



# ywLink

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.  
Proverbs 11:14

Apr - Jun 2011

A quarterly newsletter of the YWCA—Young Women's Christian Association of Singapore

[www.ywca.org.sg](http://www.ywca.org.sg)

## Highlights



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## President's Note

How time flies! It has been one year since I took the helm as President of the YWCA. As I reflect back on this journey thus far, it has been a rewarding experience for me. I witnessed the internal changes which had a significant impact on the Association – from the raising up of new leaders to serve in various key positions in the organisation to the emergence of new programmes to serve the underprivileged in our community. The YWCA will continually renew and reinvent itself so that it can address and respond swiftly to the changing needs of society.

I am grateful for the unwavering support and contributions of many groups of people over the past year. They are not only instrumental to the survival of the YWCA but are also the driving force behind the organisation. My heartfelt thanks to the Board of Management, Committee members, volunteers, donors, partner agencies and most of all, our staff members for their loyalty and dedication.

Since the beginning of 2011, the YWCA has been bustling with activities. In January, the Board of Management and senior staff members of the YWCA attended a 2-day "Strategy Planning Workshop" to review the strategies and plans for the Association. Together, we mapped out the directions and goals for the next four years, 2011 – 2014. In the same month, we also played host to overseas guests from Hong Kong and from our fellow sister organisation, the YWCA of Rwanda. These visits not only serve to strengthen the relationships between the organisations but also pave the way for future collaborative ties.

The YWCA held its Annual General Meeting on 28 April 2011. Together, the new Board of Management will continue to identify relevant societal issues and needs and launch new initiatives so that we can cast our nets wider and reach out to more people in our community. At the same time we also hope to attract and encourage more young people to join the YWCA as members and volunteers so that we can grow a stronger and younger membership and volunteer base, which is essential for the rejuvenation of the Association.

Looking ahead, I look forward to yet another exciting and fulfilling year as we continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance in serving the community in accordance to His will, and bringing glory and honour to His name. The road ahead will no doubt be fraught with challenges, but we will be united in His call to meet these challenges. I am confident that when we work together in one mind, body and spirit under God's guidance, we will be able to scale new heights and grow in stature and strength. Together, we can make a difference!

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

Ma Kheng Min  
President

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# YWCA News

## Visitors from Hong Kong



On Monday, 24 January 2011, the YWCA played host to a group of visitors from Hong Kong. Mr Tommy Chan, Senior Social Work Officer from the Social Welfare Department of the Central Office for Volunteer Service, together with his colleague and three volunteers, were in Singapore to attend the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference held at Resort World Sentosa from 24 – 27 January 2011. They paid a friendly visit to the YWCA to re-establish ties. In 2009, Mr Chan and a group of youth volunteers who were on the Hong Kong Outstanding Youth Volunteer Scheme, came to Singapore on an exchange tour to learn more about the local volunteering scene and had visited the YWCA to find out more about the services it provides.

A luncheon was organised for the guests at the Fort Canning Lodge Coffee House, which was attended by Board Members, Mrs Dancy Thong and Mrs Maureen Ngee; Executive Director, Mrs Leung Yee Ping, and other staff.

## YWCA Strategy Planning Workshop

On 07 and 08 January 2011, the Board of Management and senior staff members of the YWCA attended a two-day "Strategy Planning Workshop" held at the Raffles Marina Country Club. The workshop was conducted by Mr Andrew Sng and Mr David Wilkins from Decision Processes International (DPI). Over the two-day workshop, strategies and plans for the Association were reviewed and the directions and goals for the next four years from 2011 – 2014 were also mapped out.

# YWCA News

## Visitor from YWCA of Adelaide



On Thursday, 20 January 2011, Ms Chelsea Lewis, Policy Officer of the YWCA of Adelaide, was on a personal trip to Singapore and visited the YWCA of Singapore to find out more about its activities. She was given a tour around the Outram Centre and a meeting was held with Mrs Leung Yee Ping, Executive Director,

and Ms Vicki Sim, Programmes Manager. During the meeting, Ms Lewis gave an update on the recent happenings and activities of the YWCA of Adelaide. There was also an exchange of gifts between the Associations.

