



# CONNECT @ New Town

MAY 2023 | NEW TOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL | NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Message

2023 is a special year for the staff and students of New Town. It is the year we started our journey as a merged school.

Our theme for this year, R.I.S.E (Respect, Inclusivity, Strength, Empathy) as ONE, has not only helped us start the year on a positive note, it has also helped our staff and students to come together as one school.

For a newly-merged school to be able to rise as one, there must be opportunities to bond as one New Town.

In the first half of the year, our students, staff and various stakeholders have had numerous opportunities to deepen their relationships with their peers and colleagues through the various activities organised by the school.

This issue of Connect @ New Town serves to capture the events as a memory for staff and students.

For parents and stakeholders, it provides a glimpse of how our students discovered and developed themselves through the various opportunities provided for them to learn and grow.

With the dedication of the staff and the continued partnership the school has with the alumni, parent support group and stakeholders, we will continue to provide a quality learning experience for all New Towners.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!



READ ON FOR OUR SCHOOL'S DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMMES, COHORT WEEK EXPERIENCES AND MORE!



Newly appointed Student Council Executive Committee

## Learning for Life: Student Leadership Investiture

As one of the platforms of the school's Learning for Life programme, the Student Leaders' Investiture was held on 18 April 2023 to recognise and welcome our incoming batch of Student Councillors, Peer Support Leaders, CCA Leaders, and Class Chairpersons.

This year's theme, Rising to Lead, Serving as One, reflects our student leaders' desire to serve the school community in unity and rise to navigate future challenges with confidence.

At this milestone event, Certificates of Appreciation were given to the outgoing Students Leaders to show our heartfelt appreciation for the contributions they have made and to recognise their effort in serving the school.

Heralding a new era, the presentation of the Certificates of Appointment and badges to the incoming batch of Student Leaders marked their new appointments.

In her speech as the newly minted President of the Student Council, Imane Deanna Larhzal (S3-03) shared,

"We need to be role models to guide and support those around us. We need to be compassionate and kind while striving for excellence. Most importantly, we need to work together as that is when we are truly stronger."

Student Council bannerette handover ceremony





2023 NTSS Student Leaders



Class Leaders' appointment: Xylia Tan with Form Teachers, Ms Nur Syahirah and Mr Sim Ik Fong

Taking the Leader's Pledge



Peer Support Leaders President Jazlyn Ang giving her speech



Appreciation of CCA Leaders

## Applied Learning Programme: Digital Communicators, Change Makers

The Applied Learning Programme (ALP) at New Town Secondary School has undergone a successful revamp following the school's merger. It is now titled 'Digital Communicators, Change Makers'.

The enriched curriculum aims to equip students with a range of skills and knowledge to become proactive leaders in the digital age, while integrating their learning across the Humanities and Art curricula.

During the first half of the academic year, our Secondary 2 students immersed themselves in the fascinating world of Stop Motion Animation.

These workshops, conducted during their ALP lessons, provided the students with a unique opportunity to develop their creativity and problem-solving abilities.



Learning how to use the animation software during lessons



Collaborating to produce animations

Students learned to combine traditional art forms with technology to create visually-engaging narratives that resonate with the audience.

In Term 2, the excitement continued as we launched the inaugural ALP Photography Competition.

Centered around the themes of "Our School Community" and "Priceless Moments," the contest inspired students to capture the essence of life at New Town Secondary School.

Through their lenses, they showcased the vibrant spirit, camaraderie, and diversity that make our school a special place to learn and grow.



