# Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore School Newsletter 2021 / Term 4



#### **School Vision**

A school that empowers students to be active learners in the community.

# KEY TENETS OF SCHOOL

**School Values** 

Confidence

Integrity

Respect

Resilience

**School Mission** To equip our students with a holistic education to Live Meaningfully, Learn Continuously, Work Productively.

# **School Culture**

To Build a Culture of Care and **Empowerment** 

#### **School Beliefs**

Everyone... Can Learn Can Serve Is Special

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Parents,

The school year of 2021 has come to a close, and though Covid-19 is still here, Singapore has shifted gear and eased into an endemic frame of mind. Our nation has adjusted our mindset and began to look at Covid-19 from a different angle. With Safe Management Measures (SMM) ensuring and adhered to, Singaporeans have embraced new norms. And so it is for all at CPASS, meetings are still being conducted and everyone is also socialising, albeit online and not entirely our preferred mode of interaction, we have endured. We have also become accustomed to using the Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits regularly to keep safe as well as to identify new cases. The weekly self-testing for staff and approved caregivers at our school have enabled everyone to know and feel assured that CPASS remains safe.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to parents who have been very supportive and cooperated with CPASS when we embarked on the vaccination drive for our students. In June and July, together with Health Promotion Board (HPB) and supported by MOE, we administered the Pfizer vaccination for our students aged 12 years old and older. We would also like to express our gratefulness to parents of students, 12 years old and younger because we know it was not easy to administer the ART kit for your child at home during the few trial periods, nevertheless, you persevered. Although there were pockets of students who resisted the testing, parents continued to ensure that the test was conducted for their child because you understood the importance of this exercise. To all of you - thank you, for your cooperation and perseverance!

Every year in October, CPASS parents participate in the Parent Satisfaction Survey, and this year, the results warm our hearts and we would like to share them with you. In the 2021 Parent Satisfaction Survey, you have commended on the good support provided by School and our efforts in working on the strengths of the students. On a whole, out of a Likert scale of 4, the mean score achieved for 2021 was 3.4, and this is comparable to the mean score achieved in 2020. Compared to the 2020 survey results, most survey items observed an increase in scores, with the highest at 3.7 for the item on "The teacher communicates with me in a fair and respectful manner". We are indeed glad for the open and transparent mode of communication between teacher and parent and that it has been respectful.

We have also taken note of the least preferred mode of communication between School and parent, which was "Written communication in my child's Student Communication Diary", and for this item, the mean score was 2.9. Henceforth, the CPASS Student Communication Diary will discontinue. In future, we shall propose an online parent communication portal which will be rolled out in early 2022. As this is currently workin-progress, more details will be provided after the December holidays.

From the quality feedback in the Parent Satisfaction Survey, one parent had complimented CPASS for "caring for the students and understanding individual strengths and opportunities as every child is different". Another commented that CPASS remains "committed to student wellbeing, believing in them and helping them achieve their best potential and independence". We are heartened by your compliments and remains committed to our strengths and will strive to improve ourselves in areas that require us to do so.

We want to express our thankfulness to all parents and caregivers for your collaboration with your child's Trans D team, for working together to implement the recommended strategies at home for your child to practise and for generalization across settings. Our heartfelt appreciation to all Staff and Allied Professionals who have worked tirelessly with high levels of commitment towards achieving better student outcomes and ensuring that students remain engaged in learning, especially when teaching and learning switched to a different mode during Home-Based Learning.

Famous Scottish historian, Thomas Carlyle said, "He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything." As 2021 draws to a close and 2022 is beckoning, let us stay vigilant and continue to be in good health, to come together to work as a team for our students. To everyone - Have an enjoyable break and we will see one another in 2022!

Yours sincerely, Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay School Principal