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## Visitors from YWCA of Rwanda



On Monday, 24 January 2011, the YWCA played host to two representatives from the YWCA of Rwanda - Mrs Pudentienne Uzamukunda, General Secretary; and Mr Sekamana Archimede, Programme Officer, who were also in Singapore to attend the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference. The YWCA of Rwanda was selected as one of the top 5 finalists for the UBS Award – PITCH 2011 for their “Giving Hope” programme, which seeks to support and empower orphans and vulnerable children with skills so that they can plan for their future and care for their families and themselves.



Mrs Pudentienne and Mr Sekamana shared about the work of the YWCA of Rwanda, in particularly the “Giving Hope” programme. There was also an exchange of gifts between the two Associations. The guests were also given a tour around the YWCA Outram Centre.

The YWCA of Rwanda eventually won the PITCH 2011 award, sharing honours with another organisation for having one of the best volunteer proposals.

## Community Services

### International Baptist Church's Christmas Food Drive for Meals-On-Wheels for Children



Last Christmas, International Baptist Church organised its Annual Food Drive for the beneficiaries of the Meals-On-Wheels for Children programme. An impressive amount of 1,188 items was collected from among the church members. Some of the collected items included food items such as beverages, cooking oil, instant noodles, biscuits, rice, canned food; and household items such as detergent, toilet rolls, shampoos, shower gels, toothbrushes and toothpastes. Household items were also added

onto the Christmas Wish List as these were essential items for the families to maintain good personal hygiene.

With the help of volunteers, the donated items were packed into individual bags and distributed to the families during Chinese New Year. Other items were used for the preparation of the weekday meals delivered daily to the children.

### Kids' Club Outing to Science Centre



12 volunteers from Anderson Junior College organised an outing to Science Centre for the children from Kids' Club on Saturday, 29 January 2011. Through the informative and educational exhibitions, the children learnt much about climate change, sound, marine, solar system, space, viruses and many more

topics. Besides the permanent exhibitions, there were also temporary exhibitions held such as "Breast Cancer" and "Fun with Dinosaurs". It was indeed an educational and fun day for the children.

## Community Services

### Kids' Club 4th Anniversary Celebration – Outing to ESCAPE Theme Park



How time flies! In March, Kids' Club celebrated its 4th anniversary! Jesus has been good in blessing the volunteers and children over the last four years! As a Club, we look forward to a greater year ahead!

To commemorate this special day, the children and volunteers were treated to an adrenaline rush at ESCAPE theme park at Downtown East! The children enthusiastically queued up and

rode on popular park attractions such as Go-Kart, Bumper Boats, Family Coaster, Pirate Ship and Ferris Wheels. There were a total of 12 attractions in the park. Throughout the three hours, everyone was kept entertained with endless fun, laughter and excitement! Finally for lunch, everyone dug into the sumptuous Burger King meals to fill their growling stomachs. We believe this was a memorable day for all!

## Events

### Talk on Investment Outlook for 2011



*Mrs Ma presenting the gift to Dr Tan*

On Thursday, 03 March 2011, the YWCA organised an investment talk presented by Dr Tan Kee Wee. Dr Tan is an independent economist running his own investment advisory. Prior to this, Dr Tan spent many years in the finance industry as an economist, forecasting the financial markets and global economies.

During the talk, Dr Tan shared his insights about the debt crisis in the global markets in 2010 and how it will affect the global economy in 2011. He also shared on the precautionary steps to take when investing money into various investment tools such as bonds and shares. Most of the participants felt the content of the talk was informative and Dr Tan's presentation was clear and easily understood. At the end of the talk, Dr Tan was presented with a token of appreciation by Mrs Ma Kheng Min.

For all the participants, it was an evening well spent.

