me and closed the door.

The ogre growled and I assumed he had already seen the empty cell. The sound of jangling keys, followed by a latch being turned was heard. The ogre roared and I held my breath, praying to the gods he would not find us. The walls began to shake again, but slowly got less intense. After a few minutes of listening if he was still there I slowly opened the door and tiptoed out, the lamb following behind me.

As we ran down the hallway, I heard a now familiar thumping sound behind us, the ogre had discovered our trick! Suddenly, I tripped on a rock, and lay sprawled on the ground. "Go," I shouted to the lamb, not wanting to slow my friend down, but he ordered me to climb on his back and we galloped ahead. Just as I thought we were going to finally get to freedom, we reached a dead end. The only way out was a gap in

the ceiling, a gateway to escaping this horrible place.

When I thought we were about to go back to the cell, the lamb took a deep breath, flapped his wings, and lifted us up in the air, speeding like a rocket to the way out. We reached a land with lush grass and birds flying happily in the sky. "Welcome to my world," the lamb smiled. I stared in amazement at the beautiful scenery.

As I turned to leave, I realised two things. One, I did not know my way home. Two, I did not even get the lamb's name! As if reading my mind, he said, "I know how to get you home, don't worry. By the way, my name is Finch. But before I bring you home..." Finch plucked a golden feather from his wings and handed it to me. "A souvenir," he explained. Then he gestured for me to climb on his back. I stepped forward and clambered on, my legs feeling like jelly. The last thing I could remember was his wings rustling as he took off into the sky.

My teacher's face came into view—I must have fallen asleep! As I rubbed the sleep out of my eyes, a golden feather fell out of my hands, proof that my adventure was not a dream.



SPY OR DIE

WRITTEN BY RISHI RAM VAIDYA

Maksim was waiting on the platform for the train to his freedom. He pretended to be calm, but his heart was pounding at a thousand beats per minute. Every minute at the station was another minute for the secret police to get closer to him. He worked for Hesperia's notorious spy agency HGB. Maksim was sure that he did not stand a chance of surviving once he was caught. And HGB was bent upon catching Maksim at any cost.

Despite its mundane acronym, HGB Hesperia General Bureau was ruthless, filled with the most heartless renegades the streets of Hesperia had to offer.

Maksim, an orphan, was the ideal candidate for HGB. He was a street urchin and a huckster who didn't mind dabbling in petty crimes. HGB took him off the streets and molded him to be one of their best. Maksim is what you would call the perfect example of a spy. He was unpredictable and a smooth operator. He could extract information without the person even knowing.

Furthermore, he could speak many languages and wield many weapons. During the course of one of his assignments, he met Samson, whom he learnt was a double agent from the neighbouring country Aldoria. Samson was a 40 year old laid back agent who was part of the CIAA (Covert Intelligence Association of Aldoria). CIAA was a well-resourced organization that took the best agents and made them even better.

The more he worked alongside Samson, Maksim realized what a bad deal he got from HGB. Of course, he was an orphan and they had taken him under their wings. However, he was disposable, a pawn. Maksim found the life of a double agent fascinating. In order to win Samson's trust Maksim shared state secrets, but he did not realise how deep a grave he was digging for himself.

Every word that Maksim let slip out of his mouth was a state secret that Samson could take back to his country. Samson in turn gave some precious titbits of information which helped Maksim get a promotion within his agency.

But Maksim was growing unhappier at every bit of information he learnt of Aldoria from Samson. He felt stuck and desperate that Hesperia will never be able to give him the life that he aspired towards.



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Until one fine day, Samson offered that Maksim should join him full time and move to Aldoria. Maksim thought over it and realised that it was a very interesting prospect for him. He was being sidelined at work and he was getting sick and tired of the agency. Maksim was a lone ranger, so he did not have to worry about another soul. He started packing and leaving his home for good.

That's when he heard the knock on his door. His heart jumped and he realised that his agency has gotten wind of his desertion. Now he had to quickly flee or become the prey. He threw his bag out of the window and calmly opened the door for the agency colleague Marko to come in. He greeted him pleasantly and asked him to take a seat while he made a cup of tea. Marko insisted that Maksim sit down with him for a quick chat.

Before he could pull out his tranquillizer, Maksim twisted Marko's arm and neutralised him. Maksim walked out of the house as if nothing had happened, picked up his bag and made his way to the station through the alleyway.

His strides became more frantic, but questioning stares from dimly lit windows made him slow down. When Marko did not report to the agency, the agency sent armed spies looking for Maksim in every corner of Hesperia.

Maksim made it to the train station just in time to catch the train to Aldoria. The station was empty as there were only a few people leaving for Aldoria.

Seconds felt like hours and he was trying to be calm as he saw two armed station guards walking towards him. His heart was racing, beads of perspiration sliding down his cheeks, yet his face looked calm. Years of training flashed before him. When they asked to see his papers, Maksim promptly showed them the Aldorian passport that Samson had created for him. The officers looked tense as they scrutinized the passport, and asked him questions about Aldoria. Maksim's Aldorian was impeccable. In the end, they left in tense silence. The station guards were yet to get notified of a missing spy.

Maksim had a few minutes of respite on the train but that was very short-lived. His thoughts were interrupted by the sounds of bullets hitting metal. The HGB spies were onto him. Will he make it safe to Aldoria or will he perish on this very train?

