

## Tchoukball

Tchoukball is introduced to our Primary 4 and 6 students as a Modular CCA (MCCA) sport programme. The game embraces the CHAMPS values of Caring for one another, Humility in attitude, Aspire for excellence, Morally upright in actions, Passionate learners and Steadfast in effort. The spirit of the game is instilled in the students during the weekly MCCA session. Outstanding players are selected to represent the school at national competitions. The teams have worked hard to hone their game skills. Our boys finished 5th in the East Zone Senior Tchoukball Championships while our girls came in 4th. The junior players will be competing in the junior series in November 2014. All the best!



A publication of East Coast Primary School

November 2014

SHAPING LIVES

STRENGTHENING STAFF CAPACITY

## MusicProgramme@ECPS

The Music programme this year covered a wide spectrum of activities – from learning to play different instruments to attending cultural performances in school and beyond.

Our students get to learn to make music with a repertoire of traditional instruments that included handbells, ukulele, recorder, *angklung* and *djembe* (an African drum). They gain a better understanding of the different genres of music such as Jazz, Pop and Blues.

In Term 3, some of our Primary 3 students had the opportunity to attend a cultural performance, *Radin Mas*, at The Esplanade. The group also went on a guided tour and learnt about the acoustics and the unique architectural characteristics at the performing arts venue.

The school's inaugural Aesthetic Week was held in Term 4. Our students had the opportunity to hear the colourful music from European countries such as Spain, Germany and France.

The students from Primary 3 to 6 levels learnt to use *Garage Band* on the iPad. The versatile music creation software also allowed the students to have a hand in improvising, composing, recording and arranging music. In the course of it, the students gained a better understanding of the different genres of music such as Jazz, Pop and Blues.

In Term 3, some of our Primary 3 students had the opportunity to attend a cultural performance, *Radin Mas*, at The Esplanade. The group also went on a guided tour and learnt about the acoustics and the unique architectural characteristics at the performing arts venue.

The school's inaugural Aesthetic Week was held in Term 4. Our students had the opportunity to hear the colourful music from European countries such as Spain, Germany and France.



Performances by guest performers were also held during assembly to expose our students to a variety of music cultures, instruments and genres. The Flamenco and Spanish Dance Experience was one performance which enriched our students' knowledge of the traditional Spanish and Flamenco dance – from the elaborate costumes and the rhythmic castenets to the different dance movements and music accompaniment. Ole!



## Professional Learning Community (PLC) Journey in 2014

Learning has always been at the centre of the school's Professional Development (PD) efforts. A core team comprising the School Staff Developer, three Senior Teachers (ST) and two Teacher Learning Communities Focusing on Formative Assessment (TLC-FA) Champions is formed to lead the learning.

*Growth Mindset* which emphasises the building of a positive attitude towards teaching and learning, was identified to be an important value to teach our students. As such, we embarked on capacity building of our teachers to equip them with the knowledge of the *Growth Mindset* and its antithesis (the fixed mindset) as part of a whole-school approach in PD.

Through the introductory workshop on the *Growth Mindset* conducted by an NIE Senior Lecturer, Dr Christina Lim-Ratnam, we learnt how to incorporate the principles that undergird the *Growth Mindset* in daily lessons. An example of how this is facilitated is best summed up by Mrs Raja, a Primary 5 Tamil Language teacher who shared...

Another example is praises such as "Good job! You've worked hard!" are encouraged instead of, "Great job, you're so clever!" The latter will lead to the development of a Fixed Mindset whereas praise for effort will encourage students to think about learning in a certain way.

The other PD we embarked on was *Assessment for Learning* (AfL) through the TLC-FA sessions. Once a month, the level teachers would meet to discuss how the different strategies of AfL can be incorporated in daily lessons. We learnt to frame questions that would enable students to think deeply, give students wait time, cold call student to allow them to formulate answers and much more.

Through all these, we enhance our teaching practices and make learning more engaging

“I now provide feedback to my students on the effort they have put in and not on how intelligent they are to encourage students to value perseverance.”



By Mrs Ramakrishnan Naidu – School Staff Developer

## East Zone Art Workshop

We hosted the East Zone STAR Champion Art Cascading Workshop on 28 and 29 August. The 2-day workshop attracted 70 art teachers from the East Zone schools. Conducted by the East Zone Art Champions, the event incorporated a Pedagogical Exhibition. The exhibition was a collaborative effort of the 13 STAR Champions coming together to showcase their lessons which focused on student-centred and context-sensitive approach to art teaching and learning. The displays extend beyond the recollection of the lesson stages and included sharing their strategies on better practices and effective methodologies.



