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“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

Jan - Mar 2011

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

www.ywca.org.sg

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Editor’s Note

A New Year

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29: 11

It is traditional to begin each new year by reflecting on the past year and to look forward with hope and plans for the new year. The YWCA is the same and the Board will be strategising and reviewing its plans for 2011 and the years ahead in January.

Although some members may think that the YWCA is not doing as much in comparison with the past – since we are not busy with advocacy issues or being reported in the news! – the YWCA has been quietly carrying out its mission throughout the past years, as reported in each issue of this newsletter. Each generation carries out the vision and mission of the YWCA in ways which are relevant to its time, and through the years, YWCA has contributed much to the membership and community.

YWCA today does not compete with many other women’s organisations that have been set up through the years, but continually finds new projects which will serve and help those who are in need, as well as to carry out her mission.

Fulfilling the spirit behind each letter of YWCA, our programmes, activities and services focus on the Y, W and C. As a Y, we try to focus on young women and will plan more programmes for young women.

For the W, our programmes emphasise on women and their families. The C is the basis by which we carry out our programmes, activities and services.

Whatever her activities, YWCA retains the same values throughout the generations, as expressed in the YWCA Core Values, which was approved and adopted by the Board on 30 October 2010.

If you wish to make a New Year’s resolution for 2011, consider this Bible verse – “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:29 -31

I wish you a blessed year ahead!

Editor
Tan Kee Leng

YWCA News

YWCA Core Values

On Saturday, 30 October 2010, the Board of Management formally approved and adopted a set of five core values, which will form the guiding principles for the operations and activities of the YWCA and the conduct of the staff. These core values underlie our attitudes and behaviour, our interaction with each other and the strategies we employ to carry out the mission and objectives of the Association.

The five core values are:

a. Service

To willingly give of oneself and one's knowledge and skills in service to the Association and to bring glory to God.

b. Compassion

To love and care for our users and beneficiaries, to help the community and improve the status of women and children.

c. Commitment

To provide excellent service, relevant programmes and other initiatives that impact lives both within and outside the Association.

d. Respect

To value the unique contribution and worth of every person and have due regard for the feelings and rights of others.

e. Teamwork

To work together towards the Vision and Mission of YWCA.

It is both the corporate and individual responsibility to embrace and uphold these core values. Strong shared values will promote a common understanding and corporate culture among the staff and enable the Association to fulfill its mission effectively.

90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Hong Kong YWCA



Mrs Ma Kheng Min speaking at the conference

The Hong Kong YWCA invited Mrs Ma Kheng Min, President of the YWCA of Singapore; and Mrs Leung Yee Ping, Executive Director; to attend an international conference on "The Role of Woman, Family and Government in Building a Caring Culture.", which took place from 2nd to 3rd December 2010 in Hong Kong.

The international conference was organised by Hong Kong YWCA as part of its celebrations for its 90th anniversary. The conference, which brought together distinguished speakers and participants from all over the world, was also attended by many YWCAs from mainland China and other Asian countries. World YWCA was represented by its President, Susan Brennan; Programme Director for Asia and Pacific, Juli

Dugdale; and Vice President, Ping Lee. Ping Lee is also the General Secretary of YWCA Taiwan.

Mrs Ma was invited to be the responding guest at the 3rd plenary session on "Caring Deprived Families, Advocating Social Inclusive Policy". Mrs Ma spoke on the social inclusion policies of the Singapore Government to promote racial harmony and care for the elderly.

The Hong Kong YWCA had its Thanksgiving Celebration on the afternoon of 4th December 2010, followed by its 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in the evening.

Following the two-day conference and anniversary celebrations of the Hong Kong YWCA, the World YWCA hosted a regional meeting for Asia on 5th December. The meeting featured addresses from Susan Brennan, Ping Lee and Juli Dugdale, as well as a sharing session on issues facing Associations in the regions and a planning session for the World YWCA Council and International Women's Summit, which will take place in July 2011, in Zurich, Switzerland. At the meeting, YWCA Thailand also gave a briefing on what to expect at the World YWCA Council 2015 which it would be hosting. YWCA Thailand invited its Asian sisters to help out in the welcoming of delegates to World YWCA Council 2015.

