

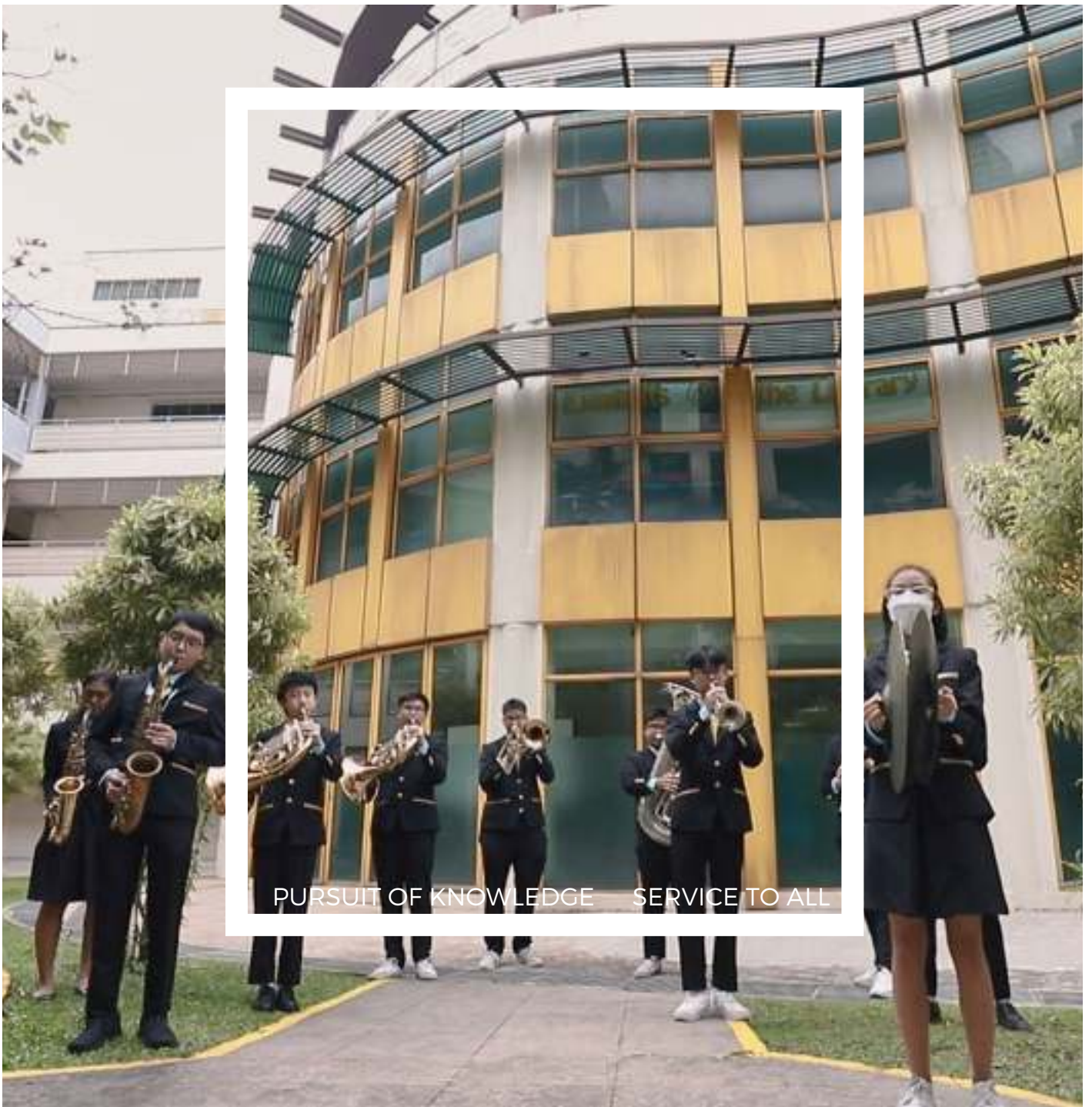


THE HORIZON

YIO CHU KANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

| NEWS LETTER

| ISSUE 7 (Jan- Jun 2022)



PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE SERVICE TO ALL

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SECONDARY ONE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

MAKING FRIENDS AND FORGING BONDS

The 2022 Secondary One Orientation Programme was held on the first two days of the new school year. It was the very first opportunity for the Secondary One students to interact with and to get to know their teachers and fellow schoolmates. Through carefully designed activities, the programme encouraged teamwork and leadership skills. The fun activities also promoted the school's values to the students. Student leaders and teachers played an active role to ease the transition of the Secondary One students as they enter into a new phase of their education journey.

