



2021 | ISSUE NO. 1

Woodlands Primary School Newsletter



Rhythm in the Woods



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Message from Principal

Dear Woodlanders and Parents,

While I have been posted to Woodlands Primary School for only about six months, it feels like I have been here for years! This is because of the warm welcome that I received from staff, pupils and parents, ever since I entered the school. Thank you for welcoming me into the big family, and helping me to acclimatise quickly to the new environment.

Despite the COVID-19 situation, I have had opportunities this year to speak and interact with our pupils, be it through virtual assembly talks with the various levels, face-to-face talks with P6 classes about the upcoming national examinations, or informal recess interactions. In Semester 1, I have highlighted two of the school's core values, Passion and Respect. I started off with a series of assembly talks about Passion, as it is important for pupils to kick-start the year right by setting personal goals, be it improving in a particular subject, honing a skill in sports, or learning a new instrument well. To do all these, it is critical to sustain the passion within us. I am glad that many pupils came up to me after the assembly talks to share their interests and passion. Well done, pupils!

My teachers and I have also emphasised the importance of the value, Respect. From pupils showing respect to the teaching and non-teaching staff in school by greeting them, to showing respect to the school by wearing their school uniform in a proper and smart manner, we want Woodlanders to live out the value of respect in their daily interactions with others. I am heartened that many teachers have shared with me that more pupils now take the initiative to greet the teachers on gate duty in the morning and during dismissal. These are small but important ways to exemplify the behaviour of a gracious Woodlander.



I am also happy to report that despite the constraints caused by the Safe Management Measures (SMMs), the past two school terms were vibrant and colourful. For instance, we celebrated our International Friendship Day in a special way this year, by preparing goodie bags for the migrant workers who were badly affected by COVID-19. The response was so overwhelming that the goodie bags packed with care by each class filled up the entire meeting room! It was truly an authentic learning experience for pupils to demonstrate care for the community. I also wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Parent Support Group for supporting us in the planning of such events.

Our Volleyball Senior teams also had the chance to compete in the National School Games. Throughout the numerous training sessions and the grueling tournament process, our young sportsmen and sportswomen demonstrated discipline, grit and great sportsmanship. We are so proud of them. Moving forth, there will be more exciting programmes and events awaiting you, pupils. This year is also our school's 45th anniversary. While we have to celebrate on a smaller scale due to the SMMs, we are in the process of planning a cosy and meaningful celebration for all Woodlanders, so do look out for it.

Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to all our parents, for walking this wonderful educational journey with your children, providing them with the support that they need, especially during this pandemic period. I appreciate you working with the school to support the implementation of the SMMs. Moving on, I look forward to your continued support as we bring out the best in each and every one of our pupils, to develop them into Gracious Woodlanders with the Zest to Excel!

Mrs Lillian Chen
Principal

P1 / P3 Buddy System



Even with their masks on, the P1s and P3s had a good time getting to know each other.



The P3 Buddies did a great job taking care of the young ones.

I thought being a Buddy would be an easy experience, but it was a little awkward because my buddy did not feel comfortable with me at first so he barely spoke. However, over time, as I chatted with my buddy more and showed him all the different places in school, he warmed up to me. I was happy to have gained his trust. It was a great experience though I wish I had a chance to interact with my buddy more.



Ilyas Naufal Bin Islanizam
3 Passion 1

**Reported by: Khor Su Han and Kinley Ng Hian Ji
(4 Adaptability 3)**

The first two days of school were specially set aside for the Primary 3 pupils to get to know and handhold the Primary 1 pupils who were new to the school. Through the Buddy System, the P3 pupils helped the P1 pupils who were nervous at the start in settling into their new environment. The P3s had mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety about playing Big Buddies to the P1 pupils. However, they rose to the occasion and did their very best.

During recess, the Primary 3 pupils introduced the Primary 1s to the variety of food sold at the different canteen stalls and oriented them to the location of the toilets, and the play area. The P3 pupils also taught their P1 friends how to buy food during their recess break. They made themselves approachable by being friendly and greeting their young buddies every day to make them feel comfortable. With the help of the buddies, the P1s became familiar with the school environment and made new friends.

P3 Recycling Project

**Reported by: Aran Arul (6 Innovation 1) and
Jayne Kuan Yee Sum (6 Innovation 2)**

The Primary 3 pupils had a chance to take part in the Recycling Project this year. Pupils from each class worked together to contribute to the collection of recyclable materials. After three weighing sessions, the class that contributed the largest amount of recyclables won the competition.



