



# HORIZON

Yio Chu Kang Secondary School

Newsletter

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## Our Experiences



## Our Stories

PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE , SERVICE TO ALL



Held on 31st January to 2nd February, the Secondary 1 Camp Discovery aimed to help students achieve the following:

- ★ Discover and affirm own strengths, needs and values.
- ★ Apply self-leadership skills to transit successfully from primary to secondary school.
- ★ Learn and apply the Student Leadership Challenge Model by Kouzes and Posner.
- ★ Bond with the peers through pro-social and team-building activities.
- ★ Learn and appreciate the flora and fauna of our Singapore Wetlands.

Through lots of experiential learning and team-building activities, the students learnt more about themselves, their peers and their environment as well as develop the necessary self-leadership skills that will help them adapt and thrive in their secondary school life.



*"Through Camp Discovery, we strengthened our leadership skills and learnt more about our new classmates. The activities we participated in helped us improve our outlook in life and prepare us for the future. The instructors taught me how to better myself and through the challenges, we developed a growth mindset. I thoroughly enjoyed all the activities not only because it was fun, it also bonded us as a class and helped us strengthen our class spirit."*



Lim Xin Hui Venus, 1A1



Held on 31st January to 2nd February, the Secondary Two Camp Synergy aimed to help students achieve the following:

- ★ Appreciate diversity and work together to foster better understanding of one another;
- ★ Develop teamwork and inter-personal skills through a series of exciting and challenging activities.
- ★ Develop social awareness.
- ★ Learn and apply the Student Leadership Challenge Model by Kouzes and Posner.

The camp fostered greater ties within the class as they worked through challenges and problems as a team. Students also applied the Student Leadership Challenge Model when they embarked on their Amazing Race at Sentosa and their learning journeys at the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Discovery Centre.



*"I think that the level camp was very engaging for my classmates and I. Through the games and activities, we were challenged to work in a team and to hone our leadership skills. We also forged stronger bonds with our classmates as a result. I hope that there will be another level camp next year so that I can form friendships with my new classmates in Secondary 3."*

Olivia Yi-Le Hatton, 2E1



*"The Secondary 2 Level Camp was really interesting. We had very lively facilitators who made the whole experience better. We also went to Sentosa for the Amazing Race and I felt that the activities planned for the race were really fun. My class used this opportunity to bond and foster stronger class spirit!"*

Suresh Kumar Thiriveni, 2E2



## Secondary 3 Camp Resilience



The Secondary Three Camp Resilience was held at Focus Adventure Faculty, Sentosa from 31st January to 2nd February, and aimed to achieve the following:

- ★ Develop resilience through their participation in various challenging outdoor activities.
- ★ Build students' self-confidence.
- ★ Learn values of respect, responsibility and teamwork through experiential learning.

*"My experiences at camp were incredible and memorable. My favourite part of the camp was trying out the dragon boat. It was my first time trying it out and it was fascinating. I learnt how to control the boat and keep the boat stable. The camp instructors were very nice and sporting, they were able to motivate us to overcome our fears and worries. Throughout the camp, I built many new friendships and was able to bond better with everyone. If I ever have the chance to attend the camp again, I would be more than happy to participate it."*



Julia Cheah Suan Yi, 3E1



*"My experience in the camp was filled with joy and challenges. I recalled that teamwork and communication were the most important factors in completing the mission given. As such, I managed to overcome my fear of heights through much support from my friends. Therefore, this camp taught me that through the support from your friends, you can go a long way."*



Chua Ming Rong, 3E1



## Secondary 4 Camp Future



Held from 31st January to 2nd February, Secondary Four Camp Future aimed to achieve the following:

- ★ Create a personal portfolio.
- ★ Acquire key knowledge to make informed decisions about their education pathways.
- ★ Learn and apply grooming skills.
- ★ Learn and apply social skills like networking and the ability to engage in conversations.
- ★ Learn and apply interview skills.



On the final day, the school conducted the Career Discovery Seminar with the theme 'Discover Your Purpose, Follow Your Dreams & Prepare Your Future'. The highlight was a panel of established speakers from various professions and industries who shared their experiences in their fields of work. It was a valuable opportunity for our students to find out more about the possible career paths during the interactive panel discussions.

