

# West Grove Primary School

Newsletter • Issue 1 • May 2018



ACTIVE MINDS, GRACIOUS HEARTS



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# PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



School is exciting and fun. It is the bedrock of change. As new landscapes are being drawn to facilitate self-directed learning, values inculcation and holistic development of our children and as we respond to global changes and challenges, schools are becoming such happening places. And West Grove Primary is no different. Of recent, we keep hearing about joy of learning, entrepreneurial dare and Singapore spirit. How these can be infused into our curriculum is being explored as preparing our children for this volatile world is vital. Like in the Starfish story, we seek to make a difference in each 'starfish' or student who comes in our possession. In this pursuit, I believe that it is so important for us to stay grounded on the fundamentals of life if we want our children to succeed.

I was recently reading “**Winning with Honour**”- that’s the title of the latest book authored by Professor Lim Siong Guan, an illustrious civil servant and eloquent speaker. I was much intrigued by the wide range of thoughts and perspectives that he was sharing. His phrase “Honouring our children” in particular caught my attention and I gave this a deeper thought. He mentioned,

*“Honour our children. They are our best investment ....by far.”*

He continues by saying ...

*There are many parents who see children as an extension of themselves; thus they impose their own dreams and expectations on their children....Parents need to realise that their children are separate beings from them... Parents need to acknowledge that their children are unique creations with their own talents, strengths and weaknesses.... Parents have to understand that their child has a unique role in this world that no one else can fulfil....*

“ Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future ”

- John F Kennedy

Hence, he contends that, *“The role of parents is to help their child find his/her special place in this world by providing a safe, loving, and non-judgmental environment, for them to build their self-confidence and self-esteem by experimenting and experiencing life.”*

School must also think and do likewise. We must honour our children. We need to accept that our children are unique. It is on us to provide a conducive and safe learning environment which would nurture their talents, strengths, dreams and aspirations. Children must be equipped with a moral compass to know right and wrong. School must be enriched with values inculcation and cultivate positive relationships with their teachers and peers. In short, it should be a vibrant and happy place for our children to learn and achieve.

For this to happen, the partnership between the home and school needs to be strong and positive. We must remember **“Honouring Parents”** and **“Honouring Teachers”**. In the same book, Professor Lim mentioned children must always remain dutiful to their parents and show respect to them. Likewise, there should be mutual respect and trust between the teachers and the parents. If we agree that the child is our focal point, *“while parents can delegate the role of teaching to the school, they must support what the school does... when parents interact with teacher in the presence of their children, they need to do so with Honour and Respect for the teachers.”*

In West Grove Primary, Honour sprouts from our School Motto **“Wisdom and Grace”!**

Best Wishes!

**Mrs Chandler Jay Siva**  
Principal

# SCHOOL EVENTS



## CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Students, alumni, teachers and parents assembled on 16th November 2017 for the special annual occasion of honouring our students and staff. Celebration of Success is a special occasion for the school to celebrate the success of our pupils' excellence in both academic and non-academic achievements. Our pupils did the school proud with their impressive achievements while the staff were honoured for their dedicated service to the school. Awards were presented to our Parents Support Group (PSG) and Alumni for their contributions to the various school programmes.

## TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

West Grove Primary commemorated Total Defence Day on 13th February. This year's theme is 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong'. Students got a deeper understanding of Social Defence through a series of lessons and activities that were conducted. Students designed and penned their pledges to support Total Defence, which were presented as a collage and displayed in the school hall.

As part of the programme, we partnered with the Housing Development Board (HDB) to set up an OHYay! Roadshow and assembly talk to spread the message of good neighbourliness as well as eco-friendly living. Students enjoyed the games and took photographs with their classmates at the photo booth to bring home as souvenirs.



Collage for hall decoration

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

On the morning of 15th February, the God of Fortune and lion dance troupe arrived with much fanfare and gave blessings to the general office, staff rooms and classrooms. Then, the students gathered in the hall to watch performances by the lion dance, choir, ukulele, martial arts club and Nascan students. The concert ended with the whole school singing "Da Di Hui Chun".



