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# Empowering

## Stories 2017



Learned Scholars, Servant Leaders

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# Principal's Message

2017 marks another fulfilling year for us as we make our school vision "Scholars • Leaders" a reality, through the dedication and passion of our staff and the support of our partners in education. The delivery of ZH education, guided by our school mission and time-tested motto, is grounded on our core performance values of Responsibility, Integrity, Care and Excellence (RICE).

In the 2015 External Validation Exercise, Zhonghua proudly retained its Autonomous School status for another 6 years (2015 – 2020). Following the attainment of the MOE School Distinction Award and all 5 Best Practices in 2015, our school has been intermittently approached to conduct sharing sessions. These include two special learning journeys on leadership in curriculum and instructions for 30 South-Zone School Leaders in April.

In the same month, our AEP (Art Elective Programme) unit successfully staged the annual Zhonghua Expose-90 Art Exhibition. Our student docents hosted a total of 45 teachers and 563 students from five primary schools, 18 secondary schools and two junior colleges.

## **Appreciating the Past and Anticipating the Future**

As we evolve and grow with the times, the school remains committed to preserving our positive school culture and leveraging our strengths to bring out 'Culture in Modernity' in the rich fabric of our Zhonghua community. Zhonghuarians are anchored with an appreciation of our school spirit, tradition, social and moral mores in this rapidly changing modern landscape. Our educators, being skillful and mindful teachers, are reflective practitioners who are committed to honing their craft and passionate about developing the emotive and cultural sensitivities of Zhonghuarians to transcend present-day functionality and utilitarianism.

## **Student-centric and Future-ready Curriculum**

Recognising the need to be responsive to future trends and smart-city imperatives, our school has embarked on a journey of curriculum review and innovation over the past few years. We have focused our efforts on designing an integrated and innovative co-curriculum that goes beyond the typical academic offerings to engage its learners more holistically in the cognitive, affective and aesthetic domains. Beginning 2017, our school offers three new GCE "O" level subjects: Music, Computing and Food & Nutrition. Our future graduands are poised to gain a competitive edge in the fast-developing arenas of aesthetics, robotics, programming and food science. Correspondingly, we have also upgraded and added new infrastructural facilities, such as our Music Lab, Robotics Room, the Teacher Centre, air-conditioned Gymnasium, POP-in Room and the Student Centre. By end-June, our school buildings had a new coat of paint too.

We have revamped our Trips for Internationalization Experience (TIE) Programme as we forged new overseas partnerships with top-ranked schools in the recent 2 years. This aimed to provide our students with more opportunities to experience international cultures and engage in comparative



cultural studies so as to deepen their cultural quotient. Some of the places that our students have been in China include the historically rich city of Hangzhou and the emerging seaport of Ningbo city. Other cities we have visited in Asia include Taipei (Taiwan), Hongkong, Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam), Chiangmai (Thailand) and Penang (Malaysia).

## Enhancing Character and Citizenship Education

In navigating the complex world of work, we are committed to providing a values-based education through the implementation of the enhanced Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) Curriculum. This initiative is central to the work that we do; the right set of values can shape positive character and cultivate committed citizens. Collectively, we will nurture 21<sup>st</sup> century-ready students who are confident, self-directed learners, concerned citizens and active contributors.

To facilitate this, we have formalised a robust Student Development (SD) team comprising the Year Heads and CCE key personnel within the school to synergise efforts across the various domains of National Education, Social-Emotional Learning, Rapport-Building Level Structure, Student Leadership, Cyber-wellness, Civics and Moral Education. In addition to the explicit teaching of the themes that encompass, we have also woven the annual themes into our school-based CCE curriculum.

## Promoting Values-in-Action

Thoughts lead to emotions, emotions lead to attitudes and attitudes lead to actions. Action is the final thing that counts. All these repetitive patterns lead to habits and character traits. It is through strength of character and personal mastery that a student can progress with confidence and optimism.

Life must be lived forward, but it must be experienced backward. While pursuing excellence is a personal priority, it is equally important to care about the society at large and to cultivate a sense of gratitude and paying it forward. We want to see every one of our students find fulfillment with a broad and deep foundation for his or her lifelong journey.

In conclusion, the school's many achievements would not have been possible without the sterling dedication of the entire staff, key school partners and supportive parents. Let us undertake the next lap of our journey together, with commitment and conviction!

*Student-centric, Staff-valued ZH Community!*

**Mr. Loh Leong Beng**

*Principal*

*Zhonghua Secondary School*

## Learning Journey to MOE ESTL



The Secondary 3 Computing ('O' Level) students were invited by Dr Ben Leong, who is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS) School of Computing (SoC), on a learning journey to the Ministry of Education's Experimental Systems and Technology Laboratory (MOE ESTL) on 24 January 2017.

The learning journey served as an excellent opportunity for the students to meet the team spearheading the subject they are learning. It was also an eye-opening experience for the students to observe and explore MOE ESTL's office off Ghim Moh Road. An introduction by various members of the team kick-started the journey, providing the students with a brief insight to the team's daily life such as what a back-end programmer faces.

The students were also able to converse with Dr Ben Leong, who is also the Director of MOE ESTL, to have an idea of what are expected and debunking misconceptions of what the students have of the subject and industry.

Below is a reflection written by one of the students.





