



Our New Principal

Mrs Sng Siew Hong has been appointed to helm New Town Secondary School with effect from 4 January 2016. In her 30 years of service, she has served as a school leader in Anglican High School, St Hilda's Secondary School, Riverside Secondary School and Fajar Secondary School. She has also served at the Ministry of Education Headquarters as an Assistant Director in the Curriculum Planning and Development Division and as a Senior Quality Assessor in the School Appraisal Branch of Schools Division.

In recognition of her effective school leadership, Mrs Sng has been presented with National Day Awards such as the Commendation Medal in 1998 and the Public Administration Medal in 2005. She also received the National Day Long Service Medal in 2012. Beyond the school level, Mrs Sng also served as a mentor principal to beginning principals and has been often asked to share her school leadership experiences with key personnel from other schools. In recent years, she has also been approached by the National Institute of Education (International) to share her insights

on strategic school planning and school improvements with overseas educators from countries such as Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

In leading New Town Secondary School, Mrs Sng believes in adopting a balanced approach for the holistic development of the students. She aims to firmly establish the two distinctive programmes of the school, *Community and Youth Leadership* as the Learning for Life Programme and *Visual Communication* as the Applied Learning Programme to enable the students to *Forge A Better Life* for themselves and their community. With continuous effort in staff capacity building, innovations and maintaining strong partnerships with parents and key stakeholders such as the School Advisory Committee and Alumni, she will lead to achieve the school's vision of *Nurturing Talents, Sharing Success*.



Community and Youth Leadership (Learning for Life Programme)



Character development through water-based activity.

Community and Youth Leadership, the school's Learning for Life Programme, focuses on building the character and leadership potential of the students. Guided by the Student Leadership Framework, *Community and Youth Leadership* provides character and leadership development for the students through the following level-wide programmes.

- Secondary One Self Leadership Training
- Secondary Two Team Leadership Training
- Secondary Three Character and Leadership Camp
- Class Committee Training
- Values In Action Training
- Values In Action Engagement Programme with partners and community



Students learning to work as a team.

The school believes that every student can be developed as a leader and the school's progressive leadership structure allows the students to take charge of their own leadership journey. Through a whole-school approach, every student is given equal opportunities to be developed so as to achieve the *Community and Youth Leadership* outcome of *Developing Confident and Compassionate Student Leaders to Lead, Serve and Excel*.



Student Leaders in action at a cluster school activity.

GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations Release of Results



Top students for the GCE 'O' Level Examination.



Top students for the GCE 'N' Level Examination.

17 December 2015 and 11 January 2016 were days of great anticipation for the 2015 Secondary Four and Five students. Many of them made their way to school as early as noon, eagerly awaiting the release of the GCE Examination results. It has been a while since they last donned the school uniform and entered the school premises, and the rush of fond memories as they did so must have been moving.



