



HORIZON

YIO CHU KANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

| NEWS LETTER

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2023



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Farah Asyikin (4A1) in her dance routine



Marjanovic Alex (3T1) showcasing his art piece

PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE
SERVICE TO ALL



尋求學問 服務人群

MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT

Appreciating our Mother Tongue

Mother Tongue Fortnight was held from 9 to 20 January 2023. Its objective is to provide an immersive environment for students to learn and appreciate their Mother Tongue language.

Students were actively engaged in the wide range of fun activities that were organised for them. It was not just about the use of their own Mother Tongue languages but also about gaining a deeper understanding of the cultural aspects.

There was a plethora of activities planned for the students such as language competitions, traditional games, Xinyao and Mandarin Pop Songs Appreciation, Learning Journey to Kampung Lorong Buangkok, Batik Painting, Martial Arts (Silat), Beads and Stones Kolam Workshop and Coconut Leaf Art Workshop. The students were thrilled to have an opportunity to participate in these activities and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, mastering interesting aspects of the various cultures.

Immersive experiences



Words from our students



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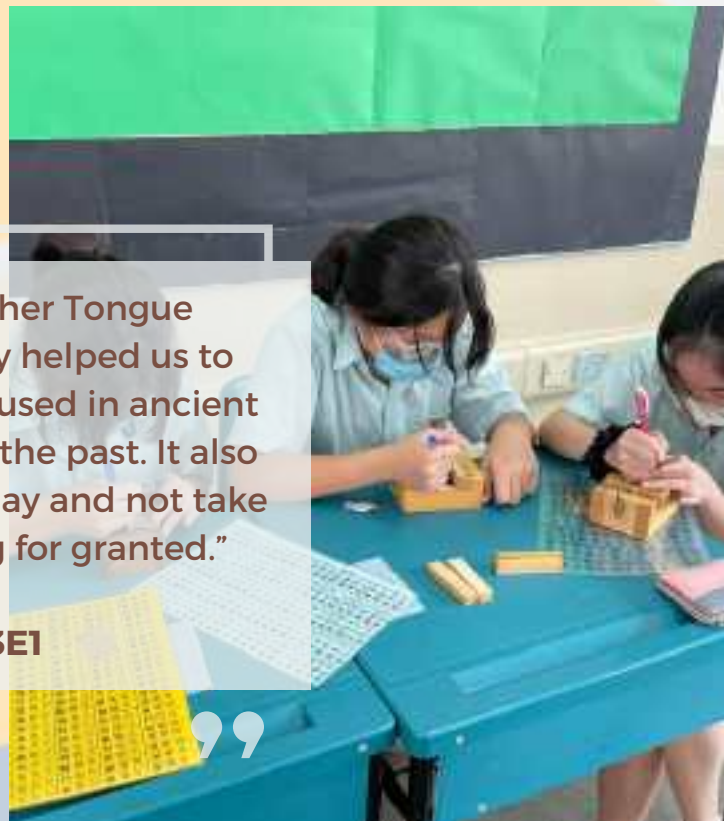
“It was surprisingly fun that teenagers like myself liked the traditional games even though we are often hooked to our devices and online games. For example, I was given the opportunity to play ‘tarik upih’. It was so fun! I also got the chance to play ‘tapak gajah’. Actually the traditional games are easy and they teach us a lot, including hand and leg coordination.”

**Muhammad Khalish Ariffin Putra Muhammad Hafizh,
Secondary 3T1**

“

“I enjoyed the activities of the Mother Tongue Fortnight. The stamp making activity helped us to better understand the different fonts used in ancient times and how stamps were made in the past. It also made us appreciate what we have today and not take the convenience of modern printing for granted.”

Gee Ming Xi, Secondary 3E1



”

USHERING
IN THE YEAR
OF THE
TIGER

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



"I felt this celebration was meaningful to me because I got to spend more time with my new friends in school and I saw many of my seniors performing! I had fun during this LNY celebration and I am waiting for more of such celebrations in the future."

**Syaura Fitriya Binte Abdullah,
Secondary 1C**



This year's vibrant Lunar New Year Celebration was held on 20 January 2023. On this auspicious day, we started the festivities with a long awaited Lion Dance Troupe performance. The Lion Dance was a hit with the students and parents who were thrilled to see the performers up close.