# **Enabling Masterplan 2030 Zoom Background Design by CPASS**

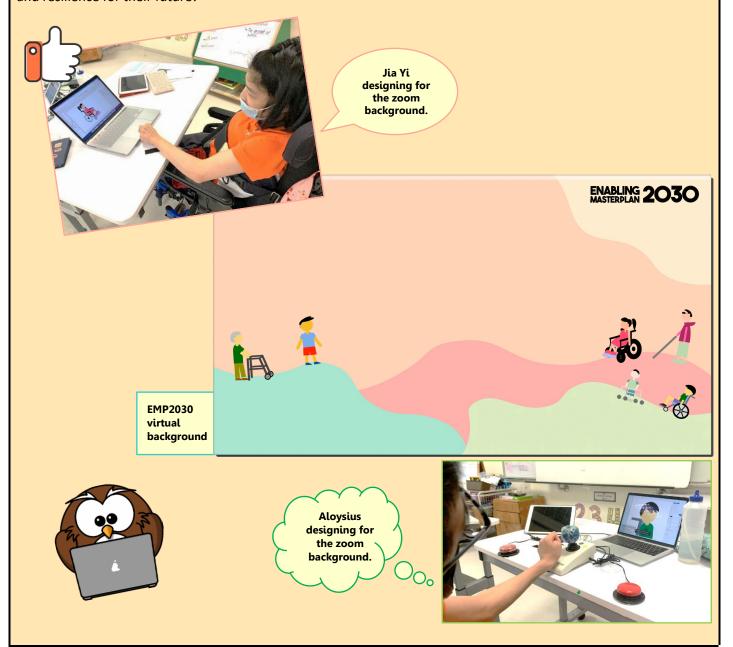
Written by Mr Yap Feng Kai, Teacher

"I have never heard of EMP2030 before, and I need to do some research to find out. I find it very interesting and although it was difficult to create the Zoom background, I feel excited to design for this important event." - Yan Jia Yi, 16 years old

It is with pride and honour that the zoom virtual background jointly created by Functional Senior (FS) students, Yan Jia Yi, and Aloysius Gan Kai Hong from Eagle 8A was used by Ministry of Social & Family Development (MSF)'s Enabling Masterplan 2030 for their online engagement and consultation sessions with social service professionals and stakeholders.

Under their teacher, Ms Nur Azira Binte Syed Ahamad Shah's guidance during their IT Enrichment lessons, both students collaborated to create the zoom background. After a month of arduous work, both students finally managed to create their masterpiece on their iPads and MacBooks. Using apps such as Keynote and Vectornator, both students designed cartoon vectors of persons with disabilities journeying along a series of abstract waves.

To all the CPAS staff who have helped Jia Yi and Aloysius in their journey to complete this task, we want to say a big THANK YOU! We want to celebrate more successes and more opportunities like this to boost our students' confidence and resilience for their future!



### **Job Shadowing 2021**

Written by Ms Aifaa Liyana Binte Norazhar and Ms Angeline Yeat Qi Hui, Job Coaches



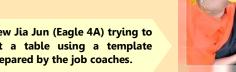
Students introduced themselves to Mr Bernard, the Operations Consultant at Iron Nori.

On 23 September 2021, eight FS students participated in the annual Job Shadowing Day (JSD) organized by SG Enable. In compliance with the Safe Management Measures, SG Enable conducted JSD via Zoom. This year, Iron Nori, a local food, and beverage social enterprise which hires people of different abilities participated in the JSD event.

Our students learned about the roles in a restaurant such as chef, steward, and cashier. After a presentation by Mr Bernard Chan, the Operations Consultant from Iron Nori, CPASS students practised the setting of a table and learned to greet customers. Students volunteered to participate in a role play of a steward greeting customers by following a script provided. The students had an enriching learning experience of the F & B industry and Mr Bernard Chan answered the students' questions. We look forward to partnering Iron Nori for future work attachment

opportunities, as well as the next Job Shadowing Day to learn about other job roles.

> Liew Jia Jun (Eagle 4A) trying to set a table using a template prepared by the job coaches.



# 2021 Primary School Leaving Examination

Written by Ms Irene Ho, Transition Planning Coordinator (TPC)

Five students sat for the 2021 Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) this year and they are Asher Reign Das, Lucas Chan, Lim Jun En Chelsea, Bryan Cheong Sze Ming and Thevasri Suresh (Eagle 5A).

On 24 November 2021, the five students returned to CPASS with their parents to receive their PSLE results. All five students passed and scored well. Three of them will proceed to mainstream secondary schools while two of them have decided to continue their education at CPASS in the FS classes.

Congratulations to all five students, Teacher Ms Nur Haida Binte Hanapi, class Senior Teacher Assistant, Ms Ivy Tan for their perseverance and resilience!



Congratulations to all five PSLE students!

## Children's Day 2021

Written by Ms Charmaine Hon, Teacher

It's a bird!
It's a plane!
It's....an endangered bird flying on a drone?

On 7 Ocotber 2021, CPASS celebrated Children's Day with a roar. It was based on the animal kingdom theme and held virtually via Zoom for the whole day.

For the first segment, live party hosts brought students through sensory exploration with animal themed resource packs. Activities were conducted using animal stamps, animal scent cards and animal shaped playdough, and interactive songs and dance. For the second segment, teachers dressed up in animal suits and walked around school and pretended to be part of an Animal Safari. The animal mascots represented Singapore's endangered specis, namely the tiger, elephant, otter and monkey.

