

# RADIN MAS TIMES

A NEWSPAPER BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

SEMESTER 1, 2024 EDITION

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## Radin Mas Welcomes Minister Chan!



On 7 February 2024, Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing, visited Radin Mas Primary School to learn more about what we do here! Two of our school's Ambassadors, Kelly and Nilashini, reflected on their experience of bringing Minister Chan around.

Read more on page 4.

## Leaders' Day

By Heng Min Xu, Ashley, 5M

This year, Leaders' Day was held on 24 April 2024. Leaders' Day is a day where we celebrate a milestone for students who have been appointed as a student leader. On that day, parents or guardians were invited to share this proud experience with their child and were given the opportunity to pin the new badge on their child's uniform to commemorate their position in the Prefectorial Board. The student leaders of the school then proceeded to recite the Student Leaders' Pledge.

Being the newly appointed head prefect for the year, I was looking forward to the Leaders' Day. As the ceremony started, I had butterflies in my stomach as I waited for my name to be called out. After the badge pinning ceremony, I delivered my thank you speech. Despite practising countless times, the anxiety of not delivering my speech well was still present. Thankfully, the ceremony went well!

As the Head Prefect of Radin Mas Primary School, my vision of the school is to work towards



not just being a place for us to study in, but also to be able to make friends and have fun together. In our 6 years of primary school life, my hope for every student is to be able to grow holistically - to not just be someone who achieves good grades, but also to have a good character.

Being the Head Prefect for 2024, I feel a little nervous with the higher expectations of me as a role model. At the same time, I am full of anticipation, as I hope to bring about positive changes to our school which will benefit the well-being of our students. I am looking forward to working with my EXCO team and the adventures



that will unfold to make Radin Mas Primary School a place for us to "Work Hard, Play Hard and Make a Mark".



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11. Nilashini Jeyakumar, 6D
12. Wu Bowen, 6M
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14. Sng Yu Ze Brandon, 6M
15. Tan Kai Ying, Twinkle, 6I
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17. Alya Adrianna Binte Muhammad Masrin, 5I
18. Teo Jia Rui, 4I
19. Charlotte Lee Rui Xuan, 5N
20. Gnanakalathiepan Apirvhan, 5N
21. Heng Min Xu, Ashley, 5M
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23. S Sivakasthuri, 5D
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# Declining Fertility Rates

By Sng Yu Ze Brandon, 6M

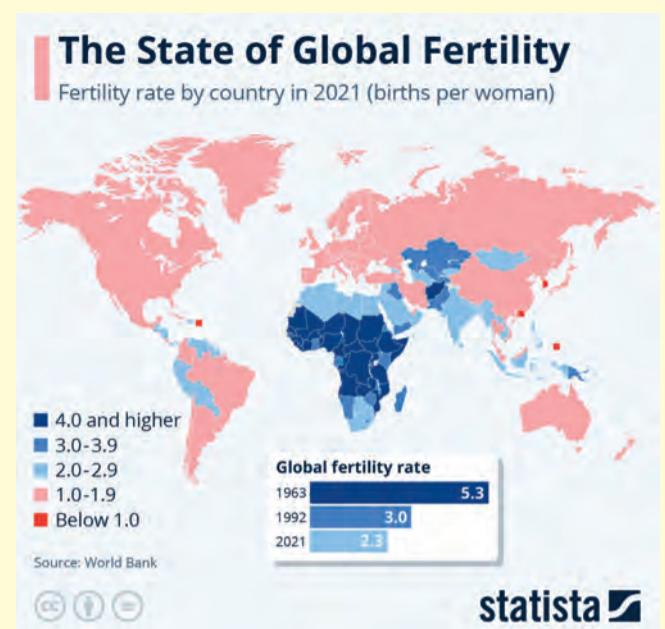
Since 1965, we have seen an unprecedented change in the global fertility rates. The number has halved, to now below 2.5 children per woman. When the total fertility rate is below 2.1, it means that the population is unable to replace itself from one generation to the next. Places with low fertility rates include Italy, Japan, South Korea, and higher-income Chinese cities such as Shanghai. In 2023, Singapore's total fertility rate fell below 1 for the first time to 0.97. This is a decline further from the previous record of 1.04 in 2022 and 1.12 in 2021.