Pre-assembly storytelling



Students doing the decorations



Singing of "Da Di Hui Chun"



Lion Dance troupe blessing the classrooms

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

The theme for this year's International Friendship Day was 'Celebrating the Community Spirit' of ASEAN countries. Students from various levels experienced the community spirit through folk art, music and games during classroom activities. On 3rd April, the event concluded with performances by our choir, ukulele group and a Cambodian folklore read by three students. The school was also treated to a dance performance by our visiting guests from Kairos Gracia School, Indonesia.



P5 playing Border Crossing Game



P1 singing Leron Leron Sinta



P4 weaving a paper basket

# THE JOY OF LEARNING

## CYBER WELLNESS IN WEST GROVE

This year, we started our multifaceted approach to Cyber Wellness with our school assembly. Students were reintroduced to the 2 key principles of Cyber Wellness which are (1) *Respect for Self and Others*, and (2) *Safe and Responsible Use*. In addition, students were guided to use the SENSE → THINK → ACT approach when handling situations. West Grove has a myriad of Cyber Wellness activities such as our newly revamped Cyber Wellness and New Media Literacy Booklet, termly School Assemblies, Cyber Café Recess Activities, Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP) lessons and discussions, and Cyber Wellness Advocacy led by our ICT Champions and our School's InfoMedia Club, which was launched this year.



## LAB ON WHEELS NEWS

On 11th and 12th January, the P5 classes attended lessons conducted by 'Lab on Wheels', a team from Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA). Students had hands on experiences on innovation and creativity with ICT, where they programmed a robotic ball to light up, blink and roll around. The workshop allowed students to develop logical thinking and problem solving skills by breaking down problems into bite-sizes. Students worked in pairs and learned through peer-learning. After the lesson, some students were selected to act in one of the episodes in a Channel 8 drama which aired on 2nd April.



## READING FESTIVAL

The theme for our Reading Festival this year is 'Brave and Bold' which focuses on adventure stories. Students learnt more about the characteristics of adventure stories through a simple lesson. They also tried to complete the missions in their Dare to Read (DTR) booklets to win attractive tokens.



Special Assembly Programmes featuring Storytelling, Book Buzz Talk and Kids Reading Quiz were planned for the students. Lower Primary students participated enthusiastically in the Kids Reading Quiz by answering questions based on the stories in their O.W.L. reading list.

# THE JOY OF LEARNING



Interview with the Clerk



Editor in the making



Editor in the making

## TAMIL CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Tamil Creative Writing Workshop was conducted for P6 students on 9th and 12th March. The main purpose of this workshop was to educate students on how to start an essay and how to develop opinions creatively. The students participated in the workshop with utmost interest. They worked in groups and presented their concepts. Through this workshop, students were able to develop essay writing skills.



## 'I CAN PUBLISH!' WORKSHOP

As part of our Enrichment programme, the P6 Malay students attended 'I Can Publish!' Workshop on 9th and 12th March. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce students to different sections of a magazine and the publishing team. Students were exposed to publishing, basic journalism, and the writing and editing of articles. It inculcated an interest in writing through photography and sharpening of students' oral skills through discussions and conducting interviews.





# ACTIVE MINDS, GRACIOUS HEARTS

## EXCITEMENT AS PRIMARY 1 STUDENTS START THEIR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

On the 2nd and 3rd of January, West Grove received our 2018 P1 students. The students were greeted by the school prefects, parent volunteers and teachers at the school gate.

In our continuous effort to ease our P1 students into school life quickly, our school provided a 2-day Induction Programme where parents were allowed into the school premises to attend a curriculum briefing led by our Principal. Parents also get to see their children at the canteen with their buddies.

The P4 students were assigned the roles as buddies to guide the P1 children through important tasks such as buying food and familiarising them with the school.