Teachers attending a photography workshop as part of ALP professional development

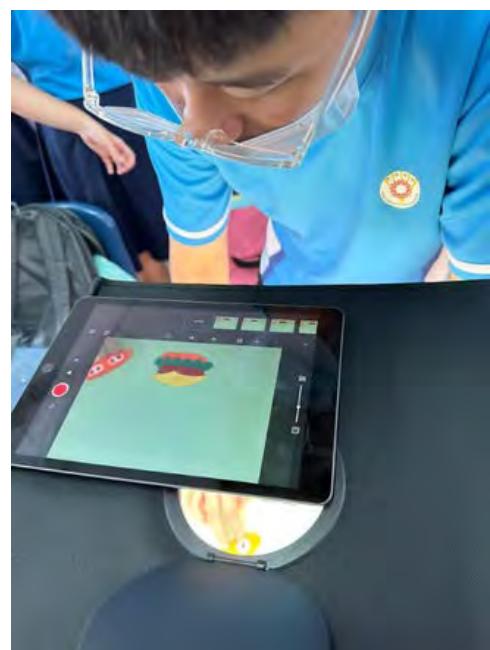


Teachers experimenting with photography techniques during the workshop



Collaborating to produce the animation

Adjusting the scene for the next frame of the animation



Exploring digital painting tools

## Enhanced Art Programme

We are one of the nine schools in Singapore to offer the Enhanced Art Programme (EAP).

Our EAP students have the opportunity to work with like-minded peers in the programme and learn from local creative professionals through masterclasses and combined-schools programmes organised by the Ministry of Education.

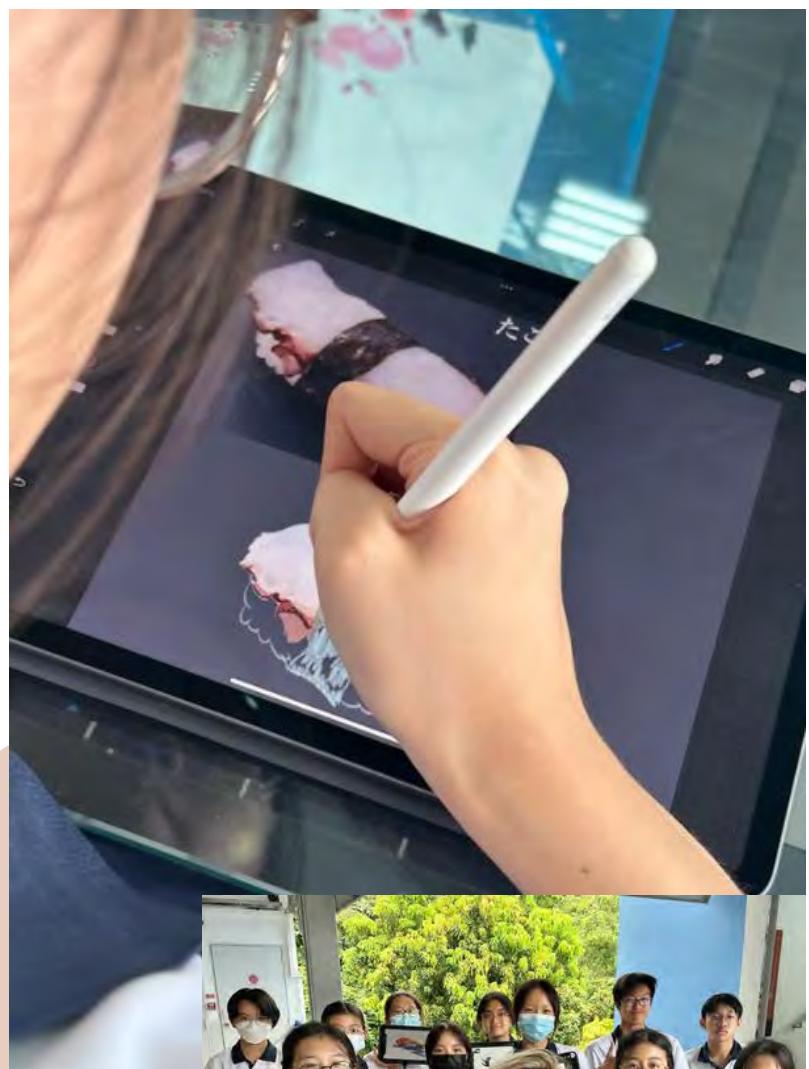
In Term 1, our students attended the EAP Milestone Experience, where they picked up tips on book illustration and learnt how to create strong visual focus in their artwork through colours and visual elements.

