



THE HORIZON

Yio Chu Kang Secondary School

Newsletter

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PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE , SERVICE TO ALL

Secondary 1 Camp Discovery

Camp Discovery was held from 23rd to 25th of January to help Secondary One students achieve the following:

- discover and affirm own strengths, needs and values;
- apply self-leadership skills to transit 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; and
- appreciate our History as they complete challenges in the City Hall area.



Whilst in school, the students learnt more about the Five Practices of the Student Leadership Challenge by Kouzes & Posner:

- Model The Way
- Inspire a Shared Vision
- Challenge the process
- Enable others to act
- Encourage the Heart

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



Students had fun playing the team building games such as All Aboard, Turn Over a New Leaf and Amazing Race at the City Hall area. This further strengthened their friendship and class spirit throughout this camp.

In conjunction with Singapore Bicentennial, the Amazing Race included challenges that required students to find out more about the history of Singapore. Some students explored places of interest such as Raffles Landing Site, Cavanagh Bridge, Foundation Stone of Early Founders and Cenotaph for the first time.

"I believe leadership starts from within. Through Camp Discovery, I learnt to be a better person and to work well with others. We learnt how to communicate as a group and we worked towards our goals successfully. We went to City Hall area for our Amazing Race and I enjoyed it very much as it was my first time doing such an activity outside school."



Tan Li Lin, 1A1



Students applied their leadership skills through team building activities such as the Tallest Structure, Crazy Airways, building a Roller Coaster and Team Link. Students also had an immersive experience at the Escape Rooms, solving puzzles and mysteries in groups as they find their way out of the rooms.

The students especially enjoyed the Escape Room experience as it was the first time attempting such an activity for many of them. They displayed teamwork and perseverance during the game. There was good interaction between the teachers and students during the Escape Room experience. All were absorbed in trying to find solutions to the puzzles posed. It was interesting to see even the usually quiet ones become so engaged during the game.

The Secondary Two Camp Synergy was conducted from 23rd to 25th of January 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 exciting and challenging activities;
- develop social awareness; and
- learn and apply the Student Leadership Challenge Model by Kouzes and Posner.

The Secondary Two students revisited the Student Leadership Challenge by Kouzes & Posner and discussed, as a class, what it takes to lead others.



"Level Camp this year was a very fun experience for me. Not only did I get to learn more about my peers, I also gained more confidence in myself. The games set up by the facilitators enabled us to learn about how to become a better leader in a fun and enjoyable way. For the past two years, Level Camps for me have been fun-filled and memorable. I am looking forward to next year's Level Camp!"



Caeshia Leigh Bernardo Limpin, 2E3

Secondary 3 Camp Resilience

The Secondary Three Camp Resilience was held from 23rd January to 25th January aimed at developing resilience through experiential learning. It was designed to teach the Growth Mindset; learn and apply study skills; build students' self-confidence; learn values of respect, responsibility and teamwork through experiential learning and apply the use of positive language to affirm and encourage learning.



This Camp got the students exploring the School Compound, Kallang Wave Mall, OCBC Aquatic Arena and the Marina. To foster resilience building, the students went through a range of activities such as Let's Stretch It, House of Cards, Life Goal Setting, Scramble!, Can You Do It? and Personality Profiling. Xistence@Marina & Kallang Wave activity saw them conquering the fear of rejection and persevering under challenging conditions to succeed. In this particular activity the students had to talk to random strangers and get them to perform a dance routine.



"I thought the experience that we had during the Level Camp was very unique. I have never been challenged to approach and talk to strangers. I had a lot of fun as it was something new, and doing the activities with my class just made it better."



Noor Ashika Binti Abdullah, 3E1

"It was filled with many fun-filled activities. I did not really know my classmates well as we were from different classes. It has helped me make friends as we learnt helpful skills such as time management and revision skills according to my personality. It has made me more comfortable with my class. It was most enjoyable."



Suresh Kumar Thiriveni, 3E1



The Secondary Four Camp Future was organised to help our graduating students focus on the possible pathways available to them after they leave the sheltering walls of YCKSS. They were taught how to 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; and apply the use of positive language to affirm and encourage learning. The key activity of Camp Future was their Learning Journey to Nanyang Polytechnic for course advising.



"What we learnt today was quite interesting. We got to try out a personality test to find out who we actually are and based on that we found suitable jobs that matched our personality and charted our future career. We got to plan out the courses and education paths that we were interested in. A lot of us actually found new interests and planned a new education route."

Cheah Suan Yi, 4E1

"I learnt valuable skills during the interview sessions which would be useful to me during the Early Admissions Exercise. The grooming session was fun and we picked up a few helpful skills."

Sakthi Priya, 4E4



An Exotic Immersion into our Culture

Mother Tongue Fortnight

Mother Tongue Fortnight 2019 was held from 28 January to 8 February to provide an immersive environment for students to learn and appreciate their Mother Tongue Languages.

Chinese Language students enjoyed traditional games, hands-on cultural activities, tea appreciation, martial arts, and the My Story 2019 school tour programmes.



The Tamil Language students participated in Hands-on Cultural activities, dance and music workshop, drama workshop and a Kolam competition. The programmes students participated in have made them more interested in their Mother Tongue Language and grow a greater love for their culture and tradition.