Some of the senior pupils helping the P3 pupils weigh their class' recyclables

The Recycling competition was a meaningful and fun experience. My class came in first place as every single one of us worked hard and contributed whatever recyclables we could gather amongst us. In the end, my class contributed a whopping 105.4kg of recyclables. We were so proud of ourselves. I hope that we will have a chance to take part in this competition again.



Eryna Rajriyah Binte Muhd Azzli
3 Passion 4

Heartbeats

Reported by: Timothy Philip Gladwyn (5 Collaboration 1) and Yan Ruoxi Sophia (5 Collaboration 2)

Scouts Founder's Day

Scouts Founder's Day was a very special day for the Cub Scouts of WDP. The Scouts wore their Scouts uniforms to celebrate the event. In past years, the P3 Scouts used to have the opportunity to wear their scarves for the first time during their Scouts Investiture. However, this year, due to COVID-19, the Scouts were only able to commemorate Founder's Day, which was a similar and yet different experience for them.

One of the main differences was that the Scouts had to stay in class instead of going to the hall to recite the pledge. Even though the Scouts could not celebrate our Founder's Day the way they used to, it was still a memorable event.



Yeow Xuek Xi
5 Collaboration 2

This year's commemoration of Scouts' Founder's Day is different as we had to keep a distance from one another and not many of the other scout members could be present. I wish that we can celebrate Founder's Day the way we used to in the past.



The Founder's Day speech was read aloud by our very own Cub Scout.



It was a special day for our Scouts, even though it was celebrated differently.

Prefects' Investiture

Reported by: Akshayah Thevaranjan (4 Adaptability 1) and Nur Sofhea Isabel Binte Mustafa Kamal (4 Adaptability 2)



The newly appointed Head and Deputy Head Prefects, as well as the P4 Prefects, standing tall and proud.



WDP pupils cheered in support for the Prefects, as the event was broadcasted live.

This year was special for us. We were both appointed Prefects of the P4 level. To make this appointment official, we participated in WDP's Prefects' Investiture. Unlike last year, this year's event was broadcasted live from the school hall to every classroom through Zoom.

To prepare for this event, our fellow P4 Prefects assembled in the school hall together with the newly appointed Deputy Head Prefects and the Head Prefect. We then marched into view and stood straight and tall as we were introduced through the live stream. We felt nervous but excited to meet our schoolmates as the new P4 Prefects. At the same time, we missed seeing the faces of our classmates and hearing their loud applause.

During the event, we had to recite the Prefects' Pledge. In her Principal's Speech, Mrs Chen also stressed on the importance of being respectful Prefects, confident in carrying out our duties. She shared on embracing the 3 "L"s - Laugh, Learn, Love - in the work that we do. The Deputy Head Prefects were honoured to receive their Deputy Head Prefect badges.

We strive to uphold our pledge to responsibly carry out our duties, while respecting our fellow schoolmates and teachers.

Lunar New Year Celebration (LNY)

Heartbeats

Reported by: Edricus Lim Wei Jen (4 Adaptability 1) and Ravichandran Roshan (4 Adaptability 2)



WDP pupils passionately participated in the classroom decoration competition to make their classrooms look more festive in the weeks leading up to LNY.



Fun LNY activities were held during recess, with the help of our Parent Support Group.

We had a whale of a time celebrating Lunar New Year in WDP this year. There were many activities such as the classroom decoration competition which took place over a few weeks leading up to the concert. We decorated our classrooms, transforming them into beautiful masterpieces. Our classmates came up with handmade decorations and we worked collaboratively to put up these decorations. We were ecstatic to learn that both our classes, 4 Adaptability 1 and 2, were the winners of the competition for the Primary Four level. We would like to congratulate all the other classes who won the decoration competition.

On the day of the celebration, we all wore traditional Chinese clothes. There was also a surprise visit from The God of Fortune, which excited us and made us cheer gleefully as he walked past each classroom. We also watched videos to learn more about the Chinese culture during the LNY concert.

We would like to thank our teachers for organising a meaningful Lunar New Year celebration for all of us.

Reported by: Natania Goh Jing Hui and Lee Quan Hui Regis (4 Adaptability 2)

The commemoration of Total Defence Day takes place annually on 15th of February. This year, we took part in quizzes and watched a video during assembly period. We revisited the 6 pillars of Total Defence which are Military, Civil, Economic, Social, Digital and Psychological Defence.