The students completed a basic illustration and photo manipulation workshop in Term 2 on the Procreate application with Illustrator, Ms Stephanie Hew.

The knowledge and skills learnt through the workshop has helped instil greater confidence in our students when using digital tools.



Some digital works done during the Procreate Application Masterclass



With illustrator Ms Stephanie Hew



Working on digital illustration during EAP Milestone Experience (Zoom session)



Enroute to NTSS



Then Principal-Designate, Mr Ari giving his address

## Symbolic Walk and School Merger Ceremony

Held on the last day of school in 2022, the key objectives of the Symbolic Walk were to end the school term on a high note and to mark the beginning of our journey as a new merged school.

To commemorate this important occasion, the student leaders of both schools came up with a theme that could not be more apt - 'R.I.S.E. as ONE', signifying that we will not only work together but soar as one.

R.I.S.E. stands for Respect, Inclusivity, Strength and Empathy, and these values were demonstrated through the warm reception and pleasant exchanges between the staff and students from both schools.

Immediately following the Symbolic Walk, the School Merger Ceremony marked the official union of Tanglin Secondary School and New Town Secondary School.

With the handing over of the school flags and the launch of the new school crest and flag, the ceremony signified the opportunity that we have to leverage on the strengths of each school.

Our goal? To bring about positive learning outcomes based on our common belief: everyone is unique, all can succeed.



The TSS entourage arrives at NTSS!



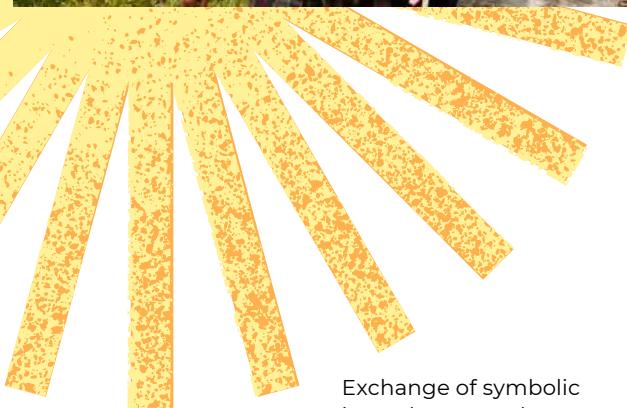
Having a pit-stop at a nearby housing estate and forming 'TSS'



Enroute to NTSS

The entourage from Tanglin was greeted by New Town Band's performance at the school foyer

Just about to step in to NTSS



Exchange of symbolic items between the principals of both schools



## Orientation Week

The Orientation Week kicked off the first programme of 2023 with the theme R.I.S.E. as One!

Aimed at fostering a common sense of belonging and identity for our staff and students from both schools, the week-long activities provided opportunities to enhance positive teacher-student and peer-support relationships in class and during CCA.

Through our class-based segments such as Class Connect and Gratitude Challenge, led and facilitated by the Form Teachers, students co-created their class motto and goals for a shared identity.

They also established meaningful relationships by showing appreciation to each other.

The Student Leaders and CCA Leaders were also given the opportunity to hone their leadership skills by organising and leading their peers in bonding activities.

The students from both schools have warmed up to each other and have begun to build new friendships as they adapt to the new school surroundings and assimilate into the new school culture.



Activities that helped students bond as a class





Building teamwork through the game of Kinball!



Cohort activity with Mrs Chen Kaiwen on class identity



Class S3-05 with their Class Mascot



Giving Softball  
batting a try



New Town Fencing Team at CCA Open House

## CCA Engagement Programmes and CCA Open House for Secondary Ones

During the first two weeks of school in Term 1, our newly-minted Secondary One students were provided with opportunities to be familiarised with our school's Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) through various platforms.

The Uniform Group (UG) Engagement Programme allowed our students to gain hands-on experiences in UG activities. Examples of the respective UG activities led by the UG CCA leaders included the following:

drone flying by the National Cadet Corps, Crime Scene Investigation by the National Police Cadet Corps as well paracord keychain making by the Girl Guides.