Mrs Ma and Mrs Leung took the opportunity to network with participants from sister YWCAs to discuss possible collaborations involving youth leadership development and other common issues faced in the near future.

YWCA News

World YWCA

World Council Meeting – July 10-16 2011

Once every four years, members of the YWCA movement from over 100 countries convene at their World Council - the supreme authority and decision-making body of the YWCA – to set policies and priorities, elect its governing board, honour women, develop leadership and build capacity. The Council also provides practical training and education on the priority issues of the global movement.

International Women's Summit – July 12-13 2011

Theme – Women Creating a Safe World

The IWS will broadly discuss this theme and further define equitable, safe and inclusive spaces and programmes for women, thus advancing CEDAW and MDG commitments.

Safe space is about the personal, economic and political security of women and girls, their right to live free from violence, to make choices about where to live and work, to move freely and participate in all facets of democracy, as well as to have full access to sexual and reproductive health services, including universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

With community centres around the world, the YWCA is renowned for helping provide safe places where women, young women and girls may become empowered and lead change in a setting free of discrimination, stigma or prejudice.

Community Services

Bata Shoes for Meals-On-Wheels for Children



The Bata outlet located at Peninsula Plaza was exceptionally busy on the morning of Saturday, 30 October 2010. About 60 excited children were busy selecting and trying on school shoes with the help of 14 staff and volunteers from the YWCA. Chatter and laughter from the children resounded throughout the shop amidst the loud music playing in the background.

Each child was given a \$25 shoe voucher to redeem a pair of school shoes. This was made possible because of the kind donation from Living Hope Malaysia, with its Founder and Chairman, Dr Peggy Wong, spearheading this fundraising effort together with her friends.



On behalf of our beneficiaries on the Meals-On-Wheels for Children programme, the YWCA would like to thank Living Hope Malaysia for its kind and generous donation and the volunteers who helped made this event a fun and meaningful one for the children!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6,7

Community Services

Kids' Club Christmas Celebration



December is truly the month for GIVING! On Saturday, 11 December 2010, a group of students from Bishan ITE organised a Christmas Party for more than 20 children from the YWCA Kids' Club. The students planned many fun and



exciting games for the children. It was a time for bonding and fellowship and everyone had a wonderful time. At the end of the party, each child received two goodie bags - one from the students of Bishan ITE and one from the YWCA.

CISCO Charity Drive



Christmas comes early for 39 families on the Meals-on-Wheels for Children programme! As part of their Charity Drive, 22 staff from CISCO systems generously donated and even personally delivered food and household items to each of the families on Friday, 3 December 2010. The families were also delighted to receive a Christmas logcake. In addition, each child was also given a Christmas goodie bag.

"My children were very excited to receive the logcake because they have not eaten cakes in a long time. I have also run out of detergent at home and was still worried over what to do about it. When I saw the detergent among the donated items, I was relieved." - Haniah



Events

Christmas Bazaar 2010



This year's Christmas Bazaar was a blast! The Sophia Cooke Ballroom was transformed into a perfect Christmas hangout on Saturday, 18 December 2010. Delightful decorations adorned the ballroom and catchy Christmas carols, specially chosen by our in-house emcee, filled the air. This year, more than 40 stalls participated in this fundraising event. Much to the delight of food lovers, there was an abundance of homemade delicacies, cakes, pastries, snacks and many more to choose from. Exquisite jewelleryes, handicrafts, clothes, bags and decorative ornaments were also being sold. In addition, many educational children books were being sold at affordable prices. For the bargain hunters looking for good deals, there



was also the White Elephant Stall which featured selected second-hand items. Other attractions included glitter art, face painting and the fish-a-prize game.

To encourage parent-child interactions, teams of parent and child competed to win the best decorated Sandwich, Muffins and Gingerbread man in a series of competitions.

The money raised during the Christmas Bazaar will be channelled towards the funding of the community services that the YWCA provides. Thank you to all who have contributed and helped out in one way or another!

Christmas Joy Talk 2010



On Monday, 6 December 2010, the Christian Growth Sub-Committee organised a Christmas Joy Talk at the Fort Canning Lodge. An invitation was extended to the Joy Talk attendees, Golden Y Fellowship members and friends of the YWCA to join in the Christmas celebration.

