



Jan- June 2017

SHARING



Home away from home



Together, we'll have fun, sharing and learning



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RIVER SAFARI WITH UOB VOLUNTEERS

13 January 2017

On the way to River Safari, I was excited and bursting with happiness since I only visit them once in a blue moon. Once we were there, we were each given a goody bag with snacks inside. In the park, we saw many marine animals. I also ate a panda bun that was filled with chocolate for tea break. Thereafter, we went on a boat ride during which we saw giraffes and a hippopotamus too! The zoo keeper showed us several other animals with the pelican being my favourite. We caught a glimpse of an anaconda on our way out. Our last stop was the monkey enclosure where we spotted many types of monkey. It was sad to end the day but I had fun and this experience was unforgettable.

- Zenith Ng (P5)

Last Friday, we went to River Safari with the UOB volunteers. We each received a goody bag upon arrival and I felt like I was on cloud nine. In the park, we saw many fishes, reptiles and amphibians. I did not know that fishes could grow up to 3 meters long! Next, we went to the panda enclosure and I first saw a red panda. It was so cute and looked more like a raccoon than a panda. I managed to touch and feel the giraffe's tail as well. Finally it was time to see my favourite monkey and that made my day. I hope that I can go there again.

- Wong Xiao Qian (P4)



RED PACKET ORIGAMI WITH SRJC STUDENTS

18 January 2017

Xin Yi rejoicing over her delightful creations



The enthusiastic students from Serangoon Junior College ignited the festive spirit of Chinese New Year through imparting their creativity and patience to teach our students on making lanterns and fans made from red packet. Both the children and their families have benefited greatly as the end product was an astonishing embellishment that added a sparkle to their homes.



Aaron focusing intently

Vanessa's proud creation with guidance from the SRJC students



Our very own origami booth

BALIK KAMPUNG WITH SHENG HONG

19 February 2017



Artwork Display



The excitement of Chinese New Year lingered in the air as students and teachers collaboratively prepared for the 'Balik Kampung' event, specially organised to celebrate Chinese New Year with the community. Our students were tasked to produce several pieces of individual art work and also to assist the teachers in preparing the origami flowers and butterflies for decorating the event venue. It was definitely an enriching experience of camaraderie spirit within the centre.

Traditional Costume Modeling Competition Winners



1st - Jeremy Loo



2nd - Sufeia



3rd - Vanessa Lee



God of Fortune appearance

BALIK KAMPUNG ARTWORK DISPLAY



Proudly
presenting ...



Our
Masterpieces



★ Melody Tan (P6) ★



★ Cham Xin Yi (P5) ★



★ Vera Wong (P1) ★

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL - GARDENS BY THE BAY

16 March 2017

This morning we went to Gardens by the Bay. When we reached there, I saw the dinosaurs moving and their bodies were soft to the touch. Then, we proceeded to make some crafts and colouring. At the flower dome, we saw many different types of colourful flowers. We had so much fun!

- Lyvon Chwa (P2)