The sports enthusiasts could sign up for the Sports and Games Engagement Programme to experience a modified version of a regular CCA training.

Through these engagement programmes, students were

better able to understand what each CCA programme has to offer.

Students and parents who were curious about the Performing Arts had the opportunity to indulge in the mesmerising performances by Chinese Dance, Contemporary Dance, Concert Band and Guzheng ensemble during the Secondary One Parents' Engagement Session cum CCA Open House held on 14 January 2023.

Every CCA shared their achievements and programmes at their booths, helping Secondary One students and parents understand more about the CCA.



A stunning performance by Chinese Dance



Celebrating  
as a class

## Chinese New Year Celebrations

On 17 January 2023, the school ushered in the Year of the Rabbit and celebrated Chinese New Year. It was our first celebration as a newly merged school. We started the class-based celebration with a pre-recorded virtual concert where our talented Newtowners from the Guzheng Ensemble, Chinese Dance and Concert Band put up spectacular performances.

To make the celebration more meaningful, students were engaged in classroom activities where they learnt about Chinese New Year customs. This was followed by a lantern-making session with their classmates. It was heartening to see students of different races working together to complete their lanterns.

The highlight of the celebration had to be the video collage of well-wishes by staff and students, and a pre-recorded lion dance performance. It was indeed a vibrant Chinese New Year Celebration enjoyed by all!



Conveying CNY greetings  
to Form Teachers



Happy students with their DIY lanterns



An energetic lion dance performance put up by students



Learning about Chinese New Year customs through interactive games

Well wishes from teachers!





ECG Counsellor Mr Teng Swee Hoe sharing ECG perspectives with Form Teachers Mdm Kasumawati and Ms Amanda Chin



Lim Jie Le Alan (S3-05) and Ellen Patricia Fisher (S3-08) sharing their subject allocation exercise journey during the Sec 2 Parent Engagement Session

## Parent Engagement Sessions

To kickstart a strong home-school partnership, the Year Head Team organised four Parent Engagement Sessions (PES) in Term 1. For each PES, there were talks by various school personnel and sharing by New Towners to provide parents with an insight to the life of a New Towner.

The PES series started with the Secondary 1 PES cum Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) Open House on 14 January 2023. The session focused on supporting parents in managing their children's transition from primary to secondary school, as well as provide a

hands-on experience for them to find out about the CCAs offered by the school.

To enable parents to better understand the subject allocation exercise, the Secondary 2 PES invited two Secondary 3 New Towners, Lim Jie Le Alan (S3-05) and Ellen Patricia Fisher (S3-08) to share their experiences and considerations when they were choosing their subjects in 2022.

The Secondary 4 and 5 PES focused on post-secondary education pathways with our

school's ECG Counsellor, Mr Teng Swee Hoe, giving a talk on how parents could support their children in making these decisions.

Term 1 ended with the Secondary 3 PES. The focus for the session was on how parents could manage their children's transition from lower to upper secondary levels.

It takes a village to raise a child. As a school, we are extremely grateful for the supportive parents our New Towners have!



Form Teachers Mr Loh Yong Qi and Mrs Tricia Ong addressing parents at the classroom during the Sec 1 Parent Engagement Session cum CCA Open House

## Geographical Investigations

Geographical Investigation is an important part of the Geography curriculum as it provides students with the opportunity to explore real-world issues related to the subject.

In Term 2, students undertook different types of geographical investigations.

The Secondary 4 Geography students visited the Gardens by the Bay and used data collection methods such as tally count, land use, mapping,

and surveys to understand tourists' motivations for visiting the Gardens and their experiences at the attraction.

This investigation allowed the students to understand what attracts tourists to Singapore and why we should know the needs and preferences of different segments of tourists.

The Secondary 2 students visited Casa Clementi, a housing estate in Singapore, to investigate sustainable housing issues.

