



PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

April 2016

Dear Parents,

Even as our students prepared for their semestral examination, they were still engaged in various activities and competitions to stretch their thinking, and to discover their strengths and their talents, in line with the school's philosophy of education. We share with you some highlights in April.

Academic Achievements

Chess Competition

On 9 April, 11 students comprising mainly Lower Sec students participated in the 10th Jurong Junior College chess tournament.

The format of the tournament was 7 round Swiss against students from the Polytechnics, Junior Colleges & Secondary Schools. 3 other Secondary Schools participated, including Nan Hua High School, Geylang Methodist School & Chung Cheng High.

The results were encouraging. Although some of our players took up chess only at the beginning of this year, 7 of them scored at least 3 points out of a total of 7 points. 2 students emerged in the top 10 out of 25 sec school students:

Ephraim Yee (1A) -7th position

Goh Jun Hao (2A)-10th position

We would like to thank Mr Lee Peng Keong who has been supporting PSS as a volunteer coach for the last 1 year.

Champions in Tamil Debate Competition

Punggol Secondary School emerged as champions for Tamil Amuthu 2016, organised by the Sengkang CC. In addition, our student, Divya Sethupathi (4A), was awarded the 'Best Speaker'.

We would like to thank the two parents who came down to help train our students for the final round. In addition, our alumni, Zulfiah Ain, also came forth to help motivate and prepare the students for the competition.



History Competition

5th Inter-School History Challenge (War & Diplomacy 1918-1945 History Card Game)

On 13 April 2016, 10 students from 4B represented our school to participate in the 5th Inter-School History Challenge. War & Diplomacy: 1918-1945 is a strategy game of survival and conquest and aims to simulate the experience of governments during the turbulent era of 1918-1945 in making political decisions.

This was the very first time PSS participated in the History Challenge and the students were very excited to pit their historical knowledge and

gaming skills against peers from other schools. They were not disappointed by the turn out. A total of 47 schools had signed up for the competition and there were 470 competitors in all. Of the 10 students who represented our school, 4 made it through to the semi-final stage. From these 4 participants, 2 emerged to battle it out in the final round. Unfortunately, even though the last 2 participants in the final round managed to survive, they did not accumulate sufficient points to finish in the top ten.

The team enjoyed their experience immensely and have already begun to think of ways to improve on their performance for next year's competition:

"I learnt that the country's economy is as important as having military and political powers... We need to be more attentive to our surroundings so we can outplay others in the challenge". Finalist, Chan Wei Ping, 4B

"I have learnt that card games can be educational; they can help students find more interest in history. " Sriraam s/o Rethnakumar, 4B

"I learnt that entering a competition isn't just about winning. I lost my game, but during the game, I had lots of fun and I also made new friends from different schools, therefore this was a wonderful experience for me." Ong Kian Hao, 4B



17th ELEMENTZ Science Research Conference and Exhibition

A group of Sec 3 students participated in the ELEMENTZ Science Research and Exhibition Conference (Upper Sec & JC category) held at Anderson Junior College. Our team impressed the judges with our written report, poster and oral presentation, and achieved the Bronze award against 75 other competing schools from Singapore and neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

In line with the theme "advancing science for future economy", our students investigated the effectiveness of fruit peels to be used as plant fertilizer. Our students experienced the whole journey of conducting a scientific research, starting from the ideation phase to the presentation phase. They experienced having to decide what to do when the experimental data was different from their hypothesis. Instead of discarding or falsifying the data, they were inspired to investigate further. Not only have our students lived up to our *school values* of righteousness and integrity, they have also experienced the *nature of science* as a continuous and collaborative endeavour.

"Science is about experimentation and not about assuming the data; we have to be patient till we get the sufficient amount of data. We must keep asking ourselves further questions when looking at the data. Nevertheless, it is a fun journey! I will want to join ELEMENTZ again next year!" Niviya d/o Parkash, 3A

"I realised that taking the initiative and having self-discipline are important when conducting a research project. Taking the initiative to lead and helping our fellow teammates were crucial in achieving our goal as a team." Cheryl Toh, 3A

Team members:

Irwin Wong (leader) – 3A

Niviya Parkash – 3A

Kimberly Chung – 3A

Cheryl Toh – 3A

See Jin Long – 3A

Special acknowledgement:

Nicholas Teo – 3C



English Language Week & MT Fortnight

Mother Tongue Fortnight and English Language Week were held in Term 2. To interest students in the learning of the mother tongue languages, various activities were organised, including a Chinese Chess competition, the painting of Chinese fans and lanterns, and the playing of Malay musical instruments,

For the English Language Week, students were engaged in crafting poems and nanotales (a very short story), playing Scrabble, Charades, and Spelling Bee.



Students painting Chinese Fans during MT Fortnight



Life by R. Chammi Leca (3B)

God's game, One's play
 One wrong move and you're out
 No three strikes given, well, that's just life.
 Play it with dignity, play it with honesty.
 Play it well, play it right
 After all, it is life.

Desires, yearning to be fulfilled.
 Joy, waiting to bring smiles.
 Challenges, ready to be beaten.
 Secrets, hoping to be kept
 Factors which build a person.
 After all, it is life.

Questions to ask
 Knowledge to seek
 Curiosity and Adventure
 Obsessions and selfishness
 Wisdoms that build a person
 After all, it is life.



Students learning how to make popiah



Students decorating Chinese lanterns during MT Fortnight



Students learning how to play the Angklung

Selected Nanotales winners (the theme of the tales is Irony)

“As a child my mom taught me to walk and talk, and when I got older she asked me to shut up and sit down” – Tan Wei Xuan, 3N2

"Call me when u reach home, I have your phone with me" as he texted his friend’s phone, holding it on the other hand.” – Wyzer Yong, 4N1

Character and Citizenship Education

Earth Day 2016 fell on Friday, April 22. The theme for 2016 Earth Day was “Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet”. PSS collaborated with Isetan Singapore for the third year to encourage the community to focus on actions each of us can take to protect the ocean and our planet. This was done through artwork by our students, including the Art Club students, which were displayed at various store locations island-wide in the month of April:

ISETAN NEX: Prudence Wong (4C), Muhammad Israfil Ridhwan (5N2), Bersamin Paigie Rae Carmona (1A)

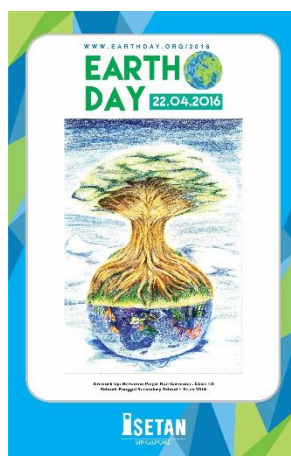
ISETAN TAMPINES MALL: Siti Raihanah Bte Muhamad Taha (2A), Tan Jia Ling (2A)

ISETAN PARKWAY PARADE: Kong Jia Rue (2T1)

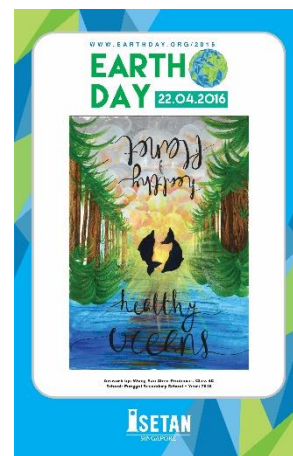
ISETAN SCOTTS: Misha Hussain (4B), Wai Jia Hui (5N1)



Jia Rue’s poster at Parkway Parade



Bersamin’s poster



Prudence’s poster