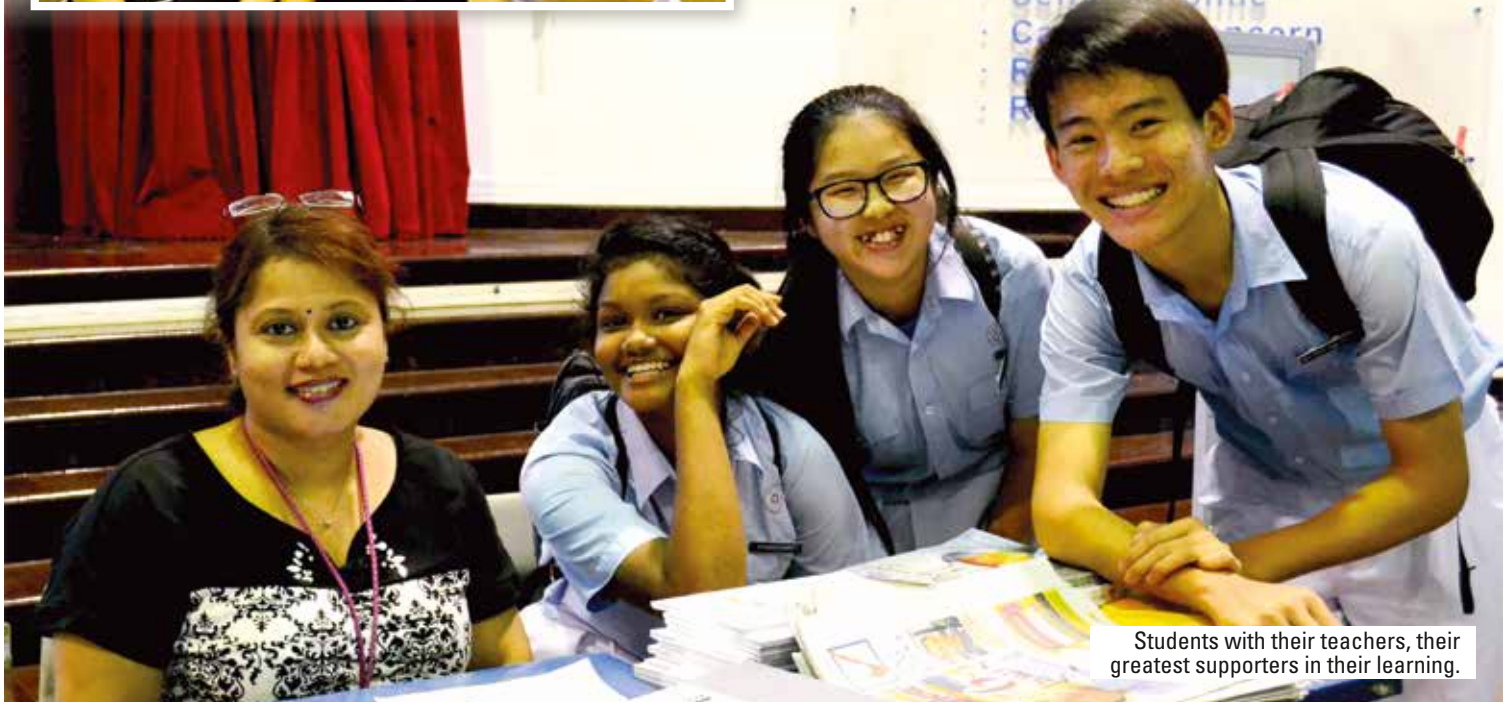
Students studying the available course options seriously.

The teachers were just as concerned about their students. They waited patiently in the school hall, all ready to share the joys and give comfort.

As the saying goes, the man who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after. The school is proud of the Class of 2015, and hopes that the spirit of lifelong learning will stand them in good stead for the years to come.



Even the juniors came to support their seniors.



Students with their teachers, their greatest supporters in their learning.

Secondary One Orientation Camp



Working together as a class to build the tallest tower.

4 January 2016 marked the start of an exciting journey through secondary school life for the new batch of Secondary One students.

The school held the Secondary One Orientation Camp from 4 to 6 January 2016 to help the students adjust to secondary school life, as well as to get to know their classmates and teachers. It was also to familiarise the students with the school environment, policies, rules and regulations, programmes, and the Co-Curricular Activities.



Students waiting in anticipation for the programme to start.

During the Secondary One Orientation Camp, the students were involved in the following programmes.

- Interaction Time with Form Teachers
- Team-Building Games with Classmates
- School Tour
- Learning of School Song
- Learning of School History
- Briefing on School Policies
- Briefing on Discipline Matters
- Introduction to Co-Curricular Activities
- Uniformed Groups Engagement and Induction Programme (UGEP)
- Basic Psychomotor Aptitude Test (BPAT)



Students enjoying the team-building games.



Forging new friendships.

Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Open House



Introducing a simple Guzheng piece to the Secondary One students.

On 15 January 2016, the school premises was abuzz with activities as the various CCA groups showcased their achievements and talents at their CCA booths. The CCA Open House officially started

with a concert, with the school's very own Performing Arts Groups mesmerizing the crowd with their astounding performances. The Uniformed Groups, dressed smartly in their uniforms, paraded the school premises with their prized possessions and equipment which are commonly used by the unit, such as the rifle for the National Cadet Corp and first aid equipment for the St John Ambulance Brigade. The Sports Groups also organised mini games and trials to allow the Secondary One students to try out the sports. Not to be outdone, members of the Clubs and Societies also went around the school to publicise their CCAs and showcase their respective masterpieces.

The CCA Open House not only aimed to familiarise the new students with secondary school life, but it also allowed

them to find out more about all the CCAs available in the school by interacting with their seniors and teachers-in-charge of the various CCAs. Through such interaction and guidance, it helped the Secondary Ones gain confidence in choosing CCAs which interest them and will help nurture them to their fullest potential.



The Chinese Contemporary Dance with their mesmerizing moves during the Performing Arts concert.



The National Cadet Corp's Unit Sergeant Major and Senior Cadet Officers.



The Scouts interacting with the Secondary One students on their self-made sedan chair.