# Events

## Joy of Reading Programme (JRP) Event



"The Joy of Reading Programme was first launched in all our centres in 2008 to promote a love for reading and to cultivate good reading habits among our children through daily storytelling sessions and other reading activities. It has been almost three years since the start of the programme and I am pleased to report that there have been positive results. Due to the frequent exposure to a wide variety of English and Chinese reading materials available at all the centres' reading corners, many of the children have developed a greater interest in reading and a deeper appreciation for both English and Chinese books. They are also making steady progress in their abilities to read, write and articulate with confidence."

*(Excerpt from Opening Speech by President of YWCA of Singapore, Mrs Ma Kheng Min, at the JRP event)*

In conjunction with the Joy of Reading Programme (JRP), the JRP

event was organised for parents and children from our eleven child development centres and kindergarten on Saturday, 19 March 2011. A total of 254 parents and 184 children participated in this event.

A parenting talk, "Raising Interested Readers" was conducted in English and Mandarin for the parents. Fun and interesting activities were organised for the children to keep them entertained while their parents attended the talk such as story-telling and music & movement sessions, face painting, henna painting and art & craft activities. To encourage participation in all the activities, each child was given an activity card to fill up with stickers for each activity completed.

The principals and teachers of our child development centres and kindergarten would like to thank Mrs Ma Kheng Min, members of the Child Development Programme Committee, support staff as well as all our parents and children for their participation and support in this event, making it a huge success.



*Story-Telling & Rhymes using Puppetry*



*Henna painting*



*Hand and face painting*



*Moving with the music*



*More game activities.....*



*Let's create*



*Vendors promoting educational materials*



*Paper cutting demonstration by a vendor*

## Mrs Maureen Nguee

*Interviewed by Karen Chay*



Mrs Maureen Nguee has been an active volunteer of the YWCA since 2006, serving on the Board of Management as well as in the various Committees of the Association. The driving force behind Mrs Nguee's commitment to serve in the YWCA is her ability to strongly identify with the motto of the YWCA – "By Love Serve One Another". She believes in using the gifts and talents which God has given her to serve others and demonstrate Christ's love to those within and outside the family of God.

Given her good-natured personality, Mrs Maureen Nguee has the knack of making friends easily as well as make others feel relaxed and comfortable in her presence. Married with three grown-up kids – two sons and one daughter - Mrs Nguee may be a homemaker but finds herself busier than when she was working, due to her active involvement with the YWCA and her church activities.

Despite her hectic schedule, Mrs Nguee still finds time to engage in her favourite activities, some of which include reading, swimming, brisk walking and watching Korean dramas. She also enjoys baking and cooking and experimenting with recipes in the kitchen.

### **Name some of your favourite places to hang out in Singapore.**

I love to go to the Singapore Botanic Gardens for my morning walks. The lush greenery and the fresh air in the mornings make it an enjoyable and relaxing experience, a nice change from the hustle and bustle of the city.

### **What is your favourite indulgence?**

Shopping - every woman's favourite pastime!

### **Name three things that you cannot live without.**

Contact lens, handphone and friends.

### **What is your greatest fear?**

My greatest fear is being diagnosed with a terminal illness such as cancer.

### **What is your motto in life?**

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I always live by this motto that we should always treat others the way that we want to be treated.

### **What is your greatest achievement to date?**

I count the joy of being a child of God as my greatest achievement to date.

### **What are your strengths and weaknesses?**

I am efficient and I work in a fast and timely manner. However I need to learn how to manage my time more effectively and prioritise my work. Being an obliging person, I also find it tough to say no to others when the situation arises.

### **If you could turn back the clock, what is something that you would have done differently?**

Nothing. If I could live my life all over again, I would have done everything the same.

### **What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the YWCA?**

I have made new friends through volunteering with the YWCA. We enjoy each other's company and over the years, we have bonded through the sharing of many moments of joy and laughter. I also get a sense of fulfilment knowing that the efforts I have put in for my volunteer work will have a positive impact on the community.

### **What is your most memorable volunteering experience?**

Visiting the elderly at home and seeing their faces literally light up with a toothless smile when they see us. The smiles on their faces brighten up my day and I am glad that we are able to bring some cheer and joy to them even if it is just for that fleeting moment.