Why is there a decline in birth rates globally? As more and more economies get more advanced, fertility rates decrease. This is because there is a shift in priorities in young people and many choose not to have children. With more women entering the workforce, they may then prefer to delay childbirth or not to have children at all. With rising costs of living such as education, childcare expenses and housing, people are also

thinking twice before deciding to have a child.

As fertility rates decline, a consequence is the aging of the population. With fewer births, there will be a shrinking workforce because there are fewer young people entering the workforce as older individuals retire. This poses various challenges such as strains on social welfare systems to support a growing elderly population and labour shortages. In the long term, these can lead to reduced productivity and increased healthcare costs.

The Singapore government is also concerned about the resulting **ramifications** on the economy. With the Baby Bonus cash gifts, the government hopes to be able to help couples manage the costs of having a child so that more people would be encouraged to have children. The government is also looking at how paid parental leave for both mothers and fathers can be increased so that parents can take care and spend more time with their child. Companies are encouraged to allow employees to have flexible work arrangements



statista

too. Next, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) has been increasing infant care capacity as well as lowering childcare fees.

In conclusion, low fertility rates is a pressing issue that needs to be resolved both in Singapore and globally.

## Word Bank

**ramification (noun)** – unwelcome consequence of an action or event

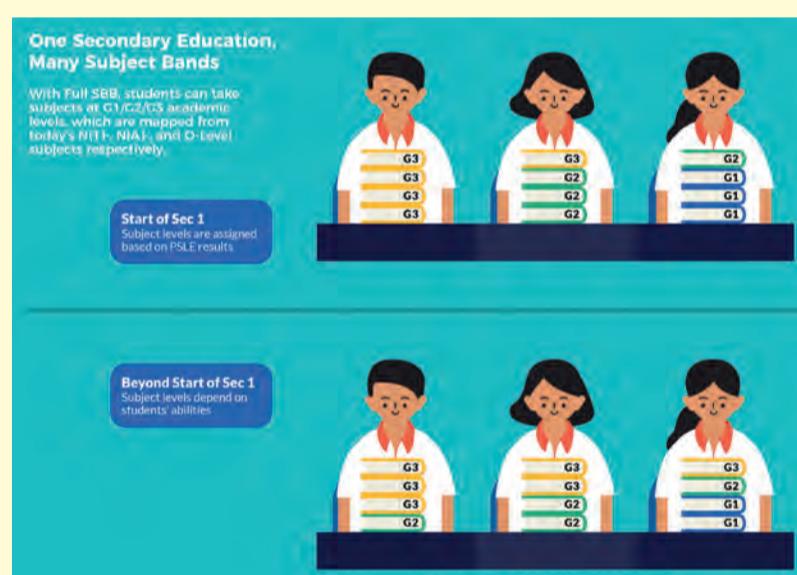
## FSBB – Multiple Pathways for Students

By Wu Bowen, 6M

This year, all secondary schools will offer Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB). Full SBB is part of MOE's ongoing efforts to nurture the joy of learning and to develop multiple pathways to cater to the different strengths and interests of students. Students are assigned subjects at different levels (G1, G2, G3) based on their abilities and strengths.

Unlike the current system that divides students into the Express, Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) streams based on their PSLE results, with full SBB, there will be students taking subjects at different levels within their mixed form classes.

