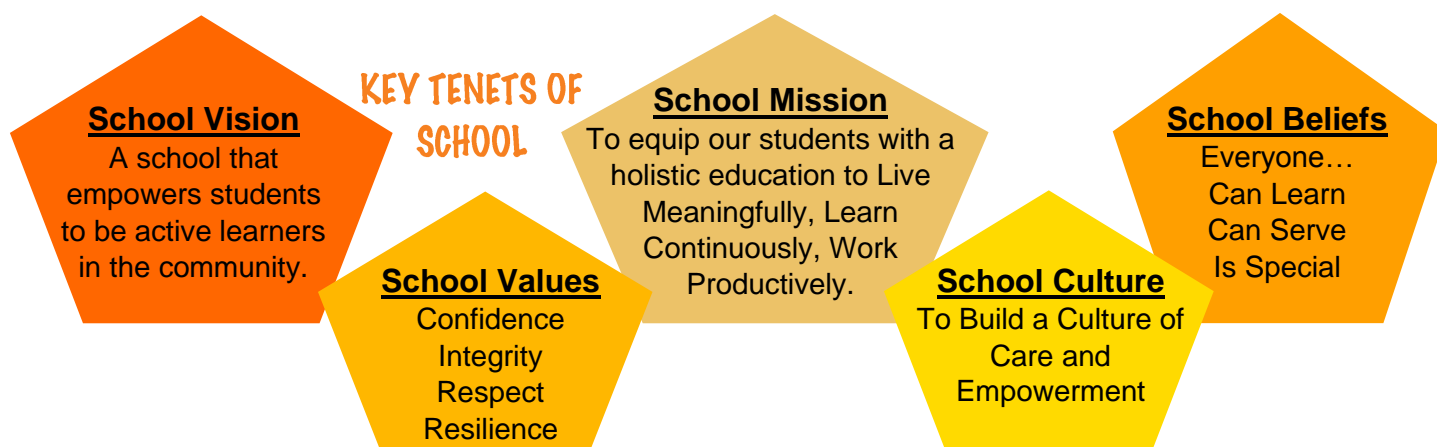


Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore School

Newsletter 2021 / Term 1



VICE-PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Parents

I am very humbled and honoured to introduce myself as the newly appointed Vice Principal of CPAS School. I feel so blessed to be given the opportunity to work very closely with the dedicated school staff who share the same strong belief in the school's vision of empowering our students to be active learners by providing them with a positive and meaningful learning environment. We will also focus on character education initiatives and together we strive to nurture our students to be individuals who are respectful, confident, resilient and full of integrity.

As someone who is passionate in special education, I have almost 20 years of experience as a Special Education (SPED) teacher in the SPED sector. In CPAS School, I have served 9 years as a SPED teacher in both Functional & High Support Programmes, 2 years as a Senior Teacher and 4 years as the Head of Programme (High Support). I have contributed to the CPAS School Curriculum Design & Development (under the Citizenship & Character Education domain) and led the High Support Programme Curriculum Team to craft the CPAS School High Support Curriculum since 2019.

I derive great satisfaction from the organization of school events & activities to complement students' learning in class. I am always excited to continually explore new ideas to meet the needs of our students and to interact with parents and our community partners more efficiently.

Aside from being an educator, I am also a mother of 2 young men. My first son is in Healthcare and my second son will be graduating from his diploma course this year. My family has always been my source of strength and they have always been supportive of my career choice.

As a firm believer that every child can learn and have the potential to excel in his/her area of interests, I will work towards greater collaborations between home and the School to build trust and self-esteem in our students. I look forward to working with parents to help every student in CPAS School meet their goals and achieve success in school!

Here's wishing you a safe and healthy year ahead!

Yours sincerely,
Ms Suzana Ahmed
Vice Principal



Chinese New Year Celebration (2021)

Written by Ms Ivy Tan, Senior Teacher Aide &
Ms Norisah, Senior Teacher Aide

On 11 February 2021, CPAS School welcomed Chinese New Year (CNY) with many "FIRST".