Many students stood near their classroom doors, eagerly trying to spot the Straw headed Bulbul bird flying past on a drone. All students enjoyed interacting with the mascots. Although there were challenges in planning a Covid-safe programme, it was worthw hile because the students were engaged and the experience was educational.





Deepavali is the festival of lights where the light symbolises the triumph of good over evil. CPASS celebrated Deepavali on the 11 November 2021. There were two parts of the celebration – pre-event activities and show.



Thoranam made by the students.

The pre-event activities consisted of an experience of the different customary practices Hindus perform before Deepavali. This year our students made the iconic Thoranam; it is a special decorative piece placed at the doorsteps of Hindu houses. Historically, during the Sangam period in Tamil culture where there were no printed invitations, the purpose of the Thoranam was to differentiate happy events from sad ones, such as mourning. Gradually, the Thoranam began to symbolize happy events like weddings or Deepavali celebrations. Therefore, by involving our students in making the Thoranam, they would experience the Deepavali spirit.

The second part of the celebrations was the Deepavali show. The emcees for virtual Deepavali show were teachers Ms Sai Vina Vimalenthiran and Mr Abhinav Joshi, with co-hosts, students Lucas Chan (Eagle 5A) and Kumara Manohara Hardik (Eagle 10B). All four emcees did a wonderful job in bringing the Deepavali spirit to our students. All students viewed a PowerPoint presentation of the meaning and cultural significance of the practices performed for Deepavali. There was a quiz and interactive session with the emcees as well as a traditional dance performance choreographed by teacher Mr Karthikgayan S/O Devaindran, who is a traditional dancer, with student Thevasri Suresh (Eagle 5A).

The vegetarian Indian meal, and desserts were delicious, and everyone went home with a happy heart and full tummy!



#### School Graduation 2 221

Written by Ms Wang Ai Vui, Teacher



On 18 November 2021, CPASS celebrated the most important ceremony in a student's life - Graduation. All SPED students graduate from school at the age of 18 years old. This event marks the student's transition into adulthood. This occasion is both a happy and yet somewhat sad and solemn affair because it is an opportunity to show appreciation to the significant people who have made significant impact on their lives, the teachers and allied professionals, including their classmates and friends in school, as well as to bid a fond farewell to them as they graduate to the next phrase in their lives.

The Graduation committee planned eagerly and remained steadfast that the ceremony shall proceed and be duly honoured regardless of confines of the pandemic situation. Due to the new norms that exist, Graduation was conducted virtually, and the theme chosen was 'Friend' because it symbolized the friendships and relationships that have been formed through the years the graduating students have been at CPASS. The preparations for the ceremony was grandiose - every graduating student prepared for their farewell speech, and class teachers prepared video montage of the years they spent at CPASS. On the day of graduation, all invited guests - therapists, parents, and school friends attended the virtual graduation, and all expressed that they felt touched beyond words as they listened to the wonderful and moving speeches. The graduating students demonstrated great confidence and resilience in their speeches.

Graduation 2021 was truly a heartwarming and enjoyable day for everyone. We would like to thank all staff who helped in the event, as well as to the parents for their support all these years. Congratulations to the graduating 2021 cohort, and may their future be happy.



and Principal Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay

Student Thevasri Suresh (Eagle 5A)





# School's Out, Scream and Shout! - 2021 Singtel Carnival

Written by Ms Esther Leow, Teacher

Singtel Carnival On 18 November 2021, students at CPASS ended the school year on a high note, it was a day of celebrations and fun as they participated in the Singtel carnival. This carnival, organized by Singtel, is a regular flagship event for beneficiaries of the Singtel Touching Life Fund. The corporate philanthropy programme supports children and youth with special needs. CPAS School is one of its six selected beneficiaries.

Undeterred by the Covid-19 pandemic, CPASS hosted the 2021 Singtel Carnival at our school compound. The excitement among students was palpable! Delighted squeals echoed through the school as students enjoyed themselves thoroughly on the Red Dino bouncy castle. Excited chatter from students as they tried their hand at carnival games such as Shoot the Duck, Fishing Game and Carnival Ring Toss. Battery operated animal rides also roamed the school compound. They might have been machines, dressed up to look at real animals but our students loved them!

Classes were rostered to participate in the activities while adhering to safe distancing measures. Despite the limitations, the carnival was the perfect end to a school year. We would like to express our appreciation and thanks to Singtel for their generosity and commitment to their beneficiaries. We also want to commend all students for their perseverance in 2021. Take care, stay safe and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

> "Let's catch some fish for dinner!" - Yan Jun Jie, Lucas (Eagle 6A)

Even if you feel down, you should bounce around! Class 8B on the bouncy castle

The sky is the limit! Aim at the target!