"The Mother Tongue Fortnight was such a meaningful two-week event! We got to explore interesting facts about our own language and culture. For me, I learnt how and where the Chinese people wrote their poems on, as well as how to make a marble stamp by seal carving. Writing and drawing on bamboo slips seemed to be the most enjoyable activity to me as I love Chinese calligraphy. I also got to know how to tie up the bamboo slips and I enjoyed the process."



Cao Yurong, 2E2

The Malay Language students were treated to Kompang and Silat demonstrations, Batik Painting, Dikir Barat and a Learning Journey to the rustic Kampong Buangkok.



"Kolam competition gave me the opportunity to do something that I've never done before. It also helped me to explore the mystical realm of Indian Cultural activities while bonding with my friends. The Drama workshop on the other hand, helped me to be more expressive in my thoughts and feelings. It was useful as I was able to apply my skills learnt in the recent Raffles Institution Literary Competition."



Zaina d/o Nisardeen, 4E2



Exercise Rhino

School day on Friday 8 March was extraordinary. The School Emergency Evacuation Exercise (Fire Drill) was a massive role play exercise. It was to familiarise all staff and students on the evacuation procedures and the responsibilities of the respective functional groups under the School Emergency Structure (SES). This year, the exercise was co-ordinated with the Police, the SCDF and the community to give the experience added realism.



The scenario was an explosion which occurred in the Physics Lab. One teacher and some students acted as the injured. The staff and students were evacuated to the Assembly Area (School Field) and the SCDF and SPF were activated.

The exercise comprised the simulation of injured and affected staff and students, parents and media role players. Observers from other schools were present too. This provided an additional element of reality to the exercise where the School's Emergency Organisation Structure was tested in how well it could respond to the various scenarios.



"The exercise was a unique experience to me. I acted as an affected victim during the exercise and started to hyperventilate. Everyone around thought it was real and seemed to automatically kick into action. Students around gave me space and I was brought down to the First Aid Room quickly. The whole exercise was very well-organised."



Solis Martiza Louise Quinto, 3A1



"It was interesting to see how our teachers reacted under pressure. They did a pretty good job keeping the reporters at bay."



Ng Wan Hwee Doreen, teacher

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

YCKSS Sports Carnival

The much awaited Sports Carnival took place on the 29th of March. It was planned by the PE Department to promote healthy lifestyle among students and staff, through healthy competition. Most importantly, the Sports Carnival gives opportunities for students, staff and senior citizens to bond and forge closer friendship through physical activities.

The Sports Carnival this year included the usual sports activities which each level had mastered during their PE lessons. There were novelty sports such as Parachute Volleyball for Secondary One students and Human Foosball and Tag Archery for Secondary Four students. There were also Fringe Activities try-outs for all levels for Hoverball and Soccer Dart.



"I enjoyed myself during the Multi-Generation Games with the elderly. They were very sporting and were very excited to win. One of them told me that it had been such a long time since she had been in a school and that she treasured this experience a lot."



Dacanay Norvin CJ Marc Gongon, 3A1

"I loved playing Frisbee with my team of classmates. We had such a good camaraderie. We displayed good sportsmanship and helped each other and encouraged each other if we missed a catch. The highlight was the free flow of 100 Plus!"



Kondepudi Krishna Anisha, 3E1

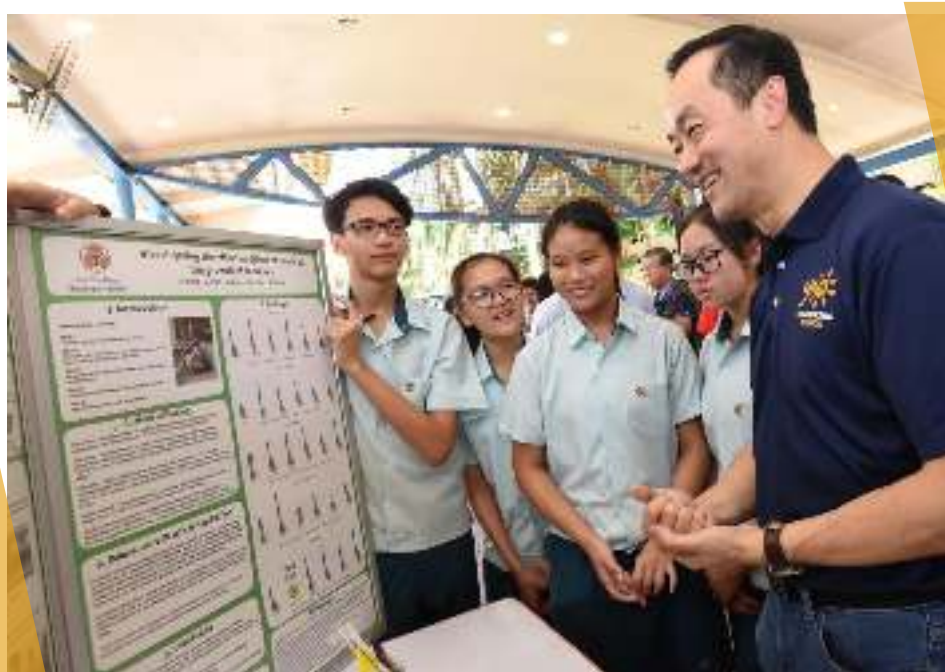
A new inclusion this year was the Telematch for the Multi-Generation Games. This was made of mini challenges that involved our students and the elderly from the YCK community. The students had a great time befriending the elderly and winning alongside them.



