



PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

September-October 2015

Dear Parents and Students,

Despite the haze, life goes on in school. We celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival, with alumni from both Punggol Secondary and Pei Dao joining the celebration. While our teachers and students were in the midst of preparing for the second Semestral Assessment (SA2), they also spent time to thank our school cleaners and to contribute to our community – truly achievers with character

Character and Citizenship Education

As part of CCE, schools in Singapore implement Values-in-Action (VIA). VIA are learning experiences that support students' development as socially responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to the community, through the learning and application of values, knowledge and skills. As part of VIA, students reflect on their experience, the values they have put into practice, and how they can continue to contribute meaningfully.

Sec 1 VIA in Term 3

In Term 3, the Secondary 1 cohort continued the second portion of their VIA Programme by completing a class project to appreciate the cleaners working in the school. This project imbued them with values of compassion, respect and responsibility through their interactions with the school cleaners. The Sec 1 students also spent time to know and work with the cleaners, whose work often goes unnoticed, unappreciated, and taken for granted. The students conducted planning sessions in smaller groups before coming together as a class to decide on how they wish to show their

appreciation to the cleaners.

In Term 3 week 10, they welcomed 8 cleaners into their classes and presented them with handmade presents, appreciation cards, homemade cookies, muffins and cakes. Some classes presented performances like singing songs and playing the violin. Some classes showed their appreciation by creating picture montages and a video. Do watch the video produced by Sec 1B at <http://youtu.be/fOKaeooFSas>



Sec 1T1 with Mdm Tang Sow Khuan



Sec 1D with Mr Koh Boot Seng

“When the cleaner came to our class, some of us became excited and started talking to her. We remembered her as someone who loves to smile. At first she did not understand what we were saying, so the class worked together to translate and speak

to her. Some of my friends prepared food and drinks. From this project we've learnt to appreciate the work done by the cleaners in our school."

Ridhuan Danial, 1N3

"On the Cleaner's Appreciation Day, my class showed our appreciation by presenting to the cleaner appreciation cards that we made ourselves. We combined our cards and pasted it on a huge board, which we presented to Mr Koh. We also showed him slides to thank him for all the hard work that he had put in for us and the school. I baked muffins and brought it to school for him and also my classmates. I find that this activity helped us to learn more about the cleaners' job and we appreciate their hard work. As a class, we also learnt that together we need to ensure the cleanliness of the school and not just leave it to the cleaners."

Ngiam Kai Li, 1D



Sec 1N1 with Mr Jansen Augustin

"I find this programme meaningful and we enjoyed ourselves with the cleaner. My classmates all worked together to make this project a success. We brought cakes, muffins, cookies, snacks and drinks which we shared with the cleaner. Some of my classmates also produced a wonderful video where we interviewed Dr Ho (Vice Principal), Mr Zulkefli (Sec 1 Year Head) and several other teachers, and included our voices too."

Matthew Chong, 1B

"My class organised a small party for the cleaner. We brought different types of chocolate, prepared appreciation cards, showed a picture montage and

also a small video for the cleaner. With them in our school, we have a cleaner environment to study in and we are very appreciative of their hard work. It was a meaningful event. From that day onwards, I realised that everyone has a part to play to keep our surroundings clean and to help the cleaner too. With the help of our Form Teacher, we created a duty roster for everyone to chip in to clean the area outside our classroom."

Monisha, 1T1

Sec 3 VIA in Term 3

We introduced the concept of service learning to the Sec 3 by involving them in initiating VIA projects for causes that they feel strongly about. The process involved students in doing the following:

1. identify and research on a social cause that they care about
2. develop multiple perspectives on how they may contribute to this cause
3. develop a plan and work together

Some of the classes' VIA are still ongoing. This month's newsletter highlights some of the completed VIA projects. On 29 Aug 2015, Sec 3E volunteered for a road show at Giant Tampines organised by the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA). Prior to the road show, the students spent weeks to research on SANA and to role play how to share with the public the anti-narcotics messages. The class raised \$865.



