

YWCA Link



“ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:7

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October - December Issue



Annual Flag Day 2014



YWCA Beijing Visit



Cook-Outs with UPS



JRP Storytelling Competition



Ms Tan (right) at the Volunteers' & Donors' Appreciation Night 2014 with 1st Vice President, Ms Mavis Tsoi

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me." Psalm 103:2

This is the last issue of 2014 and the articles show the wide range of activities and programmes which YWCA has provided. The extensive activities which were organized for our beneficiaries during this quarter are reported in this issue for your reading.

During this quarter, the Association was busy with activities in all aspects - community services, fundraising and staff training. There were activities for the young and the elderly, including a Story Telling Competition which was a new activity for the YWCA. We also met the Board members and staff from the Beijing YWCA and we exchanged information about our respective associations.

The work of YWCA has made a difference to the lives of our beneficiaries as well as benefiting the lives of volunteers and staff. Friendships and bonds have been formed amongst the volunteers and staff and between volunteers and staff. In volunteering, we ourselves benefit in many ways – developing new skills, making friends and contacts and bringing fulfillment to our lives.

As we approached the end of 2014, we recognised our donors and the volunteers who gave so much of their time and talents at our Volunteers & Donors Appreciation Dinner. As always, the YWCA is grateful to the contributions by our corporate partners, our volunteers and our staff, who are dedicated and committed to make a difference to the lives of our beneficiaries. I hope that we will continue to have their support and contributions in the coming year.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tan Kee Leng, PBM
President
YWCA of Singapore

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AQUA AEROBICS CLASS

EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge
Swimming Pool (Level 3)

Time : 7pm - 8pm (Wednesdays),
7pm - 8pm (Thursdays),
(Friday classes starting in
January 2015)

AQUA SPIN CLASS

EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge
Swimming Pool (Level 3)

Time : 7.45pm - 8.30pm (Mondays),
7.30pm - 8.15pm (Tuesdays),
8.15pm - 9pm (Tuesdays)

KIDS' CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

20 DECEMBER 2014 (SATURDAY)

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge
Sophia Cooke Ballroom (Level 2)

Time : 10am - 1pm

CHINESE NEW YEAR SHOPPING

7 FEBRUARY 2015 (SATURDAY)

Venue : YWCA Outram

Time : 9am - 5.30pm

For more information, please visit our website at www.ywca.org.sg or call us at 6223 1227.

Venues

YWCA OUTRAM
254 Outram Road Singapore 169051

YWCA FORT CANNING LODGE
6 Fort Canning Road Singapore 179494



Give us a thumbs up today to receive the latest news about our exciting events and programmes!

www.facebook.com/ywcasingapore



ComChest Orange Day 2014

By Nicole Chua



Community Chest organised a mass beach picnic under the Care & Share Movement on Saturday 6 September. This community event brought together over 1,500 individuals consisting of corporate volunteers, student groups, Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs), beneficiaries, caregivers, and members of the public in hopes to inculcate a caring and sharing mind-set amongst the community in Singapore.

The YWCA of Singapore was provided with a booth to sell homemade butter cookies, chocolate chip cookies and chocolate fudge brownies. We raised a total of \$842 from this community event.

Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth was the Guest-of-Honour for the day, and graced the community event, gamely participating in forming the biggest heart using picnic mats.

The beach was filled with an array of carnival activities such as a treasure hunt, sandcastle building, pony rides and entertaining performances.

In line with Singapore's upcoming 50th year of independence in 2015, the Care & Share Movement aims to mobilise Singaporeans to contribute to a worthwhile cause and push social services for the needy. As part of the Care & Share Movement, donations raised by each participating VWO will be matched dollar-for dollar by the government. The YWCA of Singapore is glad and proud to be a part of this initiative!

If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so via www.give.sg or www.giveasia.org. Alternatively, our donation form can also be downloaded from our website at www.ywca.org.sg!

YWCA Beijing Visit

By Stephanie Hung

On Tuesday 4 November, we were privileged to host our friends from YWCA Beijing during an exchange session at Fort Canning Lodge. 15 board members, members, volunteers and staff graced us with their presence, along with our very own Board Members and staff.