“Through the Sec 1 Orientation, I got to learn about my surroundings in my new school better. With the friendly seniors guiding us through the Amazing Race and introducing parts of the school to us, we didn't feel that lost.”

Chermine Kee Shi Min, Secondary 1E3



“Many of us came from different schools, so it is important that we learn how to work as a team through the activities that were planned for us at the Sec 1 Orientation programme. I think it is important that we understand each other and see each other's strengths. After all, we will be in the same class for the next four years.”

**Janesh Raj S/O
Logaraj Shashi
Kumar, Secondary 1T1**



Many students enjoyed the chance to interact with their new schoolmates. They reflected that it had been a long while since they were able to take part in team building activities especially since they were not able to do so during the past two years as a result of COVID Safe Management Measures.

There were many activities that helped break the ice and build new friendships. The YCKSS Amazing Quest took students around the school to complete challenges in teams with their new classmates. They also played an educational board game to learn about the Growth Mindset to imbue in them with the right start for their Secondary education.

MTL FORTNIGHT

This annual event was held from 24th January to 4th February. These activities were held during curriculum time and after school. It was organised to provide an immersive environment for students to learn and appreciate their Mother Tongue Language. Students actively engaged in the wide range of fun activities that were organised, such as Language competitions, traditional games, Virtual Tour to Kampung Lorong Buangkok, Batik and Wau Traditional Crafts and Indian Cultural Dance. They learnt not just about the use of their own Mother Tongue, but also gained a deeper understanding of the cultural aspect.



“During the MTL Fortnight, our teachers organised a cultural dance workshop whereby we were taught by a celebrity from Vasantham. She patiently taught us the basic steps and our teachers explained to us the benefits of dance and the rich culture behind every folk dance. Though it was a tiring day, I enjoyed the activity tremendously.”

Asvinnaah, Secondary 1E1

Learning through Story Telling

“The mother tongue fortnight was exciting yet challenging. We learnt about 'Pentas Radio' or Audio Drama. We had to create our own ending to a story of different genres. I learnt about choosing the appropriate sound effects to enhance the drama and the importance of using different tones for different emotions when we read out the scripts.”

**Nor Efiqah Binte Mohammad Hamzah,
Secondary 3T1**



Fun and games

“During the board game activity, the instructors taught us how to develop our own Singapore street board game. I now know the names of Singapore streets, in Tamil too.”

**Sathishkumar Prathishtha,
Secondary 2E3**



RINGING IN THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

Lunar New Year Celebration 2022



On 31st January, the school set aside time to celebrate Lunar New Year. This year, the students used their PLDs to design festive E-cards. The students enjoyed the day in the class with their Form Teachers. The class united in putting together the E-cards.

“During the celebrations, I appreciated learning more about the festival. I bonded more with my classmates, and we were able to show our creativity when we made the Lunar New Year cards. I could see that the class enjoyed the celebration.”

Asvinnaah, Secondary 1E1

The virtual Lunar New Year Concert showcased the multiple talents of our students, with performances from the Band, the Chinese, Malay and Indian Dancers, and the Choir. The high standards of the videos by the Digital Animation Club and the Media Club caught the eyes of our students too.



“I enjoyed the lunar new year celebration. Some of the classmates made a New Year video for a contest. Although we didn’t win, I could sense the team spirit and the hard work my classmates have put in.”

Eron Chin Yi Rong, Secondary 1E1





LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL PROGRAMME

Held over three days, from 2nd to 4th March 2022, Lower Secondary Level Programme was filled with lots of experiential learning and team-building activities. Students learnt more about themselves, their peers as well as develop the necessary self-leadership skills that will help them adapt and thrive in their secondary school life.

Based on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, the students had fun playing the team building games such as the ConnecTiles, Roller Coaster Challenge and Bull Ring. They also reflected on the values that they wished to develop in themselves and how they could improve through practising the 7 Habits on a regular basis.

“This Level Programme teaches us very important habits that will be useful for life. I found the method of teaching very engaging. The instructors taught us the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens through team-building games which also pulls us closer together as a united class.”