They interviewed residents and observed the estate's amenities and infrastructure to assess how well they catered to the residents' needs. The investigation aimed to help students understand the challenges in achieving sustainable living in an urban context.

Besides gaining useful insights into real-world issues, the practical experience has undoubtedly enhanced their understanding of Geography.

At the Gardens by the Bay



Plotting a land use map



## Historical Investigations

The Lower Secondary Historical Investigation Programme aims to develop in our Secondary 1 and 2 students the 21st Century Competencies of communication, collaboration and creative thinking.

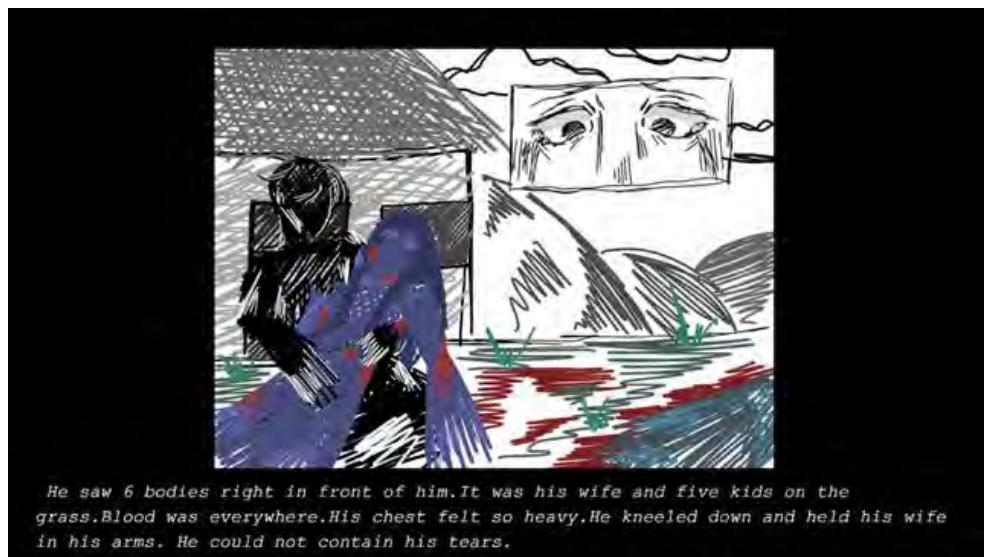
Through understanding different perspectives from a variety of primary and secondary sources, students learnt in depth about the history of Singapore.

Our Secondary 1 students took a closer look at how safe Singapore was under the British administration from 1867 to 1942 while our Secondary 2 students examined the people's experiences during the Japanese Occupation.

Through collaboration, our Lower Secondary students put together unique group presentations to share their insights on the investigations.

From original illustrations and skits to AI-generated characters, they demonstrated a keen awareness of historical significance and creativity!

This engaging and multi-dimensional approach to historical investigation has equipped our students with valuable skills and provided a strong foundation in Singapore's storied past.



*He saw 6 bodies right in front of him. It was his wife and five kids on the grass. Blood was everywhere. His chest felt so heavy. He kneeled down and held his wife in his arms. He could not contain his tears.*

An artefact by Secondary Two students about people's experiences during the Japanese Occupation



Presenting their insights on how safe Singapore was under the British administration



Learning how to prepare coffee



A talk by ECG Counsellor, Mr Teng Swee Hoe

## Sec 2 Education and Career Guidance Programme

During the Cohort Experience Week from 20 – 22 February 2023, all Secondary 2 students went through a two-day Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Experience Programme.

Based on the theme 'R.I.S.E and Learn,' they attended a talk by our school's ECG Counsellor, Mr Teng Swee Hoe, on the importance of understanding oneself in preparation for future pursuits.

Following that, they did a profiling exercise on the MySkillsFuture portal to learn more about their strengths, abilities and interests before watching videos of subjects offered at the Secondary 3 level to prepare for the upcoming subject allocation exercise.

The second half of the ECG Programme focused on learning a new skill. Students could pick a course from a variety of options presented, ranging

from games design to early childhood education, and they spent six hours learning a new skill.

