



Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Time has passed so quickly this year and now we are nearing the end of 2019! This year, School has been kept busy working on improving student outcomes and school processes.

In this last issue of the newsletter for 2019, I would like to share the results collated from the 2019 Parents Satisfaction Survey that was administered in October. We are both appreciative for the feedback and heartened by the results.

A total of 169 parents responded and gave feedback. For the whole survey, we achieved an average score of 3.1 out of a Likert scale of 4. Many survey items observed an increase in scores as compared to the 2018 survey results with the highest at 3.6, and this was for questions pertaining to communication between teacher and parent in general as well as communication regarding the student's needs, behaviour and progress.

As for the two questions with the lowest score at 3.1, both were pertaining to communication between parent and School. According to the survey's feedback, parents' least preferred modes were "Written communication in my child's Student Communication Diary" and "Emails from the School". As with improved technology, knowledge and usage of mobile devices, parents have indicated a preference for communication using such devices such as text messages with School staff.

From the quality feedback, 56 parents complimented the School for having friendly, caring, helpful & committed staff, while 16 liked the School's clean and safe facilities or equipment. There were 13 parents who shared that they liked the School's good programmes and activities such as the class outings and learning journeys. One parent also commented that "The school provides a variety of programmes to meet the different needs of the students.".

As with all surveys, the major learning is driven from areas for improvement. Seven parents noted that there was a need to improve on manpower while 12 requested for an improvement on programmes. 18 parents called for improvements in the area of facilities & equipment. The School and CPAS as a whole will look into each feedback and seek to improve on our programmes and processes. We welcome parents to provide feedback to the School through email or setting up a meeting with School Leaders for discussion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from School as well as colleagues from the other departments for the collaboration and cohesive teamwork to improve student outcomes. We are always grateful for the support parents, caregivers and family members provide for the students when they are in school as well as at home, so that the skills taught in school are practised at home for generalisation and mastery.

Vince Lombardi, a famous American football player, coach, and executive in the National Football League once said, "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." Borrowing from this quote, the success of CPAS School is the result of the combined efforts of each and every staff and stakeholder. Let us continue to work hand-in-hand as we move into the new year 2020. On behalf of everyone at CPAS, I would like to wish good health and a restful holiday to everyone!

Yours sincerely, Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay, School Principal

CPASS Boccia CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

Students from the CCA Boccia participated in their first 3-day CPASS Boccia Championship 2019 on 11, 18 and 25 October. They internalised and executed all the knowledge and skills imparted to them by their CCA Boccia Teachers and demonstrated the school values well.

They tried their best and gave the audience a great showcase of exciting Boccia skills in their respective matches. Students

Aloysius Gan from Class Eagle 1A, Sow Zi Xuan from Class Eagle 3A and Aaryll Ryan Das from Class Eagle 7A emerged winners from their respective categories. Kudos to the CCA Teachers, parents and volunteers for a successful Boccia Competition! We look forward to another CPASS Competition in 2020!

The players had to strategise where to throw their balls to get as close as possible to the jack ball.

The players can also make use of the ramps to assist them in the Boccia competition.

Elias Park Primary School Boccia Exchange

The CCA Boccia hosted 24 students from Elias Park Primary School on 1 November. Students of CPASS helped to host the students and gave them an insight to Boccia through demonstration and a series of modified Boccia Games. We played Boccia Tic Tac Toe, Hit the ball and the real Boccia match.

Our students were able to practise public speaking, being a referee and building their confidence. Students of Elias Park Primary School not only learnt about the game, but also about the strengths of our students.

It was a fun and meaningful session for both schools and we look forward to host them again next year!



The students had fun in playing Boccia Tic Tac Toe.



Written by Mr Yap Feng Kai, Teacher

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Written by Ms Vasantha K Palanisamy, Teacher

The Special Arts mini Exhibition was held on 1 November in the Special Arts room. The aim of the exhibition was to showcase the artwork done by past and present students from the CCA Special Arts.

Teachers and students from the other CCAs came for the exhibition and had fun participating in the 'hands on art activities'.

Everyone also enjoyed taking pictures of the artwork displayed.



Let's form a collage of different shapes.



Some of the Artwork displayed at the Mini Art Exhibition.



Students and teachers were enjoying the artwork.



Student Bhramareuben Premakumar (Class Eagle 10B) was demonstrating his drawing skills.