The session started off with a scrumptious buffet spread at the Café Lodge, which gave our visitors a chance to be introduced to and indulge in some of the local food such as Bak Kut Teh, Mee Siam, Rojak and Pulut Hitam! As all tucked into the delicious spread, meaningful conversations spanning experiences throughout the years at YWCA to sharing about each other's culture ensued.

Following lunch, there was a presentation by both parties about the services and activities that each offers. We were then treated to a performance by three of the ladies who performed a routine with fans with elegance and poise to traditional Chinese music. All in all, it was a meaningful afternoon during which new friendships were formed and life stories exchanged. Thank you to our friends from YWCA Beijing for spending the afternoon with us!



Singapore Polytechnic's EXPERIENCE 2014

By Stephanie Hung

On Thursday 18 September, the YWCA was invited to showcase our Association at Singapore Polytechnic's inaugural Social Innovation Project (SIP) event titled Experience 2014. The aim of the event was to promote awareness and engage participants on social issues affecting our community by bringing together like-minded individuals. This year's theme was Urban Poverty and the event shed light on the fact that there is much poverty in our midst, despite living in cosmopolitan Singapore.

The afternoon's programme commenced with a performance by Applied Drama students re-enacting different families representing 3 different stages of urban poverty. This was followed by an opening address by Mr Tan Choon Shuan, Principle and CEO of Singapore Polytechnic. The keynote address was given by Mr Laurence Lien, Chairman of the Lien Foundation, who spoke of the right and wrong perspectives of poverty. He provided many insights into the individual, situational, structural and cyclical factors that cause poverty in our society and highlighted that our income inequality has increased much more rapidly than other countries. He challenged innovation, so that we can deliver services to the poor and not only the rich, and also encouraged empathy and understanding by social organisations and the public, rather than just providing the bare necessities.

After the activities in the auditorium, the participants roamed around the booths featuring students' projects and some Voluntary Welfare Organisations. The YWCA was pleased to be one of such organisations present there and we were delighted to be able to share more about what we do and the different ways one can help.

Thank you to the staff of Singapore Polytechnic for inviting us down and to all the participants and students who dropped by our booth to find out more, donated rations or funds, or signed up to be a volunteer! We enjoyed meeting and talking to you and hope to see you at our events and programmes in the future!



EVENTS

Kids' Club Christmas Party

By Ling Goh

What does the phrase 'Mele Kalikimaka' have to do with this year's highly anticipated Kids' Club Christmas Party?

It's a phrase we hope everyone will learn to say as they wish one another a 'Hawaiian Merry Christmas' to suit the Party's 2014 theme! Indeed, what better way to spend Christmas in our tropical Singapore with inspiration from another sunny isle. The big event on Saturday, 20 December from 10am to 1pm is assured to evoke feelings of the island paradise and give the beneficiary children and their parents a taste of travel even in their circumstances.

To make the Party even more fun for the targeted 150 children who are attending, fringe activities include a Mobile Art Lab where kids and adults alike can create their own portraits, which will later be part of an art project for SG50, Singapore's 50th jubilee year; a sponsored candy floss machine; bouncy castle; and an exclusive Hawaiian photo booth where you can flash the aloha sign to the camera and put on hula and luau inspired props. There will be performances by the Kids' Club ukulele group and a professional hula dancer who will guide the audience in picking up a few hula dance steps too. Our volunteer emcee from last year has even gamely agreed to come with a coconut shell top and grass skirt on top of her costume.

The Party and its traditional Bursary Awards and Christmas Wishlist will of course be a main feature and could not be possible without our priceless donors who seek to share their blessings with others at this special, goodwill-filled time. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every one of them, and to everyone who is making this Party possible.