Students who had chosen hospitality management learnt how to fold a napkin and prepare coffee and mocktails. Students interested in the entertainment industry learnt how to do balloon-sculpting and speak confidently when hosting programmes.

All these new experiences were important as they provided the students with an invaluable insight on the industry they had chosen.



Discussing the project for the Early Childhood Education module



A 'rose' folded entirely using a napkin



Ang Yi Qi (S2-01) trying her hands at concocting a mocktail

Trying their hands at balloon-sculpting





Making a stop at NUS during the Aspiration Walk



Finding out more about an Institute of Higher Learning

## Sec 4 and 5 Education and Career Guidance

The programme for this year's Secondary 4 and 5 ECG Experience Week, themed 'R.I.S.E and Aspire', centred around these areas of focus: Discovering Purpose, Exploring Opportunities, and Staying Relevant.

In their quest of discovering their purpose, students learnt how to digitalise their career pathways.

They meticulously created their unique portfolios, as well as articulated their life and career aspirations through a self-directed, self-marketing video creation.

To support our students' aspirations and help them explore the many education and career opportunities, representatives from Institutes of Higher Learning ranging from junior colleges,

Polytechnics and the ITE, conducted sharing sessions. The school also organised an aspiration walk to encourage students to stay relevant. They visited venues like NUS, Fusionopolis and Timbre+ to experience the innovative and technological industries in Singapore.

Having benefited from such experiences, our students are inspired and motivated to achieve their goals and targets.



Clarifying doubts with the keynote speaker



Visiting the Institute of Higher Learning booths



Getting ready to climb!



Helping one another through the obstacles

The tents are ready!



## Secondary 1 Camp

In February 2023, our Secondary 1 students left for their cohort camp at Labrador Outdoor Adventure Learning Centre.

For many of them, the camp was the first time they had to step out of their comfort zones to sleep overnight in tents, shower without heated water, and part with their mobile phones for three days.

The camp was carefully planned for students to demonstrate the values of Respect, Inclusivity, Strength, and Empathy. They had opportunities to engage in activities such as outdoor cooking, overcoming low elements and bouldering.

The highlight for most students was navigating through the artificial caving system, where effective teamwork and communication were crucial for them to find their way out in near complete darkness.

A campfire filled with student-led performances and cheers provided a rousing end to the camp on the last night. Students overcame their fears and enjoyed the interactions with their peers throughout the camp. Many forged stronger bonds with their classmates and Form Teachers.



Enjoying their outdoor cooking experience



Riding through the waves together



Navigating through their challenges

## Secondary 3 Camp

Learning beyond the classrooms, our Secondary 3 students picked up invaluable life skills and lessons during the Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp.

Many enjoyed the water rafting activity most. They could exercise design thinking skills through building a raft for their inter-class challenge.

Journeying through Sentosa, their Navigation Challenge aimed to facilitate character development through values-centric and journey-based learning. Students learnt how to overcome challenges by taking ownership of their decision-making.

Best Female Camper, Wong Zhen Zhen (S3-09) shared, “There is no WIFI in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection.” I am thankful for the time away from our devices, giving us the opportunity to build our social skills and to interact even more one with another! ”.

The camp culminated with a memorable campfire where our students showcased their talents and shared their successes through various performances.

This experiential learning opportunity has definitely impacted our Secondary 3 cohort positively!

## Mother Tongue Fortnight

The Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Fortnight programmes aim to provide platforms for students to actively use MTL and learn the associated culture so as to experience MTL as a 'living language'. The specially curated programmes also seek to provide authentic opportunities for students to use MTL through experiential learning.

This year's activities allowed students to showcase their talents, creativity and interesting ideas. In addition, students learnt to appreciate the traditional festivals and cultures of our ethnic groups, and were inspired to learn and use the Mother Tongue languages in their daily lives.



Designing their own Chinese round fan



Posing with their completed and beautifully painted vases.