*"We were able to understand other classmates better and form deep bonds. Not only did we learn about the school's tradition, we also participated in unique and fun games. Learning, experiencing and playing together, made a memorable and significant memory for all of us."*

Chu Chiao Xuan, 4E4

*"I got to make a lot of friends whom I've never communicated with before. The level camp helped to have more knowledge about having interviews too! The camp has helped me to have more confidence and bond with lots of students and teachers."*

Ashreena Bte Mohamed Zakir H, 4E4

The Chinese New Year celebrations started off with a roar this year, with the Lion Dance Troupe's enthralling performance. Following that, Pan Xiao Di and Li Shuyao from Sec 4 HCL class captivated the audience with a Chinese dance accompanied by the guzheng.

*"It was a memorable and rewarding experience to showcase Chinese culture and art proudly. I also wanted to express my gratitude to the teachers who provided us with this opportunity and supported us thoroughly. To prepare for the performance, I attended additional Chinese Dance lessons during the holidays. When we received cheers and applause during and after our performance, I felt that all the effort was put in have paid off."*

 Pan Xiaodi, 4E2

*"While we faced some difficulties choreographing, the dance members have emerged closer than they already were before and it also helped us to grow as dancers."*

 Honey Oo, 3E1



Gao Muzi from 4E1 went on to mesmerise everyone with a lovely piano recital and rendition of the song “想把我唱给你听” together with Chen Si Jia of 4E4. The Drama Club members also put up an entertaining skit, bringing across the spirit of Lunar New Year and the importance of Total Defence. The school was also entertained by a vibrant dance movement that was choreographed by the school's Modern Dance Group.




The dance was followed by an entertaining video prepared by the Infocomm-media club, starring our own teachers and students. The audience then showcased their knowledge of the festival with their active participation in the quiz that was held. Prizes were also presented by Mrs Carol Lim for the Classroom Decoration Competition. The Symphonic Band gave a rousing performance next and the celebration ended on a high note with the CNY mass singing led by the choir members.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Elementz Science Research Conference and Exhibition

*"We were grateful to have the opportunity to learn beyond the textbook and classroom. Walking around looking at other schools' projects during the exhibition also allowed us to learn from others. It was an eye-opening experience."*

 Chua Cheng Yi, 4E1

*"Through this Elementz project, I have learnt more about the people who have disabilities with their sight and how our prototype can help to improve their current situation. This also allowed me to put myself in the shoes of the visually impaired and think of what I could do to improve the prototype."*

 Kok Yen Chin, Kenneth, 4E2

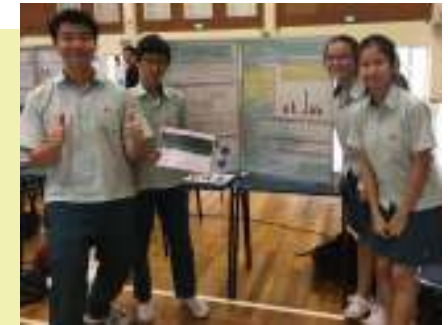


The 19<sup>th</sup> Elementz Science Research Conference and Exhibition was held on 9 and 11 April 2018. It is a platform for students to develop and showcase their aptitude and potential for science inquiry and problem solving. This year's conference theme was "Brave New World: Ideas that transform lives" and it was held at Anderson Junior College. The selected students were from 4E1, 4E2 and 4E3 and their research projects were:

- ★ Investigation on bacteria transfer from a surface to food.
- ★ Effect of detergent on bacteria accumulated on school tables.
- ★ Effect of storage temperature and method on starch retrogradation in bread.
- ★ Prevention of accidents caused by Personal Mobility Devices along shared pathways.
- ★ Investigation of Memory Techniques to improve the memory of the elderly.
- ★ Obstruction detector for the visually impaired.



The 4E2 team comprising of Kok Yen Chin Kenneth, Ly Nathan, Senthil Kumar Shambhavi, Yap Tian Qi and Jolene Chua Ding Juan brought honour to the school with a Silver award for their research on the obstruction detector for the visually impaired. Another team made up of Koh Wei Ping, Cheng Zihao, Zhang Miaoding and Tan Jun Wei who investigated on memory techniques to help the elderly was awarded Bronze. The remaining four teams also received Certificates of Commendation. The school is proud of everyone of them.



