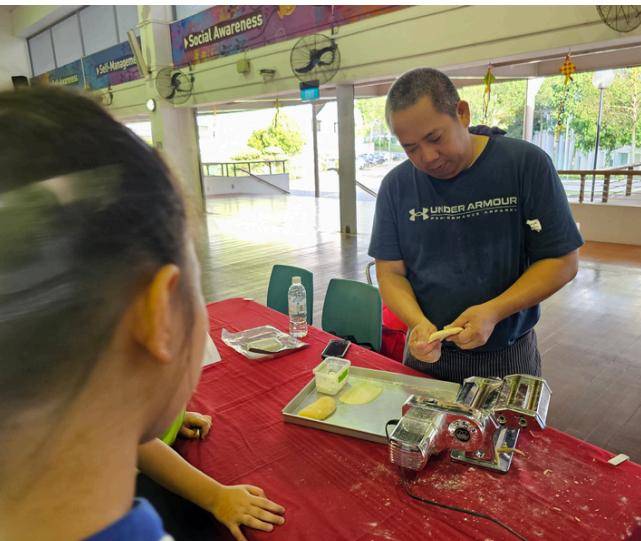




PSG
BLANGAH RISE

PARENTS POST



PARENTS BRING CAREERS TO LIFE @ BRPS CAREERS DAY

By Tina, PSG Chairperson

On 30 April 2024, BRPS with PSG parent volunteers organised a meaningful Career Day. Especially for students from primary 4 to primary 6, students in 30-minute sessions could interact with professionals from various fields who are parents of students in BRPS. Ten dedicated parent volunteers joined the day to share their career journeys with the young curious minds.

It was an eye-opening experience with a diverse group of parents, each representing a unique profession: a doctor, a health & safety officer, IT consumer/risk & compliance manager, a cyber security advisor, a software engineer, an IT auditor, a real estate agent, an entrepreneur baker, a chef, and a henna artist. Each parent had their own booth, adorned with posters detailing their career paths, why they chose their jobs, the challenges they've overcome, and personal quotes that keep them motivated.

Some parents brought in their work tools and uniforms to show the students. Dr. Lourdes, our parent volunteer doctor, brought a touch of the medical field to life with her stethoscope and other medical supplies. The children were fascinated as they got a close-up look at the tools she uses daily. Siraj, our health & safety officer, made quite an impression in his full uniform, complete with a hard hat and safety gear. MaryAnn, the entrepreneur baker, showed the students her cupcake cutters that she uses to design cupcakes.

Some parents used the opportunity to demonstrate what they do too. Bena, our talented henna artist, performed live henna art on some of the students, who were thrilled to see their hands adorned with beautiful designs. Aris, our skilled chef, demonstrated the art of pasta making with his pasta maker, giving the kids a taste of culinary creativity. Je, the IT risk and compliance manager, engaged the students with fun sticker giveaways and a simple matching activity, making the world of IT both accessible and enjoyable.

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To encourage interaction, students were asked to think of one question they wanted to ask each volunteer. They were also given a worksheet to complete, helping them reflect on and better understand the various careers they explored.

The session was a success, with students showing laughter, interest and enthusiasm. They enjoyed learning about the different careers, appreciating the hands-on demonstrations, and connecting with the parent volunteers. The event not only broadened their horizons but also inspired them to think about what they want to do in the future.

We are incredibly grateful to our parent volunteers for their time and effort in making Career Day such a memorable and enriching experience. Their participation brought the world of work to life for our students, sparking curiosity and ambition in the next generation of professionals. We look forward to doing it again next year!



WHAT IS SUCCESS?

REFLECTIVE SESSION WITH PARENTS AND TEACHERS

By Hoi Leong, PSG Vice Chairperson

In Term 3 2023, I led a reflective session with PSG parents, school leaders, and teachers to unlearn and relearn a fundamental question: **What is success to us and our children?**

It's not something we often pause to consider, yet it's crucial because our personal definitions of success significantly influence the choices we make for our children. During the session, participants were posed several thought-provoking questions: "What is success to us?", "Why do we define it that way?", and "How does society define success?". After jotting down our own answers, we had a dialogue on what we wrote down and what are other's thoughts.

