



# PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

March 2016

Dear Parents,

The last 3 days of Term 1 was an eventful period for all our students as the different levels were engaged in various activities, to develop in them 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies and compassion for others.

Our Secondary 1 and 3 students were engaged in serving the school or the community, while our Secondary 2 students learnt about self-reliance, team work and perseverance through their NYAA camp at St John's Island. Our graduating classes as usual took on the challenge of the 26-km walk, a fitting culmination to Project Resilience. The walk is meant to mirror their journey preparing for the national examination, during which resilience is key.

## Character and Citizenship Education

### Sec 1 Values in Action (VIA) Projects

Over the past few weeks, our Sec 1 students spent time with their form teachers to brainstorm areas or aspects within our school which they could help to enhance. They identified a problem area, discussed strategies to address the problem, sourced for the relevant resources, and implemented the solution, engaging in the process of problem-solving.

A summary of selected VIA projects:

Sec 1 A: enhancing the canteen area by designing queue lines, decorating the rubbish bins and the pillars

Sec 1B & 1N1: designing signages to the library, designing book covers and posters to promote

reading and proper use of the library

Sec 1 D: cleaning the sinks outside the art rooms

1T1: beautifying the Level 4 study area using recycled materials



The garden of 7 habits blooming outside the library -1B

The tree of knowledge within the library - 1N1



Designing queue lines in the canteen-1A



Inspiring students at the Level 4 study area – 1T1 turning a ‘dream’ into reality



Motivating students to save the environment – 1A’s artistic effort with a serious message



1N3 with wall mural at fitness station



1C working with FT to put up motivational quotes on the staircase



On the left, 1D working hard to clean the sinks outside our Art rooms

On the right, 1N2 with their plants in recycled water bottles which the class will help to maintain



*Students' Reflections*

"It was really fun and meaningful as we used our effort to help improve the school. Even though we had a couple of difficulties, we made it work and everything went well. I hope to have more projects in the future as it helps the class to bond and work as a team." Victoria Ong, 1T1

"The VIA project was a fun and meaningful experience as it showed students working and helping each other. It showed students applying several positive values, which is the intended objective of the VIA project." -Villalba Benjamin, 1N1

Sec 2 NYAA Adventure Camp

The school organised the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Adventure Camp at St John's Island from 9 – 11 March 2016. The objectives of the camp included to develop in students self-reliance and perseverance. It was an eye opener for many of the campers as they were taken out of their comfort zones and placed together on an island where they were required to work together as a class and as a cohort. They experienced new activities like outdoor cooking, tent pitching, going for a nature hike, sleeping together in less than comfortable surroundings and just being together for more than 48 hours without any electronic device.



*Students' Reflections*

"One of the most memorable thing that I did was that I learnt how to cook my own food. It was a completely different experience for me; usually my parents would cook for me. ... I have to specially mention my classmate Darryl Ng as he was very worried about our friend who was unwell and together we carried the stretcher while our friends helped to carry the bags."- Darryl Loo, 2B



"Through the camp, I learnt to be punctual for activities and getting ready fast and working as a team. Teamwork is very important and we achieved this as we worked together and did a great job during the Campfire item." – Muhammed Murtadha, 2T1

Sec 3 VIA Projects

Our Sec 3 students progressed from serving the school when they were in Sec 1 to serving the larger community. The students embarked on service learning this year, in which they chose a cause that they wanted to support, researched on the organisation/cause, spoke to the organisation concerned, and decided how they would design and implement the support.

Examples of Sec 3 VIA projects:

Sec 3A: helping to clean Bright Hill Evergreen home and to spend time with the residents

Sec 3 C: helping SPCA to advocate against animal cruelty by educating the public

3N1: helping Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen to pack and prepare food for distribution

3T1: working with Muhammadiyah Welfare Home to teach the children games and how to create a friendship band



3N1 at Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen

*Students' Reflections*

"I felt good that I brought joy to the children, and that we built a close relationship." – Irwin Tan, 3N2 (worked with needy children)

"I learnt that we should cherish what we have and study hard. Seeing people live in such small flats, I think that we are very fortunate to be living with our families and that we can have our own room." –Lim Shu Ling, 3N1 (helped to distribute food)

"I have learnt that I am capable of helping and opening up to the elderly. I have also learnt that I have confidence and was not so nervous when doing the activities." – Foo Shi Hui, 3B (spent time with the elderly)

"I now have more understanding and empathy than I did before. Before I volunteered, I

sympathised with the disabled but I could not understand how they felt. I now understand why we should volunteer so that we can help those in need. I understand now why my school wants us to volunteer and sacrifice our time when we could use it to do other things" – Johny Yong, 3D (spent time with the disabled at Red Cross home).



3C working hard preparing the brochures for SPCA

Project Resilience

Project Resilience is a hallmark project of Punggol Secondary. It comprises CCE lessons and reflections on the values of resilience and perseverance, with the climax being the 26-km walk from Changi Coastal road to Punggol Secondary School. It is designed to mirror the graduating students' preparation for the national examinations, with the key message being "If you just keep walking, you will successfully arrive at your destination".

11 parents and 1 ex-student joined us in the 26-km walk while PSG parents continued the tradition of supporting the walk by serving students and staff refreshing ice-cream upon their arrival at Punggol Secondary.

*Students' reflections*

"During the walk, we shared the routes with other community users, such as cyclists. My classmates were very proactive and displayed propriety by reminding all to keep to one side of the pathways. We also took the initiative to ensure the places we walked through and stopped over were clean or even cleaner than before we left. Everyone was very encouraging and pushed each other forward" – Elfreda Lim, 4A



The brave and supportive parents, and 1 ex-student, who walked with us the 26 km

"The most difficult part was the last kilometre. We were tired and thirsty, and the end point was so near and yet so far. Nevertheless, I kept telling myself to give up at that point would be the biggest failure. We trudged on and successfully completed the 26 km. I feel that preparing for the N levels is very similar. We need stamina, determination and the belief that we can do it, in order to succeed"- Mohammad Nor Shafiq, 4T1



Students who completed the walk received a collar pin which they can wear proudly on their uniform



At last we reached our destination – tired but triumphant