Wu Botao, a former student from Radin Mas Primary, said that the full SBB allows students to study subjects at the level corresponding to their strengths, interests and needs. This can help foster a more supportive and inclusive learning environment. When students mix around with students

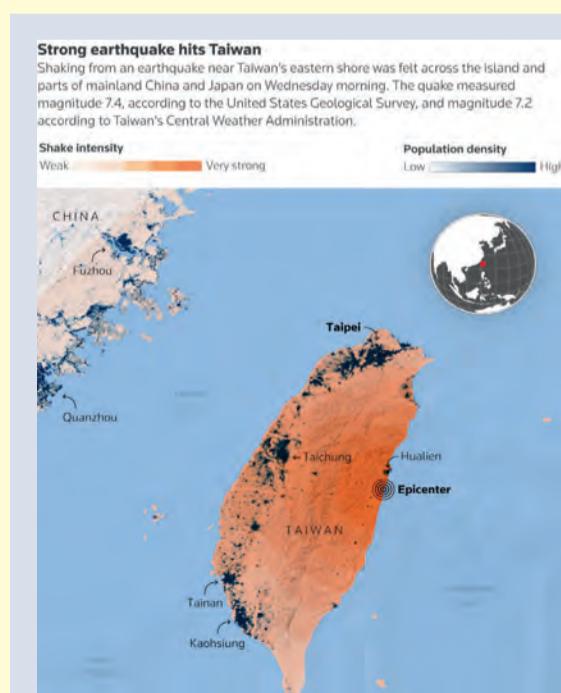


Scan the QR code below to learn more about FSBB and how it will be like for you!



with different abilities and talents, they can learn from each other and form stronger relationships. Full SBB also creates multiple pathways by allowing students to progress to take a subject at a higher level even in secondary school.

I hope FSBB will improve the quality of education in Singapore and help all students reach their full potential by meeting their varied learning needs.



## 2024 Taiwan Earthquake

On 3 April 2024, Taiwan experienced its strongest earthquake (7.4 in magnitude) in 25 years. The shakemap on the left shows the intensity of ground shaking which is experienced island-wide and even in neighbouring areas in mainland China and Japan.

Taiwan is no stranger to earthquakes. In fact, it is well-prepared for them with earthquake drills, improved building codes to ensure buildings are earthquake-resistant, as well as early warning systems located throughout the island.

Taipei 101, the tallest skyscraper in Taiwan, hardly moved during the recent earthquake despite the intense shaking. This is due to a huge steel sphere in the middle of the building that absorbs the shock. Have you ever experienced an earthquake?

# P1 Camp



I enjoyed playing on the scooter board as it helped me in my balancing skill

- Ethan Ong, 1N

I learnt that teamwork is about working together and creating new things. I am thankful to have wonderful teammates who helped one another during the activities. - Chloe Siew, 1S

I am thankful that the P6 students showed me the different places in school. I enjoyed bouncing the ball using the parachute with my friends.

- Elliot Ang, 1I

# P3 Camp

**By Wong Rui Feng, William, 3R**

On 12 January 2024, my classmates and I went to Sentosa for a day camp. I felt very excited before camp.

My favorite activity was finding paintings on rocks. We saw paintings of tigers, villages and a pirate ship on these rocks.

From the P3 Camp, I also learned how to bandage my classmate's foot and learned basic first aid. My friends and I had fun and we worked together. I think this is the most important thing I have learned because in the future if someone is hurt, I will know what to do.

The one school core value that I have seen in my friend was to never give up. During

the bandage activity my partner could not bandage my foot, but he did not give up and continued trying until he succeeded in the end.

Mr Ng Jun Kiat, Subject Head of PE/CCA said, "We want the students to develop our G.R.I.T. @ RMPS, specifically resilience and teamwork. Secondly, we want the students to be able to pack for a day camp, be equipped with basic navigation skills, and be able to apply first aid. Lastly, we hope that students can foster positive relationships with their classmates and form teachers during the camp."

I think the P3 camp has certainly been a very enriching and fun experience for me!