"This learning journey to the MOE ESTL allowed us to get to know more about the diverse jobs available in the computing industry. In addition, we also learnt that making a Working Application requires a lot of hard work and determination. It also requires various skills from people working in different sectors. Therefore, everyone has a part to play to ensure that the programme works. All in all, it was an enjoyable experience and we learnt a lot more about the world of computing."

Lee Pei Xuan  
Sec 3E4

## Reflections on Chinese New Year Concert Performance



Compared to the Chinese New Year (CNY) performances in my primary school, I would say that the one at Zhonghua was much more entertaining. I enjoyed the sing-along segment to 小幸运 (A Little Happiness), a song by Hebe Tien, which was played very well by the Chinese Orchestra. I also relished the drum performance as the drummers put up such a remarkable performance.

For me, the most exciting part was the announcement of the results for the classes that had won the 2017 CNY Classroom Decorations. I was so proud of my class when we were recognized for our unified effort to decorate the class! This was indeed one of the most memorable CNY experiences I have ever had.

Lastly, I am grateful to my seniors and teachers who had put in a lot of effort to make this festive concert a truly unforgettable one. They had scrupulously taken time out of their SYF practices to put together a series of performances to entertain the school and were able to bring out the festive spirit through the performances. I am definitely looking forward to the Chinese New Year performance next year.

Kelly Ng  
1E1





# Secondary 1 AEP students (2016) - Art @ Mount Alvernia



In collaboration with Mount Alvernia Hospital through the Art @ Mount Alvernia Programme, 30 students from the Secondary 1 Art Elective Program (AEP) created their original paintings for the hospital's Pediatric ward. In all, the students worked in pairs and produced 15 acrylic paintings of 59.4 x 84.1 cm size. The Art @ Mount Alvernia Programme has allowed students to hone their creativity and also contribute to the community at the same time.

We liked how we could freely create an art piece and were allowed to come up with our own ideas. It was the first time we painted on such a large surface. That was challenging because we had to add more details in our art piece. We also had to learn how to use acrylic paint on canvas. Throughout this project, we learnt how to work together as a team using our different art styles to create an art piece. We also learnt how to articulate our ideas and eventually conceptualise these ideas through our art work.

**Kho Zi Qi and Lera Lim**  
1E1

We enjoyed mixing paint and learning

new skills and techniques. Even though it was a daunting experience and we felt the pressure to paint well for the hospital, we have gained invaluable experience. We are glad to have co-constructed a piece of art work that we are proud of. Although it was a tiring process, the satisfaction of seeing a blank canvas becoming a finished work was worth it.

**Lee Ying Jun and  
Quek Jing Yuan**  
1E1

It was fun to work with our classmates. What we found challenging was when our painting initially did not come out the way we wanted. We also had to find time to paint and discuss our concepts which was stressful at times. However, we still found it enjoyable and fun. We learnt many things through this project, such as teamwork and how we have to work together and discuss our ideas. We also learnt how to merge two very different styles into one painting to bring out the uniqueness in our work.

**Bridget Koh and Rachel Low**  
1E1

# Basketball Season Reflections



After the game which we lost, I was really sad and angry that I was not able to help the team. I caused turnovers and did not finish well and score when I had the ball. For the upcoming matches, I will try my best to help the team as much as possible and improve myself at the same time. No effort will be flushed down the drain. We will do our best in the upcoming matches.

**Lim Xiangying Nicole**  
3E3

It was quite a tough journey preparing for the South Zone matches as we had recently changed coach and I did not know what to do. It felt like we had no more hope for the South Zone. But I still trained hard and tried to go for training even though there were SSP lessons after school. But after we lost the game, I was disappointed as I felt that I had not done my very best. I realised we have to improve our stamina even more. I will keep myself fit and ready for the game.

**Shermin Moh**  
4N1



Before our B Division season, together with my teammates, all of us worked and trained hard.

During the Finals, I was very nervous. Thus, my performance was not up to my expectations. I feel disappointed as I know I am capable of doing better after all.

I felt very thankful to my teammates as they came forward and comforted me instead of blaming me. During this whole journey, I learnt to become a more sensitive and caring person towards my teammates, to control my emotions better and understand my teammates more. In life, there will always be failures, but the failures keep us going and help us become stronger.

**Crystalbell Pang**  
3E2



The preparation for the B Division South Zone Competition was tough and tiring. With our hard work, we soon qualified for the Finals. Even though we did not achieve the Title that we so badly wanted, we were proud to come in Second Place with so much hard work, passion, determination and support for each other. From this, I have learnt that teamwork and communication are vital to have a good game. It was a wake-up call for us all to work extra hard if we wanted to be in the Top 8 for the Nationals.

**Jonalyn Koh**  
4E1

I was one of the supporters for the match against Raffles Girls' School and it was certainly an interesting experience as I had never really done anything like that before. Even though we were leading, the opposing school put up a good fight. The match ended with Zhonghua winning and the supporters went ballistic with the cheers and applause for the Basketball girls. Watching our players 'fight' on court had taught me to never give up and to persevere no matter how difficult the challenge.

**Jiang Chenxi**  
2E1



# World Water Day



On 5th March, I visited the World Water Day 2017 Celebration at Marina Barrage with my juniors. My experience was a fun-filled and meaningful one.