The programme which was held in Term 2, Week 3 and 4 is part of the school's effort in engaging students in the learning of Mother Tongue Languages through interactive and experiential learning about culture and language. It is in support of MOE initiatives in encouraging students to be active learners and users of their respective Mother Tongue Languages. Students were proactive and engaged in these activities:

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Malay:                             | Chinese:                             |
| ★ Silat & Malay Musical Workshop   | ★ Enhance Reading Workshop           |
| ★ Dikir Barat Workshop             | ★ Oral Workshop                      |
| ★ Learning Journey to Kampong Glam | ★ Chinese Traditional Craft Workshop |
| ★ Batik Painting Workshop          | ★ My Story – School Tour             |



- Tamil:
- ★ Indian Leaf Painting
  - ★ Drama Workshop
  - ★ Folk Dance & Drama Workshop



*"The Silat and Malay Musical instrument workshops were very engaging and interesting. I learnt how to perform Silat which is quite energetic. The words used to perform Silat are new to me. I also tried to play Kompang and Angklung. It was quite easy. I learnt to coordinate with others to perform a song using the Angklung and Kompang. In class, we also got to play word games and traditional games."*

Nur Amelia Farid Long, 1A1 

*"The CL oral workshop was beneficial as they taught us the techniques to obtain high marks and good grades. The My Story workshop was also interesting and enjoyable as it was presented by an actor, Alloy Pang. He used himself as an example to prove that everyone can learn Chinese well even though they are not proficient at it. This encouraged us a lot."*

Su Yamin Htwe, 3E1 





Health Fiesta Week, culminating in Sports Carnival Day, is much anticipated by the students. They are engaged in physical robustness and healthy lifestyle through a variety of fun and simple activities. There is no better medium than sports to enhance social cohesion and interaction for students from all levels to interact.

The YCK Challenge is one highlight in a range of the interesting activities during the week long Health Fiesta, which took place from 26 to 29 March 2018. Students bonded through immersive games using digital tablets. The use of IT devices proved to be a fun way to clock the extra healthy steps in a fun and engaging way. On Sports Carnival Day itself, every student and staff pitched their best in friendly sportsmanship.



*"It was indeed a very memorable final Sports Carnival for me as I had lots of laughter and fun with my classmates and teachers during the Frisbee game."*

 Pavitra, 4T1

*"To me, dancing is a form of sport as well and I had a wonderful time leading and dancing with my fellow school mates as we got together to dance for the school."*

 Honey Oo, 3E1



At the Sports Carnival, the students were spoiled for choice. With a long list of sports which included Parachute Volleyball, Captain's Basketball, Netball, Floorball, Frisbee, Handball, Water Soccer, Bubble Soccer and Tag Archery. Besides outdoor sports, there were indoor activities in the hall where students were stomping to the beat of the latest pop songs. Students were taught awesome moves by the dance instructors. Parents and staff also joined in the fun especially in Parachute Volleyball. It was indeed a day of celebration, friendship and camaraderie.



*"We had so much fun wearing the bubble suits! Trying to get the ball was rather hilarious as we had to see through our bubble suits and we had so much difficulty keeping straight faces as we knocked into each other trying to score a goal. We were so proud of ourselves as we emerged as the Champions of Bubble Soccer."*



Izzul Syahiran, 4E5



Showtime was created to give students an avenue for self-expression because of the talents emerging from the school's Arts, Media and Design Programme. Showtime provides a conducive space for students after school to come forward to entertain their peers, performing in an informal setting with full technical facilities. Through opportunities such as this, the school has discovered many creative gems. In the process staff and students were awestruck by the courage and spirit these students exhibited through their desire to share their gifts. The enthusiasm was evident and the performance on 28 March 2018 won the hearts and admiration of many in the audience.



*"I am very glad that my team was chosen to perform for YCKSS's first Showtime. Through this Showtime, I developed teamwork, perseverance and patience. It was challenging to meet up with my dance members given our different schedule and we have a member who did not know the dance moves at all. While I felt really nervous performing given that it was my first performance in my secondary school and that it was in front of my new friends and seniors, I felt elated after the performance and am looking forward to perform for the next Showtime!"*

 Joanne Ang Sui Li, 1E1



*“It was heartening to see everyone so supportive and how the audience cheered on the performers so enthusiastically. All the effort that was put into each number was visible in how passionately they sang, strummed or even danced. At the end of the concert, my hands were numb from clapping too much.”*

There is no business like show business! This rang true in YCKSS when the idea of Showtime was introduced to the student population. The buzz and excitement was immediate. Music teacher, Mr Michael Cartwright, who initiated this programme shared, ‘We were originally afraid that no student would sign up, but we were proven wrong by the enthusiasm of so many students.’ In fact, an astounding number of 60 students across different levels and streams sent in their audition videos to the Learning for Life Programme (LLP) teachers in charge.

The excitement was drummed up through the internal TV messaging board. The performances included K-pop group dance performances, solo dance item, rock band performances and a solo song item. Obviously hitting the right spot, the audience sang along to the Korean pop songs and waved their hands in the air in warm support of their friends who sang.