Annual Dinner & Dance

By Stephanie Hung



On Saturday 6 September, over 200 YWCA staff gathered at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge's Sophia Cooke Ballroom for the much anticipated Annual Staff Dinner & Dance. This year's theme was 'Masquerade' and as evening fell, an array of masked faces filed into the venue in an excited chatter. The different masks were somewhat meaningful as they symbolised each of our individual differences and characters. All the masks joined together to create a great and colourful room, just like how each staff member at YWCA contribute to making the Association what it is today. Needless to say, everyone had a ball dressing up for the event!

As Ms Tan Kee Leng gave her opening speech, the staff were invited to reflect on the many successful events and milestones of the year, as well as give thanks for all the blessings and celebrate their hard work. Everyone was then treated to a sumptuous buffet spread and much fun and laughter ensued as they were led in playing a range of amusing games. The blessing draw was a great way to end a memorable night.

Annual Flag Day 2014

By Nicole Chua

We are proud to announce that once again, we have achieved our goal of raising at least \$50,000 for Flag Day! This year, Flag Day was held on Saturday 20 September and involved a tremendous effort of 400 volunteers and staff. They spread out island-wide, braving the heat and the rain to solicit funds from the public. 5 operation centres were set up; Fort Canning Lodge, Velocity at Novena, Jurong East MRT Station, Ang Mo Kio MRT Station and Pasir Ris MRT Station.

Along with generous donations of \$10,000 each from the Lee Foundation and Binjai Tree Foundation, we have received a total of \$61,330. All proceeds will be channelled towards sustaining the YWCA's community services as such Hungry No More, Kids' Club, Workz-on-Wheels, Youth Centre and YWCA House.

The YWCA would like to thank and applaud all staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment towards making this another successful Flag Day. Additionally, we would also like to thank all donors for their generous contributions.

Next year's Flag Day will be held on Saturday, 15 August 2015. If you would like to volunteer with us as a fundraiser, kindly drop us an email at volunteer@ywca.org.sg.

For more photos of the event and all our other events, head on over to our Official YWCA Singapore Facebook page now!



Senior Citizens' Lunch By Kwok Shuyi

Throughout history, senior citizens have had countless achievements for our families, communities and country. They have been such fine examples of responsibility, resourcefulness, competence, and determination for us. Therefore, we thought it was only fitting to set aside a special day every year to honour and celebrate them. They are the ones who have done so much for us and mean even more to our community.

many smiles throughout the room, and those who knew the film well sang along gleefully. In a similar fashion to last year, a tasty Peranakan spread was subsequently served at the Sophia Cooke Ballroom while old and new friends engaged in an endless happy chatter, and everyone basked in the company of such golden friends.

The event kicked off with a movie screening by reminiscing the old-time classic of Mary Poppins. Refreshments were served, and songs were sung throughout the film show. There were

A huge thank you to the 106 friends who joined us in celebrating this special occasion, and for making the day meaningful with your presence! We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did. See you again next year!



Volunteers' & Donors' Appreciation Night

By Alice Chua



On 31 October, we held our annual Volunteers' & Donors' Appreciation Night at Fort Canning Lodge's Sophia Cooke Ballroom to express our appreciation to our precious volunteers and donors. We are very grateful to have a pool of dedicated volunteers and donors ranging from the YWCA Board and Committee Members, corporates, church groups, schools, organizations, individuals and students. They have all given their time, effort and money to support and sustain our community programmes.

We had 140 guests join us that night which included a series of fun and exciting activities and performances. They snapped pictures with their colleagues and friends at our very own photobooth and tucked into candy floss and popcorn throughout the night. One of the highlights was undoubtedly the caricature booth which drew a long queue of guests!

The event began with a welcome speech by our President, Ms Tan Kee Leng. She shared that our volunteers have given over 9,000 hours this year! With the volunteers' help, we have also saved a significant amount of money which was only possible because of their invaluable commitment and service. This year's 'Thank You' video featured our volunteers in action in our different community services and programmes.

A delicious buffet dinner was prepared, with the menu specially planned by our Head Chef at Fort Canning Lodge, Ms Anne Loh. After tucking in, the guests commented that they were impressed that the food was catered in-house! A lineup of performances were planned, starting with a Ukulele performance by the YWCA Kids' Club children, followed by dance items from McNair and Bishan Child Development Centres. Ms Tan and 1st Vice President, Ms Mavis Tsoi then presented Certificates of Appreciation to our regular volunteers and YWCA Board and Committee Members. The night ended with a dance performance by teachers from Jurong Child Development Centre.