I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge on conserving water. Many tips that I have learnt through the event can be applied to my daily life. We can do our utmost to stop water wastage and continue to encourage all our other family members and friends to do the same. In addition, I will cease and prevent water wastage whenever I can and be even more responsible in using water in future.

I will share with and educate my peers to play their part in conserving water.

**Tan Jia Liang**  
**4E3**



The Walk for Water event mirrors the distance people from developing countries need to walk daily to access clean water. People from all walks of life took part in the walk and the distance covered was fortunately manageable. From this event, I learnt that every single drop of water counts and we need to be responsible to save water to protect our environment.

**Jayven Ng Yanxiang**  
**2N2**

Participating in the World Water Day 2017 Celebration at Marina Barrage has taught me not to take clean and fresh water supply for granted. Clean and fresh water is easily accessible to us in

Singapore.

I've learnt various ways to conserve water. They are:

- 1) Use a washing machine with four water ticks;
- 2) Take a shower in under 5 minutes;
- 3) When you brush your teeth, fill the cup with water instead of keeping the tap on.

From this event, I learnt that every drop of water counts and we need to be responsible water users by saving water and caring more for the environment.

**Justin Neo Zhi Heng**  
**2N2**



# National Active Agers' Rummy-O Meet 2017



On 12 March 2017, sixteen National Police Cadet Corps cadets rendered their services as student volunteers to work together with Braddell Heights Community Centre's Active Aging Committee (AAC) in organising its annual National Active Agers' Rummy-O Meet 2017.

The objective of the competition is to engage the senior citizens actively in a version of Rummy-O, played using tiles. It provides an opportunity for the senior citizens to think actively as they engage themselves in the game.

The students went through a short training conducted by the AAC held in the school on 3 March 2017 on how to play the games and calculate the scores before the actual games day.

The students had many good experiences during the volunteer work. They found it very satisfying in being able to reach out to the community and bring joy to the older people especially when seeing the many happy faces and smiles.







I feel very satisfied as this activity has given me the opportunity to volunteer myself in helping out with the community. Working with the elderly and seeing their happy faces as I counted their scores after each game made me smile as I know I have done a good service for them. I have also learnt to be polite and to communicate well with the senior citizens as some of them have hearing difficulties.

**Maung Myo Thant Tin**  
3N2

Being proactive and observant was very important during the game activity as I needed to count the scores after each game whenever the senior citizen raised their hands for help. I was satisfied after each counting as I know they need me to help them out. Through my volunteering, I have gained new experiences in working with the elderly and working with people around my community. Overall, it's a satisfying experience for me.

**Dina A'Tiqah Binte Ahmad Yatim**  
3E1

# ELDDS' Reflections for Singapore Youth Festival 2017



The journey culminating in our final performance was a gruelling, long and harsh one. However, despite the arduous and intensive training sessions, the ELDDS members banded together and persevered with both tenacity and resilience.

Through the months of preparation, we learnt the invaluable importance of teamwork and communication. Moreover, as we prepared for the performance, we began learning more about each other's quirks, in turn, allowing us to bond with each other.

All in all, I felt that it was an experience to remember despite the adversity we faced. We managed to pull through with unflinching determination to put up a performance that we are proud of.

**Amelia Ong**  
4E4



SYF 2017 has indeed been a special year. It is the year that we, the Secondary 4 seniors, will have to step up as leaders of the CCA. During the course of the whole journey, we have suffered many changes and setbacks which had been very demoralising. However, the whole CCA persevered and braved the changes head on, and managed to put on a great performance despite the shortage of time.

SYF 2017 has made me grow as a leader. I have certainly made many mistakes, and I am always willing to learn from them.

**Quek Zhen Hao**  
4E4



The SYF was a wonderful experience and I am very glad and grateful for the opportunity to experience it as a member of the main cast this time round.

I feel ecstatic that we all had the chance to bond as a CCA through this experience. I am heartened and proud to see how the rest of the CCA has progressed through these amazing months.

I feel proud of Carbon Copy and the people that played a part in it. I feel grateful for all the help and support the teachers have shown towards us during this time and our trainer for coming back for us. It was a fantastic performance and I am very happy and proud no matter what the result may be.

**Charlotte Low**  
4E1





# Guzheng's Reflections for Singapore Youth Festival 2017



Our SYF journey had been an arduous one, not just for the leaders of the CCA, but also for the teachers and all the Guzheng members. Many members had cried due to the tremendous stress we faced at some points in time. However, as a leader, I am heartened to know that the junior members understood why we were pushing them to the best of their abilities and we definitely bonded through our practice sessions.

The leaders are proud to see their members' growth over the past one and a half year – having witnessed their lack-of-enthusiasm at the beginning, and how they progressed to being keen team players over time.

Despite the journey being a physically and mentally tiring one, it is undoubtedly fulfilling and rewarding as we have forged long-lasting friendship and fond memories together.

Carine Koo  
4E1

# Choir's Reflections for Singapore Youth Festival 2017



While preparing for the SYF, we improved in our musical knowledge and also learnt many values that were critical to making a better team such as camaraderie, creativity and empathy. We also realised the utmost importance of the people who were around us as, without them, we could never be a full choir.

Even though we disagreed with one another at times, we did our best to put aside our differences in order to strive towards our common goal.

To us, as well as all the choir members, this has been a painstaking and arduous journey. Working with one another has taught us to appreciate one another more and be more empathetic. The only thing we prize above whatever result we get, is the intangible experience that we went through together.