The first 'FIRST' was the determination to celebrate CNY despite the restrictions of the current pandemic situation. The school staff dedicatedly planned CNY activities to bring the festivities to our students. A week before the eve of CNY, the school compound was bathed in a sea of red, decorations hung on every wall around school, in every classroom, as well as the School General Office. This brought much festive cheer and spirit to the environment, and lifted the mood of everyone at CPAS School. On the day before the eve of CNY, students learnt to show respect through a pre-event activity where they penned down well wishes to teachers and friends from other classes. These colourful notes and messages decorated a specially designed board for the occasion.

The second 'FIRST' was celebrating CNY virtually via Zoom. A pre-recording of the CNY celebration was done at CPAS School newly established IT laboratory STUDIOIT! Our teacher emcees, Mr Abhinav Joshi and Ms Esther Leow, tasted celebratory status for a brief moment as they filmed the pre-recording using the green screen in STUDIOIT!

The third 'FIRST' was a skit done by students of Eagle Class 5A, explaining the significance of specific CNY decorations. The students performed and delivered their lines excellently, bringing much pride and happiness to the faces of their teachers.

On the eve of CNY 2021, celebrations commenced with an opening speech by the School Principal, Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay. Students were pleasantly surprised when Mrs Koh appeared in their classes to distribute CNY oranges. Teacher-Aide Mr Jegathesan Gopalakrishnan led a jubilant lion dance troupe performance, accompanied by Chinese drums and cymbals. The celebratory atmosphere continued with students feasting on CNY goodies in their classrooms while watching the exciting pre-recorded programme. Our lively emcees did a fantastic job bringing much laughter and excitement to the students. The programme wound down with a segment on lantern making. Completed lanterns adorned the classrooms and this brought much delight to the students. Everyone went home feeling happy and bringing much festive cheers to their homes and families.



Mrs Koh give out mandarin oranges to students.



Green screen recording in STUDIOIT!

High Support Programme Parents Workshop 2021

Written by Ms Lynn Sim, Head of Programme (High Support Programme)

On 27 January 2021, a workshop was conducted for parents of students in the High Support Programme (HSP). In view of the current pandemic situation, the workshop was done virtually via Zoom, for 21 parents. The purpose of the workshop was to update parents on their child's learning in the new HSP Curriculum that was implemented across all 19 HSP classes in 2019. The workshop was conducted by the HSP Curriculum Team, led by HSP Head of Programme (HoP), Ms Lynn Sim.

The team shared about the HSP curriculum vision and contents of the HSP Curriculum Guide Book; they also shared on the thematic packages that are used by the teachers in the classroom. The team took this opportunity to share teaching and learning resources (e.g. customized storybooks such as "My camping adventure") and exciting programmes such as Story Massage that has been introduced in class. In addition, the team introduced the HSP YouTube Channel as a platform for parents to access teaching and learning resources which they can use with their child at home. It was a fruitful session for both parents and the HSP Curriculum Team, and both sides looking forward to future collaborations.

Feedback from parents are positive and encouraging with most sharing that they have gained a better understanding of their child's learning in school, as well as the resources have been most useful, and many parents are keen to use the activities shared on the CPAS School HSP YouTube Channel at home with their child.