The 2019 North Zone Elementz Conference and Exhibition on 8th April was organised by Anderson-Serangoon Junior College. This is an annual platform for students to develop and showcase their aptitude and potential in Science inquiry and problem solving. We were up against notable schools such as Catholic High, St Nicholas Girls' School and School of Science & Technology. A total of six teams from YCKSS participated and all did remarkably well. We clinched one Silver award, two Bronze awards and three Commendations.

YCKSS presented these six research titles:

- 1) The effects of music on the growth of five different seedlings.
- 2) The effects of a DIY cooling system in a classroom.
- 3) Smart Water sensor laundry retractor
- 4) A Smart Humidifier to Reduce Carbon Footprint.
- 5) The relationship between the size of a seed and its ideal planting depth.
- 6) The effectiveness of various music on memory retention.



It was memorable as the students journeyed through with the teacher mentors, improvising their projects along the way. It was a wonderful learning experience as they also got to see the presentation and science research projects put up by other schools.

Two of the teams that researched on plant growth were invited to mount an exhibition booth and present their findings to the community at the Ang Mo Kio community launch of Rooftop Farming on 7th of April. The Guest-of-Honour, Dr Koh Poh Koon was impressed by the passion and the quality of research done by our students.

"Throughout this journey, I learnt that with hardwork and teamwork, the output will be fruitful. I felt that my teammates and I supported each other well. One example was the presentation in front of a panel of judges. My teammates' confidence boosted my morale and helped me deliver my lines effectively. Without their support, I never would have been able to overcome my nervousness."



Kim Seulkichan, 4E1

"The entirety of Elementz was filled with fun. I was able to further bond with my classmates as we came up with the hypothesis for the project and executed it. I was glad to be part of my Elementz team and we even brought back a Silver medal! All in all, I felt that Elementz has allowed me to apply the concepts that I learnt in Biology to solve problems, other than the usual class work. Given the chance, I would definitely sign up for a research project again."



Dion Kuoh Zixian, 4E1

Our School, My Story

54th Speech & Prize Presentation

On 18th April, we celebrated our annual Speech & Prize Presentation Day. It was Yio Chu Kang Secondary School's 54th one. At the same time, it was also a celebration of our very first year together after the merging of two schools. The event was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the growing sense of belonging in our students and staff, celebrating the united efforts as one school and recognising the special achievements of individual staff and students. Many exciting highlights took place around the inspiring theme of Our School, My Story.

Very creatively, staff and students used different mediums to take everyone through four different unique stories of our YCKSians through the sub-themes: Help Each Other Grow; Where Dreams Come True; No one Gets Left Behind; and You Can Be Yourself. These were woven into one fabric through music, videos and drama.

The pre-concert was a static parade that welcomed the Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Edelweis Neo, Superintendent of North Cluster 6, Schools Division in MOE. The concert segment included an NCDCC precision drill which had earlier been presented at the NCDCC National Precision Drill Competition 2019. The movements followed an infectious tempo and displayed the vibrancy, coordination and discipline of the Unit. It was definitely a crowd favourite.



Another great hit amongst the audience was a Drone Flight performance by MARs Club students who amazed everyone with a choreography of multiple Tello EDUs drones maneuvering in the air simultaneously. Using a code to control a swarm of Tello EDUs drone, the MARs Club students had them fly over Mission Pads with acrobatic movements synchronised to music. By improving their programming and fine-tuning their team work, they pushed the limits of their creativity and showed off their skills!

There was a symbolic opening ceremony of Mendel's Garden and the Tremendous Mural by our Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Edelweis Neo. Our student Huang Zi Hang of Secondary 3E3, piloted a drone, transporting a large gold ribbon ball across the back of the school's Performing Arts Theatre to the front of the hall. He skilfully landed the craft on the stage for Mrs Neo to cut the ribbon together with our Principal, Mrs Lim.



The Choir performed *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, a song from the famous musical, *The Sound of Music*. This beautiful song inspired us through the lyrics to take every step towards attaining our dreams. Another song the Choir sang was a Visayan folk song of joy and love entitled, *Rosas Pandan*. It tells about a pretty mountain maid who loves to dance the Balitaw. In a rousing choral arrangement, the vibrant melody and intricate harmonies captured the native flavour of the song. The songs chosen by the Choir showcased their confidence and harmony very appropriately.

Our School, My Story

54th Speech & Prize Presentation

Next the Malay Dance members performed “The Act of Menampi” which symbolises the act of sieving, choosing the best for ourselves. The dance depicts the belief in being resolute in the face of adversities, staying united, and persevering on towards excellence.

For many students and guests, one very unusual stage performance that left a strong impression was the sports dance, Space Jam. This was a highly entertaining dance item performed by the various school Sports Clubs. Imagine basketballers, netballers, floorballers, and badminton players dancing in a choreography that made use of the distinctive moves of their CCA to a popular tune. It highlighted the students’ creativity and youthful spirit – and much more. It was a refreshingly different dance indeed!



“I’m really happy to perform for the Speech Day as one of the sports dancer! Through this experience, I learnt that dancing is actually not that easy as I realised that much effort, practice, coordination, and preparation for the dance is needed. But overall, I think that we put in lots of effort and did a great job on stage. I hope that the school will have more of such opportunities for us.”