We would like to thank all the staff who helped to decorate the venue and extended their help in various ways that night. Of course, we would also like to thank all our volunteers and donors who came, as well as those who were not able to make it. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged in our community!

Cook-Outs 3 & 4 with UPS By Stephanie Hung

On the bright and sunny morning of Saturday 27 September, a group of 30 corporate volunteers from UPS gathered enthusiastically at our Adult Day Centre to cook a delicious lunch for 230 elderly and 20 children from our Meals-on-Wheels programme. The menu was an extensive and delectable one, planned by our staff. It featured Fried Rice with mixed vegetables, mushrooms, white bait and sausages with omelette and fried dumplings. Dessert was a sweet affair comprising of Barley with Beancurd Skin.

Nine other UPS volunteers had come down the day before for the food preparation, which helped to speed things up on Saturday morning. Thus, the whole operation was seemingly smooth and efficient, so much so that we finished the cooking and packing in record time! After loading up the volunteer driver's cars, they sped off to deliver the lunches made with love to our grateful beneficiaries all across the island.

After the cookout, the volunteers shared that it was a meaningful experience for them as they were able to partake in it with their colleagues and friends, and thus bond in a different environment outside of the office. Furthermore, with each person playing a different role, the Cook-Out enhanced their cooperation and teamwork.

A month later, on Saturday 25 October, 27 different corporate volunteers from UPS arrived at our premises to cook for our beneficiaries once more. This time, the menu comprised of Nasi Lemak Rice with fried chicken wing, Sambal egg, stuffed Tau Pok, baby Chye Sim and Chin Chow with Longang for dessert! Once again, it was heart-warming to witness everybody coming together in a seamless fashion to prepare the food, and even the volunteers' kids were eagerly pining for things to do so that they could help out too.

After delivering the packed lunch to over 270 beneficiaries in various homes and centres, the volunteers returned to YWCA to enjoy the food and celebrate another successful Cook-Out.

Well done to all who came down on both occasions, and thank you for your hard work!



Kids' Club September Holidays Programme

By Ling Goh

This September school holidays, the Kids' Club opened up the kitchenette at YWCA for the children to try their hands at cooking and baking, amongst other activities. Regular tuition sessions for the Kids' Club continued on Wednesday, 10 September as the exam period was fast approaching. But a fun spin on the usual activity was added with a preview of making Shrink Art keychains. Even the volunteer tutors tried their hand at this creative exercise.

On Thursday, 11 September, Meals-on-Wheels volunteer Victor and his lovely wife Georgette came down to conduct a special culinary workshop to teach 14 children how to make Creamy Baked Tomato Pasta. It was so good that they gobbled down their own portions and brought the rest home to their parents. Georgette sponsored culinary sets with adorable child-friendly cooking implements like mixers and spatulas to inspire the little chefs in training and they were overjoyed to receive this gift.

The next day, YWCA staff Stephanie imparted to the 15 very enthused children the art of making Thumbprint Jam Cookies. Some children got the hang of making deeper thumb imprints just so they could add more yummy jam! The session also felt more special because of a former Kids' Club beneficiary, now in Secondary 1 returned to join and guide the session, using her personal talent for baking to ably help the younger kids. They

proudly packed their baked goodies at the end of the session once again to share with family and friends.

The week culminated in an all-out Sponge Water Bomb fight after trying their hands at the Shrink Art keychain. The 21 kids explored different keychain designs, some writing their names or drawing things they liked, and some achieving an unintended sculptural keychain shaped like twisted glass when the malleable plastic keychain shrunk in the oven in an exquisite and chance way.

But the highlight of the session was after cutting and tying sponges together to make water bombs. After amassing their "weaponry", donning their "armour" of a cut-out trash bag to keep them from getting wet, the YWCA Outram carpark gate was slid shut. Each team's "castle" was demarcated as the kids went amok to secure a "flag" from the opposing team without getting "bombed"! It was tonnes of fun and afterwards, we even recycled the sponges.