Extra Ordinary People Celebration 2019

Written by Ms Anita Rose, Transition Planning Officer

The Extra Ordinary People Celebration 2019 was a celebration that lasted for two days on 8 and 9 November. This year, Singapore welcomed guest performers from Indonesia, Hong Kong and Philippines. It was also a proud moment for our school. The students of CCA Performing Arts combined with students from the concert band of Casuarina Primary School to put up a sterling performance. In addition, two of our students namely Qistina Cheong from Class Eagle 7B and Muhamad Dahny Mikhail from Class Eagle 9B were selected to sing the song "Sing" by Carpenters at the Opening. They also joined in to sing the closing song "Home" with the other participants. The celebration gave an opportunity for our students to interact with their mainstream peers. It was a totally amazing inclusive event whereby the audience thoroughly enjoyed the amazing performances from various schools.



Our students of CCA Performing Arts were ready to give their best in the performance on stage. 🖭 🖰



Students Qistina Cheong and Muhamad Dahny Mikhail were showcasing their talent in singing.

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Updates On CCA Swimming

Written by Ms Debbie Chan, Teacher

On 5 May, 5 students namely, Siti Hawa Binte Abdullah (Class Eagle 7A), Samuel Sng (Class Eagle 5A), Thomas Ng Thiam Hock (Class Eagle 5A), Liew Jia Jun (Class Eagle 2A) and Adrian Chan (Class Eagle 7A) represented CPASS in the Haw Par National Youth Swimming Championships 2019. The competition was organized by Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) and held at Our Tampines Hub. During the event, our swimmers displayed confidence, resilience and team work.



This year, we also had the honour of meeting the Guest-of-Honour of the event, Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Member of Parliament. In the conversation, our students expressed their enthusiasm for the CCA Swimming and its sporting competitions. In addition, they also shared on how their weekly swimming sessions had improved their physical movement and endurance.

Our students were posing for a picture with Mr Baey Yam Keng.



From 18 to 19 October, the CPASS Helang Scouts Unit held its camp in School. The objective of the camp was for the seven participants to earn their Camper, Cook and Swimmer badges. The teachers also wanted to give the scouts opportunities to be independent and explore the nearby community facilities. The scouts participated in the planning of the menu for their meals, purchasing of groceries, pitching up the tents and also the actual meal preparations.

An external swimming coach was engaged to assess the scouts' swimming abilities. After an hour long session in the afternoon, four scouts achieved the Bronze standard, one achieved the Silver standard and one achieved the Gold standard. For some of the scouts, it was their first time away from home and they had trouble sleeping in the tents. However, all of them persevered through the night and completed the activities before heading home feeling a sense of achievement.

Written by Ms Aifaa Liyana Binte Norazhar, Job Coach

School Camp

Written by Ms Nur Irdayu Binti Abdul Kadir, Teacher

Graduating students participated in the annual School Camp held on 20 to 21 September. The students bonded with one another through team building activities and a scrumptious barbeque dinner at Pasir Ris Park. On Day 2, they were also involved in an enjoyable Laser Tag activity held at the School Hall. The School Camp encouraged independence and social skills among the students. At the same time, the event also reinforced the School Values - Respect, Confidence, Resilience and Integrity. The students had a fun-filled experience during the camp!

Bang, bang!!



We were doing a trial session before the start of an exciting game. <</p>





The sight of Teacher Aide Insyirah climbing in tandem with one of our students inspired many observers.

Updates On CCA Track and Field

Written by Ms Noredah Bte Mohd Yatim, Senior Teacher

Students of CCA Track and field had a great full body workout while scaling the heights of the rock wall at Tampines Meridian Junior College (TMJC) on 18 October. Overcoming the fear of scaling tall walls, students of CPASS had a blast time climbing the rock wall at their own pace. The friendly and supportive students and teachers from TMJC made the challenge of climbing the rock wall a possible accomplishment for our CPASS students!



Student Wayne of Eagle 10B was on his solo feat to conquer the rock wall.



Student Muhammad Idzni Haziq of Eagle 5A managed to reach the top in each climb!

Games Day At Metta School

Written by Ms Debbie Chan, Teacher

This year, CPASS was invited to join Metta School for their Games Day held on 4 September. The event aimed to cultivate inclusion and a healthy lifestyle. Our students of Class Eagle 7A participated in the event, together with Ms Irene Ho (Head of Programme & Transition Planning Coordinator), Ms Debbie Chan, and Ms Raidah.

In the morning, the group first proceeded to Simei Park for a 800m run. Through this opportunity, we inspired our students to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. We wanted our students to be given ample opportunities to exercise and participate in mass run events.

