



PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

September 2016

Dear Parents,

In this issue, we are excited to share some achievements attained by our staff and students. We also include some highlights from our Teachers' Day Celebration and Mid-Autumn Cultural Festival Celebration.

Student Achievements

57th National Inter-School Chess Championships

On 7 September 2016, two teams from Punggol Secondary School participated in the 57th National Inter-School Chess Championships held at Northland Primary School.

The Under-14 players are:

Goh Jun Hao	Sec 2A
Aimery Tay Radzi	Sec 2A
Ephriam Yee Cheng En	Sec 1A
Ng Yu Hang	Sec 2A
Cyrus Chua	Sec 2N1

The Under-16 players are:

Siah Wei Heng	Sec 3A
Joel Cheong	Sec 2A
Augmen So	Sec 2A
Chen Yu Xuan	Sec 2N1
Ruven Ng	Sec 2A



Team photo taken before the tournament commenced

Ng Yu Hang scored the highest with 3.5 out of 5 points in the Under-14 section while Chen Yu Xuan scored the highest with 4 out of 6 points in the Under-16 section.

With these results, Punggol Secondary School was crowned Champions in the North Zone in the Under-14 Section. Our Under-16 team came in 3rd in the North Zone. Both teams were trained by Mr Lee Peng Keong.

Students' Reflections

"Through chess, I am more confident of myself now. I have also become more patient. I have also learnt to think before I do anything."

– Joel Cheong, Class 2A

Students' Reflections

"Chess has helped me in strategic thinking, both in games and in studies. It has helped me to plan my attack, think about the worst possible situations and think about how to deal with them. In terms of studies, chess has helped me to think about what can happen in different circumstances and how to make the right choices."

– Ruven Ng, Class 2A

"Chess has promoted a strong sense of school identity, and raised school image and morale throughout the inter-school competition."

– Goh Jun Hao, Class 2A



"Chess has made me look forward to going to school. It has given me a sense of belonging."

– Siah Wei Heng, Class 3A

Green Wave Environmental Care Competition

Caring for the environment has always been a priority for the students of the PSS Environment Club.

The students conducted their research and found out that Singaporeans waste almost 800,000 tonnes of food waste every year.

In order to recycle food waste, the Environment Club students invented the smart worm bin. The uneaten fruits and vegetables are thrown into the bin and the worms will feed on it. The worm droppings will then be collected and used as plant fertilisers.

Their innovative product – “Smart Vermicomposting Bin project for the Community” – has even been shortlisted by Sembcorp Marine for the finals on October 20.



Vermicomposting in process

Students' Reflections

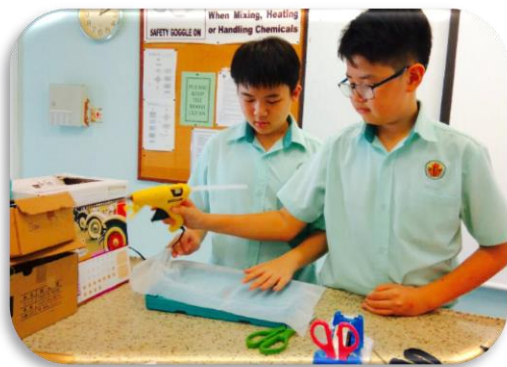
"We learnt about what we have wasted and how to solve that problem. We also learnt the Arduino wiring programming. It was a fun experience."

– Tan Guan Yi, Kenneth (Team Leader), Class 1N1

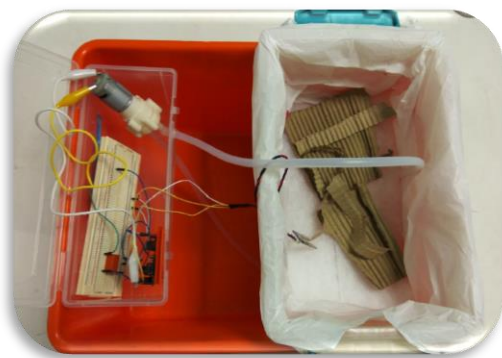
Students' Reflections

"The entire project was very fun and an eye-opening experience for us. We have not heard of Arduino technology before. Now we are more aware of how to use the technology and reduce food waste."