Showtime ended with the audience all hyped up asking when the next one would be held – this time, not to warm the benches, but to be in the limelight.

The Dare to Try Spirit is indeed very much alive among YCKSians!

 Solis Martiza Louise Quinto, 2A1





*"It was an honour to be chosen as the Parade Commander of the merged school. I have learnt to command a group of cadets from the various UG. I have become more confident and managed to overcome my fear of commanding in Malay language. "*

 Sia Chong Cheng, 4T2

## Speech & Prize Giving Day

This year's Speech and Prize Giving Day, which was held on 6th April 2018, had a unique theme, #yoloY10. This was a clear indication of the excitement and amazing performances that awaited the prize winners, invited guests, staff and our students. This annual ceremony is held to recognise students who have excelled in their academic pursuit. The selected student audience were the graduating classes and this was done intentionally to motivate them to do well in their upcoming National examinations and to cheer on their seniors who were prize recipients.

*"As this is my final year in YCKSS, I was feeling a bit nostalgic performing my final song during Speech Day. I sang to my heart's content and was happy to be a part of this memorable Speech Day."*

 B Samyuktha, 4E5



## Speech & Prize Giving Day



The concert by the performing arts groups was amazing. The students were treated to a beautiful duet by two singers who had participated in the famous competition, The Voice of China in 2017. The duo were none other than former students, Erwin from Chong Boon Secondary School and Elizabeth from Yio Chu Kang Secondary School. The Indian dance item was a rousing number that almost brought the house down. Mr Dalbir Singh, our Vice-Principal, put up a surprise Bhangra performance together with the Indian dancers and this got all the students cheering and clapping.



Besides recognising the 2017 N-level and O-level prize recipients, the YCKSS' School Advisory Committee initiated the Resilience Award to recognise students who have overcome all odds to continue pursuing their studies. The 2018 recipients were Jovan Chong Han Yew from 4T1, Wong Joon Yao, Ernest from 4A1 and Wong Quan Yao from 4E1.





The ACTive Learning Week is part of the school's continuing effort to provide our students with a holistic education. Several engaging and fun activities were planned for our students during the ACTive Learning Week to help students build skills and confidence that will serve them well throughout their lives. Some programmes that the various levels were involved in were Automotive Engineering, Safe Riding Programme, Gillman Barracks Mixed Media Learning Journey and many more.



*"The Student Leadership Challenge workshop during the Active Learning Week was a lot of fun. We bonded with our classmates and learnt more about leadership skills which we were able to apply during the activities carried out."*



Vanessa Cheong Hai Ling, 2E2

*"The Sec 4N students were able to consult with our elective subject teachers for our course work during the Active Learning Week. We were able to consolidate what we have learnt and our teachers were dedicated in guiding us in our work. Those sessions also taught me life skills such as good communication, perseverance and not giving up when encountering difficulties. All these will help me in my future endeavours."*



Jermine Lim Yan Shan, 4A3



On 19 June, 18 students accompanied by four teachers visited Hangzhou on a 6-day 5-night trip to learn about the history and culture of China. Apart from learning about the history through the visits to cultural sites, the trip also aims to provide opportunities for interaction between our students and their buddies from our twinning school, Yinzhou Experimental Middle School in Ningbo.

One cultural site which was a favourite among the students was the Song Dynasty City. Students were able to experience the unique charms and culture of the Song Dynasty in ancient China. They were particularly impressed by the streets featuring ancient architecture. Along the streets, kinsman of the emperor, and ordinary people, all wore the traditional costumes of the Song Dynasty.

*'I enjoyed the visit to the Song Dynasty City as I was able to see how the people in ancient China lived, their lifestyle and the unique architecture at that period of time. It was a historical, and memorable experience as I also got to watch a performance named the Romance of the Song Dynasty, a musical drama which adopts the old stories and legends in Hangzhou City, and integrates acrobatic art and technology to create a lasting impression of the performance.'*

 Grace Kam En Hui, 2E3



In Hangzhou students were treated to a cultural performance "Enduring Memories of Hangzhou". They were mesmerised by the outdoor musical performance in a natural setting. Staged on West Lake, the performance uses the state-of-the-art sound and lighting system to tell a tragic love story of a pair of lovers, Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai. It also included the Russian Ballet Swan Lake in which dancers performed above the shallow water on a floating platform amidst the beautifully lit background of West Lake.