Society often equates success with academic achievement, wealth, status, and a good job - the proverbial 5Cs in Singapore. This is what we feel as parents. However, when parents and teachers shared their reflections, a richer and more nuanced understanding of success emerged. It was not the 5Cs but something different.



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We had no single answer, but many answers. Some shared the importance of good character development and contributing positively to society as success. Some spoke about happiness, contentment, and peace of mind as essential components of success. Additionally, the value of a continuous improvement mindset, the effort put into personal growth, and providing value to others were highlighted. Success was also seen in terms of strong family communication and healthy relationships. Last but not least, there are physical and mental health, independence, and finding satisfaction and joy in life.

The reflections revealed that while societal definitions of success focus on external achievements and end results, personal definitions often center on the journey and internal fulfillment. This distinction highlights the importance of aligning our actions with what we genuinely want for our children. Understanding that success is not merely about outward achievements but also about inner happiness and purpose can guide us in making more meaningful decisions for their futures.

This session was a timely reminder to reflect on our own values and definitions of success. By understanding what truly matters to us, we can ensure our actions align with our genuine aspirations for our children. Let's take the time to contemplate what success means to us and guide our children towards a future that resonates with these deeper values.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS @ SCIENCE AND ART RECESS ACTIVITIES

By Nora, PSG Exco Member

As a parent volunteer at our primary school, I've had the privilege of helping out with the Science and Art Recess Activities this semester. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I'd love to share some highlights from our activities with you.

This semester, we worked with the school and organised six science activities, including two exciting STEM challenges. One of the challenges had our children forming teams to create the tallest straw tower, while the other had them working on parachutes. These challenges spanned three days, with the first day dedicated to registration and the following two days for building and evaluating results. Watching the students collaborate and brainstorm was a joy—they came up with so many creative ideas and solutions.

We also conducted two science experiment demonstrations. Students gathered to observe the experiments and their outcomes, and many of them had curious questions. After the demos, students got hands-on experience at individual stations, allowing them to better understand the scientific theories behind the experiments. The students were excited and enthusiastic as they engaged in these activities.



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In addition to science, we supported four art activities during recess. These included making Chinese New Year lanterns, paper ladybugs, Hari Raya weaving cards, and pop-up spiral cards. Our younger students in P1 and P2 were able to complete their art projects within 15 minutes with the help of parent volunteers. Meanwhile, the middle and upper primary students tackled their projects with minimal assistance, showcasing their growing independence and creativity.

As a parent volunteer, it's heartwarming to see so many curious kids eager to learn something new each time we're there. There's a deep sense of satisfaction in helping children complete a project they initially found challenging. The smiles on their faces and their heartfelt thanks truly make our day. Volunteering at these activities has not only enriched the students' learning experiences but has also brought immense joy and fulfillment to us as parents.

Over the 14 days of science and art recess activities in terms 1 and 2, we had around 25 parent volunteers participating, with many returning for multiple sessions. We look forward to continuing these enriching activities and seeing our children's enthusiasm and creativity flourish in the coming semesters. If you haven't yet had the chance to volunteer, I highly recommend it—it's a wonderful way to contribute to our school community and support our children's education.



ABOUT COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL AND ISSUE OF BULLYING

Dialogue with School Leaders about Parents' Concerns



In March 2024, our Parent Support Group (PSG) held a valuable dialogue with school leaders to address concerns raised by parents. The session focused on two main issues: communication between teachers and parents, and bullying at school. These are two top concerns that parents have in a poll with PSG parents.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Cannot reach the teacher? More Parent-Teacher Meeting?

