



# PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

February 2016

Dear Parents,

February was a busy month with our festive celebration of Chinese New Year and our annual cross country. We hope you will enjoy reading the February newsletter.

### Chinese New Year Celebrations

To promote mutual understanding in a multi-racial society, we learn about and celebrate key festivals. In February, we celebrated Chinese New Year as a school. During CCE (Character and Citizenship Education) lessons, our students learnt about the origin and purpose of the Lion dance, as well as the importance of harmony within the family.

Classes made an ang pow pledge to support two charity organisations, in line with our effort to develop in our students compassion for the less fortunate: The Singapore Association of the Deaf and the Muhammadiyah Health and Day Care Centre. Our staff and SAC members contributed ang pows as well.



Our SAC chairperson, Mr. Loo, distributing CNY goodies to residents of Bright Hill Evergreen Home

During the CNY assembly in the hall, our Guzheng girls enthralled us with their playing, while our modern dancers dazzled us with their versatility,

strength and gracefulness. The Chinese department teachers, who planned and organised the assembly, involved students from other races who came on stage to try their hand at calligraphy. Our choir ended with two rousing songs to usher in the new year. Overall, it was a memorable and meaningful celebration.



Photographs were taken by our Multimedia Club students



Besides the CNY celebration in the school hall, all classes were involved in decorating their classrooms for CNY. The winners were the following classes:

- Sec 1 - 1T1, 1B
- Sec 2 - 2T1, 2D
- Sec 3 - 3C, 3N1
- Sec 4 - 4E, 4N2
- Sec 5 - 5N2



Sec 1 T1's colourful board and wall

## Academic Achievements

### Tamil debate

Our Tamil students participated in the Sorkalam 2016 debate competition. They competed against Bowen Secondary in the first round and emerged victorious.



Our debaters and the team who supported them

Our debaters consisted of the following:

1. Divya D/O Sethupathi – 4A
2. Muthu Swetha – 3A
3. Mageswari D/O Gunasegaran – 3B
4. Saranya D/O Jason – 2C
5. B M Deepikaa – 3B (reserve)
6. Srivarshini Saravanaperumal – 1 C (reserve)

“Sorkalam 2016 taught me a lot about leadership qualities and many more. For example I have become a more responsible student now as I have to come often for my debate practice and that involves time management.” (Saranaya, Sec 2C)

“I was really impressed by my seniors who spoke with confidence and were full of energy for all the practice rounds. My seniors have inspired me to never give up and that practice makes perfect.” (Srivarshini, Sec 1C)

In the second round, our school went up against Raffles Institution. Our students put up a good debate, losing to RI by just 3 points. The best speaker for the second round was Muthu Swetha.

We would like to thank Mdm Karunahara Bhagavathar Gnanamani and Ms Thenmozhi d/o Gunasegaran for their guidance and support of the students, as well as the parents who supported the students behind the scene and on the day itself.

## Character and Citizenship Education

### Cross Country

We held our annual cross country at the Punggol Waterway Park. This year, we challenged our students to complete the cross country within 45 minutes, so as to contribute points to their houses. 697 students managed to achieve this, and this year's winner was Yellow House.





Cross Country photographs by our Multimedia Club

### Volleyball CCA

In the North Zone semi-finals, our Volleyball B division girls lost the match against Sembawang Secondary School with a score of 2-0. The girls put up a good fight even though their opponents were far superior in height and size. The girls reflected on their mistakes and made a comeback by winning Evergreen Secondary school to emerge third in the zone

In the North Zone semi-finals, our Volleyball B division boys lost the match against Presbyterian High School (PHS) with a score of 1-2. The team lost the 1<sup>st</sup> set to PHS but they fought back to win the 2<sup>nd</sup> set. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> set, our boys were tied

with PHS at a deuce (24-24) before PHS finally won the match with a score of 29-27. Although the boys were upset, they persevered and emerged victorious against Xinmin Secondary School in the finals, gaining our school a third placing in the zone.

### Environment Club CCA

Although newly established in 2016, our Environment Club members have been very active, tapping on various opportunities to advocate their conservation messages and to contribute to saving the environment.

Our members participated in training by PUB and NEA on strategies to conserve water and electricity. They learnt that if we leave electronic devices plugged to electrical sockets with the switch left on, energy is being still being consumed even though the devices are not being used.



Our Environment club students also led in two recycling projects. The first was to recycle Chinese New Year Ang Pows, while the second was to recycle the many water bottles which were used during the Cross Country. Our students enthusiastically collected the water bottles, collecting over 10 bags of water bottles.



Uniformed Group CCAs

Finally, we would like to share our UG CCA's achievements for 2015:

- Scouts: Frank Copper Sands Award (Gold)
- NCC: Best Unit Competition Award (Silver)
- NPCC: Unit Overall Proficiency Award (Silver)
- Red Cross: Community Service Award (Bronze)

NCC Best Unit Competition (BUC) serves as an assessment of the overall performance of NCC units. The BUC identifies the unit's strengths and weaknesses. It also motivates the cadets through a series of training and programmes. By encouraging cadets to participate in the activities, the BUC also promotes comradeship among cadets, build up their teamwork and instil in them a sense of pride and achievement.

Below are reflections from selected NCC students on a camp which they participated in:

"Camp STEEL was really enjoyable but tough at the same time. One fun thing we did was paintball. I really enjoyed it because it was the first time I played paintball. I even scored 2 direct hits during the matches. I learnt how to cooperate well with my fellow cadets and also our friends from other schools." Lufti Bin Mohd Ibrahim, 2T1

"Two of the most fun things I did during Camp STEEL was paintball and rappelling. Rappelling was scary but fun. It was not easy taking the first step and "walking" down the wall, especially from so high up but I did it safely. This camp taught me a lot, especially how to communicate and work as a team with students from other schools." Muhammad Izwan Fikry Bin Isnawan, 2N1

"There were a lot of activities and physical exercises in addition to lessons. I really enjoyed the paintball match as it was exciting and we got to work together as a team to take on our friends. I also learnt to conquer my fear of heights by doing rappelling. I managed to do it with the support and encouragement of my friends." Hansel Yee Zhen Bin, 2N2



Our NCC cadets in school preparing for their drills at the camp