



Fajar Secondary School Presents

# FAJAR MOMENTS

## LEARNING FOR LIFE PROGRAMME – COMMUNITY AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Learning for Life Programme (LLP) in the area of Community and Youth Leadership (CYL) is the school's niche area. Underlining Fajar's LLP-CYL programme is a three-pronged approach: **Educate**, **Encourage** and **Empower**. Using this **3E** approach, the students are inculcated with leadership knowledge, skills and competencies that equip them to be leaders who lead their lives responsibly, impact the community, and contribute meaningfully to the society and nation.

**Educate** involves differentiated leadership developmental programmes like the Leadership Series as well as Class Committee training sessions that were carried out between January and March 2016.

**Encourage** refers to how the school recognises the students' leadership capabilities. For instance, the Student Leaders' Investiture on 13 April 2016, provided a suitable platform to recognise student leaders from the school's 3 leadership groups: the Student Council, Class Committee and CCA Leaders.

**Empower** refers to students leading the Values in Action (VIA) initiatives and student-initiated projects. The highlights of this semester were the Student Leadership Camp (26-28 February 2016) and the "Grati Week" initiative in April.

These three thrusts work in tandem to take Fajar Secondary School to greater heights in its endeavour to nurture Community and Youth Leaders who will be the change-makers of tomorrow.



*Learning values through meaningful team activities*



*Student leaders pledging to be do their part during the Student Leader's Investiture*

## APPLIED LEARNING PROGRAMME

Our FJS Applied Learning Programme (ALP) focuses on the theme of 'Sustainability' through developing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies (21CC) of Applied Critical & Inventive Thinking (ACIT) Skills in our students by centring our ALP on Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) education in the Lower Secondary and Social Science education in Secondary 3.



*Building and testing a music circuit*



*Problem solving by coding in Arduino*

### Secondary 1 Curriculum

The Secondary 1 ALP programme focuses on Environmental Sustainability, where students learn to use basic electronic and programming skills and a powerful microprocessor, the Arduino, to build electronic sensors to solve everyday problems. Through this process, they also learn about water and other environmental issues in the local and global contexts.

### Secondary 2 Curriculum

The Secondary 2 students focus on understanding local and world efforts on Energy Sustainability. Besides learning more about alternative sources of clean energy, they will learn how to conduct an energy audit in school. They will also learn to design and build a windmill and an energy efficient solar car.

### Secondary 3 Curriculum

Secondary 3 students focus on Social Sustainability and the factors that contribute to diversity within the local context. Students collaborate on projects that research on factors like ethnicity, religion, culture and nationality to enhance social sustainability in Singapore.

## MOTHER TONGUE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Mother Tongue Language (MTL) department organised an experiential learning programme for our Secondary 1 students. The Malay students learnt to play traditional games such as 'Bola Lubang' and 'Ketuk Ayam' and tried their hands at traditional percussion instruments like the 'Kompang' and 'Rebana'. They were also given an insight into the Malay martial art known as 'Silat', and were taught basic speech and drama crafts. The Tamil students were exposed to traditional games like 'Pambaram' (spinning tops) and 'Paramapatham' (snakes and ladders). The students also learnt how to make 'Thoranams' by using coconut leaves and drew kolams with coloured powder. It was indeed a time of cultural exploration and learning for the Secondary 1 students.



*Experimenting with Chinese ink painting*

## CONVERSATIONAL CHINESE AND MALAY

The 'Conversational Chinese and Malay Programme' for all Secondary 1 Express and Normal (Academic) students was conducted from 29 March to 20 April 2016. The objective of the programme was to make students appreciate other cultures by introducing them to the languages of other races. The students learnt other Mother Tongue languages in an interactive manner, through singing and role-playing. By the end of the sessions, students were able to better appreciate the languages and cultures of the various ethnic groups in Singapore.



*Learning the elegant art of the Gamelan*

## MTL LEARNING JOURNEY

MTL Week is always a highly-anticipated event for our students as they are sent on interesting learning journeys every year.

This year, our Malay Language Unit organised a trip to the Singapore River where our Secondary 3 Express students learnt about the history and cultural aspects of the Singapore River. Our Secondary 2 students participated in the Gamelan Workshop at the Republic Polytechnic where they learnt to play traditional Javanese musical instruments.

The Tamil Language Unit organised a learning journey to Little India for students to find out more about the Indian history and culture. Our Secondary 2 Tamil students also made a trip to Bollywood Veggies to learn about the different types of vegetables and fruits that are unique to the Indian community. They also picked up some information about 'Siddha Ayurvedha' medicine, a traditional form of Indian medicine.

The Secondary 2 Chinese Students visited the Tea Chapter where they gained more knowledge on the origins of tea appreciation, thus getting some insight into the Chinese culture. All in all, these learning journeys provided an enriching experience for our students!