Listening intently to their drama instructor



Rehearsing for their final performance showcase

## Sec 2 Drama Enrichment

During the Cohort Experience Week in Term 1, our Secondary 2 students experienced an invigorating Drama Enrichment Programme.

The students began by learning how to exude stage presence, with skills on utilising one's body language and projecting one's voice.

They also collaborated in small groups to bring to life an excerpt of their Literature drama text, Frankenstein. Many of them rose to the challenge of stepping out of their comfort zones.

The result? Engaging performances that helped students understand their play more.

The students enjoyed themselves tremendously so much that they cannot wait to dramatise their Literature text again!



Acting out their tableaus



Discussing how to dramatise their excerpts

*"As a group, we struggled with memorising the lines. However, we put in our all and we could eventually act without the script."*

- Megan Chua (S2-02)



Creating a storyline for the digital defence video



Building the Total Defence Tower

## Total Defence Day 2023 – Together We Keep Singapore Strong

The commemoration of Total Defence Day 2023 centred around the theme, 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong'.

To strengthen students' voice and ownership in their roles in Total Defence, the programme was helmed and led by the NE Ambassadors and CCE Representatives of each class.

Students were engaged in different cohort-based experiences. The Secondary 1 students worked together in

teams to build strong Total Defence Structures and had the chance to pen their reflections on the importance and roles of each of the six pillars of Total Defence.

Through the enactment of the Guardians of the City strategy game, the Secondary 2 students demonstrated their appreciation towards the six pillars in how they can overcome crises in Singapore.

To harness the technological know-how of our students, the Secondary 3 students were called to promote Digital Defence by creating video clips and applying their knowledge and skills in digital security.

The Secondary 4 students articulated how each pillar played an important role in society through dialogue and debate while the Secondary 5 students participated in the National Service (NS) engagement programme, deeply understanding the importance of NS as efforts to prepare themselves early for NS in the physical and psychological aspects.

Through these experiences, the students reflected on the sense of reality and hope in Singapore, and further explored their sense of identity as Singaporeans.



Mr Evan Ng sharing his National Service experiences



Vibrant performance by the Contemporary Dance CCA

## 58th Commendation Day

The school celebrated its 58th Commendation Day on 28 April 2023 with the theme R.I.S.E as ONE.

Respect, Inclusivity, Strength and Empathy are values which have guided and will continue to guide us in our first year as a merged school.

This year's Commendation Day was unique as we came together to celebrate the 2022 achievements of students from both Tanglin Secondary and New Town Secondary, reinforcing the school's philosophy that "Everyone is Unique, All can Succeed".

With energetic performances from our Concert Band,

Guzheng Ensemble and Contemporary Dance CCAs, this year's Commendation Day also celebrated the contributions of long-serving staff and partners of the school.

The event also marked the unveiling of the Tanglin Design Centre and the Heritage Gallery, which are important markers of our merger identity.

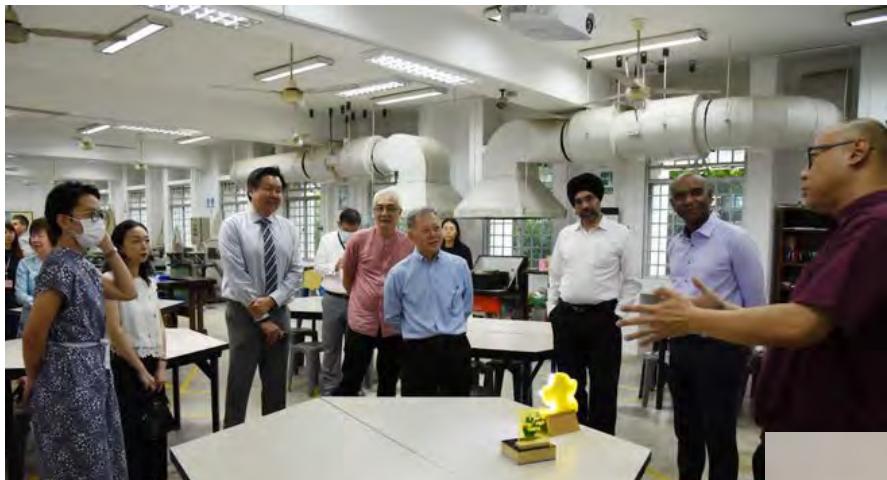
The Tanglin Design Centre recognises Tanglin Secondary School as the pioneer in technical education in secondary schools while the Heritage Gallery documents the rich histories of both schools.