### **What is your most challenging volunteering experience?**

I find it a challenge to get our young people to be involved with the YWCA – either to join as members or to give of their time to serve as volunteers.

### **What advice would you give to potential volunteers?**

Be flexible and go with the flow. In everything that we do, we should do it joyfully and not grudgingly.

## The Struggle of Love

By Pastor Pacer Tan, Lighthouse Evangelism

"The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread."

- Mother Teresa

Every person on this planet craves to be loved. We need affection; we desire warmth; we hunger for care and support. Experiencing love is absolutely the most wonderful thing that can ever happen to you. It is no surprise that the bible tells us "the greatest of these is love." Love is more than essential. It is life itself. You have heard it said that 'you cannot truly live if you have not truly loved.' And it is a reality that we all grasp to fully understand.

In the famous passage on love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3), Paul reveals the importance of love. Imagine if you were a superb linguist and you could speak all the languages in this world! Everywhere you travelled, you would be able to converse with the locals you meet. But the bible tells me that if my gift of speech is not matched with my ability to love, I am a noisy drum! Isn't that strange? Wouldn't my ability to speak many languages be such an amazing advantage? Hmm ... food for thought. Then Paul moves on to the gift of knowledge. And he provides an impressive list of accomplishments. 'If I could predict the future .... If I knew all the mysteries of the universe ... if I had incredible faith ...' Who wouldn't want great abilities like these? Yet again, he tells that love must be the root. Lastly, he speaks about the gift of sacrifice. We are inspired by generous giving to worthy causes, foundations and charities. Philanthropists like Bono, Bill Gates & Warren Buffet spur us to follow in their examples. We are moved when we read of men and women who gave their lives for others. History will never forget the selfless contributions of people like Mother Teresa or Martin Luther King. Once again, Paul emphasizes the imperative to love.

For the longest time, I could not really make out what Paul was trying to say. If I do not have love, I am nothing. Without love, I gain nothing. How can that be? 'Why is love so connected to who I am? Why is love crucial in what I do?' I thought, "If I had those gifts, my life would

be fulfilled. People would love me. The community would respect me. I would be ... famous." And then it hit me. I was only thinking about myself. And all the incredible benefits I would gain if I were a charismatic orator, an accomplished linguist, a prophet, a wise sage, a man of great faith, a generous philanthropist or even a glorified martyr. In God's eyes, success is not measured by our affluence or influence. He evaluates our lives by how we love. And that is the struggle of the human heart. We know how to receive love, but struggle to give it away. It was sobering when I realised that God is not impressed with how I grow my gifts but how I use them. All the abilities He gave me were meant for the purposes of blessing others! That's what He expects from all of us.

Let's be honest here. Isn't it easier to be a consumer of love than a provider? The bible does not pretend that loving others is easy. But at the end of the day, every person has a choice. Will he go his own way or follow the road of love marked out by God? So how do I improve in my walk of love? The solution to this question lies only in the One who commands us to love. 1 John 4:19 reveals to us that "we love because He first loved us." The apostle, John, understood that love must be initiated by God to us. I can't love people well if I do not know who Love is. The bible tells us 'God is love.' To know the subject of love means you have to know God. You can't separate the two. Love isn't just something God shows. Love is the Person that He is! God is love. Love is God.

As Christians, we have experienced the most profound proof of His love at the cross. Romans 5:8 says "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This statement is incredible. But it doesn't impact us till we realise as transgressors of God's holy law, we deserved only His anger and none of His grace. How marvelous it is that He would love us in spite of our imperfections! When we savour the depths of God's love for us, our lives being to change! We begin to love authentically because

He first showed us through His sacrificial death. We desire to aid the poor, because He first helped us when we were 'poor in spirit'. We are merciful to people who offended us, because He first lavished mercy for our sins.