After the run, we returned to Metta School for lunch. In the afternoon, Metta School organized a carnival games session, where activities were designed and facilitated by their school prefects. Through such experiences, CPASS students had the opportunity to communicate and socialize with peers from Metta School.

In sum, our students enjoyed themselves tremendously throughout the event. We look forward to participating in the Games Day at Metta School again in the future!



Our students were participating in the 800m run.







Students were lining up for the inflatable castle.

Our students were participating in one of the carnival games that was facilitated by the student prefects of Metta School.

Children's Day Celebration

Written by Ms Zerline Goh, Teacher

Children's Day is not only a celebration of childhood, but serves as a reminder of children's rights, care and education. This year, CPASS celebrated Children's Day on 3 October, keeping in mind the need to promote autonomy, to respect the students and their choices, so as to enhance the quality of their experiences through the programmes planned for the day.

Seven different workshops catering to the needs and interests of our students were planned and they are namely, Angklung Percussion, Spa and Playdough Exploration, Batik Art Painting, Adaptive Sports, Music and Movement, Storytelling and Puppetry, and Pottery Workshop. Prior to the celebration, students were given the opportunity to rank their preferences of activities and were allocated to either their first or second choice.

Students enjoyed snacks from an array of choices: mashed potato and chicken, popcorn, candy floss, sweet corn and ice cream. They were also visited by our roving photo booth and a group of volunteers who dressed up as Toy Story characters. The celebration ended with a bubble performance and some of them even had the opportunity to be in a bubble.

This Children's Day would not have been made possible without the great help from our regular volunteers, the volunteer team led by Mr Geordie, as well as the volunteers and sponsorship from Loomis Sayles Investments Asia Pte Ltd. Thank you for putting smiles on the students' faces!





Deepavali Celebration

Written by Ms C Sonia Shakti Nair, Teacher

Deepavali is the festival of lights where the light symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Deepavali was celebrated in CPASS on the 31 October. The celebration was split into 2 main sections – stations and show.

The idea behind the stations was to give our student a hands-on experience of the different customary practices that Hindus practise before and during Deepavali. There were 5 stations in total. First being the Murukku station where our student got the opportunity to make and eat some Murukku. Murukku is a traditional snack that is common during the time of Deepavali. Second station is the Henna station whereby our students got an opportunity to get their hands decorated by professional henna artist. At the third station which was the Lights station, our students were taught about the meaning and symbolisation of different types of lights found in a Hindu household. Our students were also given the opportunity to light and decorate lamps. Fourth station was the Rangoli station that allowed our students a chance to make Rangoli art from colour rice flour. Finally, the fifth station showcased the Flower station as flowers and garlands are rather symbolic to the Hindu customs and hence, it is a big part of Deepavali. At this station, our students were taught to make their own garland. At every station, students were given a little keep-sake to take home.

The second part of the celebration was the Deepavali show at the hall. During the show, students were enlightened with the story of Deepavali that was brought to life by our teachers through a performance. The performance encompassed meaningful and cultural significance. The performance was followed by two traditional dance choreography; one by Ms Nandhika, a traditional dancer and the other by our very own student Thevasri Suresh (Class Eagle 1A). Before the end the show, Mr Ragha, a world renowned flute player, played a classic number for all to enjoy. To wrap up the celebration, our students and teachers were treated to a vegetarian Indian meal completed with dessert.

Overall it was an enlightening and experiential celebration for our students.



Staff and students were making and eating Murukku at the Murukku station.



Students were making colourful Rangoli at the Rangoli station.







One of our students tried out the Henna painting on his arm.

'☆★.* School Graduati♡n 2019 *.★☆'

Written by Ms Charmaine Hon, Teacher

School Graduation is our annual ceremony to mark the start of a new chapter in our graduands' lives. It is also a celebration of their years in CPASS. This year's theme was 'Our Shining Stars' to symbolize our students as shining stars who had shone light on the school, and their families.

This night was a culmination of effort and collaboration. The graduates were involved in the process as they chose their favourite colours for their prom outfit, which was designed and commissioned for them. After the final fitting, student had a photoshoot to capture them in both their ceremonial robes and prom outfit. These photos were also showcased in a mini exhibition. Each graduate prepared weeks ahead for their final speech and they even chose the song to fit their own photo montage!

The guests were moved by all the wonderful and moving speeches. Students demonstrated great confidence in addressing the crowd. Parents were also greatly involved in the event- they accompanied their child up on stage to receive their certificates and also enjoyed a parent-child dance together. Everyone enjoyed the live music, food, photo booth and dancing.