Voon Shu Ting  
4E5  
Sean Peh Jia Jing  
4E5

# Chinese Orchestra's Reflections for Singapore Youth Festival 2017



I feel that I have grown and learnt a lot through the journey towards SYF'17.

Thankfully, I had the guidance of my instructors and seniors who helped us during our practices and got us to learn the pieces one step at a time. Without my seniors and instructor, I cannot imagine how I would make it to SYF'17.

Through them, I have learnt perseverance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my seniors, instructor, and definitely, the ZHCO teachers-in-charge. A huge thank you for believing in us, giving us encouragement and walking this journey with us. As for the next batch of CO members that are going to participate in SYF'19, we shall work hard and play hard together! Let's put in our very best to obtain the Certificate of Distinction again!

Loy Wei Ling  
2E2

This SYF was unlike anything I have experienced as compared to the past SYFs I had been through. This time, the Sec 4s were required to step up and lead the members. It was indeed tough, but for sure, we found joy in it.

I came to realise that the management and planning of a performance piece was not easy. Though there was immense pressure, we still managed to pull through and clinch a distinction!

Through this journey, I learnt that nothing comes easy without working hard together as a team. I would also like to thank all the teachers and coaches as well as the school for supporting us throughout this entire journey. To the future generations of CO, I sincerely hope that you can continue to perform to the best of your abilities.

Ong Kai Xuan  
4E4



## Brand Me Workshop



One of the many things we learnt included things we could apply in our daily lives in different aspects, such as handshakes, our postures, how we can handle social situations, as well as what we should take note of during a typical interview.

From what I can see, all my schoolmates who went with me were all ears for the speaker and were enthusiastically paying attention, just like me. At times, for example, in a work interview or during our oral examinations, we tend to do things unintentionally, and without thought we do something that is inappropriate or rude. However, what we learnt today was an important takeaway. I am elated that I had a chance to learn.

I am glad that I was given the opportunity to learn widely about topics such as body posture, dressing and respectable handshakes. I am certain that I would apply these skills when I go for job interviews, or even at any formal events.

**Gaven Khoo**  
3E3

I found that this workshop is very helpful to us in the future as we learnt about the proper dress code for an interview and how to ace an interview. From this workshop, I learnt many valuable things which are useful in the future. For example, it takes about 7 seconds to create an impression, so we should make full use of that 7 seconds to create a good impression. Another thing which I learnt is that we should have appropriate body language at different social situations. By attending this workshop, I now know how to better prepare for an interview.

**Jobie Lim**  
3E3





In this Brand Me Workshop, I have learnt how to prepare and dress myself before an interview, demonstrate proper social etiquette at a formal event, and also how first impression does impact someone's opinion of you. Now that I have experienced this workshop, I now understood how to make an effective and positive impact on my interviewer so that I can give my best during an interview.

**Bernice Teo**  
3E4

Through this Brand Me Workshop, I have learnt proper social etiquette and ways to behave when attending formal events. The workshop will surely benefit me when I attend any interview or formal ceremonies in the future. Moreover, I would highly recommend my fellow Zhonghuarians to attend this workshop where possible as it taught us some important social etiquette which definitely will impress our interviewers during interviews in the future.

**Evelyn Saudjana**  
3E4

This workshop is very interesting. I learnt that students should not only concentrate on academic results as we are also judged by our attitude and etiquette as well. Hence there is a need for others to have a good first impression of us. I learnt how critical our smiles are and the proper way of sitting, walking and asking questions. These skills can be used in our daily lives and I would like to recommend this interactive workshop to my juniors as well.

**SA Nguansakphakdi Waratchaya**  
4E3

# Prove It! Competition 2017



The Prove It! Competition was definitely an interesting experience for me and also serves as a reminder to all the students participating to always do cross referencing and use reliable sources when verifying any source or information. During the finals, we were tasked to answer 30 open-ended questions where we were required to name the reliable source we got the answer from. Our sources ranged from the books at Lee Kong Chian Reference Library to the National Library Board Database and other reliable websites on the net. It was certainly not an easy task as we were given only 55 minutes to complete all the questions, citing at least 2 sources and only being given one computer and OPEC.

After the competition, we were treated to a Drama / Literacy workshop specially organised for us. The people from ACT 3 Drama Academy came and shared with us some of Shakespeare's plays like 'Hamlet', 'Julius Caesar' and 'The Merchant of Venice'. We analysed some of the characters in his plays as heroes or villains, and explored the different perspectives we could look at the story while making use of the KWL chart (What you already know, What you want to know, What you learnt).

Overall, the experience was worthwhile and the workshop also helped me to understand character studies of different characters which would definitely benefit me in the future when I have to do similar projects. The technique of cross referencing and using advanced search commands will undoubtedly help me in my research when doing school related projects.

**Jiang Chenxi**  
2E1



It was very interesting to learn about the different ways to determine the authenticity of online information. The preliminary round was tough, and my group did not expect to get to the finals at all! In the finals, it was very exhausting to run around the library, looking for the books that we needed. In the end, we did not answer a few questions, but we were already more than satisfied to have participated and had fun over this experience.

**Margaret Feliciano**  
2E1



## BB Blaze 2017



During the preparations for the Blaze competition, I didn't feel as if we were well-prepared in terms of fitness and I kept thinking that we would run into some sort of problem and come in 30th in position. I was quite concerned about how we were going to do well in the long cycling component. In addition, I felt that my knots and lashings were not up to standard as we had not practised much.