MOWE Outing to Moonfest 'Laugh Out Loud'

By Ling Goh

Crosstalk is an art form that plays on words in the Chinese language that seeks to bring laughter and joy to audiences. Ever since we looked at this year's Esplanade's Moonfest Mid-Autumn Festival Programme highlights and spotted the "Laugh Out Loud!" performance by accomplished crosstalk artists, we wanted to bring the Meals-on-Wheels for Elderly beneficiaries for this engaging show.

To our dismay, tickets were priced a bit high and we concluded we would have to find an alternative event to bless the lives of our needy elderly, until the Esplanade emailed to inform us that a kind sponsor, TKH Lighting, had heard of our appeal for tickets and decided to render their aid. They very generously bought us 40 tickets for these exclusive seats, which we filled with uplifted elderly and accompanying volunteers.

It was very heartening to see the elderly dressed up in their best, have a spring in their step (even in wheelchairs), and the few volunteers who came went above and beyond to act like their children and see to it that their needs were met. One old lady even divulged that this was her very first time at the Esplanade, the famous "Durian" which she never thought she would be able to visit. Many were very grateful for the opportunity to see such crosstalk talents in hearty action and enjoy a good laugh through the vicissitudes of life.



AG Home - Thumbprint Cookies

By Nicole Chua



During the school holidays, girls from the AG Home enthusiastically headed to our YWCA Youth Centre for a baking session on Tuesday 9 September. Our new team member, Stephanie facilitated the session and taught the girls how to make thumbprint jam cookies. They had a lot of fun being adventurous by experimenting with different types of fillings apart from jam, such as Nutella!

As we approach the year-end school holidays, we will be holding more baking and arts & craft sessions. The youths can also look forward to an outing to the River Safari.

If you are interested to join our sessions, feel free to contact at us youthcentre@ywca.org.sg!

Sustenance Packing with Charles & Keith

By Stephanie Hung

On the morning of Friday 17 October, 23 kindhearted corporate volunteers from Charles & Keith came down to NTUC Silver ACE @ Redhill to pack rations for 108 needy and elderly households as part of our Sustenance for Families Programme. The operation was a swift one, with the volunteers systematically forming an assembly line and delegating tasks to each other. In no time, the rations were packed and they headed out in pairs to deliver the bags to the nearby blocks. It was an enjoyable experience for all as they interacted with the elderly, some of whom were so kind as to even invite them in for a cup of coffee or tea! We are grateful to Charles & Keith for their enthusiasm and willing hearts and hands.



WoW Sunbeam Place - Job Interview Skills Workshop

By Alice Chua

We have been partnering with Sunbeam Place for the past year conducting various workshops. The home has always been very supportive in providing constructive feedback about our workshops and has continually approached us with new topics based on the children's or youth's needs.

As part of our new initiative, the home invited us to conduct sessions for the youth who are seeking employment during their school holidays. We were blessed to have our generous volunteer facilitators, Ms Daniella and Ms Mariam conduct the sessions with the youth. Ms Daniella works at the US Embassy in Singapore while Ms Mariam has a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management.



During the first session on 30 June, Ms Daniella introduced resume and cover letter writing to the youth. As most of the youth did not have previous working experience, they were encouraged to list down their involvement in their Co-Curriculum Activities in school. Following this, Ms Daniella guided them in writing a resume to aid them in applying for jobs that interested them.

Ms Mariam was the facilitator for the subsequent sessions. The second session in August explored the different stages of the interview process. A video was shown about the relevant preparation needed before attending an interview. Additionally, she shared the dos and don'ts when attending an interview and guided them in writing a thank you email to follow up after the interview. The youth also participated in role-play, after which they were encouraged to provide feedback to their peers so that everyone could learn from each other.

We had a sharing session centred on one's values and mind-set during the interview process in the third session in September.