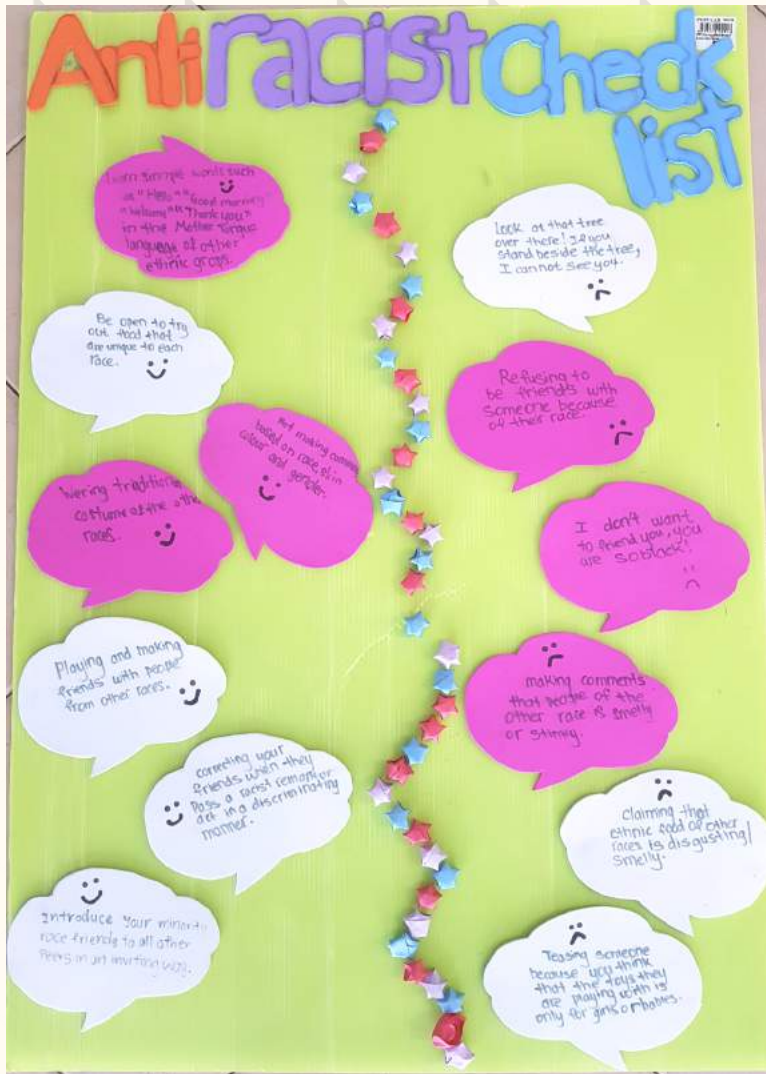


During the March holidays, I went to the Children's Festival at Gardens by the Bay with my friends from student care. We went on a dinosaur trail and I managed to get a pink chop as we found a dinosaur egg. I also did some craft activities such as sand art bookmark, shrinking key chain and pipe cleaner dinosaur. Next we went to the cloud forest and I saw a rainbow at the bottom of the water, it was spectacular! At the end of the day, I bought a delicious ice-cream from McDonald's. I enjoyed the trip and hope to visit Gardens by the Bay again.

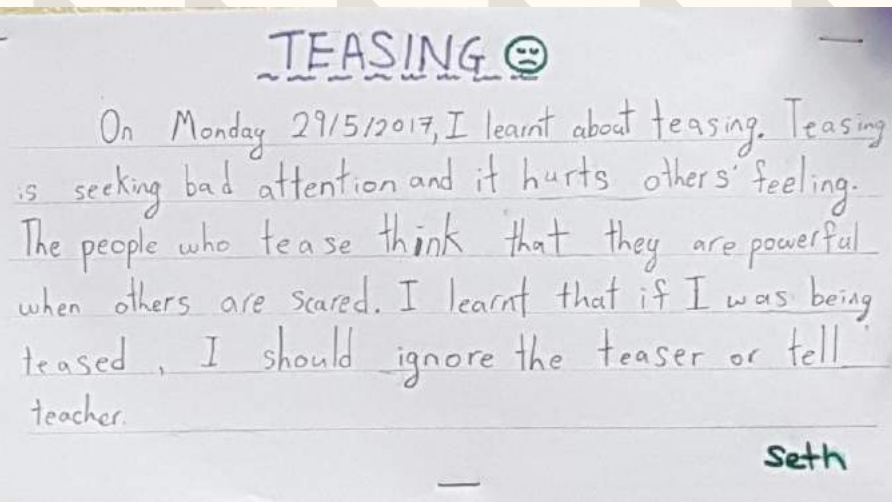
- Mike Eckstein (P4)

CHARACTER BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Mar & June Holidays



During the March and June school holidays, our caregivers at the centre had conducted several in house programmes to inculcate values of self esteem and inclusiveness in the children. The utilization of a wide array of teaching resource such as art and craft, self reflection, peer evaluation and educational clips had certainly benefited our children tremendously.



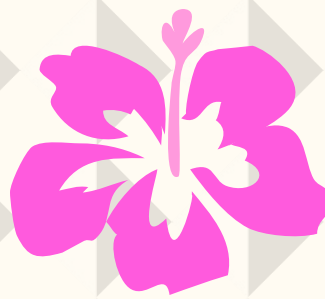
OUTING TO BOTANIC GARDENS

1 June 2017



Today, we went to the Botanic Gardens. As I had been there before, I noticed there were new places which seemed interesting. They are the wetland and the learning forest. I saw several insects such as dragonflies and butterflies. I had fun walking on the net that was being secured to the SPH giant tree! It was both a memorable and fascinating trip and I hope to be able to go again.

- Yeo Kai Kiat (P3)



I learnt a lot of things at the learning forest inside Botanic Gardens. We saw a painted Jezebel, Carpenter Bee, White-breasted Waterhen, Yellow-Barred Flutterer and lots of plants at the learning forest. We also went to the National Orchid Gardens and saw many different types of orchid. We even found a squirrel on the tree! I enjoyed the trip to the Botanic Gardens.

- Vera Wong (P1)



CEDAR GIRLS ON ANIMAL ABUSE

6 & 8 June 2017

Prize presentation for students that emerged 1st in the Amazing Race



Immersed in the captivating skit performed by the volunteers

On Tuesday, we learnt about Animal cruelty. Some volunteers did a skit about an owner abusing his pets. Then, we also played a game, blow wind blow. In the afternoon, we even had our chance to write and perform our own skit! I had fun with the volunteers and look forward to such activities in the future.