## MTL WEEK

On 9 March 2016, the 'Mother Tongue Language Week' was kick-started with an energetic Chinese drum performance, followed by a fashion parade, featuring the colourful traditional costumes worn by the various ethnic groups in Singapore. This was soon followed by a vibrant Silat display that had the accompaniment by the Kompang, a melodious Chinese Language song and a traditional Indian Dance.

Other activities were organised throughout the week to excite students about their Mother Tongue and culture. Malay Language students had drama and singing performances during their lessons and they learnt how to play traditional games like 'Congkak' too. Tamil Language students participated in quizzes and poem writing competitions and wrote short film reviews. Chinese Language students had Comic Creation and Creative Writing competitions and ended their week with an Inter-class General Knowledge Competition.



*Budding decorators showing off their creativity*



*Energetic dance performance by Secondary 4 and 5 Indian students*

## CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Fajar Secondary School's (FJS) Annual Cross Country Meet was held on 24 March at the MacRitchie Reservoir Running Route. All students were involved in either the non-competitive event (Friendship Walk) or the competitive event (Race of Excellence). The objective of the cross country was to promote the FJS Core Values of Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity and Compassion (RISE). The run helped the students to build their fitness and mental strength as they raced across the challenging terrain over a distance of 3.4km. The event also brought greater bonding and care among the students, staff and parents as they cheered each other on along the tough terrain.



All focused on winning the race



Yeoman Service by dedicated NCC and SJB cadets



Parade of the Secondary 1 Champions (Girls)

## SECONDARY 2 ADVENTURE CAMP

As part of our school's mission to grow a vibrant community of Leader-Learners of Character who contribute to the Family, Nation and beyond, Secondary 2 students embarked on an Adventure Camp from 20 to 22 January 2016 at Camp Christine in Jalan Bahtera.

The camp aimed to promote communal living and sharing amongst participants. There was also a wide array of outdoor programmes such as orienteering, field cooking and team-building activities for the students. Apart from improving working relations with their friends and teachers, and developing resilience in overcoming any hurdles they faced, the camp also served to be an excellent platform for them to hone their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies and leadership qualities.

By the end of the camp, the students had grown to be more confident and had forged stronger bonds of friendship with one another.



Honing our teamwork together



Ending the camp with a glorious campfire



Doing our part for the environment

## LOWER SECONDARY VIA PROGRAMME

In the months of February and March, our Secondary 1 students were involved in their Values In Action programme 'SELF' (Students Embrace Litter free). They cared for and took ownership of the cleanliness of the school and their neighbourhood. Picking up litter and tracking the amount of litter, inculcated a sense of responsibility in the students.



Sincerely sharing information about the Reduce @ Northwest Programme

### Secondary 2 - Reduce @ North West Programme

In collaboration with North West Community Development Council (NWCDC), our Secondary 2 students visited the residents within the Bukit Panjang area to spread messages about climate change and energy conservation on 2 March 2016. They encouraged residents to go 'Green' through the reduction of their energy consumption and purchase of appropriate appliances. They urged them to participate in the Reduce @ North West Programme in which for every household signed up, City Developments Limited contributed \$10 towards defraying the utility bill of a needy family. This programme boosted the students' confidence as they interacted with the residents and helped them gain a better understanding of the need to conserve energy.

# STUDENT ENRICHMENT

## AESTHETICS PROGRAMME

Looking at Art from a different perspective was the aim of the Aesthetics programme for Secondary 3 and 4 Normal (Technical) students this year. These cohorts of students were treated to a visit to either the Trickeye Museum or Alive Museum to appreciate Art. While most museums are static and non-interactive, the Trickeye and Alive Museums made full use of their interior space to create illusions that give a different meaning to Art. The murals were cleverly painted to provide optical illusions that excite visitors. Students interacted with the murals painted on the walls and floors by being part of the art pieces in photographs that they took. The trips certainly sparked off a new journey into the world of Art for the students!



*In the jaws of the monster*

## L.O.V.E & H.O.P.E WORKSHOPS

The L.O.V.E (Live Our Values Everyday) and H.O.P.E (Hanging Onto Positive Expectations) workshops were conducted on 20 January 2016 for Secondary 3 Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) students respectively. Students from the Normal (Academic) classes learnt juggling while students from the Normal (Technical) classes learnt balloon sculpting. They also participated in a 'Love Language Survey'. Through these values-focused workshops, our students were engaged in activities which helped develop their leadership skills and promote their sense of belonging to the school.