Frank Alexander Sharpe, Secondary 1E2



Strength through Unity

Over the three days, students developed a stronger camaraderie as they strengthened their friendship and built class spirit. Students enjoyed the new challenges given to them especially the Small Office Home Office (SOHO) activity, during which each class had to collaborate to assemble flat-packed furniture to create a SOHO. Many found it an interesting and novel experience. Through laughter and struggles to put the furniture together, They realised the importance of clear communication and strategic planning before embarking on a task.

“I learnt to appreciate many values and habits including how to synergise as a team. I like the SOHO activity the most because I was leading my team. It was initially very difficult, but I learnt that with good communications, we will be able to get things done.”

Muhammad Al-Zulkiflee Bin Abdullah, Secondary 2T1



SECONDARY 4 AND 5 LEVEL PROGRAMME



“I have learnt more about the different options for my post-Secondary education. I have also learnt more about my strengths and weaknesses. I have learnt how to present myself when I go for an interview and pay attention to the little details. It has given me something to look forward to such as pursuing my interest in the career of my choice.”

**Joash Emmanuel Sam
Secondary 4E1**

The Secondary Four & Five Level Programme was held from 3rd to 5th March. It was organised to provide graduating students a systematic opportunity to acquire key life skills at this stage and knowledge to make informed decisions about their education pathways. One of the highlights includes the creation of a personal portfolio that showed a student's unique profile of personal strengths, interest and achievements. Students also learnt valuable grooming skills. They then applied this to interview skills and social skills such as networking skills and starting a conversation in a small group. We wish our Sec Fours and Fives success as they apply these skills and insights on their life's journey!

“The course was extremely informative as I learnt many things in a short period of three days. I learnt about my personality traits, created my own “Personal Anthem” and how I could use it to my advantage. I also recognise the skills that I have, which I can further develop. I am encouraged to set goals after learning how to do it. I’m able to design my portfolio and prepare myself better for my future interviews. Overall, the three days spent was extremely valuable and fulfilling.”

Sandra Ang Si Lei, Secondary 4E3



Games Carnival 2022

Games Carnival this year was held on the 25th of March. It resembled the 2021 Carnival where students played a variety of games with their classmates and form teachers within the comfort of their classrooms. The students of YCKSS looked forward to this event as they enjoyed the bonding session, working cohesively to achieve the best outcomes for the class. In these challenging Covid-19 times, they seized the opportunity to be optimistic and make the best out of the situation by participating in the games wholeheartedly. They also got to show care and empathy towards their peers and teachers when playing the games. The Key Personnel and non-teaching staff members were engaged as well where they got to participate actively in the games. Our Sports Leaders led the school in the games by taking on key umpiring roles. They worked tirelessly during the March holidays to prepare for this event which is a significant highlight for every sports leader.



“As a Sports Leader, this is my second time facilitating and leading my peers in Games Carnival. Due to the Covid-19 situation, I have not personally experienced the annual Sports Carnival but this Games Carnival was an excellent alternative that allows my schoolmates to bond and have an enjoyable time together.”

Callie Toh Secondary 3 Sports Leader



Games Carnival 2022 had four different segments; Synergy Games, Relay Games, Telematch and the event was rounded off with a Kahoot Quiz. Telematch returned this year by popular request from students. Once again, this adrenalin-pumping segment gained a lot of cheers and support. Teams completed a course of five stations of electrifying challenges involving maneuvering through tyres, transporting giant balls through a bouncy inflatable court, aiming at targets with bows and arrows, stacking huge bubble football suits and shooting down targets with a NERF gun in the fastest time possible. No wonder this was such a popular feature of the Carnival!

Games Carnival 2022 saw active mass participation in games, and it was deeply heartening to see the friendships and stronger relationships forged on this day! This event provided opportunities for students to display school's GROWTH values of gratitude by being appreciative of each other's strengths, respecting when working with others, optimism by being positive and forward looking even in challenging times, wholeheartedness by making the best in all situations by giving your best, teamwork by working together in synergy and honesty by completing the challenges honestly with integrity. The joy and fun all experienced were clearly expressed in the smiles on their faces

“I enjoyed myself a lot during Games Carnival and I was grateful that such an event was put in place for us YCKSians. It not only allows us to play together, but also for us to continuously be optimistic and upkeep good social, mental and physical health.”

Bryan Tan of Secondary 4A1



“I am thankful that I got to participate in the games despite not having a form class. I enjoyed myself very much! The challenges were very interesting, and I got to interact with my other colleagues. We laughed so hard, and we were encouraging each other to achieve our best!”