Secondary Three Values In Action

About 220 Secondary Three students displayed their support for the Down Syndrome Association Singapore (DSA) during its 20th anniversary celebrations by being part of the feat of forming the largest human kite at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park on 27 February 2016. The students made up one-third of the human kite formation which earned a spot in the Singapore Book of Records. The purpose of the event is to create awareness of differently-abled people in Singapore and hence, to promote an inclusive environment for all people regardless of their differences. Through the event, the students also learned to show care and concern, one of the school values, towards people with Down Syndrome.

Prior to the event, the students attended awareness talks by DSA and activities such as poster-making and windmill-making. After the event, the students wrote reflections to consolidate their learning.



An aerial view of the largest human kite formation.
Image Credit: Mr Alphonus Chern, The Straits Times



The students' efforts have earned a spot in the Singapore Book of Records.

Re-Opening of Project Cabin



Students discovering the simple joys of playing card games.



Students experiencing the different facilities of Project Cabin.

After a year of closure, with a brand new location and a fresh new look, the school's Project Cabin finally re-opened in March 2016 to the excitement of the students and staff alike.

An after-school engagement centre for the students, Project Cabin offers a variety of facilities such as a pool table, XBOX 360 and ONE game consoles, table soccer as well as many board games. The students get to interact with one another and forge new friendships across levels and streams.

Groom-The-Classroom Competition

It was heartening to see the creative side of the students as they decorated their classroom noticeboards, showing the uniqueness of their class and the bond they share. Using recycled materials, they came together with their Form Teachers to decide on a theme before putting up their decorations.

This year, the Groom-the-Classroom Competition criteria also included the level of cleanliness. Each class was given points weekly based on a set of rubrics so as to inspire them to always keep their classrooms clean. It also reminds the students and staff to constantly remember the school's C.L.E.A.N approach.

- C – Clean the whiteboard
- L – Litter-free classroom
- E – Ensure windows and doors are opened
- A – Arrange tables and chairs
- N – Neatly place your bag on the floor under the table



Congratulations to all the Term 1 winners!

Chinese New Year Celebration



The Performing Arts Groups putting up a good show.



On 5 February 2016, the school came together to usher in the Year of the Monkey. The celebration provided an opportunity to bring together the different ethnic groups as they learned more about the traditions of the local Chinese. This year, the school also invited some of the international students to share how Chinese New Year is celebrated back in their countries. It was a refreshing experience for the audience as they listened to their fellow schoolmates.

As a mark of racial harmony, the students from the newly formed Ethnic Fusion Dance joined in the celebration by putting up a dance item. It was their inaugural performance and the dancers captured the audience's attention with their colourful costumes and graceful movements. Another dance item was put up by the students from the Chinese Contemporary Dance. They received loud applause from the audience for their highly energetic and well-executed movements. The hall was filled with a festive mood when the Guzheng Ensemble took to the stage, playing familiar traditional Chinese New Year pieces.

The Lion Dance was, as always, the highlight of the concert. The friendly and mischievous Lion mingled with the audience, engaging them at every turn. The students and staff were also excited to see the God of Fortune entering the school hall with the auspicious Lion.



Student Councillors eagerly waiting for their turns to present the mandarin oranges to the teachers.



The Vice-Principal wishing the vendors a year of abundance ahead.



The concert ended on a high note with the rousing performance by the Lion Dance.



The playful lion teasing the students.



The staff enjoying the joyous celebration.



The God of Fortune wishing the students wealth in the form of knowledge.

Total Defence Day



Together we will defend Singapore.

In conjunction with this year's Total Defence Day theme, *Together We Keep Singapore Strong*, the school commemorated Total Defence Day through a diverse range of activities. One of these was the Total Defence Day exhibition involving the Secondary Four National Education (NE) Ambassadors.

During the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) lesson, the national pledge was discussed to deepen the students' understanding of social cohesion in Singapore. This was followed by an assembly talk on how Total Defence has provided a united and integrated response to the challenges faced by Singapore. Students from the various Uniformed Groups were also invited to share about the roles they have played to support Total Defence. There was also a quiz to help the students learn about Total Defence through fun and excitement. The school then sang the Total Defence Day song, *There's A Part For Everyone*, as a finale.



Students viewing the Total Defence Day exhibition.



Reiterating the five Pillars of Total Defence during Assembly.

Cross-Country

The annual Cross-Country was held at West Coast Park on 29 March 2016 for all staff and students. The Physical Education Department organised the event in line with its objectives of fostering a strong school spirit, cultivating a healthy lifestyle and inculcating school values through mass participation in sports.