# P5 Camp

**By Alya Adrianna Binte Muhammad Masrin, 5I**

The Primary 5 students had a 3-day, 2-night camp at the MOE Jalan Bahtera Adventure Centre. I had a fulfilling time at the camp and my favourite activity was the Challenge Rope Course, whereby one is strapped onto a harness and has to complete an obstacle course in mid-air. This **begs the question** of: If you were left hanging in the air, would you yield to your fear of heights or make an effort to get back on track? This challenge had taught me perseverance and made me realise that you can surprise yourself by how many things you can achieve if you just try.

During the camp, I have seen my classmates try all the activities even if they did not enjoy them.

They were not close to giving up even when they encountered some problems. They amazed and inspired me with their talent and perseverance.

From the P5 Camp, I have learnt that it takes a tremendous amount of effort and dedication to try something new and succeed. You may not always get it on the first try - it is alright to make mistakes. We learn at different paces and have different learning styles. Sometimes, it takes several tries just to get it right. You should not feel bad about yourself just because you are slightly different.

## Word Bank

**begs the question (idiom):** If a statement or situation begs the question, it causes you to ask a particular question

# Minister Chan Visits Radin Mas!

By Nilashini Jeyakumar, 6D and Khoo Khai Sim, Kelly, 6N

Radin Mas Primary School was pleased to host Mr Chan Chun Sing, our Minister of Education, on 7 February 2024. Together with Mohammed Aariz, the Head Ambassador, we brought Minister Chan around the school.

We felt nervous and excited as it was our first time talking to a Minister. Minister Chan decided to walk along the various levels to see how the lessons were being conducted by our teachers in Radin Mas firsthand. He first observed how all the students had a chance to participate actively in lessons while having fun with their fellow peers. Most importantly, he had the opportunity to witness our students displaying the Radin Mas school values.

Apart from the student dialogue, Minister Chan managed to have some friendly chats with some students during their recesses. The students were all very excited to have the opportunity to talk to Minister Chan as they have not spoken to a Minister before. Even though many of the students were shocked and nervous to be talking to a minister, they soon realised that Minister Chan was very outgoing and friendly. Many of them shared their experiences in Radin Mas and what they enjoyed about coming to school everyday.

During the student dialogue, Minister Chan shared his experience of being a minister in Singapore. He also shared an interesting fact! When he was young, Minister Chan wanted to become a librarian as he thought that he would get paid to sit in an air-conditioned room and read books, as he loved to read. Never in a million years would he have guessed that he would become the Minister of Education.

It was a fun and memorable experience that could never be forgotten. We hope that Minister Chan has indeed seen how the students and teachers make their mark in Radin Mas Primary School!



## Principal's Design Challenge: Making a Toy!



By Teo Jia Rui, 4I

It all started when my siblings asked me if I wanted to participate in the RMPS Principal's Design Challenge. At first, I did not want to participate in the challenge, until I was shown some homemade toys and when my two younger siblings wanted to participate in the project as well.

When I reached home, I immediately finished my homework and started thinking of an idea for the toy with my younger brother. My brother and I love to play football, but when it rains we cannot play outdoors. We thought we could play at home, but my mother disliked the idea because whenever we kick the ball, the ball may hit our white walls and make them dirty. Therefore, we researched on how we can make a football game without kicking the ball with our feet. We were inspired by a video we watched and we jumped straight into the project of making a football game we can play at home using recycled materials!

After the toy was completed, we were very **exuberant** and we tested it out right away. The next day, we were shocked that our toy was a bit broken. After investigating, we found out that the rubber band was too tight. After we replaced the rubber band, we tested it out a few more times to check that the toy was in good condition. We then brought it to school to submit it to the teacher.

Our Principal, Mr Farizal, said, "The RMPS Principal's Design Challenge is about the value of 'Never Give Up' and hopes to develop creativity in our students." After this project, I learned that we should keep trying despite facing difficulties and eventually we will succeed!

### Word Bank

**exuberant** (adjective) – full of energy, excitement and happiness

# STEAM Week: Learning From Others!



## Fun With Learning Day!

By Charlotte Lee Rui Xuan and Isemay Tan Hee, 5N

Fun with Learning Day was held on the last day of Term 1. I bet all of you remember which learning activity you did, or your experience with the STEM Challenge since it was such an unforgettable day!