 Shayne Lim, 2E2

This was followed by the launch of the new School Song which was composed by our Music teachers, Mr Michael Cartwright and Miss Lio Dan Wei. It was sung as a duet by our alumni, Irwin Fua and Elizabeth Low. The performance was extremely meaningful because Irwin was from Chong Boon Secondary School (class of 2003) and Elizabeth was from Yio Chu Kang Secondary (class of 2011). Together, they also produced a recording of the school song to an instrumental arrangement by Irwin. In these ways, the event reached a significant finale by bringing two schools together through one song, one performance and celebrating our first birthday!

The Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Neo and other guests adjourned to the first level to visit the Mendel’s Garden and the Treemendous Mural. At the Mendel’s Garden, Mrs Neo was joined by our School Advisory Board members and the Principal of Pathlight School to sow vegetable seeds in their own trays. Much excitement was generated as the teachers and students were on hand to guide the guests through the planting process and explain the mechanism at work in the Mendel’s Garden vertical farm towers.

The group next moved to the Treemendous Mural to marvel at the joint handiwork of the Pathlight and Yio Chu Kang students. They marveled at the six metre tall, gigantic tree composed of a myriad of mosaic tiles, comprising glass ones, mirror ones and ceramic ones. These all combined to celebrate the human diversity and social adaptability within our school. Mrs Neo stopped at the mural and had a chance to interact with student ambassadors from the two schools. Principal of Pathlight School, Mrs Linda Kho, and our Principal, Mrs Carol Lim looked on with pride.



The guests were also treated to an amazing musical score performed by our Band under the baton of conductor, Mr Tan Yao Chong. They played *Festivo* by Czech–American composer Vaclav Nelybel. The Band played this energetic piece against the backdrop of the school pond. From where the guests sat to enjoy the performance, they also took in the beautiful setting presented to them in the school foyer. Indeed, it was a very unusual venue for the Band to perform in!

We are Invincible!

Spartan Race Yio Chu Kang Sprint

Spartan Race held on 27th of April is the global standard in obstacle course races and YCKSS sent its very own daring team of five staff and 15 students to take part. Spartan Race is not our everyday running race. The participants were expected to run, climb, push, pull, throw and crawl over walls, up and down slopes, mud, barbed wire and other challenging but fun obstacles. 20 obstacles were designed to challenge the participants physically.



"I have learnt that teamwork is very crucial in improving an individual performance. Even though the obstacles were hard, with motivation from my friends I was able to finish the race in one piece. This also helped me realise that every one of us will clear the obstacles if we are in it together."

Subathra, 3E1

On that day, it rained. The mud made for additional mayhem at the race. However, our staff and students' Spartan spirit shone through the grime and got them to the finishing line. All of them displayed a strong sense of teamwork and resilience. We are very proud of all of them!

The staff and students' spirit was not dampened at all by the rain. Most of them were filled with enthusiasm and excitement as it was their maiden Spartan Race. They were geared up, ready for the challenges ahead of them. They encouraged and helped one another along the way and completed the race together. Their faces lit up with a sense of achievement and their exhaustion faded away as they received the finisher's medal at the finishing line.



"We learnt that teamwork is very important as we all worked closely with one another and we had each other's back when we went through the obstacles. We also learnt to have confidence in ourselves and to trust my teammates."

Chan Mun Chun, 4E4

There were personally challenging moments as each of the staff and students ploughed through the mud to overcome the 20 obstacles. Clearly it showed that their struggles built their character. It is moments like these that we are most proud of YCKSS for overcoming adversity to accomplish something worthwhile. The Spartan Race pushed our participants to their limits and beyond.



The new Permanent Secretary (Education), Mr Lai Chung Han paid a visit to our school on the 16th of May. The one-and-a-half-hour visit started with a chit-chat session with the N6 Superintendent Mrs Edelweis Neo and our four School Leaders.

Mr Lai was interested to find out more about the recent school merger, the implementation of Subject-based Banding and our partnership with Pathlight School. He was curious about the preparation that the school underwent to bond the Key Personnel, staff and students of both schools. Mrs Lim commented that the merger has been a success and that we have moved beyond this to continue to build on the strength of both the schools. The School Leaders addressed the issue of Subject-based Banding by saying that it was well-received by both parents and students alike. However, there were some challenges that have to be addressed such as timetabling issues and finding suitable venues. Our partnership with Pathlight School has seen students from both schools participate actively in Integration Programmes. In Term 3 students from Pathlight and YCKSS will participate in two new initiatives: English Rocks! and the NTLJ programme. Moreover, they also participated in our Emergency Exercise Rhino.

The chit-chat session was followed by a tour around the school. Mr Lai visited the Mendel's Garden, the School Gym, The Living Room, the Synergy Room and the Heritage Gallery. He also spent some time in an empty classroom to get a sense of the humidity levels in non-air-conditioned rooms. He was genuinely impressed by how YCKSS makes use of space to maximise learning.



To build partnership with parents and to get them on board the holistic educational journey of their children, the school introduced the Have a Chat with the HODs Series. It also gives key personnel a deeper appreciation of the perspective as well as concerns of parents. Between February and May, the following departments: Design & Enterprise, Mother Tongue Languages, English Language, Humanities, and Education & Career Education, shared their curriculum and programmes with the parents.



"We would like to thank you and for all your efforts and sacrifice just to educate and inform us parents so we can guide our kids better. We deeply appreciate your support and dedication to your noble calling!"