The event started with a sumptuous Christmas lunch, followed by a medley of Christmas carols and worship songs. After the worship session, the invited speaker, Pastor Ivan Lee,



presented a heart-warming message of how the Christmas story began. It was beautifully brought across especially to those who are seeking to understand the depth and breadth of God's love.

After the sharing, we were all inspired to a renewed faith as we celebrate this greatest Gift of all - from beginning to everlasting. The event concluded with an interactive time of fellowship accompanied by an overflow of desserts.

Pre-Renovation Dedication Service at Fort Canning Lodge

On Friday, 03 December 2010, a dedication service was held in the evening at the Quiet Room of the Fort Canning Lodge. The purpose of the dedication service was to commit the upcoming refurbishment of the Lodge into the hands of the Lord so as to seek His blessings and protection for a smooth and timely completion of the renovation and rectification works within the given timeframe. The service was attended by Board Members

and some staff from the Fort Canning Lodge and National Office.

There was a worship session before Reverend Melvin Huang, Chaplain of the YWCA, was called upon to deliver a short blessing message. Reverend Huang then conducted the dedication ceremony and led the congregation through the dedication rituals.

Events

YWCA / YMCA / MYMCA World Week of Prayer and World Fellowship



This year's YWCA / YMCA / MYMCA World Week of Prayer and World Fellowship was held from 15 to 19 November 2010. The theme focused on 'Women Creating a Safe World' and the key Bible verse was Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will hold you with my righteous right hand'.

YWCA, YMCA and MYMCA organised a series of Lunch Fellowships with topics surrounding this theme. The topics were: "Creating a Safe World Through Prayer and Intercession" by Mr Gregory Vijayendran from the Singapore Centre for Global Missions; "Women Can Make a Difference: Learning from the



Mary-Martha Model" by Pastor Thong Mei Peng from His Arrow Church; "Precious & Honoured in My Sight" by Mrs Joyce Ewing-Chow; and "Compassion for the Suffering" by Rev Dr Chiu Ming Li from Prison Fellowship Singapore.

About 130 people turned up on 16 November 2010 at the YWCA Lunch Fellowship. Pastor Thong Mei Peng delivered an uplifting message on seeking and serving God in the marketplace. The beneficiary for this year's offering collection was Highpoint Dayspring. Dayspring provides counselling for women at risk and residential treatment centre for teenage girls.

YWCA 135 Anniversary Celebrations Dinner



The year 2010 marks a significant one for the YWCA as it celebrates 135 years of serving and meeting the needs of the local community. A series of celebratory events were held throughout the year to commemorate this special occasion. As a closing to the year-long celebration, the YWCA held an Anniversary Celebrations dinner on Wednesday, 24 November 2010, at the Fort Canning Lodge's Sophia Cooke Ballroom.

In line with the YWCA's corporate colour, the colour theme chosen for the event was also blue. At the foyer area, lovely blue and silver balls hung from the ceilings; for the interior of the ballroom, the tables were also beautifully decorated with fabric, ornaments and tea light candles, hence creating an overall elegant effect. In addition, helium-filled blue and silver balloons were also fastened loosely to the back of each chair and would be released to signify the official start of the event.

Moe Alkaff was once again the emcee for the evening. The event kick-started with an opening address by the President of the YWCA, Mrs Ma Kheng Min. This was followed by a short blessing message by Pastor Rodney Woo, Senior Pastor of International Baptist Church, Singapore, before dinner commenced. Dinner



was a scrumptious spread of Asian delights such as Kueh Pie Tee, Mee Siam, crispy roast pork, Ikan Pangan, Satay and Beef Rendang.

There was also a Bursary Award Presentation Ceremony where children from the Meals-On-Wheels Programme who have attained good grades as well as those who have displayed potential in the year-end examinations are awarded with a certificate, vouchers and cash as a form of reward and an incentive to motivate them to perform even better next year. Ms Tan Kee Leng, the Immediate Past President, who was also the Guest-of-Honour, gave out the awards to nine children. Other highlights include the recognition of volunteers both past and present, who have made significant contributions to the YWCA and played a significant role in helping the YWCA to be where it is today. Each volunteer was presented with a special gift of a tin of YWCA Earl Grey Tea as a token of appreciation.

