



## NTSS TURNS 55



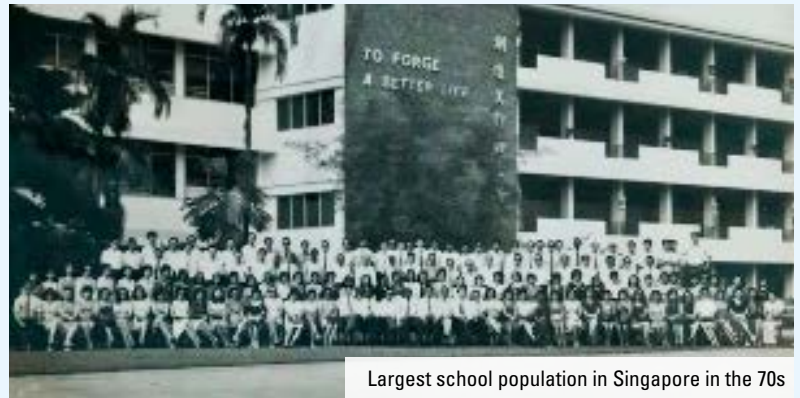
Our old campus in Queenstown (taken in 1965)



Current campus at Dover Road



Our founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew visited the school in 1967



Largest school population in Singapore in the 70s

New Town Secondary School was founded in 1965, the same year Singapore gained independence. It started its operation in the Queenstown estate which was the first satellite town built in Singapore and hence the school was named New Town Secondary School (NTSS). By 1975, NTSS was the largest school with both Chinese and English streams and more than 3540 students. As a result, there were many prominent alumni from NTSS and many have returned to serve the school in the Alumni, School Advisory Committee and as inspirational speakers.

Guided by the philosophy, 'Students Our Core', sustained efforts have been made by the school in enabling students to uncover their strengths and develop their talents through a holistic curriculum. An array of programmes and activities have been provided to every Newtowner for their development under the cognitive, aesthetic, moral, physical and social domains. In 2015, the Ministry of Education (MOE) accorded the first niche programme status to the school in student leadership development under the Learning for Life Programme. In 2016, a second niche status was conferred by MOE to NTSS for equipping students with critical and inventive thinking skills through visual communication under the Applied Learning Programme.

In 2017, under the Special Talent Programme, the school's niche in developing talents and enhancing experiences in Art was recognised by MOE and NTSS is amongst the few schools in Singapore offering the Enhanced Art Programme.

Even as New Town Secondary marked its 55<sup>th</sup> year in the face of COVID-19, the support, solidarity and positivity manifested by our staff, students, parents and key stakeholders were encouraging. The school's vision of 'Nurturing Talents, Sharing Success' and motto, 'To Forge a Better Life' will always be upheld by the school community as it goes 55 and beyond.



'To forge a better life'



# Class-Based Activities with Form Teachers

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Newtowners would usually begin their Wednesday morning either in the hall for an assembly programme or in their classrooms for the Form Teacher Period (FTP). FTP is a dedicated time for students to bond with their classmates and their Form Teachers (FTs) through structured activities planned by the school, FTs or class committees.

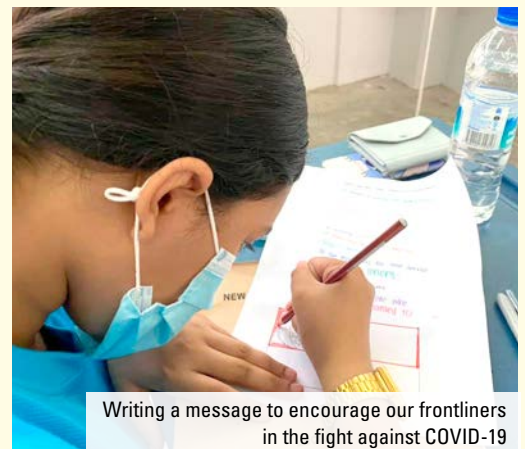
With the COVID-19 safety measures restricting mass gatherings in school, all assembly programmes were adapted to be conducted in class. These included commemorative events such as Racial Harmony Day and National Day, as well as programmes for Kindness Day SG and Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC). Students folded ribbons in support of ADAC and pledged their stand against drug abuse. When school reopened in Term Three, students also spent time discussing and reflecting on their Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) experiences. All these were captured in the form of heartfelt written reflections, drawings and even photographs, which were eventually put together in a unique video titled 'The NTSS-FHBL Experience'.

FTP is also used as a platform to discuss issues close to the hearts of our students. These include tips on how to manage their well-being leading up to examinations and learning how to tackle cyber wellness issues such as building their online identities and understanding scams and hackers. During a special class-based activity titled 'Gearing Up for Examinations', students had the opportunity to watch an interview, where some of the teachers shared useful study tips and strategies. Following this, the students wrote messages to motivate themselves. This activity was well-received by the students with some even pasting their personal messages on their desks in the classrooms.

Apart from class-based activities, FTs also made use of FTP to have one-to-one interactions with students from their classes. This provided FTs with the opportunity to get to know their students on a more personal level and to better understand their aspirations, hopes and challenges.