After the session, the youth were asked to complete a skills and personality test. From the test, we hoped to identify and build on the strengths and areas of improvement of each youth.

For the final session, each of the youth were given their test result and we had a group discussion. Ms Mariam kindly treated everyone to some yummy cupcakes and goodies to celebrate their hard work in completing all four sessions of the Job Interview Skills Workshops series! We ended the session by presenting each one with a Certificate of Participation. At first, they were quite shy come up and receive their certificate, however afterwards they felt a visible sense of accomplishment.

As the New Year is approaching, we are planning lots of fun and interesting topics to conduct with our partners next year. We welcome all who have a passion to interact with the children and youth to join us to make a difference. Please contact Ms Alice Chua at volunteer@ywca.org.sg or 6223 1227 for more information.

Staff Training By Tracy Er



The YWCA has always placed a strong emphasis on the continual professional development of our staff. We believe that the quality of pre-school provision depends greatly on the principals and teachers and how adequately equipped they are. Thus, quality education for them in turn leads to quality education for the children attending our centres.

We held the annual staff training for our principals and teachers on 7 and 8 July. A variety of workshops were chosen to maintain their standard of professional competency and allow them to continue to provide the best care and programmes for our children.

On 7 July, there were 3 workshops running concurrently. One of the workshops was by trainer and professional storyteller, Ms Jessie Goh. Ms Goh imparted various skills and techniques that can be used in getting children 'hooked' onto books by making lessons fun and engaging. The goal of this was to create an association of books with positive experiences, thereby establishing a lifelong reading habit that will support their educational journey.

The second workshop was by Ms Lavina Chong and was centred on Music & Movement for pre-schoolers. Ms Chong used a kinaesthetic and exploratory methodology whilst teaching staff how to engage children through singing, bodily percussion, locomotive movement, improvisation and instrumental play. The workshop additionally encouraged participants to explore ways to stretch songs, chants and rhymes for children to internalize the music concepts and make learning fun and meaningful.

On the same day, our Chinese teachers attended a full day workshop entitled 'Managing Children's Behaviour in the Classroom and Teaching Phonetics through Games, Rhymes and Storytelling' in which they learned various methods of storytelling and gained insights into classroom management.

Our second day of training was full of fun and excitement. The morning downpour of rain did not stop our staff from braving Fort Canning Park. Led by sports personnel from Basileus Sports, the staff put their muscles to the test during a 40 minute walk up to Fort Canning Hill. This was followed by a body workout of Zumba and Taiji.

Joy of Reading Programme Story Telling Competition 2014 By Belinda Tan

Storytelling is an art that has mental, social and educational benefits for children. People of all generations love stories. Children, especially pre-schoolers, are great fans of stories as they are a source of excitement and immense entertainment for them. We were thrilled to hold our inaugural storytelling competition which provided a platform to promote our children's love for stories and boost their self-confidence in public speaking.

Four semi-finals were held at a Zone Level in August with participation from our young, enthusiastic participants aged four to six years old. The grand final was held on Saturday 18 October at Fort Canning Lodge. The judges and audience were all entertained and delighted by our little storytellers, eagerly furnished with their props and stories from many genres.

Following the competition, the 18 finalists received certificates of participation and gifts such as books, vouchers and toys. The top three winners from each category were also awarded with trophies to commemorate the wonderful and memorial event. All the prizes and trophies were generously provided by the YWCA Joy of Reading Programme, as well as Ms Linda Loo, September 21 Enterprise Pte Ltd and Top Wisdom Educational Publisher, who joined us in our desire to promote reading in the early years and contributed towards making this event a successful one.



A Meaningful Birthday Celebration

As part of Priya Muthusamy and her family's September birthday celebrations, they decided to contact the YWCA to ask for one of our Flag Day donation tins. This year, instead of accepting gifts from their loved ones, they collected \$1,002 of donations to fund the YWCA's community services and programmes. We were truly touched by this act of kindness and selflessness and wish to thank the Muthusamy family for their heartfelt generosity!