On one occasion, Jesus was having dinner at Simon's house. News of this got out and a sinful woman made her way there to see Him. She knelt behind Him, weeping at His feet. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Simon was in shock! How could Jesus allow this? Doesn't He know what kind of a person she is? Knowing what was in Simon's heart, Jesus began to shed light on this matter. He said to him, "You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair..." And He concluded by telling him, "Her many sins have been forgiven -- for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

Simon thought he was a really good person but Jesus exposed his hypocrisy. There was a lack of love in his heart. Between Simon and the woman, she knew how to love much better. The secret? Because she knows that God has forgiven her much. Christ was teaching something astounding - 'How much you will love is determined by how much you have been forgiven.'

Wow! What a revelation! The deeper I look into what Jesus has done for me, the more I become like Him – LOVING! Isn't that good news? Friend, your struggle to love is real. But the truth of Christ can shatter all the obstacles in your way. May you embark on your love journey today!

"Pacer Tan is a pastor at Lighthouse Evangelism. His passion is in teaching the grace and love of God. He currently preaches regularly at the main services and heads the young adult ministry."

# Poetry Corner

## A Blessing

*By Sylvea Wong, a member of the YWCA*

Ok, let me bless in some kind way  
Each person I will meet today  
For any life that enters mine may love and grace be there to find.  
For just a quick sweet smile  
Will find the heart a little while.  
A thoughtful act a warm embrace  
Can brighten up the saddest place.  
Sweet words of love can bring relief  
To any heart consumed in grief  
An outstretched hands a blessed sight  
A star of hope in darkest night.  
Sometimes a word, sometimes a deed  
Is asked to help a man in need.  
For if the cost be great or small  
That other life is worth it all.

As women of God, and hand maiden of the Lord  
We need to carry our can full of oil of joy with us

Wherever we go –

1. Oil of Gentleness
2. Oil of Thoughtfulness
3. Oil of Helpfulness
4. Oil of Cheerfulness

## Quarterly Recipe

### Fish Maw Soup



**(Serves 4-6)**

#### Ingredients

120g pre-fried fish maw  
450g prawns, shelled  
650g pork, minced  
1.5 kg pork bones  
3.5 litre water  
1 tsp peppercorn  
1 big cabbage, cut into pieces  
10-15 fish balls  
1 egg  
1 tbsp corn starch  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp pepper

#### Garnishes:

Spring onions, celery and fried onions

#### Method:

Cut fish maw into pieces and soak in hot water to remove excess oil. Wash and keep aside.

Pound prawn meat and mix together with minced pork. Season with some salt, pepper and light sauce. Add in the egg and corn starch and mix well. Form the paste into fish ball size.

Boil pork bones with salt and peppercorn for 20 minutes.

Add in the cabbage and continue to boil till softened.

Finally add in the prepared prawn/pork balls and fish balls. Add seasoning to taste.

Serve soup hot and garnish with spring onions cut into 1 inch strips, chopped celery and a sprinkling of fried onions.

# HR Announcements / Announcements / Be Involved

## Welcome New Staff

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff joining the team. We welcome Lin Jiayi (Teacher) at Ang Mo Kio CDC; Silva Penelope Jane (Teacher Aide), Li Min (Teacher) and Chua Siew Hua (Attendant cum Cook) at Bedok CDC; Lim Guat Choo (Attendant) at Bukit Gombak CDC; Geng Xiaohui and Kho Dar Pheng (Teachers) at Jurong East CDC; Sarala Devi (Teacher) at Marine Drive CDC; Lim Huiqin (Teacher Aide) at Outram CDC; Toh Siew Yan (Cook) at Pasir Ris CDC and Chen Shu-nu (Assistant Teacher) at West Coast CDC.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Sarah Binti Ibrahim (Sales Executive - Rooms) Irene Ho (Accounts Assistant); Kavi a/l Gurusamy (Housekeeping Supervisor), Nalini a/p Subramaniyan (Room Attendant), Premala Devi (Public Area Attendant), Mohd Manzoor Ali (Duty Manager), David Loke (Maintenance Officer), Francis Lee (F&B Waiter), Koh Beng Ng (Stewardess), Kalidas a/l Saminathan (F&B Waiter), Vijay a/l Kanthan (Technician) and Yuganes Subramaniam (Leading Cook).