Mrs Ilango, Staff of Yio Chu Kang Secondary School

57TH SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY

The most important annual event in the school was held on the 8th April with the theme: Creating Possibilities Inspiring Positivity. Speech Day celebrates the many key achievements of students and staff from 2021 to 2022. It is also an opportunity to showcase the talents of our student performers.

Inspired by the school's theme for the year on 'Innovating because we care', we hope that our students create possibilities to expand their thinking, deepen their knowledge and innovate for the good of others and in the process, spread positivity and inspire others to do the same.

Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng was the Guest-of-Honour. Other invited guests included Chairman and members of the School Advisory Committee (SAC), Friends of YCKSS from various organisations, staff, student prize recipients, performers and helpers. Parents and other students watched the event via Youtube Live.

The Uniformed Groups contingent comprised cadets from our National Police Cadet Corps and Red Cross Youth. The Parade Commander was Sergeant Liew Tze Wan and the Contingent Commander was Sergeant Teo Kai En, Alivia.

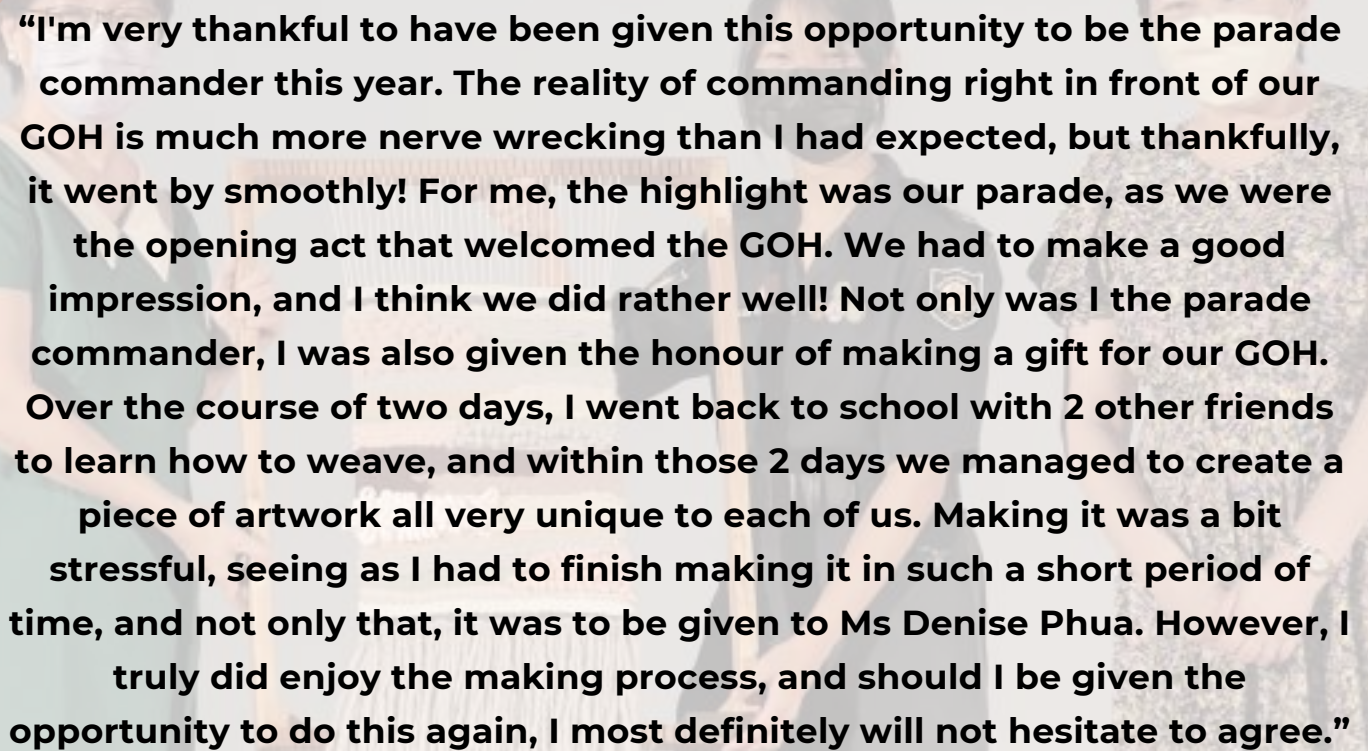




Our GOH, Miss Denise Phua, conducted the ceremonial opening of the Eco Space. This is a specially dedicated learning space designed for students to discuss environmental issues, ideate and create solutions as part of the school's Eco ACE Programme. It also features special installations for students to learn through authentic problem-solving experiences and capitalise on technology and innovations to find viable responses to sustainability-friendly solutions and innovations. Some of our students showcased their award-winning environment projects. These included a Sec 2 multi-disciplinary Eco project where the students researched solar energy as a sustainable energy source and drew connections between different subjects such as Science, Humanities and Mathematics to arrive at a conclusion on how to minimise carbon footprint in response to climate change. Another project demonstrated a prototype where the students devised their own DIY kits to turn used coffee grounds into biodegradable seed pots. Each kit includes coffee grounds from cafes, ground coconut husks and corn starch that can make up to 20 pots! A third group of students presented their investigation into the use of soup nuts as a suitable environmentally friendly alternative to chemical soaps and detergents.