IT'S TIME FOR A CELEBRATION

The Lunar New Year Concert showcased the multiple talents of our students with performances from the Band, the Chinese and Indian Dancers and the Choir. We were also treated to a song item by our talented students from Secondary 3. The Lunar New Year celebrations would not have been complete without the short video drama presentation by the Media Club. One of the highlights of the Concert was a performance on the Gu Qin(古琴) by Mr Michael, who has only started learning the instrument recently.

Let's hear from YCKSians

“The Lunar New Year celebrations were awesome and very entertaining.

The lion dance was my personal favourite. All the performing arts groups that presented did very well and I enjoyed all of their items.”

**Thanavel Kumar Kailash,
Secondary 2E3**



“This is my second year presenting as an emcee for the Lunar New Year Celebration. All I can say is that even though the rehearsals were in fact tedious and exhausting, the experience on stage was memorable as it helped me to gain confidence as I overcame what’s called “stage fright”. I also recalled making a few minor mistakes during the actual performance and how I had to pick myself up and continue performing. This taught me to become more resilient when facing challenges in life.”

Wong Rui Qi, Secondary 3E1



Mohamed Izz Khan (1C) pitching a tent

Secondary One Camp Discovery

Our Secondary One cohort embarked on their Sec 1 Camp Discovery from 20 to 23 February 2023. The 5D4N adventure-filled camp was held at the MOE Changi Coast Adventure Learning Centre. Through this camp experience, students got to learn more about themselves, built friendships and actively helped each other to achieve team goals in an inclusive manner and understood the importance of caring for the environment.

The students had an enjoyable learning experience filled with challenges and fun. Using the great outdoors as the 'classroom' for learning and development, this camp offered the Sec 1 cohort a unique opportunity to work together and to overcome various outdoor challenges.

“Through Camp Discovery, I gained new experiences like the night walk and the caving. I also discovered that I have certain leadership qualities and a growth mindset. During one of the activities where we needed to lift and move heavy tyres, my group members from Gelama would shout, “We can’t lift the tyre, YET!”

**Putri Quesrissha Natasha Binte Suhardy
from Group Gelama, Secondary 1A**



*Together, we can
do so much*

Helen Keller





From navigating their way through the dark artificial caves to overcoming high elements obstacle courses to kayaking in the open sea, our brave Sec 1s demonstrated grit, resilience and teamwork. Together with their teachers, they also managed to overcome their toughest challenge, which was the 9 km expedition from the campsite at Changi Coast Walk to East Coast Park and back.

The finale Night Lights activity was a highlight for most students. They recollected their experiences, reaffirmed each other's efforts, and rediscovered themselves. 18 of our Sec 1 students were also named the Best Campers for their positive and can-do spirit. Well done! Throughout this camp, our Sec 1 students stepped out of their comfort zone to overcome obstacles. They also discovered more about themselves and forged stronger bonds with fellow Sec 1 YCKSians.

"I really enjoyed the camp experience. One of my high moments was when everyone in my group gathered to eat the delicious food we had cooked with care during the outdoor cooking activity. I also learned that no matter how hard the challenge is, we just need to work together and leave no one behind."

Lucas Tan
from Group Pari, Secondary 1E



SEC 2- 5 LEVEL PROGRAMME



Our Secondary Two students attended the Peer-Leadership Programme on 22 February 2023. The objectives were to appreciate diversity and work together to foster better understanding of one another and use positive language to affirm and encourage learning. They had an enriching two day programme. Students were given opportunities to take up different roles within the superhero teams to complete missions and allow for the demonstration of different skills and talents. Through the various exciting challenges, the Sec Twos bonded and learnt to work and appreciate each other better. They also learnt more about teamwork and developed their interpersonal skills

Our Secondary Three students spent their two days meaningfully attending the Life Skills Programme to gain awareness of effective resilience mindset and habits to overcome failure and setbacks and learn lessons from it. The Programme was designed around the 2023 school theme of *Empathy Creates Inclusivity* and the Sec Three Level theme of Resilience. They were taught the skill of adopting positive resilient habits and practical tools for solution seeking, managing stress and emotions and how to overcome failure.

The Life Skills Programme for **Secondary Four & Five** students was targeted at post-secondary school opportunities. Through this programme, they acquired key knowledge to make informed decisions about educational pathways and practised interviewing skills.

TEAMWORK MAKES

THE DREAM WORK!



Through the activities and challenges, I had the chance to get to know my classmates better. Even though there were times where we might disagree with one another, I realised we must still work with one another to achieve our goals. I hope that I will be able to get to know more classmates better throughout the year.