One of the key messages that we took away was that all of us can do our part to make our country strong and resilient, especially during these uncertain times. Here are the ways that WDP pupils are helping to uphold the pillars of Total Defence:

I have played my part in upholding **Digital Defence** by using strong passwords for my phone and websites I frequent. I also remember not to accept unknown friend requests on social media.



Tay Jia Xuan
4 Adaptability 2

I help uphold **Social Defence** as I talk to everyone in my class. I communicate with people and befriend them regardless of their race, language or religion.



Lucas Neo Kai Feng
4 Adaptability 1

Total Defence Day



Pupils lining up for their turn at the fun TDD recess activity planned for them.

My mother is a primary school teacher. She works hard every day, teaching her pupils so they will be equipped with skills and knowledge. When they grow up, they will be able to find meaningful jobs to contribute to **Economic Defence**.



Regis Lee
4 Adaptability 2

Heartbeats

Fruity Friday / BYOF



WDP pupils and teachers alike are encouraged to bring their own fruits to school to maintain a healthy and balanced diet.

Reported by: Yen Qian Bai (4 Adaptability 3) and Elil Nila D/O Mahendran (4 Adaptability 2)

Fruity Friday and Bring Your Own Fruit Day (BYOF) are days when pupils and teachers of WDP are encouraged to eat fruits to maintain a healthy lifestyle. During Fruity Friday, pupils and teachers try different types of fruits which they may have never tried before, thus encouraging them to expand the variety of fruits they consume.

This year, teachers from the PE Department came up with a new initiative to go hand-in-hand with Fruity Friday. BYOF is a day when pupils and teachers are encouraged to bring their own fruits to consume. Some pupils bring common fruits such as apples, bananas, oranges and grapes. Others bring fruits which are more uncommon like cherries, pomegranates, pineapples or even mangoes. We enjoyed looking at everybody's lunch boxes which were filled with colourful fruits. The teachers also brought their own fruits to consume during their break time.

With Fruity Friday and BYOF, WDP is making sure that everyone gets enough vitamins and nutrients from fruits to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Through these two programmes, we learnt that we should eat fruits to keep ourselves fit and healthy. Fruits are not only good for our health - they are also tasty treats!

Reported by: Tay Jia Xuan (4 Adaptability 2) and Rashini Selvakumar (4 Adaptability 3)

International Friendship Day took place on 8th April in Term 2. There were recess activities and quizzes arranged for all the different levels by our teachers. Our parent volunteers from the Parent Support Group and some of our teachers assisted in carrying out these activities during recess. The activities were meant to help us better understand the culture and languages of our neighbouring countries. We also learnt more about the other countries' traditional food and clothes during our Social Studies lessons that week.

We enjoyed the highlight of the commemoration of International Friendship Day. Every class prepared care bags containing donated items such as masks, hand sanitisers and dried foodstuff for migrant workers working in Singapore to show our appreciation to them. We donated enough items and managed to pack them into 180 care bags for the workers. These workers come from countries with cultures very different from ours. We should respect and appreciate them. This is what International Friendship Day is about - to respect the cultures and religions of other countries.

International Friendship Day

"I like the activities as I get to learn about the countries that form ASEAN and their traditions."



Hillary Tan
4 Adaptability 2



Natania Goh
4 Adaptability 2

"I like the activities as they taught me that there are different types of currency used in different countries."



Melodee Wong
4 Adaptability 2

"One thing I like about International Friendship Day is donating things to the hardworking migrant workers."



WDP pupils showing their compassion by donating essential items generously.



Each care bag included a thank-you note written by our pupils.

Media Literacy Workshop

Reported by: Ooi Tze Hean and Tan Yan Ting, Hillary (4 Adaptability 3)

The Media Literacy Workshop was held during the March holidays. The objective of the workshop was to teach pupils how to use the Internet safely. Most of our P4 classmates participated in the workshop. Through the different activities and use of videos, the instructors helped us internalise what we had learnt.

During the workshop, the instructors also clarified some of our misconceptions such as the difference between a 'hacker' and a 'cracker'. We learnt a lot from the workshop, and hope that the school will hold more of such educational and fun workshops in the future.



During the workshop, our P4s learnt many skills which are essential in this digital age.

Reported by: Koh Zi Yi (5 Collaboration 2) and Raaghav S/O Jai Simman (6 Innovation 2)

P3 Project Work

Project Work was an exciting experience for the P3 pupils. It was especially so this year as pupils did not have many opportunities to work in groups due to the COVID-19 Safe Management Measures. When they gathered in groups, they learnt the importance of getting along with one another so that they could achieve their learning goals, and strengthen their friendships along the way.