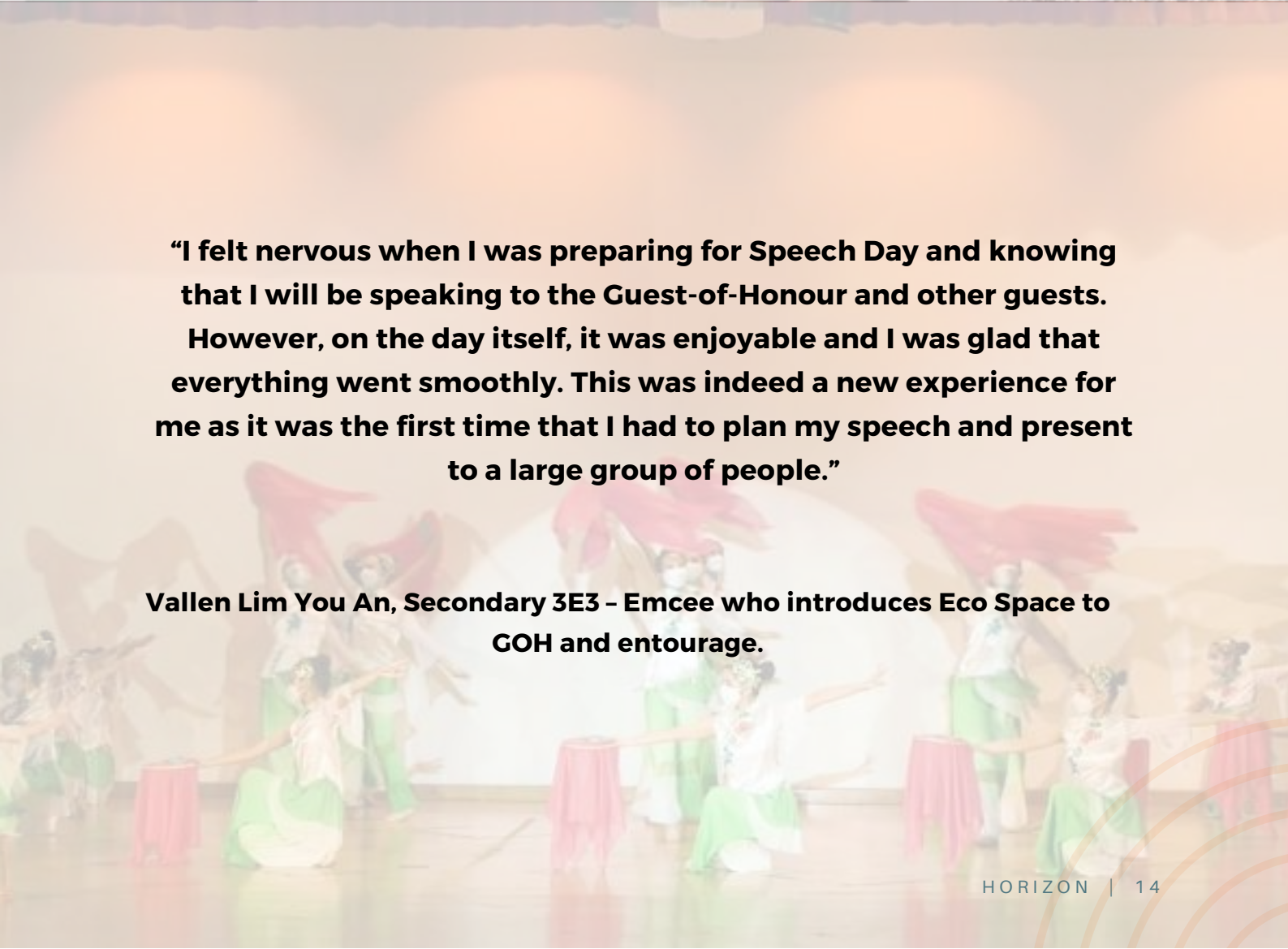


Speech Day was also memorable because of the rousing opening percussion ensemble by the GEAR-UP students. Combining the sounds of drums from the three main ethnic groups in Singapore, the performance was characterised by a distinctive repetitive style and fast paced rhythm. This unique blend of dynamic and vibrant beats of the Bian Gu, Kompang and Dhol generated colour and excitement.



“I'm very thankful to have been given this opportunity to be the parade commander this year. The reality of commanding right in front of our GOH is much more nerve wrecking than I had expected, but thankfully, it went by smoothly! For me, the highlight was our parade, as we were the opening act that welcomed the GOH. We had to make a good impression, and I think we did rather well! Not only was I the parade commander, I was also given the honour of making a gift for our GOH. Over the course of two days, I went back to school with 2 other friends to learn how to weave, and within those 2 days we managed to create a piece of artwork all very unique to each of us. Making it was a bit stressful, seeing as I had to finish making it in such a short period of time, and not only that, it was to be given to Ms Denise Phua. However, I truly did enjoy the making process, and should I be given the opportunity to do this again, I most definitely will not hesitate to agree.”

Liew Tze Wan, Secondary 3E2 - Parade Commander



“I felt nervous when I was preparing for Speech Day and knowing that I will be speaking to the Guest-of-Honour and other guests. However, on the day itself, it was enjoyable and I was glad that everything went smoothly. This was indeed a new experience for me as it was the first time that I had to plan my speech and present to a large group of people.”

Vallen Lim You An, Secondary 3E3 - Emcee who introduces Eco Space to GOH and entourage.



The Choir performed “Why We Sing”. This is a powerful original ballad by Greg Gilpin, the song celebrates the joy of music and is one of hope, peace and celebration. The switch in tempo drew the audience into the Choir’s mesmerising performance, suitably matched with visuals and technical skill of presenting the performance as a video. The Chinese Dance charmed the audience with a graceful performance called “Splendid Years”. It portrayed a group of young and beautiful girls doing embroidery, weaving their dreams together. The weaving