Effective communication is important to parent-school partnership, but it's also an ongoing challenge. Parents often feel overwhelmed by the multiple communication channels available—emails, WhatsApp, Class Dojo, and calls to the general office. This can lead to confusion and frustration. After listening to the issues both sides have, the school has decided to standardise communication via email. To streamline this process, the school has shared a comprehensive list of the email addresses of all the teachers related to a class on Parent Gateway (PG), ensuring parents can easily contact relevant teachers.



While some parents expressed a desire for more frequent parent-teacher meetings, the school explained that past attempts to hold biannual meetings resulted in low attendance, making it an inefficient use of teachers' time. Instead, the school will maintain one official meeting per year at the end of Term 2, but parents could reach out to teachers via email to arrange additional meetings if needed. This approach aims to balance teachers' workloads while still accommodating parents' needs for more frequent updates.

Bullying at School

Is the problem serious? How should I deal with it?

Bullying is a serious concern for any parent, and our discussion revealed some insightful points. The school assured parents that there are currently no significant bullying cases at BRPS, though minor conflicts among children do occur as they learn to manage their emotions and relationships. The school remains vigilant and proactive in addressing any issues that arise.

Parents were reminded of the importance of communicating any concerns to teachers, as early intervention can prevent small issues from escalating. Additionally, the school encouraged parents to be attentive to their children's behavior at home, as some children may not openly discuss their school experiences. By being observant, parents can help identify and address any potential problems early on.

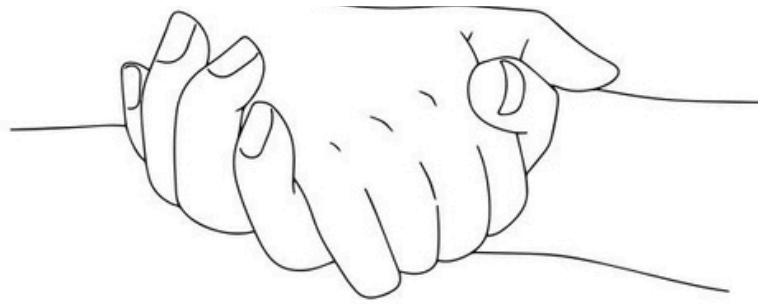
The dialogue with school leaders was both constructive and reassuring. Standardizing email as the primary communication channel should reduce confusion and improve the flow of information between parents and teachers. The school's flexible approach to parent-teacher meetings ensures that parents can still get the feedback they need without overwhelming teachers. On the issue of bullying, the school's proactive stance and the encouragement for parents to stay engaged underscore a strong, supportive community committed to every child's well-being.

We look forward to continuing these discussions and working together to create a positive and nurturing environment for our children. If you have any concerns or suggestions to be discussed with school leaders, please don't hesitate to reach out to the PSG Exco!

Fun shot!

Parents' Bonding Session: Paper Quilling



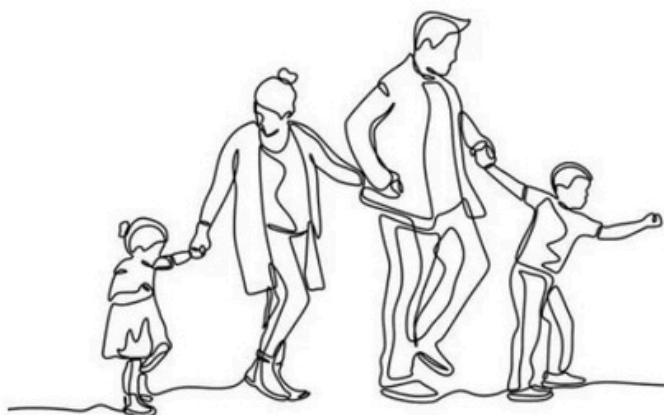


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Be part of our story



<https://bit.ly/brpspsg2024>



Where We Grow Deep
and Grow Together

Parents Support Group

Blangah Rise Primary School PSG Parents Post - May 2024

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