Leah Batocabe, Parent

These four sessions were held on Saturday mornings in school in Term One and Two. Parents were encouraged to sign up for these chats with the HODs. To make it more exciting, external partners such as the Polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education were also on hand to give meaningful advice. This was followed by a Q&A session for parents to find out more. There was positive feedback from the parents as they were engaged and asked questions proactively. The sessions also gave parents direct access to the Principal Mrs Carol Lim who was present to support each session. Parents thanked the school for organising this which is uniquely YCKSS.



Pushing Boundaries

15th Student Leaders Investiture



On the 24th of May, the Student Leaders Investiture was held in the School Hall. It is an annual event which marks the significance of the appointment of Student Leaders. It recognises the important role of Student Leaders in the school and serves as a valuable platform to affirm and acknowledge the contributions of our Student Leaders.

The theme for this year's Investiture, Pushing Boundaries, illustrates how the school has been doing so for the past year as it celebrated a merged heritage and adapted to new surroundings, processes and people.

Our Guest-of-Honour was Mr William Oh, Chairman of the School Advisory Committee. This memorable event recognised the Student Leaders. The ceremony officially thanked the outgoing teams of 14th Student Council EXCO, the Secondary 4 Student Councillors, CCA Leaders and Class Chairpersons. They handed the leadership reigns to the incoming 15th Student Council Executive Committee (EXCO), Student Councillors, and CCA Leaders.

"We had plenty of rehearsals to make sure we were well prepared for the big day. Through this Investiture, not only did I become closer to my peers and teachers, I also learnt that being a leader is never easy as we not only have to guide and lead, but also to be a good example to others. I am glad to be given the opportunity to be a CCA Leader in YCKSS and to be part of the Student Leaders Investiture that gave recognition to Leaders. I will strive to be a good leader."



Chan Zi Xuan, 2E1

The programme consisted of:

- Speeches by Outgoing and Incoming Student Council Presidents
- Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Outgoing CCA Leaders, Student Councillors and the Student Council EXCO
- Presentation of Letters of Appointment to Incoming CCA Leaders, Class Chairpersons, Student Councillors and the Student Council EXCO
- Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation
- Recitation of the Student Leaders' Oath

Pushing Boundaries

15th Student Leaders Investiture

Student Leaders were excited and recognised the significance of this event. Despite the large number of Student Leaders involved, everyone took the event seriously and were well-prepared for Investiture. There was evident pride when they recited the Student Leaders' Oath; Student Councillors off-stage understood the importance of the Oath and joined in the recitation too. This was done with much gusto and pride!

Secondary 2 and 3 Student Councillors who did not have a role on stage were also very willing to help out in other ways to make the investiture a success for their peers.



DID YOU KNOW?

The token of appreciation is hand-made by our Student Councillors. Just like how a tree was once a seed that never gave up, the tree here symbolises what the 14th Student Council EXCO has done as the first EXCO of the newly merged school. It represents the multitude of opportunities available out there, waiting to be tapped upon by our Student Leaders. It is their wish that the tree can continue growing, symbolising how their legacy can be continued for generations of future EXCOs to come.

"2019 is my last Investiture in YCKSS, which also means that it is the last day of me serving in the Student Council. It was an emotional yet admirable event to remember. Although I will miss many things about the Student Council, I truly believe that this ending is concurrently a fantastic beginning for us and a wonderful way to start a new chapter. Watching my juniors rise from an ordinary councillor to holding an EXCO position truly makes me proud. From the bottom of my heart, I wish them all the best! I am grateful to the school for providing me the opportunity to be part of the Student Council family."



Cheah Suan Yi, 4E1



A Feast for the Eyes and Senses

Our Three Dance Groups



The SYF Arts Presentation (AP) is a benchmarking platform that offers opportunities for continuous learning and improvement through feedback from industry professionals. This provides an opportunity for our students from the Chinese, Indian and Malay Dances to learn from other schools as well.

On 16 April, our Chinese Dance performed their SYF dance repertoire at the University Cultural Centre Hall, National University of Singapore.

Trainings started in 2018 to equip the girls with basic techniques and also to build their stamina. Specific techniques and skills were slowly introduced to the girls, especially in handling the long sleeves of the costumes. Intensive trainings during the March holidays and a rehearsal at University Cultural Centre were arranged for students to perfect their dance techniques and to familiarise themselves to the stage positioning in the actual venue. They were very excited and also nervous as many of them did not have prior SYF experience in their primary school years. Many of them cherished this opportunity to perform at such a prestigious platform.

A few lucky students were given opportunities to perform solo at various parts in the dance. They were very happy to be selected even though they had to learn more steps than their peers.

The dancers were exhilarated that all their hardwork and effort paid off when the result was announced and they attained 2019 SYF Certificate of Distinction!

"The training was very tough in the beginning. There were many dance steps to memorise and techniques to learn. Some of the new members had a difficult time catching up with the dance techniques but we did not give up. We learnt how to work as a team to check and perfect each other's steps and moves. We encouraged each other, persevered and ensured that everyone could do their steps well. We also learnt how to manage our time as well. We gritted out teeth through the hard times and bounced back even stronger!"