## PRIMARY 6 GRADUATION DAY AT KIDZANIA

P6 Graduation Day is an important occasion for our students as they reach another milestone in their lives. On 16th November 2017, all P6 students went on a much-anticipated trip to Kidzania Singapore to experience the various career options and also to spend time together as they approach the end of P6.

The day continued with the students mingling and taking photographs over a sumptuous dinner. It ended on an emotional note with the P6 teachers performing the song, Flashlight. Tears flowed as we bade each other goodbye. We would like to wish our 2017 P6 students all the best in their future endeavours.

## LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAMME

This programme aims to reach out to students who are often left alone at home after school with little parental supervision as both parents are busy at work.

Every fortnight after school, the teachers will organise various activities in the hope of providing these students with a conducive learning environment. In these 2 hours, they will be able to know more about themselves and build up personal competencies, thus playing an active role to contribute to the school and the community.

Examples of activities done thus far are sandwich-making, cooking simple dishes, learning computer skills, adopting good reading skills and learning about mindfulness.



Editor in the making



Reading and dramatising the story



Mindfulness Session

# ACTIVE MINDS, GRACIOUS HEARTS

## LTA MUSICAL

The 'Thoughtfulness in You' musical came for a visit and it was a hit! Students of all levels had fun meeting and learning from the Thoughtful Characters, **Stand-up Stacey**, **Give-Way Glenda**, **Move-in Martin**, **Bag-Down Benny** and **Hush-Hush Hannah**. The musical held during assembly aims to inculcate thoughtfulness in students when they commute by bus and train such as giving up seats, queuing and moving in for a more pleasant journey. The students had a ball of a time singing and dancing along with the characters.




## PRIMARY 4 STUDENT AMBASSADOR TRAINING

The P4 Student Ambassador Training took place on 12th March. Through drama and games, the students learnt to communicate effectively, think on their feet, and understand the concept of being an Ambassador. In addition, they learnt team building skills through games conducted by the P5 prefects. The training would help to boost the Student Ambassadors' confidence as leaders who believe in shared decision making and positive engagement.

## PRIMARY 3 PREFECT INVESTITURE AND PREFECT LEADERSHIP CAMP

The annual Prefect Investiture took place on 10th March this year. The P3 Prefects were formally inducted into the Prefectorial Board, and thus began their journey as a Student Leader in West Grove. Parents were also invited to the event. The Investiture was preceded by a Prefect Leadership Camp where they learned about leadership skills through fun-filled activities.



# SPOTLIGHT

## COMMEMORATION OF EARTH HOUR

The day started with our school's Environment Champions sharing with all students and staff about the importance of Earth Hour. Students took part in a recess activity by which they learned the effects of climate change. Ten minutes before school dismissal, all classes switched off the lights in the classroom to commemorate Earth Hour. We hope that through Earth Hour activities, students will take steps to save energy and practise the 4Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink.



## Congratulations

to the teachers who came in 2nd runner-up in the Inter-Ministry Badminton Championship



From L to R:  
Mr Saw, Mr Anwar, Mr Huang, Miss Tan, Mr Yeow

## GROUND DEPLOYMENT EXERCISE

On 28th March, the school conducted an emergency exercise. This emergency exercise aims to train all staff and students to be prepared for any emergency in the school premises and to be familiar with the safety and evacuation procedures. It is a collaborative effort between West Grove, the Ministry of Education's Security and Emergency Planning Office (SEMPO) and the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

West Grovians participated in a lockdown drill where they put into practice the 'Run Hide Tell' procedures. They assisted their teachers in locking down their classrooms by closing and locking the doors and windows and switching off the fans and lights. In addition, students experienced an evacuation to Westwood Primary while they await for the school premises to be declared safe for return by the police. Throughout the exercise, the students exhibited resilience, mindfulness and care for one another.



# SPOTLIGHT



## MOO-O COMPETITION AT OGIC

A group of 3 selected students from 3F (Chang Hao Yu, Ta Hieu Anh Justin, Cao Yong Xin Jasmine) took part in the Moo-O competition on 9th March. After choosing a story from the Moo-O software, these students are tasked to read out the story based on their chosen character.