The topic for project work this year was to come up with a poster about endangered animals. To do this, each group conducted research to find out more about their chosen animal.

Let's hear from some of our P3 pupils about their experience.



We felt happy working with our group members. Each group member had a different role and each role was important. We got along well and we could share our ideas with each other.

From this project, we learnt more about endangered animals and how to make an interesting poster. We would like to do more research-related work with our friends in the future.

Saw Jing Xuan and
Eilisyia Mia Faiwah Binte Mohammad Faizal
3 Passion 5



Our P3 pupils enjoyed working in groups to conduct their research.

Heartbeats

Reported by: Jon Chong Jeun Kye and
Yaseen Bin Mohideen (6 Innovation I)

P3 Hydroponics

Through our school's Hydroponics programme, our Primary 3 pupils engaged in a hands-on experience to grow and harvest their own edible plants, while learning the science behind it all.

Hydroponics allows plants to grow well without the use of pesticides. Seeds are placed on sponges in rectangular boxes and left to germinate and grow. By putting up netting and placing an extra layer of fly paper to trap insects, the plants are kept safe from insect attacks and can be harvested within a few weeks.



The P3s took turns carefully harvesting the plants, before placing them into plastic bags, ready to be sold.

One of the most interesting activities that I enjoyed this year was Hydroponics. Watching the plants grow tall, then harvesting and selling them was an amazing experience. I felt proud when my parents cooked the vegetables I helped to plant and harvest. The vegetables tasted good too!

Nur Zara Nabilah Binte Hisham
3 Passion 1



Glee Fest: Tie-Dye Art

Reported by: Lai Yu Shan (6 Innovation 2) and
Ariel Lee Wen Xuan (6 Innovation I)

Every year, Glee Fest is one of the most wonderful and interesting events that WDP pupils look forward to. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we are glad that Glee Fest is still on the roll. When it was announced that the Glee Fest recess activities would begin in Term 2, we could not wait to participate!

This year, there were PE and Art-related activities in store for us. During the recess periods, WDP pupils participated in the Art activity, where we learnt how to tie-dye a pouch which we got to bring home. Some of us even brought plain white t-shirts to tie-dye. The tie-dye event was short but fun. We enjoyed the Art activity planned for us the most as we could use our own creativity and artistic skills.

We will be graduating this year and will definitely miss the Glee Fest next year. We hope our juniors will continue to enjoy the Glee Fest activities planned for them in the years to come.



WDP pupils participated in the Glee Fest recess activities with zest.



Our pupils proudly showcasing their creative tie-dyed t-shirts.

P3 Virtual LJ to the Zoo

Reported by: Aqilah An-Nissa Binte Amran and Diya Abhilash (5 Collaboration 1)

One of the experiences we pupils look forward to is going on learning journeys with our classmates. Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us were left disappointed when the learning journeys planned for us were cancelled.

This year, the P3 pupils went on a Virtual Learning Journey (LJ) to the Zoo in Term 1. The purpose of the Virtual LJ was to teach the Primary 3 pupils about different animals and to learn about what goes on behind the scenes in the Zoo.



A P3 class participating actively as their guide gave them a virtual tour of the zoo over Zoom.

I enjoyed the Virtual LJ as my classmates and I learnt many things and got to answer many fun questions. The facilitator told my class about the habitats of some animals.

We learnt about the defense/offense mechanism and the living habitats of many different animals. While I wish that I would be able to visit the Zoo with my class again next time, I enjoyed the Virtual LJ!



Grace Ooi Hui Theng
3 Passion 1

Reported by: Qayumi Sara Binte Shufaat and Chloe Tan (4 Adaptability 2)

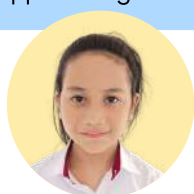
Swimsafer 2.0

The Swimsafer programme is organised yearly for the Primary 3 pupils. The programme aims to help pupils learn how to swim, to develop confidence and independence in water, as well as to learn about general and deep-end water safety. However, due to Safe Management Measures (SMMs) arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was cancelled last year for our cohort. Fortunately, this year, the programme was modified to adhere to SMMs and we had the opportunity to participate in Swimsafer as Primary 4 pupils.

The participants were placed in either beginners or advanced groups and each group would take part in different activities to suit our needs. Through participating in this programme, we learnt many valuable lessons, such as to be resilient and to never give up.