Moe Alkaff, with his comical antics, entertained everyone during the games segment. Everyone was roaring with laughter and had a good time. It was indeed a fun and memorable time for everyone on this joyous occasion!

Events

Senior Citizens' Lunch



Senior Citizens' lunch is an annual luncheon organised by the YWCA in appreciation and in honour of the senior citizens in our midst who have contributed much to our society.

This year, the event was held on Wednesday 27 October at the Fort Canning Lodge. During the lunch, we also took the opportunity to promote and sell the YWCA 2011 Diary whereby all sales proceeds would go towards the support of YWCA's Community services.

The ladies were delighted to learn that this diary not only well featured 12 delightful "easy to cook and good to eat" but was

also compact enough to fit into their handbags. Many of them bought copies of the diaries as gifts for their loved ones during this festive season.

Mrs Anne Loh, one of the Committee members of the Membership & Programmes Committee, helped to prepare a delicious puff pastry dish with mushroom filling as an appetiser for everyone.

Overall, the senior citizens not only enjoyed the delicious Chinese sit-down lunch but they also had a good time fellowshipping and catching up with one another.

Combined Training Workshop with Young Women Muslim Association (YWMA)



On Monday, 13 December 2010, principals from our kindergarten and child development centres, together with counterparts from the Young Women Muslim Association (YWMA), participated in a one-day workshop - "Towards Transformational Leadership" - conducted by Adam Khoo Learning Technologies Group. Here are some comments from some of our principals on the workshop:

"The workshop provides a fresh insight to the role of being a leader. It was refreshing and inspiring and helps redefine the purpose of our roles as a principal. It's not just mere eloquence of speech but the sincerity and speaking from the heart that touches many souls. Personally, it helps to redefine my understanding of a leader and the purpose of my role. It also encourages me to move on knowing there are challenges ahead.

YWMA is a very responsive and friendly group. They are also open to share and easy to mingle with."

- Jane Wong, Principal of West Coast CDC

"The workshop was good for me to set me thinking about my style of leadership - whether I need to change to improve and also to set my vision for 2011. I need to reflect on my strengths or my weaknesses. I have also learnt Leadership is about 3 important things: how to influence people, motivating people (intrinsic/extrinsic) and leadership style (leading by the side).

This workshop provided us with the opportunity to interact with YWMA and build stronger relationships with each other from different faiths."

- Margaret Lim, Principal of Marine Drive CDC

"I learn that not all leaders are born but they can be made with the right mentorship. A leader should be confident to make decisions and face the consequences. A good leader should articulate his vision and educate his team to have similar goals. Most important, a leader should groom future leaders so that this person can take over his / her position when the time comes."

- Rosalind Linus, Principal of Outram CDC

"For me, this workshop refreshed many memories along the way as being "One"... a child, person, educator, parent, colleague and mainly a leader. It relates and encompass the values in 'body, mind and spirit' along our journey (family, relationships, life & work) -stressing on functions with a purpose, communication, trust and thus - the process of achieving a high performance team.

The trainer touched on 'Changes' in the 21st century with "mindset" as the main component and 'vision' as the driving force behind it - lies with the leaders."

- Corrina Lee, Principal of Jurong East CDC

Mrs Ho Lay Hong

Interviewed by Karen Chay



Mrs Ho Lay Hong was first introduced to the YWCA in 1997 by an old member, Mrs Babs Tessensohn. After one year of joining the YWCA, she was roped in to be a member of the Board of Management and has served in various committees such as Programmes and Fund Raising. While she was in the Programmes Committee, she enjoyed organising activities for the members as it gave her a great sense of satisfaction to see the

smiles on the happy faces of the ladies as this showed that they had enjoyed themselves. In the area of fund raising, she also derived a sense of achievement knowing that the events organised managed to raise the much needed funds in support of the YWCA's community services and projects. After more than 10 years of serving on the Board, she is now in her final term as a Board Member.

Mrs Ho may already be 70 years old but with her boundless energy and her active lifestyle, you would never have guessed her age. She keeps herself fit and healthy by staying busy. If she's not travelling, she's actively volunteering or engaging in her favourite hobbies, which include all kinds of handicraft work such as sewing and knitting. Her passion for needlework started during her schooling days where she would sew her own school uniform. Having attended a dressmaking course upon graduation, she is also a certified dressmaker and can sew various types of garments such as pants, dresses, skirts and even cheongsams.