Chua Kah Min, 4E3



A Feast for the Eyes and Senses

Our Three Dance Groups

The judging of our Indian Dance item took place at the University Cultural Centre on the 23rd of April. Our beautiful dancers performed two items – Karagam and Peacock Dance. The Karagam was a particularly challenging item. The students had to balance a heavy decorative head piece on their heads while dancing. With great practice, the performers danced very well holding the karagam on their heads with grace and deportment. The Peacock Dance was a sight to behold. The costume had actual peacocks feathers attached to it! When the dancers tugged at the string tied to their hands, it would enable the feathers to spread out resembling a proud peacock strutting its feathers.



Through the dedication of each dancer and the remarkable choreography of the performances, our Indian Dancers were awarded the 2019 SYF Certificate of Distinction!

"The Journey towards SYF was definitely something I will remember forever. The choreography was very different from what we usually do in school. This time for the competition we did a folk dance. We had to put in hours and hours of practice. Our knees were covered with bruises and feet with blisters, but all of it was worth it."



Ferrer Clarys Isayah Cerezo, 4E2



Suresh Kumar Thiriveni, 3E1

"SYF was very interesting and fun because it was the first time I participated in it for the secondary school category. I learnt more about the different Indian dance genres as my CCA performed an uncommon genre, Karagam. The experience was really fun as I spent most of my time with my CCA mates and we bonded very well. We learnt to work together and persevere through the hardships we faced. Our dance journey was not easy, but our result proves that hardwork does pay off."

A Feast for the Eyes and Senses

Our Three Dance Groups

"It was a fresh experience. It was my first time performing for SYF in secondary school, and I knew that it would be very different compared to performing for SYF in primary school. Through the tough practices, we became closer and we learnt that communication is the key. I'm happy to call this dance group my second family."

 Nur Fae'iqah Ruqayyah Binte Abdullah, 3E1

"The experience of participating in SYF was amazing. I felt proud of everyone as we did our best and worked together. I would like to do this again as it helped me to improve my skills and show to the others what I am passionate about."

 Ian Balqis Putri Mohamed Bakri, 2E3

21 Malay Dancers from Secondary One to Five participated in the SYF Arts Presentation – Malay Dance Category on the 4th of April. Students were equally excited and nervous as it had been a long time since the Malay Dance had participated in SYF AP. Since other CCAs were competing for space to rehearse their SYF pieces, the Malay dances creatively found a variety of venues such as the Heritage Gallery to keep the dance practices going. They showed that the venues did not matter as much as the willingness to adapt to changes.

Our Malay Dancers were awarded the 2019 SYF Certificate of Accomplishment!



"I felt that taking part in SYF was an opportunity that not everyone had and I was fortunate to be able to take part in such a nerve wrecking but rewarding event. I felt that we had given our very best even though we started late. We managed to complete the choreography within two months and we put up a good performance. I've learnt more about teamwork, perseverance and understanding towards each other. It was more about 'Us' rather than 'Me'. I am thankful to all the teachers and dancers for always supporting each other and making my journey in this CCA enjoyable."

 Sri Indriani, 4E4



Freedom of Expression through the Arts

YCKSS Drama, Choir and Band



Singapore Youth Festival offers opportunities for continuous learning and improvement through feedback from industry professionals. It also allows students to nurture values such as perseverance, teamwork independence which are beyond the textbooks. In this spirit, the Drama club members presented the play – The Girl who Lost her Voice - at School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA) on 23rd of April.

The play was a powerful script that brought out the natural talents of our student actors and actresses. The Drama Club members also realised that drama is not just about reading out the script but also about delivering the lines with interpreted emotion. The entire SYF experience passed swiftly by in the blink of an eye. The rehearsals were filled with laughter, joy and tears. As time went by, the students grew as a family and all the ups and downs only made them closer.

Our Drama Club was awarded the 2019 SYF Certificate of Accomplishment!



"For our rehearsal session at SOTA, the buses were more than half an hour late. We had to conduct our briefing and preparation on the bus instead. And once the bus reached SOTA, we zoomed in to the theatre and started rehearsing right away. Our instructors, Ms Janice and Mr Sugi, moulded us to not only be better actors but also better people. Our four teachers in-charge were also always with us, supporting and helping us."



Noor Ashika Binti Abdullah, 3E1



"SYF AP was a journey filled with ups and downs. We focused, cried, played and laughed together. I felt that through this SYF journey, I learnt many new things and got to know my members better and I became closer friends to most of them. This journey has high and low moments but in all honesty, I felt that the good outweighed it all, making this journey worth going through."



Nur Amelia Farid Long, 2A1



Freedom of Expression through the Arts

YCKSS Drama, Choir and Band

To prepare for the SYF Arts Presentation, the Choir teachers organised a choir camp for their students. They also participated in the Voices of Singapore Festival 2019 held at Chijmes. There, the Choir also got to hear other choirs perform. This highlighted their strengths and weaknesses and spurred them to improve their performance.

On 10th of April, the students felt excited and at the same time nervous because they were going to pit their talents against other schools at the SYF AP. Our Choir was awarded the 2019 SYF Certificate of Accomplishment!

"After months of training, I felt that our choir has really gelled through this experience. Starting from last year in November, we had been training together and we were really happy that we had done our school proud by getting the Certificate of Accomplishment. Given the chance to do it again, I will absolutely say yes!"