To start off the day, our class worked on the STEM challenge to build a cotton reel tank. Our class's groups had some good cotton reel tanks. My class had a group whose cotton reel tank could roll for longer than 3 seconds and had won the mini race my form teacher thought of.

The different learning activities stations were fun, and there were so many interesting options to choose from. Our classmate, Lau Xin Hui (5N), said that she found her station, 3D Art, very fun and interactive. Tan Kai Herng (6N) said he enjoyed his activity which was drone soccer. He enjoyed it because it was his first experience flying drones. Although it was difficult to control the drone at first, he did not give up and he soon got the hang of it. Tan Kai Jie (4D) mentioned that he enjoyed the planetarium and he said that there was a **mesmerising** air-filled dome

that they could enter and gaze at the stars from inside.

We are grateful that the school can come up with such good ideas for us to learn beyond the classroom, as well as the teachers, parents and community volunteers who came down to teach us. It seems like everyone enjoyed Fun with Learning Day! Now the only thing we can do is to wait for next year.

### Word Bank

**mesmerising** (adjective) – capturing one's complete attention as if by magic.



By Ethan Christopher Poczka and Tan Kai Ying, Twinkle, 6I

Every year, STEAM week is held on the last week of Term 1. STEAM week is for students to enjoy learning, be open-minded and curious, solve problems together, and be future-ready learners!

From Monday to Thursday that week, we had recess activities that students took part in. There were stations where students could experiment with making paper planes that could travel the furthest, plant scavenger hunting using iPads and much more. Travis Tay (6N) said that he enjoyed watching the ELDDS performance as he got to learn more about sustainability.

The highlight for us during STEAM week was watching students in the

busking competition as we could watch the buskers demonstrate their experiments in front of us. Some stations even allowed us to try the experiments out. Our favorite station was Magic Milk by Titus Ten (6I). We learnt that when soap is added to the milk, it helps separate the water and fat in the milk.

Overall, we were so impressed by our friends who had taken the time out to be so creative and come up with interesting experiments to teach us some science concepts.

STEAM Week was such an enriching experience for us and we will certainly miss it after we graduate from Radin Mas Primary School!

## Cabaran Juara Baca BERITA Junior!

By Saffeah Salleh, 5A

Pernahkah kamu terfikir bagaimana berita televisyen disampaikan? Pada bulan Februari yang lalu, saya telah berpeluang untuk menyertai aktiviti lawatan sambil belajar di Bilik BERITA Mediacorp. Sebenarnya, saya dan rakan saya, Qaisarah Hanah (5M) telah dipilih untuk menyertai Cabaran Juara Baca BERITA Junior yang diadakan buat pertama kali untuk murid-murid sekolah rendah. Acara ini telah dianjurkan bersama oleh Sekolah Rendah Radin Mas dan BERITA Mediacorp.

Semua peserta cabaran ini

telah dibimbing oleh guru-guru serta penyampai berita televisyen Mediacorp. Kami berasa sangat beruntung kerana dapat berinteraksi dengan personaliti televisyen. Kami juga mempelajari bagaimana berita disampaikan di studio.

Pada hari peraduan, kami berdua berasa gementar kerana kami tidak pernah menyampaikan berita di hadapan orang ramai. Apabila tiba giliran saya untuk menyampaikan berita, jantung saya berdegup dengan kuat! Saya manarik nafas lalu membaca *autocue*. Saya berasa



sungguh lega setelah selesai giliran saya.

Saya dan Qaisarah berasa besar hati kerana ibu bapa kami, guru-guru, rakan-rakan dan pengetua sekolah kami, Mr Farizal, juga hadir untuk memberikan kami sokongan. Inilah pengalaman indah yang tidak dapat saya lupakan.