NOF Staff Dinner

On Thursday 13 November, over 20 staff from YWCA's National Office gathered for the annual staff dinner. This year, it was held at Buffet Town in Raffles City, and all arrived in eager anticipation for the buffet spread. For the next few hours, everyone was treated to the delicious food which featured an international spread of cuisines including Chili Crab, fresh Sashimi, Peranakan food, western delights and an enticing dessert station. Everyone enjoyed themselves, indulging in the good food and even better company!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome on Board

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff to the team. We welcome Guan Wei as Language Teacher at Bedok CDC, Wo Shijie as Language Teacher and Jing Shiyu as Cleaner at Bukit Gombak CDC, Yang Caizhu as Teacher at Jurong East CDC, Dong XianMei as Language Teacher at Marine Parade CDC, Foo Pih Yea as Teacher at Pasir Ris CDC, and Zhang Yue as Language Teacher and Tham Weifen Stephanie as Senior Teacher at West Coast CDC.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Pence Koh Chun Nguan as Banquet Sales Executive, Kishok Rajandran as Technician, Sathiskumar Maniraj as Room Attendant and Johnson Philip as Sales Manager (Rooms).

At the National Office, we welcome Chong Kim Li as Senior HR & Admin Manager and Lim Mei Yin, Fawn Christal as Administrative Officer.



As the winner of the Best Performing Centre Award 2013, Pasir Ris CDC has displayed their commitment by going the extra mile to help every child to reach their full potential, with every teacher demonstrating an outstanding dedication and professionalism. Madam Ho, principal of Pasir Ris CDC gave us more insights into the approach that the Centre takes to mould their children into capable and independent individuals.

What do you think makes Pasir Ris CDC special?

I think what makes Pasir Ris CDC special is our welcoming, friendly and happy atmosphere. All our staff are very approachable, and we have a good staff ratio with good teamwork.

Could you share some of the major milestones or happenings at your CDC this year?

One of the major milestones at our CDC this year was the setting up of our very first Parent Support Group (PSG). Since we believe in building a collaborative partnership with families, we invited this group of parents to contribute ideas and participate in our centre's events and celebrations. For example, during this year's Children's Day celebration, our PSG spontaneously performed children's song items for our children. One of our parents, Mr Art Lim, also volunteered to teach our K1 and K2 children how to create cartoon animations using the interactive whiteboard. All of them enjoyed the session tremendously! We wish to thank our PSG once again for their valuable contributions and we look forward to our next collaborative event – the Year End Concert!

How have you instilled the YWCA core values of service, compassion, commitment, respect and teamwork in your centre?

We strive to provide good quality services to our children, parents, and families. We respect our parents, families and staff's rights, feelings, differences, and unique contributions. Our staff are cooperative and work very closely as a team. We teach our children to show compassion for others through storybooks, real life situations and incidental learning. We also recognise our staff's commitment to their job.

What makes a good centre?

I think a good centre is one that is safe and nurturing, with a team of dedicated and caring staff who build good rapport with one another as well as with the families. Most importantly, the children are placed at the heart of the curriculum and focus is not only on academics, but also on character building and lifelong learning skills.

What are some of the challenges that Pasir Ris CDC faced this year and how were they overcome?

We faced the constraints of space especially when it came to setting up learning corners for children. However, we overcame this challenge by purchasing movable trolleys to display our learning centre materials for children to access. There were also rare occasions when we faced shortage of staff, but our teachers stayed united and volunteered to work extra hours. This is the spirit that kept us going!

Could you share a funny or inspiring story about one of your children?

I remember how excited our K2 children felt when they knew they could perform a dance for our Muzikalthon this year. When asked what they would like to perform, a few of the girls suggested performing a dance to the song "Let It Go". However, due to time constraints, we did not really have time to practise with them. "Do you want to come up with your own dance steps first?" we asked the children. They all happily agreed. In the end, what we saw was a group of girls choreographing their very own dance steps! Some were leaders and some were followers, but they all enjoyed expressing their moves in their very own unique ways. If we had not given them a voice in choreographing of the dance, we would not have discovered the hidden talents of our children. Children are indeed capable and competent well-beings!