 Jerald Teo Zi Hang, 3E2

"SYF AP 2019 was a great experience for my peers and I as we got to strengthen our bond and team spirit through the many hours rehearsing our three pieces. I learnt important values such as hardwork, perseverance, patience and teamwork along the way. No matter how tired or stressed out we were during rehearsals, we encouraged one another to stay strong and think about what we wanted to achieve. SYF AP 2019 gave me unforgettable memories especially since it was the last time we got to perform with the Sec 4 seniors. Performing in SYF was an experience I would definitely never have traded for anything."

 Caeshia Leigh Bernardo Limpin, 2E3



Freedom of Expression through the Arts

YCKSS Drama, Choir and Band

The Band teachers organised a Band Exchange which took place on Tuesday 12th of March at YCKSS Hall in preparation for Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation 2019. Our School Performing Arts Theatre was the venue for the Symphonic Bands of Whitely Secondary School, Bartley Secondary School, Anglo-Chinese School Barker and our very own band too. After a short meet and greet, each band performed their 'choice piece' and the 'set piece' for SYF 2019 while the other groups listened intently. After some general feedback, the next band performed the 'set piece' once again. And in this way, each band took its turn. The Band students were excited to hear each group perform and yet nervous about performing to their peers from other schools.

Another Band Exchange was held on Tuesday 19th of March at Woodlands Ring Secondary School. Through this interaction with other student musicians, our Band members appreciated different perspectives in the playing of pieces and the critical role of student leadership. Interestingly, it was also a helpful platform for the Band Conductors to exchange opinions regarding pedagogy and music interpretation.



"I had a good time with the Woodlands Ring Symphonic Band (WRSB) and made new friends. I enjoyed the combined sectionals with all the trombonists together from both bands the most."

Lin Lai Yi Mon, 3E3

The Band next had a combined rehearsal of the SYF 2019 Set Piece: *Festival on Earth*. It was inspiring hearing the sound of the combined bands rehearsing together. After all that hardwork, we had an amazing bonding session during the combined sectionals lunch time. After lunch, each band performed the set piece and the choice pieces for each other. Our students were rather nervous to perform in front of an unfamiliar audience but they gave their best.

The Band SYF 2019 performance was held on Tuesday, 9th of April at the Singapore Conference Hall. The Band performed two pieces: The Set piece was and the choice piece was *Festivo* by Vaclav Nelybel.

The students were excited and anxious prior to the performance. When it was over, they felt a sense of relief and satisfaction for a job well done. The alumni members and parents who came to support the Band congratulated the young musicians after the performance. The Band was awarded the 2019 SYF Certificate of Accomplishment!



"The experience I had in SYF was unforgettable. I experienced thrill, excitement and nervousness all at the same time. It was amazing!"

Maya Krishnamurthi, 4A1

Developing Leaders with Characters and Values

National Police Cadet Corps



Our NPCC participated in the 3 days 2 nights Adventure-Survival Training Camp 2019 to promote teamwork and leadership, challenge personal limits, build resilience and encourage outdoor activities among campers. It was no wonder that it was held at Pulau Ubin. All the Secondary Two and Three NPCC Cadets had to go through Camp Familiarisation, Maze, High Rope Challenge, Rock Climbing, Kayaking, Navigation Exercise around Pulau Ubin, Campfire, Team Bonding Games, tent pitching and outdoor field cooking. All these activities made our cadets excited yet apprehensive before the start of the camp, ecstatic and enthusiastic yet tired after the camp. They had the opportunity to interact with NPCC cadets from other school units in Area 3. For many, it was their first time stepping into Pulau Ubin and it was definitely something special to them.

"Initially I was quite afraid of the 3D2N camp. However, after settling in on Day 1, I felt more relieved as I made a group of new friends from the other units. Throughout the camp, it was tiring, but we all helped and encouraged one another, making sure that everyone was feeling okay. The activities that we went through together definitely created wonderful memories for me!"



Sharmaine Chin Hui Xin, 2E2



The Crime Scene Investigation Competition (CSI) competition was organised to provide opportunities for National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) cadets to apply knowledge acquired from Police Knowledge (PK) and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) skills from the NPCC Syllabus and to raise awareness about the rising crime rate of Cyber-Harassment among youths in Singapore.

There were four activities for our six NPCC participants. Firstly, clues were given to the cadets to decode. These clues contain information which will lead participants to the next stage of the competition. Secondly, the NPCC cadets attempted the Case Rooms. These were inspired by the concept of the escape room. These case rooms were set up to replicate a crime scene. Each team was required to gather all evidence they observed within a time limit.

Our students were enthusiastic and nervous as they needed to solve the cases presented to them within a limited amount of time. Surpassing all expectations, we emerged as Second Runner-Up!

"I felt excited and nervous at the same time because during the game we needed to say a code before we could enter the crime scene and if we gave an incorrect code more than five times, we would be disqualified. We also needed to rely on the equipment and all the evidence we had collected, to identify the murderer. One of the toughest evidence to handle was a transparent ear stud and there were only two schools that managed to find it. I'm proud to say we were one of them."



Tan Zhen Song Alvin, 3A1

Developing Leaders with Characters and Values

National Police Cadet Corps



The NPCC Annual Parade (NPAP) is the flagship event in the NPCC calendar. It marks the celebration of the NPCC Day and is also the day for NPCC to honour the outstanding achievements of its units. It also aims to instill loyalty in the cadets and dedication to the Corps.

NPCC cadets from various NPCC school units underwent selections and trainings at the Home Team Academy (HTA) for a chance to represent their school in the Guard-of-Honour and Supporting contingents during NPAP. The Unit Overall Proficiency Award (Gold) for the assessment year of 2018 was also presented at this event in 2019.