Before Swimsafer, I could not even swim or float but after a few sessions towards the end, I managed to float and swim in the water. A few more sessions later, we went on to use a life jacket. We jumped into the pool and swam on our backs.

I had a lot of fun and was glad to have the opportunity to learn to swim.



Qayumi Sara
4 Adaptability 2

I already had swimming experience before Swimsafer, so I joined the advanced class.

In the first session, I could not swim underwater for a distance of four metres, but after a few sessions, I managed to accomplish this. The swimming test at the end of the programme was an exhilarating experience and I was so happy to pass it.



Chloe Tan
4 Adaptability 2



The P4 pupils had a whale of a time at the Singapore Sports School, where their swimming lessons were conducted.

Tamil Debate Competition



Our team of Tamil debaters sitting attentively in the video recording room during one of the debate rounds.

Reported by: Varshana Viknesh and Kareshna Maghendran (5 Collaboration 1)

The Primary School Tamil Debate competition was organised by the Tamils Representative Council in March this year. Four pupils from WDP participated in this competition. It was held via Zoom in line with COVID-19 Safe Management Measures (SMM). The participants had a meaningful experience preparing for and participating in the Tamil Debate competition. We interviewed a participant who shared her experience with us.

Many schools participated in the Tamil Debate competition. We tackled interesting debate topics such as 'Children Nowadays Do Not Have Healthy Eating Habits' and 'Technology is a Hindrance to the Development Of Today's Youths'.

With SMMs in place, the debate was held entirely online. While we were using Zoom, we experienced some technical difficulties during the rehearsal but thankfully not during the actual debate. It would have been easier if we had debated face-to-face with the other school participants, but we enjoyed the challenge of debating online.

In the end, we were elated to know that we were one of the top ten schools. Although we did not manage to get into the finals, I enjoyed this experience and I will definitely seize the opportunity if I am asked to participate in the Tamil Debate again.



Nandakumar Akshrita
5 Collaboration 1

National School Games



The Volleyball players trained hard and worked together during their matches.



Our Senior Boys team posed for a group photo before getting ready for their match.

Reported by: Angelin Tan Xing Rui (5 Collaboration 2) and Chloe Leow Yue Ting (5 Collaboration 1)

The National School Games took place in the early weeks of Term 2 this year. Through participating in the games, pupils challenged themselves to give their personal best in the competition after months of practice, celebrated their success when they won and learnt to accept their defeat humbly and graciously when they lost.

At first, I was very nervous but I grew more confident and less tense after playing a few matches. I decided to treat the matches I was playing as friendly matches and this helped me loosen up a bit. I enjoyed seeing my teammates giving their best and taking it in stride when they made a mistake.

My teammates and I displayed the school core values of resilience, collaboration and innovation through the various matches. Personally, I learnt to persevere and to not give up easily. My team was losing at the beginning, but due to our resilience, we managed to fight back, and ended up winning the match! My captain encouraged our team by saying, "We are strong, but when we are together, we are stronger". Our fighting spirit kept us going as we played the matches.

Janelle Megan Kan
6 Innovation 1



Apex Leadership Training

Zest to Excel

Reported by: Bryan Ooi Hean Teik (5 Collaboration 2) and Endra Edryan Bin Erwan (4 Adaptability 1)

This year's Apex Leadership Training was a blast! It was held over two days during the March holidays. The training was specifically tailored for the P5 Prefects, Head and Deputy Head Prefects, and selected CCA leaders.

We got to do many fun activities and learnt about managing projects and working together with our peers. Along with that, each group was instructed to come up with an idea for celebrating WDP's 45th anniversary.

My group brainstormed and came up with many ideas. Utilising our various strengths and interests, we decided that the best idea was to produce a video showcasing our school pride.

Once we had constructed our ideas and plans, we presented our proposal to our School Principal. Although it was daunting to have to present our ideas to Mrs Chen, she was quick to put us at ease and provided us with positive feedback. We were elated that we could contribute interesting and achievable ideas to celebrate WDP's anniversary.

To conclude, the training was fun and enjoyable, and we learnt many important values such as collaboration by working with others on projects.



Our Head and Deputy Head Prefects took charge and led their teams in brainstorming for ideas to celebrate WDP's 45th anniversary.



The Apex Leaders presented their ideas to their peers to get feedback to further improve their ideas.

Credits

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Special thanks to the Junior Reporters from English Excel Club.