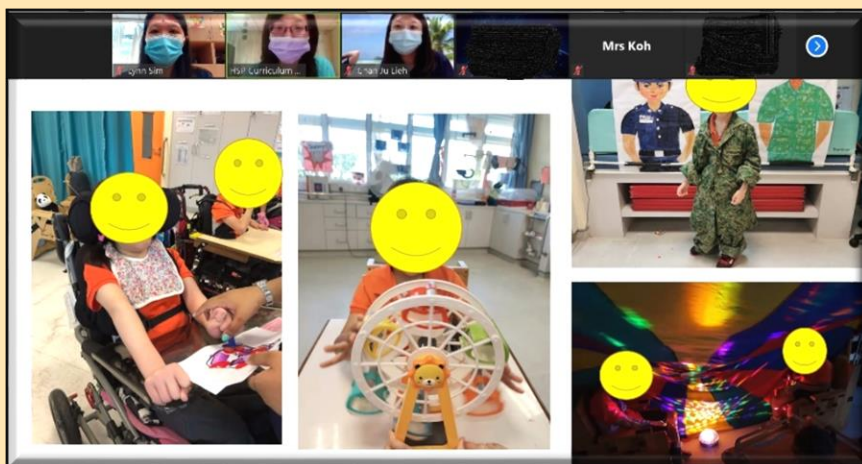
From the survey to parents who attended the workshop –

"I am very impressed by the curriculum and resources designed and prepared by the HSP Curriculum Team. These are the hard work and fruits of labour by these experienced classroom teachers."



Story Massage

Students engaged in learning through multi-sensory teaching approach.



Digital Art Greeting Card Design for President's Office

Written by Mr Yap Feng Kai, Teacher

On 7 October 2020, CPAS School was graced with the visit of the most prestigious and honourable President of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob. The school was abuzz with excitement of the visit and seeing the President of Singapore in the flesh.

As part of the tour at CPAS School, Mdm President visited Eagle Class 8A, to see their IT work. In the class, she was pleasantly surprised and impressed to observe the digital art skills of student, Yan Jia Yi. Mdm President then invited Jia Yi to create and design a CNY greeting card for 2021. The President's Office advised Jia Yi to base her creation on the theme: Flora & Fauna of the Istana. Being confident and resilient, Jia Yi readily took on the challenge and rose to the occasion with her unique design and creation. Under the teacher's guidance, Jia Yi carefully designed her digital art greeting card and submitted it to The President's Office by using the Keynote App on her iPad. When Mdm President approved of her artwork creation, and gifted Jia Yi with an autographed CNY card as a token of appreciation, Jia Yi felt very happy and proud of her efforts and achievement.

CPAS School is so proud of her student, Yan Jia Yi, who braved the odds and proved that perseverance and belief in oneself underlie the foundation of success and achievement!

Well done Yan Jia Yi!



Digital Art CNY greeting card designed by Yan Jia Yi.



The Principal presented the CNY card to Jia Yi.



Teacher, Ms Wang Ai Vui using the power point slides to share on the importance of Total Defence to her class students.



Student, Chan Ka Ho is applying the camouflage cream with his teacher, Mr Nazir Bin Kamal Rahim's assistance.



Student, Yap Wei You, posing behind the costume of a police officer, having his photograph taken at the Photo Booth in StudioIT!

Total Defence Day Commemoration 2021

Written by Ms Zerline Goh, Teacher, and Ms Sabrina Mok, Teacher

This year, CPAS School commemorated Total Defence Day on 18 February 2021, because 15 February 2021 was a public holiday, being the off-in-lieu for Chinese New Year. The National Education (NE) Committee organised meaningful and fun-filled activities for the students and staff. These activities consisted of PowerPoint Slides and quiz for teachers to present to the students in class. Teachers, Mr Abhinav Joshi and Mr Nazir Bin Kamal Rahim shared about their experiences during National Service (NS) and showed items they had used during NS. A photo booth was also set up in the newly renovated StudioIT! for students to take commemorative photographs of the event. A Total Defence Artwork competition was also set up for students to unleash their creativity and create headgears related to the 6 defences. The NE Committee collected the artworks and selected 8 winners, 1 from each programme and session.

Every student and staff enjoyed the event thoroughly and returned home, fortified by the experience, remembering the importance of collective defence as well as knowing that every Singaporeans plays a part in the building of a united and resilient society which contributes to the success and security of Singapore.