## 2024 华文大比拼比赛感想

激动和自豪。

其次，比赛也让我更加深入地了解了华文文化。在准备比赛的过程中，我不仅学习了语言知识，还了解了中国的传统文化、历史和风俗习惯。我读了很多经典的诗词和故事，学习了中国的传统节日和习俗，这些都让我对华文有了更深的感情和认识。

最重要的是，比赛让我意识到了学习华文的重要性。华文作为一门语言，不仅是我们的文化遗产，更是连接我们和华人世界的桥梁。通过学习华文，我们不仅能够更好地了解中国的文化，还能够拓宽自己的视野，增加未来的就业机会。因此，我会继续努力学习华文，不断提高自己的语言水平。

总的来说，2024年华文大比拼比赛是一次难忘的经历，它让我成长了许多。我会永远铭记这次比赛，继续热爱并努力学习华文，为自己的未来打下坚实的语言基础。



By Liao Yun Qing, 廖芸晴, 6N

作为拉丁马士小学的学生，我非常高兴能够参加2024年华文大比拼比赛。这是一次非常有意义的经历，让我学到了很多东西，也让我对华文学习有了更深的理解和体验。

首先，比赛为我提供了一个展示自己华文水平的舞台。在平时的学习中，我努力学习每一个汉字，每一句语法规则，但在比赛中，我有机会将这些知识真正应用到实践中去，展现自己的语言技能。这种展示自己的机会让我感到非常

## தமிழ்மொழி வாரம்

By S Sivakasthuri, 5D, Vetri S/O Kasinathan, 5M, and Gnanakalathiepan Apirvhan, 5N

ஓவ்வொர் ஆண்டும் தமிழ்மொழி வாரத்தைக் கொண்டாடுவது போல இந்த ஆண்டும் தமிழ்மொழி வாரத்தைக் குதாகலமாகக் கொண்டாடுனோம். இவ்வாண்டு நாங்கள் பொருட்களை விளம்பரம் செய்யும் நடவடிக்கைகளில் ஈடுபட்டோம்.

வாடிக்கையாளர்களின் கவனத்தை ஈர்க்கும் வகையில் விளம்பரம் செய்யும் உத்திகள் எங்களுக்குக் கற்பிக்கப்பட்டன.

முன்று குழுக்களாகப் பிரிக்கப்பட்ட நாங்கள், படைக்கவேண்டிய விளம்பரத்தைப் பற்றிக் கலந்துரையாடுனோம். மேலும் நாங்கள் அதை எவ்வாறு பாத்திரமேற்று நடிக்கலாம் என்பதைப் பற்றியும் யோசித்தோம்.

ஓவ்வொரு குழுவும் வெவ்வேறு விளம்பரத்தைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தது. பற்பசை, பிரியாணி மசாலா, வாசனைத் திரவியம் ஆகிய விளம்பரப் பொருள்களில் எங்களுக்குப் பிடித்ததைக் குழுவாகத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தோம். அதை வாடிக்கையாளர்கள் விரும்பும் வகையில் படைக்கவேண்டும் என்பதில் நாங்கள் முழுக்கவனம் செலுத்தினோம். கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு வாரம் முழுவதும் நாங்கள் ஆர்வத்தோடும் அக்கறையோடும் பயிற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டோம்.

எங்கள் விளம்பரங்களைப் படைப்பதற்கான நாளும் வந்தது. அனைவரும் உற்சாகத்துடன் விளம்பரங்களைப் படைத்தோம். எல்லாக் குழுக்களின் படைப்புகளும் மிகச் சிறப்பாக அமைந்தன. இது எங்களுக்கு ஒரு நல்ல அனுபவமாக இருந்தது என்பதில் சிறிதும் ஜயமில்லை.



## Discovering Indian Heritage in Singapore

By Lucas James Vincent, 5D

The Primary 5 students visited the Indian Heritage Centre at the start of Term 1. My favourite part of this learning journey was when we got to smell the different variations of spices. It was a different experience, as I had not encountered these smells of spices before and it made me realise why Indian food is so **exquisite**.