1. How would you describe yourself in three words?

Compassionate, obliging and outspoken.

2. What do you consider to be your strongest character trait?

I am a very candid person. I say what I mean and I mean what I say.

3. If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?

I wish that I will not be so gullible and soft-hearted as some people may exploit and manipulate my 'weaknesses'.

4. Other than your family, who are the most important people in your life?

Dapple, my lovable one year and three months old Mini Dachshund. She is not just a pet but a loyal companion as well.

5. What would you wish for if you were granted three wishes?

I wish to grow old gracefully, to remain strong and healthy and to develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with my family members.

6. What things couldn't you live without?

Money. While the love of money is the root of all evils, but money on its own, when put to good use, is an essential tool for survival. Without money, we will not be able to meet even the basic needs in life

7. What's your most treasured personal possession?

My health. Money cannot buy me good health. We may have all the money in the world but without good health, we will not be able to enjoy the material possessions we have.

8. Which famous person would you like to meet if you have the opportunity? Why?

Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew. I truly admire him for all that he has done for Singapore. Without him, Singapore will not be where it is today.

9. What is it like to be retired now? How do you fill your days?

This period has to be the most relaxing and enjoyable time of my life. Now that I have retired, I am more carefree and I can live life at my own pace. I can do what I want to do and go where I want to go. I am also able to devote more time to pursue my hobbies as well as engage in voluntary work outside of the YWCA.

There is never a dull moment for me as my days are kept busy and meaningful. I am also actively involved in my church and the Community Centre in my neighbourhood. I joined this craft circle whereby a group of ladies who share the same interest in handicraft work meet regularly once a week to share knowledge as well as learn from one another.

10. How has this volunteering journey help enhance your life?

When I decided to become a volunteer, I did not expect to receive anything in return. I enjoy helping other people and being able to meet their needs is truly a gratifying experience.

My outlook in life is different now. It has taught me to count my blessings and be more appreciative of what I have rather than focus on the things that I do not have. I have also learnt to treasure the people around me more especially my family members and not take them for granted.

Poetry Corner

Blessed Lunar New Year

By Sylvea Wong, a member of YWCA

Let us enter into a grace filled year to bring
peace and service mankind's needs.
By doing with our angpows God's holy will.
Twelve months to serve mankind's needs,
fifty two weeks to do loving deeds;
then trade time wisely for graces that last,
'never a heartache, and never a groan,
never a teardrop and never a moan
never a danger but there on the throne
moment by moment He thinks of His own.'
Moments are fleeting a year will soon pass.
From today let us start to forge that lengthy
chain our selfish thoughts will crumble
as we ease another's pain, and in our deep
heart's silence will hear so gratefully
a kindness done to anyone is a kindness
done to me ...

Quarterly Recipe

This issue's recipe is taken from the YWCA's cookbook "Sharing From the Heart" published in 2007, with 60 recipes contributed by members and friends; and another 20 recipes from YWCA's 1932 and 1986 cookbooks. Copies of "Sharing From the Heart" cookbook are available for purchase from the YWCA National Office. - Editor

Lemon Pepper Grilled Fish



Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 1 whole seabass or any firm white fish, about 500 g
- 1 lemon, peel rind and cut thin slice for 1 Tbsp
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp oyster sauce
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed
- ½ tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp fresh mint leaves, chopped

Method:

Scale the fish, rinse and pat dry with paper towel. Cut 3 slits on each side of fish. Rub with salt and pepper to season fish.

To make the marinade, combine lemon rind, lemon juice, oyster sauce, garlic, sugar and mint leaves in a bowl and mix well. Rub the mixture on both sides of fish. Cover and leave to marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours.

Remove fish from marinade, drain and set aside the marinade for later use.

Grease a baking dish with olive oil. Place fish on the dish and grill for 10—12 minutes or until browned. Heat marinade in microwave for 30 seconds and pour over fish before serving.