It is an interesting and engaging software as students had fun playing the characters in each scene as they read. With this Moo O software, students are able to practise their reading in terms of accuracy and fluency. They are also given opportunities to use the software during their EL ICT lessons so that reading lessons can now be more engaging, self-directed and motivating too. You can try this out at home and have fun reading!



## PERFORMING ARTS SPACE

The Aesthetics Department is excited to announce the soft launch of our Performing Arts Space on the 11th of January 2018. This platform serves as an avenue to develop our pupils' Confidence, Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Leadership skills through meaningful art and music activities. Such activities can range from mini recess concerts to handicrafts. Avid readers or Science fanatics can use this platform to share their favourite books and experiments. Let us look forward to pupils showcasing their talents and boosting the arts vibrancy in our school!



## ST(EP)S IN PRIMARY 1 & PRIMARY 2

The Science Department is introducing Science through Exposure and Exploration for the lower primary students! Children are naturally curious about the world around them. In order to sustain their interest and ease them into the Science syllabus at P3, students are exposed to Science through various activities during their recess. Simple worksheets, games and multimedia are provided to familiarise them with different Science topics. Students can also pick up the picture cards in their free time to explore the flora and fauna around the school compound.

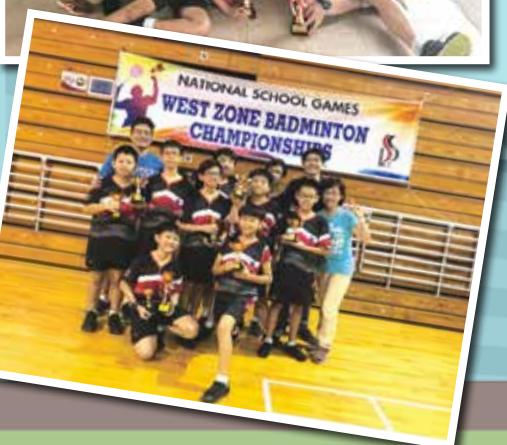


# ACHIEVEMENTS



## BADMINTON

The Badminton Team has done us proud in this year's West Zone Badminton Championship. The team emerged 2nd runner-up in the Badminton Senior Boys category. Their commitment and resilience have paid off. The boys are Gregg Loh Jun Jie, Nick Koh Wen Tao, Brendon Chew Feng Yi, Lim Jing Hon Keith, Wang Jun Tao, Keith Lai Jin Hong, Ivan Joel You Wen Jie, Fang Hong Jie Jovis, Meng Yu Tao.



## CHESS

Misha Jing Er Misra, 6E, took part in the 70th National Schools Individual Chess Championships 2018 held from the 13th to 14th March. She came in 4th among West Zone schools Senior Division Girls. At the National Level, she was placed 9th overall amongst more than 100 chess "masters". Congratulations Misha!



First from the right: Misha Jing Er Misra

## ROPE SKIPPING

Our Skipping Team has clinched the Divisional Champions at the West Zone Skipping Championships 2018. Here are the results:

Junior Girls : 2nd

Junior Boys : 2nd

Senior Girls : 3rd

Well done boys and girls!



## WUSHU

The school started a Wushu Enrichment Programme in 2014. Since then, 4 of the students went on to pursue advanced Wushu training on their own.

Tay Yu Cheng, Ethan Pang, Kavan Pang and Teh Cheng Xu took part in the Junior Boys Division of the recently-concluded National School Games Wushu Championships 2018.

Tay Yu Cheng, 5C, came in 2nd in the 5-Duan Spear and 3rd in the 4-duan sword. Well done, Yu Cheng!

We would like to wish Ethan, Kavan and Cheng Xu well in future competitions.



