



PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

March 2017

Dear Parents,

Our students' pursuit of academic and character excellence was evident through their participation in various activities and the annual Student Development Week. Parents were also engaged at our monthly Parenting Talk.

Academic Excellence

Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championships

The ELDDS debaters experienced sweet victory when they won against Hwa Chong International School with a score of 3-0. O'rianna Yew from class 3A was chosen as the best speaker for that round. Subsequently, our students also won against Dunman Secondary School with a score of 2-1. Karinia Chong from Class 3A was the best speaker.

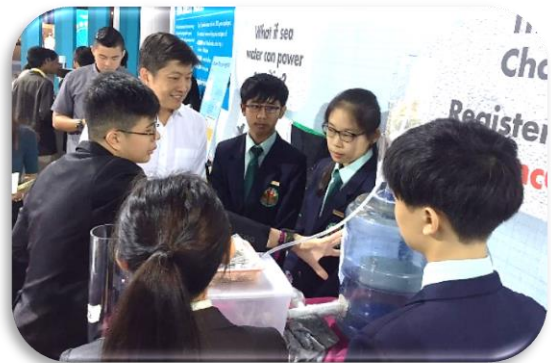


ELDDS debaters engaging in a deep discussion

ALP STEM Bright Ideas Challenge

Team Hydronyamz participated in the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge held on March 16 and 17 at the Changi Exhibition Centre. The team comprised of Aimery Tay, Oliver Ong, and Vernice Long from Class 3A as well as Ryan Neo and Joyce Ngiam from Class 3B. The team's task was to tackle the energy shortage that the world may face in 2050.

Putting on their thinking caps, the students identified a possibility of water shortage. The team researched on water wastage across various household appliances. A prototype was created as the students wanted to help reduce wastage in HDB households. The team was shortlisted as one of the fifteen finalists to present their idea to a panel of judges as well as the public.



Team Hydronyamz showcasing their prototype

Despite not winning the top 3 places, the team had an enriching experience. They also forged valuable friendships with one another and with students from other schools.

Character Excellence

Student Development Week (March 8 – 10)

Secondary One

Based on their earlier proposals, the Secondary One cohort was committed to the implementation of their school improvement projects. Class 1D's project on redecorating and improving the Library was voted the best project.



1D students hard at work redesigning and redecorating the library

Students' Reflections

I learnt to collaborate with my friends and respect one another. I also learnt the importance of communication. Though there were some misunderstandings, we managed to overcome them. Lastly, I learnt to have more self-control – doing the right things at the right time, and putting first things first. – Lenice Sior Yi Jin, 1E

We learnt the importance of accepting and respecting our teammates' ideas. We feel a sense of belonging to the school because we were given the opportunity to lead and make improvements. – 1T1

Secondary Two

During the 3-day-2-night NYAA Adventure Camp, the Secondary 2 students were involved in various activities like Outdoor Cooking and Nature Appreciation. Through the activities, the students exhibited our school values, developed leadership and communication skills, and learnt to work in teams.



Students' Reflections

I was able to build my confidence very well. During this camp, I was able to bond and interact with my classmates even more. – Rashika Rajendran, 2D

I learnt to demonstrate the values of self-respect and propriety during this camp. These school values are important for my character development. – Amelia Seah, 2N2

Secondary Three

As part of their service learning proposals, each class sourced for an organisation that they would like to work with. The organisations included the Handicaps Welfare Association, Little Genius Play School and Cat Welfare Society. It was a meaningful experience for the students as they contributed to the community.



PSS students telling stories to preschoolers

Students' Reflections

The learning journey to Little Genius was fun and it was a new experience for us. We learnt how to manage a group of children and how we can help them to understand instructions. We also taught them Mathematics and drawing. I feel that I have become more responsible and resilient. – Ong Yu Xuan Shanice, 3B

The learning experience was inspiring. I got to experience how the elderly feel like being in a home. Seeing how weak they are and needing people to help them move around made me want to care for my parents even more. – Keithley Estorninos Inciso, 3N3

Secondary Four/Five

The graduating cohort embarked on Project Resilience which included Character and Citizenship Education lessons and reflections on resilience. This was followed by a 26-km walk from Changi Coastal Road to school.

The students had an overnight camp and a warm-down session the next morning. They also reflected as a class and as a cohort during the closing ceremony.



Students' Reflections

I was able to complete the journey even though it was tough and challenging. Although it was tiring, I felt a sense of achievement. – Chen Kuan Min, 4A

I learnt that I should not give up easily when I fail a test or cannot do any work. – Nur Dini Mansor, 4N2

Green Wave Environmental Care Project

Organised by Sembcorp Marine, this project aims to involve the community at large, particularly students, to participate in learning about caring and protecting the environment so that they can contribute towards the conservation and improvement of the environment.



PSS Vermicomposting Information poster board

The team from the Environment Club, which consisted of Team Leader Tan Guan Yi Kenneth (2N1) and Team Members Lim Wei Yao Aloysius (2D), Muhd Nurilham B Isnin (2N2) and Arjun Prabhakar Rao (3D), was awarded the Encouragement Award for their “Smart Vermicomposting Bin” project. The project uses Arduino technology which automatically releases water in the worm bin when the soil is dry. This technology saves water as the water will be reused in the bin system.



PSS students explaining the vermicomposting project to the public

Phoenix Job Week

During the annual fund-raising event, our Scouts helped neighbouring residents with household chores. This inculcated the value of honest work and the dignity of labour in the students. They also had their Job Week Camp where they bonded with each other.



Parenting Talk

Parenting Talk on ‘How to Help Your Child Make Sensible Decisions’

Once a month, the school organises a Parenting Talk to engage our parents. These talks aim to share with parents, knowledge and skills to connect with their children.

In view of the many important decisions adolescents need to make while journeying in Secondary School, on 4 March, our Vice-Principal Mdm Ching shared with 47 parents, her 30 years of experience working with adolescents. The title of her sharing was ‘*How to help your child make sensible decisions*’. Essentially Mdm Ching encourages parents to ‘*make decisions with*’ and not just ‘*make decisions for*’ their adolescents.

It was a very fulfilling session where parents actively shared their own experiences during discussion time. Some parents even stayed back to further converse with Mdm Ching on pertinent concerns in parenting.