-Tara Yap (P4)



The Cedar Girls had come to our centre to talk to us about animal cruelty. We learnt that dogs could recognise certain colours such as yellow, blue, black and white. After putting on a skit, they taught us to fold origami animals such as rabbit and bear. On Thursday, we played an amazing race with 6 stations and we came in third. I am happy to receive the presents and hope that they would come again.

- Lim En Tong, P4

Playing 'Blow wind blow' with the volunteers

Devoting full concentration onto folding the animal origami



FATHER'S DAY GIFT

7 June 2017

A delightful surprise from

Ahnaf to his Father



Father's Day 2017 was commemorated with a twist by adding on clay craft on top of a greeting card. The delightful presents reflected on how the children had their creative juices flowing, probably stemming from the love for their fabulous Fathers.



Eager to present their crafts to their awesome Fathers.



There can never be too many gifts for Dearest Dad



Mission Accomplished just in time for Father's Day



The gifts represent the insurmountable love for our Father!

SCC TELEMATCH

12 June 2017



Ready, Aim and Toss!



Chopstick balloon



Shuttlecock toss inspired from Chapteh

*We Play,
We Learn,
We Grow*

Extending a helping hand to loop the hoop.



Our children hyped with anticipation and were ready to let their hair loose for the telematch session. The games boasted enjoyment as well as incorporation of opportunities for fostering both sportsmanship and leadership. Looks of exhaustion and glee soon plastered all over their faces as they conquered the multitude of activities laid out for them.

NUS ON THAI CULTURE

15 & 16 June 2017

Playing London Bridge is falling down



Work in progress - Thailand Lantern

Student volunteers from National University of Singapore - Sheares Hall had organised a 2 day camp to teach our children on Thai culture. The comprehensive activities include making Thai art crafts, traditional Thai games, sampling mouthwatering Thai delicacies, learning of basic Thai words and even singing of a Thai song! The active engagement with the volunteers got our children on their toes and invoked awareness towards other cultures of the world. The enjoyable moment of learning through play definitely left an indelible imprint on both the minds and hearts of our children.

Thai words

- Sawaddee (krub/ka) = Hello.
- Sabai dee mai (krub/ka) = How are you doing?
- Khob khun (krub/ka) = Thank you.
- Khun Por = Daddy
- Khun Mae = Mommy



Enjoying homework tutoring

Overwhelming with elation as they show off their Thai Lanterns



Traditional Thai Game - Where's my 5 Baht coin

NJC ON EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

19 - 23 June 2017



Using utmost concentration to build the tallest tower



Piecing the puzzle whilst being blindfolded



Playing a game of Charades

The students from National Junior College had come together to equip our students with soft-skills to develop their emotional maturity. Their fun filled programmes encompassed of communication, emotional intelligence, decision making, time management and valuing friendship. The skillfully infused activity made it a breeze for our children to capture the imperative essence of the soft skills. Our children had undoubtedly reaped home a bountiful of invaluable insights when the activity drew to an end.



Cooperatively untangling the human knot

HOUGANG SWIMMING COMPLEX OUTING

22 June 2017



Belles in the Water



An intensive Floorball Match



Julian attempting Backstroke



On Thursday, we went to Hougang Swimming Complex and were greeted by uncle Phillip when we arrived at our destination. The day started off with a game of floor ball match and we really sweated it out! Thereafter, uncle Phillip gave us a briefing about safety in the pool before releasing us for our water play. Majority of us went to the training pool, during which we swam and basked in the cool water. Approximately 1 hour later, we went for a shower and proceeded for lunch at McDonald's. I had an enjoyable time at the swimming complex and certainly hope for this to be organised again but to include water polo as well.

- Benedict Toh (P6)



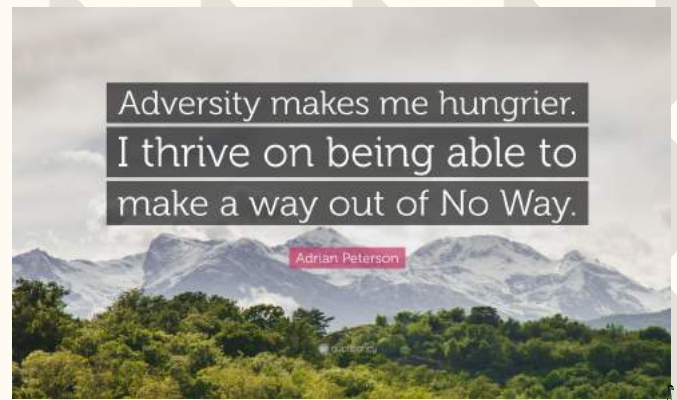
Watch me shake my hips as warm up!