Sec 3 E listening attentively to a briefing by SANA

On 10 September 2015, Sec 3 C went to Bright Hill Evergreen Home in Punggol. They started off their service learning by serving food to the elderly. The students also engaged the elderly with a variety

of fun activities, including a karaoke session, traditional games and clay lamp painting,



“I learnt that it is not easy for the nurses and care givers to take care of the elderly. They have different dietary requirements and most of them need assistance to move around. It was not easy for me to assist in pushing a wheelchair from one place to another place. I appreciate the hard work put in by the administrators of the Home. I also learnt that I need to be more resilient for me to take on any task. Shermin Lim, 3C

Mid-Autumn Celebration

On 18 September, Punggol Secondary School celebrated the Mid-Autumn festival. We harnessed the same platform to invite our alumni from both Punggol Secondary and Pei Dao to join us in our celebration. It was also an occasion for our teachers to bring their families to school.

The event started with various spirited performances in the school hall and ended with a lantern-lit walk round our school compound. Our Parent Support Group and their children supported the event by preparing fragrant tea, delightfully soft hand-made mooncakes, and delicious tang yuan soup.



Our student councillors put up several booths with interesting games for the children, including traditional games like “five stones” and “chatek”, and innovative games like balancing a minimum of 10 tiny toy chairs, and a mini basketball game. The children were happily engaged with the games, while adults were happily catching up on old times and enjoying good food.

Academic Programme and Achievements

Our graduating students and teachers have been working hard to prepare our students for the national examinations. Besides our regular remedial sessions and night study, our teachers assessed the students’ needs, and developed topical clinics for students to sign up for.

As a school, we also continued to work with all our students to sustain a positive learning tone in the classrooms, so that learning can take place for all students. Teachers discussed with students

PEARL 25, Punggol Secondary's very own classroom learning protocol, to ensure that students are Prepared to learn, Expect to learn, Attend lessons for learning, have Respect for learning, and Listen to learn. Students discussed what PEARL 25 translates into in terms of behavioural indicators, and how PEARL 25 relates to our school values of 礼义廉耻 (Propriety, Righteousness, Integrity and Self-Respect). Our teachers will continue to plan for **2** minutes of lesson time to introduce the lesson content, and **5** minutes to close the lesson (the 25 in PEARL 25).

We are pleased to announce that one of our students, Leo Eng Jun Jie from Sec 3T1, won a Silver award (game programming) at the Media Computing Competition organised by the Ministry of Education.

Upcoming Events/Programmes

There will be a Meet-the-Parents Session (MTPS) on 23 October for selected parents of Sec 1 to 3 students. Parents may sign up online for an appointment. Details will be provided through your child at a later date.

Post Exam Programme will take place from 20 to 22 October. We have a range of activities lined up:

- a) Lower Secondary: Students will participate in a range of activities, including Sports Carnival, Conversational Chinese and Malay for the Express students, and Character through Sports for our NA and NT students. NA and NT students will also participate in a Science Day (Sec 1) or Mathematics Day (Sec 2).
- b) Secondary 3: Students will attend Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs) and Elective Modules (EMs). AEMs and EMs are modules in applied topics that can enhance the learning experience of students through practice-oriented approaches. AEMs this year include Digital Game Development, while EMs include Tourism and Hospitality and Early Childhood Education.



After the national examinations, Secondary 4-5 students: can look forward to etiquette lessons, a concert appreciation afternoon and a graduation dinner, "Harry Potter" style with long tables and fine dining, to apply what they will learn during their etiquette lessons.

Our Open House will be on 21 November (Saturday) from 9am to 3pm. Your child may be involved in this important opportunity to showcase our school to the community. If you have any friends or relatives who are interested to send their children to Punggol Secondary, please do inform them of the date.

Secondary 1 students can look forward to an exciting year of learning in 2016 with the launch of 1- to -1 computing in term 1. The current Sec 2 and 3 students are already using their personal learning devices as tools to access the broader world of knowledge (independent learning) and to work with one another in collaborative learning, both in class and outside of class. Parents will be briefed on this 1-to-1 computing implementation in Term 1 of 2016.