## Prologue



“...we are also gearing up for another exciting new school year ahead. The theme for 2015 is *Learn to Love, Love to Learn*. The theme aims to inspire an unwavering love and support for the school as a great place for learning – one with a caring and loving environment to stimulate imagination and to stretch ourselves and to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.”

In 2014, the school's theme, *Together, We Soar*, served to emphasise the school's CHAMPS values and to motivate our pupils to embrace and demonstrate the values. The theme has also inspired staff, pupils and parents to champion a greater sense of conviction as a learning community. As we take stock of the learning journey over the year, we are heartened to note that there were many enriching and innovative breakthroughs attained.

Our pupils continue to embrace the heartbeat of the school with the verve and enthusiasm to better themselves in the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains. We are pleased to share the commendable achievements by our pupils in the accolades table on the right.

The teachers at ECPS continue to keep abreast with the latest in classroom strategies and pedagogies to better engage and inspire our pupils to become passionate learners. This year, eleven Lesson Study teams were formed to research on and explore deeper into the different teaching methodologies. The school is privileged to have Dr Christina Lim Ratnam to guide our teachers in the study of the Growth Mindset – the overarching theme adopted for our Lesson Study. Senior Teachers, Mr Sunny Goh, Mdm Rozi and Miss Sally Koh led the Lesson Study teams in their learning journey. The Lesson Study journey culminated with the Lesson Study Symposium held on 17 and 24 July where team members share their learning and reflections. We are also glad to have some of our Parent Support Group members and a few trainee teachers join us at the symposium. The school is also very honoured to be selected by the World Association for Lesson Study (WALS) to conduct a sharing session at their conference in Indonesia, Bandung, from 25 to 27 November 2014.

Besides promoting a learning culture among our pupils and staff, we also reach out to our supportive parents. In addition to the English and Mathematics workshops held for parents in the early part of the year, a host of other programmes were held to engage our parents in their learning. The range of programmes facilitated includes, *Canvas Bag Art Decoupage*, *Maximizing Your Child's Learning Potential*, *Helping Your Child Cope With Exams Stress*, *Learning Symposiums* and *Learning Journey to Gardens by the Bay*.

As we celebrate the high notes at the end of the 2014 school year, we are also gearing up for another exciting new school year ahead. The theme for 2015 is *Learn to Love, Love to Learn*. The theme aims to inspire an unwavering love and support for the school as a great place for learning – one with a caring and loving environment to stimulate imagination and to stretch ourselves and to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.

Mr Tan Siew Tiong  
Principal

## ACCOLADES 2014

National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore 2014 (NMOS)  
Honourable Mention – Teo Jia Xin & El Shun Lei Mon (5A)

Warna-Warni Bahasa (E7 – Cluster Inter Primary School Malay Competition)

3rd – Md. Hanif Baihaqi (4C), Syed Alwee and Fathruissa (4H)

Cluster Tamil Language Competition (Drama)  
1st – Abdul Malik Maideen and Jawahardeen Mohamed Jawid (5C), Kumaravel Yash Preethu and Ramzudeen Aliashafreen (5A)

Tamil Language and Cultural Competition (Poem Recitation)  
1st – Boopalan Swathi (5C)

School Digital Media Award Competition (Animation) 2014  
Silver – Shasha Binte Azlan, Janani Sivakumar, Kim Jimin and Nang Kal San Hom (4A), Elena Goh Ching Ping, Ishan Ahmed and Shifat Azmain Prithvee (6A), Mohamed Kamal Khalid (6C)

SITF Awards 2014  
Best Student Project – Kevin Chua Subong, Chua Yu Chen and Loh Hui En (5A), Ooi Pei Qi (5H), Wong Hui Ting (5C)

National Primary Schools Rope Skipping Championships 2014  
Boys – Individual Creative (2nd), Synchronised (2nd)

East Zone Primary Schools Rope Skipping Championships 2014  
Junior Boys – Double-under (3rd), Speed Relay (2nd), Individual (2nd), Double-Dutch (3rd), Speed (2nd)

Junior Boys Overall – 2nd  
Junior Girls – Speed Relay (2nd), Double-Under (3rd), Individual (3rd), Double-Dutch (2nd)

Junior Girls Overall – 3rd  
Senior Boys – Double-Under (1st), Individual (2nd), Double-Dutch (2nd), Speed (3rd)

Senior Girls – Pair (2nd)

East Zone Sepak Takraw championship 2014  
Senior – 1st,  
Junior – 3rd

Singapore Youth Festival (SYF)  
Instrumental Ensemble (Angklung) – Accomplishment  
Malay Dance – Accomplishment  
Chinese Dance – Accomplishment

Innergy Award 2014  
Commendation

Community in Bloom 2014  
Gold

3R Award 2014  
Gold

Green Award 2014  
Lotus

Work-Life Excellence Award 2014



## SHARPENING MINDS

### Starwall Lego Programme

With the introduction of *Starwall* – the interactive digital screen in 2013, the platform continues to facilitate our students with engaging learning programmes. This year, our students were engaged in the Starwall Lego programme which besides providing them with

the opportunity to conceptualise and express themselves – both verbally and in writing, also promoted Collaborative and SEL competencies. The programme is well received by the students who had a fulfilling time creating, writing and presenting their stories.