Zavier Boey Yuan Zhang (Dove 17B) and his teacher enjoying the battery operated panda.



Say cheese! Class 13B all ready for the carnival!





Come one, come all, come and get the fish galore

# **Antigen Rapid Test (Art) Kit for Junior Students and Staff**

Written by Ms Poh Hwee Keng, Administrative Executive

As part of our country's efforts to move towards a COVID-19 resilient nation, the Ministry of Education (MOE) provided Antigen Rapid Test (Art) Kits to all staff and junior level students. Regular testing will help inculcate social responsibility among pupils and keep schools safe for learning. The ART kits will allow students/staff to do a quick self-test in the event of a possible exposure to or suspicion of possible infection.

Upon receiving the ART kits from MOE, a team was formed to pack the ART kits for distribution to the junior level students and staff. The team formed a mini-production line and completed the packing within one and a half hours. The ART kits were distributed to the students and staff on 13 September 2021, and parents of students were advised to perform one swab test using the ART kit for their child so that both parent and child gain the experience of using the ART kit. While some students encountered problems using the test kit, most students completed the ART successfully.

We want to express our thanks to parents for their efforts in performing the ART on their children and providing feedback afterwards. We also want to extend our appreciation to the team who packed and distributed the ART kits, and they are Vice-

Principal, Ms Suzana Bte Ahmed, Administrative staff, Ms Hartini Binte Abdul Manap and Ms Poh Hwee Keng, and the school wardens, Ms Danica Roque San Pedro, Ms Fronda Jafflyne Mae Rashel Barroga, Ms Leilani Jontarciego Amen, Ms Romerla Solas Amen, Ms Myra Suyat and Ms Vilma Roque San Pedro. Let us do our part to keep Singapore, family, and friends safe by staying vigilant, prepared, and united.

# **CPASS Parent Orientation Day 2021**

Written by Ms Korine Chung, Subject Head / Academic Programme

At CPASS, partnership with parents is an important aspect in the growth and development of our students. This year, to foster this, the annual Parent Orientation Day, conducted on 8 November 2021 virtually, connected 22 new parents to CPASS to understand the school's organization and its operation.

School Principal, Mrs Koh-Lim Ai Lay, gave an opening address to welcome the new parents and shared with them the school's organization structure. The session was followed by a virtual tour of the school to give the parents a better understanding of the school's facilities. The Heads of Programme (HOP), Ms Nur Faezah Abdul Rahman (Functional Programme), Ms Lynn Sim Chai Leng (High Support Programme) and Ms Korine Chung (Academic Programme) then engaged the parents in breakout rooms to share about and answer any queries pertaining to the programme which their children have been enrolled in. The parents were also filled in with information of the administrative matters such as uniform purchases and school transport booking at the end of the session. It was a time well spent in getting to know the new parents of CPASS and interacting with them. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them for taking time off from their busy schedule to do so.

Together, we will join our efforts to foster learning in our students. To all new parents of CPASS - Welcome to CPASS and let us work together to maximize the potential of our students!





# **Class Streaming Exercise 2021**

Written by Ms Nur Faezah Abdul Rahman, Head of Programme (Functional) and Ms Lynn Sim Chai Leng, Head of Programme (High Support)

Class streaming exercise is an event that occurs annually at CPASS during September every year. It is a task undertaken by all teachers, guided by the Heads of Programme as well as the Senior Teachers, to group the students into classes suitable for their learning. They had to ensure that junior level students who attains 13 years of age in the following year would be due for promotional transfer into the senior level class in each programme. Therefore, teachers from the two programmes gathered for the annual streaming exercise on 10 September 2021. Allied Professionals who supported the school students also gave their professional inputs for this annual exercise.

The streaming exercise is a whole school affair, teachers deliberated on every aspect of the students to ensure good fit. The School Management Team (SMT), consisting of the Vice-Principal, Ms Suzana bte Ahmed, and Heads of Programme, Ms Nur Faezah Binte Abdul Rahman, and Ms Lynn Sim Chai Leng discussed and produced the first draft of the 2022 class list and submitted it to the school principal for initial approval. For the first draft, the SMT grouped the students according to their chronological age and their developmental levels that was based on the assessment results collated by class teachers.

This year, the Functional Programme (FP) implemented a termly programme-wide assessment for Language and Communication, Numeracy, Daily Living and Vocational domains. In Term 2, the Functional Programme (FP) teachers also assessed students using the communication matrix assessment tool to understand students' communication levels and communication skills. Data on the students' assessment and information on their communication levels and communication skills helped group the students for the first draft of 2022 class list. During streaming exercise, FP teachers referred to this data to guide them in refining the class list.