All the hard work paid off and it was truly a heartwarming and enjoyable evening. We would like to thank all staff and sponsors, who helped with the event. Thank you to the parents for all your support over the years! We wish the graduands all the best towards their shining future!



2019 PSLE Results Day

Written by Ms Benedicta J Silva, Teacher

We are very pleased and proud to share that our students, Muhammad Adib Tarmizi Bin Suprat and Aloysius Gan Kai Hong, who were in the school's Academic Programme, passed the recent Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) 2019. Taking Foundation English, Foundation Mathematics and Standard Science subjects, both boys worked hard and did well. Both boys are eligible for the Normal Academic course in Secondary One.



Adib and Aloysius faced many challenges along the way and displayed resilience and confidence in overcoming them and focusing on their goal. They truly are role models for all of us.



We would also like to express our gratitude to their parents who supported them and journeyed with them and all the staff who had in one way or another taught and guided them.

We wish Adib and Aloysius all the best in their future endeavours.

ST 2: COMPETENT AND COMMITTED STAFF

Teacher's Day Celebration 2019

Written by Ms Suzana Ahmed, Head of Programme (High Support Programme)

Teachers' Day in Singapore is celebrated annually on the first Friday in the month of September. It is an occasion for celebrating and enjoying the relationship between all school staff and students. CPASS had its Teachers' Day celebration this year in both morning and afternoon sessions on 5 September. It was a simple celebration where all staff and students gathered in the hall to enjoy dance and song performances and recitation of poems by our students. Fun games and montage specially dedicated to all staff were prepared by Ms Kathleen and her team. Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay, our Principal presented a token to all the school staff and the 6 Staff Awards voted by fellow colleagues. The 6 Staff Awards are namely the Most Generous Staff award, Most Caring Staff award, Most Diligent Staff award, Most Creative Staff award, Most Cheerful staff award and Most Helpful staff award.

On the whole, everyone enjoyed the event for that day. It was also a day for all staff involved in educating our students to reflect on our commitment in special education.





Updates on Staff Training

Written by Ms Tan Chor Hui, Senior Teacher

For the final term of 2019, training attended by staff included the following:

- Trans-Disciplinary Model of Service Delivery
 - Staff learnt to identify and craft functional goals and plan for co-teaching.
- 2 Music strategies to support learning and social emotional well-being in the special education classroom
 - Staff learnt how music could support memory and emotions using techniques such as song writing and singing with percussion accompaniment.
- **8** Walk Through Session
 - Staff were introduced to the new performance appraisal template.
- 4 Effective Performance Management (Attended by Head of Departments and staff in the School Management Team)
 - Staff learnt to complete a performance plan, document, review and evaluate employee performance throughout the three phases of the performance cycle.
- 5 Change Management (Attended by Head of Departments and staff in the School Management Team)
 - Staff gained a better understanding of the change process framework, the importance of effective and open communication and how to manage emotional resistance.
- 6 Coaching Feedback Session (Attended by Head of Departments and staff in the School Management Team)
 - Staff learnt the importance of providing employees with specific and timely feedback on their behaviours so as to improve their performance. They also learnt to apply GROW coaching techniques to monitor staff progress and performance.

New High Support Programme Curriculum Workshop

Written by Ms Gena Tan, Teacher

What do we teach, how do we teach and how do we assess the learning of students who are non-verbal and have high support needs?

The High Support Programme Curriculum Team conducted a workshop during November Embargoed Week to help teachers in the High Support Programme gain a better understanding of the new High Support Programme Curriculum.

During the workshop, the team shared about the curriculum that they had planned for the students with Severe and Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD/PMLD) in the High Support Programme.

The staff who attended the sessions learnt about:

- · Curriculum Overview, Progression & Flow
- Recommended teaching approaches and strategies
- Scope and Sequence across the 5 learning domains (Communication, Cognition & Language, The Arts, Physical Education, Socio-Emotional Learning & Daily Living)
- Assessment for students in the High Support Programme
- Child-Centred Curriculum
- Thematic Unit Packages

The staff also had hands-on experience exploring the resources for the thematic units!

Overall, it was a meaningful and fruitful session.



There was a sharing of lesson plans for the teachers in High Support Programme.



Teachers
were
looking
through the
thematic
package
resources.

ST 2: COMPETENT AND COMMITTED STAFF

Congratulatory Notes

We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Ms Nagajoethi Varadarasu on her graduation from the Advanced Diploma In Special Education (ADISE) course.