# PARTNERSHIPS



## INTERNATIONAL TEACHER STUDENT PRACTICUM PROGRAMME 2018

Kia Ora ! That's the official Maori Greetings the school received from 2 student teachers from New Zealand. Student teachers, Miss Kelsey White and Miss Deena Parr from University of Waikato, New Zealand spent 1 month in Singapore under the International Practicum for International Students Programme hosted by the National Institute of Education, Singapore. They were at West Grove Primary School between 2nd January and 2nd of February 2018. It was a time well-spent as they engaged with our staff and students. Lesson observations and classroom engagement were two main activities they were involved in. Miss White and Miss Parr shared their appreciation for the wonderful guidance provided to them by their Teacher Mentors, Miss Joanne Ching, Mdm Angeline See, Mr Matthew Sim and Miss Jane Ong. The New Zealanders expressed their deepest gratitude to staff of West Grove Primary School for taking care of their professional development as well as their social well-being. Many other staff members hosted them for various social activities such as hiking, heritage tour and visits to various places of interest. West Grove Primary School had been hosting several foreign educators and student teachers for several years. It is indeed an opportunity for both the school and these educators to learn from one another with the aim of bringing about cross-cultural benefits to staff and students.

### KAIROS GRACIA SCHOOL, INDONESIA

A group of students and teachers from Kairos Gracia School spent a week in Singapore, including a 3-day twinning programme with West Grove Primary School from 2nd to 4th April.

Kairos intended to extend their understanding in certain aspects of how the foreign school works, its conditions, services, collaboration with social partners and thus, establishing a cross-cultural interaction.

Kairos students were introduced to various West Grove programme during their visit, such as observing different classrooms teachings, learning of best practices, as well as participating in the IFD celebration in school. Kairos students performed a dance for the whole school, a song from Betawi called "Kicir-Kicir" which means the song of whole Indonesian children.



### PRIMARY 5 CL PARENT WORKSHOP

More than 50 parents took time off their busy work schedule to attend the P5 Chinese and Higher Chinese Parent Workshop conducted during the March school holidays. P5 Chinese teachers shared invaluable insights and tips to improve their child's performance in the various assessment components. The interactive Q&A session was a fruitful one with parents airing their concerns and teachers clarifying their doubts. It was clearly evident and heartening for teachers to know that parents are actively supporting their children in their important journey towards PSLE. This positive parent-teacher partnership will greatly benefit the child, ultimately bringing about academic success.



# PARTNERSHIPS

## WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

On 12th March, our school organised a series of subject workshops for parents. The workshops were attended by parents whose child is in P1, P3 or P5.

The English department conducted an English workshop for parents of P5 pupils on using newspapers as a tool to do spelling, vocabulary, grammar, comprehension and composition writing. Parents had the chance to do some hands-on activities to experience learning through the use of newspaper articles. They also learned the importance of exposing their children to the events in Singapore and other parts of the world through the reading of newspapers.

The Mathematics department offered concept-based heuristics and problem-solving workshops with the aim to educate parents on the various teaching strategies used in solving Mathematics problems. These included the use of model drawing and various concepts such as Internal Transfer and Equal Stage.

The Science department also carried out a workshop to help parents understand the requirements of PSLE Science and how they can better support their child. Parents got to experience the process of answering open-ended questions through the use of various concepts and strategies.

These workshops which were very well-received by parents, gave them an idea of the difficulty level from P1 to P6. With that, parents will have a better insight on how to prepare their children for their journey in various subjects in the primary school and at the same time, be able to adopt the different methods to support their children's revision.



BUNDLES OF JOY



**BABY KAYRA**  
- Mdm Khaireny



**BABY LIU XI ZHUO**  
- Mr Liu Ning



**BABY NOR ZAIM**  
- Mdm Hazlinda



**BABY QAHIRAH**  
- Mdm Afizah



**BABY STELLA**  
- Mdm Koh Shini



**BABY MICHAEL**  
- Mr Matthew and  
Mrs Michelle Sim



**BABY ZAFIRAH**  
- Mdm Azlin