On a cool morning, the school assembled at the Grand Lawn before the start of the race. The students ran through a scenic route past the western coastline and



The Upper Secondary boys racing off from the starting point upon the sound of the horn.



The competitive runners anxiously checking their timing.

mangroves. Everyone's spirits were lifted as competitive runners pushed themselves to their limits during the race and students who were not running cheered for their friends at the finishing line. It was a valuable opportunity for students to forge new friendships and deepen existing ones. Joining the cross-country's fun run were also members of the Alumni and Parent Support Group (PSG).

The students also competed by representing their Co-Curricular Activities (CCA). The school congratulates the top 25 runners from the Upper and Lower Secondary boys' and girls' races, as well as the girls' Basketball team and the boys' Football team for coming in first for the inter-CCA challenge trophy respectively.



The Parent Support Group participating in the event.



The New Town Alumni Vice-President, Ms Wilna Tan, giving out prizes to the prize recipients.



The Upper Secondary girls getting ready for their 3.2 kilometre competitive race.

51st Commendation Day



The Ethnic Fusion dancers earning the respect of the audience with their professionalism in their craft.



The Chinese Contemporary Dance with expressive, fluid movements.

The school celebrated its 51st Commendation Day on 15 April 2016 and the celebration was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Seah Bak Kheow, the Chairman of the School Advisory Committee.

The event began with the inspection of parade. The members of the Uniformed Groups have trained hard to be part of the contingents and they stood at attention, with their shoulders pulled back and heads held high, all proud to be part of the parade.

The 51st Commendation Day also marked the inaugural All-Rounder Award, an award given to recognise holistic development and achievement in the areas of academic, co-curricular and character. The first All-Rounder Award was presented to Lim Rong of E41 (2015) for being the pinnacle in all three domains.

The Valedictorian, Vincent Liew Woon Hin, also from E41 (2015), represented his cohort and spoke about how he appreciated the school's efforts to provide learning opportunities not only within the classroom, but also outside of it. He thanked the school, "The many learning opportunities that New Town provided for me really opened up my horizons and developed precious values such as resilience in me."

Many in the audience were stirred by Mr Seah's speech, where he spoke simply but movingly of the importance of gratitude, diligence and resilience. Indeed, the school wishes these values to be held closely to the hearts of every Newtowner and looks forward to the students coming back to their alma mater to serve and to inspire.



The Guest-of-Honour completing the inspection of parade.



The Concert Band striking up a fanfare to welcome the Guest-of-Honour.



Prizewinners receiving awards for their academic achievements.



Valedictorian, Vincent Liew Woon Hin of E41 (2015).



All-Rounder Awardee, Lim Rong of E41 (2015).

Secondary Three Geographical Investigation



Throwing a buoyant object into the water to collect data on wind direction and longshore drift.

On 19 and 20 February 2016, the school's Geography teachers led the Secondary Three Full Geography students to conduct a Geographical Investigation (GI) of the coast at East Coast Park. GI is an integral component of the new Inquiry-Based Learning adopted under the revised Geography syllabus.

Armed with equipment such as clinometers, measuring tapes and ranging poles, the students conducted three sets of on-site activities with the objective of testing a hypothesis they formulated during the pre-field preparation stage. Rising to the challenge, the students successfully completed their investigation by collecting useful data on parameters such as beach profile and wave speed. The experience has certainly helped the students to appreciate the investigative aspects of learning Geography.



Using a weather tracker.



Studying the distribution of sand grains along the beach.



Reading a clinometer to determine the angle of inclination between two points on a beach.

Outdoor Education

In order to develop care and cultivate appreciation for the environment in students, as well as thoughtful consideration of the safety of self and others, the Physical Education (PE) Department has included the Outdoor Education (OE) Orienteering module in the school's PE curriculum.

The OE Orienteering module included a series of progressive lessons where the Secondary One students first become acquainted with the distinctive places and features of the school by completing a Trivia Hunt in pairs or small groups within a given time. The questions or hints required the students to be observant of their surroundings and think critically of the route to take to retrieve the answers in the shortest time possible.

The module continues to equip the students with more advanced orienteering skills through activities such as relay orienteering in Secondary One and compass reading in Secondary Two. The Secondary Three students will then be able to apply the skills and knowledge taught during the Secondary Three Camp when they are challenged to navigate and get from one location to the next using the equipment provided.