## Announcements

### Suggestion Box

We welcome your views and feedback! If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve on our programmes and services or if you have any creative ideas for fund raising activities or community service projects, we would love to hear from you! Drop us an email at [admin@ywca.org.sg](mailto:admin@ywca.org.sg).

## Be Involved! Yes, that means you!

### YWCA Women's Notebook

YWCA is publishing its FIRST women's publication! We are recruiting volunteers to be a part of the dynamic team to develop a Women's Notebook, which highlights prevalent issues faced by girls and women today! Through this publication, we hope to educate girls and women on these issues and empower them with the skills to cope with their problems!

### We are looking for volunteers who are:

- Females
- Aged 18 to 30 years old
- Able to commit from June 2011 to June 2012. Meetings will be held on weekday nights
- Passionate about empowering and improving the lives of girls and women
- Possess a good grasp of prevalent social issues faced by girls and women
- Possess either one or more of the following skills: Editorial; Proof Reading; Photography; Design work; Public Relations and/or Events Management

If you fulfil the above criteria, YOU could be the one we are looking for! Call us today for an interview! Together, we can make a difference! The closing deadline for registration is Wednesday, 15 June 2011. For more information, please contact Ms Han Shin Hui at tel: 6223 1227 or email her at [shinhui@ywca.org.sg](mailto:shinhui@ywca.org.sg).

## YWCA International Expeditions

### Homeless Shelter @ Nepal

The YWCA is recruiting volunteers to reach out to the less privileged communities overseas. We are organising 2 Homeless Shelter Expeditions to Nepal (Kathmandu) in September and December 2011. Volunteers will embark on a 7-day programme which includes teaching English, organising recreational activities or assisting in various tasks at the Orphanage such as painting, decorating or gardening.

Come and be transformed by this humbling experience. At the same time, immerse in the culture and experience the warmth of the host country! If you and your friends are interested to sign up together, we will be most happy to conduct a special briefing session for your group. For more information, please call Ms Han Shin Hui at tel: 6223 1227 or email her at [shinhui@ywca.org.sg](mailto:shinhui@ywca.org.sg).

## Outstanding Young Women Volunteer Award

The YWCA is searching for outstanding young women volunteers between 19 to 35 years old, who have contributed much of their time, effort and resources to serve the community. As a form of tribute to these outstanding volunteers and an acknowledgement of their contributions, the YWCA would like to present them with an award.

To apply or for more details of the Outstanding Young Women Volunteer Award, please visit our website at [www.ywca.org.sg](http://www.ywca.org.sg) or email Ms Evangeline Gan at [evangelinegan@ywca.org.sg](mailto:evangelinegan@ywca.org.sg).

# Child Development Centres and Kindergarten

## Outram Kindergarten

By Ms Linda Loo

Each child is special and different.

Leonard is highly talkative but simply dislikes reading;

Xiao Ming from China finds it difficult to express himself clearly in English;

Mei likes to draw but cringes when it comes to reading;

JoJo is too active to sit down and read.

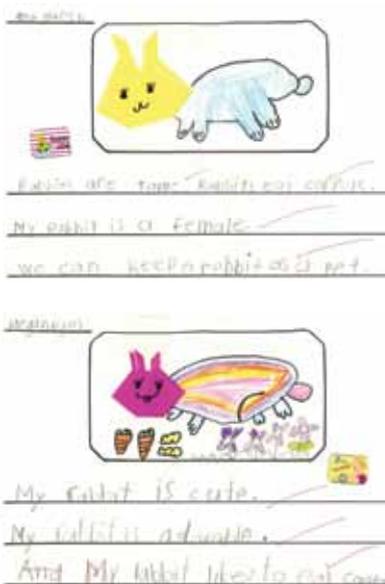
The list goes on. How do you teach these children to overcome their difficulties and learn to read?

At the YWCA Kindergarten, we recognise these challenges and it is our vision to help the children develop an interest and a love for reading. Our team of dedicated and caring teachers seeks to create an environment conducive for reading and also plan activities which will inspire the children to engage in reading.