### Mother Tongue Language (MTL) Fortnight Week

The MTL department organised the annual MTL Fortnight, held from 14 – 26 July, with activities that focused on the three Mother Tongue languages and the rich culture of the respective MTL. The fun programmes included games and quizzes during recesses, show-and-tell, talent show and level competitions. The range of activities provided our students with a host of authentic opportunities to hone their MTL and deepen their knowledge about their cultural heritage.



### Parent Support Group (PSG) Learning Journey

Our PSG members organised a learning journey to Gardens By The Bay in Term 3, primarily, to foster bonds and interaction among the members. The visit also provided them an enriching time – discovering how plants adapt to the environment, their benefits to Man, and the threats that they face. They also learnt about the need for conservation to mitigate the negative effects from climate change and habitat destruction that is happening.

After the learning journey, they were inspired to share their learning with other parents and children on the need for conservation and living responsibly to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.



## BROADENING PERSPECTIVES

### Internationalisation Programme – Overseas Learning Journey

A group comprising 30 Primary 5 students accompanied by four teachers embarked on a 4-day-3-night internationalisation trip to Penang in June 2014.

Upon arriving, the group had a quick lunch before heading out to explore the island. They visited Chew Jetty which has its origin tracing back to the early Chinese settlements. The group also caught a glimpse of Little India and Chinatown on their way to visit Wat Chayamangkalaran, which houses the world's largest reclining Buddha. At the end of a hectic first day, the group checked into the hotel.

On the second day, the students attended a school exchange programme at SJK (C) Kwang Hwa in the morning. After lunch, they visited Royal Selangor Visitor Centre and a batik making factory where the students learnt how pewterware and the intricately colourful batik are made.

The group stopped over at SJK(C) Perempuan Cina for another insightful school visit in the morning of the third day. They then adjourned for lunch. After that, the group had an insightful time discovering the Tropical Spice Garden, the Butterfly Farm and the insect museum.

On the final day, the students continued their exploration that included the colourful streets in George Town and heritage sites such as Fort Cornwallis, Penang Fortress, Penang Museum and the Peranakan Mansion.

The journey has been a meaningful one as the students were tasked to pen their thoughts and observations about their experiences at the end of each day during the trip. The following reflections by the students suggest that they have benefitted from the internationalisation programme:



“ Spending time in the museums allowed me to learn more about the different cultures. ”

– Sarah (5M)

“ Visiting the UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Fort Cornwallis gave me a better a deeper understanding into the rich history of Penang. ”

– Justin (5A)

### Project-LEAP 2014: Speech & Drama Lessons

The Chinese Language (CL) department facilitated a series of Speech & Drama lessons for our Primary 1 to 5 CL students. Held as part of the MTL curriculum, the lessons were conducted by an external educational and training consultancy appointed to hold the enrichment classes.

The programme serves to nurture an active speaking and a focused listening culture as well as to develop effective communication skills. Proper speaker's and audience etiquette is also covered to raise students' awareness of acceptable mannerism and social graces. The programme also emphasises the importance of clear and distinct enunciation both in reading and speech. Vocal techniques are introduced to improve the quality of the speaking voice. Drama techniques, problem-solving strategies and the use of stage props are also introduced to enrich our students' learning experience and to develop confidence.



### Chinese Cultural Camp

As the MTL Fortnight came to a close, the Chinese Language and Cultural Camp for the Primary 4 Chinese Language students began seamlessly on Saturday, 26 July. Lunch and tea-break were catered for the participants. Besides the activities to develop the participants' language skills, the participants also dabbled in craftwork such as creating artwork using beans, learnt the intricacy of tying Chinese knots and transforming the otherwise plain bamboo chopsticks into exquisitely hand-painted ones.



### Tamil Language Cluster Camp

The school organised and hosted the Tamil Language Cluster Camp for Primary 3 and 4 students. The camp attracted 120 participants comprising students from seven E7 cluster schools. Our Primary 5 and 6 students took on the role as camp guides during the event. The camp programme incorporated traditional games such as kabadi and Kho Kho. Participants also learnt to weave thoranams, painted the agal vilakku (oil lamps) in vivid colours and made wind chimes. A delectable spread of Southern Indian vegetarian lunch served on banana leaves was one of the main highlights.