On the day of the competition, when the race started, I was leading and I wanted to gain as big a lead as possible. However, Samuel could not keep up with my pace and eventually, we needed to slow down and I was starting to get worried that we were going to get squeezed in the middle. Going to the first checkpoint, we bypassed a lot of teams thanks to Sir Ying Xiang's advice to breeze walk and jog; I was also quite relieved that we passed a lot of teams that did not collect all five coloured bands as required. Reaching Checkpoint 1, my hope revived as we were in 13th position and were going strong. Finishing the activity, I realised the Seek and Spot App logged out and we needed to go back to the start point. We needed time to plot the route for Checkpoint 2. For the entire running component, we kept on encouraging Samuel as he was having difficulty running.

Once we reached the Marina Barrage, we were all quite exhausted but luckily for us, our bikes were all quite good and we mostly powered through the cycling component. We overtook a lot of teams while cycling. During the rafting, I did my best but felt that we could have done better if some of us knew how to tie the cross lash.

Then, during a one-hour Category 1 situation, we had ample time to plot the coordinates and plan our route using Google Maps to finish the competition. I felt we missed out on doing better in the cycling component. During BB Blaze, I witnessed a lot of sportsmanship as teams cheered one another on. Through this competition, my team forged stronger bonds and we became closer on the whole.

**Jonathan Chan**  
3E4



I found that this year's BB Blaze was not easy from the beginning when we started training. At the beginning, when my officer mentioned the recruitment of BB Boys who would like to go for the Blaze competition, I expressed my interest as it was my aspiration to go for it and have a taste of what it was all about. I wanted to experience what my seniors had experienced in the competition, which can be physically and mentally demanding. I found out that it was not easy to juggle both training and academics at the same time. However, the dream of getting the Founder's Award and passing my experience from this amazing competition on to my present and future juniors spurred me on.

During the training itself, there were some times when I questioned why I joined Blaze in the first place when I could be like my peers who were having 'less strenuous' physical training and who did not have the pressure of keeping physically fit. I would not have persevered without the constant support from the Secondary 3 peers as well as my two fellow Secondary 2 participants in the competition.

On the day of the Blaze competition, I felt that the atmosphere at the starting point was even more tense compared to the Character Quest Competition that I took part in back in 2016. When the race started, my team and I had to run from point to point during its first leg around Tiong Bahru, which I found difficult as there were so many other participants from other schools running alongside. Midway through the race, I kept thinking of giving up and had to slow down. However, my team was very encouraging as they kept pushing me on to keep up a good pace. Jeremy helped me carry my water bag whenever I felt too drained to keep up with the others. Jonathan had to shout at me during the last 500m of the race to make sure I persevered no matter how tough the ordeal, and at the same time, he quickly helped the team navigate the race route. Ryan gave me advice on how to regulate my breathing when we were running. I would not have achieved a medal for 9th placing, if not for the help of these seniors.

When I look back, I see how far I have progressed and learnt the value of endurance. And hopefully, by the help of God, I can perform better in future and bring our 48th Company to achieve greater heights.

**Samuel Song**  
**2E3**

# TOTAL DEFENCE DAY 2017



The Total Defence Day programme was highly memorable. I was given the chance to be emcee for the assembly programme and I watched the live skit from backstage. It was quite an experience for me since I really hate public speaking, but because I had to read off the programme slides for the presentation, I learnt many interesting new facts about total defence that I did not know before.

Besides that, the skit was interactive and amazing, and the storyline behind it really gave us a timely reminder that each of us has a part to play in defending our nation. We must defend Singapore ourselves, especially in these troubled times when countries are so often under the threat of terrorism. We may be lucky to be living in such a harmonious, safe and stable society here in Singapore, but we shouldn't be complacent about it. We cannot afford to jeopardise this peace we enjoy today because of negligence. All of us have to stay vigilant; all of us have a part to play.

**Brillionne Wong Wei Yi**  
4E4



We watched a skit during Assembly and experienced a mock “black market” where the food stalls were only selling porridge with sweet potato and also plain water. Tables were set up in front of the vending machine where we can purchase snacks and sweet drinks at much higher prices than usual. From this, I have learnt to empathise with the people who experienced hardship during wartime and also be thankful and appreciate what I have now.

**Elyse Lim**  
3E2

While designing my Total Defence Day postcards, I learnt the different pillars of defence and the national values. For Military Defence, I learnt that the soldiers need to be strong and be proud of the nation so that they have the drive to protect our country. Under Civil Defence, I learnt that taking care of your friends, family and the people around you in times of crisis is important. Economic Defence-wise, I learnt that working and saving up to achieve a better life for the family will always be needed. Social Defence is also important, as I learnt that living with other races in harmony will enable us to understand their culture and traditions.

**Celest Tan**  
2N2



# BuildingBloCS 2017



The Secondary 3 Computing (O-Level) students participated in the BuildingBloCS High School Computer Science Conference 2017 on 1st and 2nd June at Nanyang Polytechnic. The conference was organised by A-Level and Integrated Programme (IP) Computing students for O-Level Computing students and teachers.

The conference programme included talks by academia and invited speakers from the industry such as IMDA/ GovTech and Google, a showcase of students' projects, application development workshops (with Python), a mini competition and lightning talks for participants to share their knowledge and experiences.