ST 3: EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

New Parents' Orientation

Written by Ms Wang Ai Ling, Senior Teacher

An air of excitement filled the hall as we set to welcome the new parents and students for 2020 intake. The orientation kicked off with an introductory presentation on CPASS from Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay, the School Principal. The School Management Team and Heads-of-Department from the various rehabilitative departments were formally introduced to the new parents. To gain a better understanding of the school programmes, a 40-minutes tour was conducted with visits to either classes of High Support Junior or Functional Junior Programmes as well as the school facilities. The orientation concluded with the purchase of school uniforms and engagement of school transport services. New-found friendships were forged among parents and children. Everyone was eagerly counting down to seeing one another again come first day of school in 2020. We look forward to the start of a wonderful collaboration with the new students and parents in the new year.



The School Principal was welcoming the new parents and students.

Parents were observing a Language Lesson conducted in Class Eagle 7B.





Ms Suzana Bte Ahmed was bringing the parents on a tour of school facilities.

Outreach Programme @ Pasir Ris Library

Written by Ms Gena Tan, Teacher

As part of the Assistive Technology (AT) Awareness Programme for this year, an outreach programme was planned in partnership with National Library Board (NLB) at the Pasir Ris Library. It aimed to increase public awareness to the various assistive technology available and how they benefitted our students on a daily basis.

To engage a younger audience, a sensory storytelling session was conducted at the library. During the storytelling session, the students from CPASS role played as characters from the story. They used both speech and Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) devices to read their lines to the audience. For the students using AAC, it helped to demonstrate on how they could communicate even without speech. During the storytelling session, members of the public were also given opportunities to explore Assistive Technology such as using the iPad to make choices and interacting with switch toys.

There was also an exhibition at the library where we showcased assistive technology under the categories of:

- Leisure & Recreation
- Computer Access
- Educational Tools
- Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Equipment
- Electronic Aids for ADL

Members of the public were encouraged to have hands on experience on trying the different equipment with explanation and demonstrations provided by the CPASS teachers, therapists and staff from the AT Hub.

Through this event, we hoped that members of the public had learned more about assistive technology and how it served as a tool to empower our students.

Hands on experience of different equipment at the AT Exhibition Booths.

Using AT devices to do a story-telling session at Pasir Ris Library.

Assistive Technology Carnival 2019

Written by Ms Gena Tan, Teacher

The AT Carnival was held on 17 October for two main purposes. Firstly, it aimed to increase public awareness to the various assistive technology available. Secondly, it was to help promote inclusion by providing opportunities for interaction between members of the public and our school students.

There was a huge turn out from different schools and organisations. The school students advocated for the cause by manning the different booths. During the carnival, participants saw demonstrations on the use of various types of assistive technology and how these devices have benefitted the students at CPASS.

They also had the chance to purchase food and drinks at our own Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Cafe. Participants were required to make purchases without the use of speech. This provided them hands-on opportunities to communicate using various communication devices.

This year, we featured a community based wheelchair obstacle course. Participants were given first-hand experience in using a manual or motorised wheelchair. They had to navigate through an obstacle course and also attempt 'parking' in a mock-up public bus.

Besides that, participants could make their own art pieces using adapted art equipment (e.g. spin art) and switches at the AT Art Booth. They were also given the opportunity to learn more about Boccia, a sport played by people with physical disabilities through a friendly match of 'Tic Tac Toe' with the students from CPASS Boccia CCA . The students assisted in teaching the members of the public how to play the sport too.

Overall, it was a fun and meaningful day for everyone!



ST 4: ADMIN & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Contact Tracing

To ensure that we are able to contact all parents / guardians / caregivers for exigencies, and to help the school in communicating effectively, please inform your child's teacher of any change in the following:

- Contact details (mobile / email address / home telephone number)
 - Home address

Important Dates in Term 1 (2 January 2020 to 13 March 2020)

Wednesday, 1 January 2020	New Year's Day
Thursday, 16 January 2020	Temperature Taking Exercise
Friday, 24 January 2020	Chinese New Year Eve - school operating hours will be from 8.00 am to 10.30 am
*Saturday 25 January 2020 *Sunday 26 January 2020	Chinese New Year
Thursday, 13 February 2020	Total Defence Day Commemoration
Monday, 24 February 2020 to Friday, 6 March 2020	IEP Meeting
Tuesday, 10 March 2020	Prefects' Investiture
Saturday, 14 March 2020 to Sunday, 22 March 2020	School Holidays

^{*} Monday, 27 January 2020, will be a public holiday & Tuesday, 28 January 2020, will be a school holiday.