Other than smelling spices, we were educated on Indian pioneers such as P. Govindasamy Pillai. He was the first of many Indians who came to Singapore in search of a better life and donated generously to those in need. We also learnt how the Indians contributed to Singapore as traders and merchants.

Another two things I enjoyed from the learning journey were learning about the traditional Indian musical instruments from the Indian society and about garlands. There are many traditional instruments such as the tabla, sitar, mridangam, and we got to try our hand at playing them. Next, I also learnt more about the purpose of garlands. A garland is decorative braid, knot or wreath of flowers, leaves or other materials. It is worn by a bride during wedding ceremonies. The garland can be worn by the head or around the neck. It could also be hung on an inanimate



object or laid in a plate of cultural or religious importance.

My peers and I felt that the learning journey was a wonderful experience and it has helped broaden our knowledge about Indian heritage.

### Word Bank

**exquisite** (adjective) – extremely beautiful and delicate

# Urban Farming in RMPS



By Benedict Lee Zhi Kai, 6N

Have you noticed the new hydroponics farm at level 1 near the library and wondered what we have grown in it? Let me **unravel** the mystery!

Water and nutrients are placed in the bottom tank. On top of that, there is a compartment in which up to 85 plants can be germinated. A water pump carries the water to the top. From the top to the second bottom container, there is space for up to 15 vegetables to be grown in each section. The water flows through the containers, where the plants absorb the nutrients. Then, through the gravitational force acting on the water, it flows directly below the container to the bottom, where the cycle repeats. Being a Green Ambassador, we have been helping to sow the seeds and harvest the leafy greens. In addition, are also tasked to inform the teachers when the vegetables are ready for harvesting.

As part of our VIA (Values In Action) project, the school grows red cabbage and chye sim. The vegetables are packed up and donated to the community, school staff, and canteen vendors after they are harvested. I was also excited to be able to bring the vegetables back home for personal consumption when we harvested them for the first time. It is also a major step towards Singapore's Green Plan of 30 by 30, where we cultivate 30 percent of our food source locally.

Mrs Cindy Ten, Level Head for Science, hopes that this not only inspires students to live sustainably but also encourages students to grow vegetables at home.

## Word Bank

**unravel (verb)** - investigate and solve or explain



## FACES OF RADIN MAS

# Faces Of Radin Mas: Ms Olivia Tan

By Jaela Tan Jie Le, 6N

One of the teachers who joined Radin Mas last year is Ms Olivia Tan, an English and Social Studies teacher. Did you know that she was also a former student in Radin Mas?

### Why did you choose to be a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher because I enjoy interacting with younger children. I like to see how they grow in character and how they look so interested when they learn something new or when they change for the better.

### Did you want to be a teacher when you were a child?

When I was younger, I did not actually want to be a teacher. I wanted to be many different things. One of the things I wanted to be was to be a dolphin trainer. When I was in primary school, my class went on an excursion to Dolphin Island in Sentosa. However, as I grew older, I realised that being a dolphin trainer is not very good for the dolphins as they are supposed to be in the wild. After junior college, I had some time to do relief teaching. From that experience, I discovered that being a teacher was quite fun as I could share what I already know with other people and other younger children. So that's when I decided to give teaching a shot.

### Why did you choose to work at Radin Mas Primary School?

I chose to come back because I was a student here. I have many good memories here and the teachers here have impacted my life in a positive manner so it is a great joy to come back and contribute to a place that has given me so much.

### What were some of your memorable experiences in primary school?

When I was in primary four, my form teacher would occasionally bring my class to the canteen and organise breakfast sessions for us. She would say that it is because it was her payday. Whether it really was her payday or not, I thought it was a very kind gesture of her to buy some food or ingredients for us to make sandwiches and it was very nice to sit down as a class in the canteen to have breakfast together.