Below is a reflection by one of the students who participated in the conference.

2017年6月1日至2日，中华中学中三年级的计算机课程的学生前往南洋理工学院参加了为期两天的 Computing BuildingBloCS Conference。作为有幸参与的学生，我获益匪浅。

上午，由两名来自谷歌的工作人员给我们描绘了在谷歌公司工作的日常情况，介绍了包括虚拟现实在内的谷歌现有的或正在开发的技术。如果想进入科技行业工作，可以先开始做一些准备，如编写小程序，参加相关的活动、比赛等，他们的介绍激发了很多学生对软件工程的兴趣和热情。

讲座之后，许多来自不同初院的学生向我们展示了他们编写的不同小程序，如有通过蓝牙感应统计出勤率的软件、给食物拍照就能显示食物信息的软件等，这些软件设计简洁巧妙，创意无穷。

下午，我们每人被分配了一台微型电脑。听着辅导员的指示，我们开始学习简单的程序编写。最开始是学编一个简单的爱心小程序，越到后面程序就越复杂。我们亲手编写了人气游戏——像素鸟 (flappy bird)。如果不参加这次活动，我大概永远无法知道一个小小的掌中电脑可以被赋予这么多有趣的功能。我们身处“信息时代”，科技飞速发展。总有一天，许多我们原来闻所未闻、不曾想过的事情会变成现实，而电脑编程就在其中起了决定性的作用。

第二天，我们的任务是以小组为单位，以“智能国家 (Smart Nation)”为主题，编写属于我们自己的程序。大家起先的想法各有千秋，在集思广益之后，我们决定编写一个能表达情感的小程序。编程的过程漫长又充满挑战。我们反复查资料、讨论步骤、检查错误以及运行程序等。最后，当我们组终于完成任务时，大家都松了一口气。整个过程令我深刻地体会到了团队合作的重要性，以及对不同观点须有求同存异的包容精神。

在比赛中获奖队伍中都有我们中华中学的学生参与，我由衷地为中华自豪。为期两天的激动人心又充满意义的活动带给我们的启发，将激励我们在日后的学习中不断前进。

黄子然  
3E3

## TIE Trip — Chiang Mai



### School Visits

During our visit at the Tedsaban School, we learnt that Thai students learn agriculture, farming, traditional Thai dancing and even Muay Thai in their curriculum. Otherwise, their school days are very similar to ours. Many Thai students will pursue careers based on the vocational subjects that they are good at. While I found that it was an eye-opening and novel experience watching my Thai buddies show me the mini-farms in school and also experience some of their vocational training, I reflected on our own education system and felt that I should not take my studies for granted as the Singaporean education system is of very high standard and allows me to widen my choice in the careers that I can pursue.

Lee Ying Jun  
2E1

The students in Tedsaban hosted us with plenty of activities. There were various stations manned by students with an assortment of activities ranging from Muay Thai try-outs, drumming on the Thai traditional drums to playing Thai instruments. In addition, we were served drinks that were brewed from the flowers grown in the school's garden by the students. The drinks were pink, possibly because of the dye from the flower, and tasted good. We were also treated to fried crickets which were considered a local delicacy. At first, we felt squeamish and did not dare to eat them. However, we realised we should not be rude and



decline their offer and so, we ate the crickets. Surprisingly, the crickets tasted better than expected. They were marinated in Tom Yum sauce and had a crunchy taste to them. I am proud to be able to tell my friends that I have eaten crickets. It was definitely a very novel experience.

**Ng Jing Wen**  
2N2

### **City Tour Experience**

The buildings in Chiang Mai are relatively lower than the ones back home in Singapore. One unique observation I had made is that the temples are usually built such that they tower over the surrounding buildings. According to Thai culture, it is considered disrespectful if the residential or commercial buildings are built higher than the temples. I have also learnt that the Thai people are deeply religious and this is reflected even in the architecture of the buildings. There are many temples in Chiang Mai, far more than in Singapore. The temples are huge and the poor are given free food and even education in these temples.

**Leong Hong Jun**  
2T1



# Learning Journey to Bank of America Merrill Lynch



16 students from the O-level Computing class of 2018 took part in a learning journey to Bank of America Merrill Lynch on the afternoon of Thursday 6 July 2017. The students were treated to an array of activities showcasing how computing was applied in the banking industry. They were given first-hand experience in how wealth was created using simulated activities in stock trading. They were also shown how the bank handled cyber security in the protection of customer accounts and information. These learning journeys are part of our efforts to help students relate their learning in school directly to the real world.

Below are reflections written by 2 students who took part in the learning journey.

The trip was insightful towards the trading industry and the operations that occur in a bank. I learnt more about cyber security through tours and games, as well as gained experience in trading and finance. I also met people from different backgrounds who gave me an insight into their specific industries. I had fun and thoroughly enjoyed the activities planned as well as the trip itself.

**Linus Koh  
3E3**



After this learning journey to Bank of America Meryl Lynch, I now have a better understanding of the importance of coding and computing in the banking industry. It is important as parts of the programmes used in their systems are crucial defence systems to protect their clients' vital and private information about their accounts. It is so important that the company will pass the role of solving any virus or threats in the system to other headquarters around the world. I also learnt about the (higher) potential job opportunities that coders can have, especially in the defence aspect in cyber security.