Teachers in the High Support Programme (HSP) used the P Scale (Performance descriptors) as a reference for the streaming exercise, and teachers grouped the students closely to their cognitive ability and social awareness levels. HSP students mainly fall within the P1 to P3 levels. With reference to the P Scale, HSP teachers discussed and went through all the HSP classes at each level, junior and senior, to give their inputs to ascertain the students' appropriate classes for the year 2022.



## **HAPPY EMPOWERMENT MONTH, CPAS!**

Written by Written by Ms Noredah Bte Mohd Yatim, Senior Teacher

The month of September marked an important event for School as it was school's turn to promote CPAS HEART values of Empowerment. The value of Empowerment is significant to motivation at a workplace as it embodies the spirit of positive mindset, taking initiative and working towards the betterment of the individual, team, and department.

School embarked on this campaign by reaching out to and connecting with every department to invite them to share stories of accomplishments observed in their departments to inspire one another and recognize our dedication and passion. Every day for the month of September, each department shared a story or project with all CPAS staff, and by the end of the month, the departments had shared twenty inspiring stories. Every story was an affirmation of the dedication and passion of our CPAS staff and how it impacted and influenced our students/clients and their lives.

The highlight of the Empowerment campaign must be the launch of the four banners displaying all the twenty inspiring stories, and school would not have been more inspired than when Executive Director, Ms Latha Kutty, unveiled the banners. Near the school hall, at level 2 the banners proudly stand, and they would continue to inspire and empower for the whole month of October.

Empowerment

Empowerment

Empowerment

**Empowerment banners displayed at CPAS level 2** 

# Ministry of Education (MOE) Masters Scholarships in Special Education 2021

Written by Ms Irene Ho, Transition Planning Coordinator

On 12 November 2021, at the SPED Learning Festival Virtual Ceremony, the MOE Masters Scholarships in Special Education 2021 was presented to Mr Yap Feng Kai, a teacher from Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore School (CPASS). It was a proud moment for CPASS when this announcement was made.

Mr Yap Feng Kai began his career at CPASS in September 2012. Currently he is the Information and Communications Technology team lead of the Digital Literacy Programme in CPASS. He works closely with his colleagues to train students in IT skills for work such as video editing and media design.

For his Masters, Mr Yap will pursue his interest in the areas of Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Upon



# Diploma in Special Education (DISE) 2021

Written by Ms Nageah Binte Shamsul Bahrin, Ms Irene Seah, Ms Anabelle Wang, Ms Joey Liaw Ruo Xia, and Ms Hanna Hazigah Ahmad, Teachers

"Tell me, and I forget. Teach me, and I remember. Involve me, and I learn" Benjamin Franklin

In January 2021, five untrained teachers, Ms Nageah Binte Shamsul Bahrin, Ms Irene Seah, Ms Anabelle Wang, Ms Joey Liaw Ruo Xia, and Ms Hanna Hazigah Ahmad, from CPASS embarked on their professional milestone course at National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) campus in the west side of Singapore.

Life as a student again was not easy over the eight months - sitting behind desks, listening to lectures on teaching theories and pedagogy, studying on campus was humbling, yet insightful as we learned to handle our students' behaviour. With the submission of each assignment, we encouraged one another that we were one step closer to our graduation, and we would be back teaching at CPASS, seeing our beloved students and colleagues. A student's life is truly blissful. The five of us enjoyed meals together at the NIE canteen, formed new friendships with peers from other SPED schools and learned about the profile of the students from other sped schools. We shared knowledge as we helped one another on assignments and projects. Fellow colleagues at CPASS continued to encourage us when we returned to CPASS for our practicum.

Finally, as we graduate from NIE with DISE and become trained SPED teachers, we want to extend our heartiest gratitude to all at CPASS. DISE has been a great experience!







# **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 1 (4 January 2022 to 11 March 2022)

*Saturday, 1 January 2022	New Year's Day
Tuesday, 4 January 2022	Start of New School Year
Monday, 31 January 2022	Chinese New Year Eve (School operating hours will be from 8.00 am to 10.30 am)
Tuesday 1 February 2022 Wednesday, 2 February 2022	Chinese New Year
Tuesday, 15 February 2021	Total Defence Day Commemoration
Monday, 21 February 2021 to Friday, 4 March 2021	IEP Meeting
Tuesday, 8 March 2022	Prefects' Investiture
Saturday, 12 March 2022 to Sunday, 20 March 2022	School Holidays

<sup>\*</sup>Monday, 3 January 2022 will be a school holiday.