*Mastering the art of Juggling*

## HUMANITIES LEARNING JOURNEYS

The Humanities department organised a series of field trips for the different levels in 20 to 21 January 2016 as part of our Multi-Level Activities. The Secondary 1 students went on a Learning Journey to the Marina Barrage to learn about Singapore's 'Water Story'. Secondary 3 students had the chance to visit the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau as well as the National University of Singapore Museum.

Besides that, Secondary 2 students visited the Syonan Gallery in the National Museum which showed the impact the Japanese Occupation had on the daily lives of Singaporeans. Students then consolidated their learning by producing an original postcard, highlighting the learning points from their visit. The Secondary 4 Geography students visited Chinatown on 22 March and 29 March 2016. The students investigated the reasons why tourists choose to visit Chinatown. As part of their learning, students interviewed tourists and did a perception survey as well. These learning journeys gave students a chance to apply what they have learnt beyond the classroom.



*Geography students interviewing tourists at Chinatown*

## ELECTIVE MODULES

In January, a series of Elective Modules were organised to enhance the Secondary 4 Normal (Academic) students' learning experiences and to cater to their varied learning needs through Applied Learning. The students were introduced to various modules like Videography, Culinary Skills, Baking, Barista, Digital Audio, Fitness Training, Visual Art Design, Automobile Engineering and Airline Services. Through the 20-hour programme, students gained valuable experiences as they learnt directly from industrial practitioners on the areas of their interests. The programme also enabled students to make informed choices for their further studies and in deciding on their career paths.



*Proudly displaying their Batik masterpieces*

The programme ended on a high note with a fun-filled showcase, where students presented their newly acquired skills to the School Leaders and staff of the school.

## GROOMING, ETIQUETTE, INTERVIEW & STUDY SKILLS (GEISS) WORKSHOP

The 'Grooming, Etiquette, Interview & Study Skills (GEISS) Workshop' was organised for the Secondary 4 and 5 students in January this year. The purpose of this workshop was to equip the students with life skills to succeed in both their studies and personal lives. It covered a range of topics such as strategic study techniques, dressing for success and effective communication skills.

Through the active participation of the students, it was clear that they had thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Students highlighted that they especially appreciated the hands-on practical aspect of the sessions, which even included a mock interview session. At the end of the workshop, the students emerged more confident of themselves, well-groomed and ready to seize the day, poised for success!



*Building bridges*



*All men must learn how to wear a tie*

## PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP

'It is the first day of school. How do I make new friends?'

'I have a question, but how do I ask my teacher?'

'Everyone seems to be able to make friends easily ... I'm just too quiet, they say.'

Are these questions familiar to you? Fret not! The English Language and Literature Department planned a public speaking workshop for the Secondary 1 students. During the 4-hour course, our students learned various techniques such as breathing, maintaining eye-contact and proper body language related to speech. The student-centric nature of the workshop meant that students were constantly engaged. Some of them were focused on nurturing their debating skills, while others worked on their presentation skills.

At the end of the course, students were more articulate and confident in expressing themselves clearly. It was also an excellent ice breaker for the newly inducted students!



*Engrossed in their learning*



*Interesting ice breakers*

## MATHEMATICS RUMBLE AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS CHALLENGE

The Mathematics and Computer Applications (CPA) department organised the annual W8 Cluster Mathematics Rumble and CPA Challenge on 30 March 2016. The key objective of the competition was to engage Secondary 2 students to develop Mathematics and CPA skills in a fun and competitive environment. Students from 6 secondary schools participated in the competition. They had the arduous task of completing challenges at each station within an allocated time. Our Secondary 3 students facilitated the whole event, from hosting to manning the stations. The participants enjoyed the event thoroughly.

Teams from Secondary 2N1 and 2T1 emerged first runners-up in their Mathematics rumble and CPA challenge respectively. Well done, teams!



*The participants at the end of the exciting event*

# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## SECONDARY 1 ORIENTATION

Our newly merged Fajar Secondary School welcomed its pioneer batch of Secondary 1 students in January. This special group of students went through an orientation programme on the first week of the new year. They learnt more about adapting to secondary school life. The bonding activities that the students were involved in during the programme also served to forge friendships with their new classmates.

Their parents also joined our Co-Curricular Activities Showcase cum Parents' Nite on 8 January. We wish our Secondary 1 students a very warm welcome to Fajar Secondary School!



*Getting ready for the CCA showcase*

## POLYTECHNIC OPEN HOUSE VISITS

In January 2016, our Secondary 4 Express, Secondary 4 Normal (Academic) and Secondary 5 Normal (Academic) students visited a series of Open Houses at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and Lasalle College of the Arts. These Open House visits enabled students to gain a better understanding of their admission requirements and the content of the various courses offered. The visits would enable the students to better chart their future educational and career options.