Tan Hui Teng  
3E4

# Chung Ling High School International Science and Technology Symposium 2017



A group of five students participated in the International Science and Technology Symposium in Penang and showcased their science project on Virtual Reality and Empathy Machine using the Google Cardboard. The students had an enriching experience learning about Science and Technology from the various lectures, workshops and learning journeys. They also interacted with students from other countries and benefitted from this holistic learning experience that went beyond the classroom.

I really learnt a lot from this meaningful trip. I am glad I had the opportunity to befriend Chinese and Japanese students and interacted with students from all over Asia. I learnt the importance of being aware of other cultures and knowing other languages. I also realised that when I grow up, this is the kind of

global environment I will be working in, which is why it is important to learn other languages and culture now.

For the Science Carnival, there were a lot of people crowding around our booth and I was amazed by how my teammates handled them. I was really nervous at first because we had to use Chinese, which I was not confident in, but I eventually got the hang of it and began to speak more fluently. After the whole carnival, the whole team felt very satisfied with ourselves and our work. Through this experience, I learnt that I need to be more confident and engaging.

**Mah Xiao Yu**  
**3E4**



For the Science Carnival, I learnt to reach out and engage with strangers to introduce my project. I learnt the many ways to converse and be engaging even with the language barrier between us and the students. I also learnt how to respond quickly to various questions and reactions about our project.

During the symposium, I made friends who taught me about their cultures. I also met people who allowed me to understand more about communication and allowed me to socialise and step out of my comfort zone. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip and will always remember this pleasant experience of making friends from all over Asia.

**Joycelyn Goh**  
**3E4**

I learnt from the symposium that many schools are going beyond the textbook and we need to have passion in order to be able to do well in Science. I will try to join more competitions in order to gain more experience in Science and Technology. During the Science Carnival, I realised that I did not know how to handle the crowd properly and I needed to be more confident in what I do and to keep learning. I will also take up more of such opportunities to improve myself. I am grateful for this opportunity and thankful for the help and guidance that we received.

**Phua Ying Ying**  
**3E4**

During the Science Carnival, I learnt to be more confident. After communicating with the students who mostly could only understand Chinese, my command of Chinese has improved. I would like to be more confident as I only started interacting at the booth 30 minutes after the carnival started and after being encouraged by the Secondary 3 students.

**Kathleen Sim**  
**2E2**

During the Science Carnival, I contributed to the team by folding the post-its containing the responses of visitors to our booth into heart shapes and attaching them onto the poster. I learnt that confidence is important no matter what I do. Participating in this symposium allowed me to meet students from other countries and learn about their cultures.

**Zoey Lau**  
**2E4**

# Penang Visual Art Immersion Trip 2017



The students in the Secondary 3 Art Elective Programme went for a Visual Art Immersion Trip to Penang from 4th to 7th June. This trip was an extension of the art curriculum where students had to persevere and practice to improve sketching, make connections between historical, cultural and social influences of art and experience art in a new environment. They experienced the culture and street art of Penang in George Town, learnt about the historical uses of South East Asian plants in the Tropical Spice Garden and enjoyed the sights at Penang Hill. They also had a chance to hone their urban sketching skills with artist Ch'ng Kiah Kiean, try out traditional batik painting as well as deepen their appreciation for art through conversations with the late Chuah Thean Teng's two sons.





"Urban sketching in Penang was new, exciting and nerve-wracking as we had to learn how to use twigs and ink to paint. It was very daunting initially. However, it turned out to be very fun as it was challenging and the places we went to, like the Penang Hill and the Tropical Spice Garden, provided very good opportunities for us to learn."

**Loh Yuan Xin**  
3E2

"The use of the stick and interesting lines was the main focus of urban sketching. It's really about trying to capture the impression of the object, rather than drawing the actual object. The interesting atmosphere of the streets in Penang also allowed me to experience something new. It also reminded me of Philippines which also has a widespread graffiti culture along the roads."

**Gonzales Josiah Carlos Garcia**  
3E1



"Urban sketching in the Tropical Spice Garden and at Penang Hill was different from what we experienced back in school. Through this experience, I have learnt that we should channel our attention to our works to prevent external distractions when we are carrying out urban sketching."

During the Penang Visual Art Immersion Trip, I learnt a new drawing technique of using sticks and Chinese ink. This new technique was fascinating as I got to observe how an artist worked in his own environment."

**Ng Zi Hao**  
3E2

"Urban sketching was relaxing as it was a time when we can have our 'alone time' to draw, enjoy nature and the beauty of the environment. With more practice, the drawing process became easier. To challenge ourselves, we used twigs and inks during urban sketching. This made regular sketching easier when we returned to using the usual pencil and pen medium to sketch. My observation techniques were also sharpened after this experience."

**Lin Zhengjue Elisa**  
3E2





"Urban sketching was a relatively interesting and enjoyable experience for me as it allowed me to catch a glimpse of the life of a professional urban sketcher, and improve my observation skills.

Urban sketching also allowed me to better understand architecture, flora and fauna and the movement and postures of humans. This understanding helped me to improve on my own illustration style."

**Ng Woon Ning**  
3E2

"The urban sketching experience was a fruitful one. Through a 2-day workshop, we experienced preparing the tools for Chinese

ink painting. We also learnt how to control the lines and tonal values and how to create expressive lines.