One of the ways to make reading more meaningful and enjoyable is using the Language Experience Approach (LEA). LEA taps into the existing knowledge of the children by using their personal experiences to compose their own reading materials.



For example, for the topic on "Rabbit", the children were first asked to share what they know about rabbits. Their thoughts were then written on the board and the students decided what they wanted to write. Illustrations were also created for the text by using origami paper to make a rabbit's head and drawing of the body. Verbs and adjectives used were then pasted on the Word wall. The written text passages become the students' reading materials.



LEA also makes use of songs which the children grew up listening to such as "Twinkle, twinkle little stars". When the children are singing the song, the teacher will write the lyrics on the board. The teacher and the children will experiment with changing the beginning, middle and ending of individual words in the song to form new words.

Learning is not only confined to the classroom. To widen students' experiences, a trip to Chinatown was organised. Prior to the trip, the children talked about their preparations for the trip and their suggestions were recorded. Upon returning from the trip, the children dictated their thoughts and related their experiences on paper with the assistance of their teachers. Once the children are adept at reading their own stories, the process of decontextualisation begins. This is when individual sentences, phrases, words, word parts, letters and letter combinations are examined.

Over the years, LEA has helped many children overcome the difficulties and failures in their past attempts to learn how to read. With consistency and instructional routines that are effective, we are confident of laying the foundation for our students to grow up to become adults who enjoy reading.

*Once a child learns to read, he starts to learn.*

*Once a child desires to read, he is always learning.*



# Child Development Centres and Kindergarten

## The IT experience in YWCA Ang Mo Kio CDC

By Ms Delphine Lim

With the introduction of our very own IT Labs in all our YWCA Child Development Centres and Kindergarten in Singapore, the children have been treated to many exciting moments with IT gadgets and activities. Monthly visits to the main IT Labs at the YWCA Outram Centre are definitely one of the activities our children from Nursery to Kindergarten level look forward to. The children will be buzzing with excitement as they hop on the bus and make their way to the Outram campus, all geared up for the fun IT activities.



In the Connectivity Lab, the children engage in educational activities such as matching, word games, number games, stories as well as creating their own masterpieces; using either CD-ROMs or materials from the internet. Headphones are provided for each child to develop their listening skills. The children also learn the spirit of sharing and working together when they pair up for the activities.



In the Discovery Lab, the children engage in activities that help develop their gross and fine motor skills. Playing in pairs either with or without the teachers' guidance, the children wait patiently for their turns to have a go at competitive virtual games such as tennis, bowling and popping the bubbles.



Another favourite for the children is the Creativity Lab (the Karaoke Lab) where the children will take turns to sing using microphones while the others act as their backup dancers. The

Performance Lab is the biggest lab among the four labs. There is a huge screen, a projector, sound systems and a television for the children to watch movies just like in the cinemas as well as for Music and Movement and dramatisation activities.

In addition, weekly IT activities are also conducted in our centre's IT Lab (located in the Music room) or in the children's classrooms. In the children's weekly class timetable, one of the activities scheduled is "Learning Corners" and children can choose to go to the Computer Corner for some independent or teacher-guided IT activities using CD ROMs purchased by the centre or borrowed from the Library during our monthly Library visits. Computer Corners can be found in the Nursery 2 and Kindergarten classes and each class is given up to two time slots to make use of the facilities.



Our centre's IT Lab is also equipped with a laptop, a projector and an interactive whiteboard. Our curriculum includes an IT programme for children and this teacher-guided programme is part of the children's integrated learning.



During the morning assembly, Music and Movement sessions are sometimes conducted using either CDs, DVDs or activities from the websites, together with the interactive whiteboard. Our children from the Playgroup and Nursery 1 classes also utilise the facilities in this IT Lab for their Music & Movement or Dramatisation activities. During the school holidays, the children are treated to "A movie, A day" in the mornings.

These high-tech and state of the art IT facilities have indeed enhanced our children's learning journey with the YWCA Child Development Centres and made it a truly enjoyable one. A big Thank You to our sponsor, Lien Foundation, for making all these possible!