HR Announcements

Welcome New Staff

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff joining the team. We welcome Tan Peck Hoon (Part Time Attendant) and Ng Siew Hoon (Language Teacher) at Bishan CDC; Lam On Nah (Learning Support Teacher) at Educational Support Unit; Yong Mung Ha (Teacher) at Marine Drive CDC; Diane Chan (Human Resource & Admin Manager) at NOF; Toh Mui Choo (Full Time Attendant) at Outram CDC; Priscilla Too (Assistant Teacher) at Pasir Ris CDC and Cassandra Kuah (Assistant Teacher) at West Coast CDC.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Loke Kah Hui (Cook), Ho Cheong Sian (Guest Service Officer); Suhaimi Bin Saidun (Room Attendant), Kashvinder Kaur (Duty Manager), Anitha Devi (Guest Relations Assistant), Bob Ng Yeong Siang (Sales Executive, F&B) and Esmeralda Jacinta Glass (Front Office cum Security Manager).

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.

Be Involved! Yes, that means you!

Life Time of Memories

We are looking for past YWCA mementoes and collectible items such as old newsletters, newspaper articles, souvenirs, etc. as part of our efforts to preserve the YWCA's heritage. If you have any old mementoes which you would like to contribute towards this cause, we would love to hear from you! For more information, please contact Ms Karen Chay at tel: 6223 1227.

Volunteers Needed for our Community Services!

Join us as VOLUNTEERS and make a difference in the lives of the needy in our community!

For volunteering opportunities, please visit our website at www.ywca.org.sg or contact Membership at tel: 6223 1227 or email: members@ywca.org.sg.

What's On

Programmes/ Events	Dates (Day)	Time	Venue	Fees	For registration or enquiries, please contact:
Sign Language Course	Saturdays 19 February – 09 April 2011 (8 sessions)	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	YWCA National Office Meeting Room (Level 2) 254 Outram Road, Singapore 169051	\$205 (YWCA Members) \$267 (Non YWCA Members)	Wai Puay email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg
Cooking lessons @ Fort Canning (Series 2)	Saturdays 26 March – 11 June 2011	3.00pm – 6.00pm (Registration starts at 2.15pm)	Fort Canning Lodge, Multipurpose Hall (Level 1) 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	\$15 per lesson (YWCA Member) \$25 per lesson (Non YWCA Member)	Wai Puay Tel: 6223 1227 e-mail: waipuay@ywca.org.sg
Money Investment Talk 2011 for YWCA	Thursday 03 March 2011	Registration and dinner: 6.15pm - 7.15pm Talk Presentation: 7.15pm - 8.30pm	Fort Canning Lodge, Pool Terrace I & II (Level 3) 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	\$15 (YWCA Members & friends of members) (fees are inclusive of a packet dinner and drink)	Wai Puay Tel: 6223 1227 e-mail: waipuay@ywca.org.sg

Child Development Centres

West Coast Child Development Centre

By Jane Wong



Excursion to Bollywood Veggies Farm

One of the holiday programmes organised by our centre during December is a visit to the Bollywood Veggies Farm at Kranji. On the day of the trip, there was fine weather with a gust of cool breeze. The children were all eager and excited as they prepared to set off.

It was a long journey to our destination but with the incessant chatting and singing on the bus, before we knew it, we had already reached the farm. The children could not wait to get down from the bus. A tour guide greeted us at the entrance and explained to us the rules and regulations to be observed while touring the farm. We were then split into 2 groups with a tour guide attached to each group.

The tour guide brought us around the farm and showed us various fruits and vegetables. It was an eye-opening experience for both parents and children to see many different fruits and vegetables grown on the farm. The tour guide explained to us the many facts about each type of fruit and vegetable. All of us learned a lot throughout the journey. We had lots of fun tasting

and touching the different types of fruits and vegetables. The children also took turns to touch, feel and smell the leaves of some vegetables. It was a great time of learning!

At the end of the tour, we had some leisure time to explore the farm ourselves. We took many photos and had the children tell us what they had just learned earlier. We were amazed at how they could remember all the details!

Thereafter, we washed our hands and got ready for lunch. Guess what? We had spaghetti and nuggets for lunch. The children had ice-Milo while the adults had fig tea. Did you know we actually liked the fig tea as it was surprisingly tasty. Some of the parents and teachers even ordered a few bottles to bring home.