ladies worked as a team, applying their knowledge and wisdom to weave a colourful “Splendid Years’ together, which symbolised youth, common goals and hope. The Indian Dance switched the mood and energy in the hall in their performance called “Celebration of Life”. The dance featured the humble earthen lamp as a form of celebration of life. The earthen lamps not only illuminate the space but every dancer from within. The light from all lamps merged seamlessly, uniting the dancers in diversity. The Malay Dance centred on the theme “We Will Rise”. The dance demonstrated the unifying power of determination and spirit, showing how we can overcome any obstacles that come our way with strong faith, sincerity and grit.

18th Student Leaders' Investiture 2022



The Student Leaders' Investiture, held on 20th May, marked the official appointment of a new team of Student Leaders. This event ushered in the 18th Student Council, and the 2nd Sports Leaders Executive Committee. It was also an important platform to celebrate and affirm the contributions of our outgoing Student Leaders.

This year, we were privileged to have had Mr Senthil Dayalan, member of the School Advisory Committee, grace the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour. Mr Senthil delivered an inspiring opening address about his personal leadership experiences as a Student Leader. In his speech, he highlighted two key messages he hoped our Student Leaders could remember - the importance of being humble as a leader and having grace under fire. Our Student Leaders related to his personal anecdotes, and we hope that these messages stay with them as they progress in their leadership and personal journeys. This was followed by the presentation of Letters of Appointment to 18th Student Council and 2nd Sports Leaders Executive Committee by Mr Senthil Dayalan.

With the easing of Safe Management Measures, the school reverted to having Investiture in the School Hall again! It was truly an occasion to remember, after two years of having Investiture in a bite-sized manner where different groups of Student Leaders received their Certificates of Appreciation and Letters of Appointment on different days. We gathered all the ten different groups of Student Leaders (around 120 students!) for a formal ceremony in the Hall, where each Student Leader went on stage to receive their Certificates or Letters personally from a School Leader or the Guest-of-Honour.