We hope future generations of New Towners will continue to draw inspiration from the achievements and dedication of our staff and students.

Let's rise to greater heights and continue to bring glory and pride to New Town!



Prize recipients with their former teachers  
Ms Zoey Chan and Mdm Wati



VIPs visiting the new additions to the school – Tanglin Design Centre and the the Heritage Gallery



Long Service Awards recipient, Mr Tay Chong Guan, with Mr Ari



VIPs viewing art pieces created by our students in the Art Gallery



Valedictorians Keane Wong and Yap Kah Yee

## NTSS Alumni Annual General Meeting

After years of social distancing and virtual gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Town Secondary School Alumni was finally able to host its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in person in February 2023.

This highly anticipated event brought together alumni from various batches.

The atmosphere at the AGM was one of jubilation and camaraderie as our alumni eagerly caught up with their classmates, teachers, and friends.

The evening was filled with laughter and fond memories, as attendees shared stories of their experiences at the school and the impact it has had on their lives.

This joyous occasion served as a reminder of the strong bonds forged within the New Town community, bonds that have withstood the test of time and adversity.

The AGM also coincided with the festive season of Chinese New Year. This lively celebration further solidified the sense of togetherness among the attendees, as they looked forward to a brighter and more hopeful future.



Posing for a group photo to mark the occasion



Time to Lohei!



PSG Members, Teachers and School Leaders

## Parent Support Group Welcome Session

In February 2023, our Parent Support Group (PSG) held a welcome cum Lo Hei session to mark a new beginning for the merged school's PSG.

Led by Co-Chairpersons Mrs. Angeline Oer and Ms. Winny Kwok, together with the PSG Executive Committee members, the event provided an opportunity for parents to come together to share their passion for their children's education and suggest ways through which they can support the school.

The PSG members engaged in productive dialogue with the School Leaders and explored how they could best support the school and the students.

The parents are excited about working together to make a positive impact on their children's education. The welcome session was a great success, and all attendees left feeling motivated and energised to contribute to the school community.



Time for Lohei!

## Mentoring@NTSS



Mentor and Mentee getting to know each other at the kick-off session

Mentoring@NTSS is a structured mentoring programme where teachers, particularly Beginning Teachers and post-Beginning Teachers, are paired with mentors. They can guide their mentees in areas of instruction, people and personal management, positive discipline and organisation awareness.

This year, we welcome five mentees who will be mentored by our Lead and Senior Teachers and Key Personnel.

On 29 March 2023, we kicked off the year-long programme with a face-to-face meeting with all the mentors and the mentees.

The mentees were excited to tap on the experience of their mentors and receive support in their teaching journey. The mentors look forward to learning from their mentees too.



Learning hand lettering and calligraphy



Together we Lohei!



Exploring Nearpod for professional development

## Grow As One to R.I.S.E As One

The first two terms have been exciting for the staff as everyone came together for Staff Learning Time (SLT), Learning Huddle and S.P.I.C.E.

To develop the skills and knowledge in e-Pedagogy and EdTech tools, the teachers had sessions on ChatGPT, Using NearPod for Low Progress Learners, Virtual Reality, Gamification in SLS, MS Teams and OneNote. Apple Education also hosted a session on Augmented Reality.

As we grow our bonds and build our memories together as a new team, the NTSS staff came together for several social activities. In February, we celebrated Chinese New Year with a fun Lohei session.

We also took time to learn a new hobby during our S.P.I.C.E session by sweating it out in Boxing or Gym, playing boardgames, cooking or doing calligraphy. As we work together, let us continue enjoying our time in the year ahead!