– Lim Wei Yao Aloysius, Class 1D and Muhammad Nurilham B Isnin, Class 1N2



Using the hot glue gun to make the lid more stable



Final product of the prototype

"It was a very interesting experience. I learnt how to programme and use the Arduino board. I also learnt to do my part and recycle."

– Arjun Prabhakar Rao, Class 2B

Staff Achievements

Most Inspiring Tamil Teacher Award

On 3 September, a total of 11 teachers nationwide were recognised for transforming students' lives through the passionate teaching of the language.

The winners were chosen based on nominations from their students, ex-students, parents and colleagues.

Mdm Karunahara B Gnanamani, known affectionately by staff and students as Mdm Mani, won the second position for The Most Inspiring Tamil Teacher Award which is hosted by Tamil-language daily *Tamil Murasu*. She was presented with the award by Sembawang GRC Grassroot Advisor Mr Vikram Nair at Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre.

Mdm Mani said, "All students have some talents within. As teachers, we should find out their talents and develop them. We should try our best to engage the students and arouse their interest in their Mother Tongue Language."



Mdm Karunahara B Gnanamani receiving the award from Sembawang GRC Grassroot Advisor Mr Vikram Nair

Most Dedicated Teacher/Staff Award

This year, there are 21 teachers/staff who received the Most Dedicated Teacher/Staff Award.

- Ms Jasmine Goh Poh Ling (Pinnacle Award)
- Mdm Chen Li Li
- Mr Dexter Tan Jun Ho
- Mr Foo Seng Hong
- Mr Gerald Foo Yeow Chong
- Mr Jimmy Quek Jee Wei
- Ms Jovena Sim
- Mr Kelvin Lee Kim Whye
- Mdm Lim Li Yen
- Ms Ong Siew Hwee
- Mr Peh Aik Hui
- Mdm Rabiya Ismail
- Mr Sebastian Lee Keang Pheng
- Mdm Siti Zulaiha Bte Moshen
- Mdm Srividya d/o Vijayakumar
- Mr Sultan Shaheed
- Mr Tay Teck Seng
- Mdm Yap Lay Yong
- Mr Bek Jing Siau
- Mdm Juminah Bte Jusli
- Ms Siti Farhanah Bte Mahput

Highlights from Teachers' Day Celebration

Organised by the newly elected Student Council Executive Committee, the theme for this year's celebration was "Stars" as teachers are likened to stars in the sky – we cannot always see them, but we know that they are always there with us.

The celebration at the hall was filled with performances and games. Student councillors also handed out the Teachers' Day gift to all teachers – a compilation of heart-warming messages from students.



Dance Sport Performance by Secondary One Students

This was followed by a Teachers' Day Lunch at the Civil Service Club at Tessensohn to recognise the efforts of our teachers. The theme was "Colours of the Rainbow" – an apt way to honour the different ways in which our teachers inspire their students every day.



Preparation of door gifts by SWB Committee members

This annual lunch event was attended by SAC members as well as the Parent Support Group.



Group photo of Best Dressed Table with PSG



Presentation of Pinnacle Award to Ms Jasmine Goh by SAC Chairman Mr Loo Kin Ben

Highlights from Mid-Autumn Cultural Festival Celebration

The annual Mid-Autumn Cultural Festival was held on 1 September. It was an evening of festive celebrations with performances and games organised by the Mother Tongue Department.



Peel-a-Pomelo competition between Staff, PSG and Alumni

In addition, our Parent Support Group set up a mooncake stall and *tang yuan* stall which served freshly baked fusion mooncakes and savoury glutinous rice balls to all the guests.

The highlight of the celebration was the LED lights Dragon Dance performance led by Mr Tan Fong Kum, an alumni of Punggol Secondary School. The festive mood was further lifted by the lantern trails around the school campus by young children of the staff and alumni.



Highlight of the celebration – Dragon Dance by the Alumni



Lantern trail group photo