CPAS School Briefing for Parents Of 13-Year-Old Functional Programme Senior Students

Written by *Ms Irene Ho, Transition Planning Coordinator*

CPAS School Briefing for parents of 13-year-old Functional Programme (FP) senior students was conducted on 30 January 2021. This briefing occurs annually for parents of students in the first year of the FP senior classes and is conducted by the Transition Planning (TP) team consisting of the Transition Planning Coordinator (TPC), Transition Planning Officer (TPO), Job Coaches (JC), and the class teacher.

The objective of the meeting is to share information about the FP senior classes, set expectations between family and School, and the role parents can play to augment the learning outcomes of their child to ensure success upon graduation.

Due to the demands of the current pandemic situation, the meeting, which used to be conducted face to face at CPAS School, was done virtually this year, via Zoom. Although so, it was full attendance by the parents of 6 FS senior students. It is indeed encouraging to see the support and commitment from the parents towards the success of their child. It is good that several students attended the meeting with their parents, as this shows their increased awareness, ownership and advocacy for their future.

The TP team explained the post-school outcomes available to students from the FS Programme, and that the focus for FP senior students would be to apply the knowledge and skills learned in class into the community. Parents were informed that senior students would be learning travelling skills and would have mandatory Community Mobility lessons weekly. They would also need to improve on their skills in Activities for Daily Living in the areas of self-care, and personal hygiene. They would also be improving on their communication skills in seeking clarification or help, as well as communicating about their emotions. Parents were also encouraged to provide ample opportunities for their teenage child to learn to do things on their own because we must believe that the child/student CAN!



Encouraging quote for parents

2021 Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) / Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) Meeting With Parents

Written by *By Ms Noredah Sim, Senior Teacher*

2021 IEP/ITP Meeting with Parents was conducted from 22 February 2021 to 5 March 2021.

Due to the current pandemic situation, the meetings were conducted virtually, via Zoom online platform. Although the meetings were virtually, parental participation and attendance was not hampered, instead the parents' enthusiasm in meeting the Trans D team was apparent as they discussed the goals for their child/student. Collaboration between the Trans D team, comprising the class teacher and Allied Professionals (APs) and the parents was evident as all parties shared information openly to enhance the student's learning and progress in the school. Parents were encouraged to provide opportunities for their child to perform the skills at home to ensure effective follow-up and eventual success for the child.

It has been encouraging to observe that planning and discussion between family and the Trans D team did not diminish though it was conducted via a virtual platform. It is indeed heartening to know that both family and school are committed and working hand-in-hand to maximize the learning outcomes of the student.



Teacher Mr Abhinav Joshi Class 13B IEP meeting with parents.



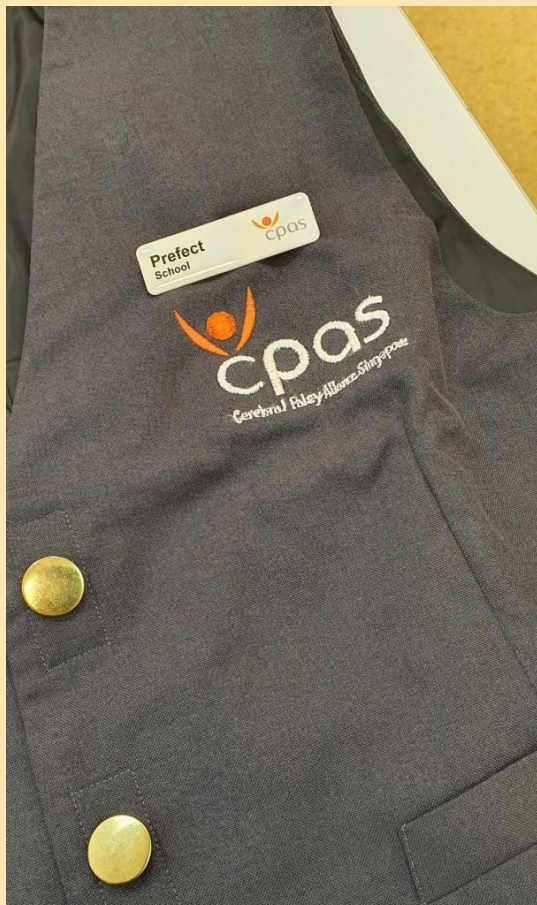
Teacher Ms Hani Adilah Binte Hasim Class 15B IEP meeting with parents.