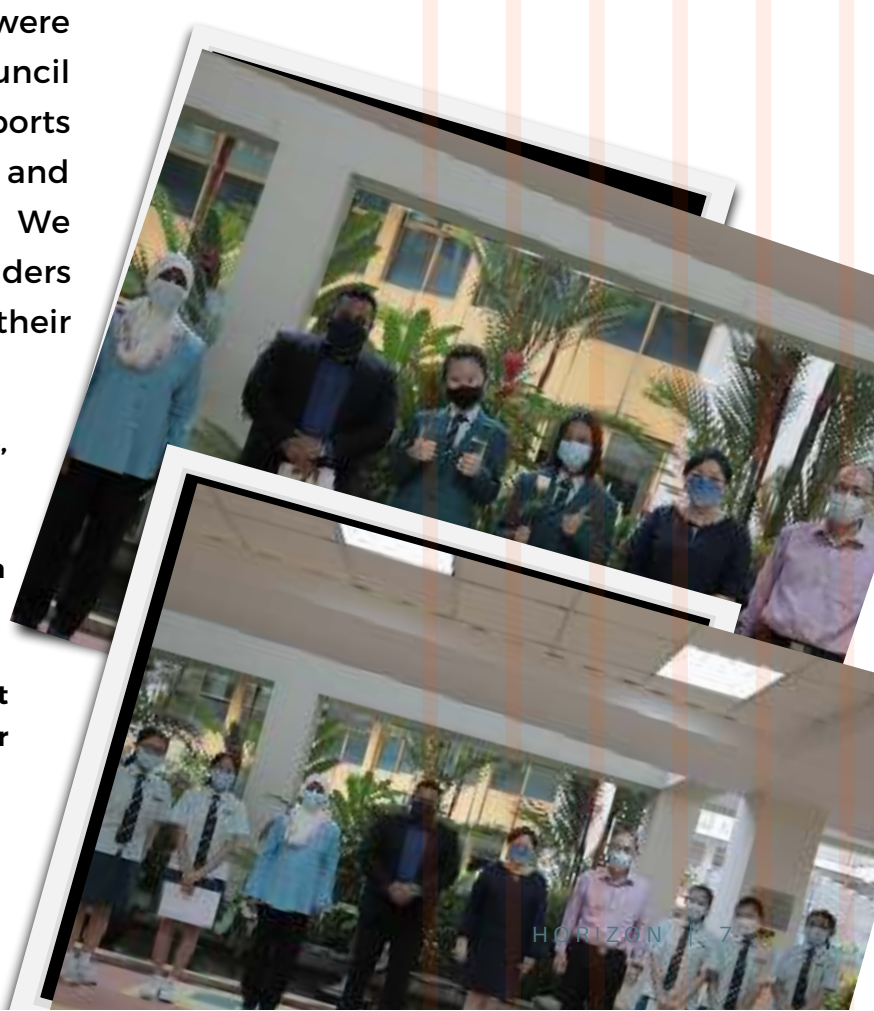
We were also very proud of our 17th Student Council President, Xu Yinuo, Nora and 1st Sports Leaders President, Pang Jie Hui, Winona, as we listened to them delivering their farewell speeches. Both Presidents reflected on how Covid-19 had impacted their leadership journeys, and how they had to pivot and innovate to continue engaging the teams they led and the student body.

We are delighted to witness the growing diversity of students contributing in meaningful ways to the school and student body. As our very first Sports Leaders Executive Committee (EXCO) handed over their leadership appointments to the 2nd Sports Leaders EXCO, we look forward to the new ways the school will continue to grow.

Through this formal school event, we were presented the 18th Student Council President, Wong Miu Yu, and the 2nd Sports Leaders President, Toh Xuan Hui, Callie, and their respective executive committees. We wish our newly appointed Student Leaders all the very best as they embark on their exciting leadership journeys ahead!

“Through this year’s Student Leaders’ Investiture, I got to hear more about my seniors’ leadership experiences and learn from them. The Investiture is also a good reminder for me to be a responsible leader like my seniors before me, and to do my best to contribute to the school and serve the student body. I am very happy that we could have the Investiture together in a larger group size setting, as it also allowed me to mingle with and get to know my fellow Student Leaders. I look forward to attending Investiture again next year!”

Wong Miu Yu, 18th Student Council President



Cyber Wellness Week

Cyber Wellness Week was held from 19th to 24th May. It was organised to educate students to be intentional in disconnecting from their devices and unhealthy online habits, and to reconnect with their friends and the people around them. Held via zoom, YCKSS Student Councillors, Sports Leaders, 3A2 Peer Supporters and Project Get Flamed! & Infocomm Media Development Authority played pivotal roles in ensuring this message reached the entire cohort.