Finally, it was time to go home. We thanked the tour guides and boarded the bus. On the way back, some of the children were so tired that they fell asleep. It was indeed a memorable and fun learning experience for all of us.



Year-End Party

We celebrated the closing of the year with a party held on Thursday, 30 December 2010 to thank our parents for their support and participation for the whole year and also to end the year with a big bang. It was also a time for parents, children and staff to together in a light mood to enjoy the festive seasons.

As part of the programme, the children put up song and dance performances for their parents. In addition, the children also did some craft work such as T-shirts, file holders and decorative

art pieces, which were put up for sale. Parents were happy and thrilled to see their children's work being displayed for sale and supported their efforts by purchasing their items. There were also lots of chatting and eating as the parents and children mingled and fellowshiped with one another. It was a fun time of bonding and everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

We will continue to work hard to provide a fulfilling and nurturing environment for our children. We look forward to a better year in 2011.

Child Development Centres

Jurong East Child Development Centre

By Mrs Corrina Lee and teachers of Jurong East CDC

It has been an exciting year for the Jurong East CDC in 2010. To make learning an enjoyable and meaningful journey for our children, the centre has incorporated many enriching programmes and activities into its curriculum. To encourage parental involvement in their children's school life, events were also organised throughout the year for their participation.

I.T Maxplorer



With the technological advancements in today's fast-paced society, computers have become essential tools for classroom learning. Our children have benefitted from the use of computers in our weekly computer classes as this helps them develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. The children are divided into small groups to work on the Maxplorer programme and other educational software.

Parent – Teacher Conference

It is important to build good relationships between parents and teachers. When there is mutual understanding, both parties will be able to agree on common goals for the child and will work together towards what is best for the child. At our centre, parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year in July and December. Parents will be invited to attend the sharing session. Together with the teacher, they will chart their child's progress in school through reports/portfolios. Parent – teacher conferences are good opportunities for parents to discover more about their child and the learning opportunities available at our centre.

Yuhua Children's Day Event



For consecutively 2 years, our centre was invited to participate in the Yuhua Children's Day event organised by the Yuhua Community Club for low-income families living within the vicinities. Mrs Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development & Ministry of Education, graced the event, which was held on a Sunday. Our centre parents were also invited to participate in the event.

At our allocated booth, besides displaying YWCA's banner, pouches and brochures on our child development centres were also distributed to the public to create awareness for the YWCA.

In addition, our centre also set up a game stall which was called "Fish-A-Prize"-"SURE WIN". To do their part for charity, our staff donated the game prizes.

It was a meaningful and rewarding experience for all who participated in the event.

YWCA Christmas Bazaar

In support of the YWCA Christmas Bazaar held on Saturday, 18 December 2010, our centre also participated by renting two stalls – a food stall which sold "Kampong Tidbits" and a game stall, "Fish-A-Prize"-"SURE WIN". The game stall attracted many children, most of whom returned several times to try their hand at fishing for a prize. Nobody went home empty-handed as the "fish pond" was filled with many attractive presents!



There were also many parent-child competitions held to encourage parent-child bonding and one of our nursery one children bagged the third prize in the cupcake decoration contest. The children of some of our staff also chipped in to help by playing the role of an 'elf' and a 'fairy'. They then went around to spread some festive joy and blessings by distributing sweets to the crowd.



Dinner @ Tiffany

During the Centre Awards Ceremony held at the YWCA Annual General Meeting last year, we were honoured to clinch the title of "Best Centre". We were awarded with a trophy as well as a cash prize. To reward and

thank all the staff for their hard work and effort put in over the past year, a staff get-together dinner was held at the Tiffany Café & Restaurant at the Furama City Centre on Friday, 07 January 2011. Everyone was encouraged to attend the function as this casual setting was a good opportunity for the staff to interact with each other and get to know each other better through good food and fun games.

The restaurant offered an international buffet spread which included a wide variety of tantalising and scrumptious food. Everyone ate their fill before proceeding to a fun-filled night of games! It was indeed an unforgettable night of fun and bonding for everyone!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the management for presenting us with this award. We also thank God for seeing us through the year and we pray that He will continue to pour his abundant blessings on us.