-Ansel Lim, 2A1



"Through this level program, I think that it has taught and benefited me in lots of ways. I even made new friends! One of the activities that I enjoyed was our hands being tied and we had to go through the activity together.

I learnt that there is meaning behind the value of resilient. It was difficult at first with my group as one small movement would make everyone suffer as the arm raffle would tighten and caused a lot of pain to our wrist. But with dedication and hard work, we managed to complete and finished the tasks successfully!

In the end, this level programme has not only taught us about values, but also how to work better as a team. I hope that the future level programme would be as fun and maybe even better!"

TAY YU QI NATALIE
(3E3)

"From this level program, I learnt new things about my friends and formed closer bonds with my classmates. I also learnt about resilience: how to manage my time and how to cope with stress.

Furthermore, this program was really entertaining and fun as we were able to learn about the different skills needed for our future. Hence, I hope to be able to take part in such engaging activities in the future."



Clariss Ong (3E1)



The level programme activities allowed me to develop more patience and empathy towards my classmates as we worked together to complete the challenges. I also learnt to appreciate that everyone is unique and different and the importance of teamwork to allow us to grow and achieve more.

- Edson Chew, 2E2



19TH STUDENT LEADERS' INVESTITURE

The annual Student Leaders' Investiture is a leadership milestone event which marks the significant appointment of our Student Leaders and recognises the important role they play in the school. It is also a valuable platform to celebrate and affirm the contributions of our Student Leaders.

This year, the 19th Student Leaders' Investiture was celebrated in-person with the entire staff and student body, together with invited parents of selected Student Leaders. It was truly an occasion to remember, as this was the first time in three years that we celebrated this occasion as a whole school. This year's Investiture was made even more memorable as our Student Council Alumni made time from their busy schedules to attend this special event. They could not be more proud to witness the growth and recognition of their juniors on stage.

We were also very privileged that Mr Herald Yeo, a member of the School Advisory Committee, graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour. Mr Yeo delivered an inspiring opening address about the importance of leadership, and how empathy is a key quality and skill that all leaders should have.

We are sure that his speech not only inspired our Student Leaders, but the student audience as well.

During the Investiture, our School Leaders presented the Certificates of Appreciation and Letters of Appointment to our outgoing and incoming Student Leaders. There was also a handover ceremony for the CCA Leaders. The outgoing CCA leaders presented a symbolic token representing their CCA to the incoming CCA leaders, to officially mark the handing over of the leadership mantle. It was a meaningful ceremony, and the students' pride and joy were evident from the smiles on their faces.



Mr Herald Yeo, our Guest-of-Honour, was invited to present the Letters of Appointment to our pinnacle groups of Student Leaders – the 19th Student Council and 3rd Sports Leaders Executive Committees (EXCOs). We are sure that these new EXCOs will bring about new opportunities and initiatives for the school!

We are also very proud of our 18th Student Council President, Ms Wong Miu Yu, as we heard her deliver her farewell speech. Miu Yu shared about the challenges she faced in her leadership journey, and how she overcame these with the support of teachers and her fellow EXCO members.

We are proud of how much all our Student Leaders have grown, and we wish our newly appointed Leaders the very best as they embark on their very own journey ahead!

"I am thankful that I was invited as an alumnus to attend the 19th Student Leaders' Investiture. I felt really proud to see my juniors being appointed to EXCO positions, and at the same time, very happy for them that they could achieve their leadership aspirations. I also feel a strong sense of belonging after seeing our annual Investiture back to an in-person event with the entire staff and student body."

Xu Yinuo, Nora

Alumnus – 17th Student Council President



"It was very humbling to stand before the school to receive the trust to lead others. I feel incredibly honoured and grateful for the confidence and faith the school has placed in me. As the new President of Sports Leaders, I look forward to creating positive changes and hope to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for our peers."

Choong Jing Rou, Trissie

Incoming 3rd Sports Leaders President

"This year's Investiture was a whole new experience for me, to be able to celebrate this special moment with my parents and with the whole school. It was truly wonderful to be able to witness the newly appointed Councillors, Sports Leaders, CCA Leaders and my fellow EXCO members, being recognised on stage and receiving their letters of appointment."

Damie Yoot Jia Yi

Incoming 19th Student Council President



58th Speech and Prize giving Day

Our 58th Speech and Prize-giving Day held on 5 May 2023, was a celebration of the achievements of our students and staff. Gracing the occasion as our Guest-of-Honour was Mr Ong Kong Hong, the Divisional Director, Curriculum Planning and Development. Our other invited guests included members of the School Advisory Committee, Friends of YCKSS from various organisations, staff, student prize recipients, performers and helpers.