Post-School Working Goal(s):	
Upon graduation, _____ will climb up and down the stairs independently.	
Annual Goal (1)	
_____ will climb up and down the stairs using her elbow crutch.	
Short Term Goals	Responsibilities
1.1 _____ will hold 2 elbow crutches with one hand while standing, during Community Mobility or PE, at least once a week, across 2 months.	Teacher PT Job Coach
1.2 _____ will ascend 1 flight of stairs while one hand holding the crutches, and one hand holding the rail, during Community Mobility or PE, at least once a week, across 2 months.	Teacher PT Job Coach
1.3 _____ will descend 1 flight of stairs while one hand holding the crutches, and one hand holding the rail, during Community Mobility or PE, at least once a week, across 2 months.	Teacher PT Job Coach

Teacher Ms Nurul Idayu Abd Shukor Class 3A ITP meeting with parents.

2021 Prefects' Investiture

Written by *Ms Suzana Ahmed, Vice-Principal*



Prefect vest for Prefects Investiture 2021

On 9 March 2021, CPAS School held her first virtual Prefects' Investiture Ceremony. The entire ceremony was pre-recorded in the brand-new IT laboratory 'STUDIOIT' and it was broadcast to the whole school during the Tuesday assembly session.

This ceremonious event officially introduced 12 newly appointed prefects to the school. These prefects were nominated by their class teachers for their leadership qualities and selected for their ability to be good role models to the other students. The ceremony began with a short speech by our Principal, Mrs Koh. She encouraged the prefects to be committed to their role as student leaders and to perform their duties and responsibilities seriously and dedicatedly. After the speech, Mrs Koh proceeded to don each prefect with the Prefectorial vest and badge. She continued to instil in them a sense of duty and pride. Head Prefect, Mohammad Aiman Bin Abdullah (Eagle 10A) proudly led the entire prefectorial contingent to recite the Prefects' pledge. As they raised their right hands and with a serious look on their face, every prefect recited in unison their promise to carry out their duties diligently, respectfully and responsibly.

The ceremony concluded with a group photograph of the prefects with Principal, Mrs Koh and Vice Principal, Ms Suzana Ahmed. It was indeed a proud day for the prefects - congratulations!



Putting on the Prefect's vest.



Photo-taking session with the School Principal, Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay.

iMovie - ICT Training by Apple Inc

Written by *Ms Lanny Kwok, Head of Programme (ICT)*

An inaugural training in CPAS School newly renovated ICT laboratory – StudioIT! was conducted on the 21 and 22 January 2021. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with our partner - Apple Inc. It was attended by 30 teachers; the course was targeted to provide iMovie training on MacBooks and/or iPads.

By utilizing our very own green screen in StudioIT!, teachers were given hands on practice to create simple lesson videos for teaching and learning. Positive feedback and encouragement was given to the IT team. Teachers expressed their excitement as they look forward to using the skill in their classrooms for the teaching and learning.

In the course, teachers learnt the following:

- * Capturing footages using a green screen
- * Screen casting and air dropping files
- * Using iMovie to enhance movies with video effects (e.g. green screen, picture in picture, voice over, titles, close captions etc.)
- * Exporting videos into different file formats

As the feedback was good, the IT team continues to plan for future courses and workshops for all staff, so as to upscale their skills and knowledge in IT.