**Hoang Phuong Anh**  
3E2

"The activity which I enjoyed the most was the visit to the batik factory. I learnt how handmade batik is made and had the opportunity to try to make one. I struggled with it initially but eventually got the hang of it. Through this activity, I have learnt to be more patient and learnt it is okay for me to make mistakes as long as I learn from them."

**Caitlin Gabrielle Hartono**  
3E2

# National Youth Business Challenge 2017



Before the competition, we faced some difficulties during the making of products. For example, when making the terrariums, my friends and I had to go back to the shop and get the items we needed to complete our plastic bottled terrariums. Another example would be the lack of time for the whole team to gather in school and finish the quota of the day due to the hectic schedules of our respective CCAs and having to manage the upcoming tests. However, by persevering, we managed to complete everything that was required.

During the competition, we initially had problems selling our products because they were not attractive enough for people to be interested in. However, we had more customers approaching us and buying our products around lunch time.

In spite of the growing interest from the public, we were unable to sell all our products because most people were milling around outside the designated sales zone that participants had to stay in. From this, I reflected and thought that we could perhaps put up more eye-catching banners to attract customers when we take part in future competitions.

Despite the many challenges we faced throughout our NYBC process, our team managed to achieve a Silver Award after a few months of effort and hard work.

I feel that this is a very memorable experience for my team and I as I have learnt the importance and usefulness of recycling. This experience allows us to use our creativity and innovation to construct items from recyclable products. We should actively practise recycling instead of throwing unwanted products indiscriminately as this may harm the environment.

Furthermore, having teamwork in this competition is crucial as well because we can learn new skills and knowledge together and learn from other people's ideas or mistakes. I have also fostered stronger camaraderie with my group mates through this competition. Lastly, this competition taught me the importance of integrity and ethics in whatever we do. While winning is good, we should always respect the rules of the competition and ensure fair play as we compete against other schools.

Felicia Lim Rui En  
3N1

# Chief Commissioner's Award for Scouts



I've definitely benefitted and learnt a lot from the exploration assessment. I hope that I will be able to motivate my juniors and maybe even other fellow scouts to have the courage to try to attain the Chief Commissioner's Award by sharing with them what I've learnt. I would like to thank all of my Scout leaders, Ventures and my troop mates for always supporting us.

**Ang Jing Xuan Chermaine**  
4E2

Honestly, becoming a Chief Commissioner's Award holder is something that I never thought would have been achievable for someone like me. If it wasn't for the encouragement and support I've received from my family and friends, I would not be where I am today. The journey has been challenging but I've definitely learnt a lot from it. I would like to thank everyone for

supporting all of us throughout our scouting journey.

**Ang Yen Yin Elizabeth**  
4E3

Throughout this journey, I have learnt to be more responsible, not just for myself but also for my fellow junior scouts. Having attained this award, I will definitely put the values and skills I have learnt to good use and share it with my juniors. I will continue to guide them throughout their scouting journey by sharing my challenges and experiences, so that they will learn from them, and eventually attain their own Chief Commissioner's Award.

**Jernic Yeo Jun Zhi**  
4E5

Earning the award required a lot of time and effort, but it was this time and effort that made the award meaningful. I have gained much knowledge, experiences and values that can be applied in my daily life through the exploration assessment. I also learnt that as a leader, I have to take responsibility for our members' actions and check that the tasks assigned are completed and done well. I hope to apply what I have learnt from this experience to other aspects of my life.

**Tay Jih How**  
4E3

Through this arduous journey, I have learnt to be a better person by being more responsible for myself and my troop mates. I learnt to persevere when faced with challenges. I hope my juniors would work towards attaining the Chief Commissioner's Award and learn as much as I have from the experience.

**Teo Zern**  
4E5



## Distinguished Speakers Series: Mr Aniq Ahsan of A\*STAR



From the presentation and subsequent Q&A segment, I thought it was amazing that despite the complexity of climate change, many scientists from different fields have pieced together an accurate simulation modelling the effects of carbon dioxide emissions on the atmosphere. I was further surprised that it was freely available to the public and that people could learn the measures taken against climate change.

I also learnt that the work of a researcher is not limited to a single field. I felt that the Q&A segment was very useful as our queries could be answered in real time by a trained expert. Through this session, I learnt the difficulties in using renewable energy sources as they are unstable and the challenges in storing the energy generated efficiently. This session complemented what I have already known from my general knowledge and I feel I have gained a deeper understanding of the factors to consider when using renewable energy.

**Tay Jih How  
4E3**

## Distinguished Speakers Series: Ms Jean Y. Foo of Mastermind Crate



On 26 September, there was a talk held by Ms Jean Foo during our assembly programme. During the talk, she described her life as an entrepreneur in global education as well as in the performing arts. Ms Foo also shared with us the businesses in education that she is helping to develop such as enriching the music library of schools through customized learning contents. This initiative also includes the teaching of business and entrepreneurial skills. I find the initiative very meaningful as it would actually help in the education of youths in the field of music.



During the talk she shared with us the importance of having a positive mind-set to being successful in life and how it shaped her to be who she is today. This talk has inspired me to work hard in life as I am striving to be a successful musician one day as well. Seeing such a successful example, it motivates me to want to work harder so that I may someday reach the same level of success as her.

Ong Yanxun, Russell  
3E1