Our Guest-of-honour, Mr Ong Kong Hong



The official opening of the Media Studio was a momentous event. Our Media Studio allows students to be engaged in technology-enabled learning experiences, which include media production and live news broadcasting. Students work in teams and co-create artefacts under the guidance of teachers and instructors. In the process, they sharpen 21st Century Competencies and the YCKSS 5Cs Digital Literacies which prepare them to be future-ready citizens of the world. The opening showcased students' projects on the usage of iPads in learning through subjects such as Biology, Music and English.



Our concert items showcased the amazing musical prowess nurtured within the school's walls. The drama portrayed a Peer Support Leader (PSL) taking the courage to befriend a new student who feels withdrawn and unsupported as he does not have any friends to turn to. As the new student explores the school with the encouragement of PSL, he learns about the school's caring and supportive environment.

The Fusion Dance item, *State of Harmony*, was performed to the song, "River of Harmony" by the GIMA band. It celebrated elements from traditional Asian and Western dances. This performance brought together the three dance communities, the Chinese, Indian and Malay dance groups in a creative and entertaining way.

The Finale was a combined dance and percussion performance to the song "Dreamers", by BTS member Jung Kook. It was a collaboration between Dance Interest LLP Group and the GEAR-UP percussionists. The Choir sang "The Rhythm of Life!", a song from the hit Broadway musical and motion picture, *Sweet Charity*, and "A Million Dreams", one of the most memorable songs from the blockbuster movie, "The Greatest Showman".



Our School Advisory Committee member, Dr. Matthew Yap, penning well-wishes in our guest book



YCKSS School Advisory Committee



YCKSS Concert Band

“The 58th Speech and Prize-giving Day was my first-time attending Speech Day and surely was a pleasant experience. I felt proud to be part of the school community when Mrs Carol Lim, Principal shared the numerous achievements of the school. I also enjoyed watching my classmates and friends perform on stage. Above all, I found it inspiring to know the diverse dreams the various students have that were shared through the video, Dream.”

Nathan Ian Arollado
(Student Audience), Secondary 4E3

“The Speech Day performance felt like it went by so fast. Although the practices and rehearsals for the performances were demanding, we persevered and managed to put up an awesome performance on the actual day. Overall, it was an amazing experience and I hope to perform again.”

Putt Chee Neng
(Finale item performer), Secondary 3A2

“I felt nervous when I was preparing for Speech Day as there were many moments to capture. I had to constantly adjust the setting of the cameras to capture the best photos for the event. While it was stressful, I truly enjoyed the whole process and I felt proud that I managed to catch beautiful shots of the event.”

Puteri Nur Danisha
(AVA Photographer), Secondary 3T1



Health Fiesta Week & Sports Carnival

On 19 May 2023, the air was filled with anticipation and the energy was contagious as students, teachers, parents and other guests gathered together to celebrate athleticism, teamwork, and school spirit. From thrilling races to friendly competitions, the Sports Carnival showcased the incredible talent and sportsmanship of our students. The competitive spirit was infectious, yet students always displayed admirable sportsmanship, supporting and cheering for their peers.

Beyond the competitive events, the carnival offered a range of recreational activities to engage everyone. The multi-generational bonding games with Yio Chu Kang Community Sports Club allowed the elderly and the students to relax, bond, and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

The prize-giving ceremony marked the end of an exhilarating day. Students were acknowledged for their remarkable performances, and winners and runners-up were awarded medals. The Principal delivered a heartfelt speech, emphasising the importance of sportsmanship, dedication, and teamwork.

“The Sports Carnival was a very fun experience. My classmates competed against other classes and we had tremendous fun. It was interesting to be able to play multi-generational games with the elderly from the YCK community and demonstrate inclusivity through games.”

**Halili Kara Lindsay Naval,
Secondary 3E2**



“The Sports Carnival was very fun for me. I got to play with my classmates against other classes. There were teachers to ensure we were all safe. It was a very enjoyable experience.”

Wong Rui Bin, Secondary 2E2



“The sports carnival was one great thing that happened this year as it is my last year in this school. I enjoyed the Sports Carnival very much. The game that I played was fun. It’s my favourite sport - football, but we played this within giant bubbles which made it even more interesting too. The experience of these games and sports gave students and teachers a fun time together.”

**Aadithyan S/O Sathiyam,
Secondary 4TI**





THE HORIZON

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