Our cadets felt proud and honoured to represent Yio Chu Kang Secondary School NPCC Unit in the marching contingent during NPAP 2019. It is the first year that Yio Chu Kang Secondary School NPCC Unit has achieved Gold award after the school merger.



"It was an amazing experience as I got to work with new friends from other schools. I also experienced how the officers in Home Team Academy created such a beautiful performance for the parade. It was tough at times and we made a lot of mistakes but our Sirs and Ma'am were understanding and helped us along the way. When we performed on that day, I felt really proud of myself as I was able to represent Yio Chu Kang Secondary School NPCC as well as make my parents and friends proud of me."



Evangeline Png, 2A1

The SPF-NPCC Badge was first launched in 1997 to give recognition to cadets with good leadership qualities and outstanding achievements. It is the highest award badge that cadets can vie for. The recipient of the 2019 badge is Yu Jia Yi, Elita, of Secondary 4E1.

Potential NPCC Secondary Four and Five Cadets were first selected at school level to go for the interview. These candidates then went through two rounds of interviews, one at Area level and another one at Headquarter level to ensure that the potential cadet was fit to receive the badge.

Elita felt elated and proud to be the recipient of this pinnacle badge.



We Learn. We Lead. We Serve.

National Civil Defence Cadet Corps



"NCDCC was a place where I matured mentally and physically. Despite all the exhausting training sessions, I have learnt to enjoy the process of learning together with my batch mates. My time in NCDCC was a fruitful one showing me that hardwork can reward well and that I should always put my best in everything. I felt blessed to have such understanding and compassionate seniors guiding us through everything. We were taught many values along the way, such as leadership and persistence. YCKSS NCDCC was awarded a Gold Award and it is something to celebrate. I feel proud to be in my CCA and will always take pride in whatever I do."



Caris Yim Leng Ying, 3E1

The Unit Overall Performance Gold Award was given to NCDCC unit in order to recognise our unit for their exemplary performance in the Unit Overall Proficiency Award 2018. The NCDCC unit has indeed been busy participating in the Secondary Three NCDCC Specialisation Course 2018, NCDCC Pinnacle Award 2018, Secondary One Affirmation Day 2018, Annual Unit Camp 2018, National Camp 2018 and Dragon Battle 2018.

The first Dragon Battle among NCDCC Units took place in June 2018. Despite a slow start which saw YCKSS drop to the 2nd last position, the teams did not give up and rallied to finish 4th. It was a miracle! What a tribute to the power of believing in yourself and your team.



This year, 2019, the Unit had the privilege of taking part in the Precision Drill Competition for the very first time on 26 Jan 2019 at the Home Team Academy. More than 20 schools across the island participated in the competition and our cadets sacrificed their December holidays to prepare and rehearse for the competition.

From choreography to the actual drill performance, the Unit and our graduate cadets, CLT Nelson Ang and Vanessa Lek, were involved with all aspects of the performance. The cadets practised hard and managed to deliver an outstanding performance at the competition.

With the experience gained, the team modified the drills and gave another rousing performance at our school's annual Speech and Prize Giving Day. The audience was thoroughly entertained and this marked a grand finale with our involvement in Precision Drill.

The Unit will have another achievement in July 2019. Two of our cadets, WO Suzairi and SSG Ong Jing Xuan are awarded the Pinnacle Badge. This award recognises the contributions and achievements of the best cadets in Singapore and they will receive the Award at Heartbeat@Bedok on 13 July. YCKSS NCDCC extends our heartiest congratulations to the two cadets.

Humanity in our Hands

Red Cross Youth

It was indeed an amazing and adventurous year for the YCKSS Red Cross Youth Unit as we were the proud recipients of the following awards in 2019:

- Excellent Unit Award (Gold) 2018
- First Aid Competition Junior (Gold) 2019
- First Aid Competition Senior (Silver) 2019
- Trailblazer Competition (Gold) 2019
- Directors Award 2019

The cadets were overwhelmed as they had won so many awards. It was well deserved after months of consistent hardwork.

The Excellent Unit Award (Gold) was awarded to our Unit for excellent performance throughout the year. The Directors Award was given to Stephanie Chin Hui Ru of Secondary 4A1. This is the highest award a cadet can attain in Secondary school for Red Cross. It is awarded to the cadets who have contributed and demonstrated their best.

"I felt honoured to have received the Director's Award. The road to success was paved with effort, commitment, perseverance, hardwork and being fearless in failing. It taught me that failing is a stepping stone to success. Most of all, a big salute to my unit in supporting me mentally and physically. The spirit of RCY will always shine high, bright and deep in our unit's heart."

Stephanie Chin Hui Ru, 4A1





HORIZON

Editorial Adviser

Carol Lim

Editorial

Nirmala Devi

Chong Kai Yang

Chong Foong Harn

Designer

Chong Kai Yang

Article Contributors

Kelly Cho Ling Ling

Mok Boon Foong

Goy Yap Ching

Dalbir Singh S/O Surat Singh

Leong Ngan Nyun Anna

Alicia Lock Hwee Hong

Heng Siew Hoon Irene

Kevin Lim

Sin Puay San

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Vijaya D/O Rajaratenam

Michael William Cartwright

Wong Mingwei

Loo Jia Bin

Chong Kai Yang

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