*Role of backstage crew in the Arts Management course*

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

To kick-start the 2016 Chinese New Year Celebrations, staff and students participated in the annual Chinese New Year Classroom Decoration Competition on 5 February. The students put in a lot of effort and creativity in decorating their respective classroom corridors with the use of recycled materials. This activity provided students with opportunities to spend quality time with their teachers and classmates.



*Budding artists showing off their creativity*

In addition to the competition, there was a concert item during the assembly programme as well. The concert featured our very own festive drummers and choir who wowed the audience! Our band staged a melodious Chinese New Year song to enhance the joyful atmosphere, while our Indian students performed a vibrant harvest dance wearing their colourful costumes. This year, our school also invited the residents from the Lion Befrienders to join us in this auspicious occasion. The 2016 Chinese New Year celebration was indeed a memorable and meaningful experience for all our students!



*Working together as a class for the festive occasion*



*Choir students belting out catchy melodies*



*Dancers taking their positions for the grand finale*



*Our Principal, Miss Doris Ho, wishing our guests a Happy Chinese New Year*

## PRIZE-GIVING DAY 2016

The school's annual Prize-Giving Day took place on 15 April 2016. The School Advisory Committee's Chairman, Mr Louis Lim, PBM, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour for the day.

The Prize-Giving Day began with the school song which was led by the choir. This was followed by a simple and solemn ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the Fajar family. Academic awards were given to students who had performed well in 2015. Our teachers were also recognised for their commitment to the teaching profession. Staff, parents and volunteers were also appreciated for the excellent service they had rendered to the school.

The two All-Rounder award recipients Shahrazad Logan and Goh Pei Shan, Alina gave inspiring speeches as they expressed their gratitude to the teachers for their dedication and encouragement. It was truly a memorable occasion for everyone present!



Our School Leaders with our GOH, Mr Louis Lim, PBM



Our Choir proudly leading the School Song



All-Rounder award recipient, Goh Pei Shan, Alina, rendering her heartfelt thanks



All-Rounder award recipient, Shahrazad Logan, reminiscing her time in school



Our proud prize recipients



Our GOH, Mr Louis Lim, PBM, receiving a token of appreciation

# STAFF UPDATES

## A?EDGE TEACHER ART EXHIBITION



Miss Lynn Teo and our Principal, Miss Doris Ho, at Miss Lynn's artwork, 'Transition' at A?edge 2016

Our school's passionate Art teachers, Ms Lynn Teo and Mr Tok Wei Yuan, exhibited their artwork at the School of the Arts Singapore Art Gallery from 4 to 22 March 2016. This was part of A?Edge, an annual Art teachers' exhibition, organised by the Singapore Teachers' Academy for the Arts to encourage Art teachers to continuously hone their Art practice.

Through this, our teachers hope to inspire our students to be more passionate about Art.

## ST JOHN BRIGADE AWARD



Receiving the International Award (awarded by the Order of St. John) during the Investiture at the British High Commissioner's House

Our St John Brigade (SJB) teacher, Mrs Viswalingam, who also serves as Corps Superintendent for our school, was sanctioned by Queen Elizabeth II for admission into the Most Venerable Order of St John as a Serving Sister for her dedication and outstanding contributions to St John Singapore for the past 28 years.

Congratulations to Mrs Viswalingam who has truly lived up to the SJB motto of 'Service for Mankind'!

## STAFF WELFARE MATTERS

A series of activities like 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' were designed by the Staff Welfare Committee to help teachers establish good working relations with each other.

As part of the Chinese New Year festivities, on 15 February 2016, the staff tossed Yu Sheng to celebrate the New Year. Teachers bonded over food and started the year on a high note.

Monthly birthday celebrations are meaningfully celebrated as teachers receive heartwarming wishes from School Leaders and each other. Additionally, every few weeks, the Hideout room or the area outside the staff room is transformed into a bazaar where teachers can get their fill of tidbits and other knick-knacks.



Mr Chin Zhong Ning, one of the winners for the 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' contest

## CONTINUOUS LEARNING BY STAFF

FJS continues to promote learning and improvement among staff through various platforms: courses, workshops, in-house training and Professional Learning Communities. Our teachers have shared at national platforms such as at the 51<sup>st</sup> RELC International Conference 2016 and the ICTLT Conference 2016. In addition, the school's entire teaching staff have been attending a series of workshops on the Whole School Approach to Effective Communication, in collaboration with the English Language Institute of Singapore (ELIS).

The staff are also attending the West 8 Cluster Training Programme called 'CAPSTONE', an Assessment for Learning programme conducted by Dr Ho Boon Tiong from ClassPoint Consulting. Apart from these, our departments are actively engaged in their own departmental learning programmes as well.



An enthusiastic Mdm Salina during her presentation at the ICTLT Conference 2016



Mrs Kalai presenting at the 51<sup>st</sup> RELC International Conference 2016