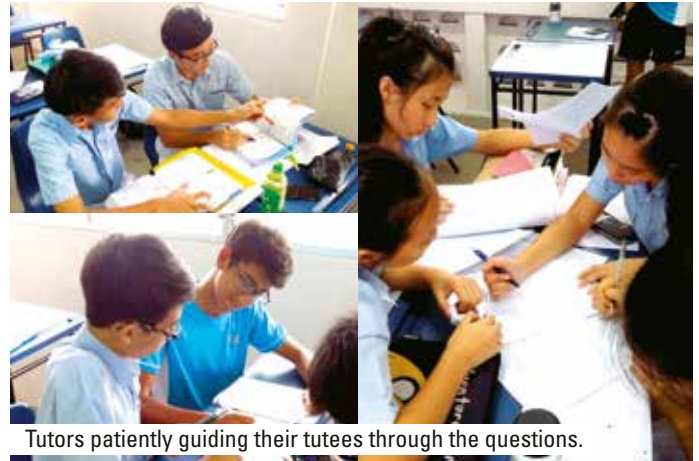
Students trying to form 'faces' at the exact location in the right direction during an OE lesson on map setting.



PE teachers building different types of shelter with limited resources during an OE workshop.

Secondary Four and Five Peer Tutoring Programme

The objective of the Peer Tutoring Programme is to allow competent students to help their peers of the same grade to learn mathematical concepts and skills in a safe and supportive environment. As the tutors and tutees work on assignments, they gain a broader and deeper understanding of the topics involved. Prior to each peer tutoring session, tutors attend mathematics clinics, which reinforce their existing knowledge of the fundamental concepts and also enhance their mathematical proficiency. The tutees have also benefitted from the individualised instruction and have more opportunities to ask questions in a comfortable environment. Besides improvements in the students' attitude towards their studies, class cohesion is also strengthened.



Tutors patiently guiding their tutees through the questions.



Peer tutoring group actively discussing a question.

Comments from the students involved in the programme.

"I am more confident in asking questions." – M Turka Lexmi of N47 (tutee)

"As a tutee, I have learnt how to be independent and revise on my own so that I am able to complete the tasks ahead." – Raymond Cheah Wen Jian of N51 (tutee)

"I understand Mathematics concepts at a deeper level. The sessions teach me to be more caring and patient with my classmates." – Wee Zheng Yang, Jaren of E43 (tutor)

Secondary Three Express think! Writing Mentorship Programme

Founded in 2013 by a group of University Scholar Programme (USP) students from the National University of Singapore (NUS), think! was conceived as an academic stretch programme designed to impart writing and critical thinking skills to selected Secondary Three Express students with relatively strong command of the English Language. think! aims to expose the students to issues beyond their classrooms and provide them the opportunity to hone their expository writing skills.



Concluding the last session with a group photograph.



Sharing animatedly how an argument could be strongly put forward.

After exposing the student mentees to articles and discussions pertaining to the structures of expository texts, the USP mentors will then work closely with each of their mentees to produce a polished expository essay at the end of the programme. In these four sessions, the mentors take their mentees through the processes of brainstorming, planning, researching for evidence, writing the essay, and finally refining the essay. Throughout the mentorship, besides delivering the final essay, the programme also hopes to inspire the students in their educational aspirations and character.

Mother Tongue Fortnight



Secondary Two CL students during the sing-along session.

During the Mother Tongue Fortnight, the Secondary One and Two students embarked on a short but enriching journey into the world of music.

The Chinese Language (CL) students gained an understanding of the Xinyao songs (Singapore Chinese folk songs) popular in the 1970s and 1980s through a sing-along workshop. These budding song writers were also given the opportunity to re-write the lyrics and perform their own creations.



Secondary Two ML students and teachers with the instructors.

The Malay Language (ML) students produced an audio recording based on a chosen theme. They were inspired through a workshop, during which they gained knowledge and self-confidence. More impressively, the Secondary Two Express students wrote part of the lyrics for a song which will be performed by a Malaysian artist in the music industry.

The Tamil Language (TL) students explored different types of Indian traditional musical instruments. They participated enthusiastically in a song-writing activity and performed their compositions confidently for their peers.

No doubt, the students had a lot of fun while letting their creative juices flow!



Secondary One TL students in deep discussion about their song-writing.

Secondary One Guitar Programme

Every week, the Secondary One students take on the challenge of playing an instrument that is familiar but yet distant to many – the guitar. The students would learn to read the guitar chord tabs and also learn to play the guitar with different strumming patterns. Through guidance from both their music teacher and peers, these students would eventually put up a performance in their groups to present a song item of their choice to their class.