Hands-on practice with iPad



Hands-on filming with green screen

MLS Experience and Learnings

Written by Ms Wang Ai Ling, Senior Teacher

Senior Teacher Ms Wang Ai Ling attended a course on Management & Leadership in Schools (MLS), a 17-weeks course for middle level leaders in schools. From the course, these leaders will learn skills and knowledge to expand their roles beyond their departments, as well as to take on direct leadership roles in teaching and learning so as to move towards being an innovative school. In summarising the essence of MLS, Ms Ai Ling shared the following model on 3 focus areas - Mind, Hands and Heart, and draw the link to learning.

Mind

The Result of Our Life or Work = Attitude x Effort x Ability
(-100 to 100) x (0 to 100) x (0 to 100)

The most important factor in this equation is attitude as it can be seen that the value can range from -100 to 100. It will have a minus impact on result once attitude is in negative range. A mind focused on the negative attracts a negative outcome.

Hands

"Give, don't take." is one of the classic phrases emphasized by the NIE lecturer Professor Ng Pak Ti. It is through this spirit that school leaders can build on a culture of care and concern.

Respect all individuals as all are different with their unique strengths and challenges. If the team is able to complement each other, that will be the best scenario. If it doesn't, the team members will have to lift each other up and by doing so, they are lifting themselves up too.

Heart

Keeping students at the heart of what leaders do and knowing the greater purpose to work towards the vision of 'Active in the community, Valued in the society'.

Through this course, all 184 MLSers were united in a way by a common purpose – to bring out the best in their people, both teachers and students. People matter.



Ms Ai Ling with her curriculum project teammates from the SPED fraternity.

Alone yet together with all 184 MLS-ers in a virtual group photo.



Pre-MLS Engagement Session (July 2020)

Virtual Teachers' Investiture Ceremony for Class of 2020

Written by Mr Calvin Goh, Teacher

From July 2019 to May 2020, four teachers, Mr Calvin Goh, Ms Shalani Suppermaniam, Ms Nurul Asyiqin Abdullah and Ms Jacqueline Soh Wei Ling, attended a full-time course, Diploma in Special Education (DISE Batch 19/20) at the National Institute of Education (NIE) Nanyang Technological University of Singapore (NTU). They had a rewarding and enriching experience where they learnt practical skills and knowledge required for work with children with special needs. They underwent training to deliver customised curriculum and pedagogy required by these children. They also learnt about providing basic care for children with special needs, as well as teaching life skills, behaviour moderation, and social skills to these special students.

On 4 February 2021, a Teachers' Investiture Ceremony was held for these student-teachers from the full-time course. This ceremony is a solemn and celebratory special event that marks a SPED teacher' formal entry to the teaching profession. Due to the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was postponed and held virtually via Zoom, which was originally scheduled to be held in July 2020.

More than 900 graduands from all NIE courses attended the Investiture, and family and friends were invited to witness the ceremony too. Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for Education, was the Guest of Honour, and Mr. Wong Siew Hoong, Director-General of Education, led in the Teachers' Pledge-Taking to formally mark the teacher graduands initiation into the teaching fraternity of Singapore. In order to capture the precious moments of the special occasion, a celebration kit was given to all graduands and part of the kit was the gift of a virtual photo booth session for the graduands to create memories with family and friends.

Finally, a word of congratulations to Mr Calvin, Ms Shalani, Ms Asyiqin and Ms Jacqueline on their attainment of the Diploma in Special Education (DISE Batch 19/20) from National Institute of Education (NIE) Nanyang Technological University Singapore (NTU)!



Group of DISE
student-teachers

* These 2 photographs were taken before onset of Covid-19.

Contact Tracing

To ensure that we can contact all parents/guardians/caregivers for emergencies 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 2 (22 March 2021 to 28 May 2021)

Friday, 2 April 2021	Good Friday
*Saturday, 1 May 2021	Labour Day
Thursday, 13 May 2021	Hari Raya Puasa
Wednesday, 26 May 2021	Vesak Day
Saturday, 29 May 2021 to Sunday, 27 June 2021	School Holidays

* Monday, 3 May 2021 will be a scheduled school holiday.

2021 Newsletter general layout designed by student Ryan Das