To be continued in Aldoria...

ANIMALS TALKING

WRITTEN BY THADDAEUS YOW

One evening, there was a boy that went to the zoo with his family and at the zoo, he realized that he was suddenly alone and everyone disappeared.

Out of nowhere, a deep sound bellowed: "What kind of species are you, a monkey? Yeah, you look like one. What are you doing here?" The boy, known as Joshie, turned around with his eyes wide open and realized that a rhino was talking to him. "Ahhh!" Joshie screamed and turned. He ran to the customer service and then a normal human appeared and said, "What happened? Did a lion escape or anything!?" The person said, suddenly, Joshie looked around and noticed that everyone was back again. He was probably just imagining things.

Next, he went to find his parents and realized that they were where he encountered the talking rhino. "Oh Joshie, where have you been? We were so worried ever since we encountered a talking monkey!" "What? A talking monkey! I met a talking rhino!" "I wonder whether someone is trying to prank us or it is really real." "The weird thing is that you suddenly vanished then I ran to the customer service and everything went back to normal."

Suddenly, all the lights went dark and all the people around Joshie and his family disappeared, only a panther remained in front of them. Joshie and his family were paralysed in fear. "At least we are still together, right?" "Yeah, pretty much but still, what should we do with this panther? It's too strong for us to tackle it." "I think we should run or hide." The family whispered looking at the panther looking around as if it smelled something in its territory. Then, the panther disappeared in a puff of black smoke. And everything went back to normal, like nothing ever happened.

Then the family went around the zoo asking everyone what they have seen and this is what they collected: Everyone sees the same thing but without anyone else within one meter of their reach. And this is what they found strange. Everyone saw different animals that talked to them. So, the family decided to go to the main office to have everyone have at least five people within their reach.

This matter was immediately reported to the police and they came over to check things out. This matter also reached the science lab and they went down to collect some findings to research on. At the end of the experiment, the scientists found out that there was a leakage of a substance that contained molecules that gave the animals the ability to talk and become smarter. They started research on a remedy that will solve this problem. For quite some time, they had to close the zoo because of this matter.

After for about 7 months, they managed to find out that this problem could never be solved. So, they decided to put down all the animals in the zoo, demolish everything and rebuild the whole zoo to make sure that this doesn't happen again. But the good news is that they stopped the leakage and added extra security to the control room and guards to make sure people can't anyhow fiddle with the controls. A high-tech digital defence system was also installed so that hackers cannot hack into the system easily.

But before they put down all the animals and demolish the zoo, they realized that they can just reverse engineer by using the steps to make the substance that caused this problem and just reverse the calculations to get the cure. So, they tried it out and it worked out great. Immediately, they went around the zoo putting the cure in the animal's water sources. Now to find out how whole place darken out, animals escape, and people get teleported into so called "different worlds". They checked the lights and this is their findings: The lights program was okay until they saw that there was an input known as "BLACKOUT RANDOM*^3#@673849" This was very strange as there was no sign of any hacking attempts. After another 3 months of research and checking cameras, it seemed that there was a weird looking machine that flew over the zoo and transmitted a program to activate the light system to become like that.

But they still had to find out how to get that programming out of the system as it stated that this action is irreversible. So, they called the digital team of Singapore to solve this. In the end, the only way possible was to reset the controls and make another one although that will close the zoo for another 2 months and that will almost be a whole year. But at least that can help so they did it.

By the time they finished, it was December. Now the final mystery was the people somehow "teleporting into different worlds". They checked the cameras: nothing. So, their only choice was to ask the animals which was the tough part. But they tried it first with their most trusted animal which was the giraffe as they had not given the remedy to it yet.

The news from that animal was shocking. There were weird Martians that put weird glasses on the people and push them through a gloomy looking portal and release an animal into the portal, not knowing that the animals could talk which made their plan worse and creepier. So, they set turrets and night guards to take down these Martians.

Finally, after a year and a quarter the zoo was ready for business again. And everyone hoped that this will never happen again. But at least we know the cure, right? Or do we know the foolproof cure?

But even though the animals could not talk, they were still smarter than before...



How to play *Tiến Lên*, the Vietnamese card game?

By Duong Lam Khai 5 Topaz

Tiến Lên (Vietnamese for "Go Forward") is a popular Vietnamese shedding card game. The goal is to be the first to get rid of all your cards.

There is 52-card in a standard deck (no jokers). Cards are ranked in increasing order 3 to 10 then Jack, Queen, King, A then 2. For tie-breaking: (Spades (♠) < Clubs (♣) < Diamonds (♦) < Hearts (♥))



If you are the first player, you can play any of this hand types if you have:

Single: one card (e.g. ♥5).

Pair: two of the same rank and colour (♠8 ♠8) or (♠2 ♠2)

Triple: three of the same rank (♠K ♠K ♠K).

Four of a Kind: four of the same rank (♠7 ♠7 ♠7 ♠7), used to beat one 2

Straight: 3+ consecutive cards and type (e.g. 4♠-5♠-6♠), no skipping ranks.



Play a higher hand of the same type on your turn. You can't end with a 2. First to empty their hand wins. If you can't beat the last winning hand, it's the next player's turn. Others continue for 2nd, 3rd, etc.

Hope this article teaches you about Tien len!



King of Club