Lending a helping hand to their peers.

Other than learning how to play the guitar, students travelled through music to different countries all over the world to learn about different string instruments. The students displayed appreciation of the different cultures and their music when they learnt how the different instruments and playing techniques attributed to the musical style of the country.



Students taking the lead from their group leader to practice the chords together.



Students enjoying the chance to pick up a new skill.

Gold Award for Green Schools @ South West



Green Guardians representing the school in the finals of "My Captain Green" competition.



Green Guardians at the Junior Environmental Ambassadors (JEA) leadership training workshop 2015.

For three consecutive years, from 2013 to 2015, the school has achieved the Gold Award for Green Schools @ South West. The school would like to congratulate and thank the Green Guardians who have worked hard and contributed much to the Green School programme. The Green Guardians have played the role of environmental champions in raising awareness for environmental issues in the school as well as served the community through self-initiated environmental campaigns.

Design and Technology Awards

The Design and Technology Unit submitted four entries for the annual nation-wide Design and Technology Awards jointly organised by the Design and Technology Unit, Curriculum Planning and Development Division, Ministry of Education and the Design and Technology Educator Society. All the four students were shortlisted to pitch their ideas to an evaluation panel made up of design industry experts, polytechnic and National Institute of Education lecturers. The pitching session took place on 14 March 2016, during which all the four students successfully clinched the following awards.

Creative Adaptation Award

Isaiah Chia Hong En of E44 (2015)
Ong Su Ling of E42 (2015)

Creative Aesthetics Award

Lee Hui Min Tricia of E42 (2015)

Creative Innovation Award (Merit)

Zavier Tng Zhe Wei of E44 (2015)



Zavier proudly presenting his design to the panel of judges.

Zavier Tng Zhe Wei's entry was so well-received by the panel that he was given the Merit award and his design was produced as gifts for the invited guests at the annual Design and Technology Awards Presentation Ceremony and Conference in June 2016.

St John Ambulance Brigade



The Corp officer putting on the rank for the cadet.

On 23 January 2016, six of the school's deserving cadets attended the 20th Advance NCO Course and 38th Standard NCO Course Passing Out Parade held in Chung Cheng High School (Yishun). The parade not only signified their resilience to overcome the rigours of the course, but it also marked a significant milestone for these cadets to prepare them for their leadership roles and responsibilities in St John Ambulance Brigade.

The teacher-in-charge and the corp officers attended the ceremony to lend their support and to congratulate the newly-promoted cadets.



Cadets from the various schools striking up conversations easily.

Caring Teacher Awards

The school congratulates the following teachers who have been awarded the Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) 2016.

- Ms Anisha Ghani
- Ms Yong Li Ping
- Mr Kalidass S/O Jayaraman
- Mr Tham Ming Hwee

The CTA aims to acknowledge and reward the teachers in Singapore schools who show care and concern for the holistic development of their students and go the extra mile to ensure their charges grow up to be confident and independent learners.

The CTA is organised by the National Institute of Education, Singapore, in partnership with ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, with the support of the Ministry of Education.



(from left to right)
Mr Tham Ming Hwee, Mr Kalidass S/O Jayaraman,
Ms Anisha Ghani, Ms Yong Li Ping

Professional Learning Through ICT Coffeeshop Talks

Term 2 of 2016 began with an enriching afternoon of sharing and learning for the school's teaching staff through the annual *ICT Coffeeshop Talks*.

The informal platform for sharing helmed by the ICT Committee enables the teaching staff to share ICT tools and best practices for teaching and even personal productivity.

This year, the ICT tools shared were selected based on the preferences of the teaching staff. These included *Adobe Voice*, *Explain Everything*, *Google Apps*, *MS Excel*, *Nearpod*, *Padlet*, *Linoit*, *Storyboard That*, *Socrative* and *Weebly*.

In this age of digital learners, there is a rise in the importance of ICT in the classroom. As such, the *ICT Coffeeshop Talks* hope to inspire and encourage the teaching staff to keep learning and to stay current for the students.



Teachers designing interactive lessons.



Teachers turned students for the day.



Teachers trying out digital storytelling.

Publications Committee

Mrs Cheryl Goh (Chairperson), Ms Lai Chiu Shuan, Mdm Rosnah Ghazali, Ms Kalyani Pushpasaragah, Ms Sandra Maria Gomes, Ms Vanessa Teo, Dr Pamela Thuraisingam