Another memorable experience was when Block B was first built. I was in primary six. We could paint our classroom the way we wanted! The teachers bought paint for my class and I remember my class having a space theme so we painted planets all over our classroom.

### What is your favourite thing about Radin Mas Primary School?

My favourite thing is that the teachers and the students here are very nice, caring and I like that it has a very positive environment. Students, regardless of their differences, come together and show care and concern for each other.



# The Love of a Parent: Parent Link at RMPS

By Chew Zhi Xuan, Desiree and S Hamsini, 6M

Who makes up the Parent Link? What motivates them to help Radin Mas Primary School? Well, we spent a short afternoon with them to find out!

After interviewing a few members of Parent Link, we learnt that it is a group of parents who help and support RMPS. Parent Link began because parents wanted to help and support their child. Gradually, with more interaction with each other, it encouraged them to gain more members and grow together as one. The Parent Link logo shows a child, a parent, and an umbrella. The umbrella represents our school and the parent holding the umbrella represents the link between the child and its school. Hence, the logo represents the name, Parent Link!

You may remember the amazing performances put up by Parent Link such as last year's Teachers' Day and Children's Day! They also support the school by helping out at our recess activity booths. By helping our teachers in planning events and activities, it helps to lessen the workload of teachers. We feel very thankful and encouraged by Parent Link too. For example, every Chinese New Year, the Parent Link will prepare encouraging notes in red packets for every student in the school.

No matter how tiring it is, the parents at Parent Link feel very appreciated and motivated especially after receiving gratitude notes from teachers and the school leaders. Most importantly, they are motivated by the love for the children in Radin Mas Primary School.



To everyone, let's continue to support and respect Parent Link for their kindness, helpfulness and encouragement!



## Exploring Local Art at the National Gallery



By Keira Cheng Yu Sum, 4A

In the first week of March, the P4s went on an enriching trip to the National Gallery Singapore as part of the P4 Museum Based Learning experience. I have never been to the National Gallery and I was really excited when my teacher told us during Art class that we are going there.

There was a guide who brought us around the museum and introduced some paintings to us.

My favourite part of the learning journey was learning about the stories behind the paintings. 2 paintings left a deep impression on me – “Life By The River” and “Cannot Grow Vegetables Anymore”.

I like “Life By The River” by Liu Kang as it shows a brightly-coloured scene of a local village life during the 1960s to 1970s. While this painting shows the sharp contrast between the village life then and the city life we have today, one thing remains the

same – the racial harmony amongst the people in Singapore!

Another interesting thing I learned was how Singapore transformed from a kampong village to a modern city today. As depicted by the painting – Cannot Grow Vegetable Anymore. I learned how the farms had to give way to the construction of HDB flats.

Kai Xin (4A) said, “I love the Chua Mia Tee’s National Language Class and Life By The River paintings because they involve all viewers and there is also a boy in the painting looking at us.”

I really enjoyed this Museum-based learning journey as I had the opportunity to learn about art outside of the classroom.

### Word Bank

**give way to (idiom)** - to be replaced by something, especially because it is better, cheaper, easier, etc.

## Learning Together at River Wonders

By Ching Zi Hao, 4I

This year, the P4 and 5 student leaders were responsible for bringing the P1 students around River Wonders for their learning journey. My task was to introduce manatees to them. We received training before the actual learning journey and I learnt a lot of new facts!

On the day of the learning journey, my fellow student leaders and I were excited and nervous. We encouraged each other to do our best and to guide the Primary 1 students to the best of our abilities.

At River Wonders, the Primary 1 students learnt interesting facts about the animals there and I could tell that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I had a good experience leading them around. The Primary 1 students have a good listening ear and many of them already knew all the animals there!

I faced some challenges when I brought them around. One example was when I forgot the term “sea grass”. However, a Primary 1 student helped



me! I deeply appreciated his help and I thanked him before continuing my explanation.

My fellow student leaders and I never gave up and persevered despite the obstacles and difficulties we encountered. I also realised we can always learn from each other despite our ages and help each other out.