*'I liked the cultural performance at Hangzhou best as the lake and its surroundings were used as props, and the lights and hundreds of actors created a sensational performance.'*

 Lee Ju Kong, 2A1





*'I enjoyed the visit to the school and my buddy's home best. I was impressed by my buddy's command of English as I could understand and communicate with her easily. Initially I thought that I would have difficulty in interacting with the students but I was paired with my buddy who spoke great English. I have learnt that they are very disciplined and focused in school, be it during lesson or their CCA. My buddy took great care of me and I miss her already.'*

Subathra, 2E3



The students also attended lessons at Yinzhou Experimental Middle School and visited their buddies' house. They found out about the school system and the positive attitude of the students towards education. Overall, students found the trip to China an enriching experience.



*'The best part of this trip was the school experience and the house visit. My buddy was a very conscientious student who was so kind to me. He told me about his school, their lessons and CCAs. He was so warm and generous, often asking me about my welfare. His mum prepared many local dishes like 'nian gao' for me to try.'*

Lester Poon Wei Lun, 3A3

20 students from Secondary 2 and 3 were selected to participate in the Yio Chu Kang Secondary School Overseas Educational Trip to Hong Kong from 20 May to 24 May 2018.

Anchored on the theme Environmental Sustainability, the highlights of the trip included a visit to the UNESCO Geopark, School Visit to Kiangsu-Chekiang College, the Youth Education Series (Y.E.S.) Programme at Hong Kong Disneyland and a talk by the management of Ocean Park.

*"I enjoyed the visit to the UNESCO Global Geopark. I learnt that the government is protecting the place from congestion and pollution by restricting the number of private cars allowed to enter the area. In fact it only allows three buses to enter per day and only certain types of taxis are allowed entry. The local guide reminded us that we were not supposed to take anything out of the nature park."*

Nurul Insyirah, 3E4



At the UNESCO Geopark, students learnt about the different types of rocks and landforms such as fault lines that can be found in the region. Students also saw interesting coastal features including sea caves, arches, stumps and cliffs. The existence of Hexagonal rock columns showed that there used to be a Super Volcano which now lies under Hong Kong!



With a key focus on environmental sustainability, the group of students explored various destinations in Hong Kong such as UNESCO Global Geopark and Tai O Fishing Village to investigate measures taken by different stakeholders in conserving the physical and cultural landscapes. They learnt the significance of these places and the social, economic and environmental benefits they bring to the locals. Our students also had the opportunity to interact with the management staff of Ocean Park as well as local students of Kiangsu-Chekiang College to learn environmental conservation efforts and debated on the topic of developing residential buildings to solve the dire housing shortage at the expense of country parks. Our students also shared the land shortage issues we face in Singapore.

*"The talk given by the management of Ocean Park was informative. I learnt that instead of competing with Disneyland, Ocean Park aims to complement them. Disneyland focuses on the magical and fictional characters while Ocean Park shows real animals. Ocean Park encourages visitors to reduce waste through the introduction of metal straws instead of using plastic straws in their restaurants. The restaurants also use sustainable seafood and retail shops do not provide plastic bags."*



Koh Shaine, 2E3



In the Y.E.S. programme, students learnt Physics through authentic experiments and also experienced how Disney's "Imagineers" or engineers apply physics concepts in the design of the different rides in Disneyland. Some concepts that our students learnt included the Conservation of Energy in roller coaster rides such as Space Mountains and application of the concept of pressure in the aerial carousel-style rides such as the Dumbo the Flying Elephant. Indeed, learning Physics can be interesting too!



*"I learnt that Science is important in our daily life as we are using it all around us. Even the construction of the roller coaster in Disneyland made use of Physics. As I am not very good in Science, I will try to work harder now knowing its relevance to our lives."*



Selyn Woon Rou Ya, 3A3



Through this overseas trip, the students had an opportunity to be independent and to learn new knowledge and culture. They also learnt to appreciate what they have and deepened their sense of belonging to Singapore.

*"I learnt that I need to improve in my time management as I have unintentionally been too dependent on my parents to remind me of the time. I also learnt to appreciate what I have in Singapore such as our housing needs as we do not have such a serious housing shortage unlike what Hong Kong is facing."*



Zaina D/O Nisardeen, 3E2



# HORIZON



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Look forward

to Issue 2

# HORIZON

Yio Chu Kang Secondary School

Newsletter

Issue 2 (July – November 2018)

Mendel's  
Garden

And

Many

More

Singapore  
Youth Festival  
Celebration  
2018

ALP  
Innovation  
Showcase



Out by November 2018...



PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE , SERVICE TO ALL

HORIZON