Thank you uncle Phillip for your warm hospitality (:

FOOD FOR THOUGHTS

sharing good articles for your reading pleasure



Thriving on Adversity

Turning the strawberry generation into delicious strawberry tarts is Ms Aileen Tan's aim. Hear what Singtel's group director of Human Resource has to say about her days detecting land mines in Vietnam and why it's necessary for young people to seize every available opportunity.

Who tends to be your most promising employees?

Those who display a high level of adversity quotient (AQ) and a willingness to learn are usually the ones who thrive.

One good example would be a young intern we once had who saw a learning opportunity in every task, including taking minutes for a meeting. A person without the right attitude might think that it's a mundane job that is beneath his/her capacity. But this intern saw it as a chance to hear the perspectives of the attendees and learn from the way they present themselves.

What is "adversity quotient"?

Let me explain by sharing my "strawberry tart" analogy. Young people today are commonly regarded as "the strawberry generation", with little resilience and tenacity. Like a strawberry, they get bruised easily when you apply pressure.

However, young people with a high adversity quotient can be shaped through training and challenging assignments into little strawberry tarts. They can be put through high heat in the oven. Once they sustain the pressure and the heat, they become delicious strawberry tarts.

Can you share a candidate who displayed very high adversity quotient?

But recently, we had a candidate who shared about how he barely made it through the PSLE. It made him realise that he had to work very hard to get to where he wanted. He went through the N-Level route, told his mum he would fund his own polytechnic education and became one of the top-performing students there. To afford school fees, he even started his own business doing door-to-door sales.

Are most young Singaporeans ready to be "strawberry tarts"?

To a certain extent, a small group of Singaporeans are ready, especially if they had studied or worked abroad. They would have had a taste of being away from the comforts of home, and would be independent and adaptable.

However, some young Singaporeans can be selective about the destinations of overseas postings and prefer first world nations, such as the US and Australia, to developing countries, like India and Africa. Be it Africa or Australia, an overseas stint is a life-changing experience so young people shouldn't be hesitant to step out of their comfort zones.

Did you have that opportunity when you first started out?

I headed to Vietnam in the early 1990s, and I remember we still had to "trace" landmines on the way to Song Be to clear the land for a factory. It wasn't conventional or safe, but I was hungry. I saw it as an opportunity, not a hardship posting.

Making a decision to work in a foreign country turned out to be one of the best experiences in my life because you learn how to appreciate different cultures and deal with unknown challenges and factors.

Some young people don't know yet what they want to do. How can they find out?

They can speak to their seniors, teachers/lecturers, career counsellors, relatives, and even friends. They can also attend career fairs. Another good way is to do an internship or apply for part-time jobs during the holidays to try out different areas of interest.

My daughter, for example, told me she wants to work for a year after attaining her diploma so she can find out and be sure if she wants to pursue a career in Digital Animation.

Digital Animation is still a relatively young industry in Singapore. Did you have any concerns when your daughter expressed her interest?

Of course, I have my fears. My biggest fear is that she would not be able to find a job and look after herself in future. Every mum has that same worry; I am no different.

I remember that my parents wanted me to be an engineer. If I had taken the path that they insisted I take, I would not be where I am today. However, my parents gave me the opportunity to decide on my career, and I should give my children the same.

How did you overcome your fears?

I saw how passionate my daughter was about what she wants to do, the research she had done and that she knew very clearly what she wanted to do, I realised something: she will survive and make it – with or without me.

[Dealing with] her situation is exactly how I look at my staff in Singtel. When I see an employee who is hungry, has aspirations and potential, and works hard to get there, I know that he/she is on the road to success.

STAFF TEAM

committed in developing each child holistically



From left to right: Mdm Ong Yam Neo (Cook), Mdm Chashma Taufiq (Caregiver), Ms Denise Chee (Caregiver - Last day on 27th July 2017), Ms Brenda Lim (Caregiver), Ms Ng Lai Yoong (Supervisor - Last day on 2nd June 2017), Mrs Sara Tan (Executive Director), Mdm Goh Back Ching (Cleaner) & Mdm Cynthia Ong (Caregiver)

A warm welcome for our new supervisor, Ms Evelyn Choo



The year of 2017 had brought about refreshing changes for the centre. As we bade farewell to our former supervisor Ms Ng, we also welcomed a new supervisor, Ms Evelyn Choo on board. We believe that her extensive experience in the early childhood sector would help the center soar higher heights. We would also like to thank Ms Ng and Ms Denise for their contributions to the centre and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.



~~ Thank You ~~