Cyber Wellness lessons and videos were filmed in-house by our Cyber Wellness Ambassadors and Media Club members. The Student Councillors, Sports Leaders, 3A2 Peer Supporter Leaders shared personal and authentic stories on the importance of reconnecting with others. Form Teachers took students through a customised Cyber Wellness lesson to help students reflect more deeply on:

- (a) What digital devices / social media platforms we are connected to?
- (b) Who do we wish to reconnect with?
- (c) How we can strengthen our relationships with each other in class, CCA, or in school?

Bite-sized workshops conducted by a team of youths from Project Get Flamed! encouraged students to feel empowered to take the first step in building more positive online communities. While gaming is an avenue for students to relax and have fun, the workshops raised awareness that there are toxic behaviours within the gaming community.



Interactive, Scenario-based Virtual Adventure

Students were taken through a video story and were asked to make decisions on the character's next course of action. Through the unfolding of the story, they witnessed how their actions in the online world can impact their lives and relationships offline.



"I felt that this year's Cyber Wellness Week was relevant and impactful. Some of our peers might be going through challenges that we are not aware of. So, I hope that through the "Disconnect to Reconnect" short film, more students will not be afraid to open up to the people around them, and to also learn the importance of standing up for themselves."

Toh Xuan Hui, Callie of Secondary 3E2



“This year's Cyber Wellness theme video was different and special compared to the videos made by the Cyber Wellness Student Ambassadors in the past two years, as we invited our own schoolmates to read out true stories based on what some of our peers are going through. The video is relatable to most of us and serves as a good reminder that we should not be afraid to seek help if we need to. I really hope that the encouragement given in the video can help others who may be facing similar struggles. This is my last year as a Cyber Wellness Student Ambassador, and it was an honour to be able to lead in the filming of this video, as my final contribution to the Cyber Wellness Team. It was a shame that I could not take part in the filming process personally as I was down with Covid-19, but thanks to the support and help of my teachers, Media Club and my Cyber Wellness members, we managed to finish the filming and editing in time for Cyber Wellness Week! Lastly, do remember to disconnect from your devices and reconnect with your loved ones!”

Derrick See Kar Xun of Secondary 4E2, Cyber Wellness Student Ambassador

Cyber Wellness Parenting Workshop – “I can’t live without it!”

Through the parenting workshop, parents gained a better understanding of the motivations fuelling particular screen-related behaviours in youth as well as were equipped with relevant strategies to help them understand and engage their children.

Special Insider Interview

Students heard first-hand from a professional E-Sports Coach & Gamer, Ms Ruth Lim, on her experiences confronting toxicity to better understand the deep-rooted toxicity embedded within the gaming culture.



ASSEMBLY @ PARADE SQUARE

It was Assembly for the whole school at the Parade Square instead of classrooms as Safe Management Measures (SMM) eased. It was overwhelming to see the entire school gathering at the parade square, a sight not seen ever since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. It was an eventful day as it has indeed been a long time since the state and school flags have been raised at the Parade Square in full view of the entire school cohort.

Interestingly, this special occasion coincided with the commemoration service of National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) and World Red Cross Youth (RCY) Day. Thus, the day was very colourful. Having the two Uniformed Groups in full uniform, gathered in their contingents in front of the school highlighted the best in everyone. The morning assembly was a celebration of teamwork, discipline and service to others.

“I was watching the NPCC and Red Cross students standing in front raising the Singapore flag and YCKSS flag. It made me feel proud. It was momentous due to the pandemic situation. For the past two years, we had been staying in class to commemorate NPCC Day and RCY Day. Now we finally have the opportunity to celebrate together as a school at the Parade Square. I felt really proud to be a YCKSian.”

Truong Thi Bich Ngoc 3A1

“Going for the assembly after a long time was refreshing as after a year or so, we were finally able to assemble as a school again. Although it was quite uncomfortable to sit on the floor, I was happy to see all my friends from different classes gathered at the same area for assembly. It was good to see everything resumed back to how it was meant to be. For example the flag raising and the announcements given by the teachers at the podium. On top of that we were finally able to see prizes being awarded live at the parade square. Overall I think it’s great that we were able to gather together as a school for assembly once again.”

Ryan Ethan Lau 3e1



HORIZON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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