One-to-one interaction with Form Teacher



Writing a message to encourage our frontliners in the fight against COVID-19



Note to self



An anti-drug pledge ribbon in support of ADAC



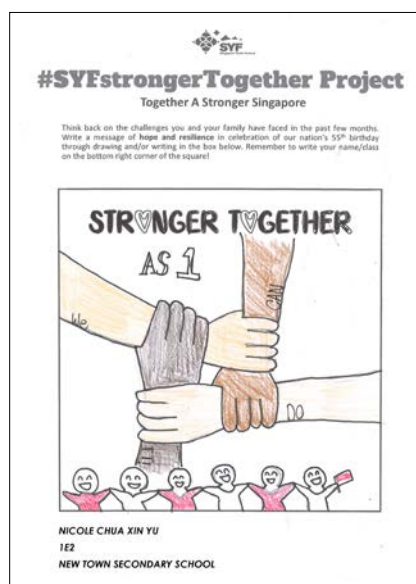
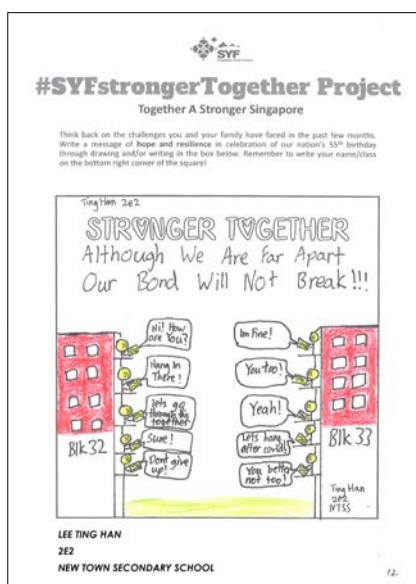
A completed paper crane for Kindness Day SG

# #SYFstrongerTogether Project: Towards a Stronger Singapore

As a lead-up to the 55<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration, our students participated in the #SYFstrongerTogether project. Held during the first CCE lesson in Term Three, the project aimed to unite our youth in expressing their hopes for Singapore.

Our students showed their creativity as they penned down their heartfelt messages and created drawings to express their hopes during these challenging times. The best entries from each class were submitted to a panel of teachers, and some of them represented the school in a showcase that was part of the SYFgoesOnline! interactive artwork presented to the nation.

We are truly heartened and touched by the messages of hope penned down by our Newtowners.



Evelyn Valerina Saharprawira (4E1) receiving a token of appreciation for her submission

Student submissions



Intently watching the Morning Inspiration video of the week

## Morning Inspiration



Lim Zhi Jun (3N5) sharing her journey as a leader



Andri Mikhail B Fazlon (5N2) sharing on self-discipline



Kayden Goh (2E4) getting ready for the video recording

The weekly sharing of personal stories by Newtowners took on a different form since the start of Home-Based Learning (HBL). Instead of onstage sharing of stories by Newtowners, the stories were captured in the form of pre-recorded videos and screened in the classroom at the start of the Form Teacher Period every Wednesday morning. Centred on school values, the inspiring stories ranged from personal accounts on family and friendship to academic success and challenges. There were also stories on commemorative events such as Racial Harmony Day. Following the sharing, students engaged in a reflective discussion with their Form Teachers on the learning points in the story.



# Achievements of our Uniformed Groups

## Girl Guides

The year started off on a high as our Girl Guides unit attained yet another Gold for the Puan Noor Aishah Award. Over the course of the year, the girls kept their spirits high and showed resilience in adapting to changes. Through online commemoration of events such as World Thinking Day, as well as weekly eCCA sessions, our guides have shown their guiding spirit, especially through challenging times.



Commemorating World Thinking Day online



Smoke Free Ambassador Programme sharing through Zoom

## Scouts

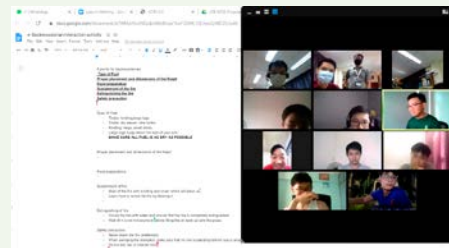
New Town Scouts have been awarded the Frank Cooper Sands Gold Award for 2019. This marks another step to excellence for the troop, who have attained the Gold Award for two consecutive years. During eCCA, the Scouts met online to participate in online learning through videos and interactive platforms such as Deck.Toys, as well as e-bonding activities organised by Scouts Leaders. Whether indoors or outdoors, the Scouts are always prepared to learn.



E-learning on scouting history in Singapore



Mastering knots and lashings through Student Learning Space



Planning a virtual Scouts Camp

## National Cadet Corps

The NCC (Land) unit continues to maintain an 'Accomplishment' for the Unit Recognition Award (2019). In addition, Master Sergeant Joshua Sin (4E1) was conferred the distinguished Outstanding Cadet Award. This award is presented by the NCC HQ to the top 5% of cadets in Singapore in recognition of their dedication and effort in improving the standard of the unit.



Outstanding Cadet Award recipient, Master Sergeant Joshua Sin (4E1)

## National Police Cadet Corps

The NPCC team trained tirelessly, investing hours of intense training with unwavering focus, to win the Campcraft championship. Though the biennial Campcraft Competition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team showed impressive fortitude in overcoming challenges and moving forward.

Reyza Bin Tajudin (4N6) received the SPF-NPCC Badge for his commitment and contribution to the unit. He reflected on his success: 'My NPCC journey was both challenging and enriching as I had the opportunity to become more resilient and disciplined. It has also enabled me to forge strong bonds and create unforgettable memories with my fellow squad mates.'



SPF-NPCC Badge recipient-Reyza Bin Tajudin (4N6)



Campcraft team

# eCCA@NTSS



The Basketball team setting goals and learning through a zoom session



Maintaining strength and flexibility through stretching

In June 2020, our school commenced an alternative mode of CCA via digital means (eCCA) to bring back a key learning experience for students. Similar to Home-Based Learning, a combination of online and offline activities were conducted during eCCA sessions to provide students with meaningful learning experiences while they were at home.

Sports and Games CCAs took a different approach in continuing to equip students with knowledge about games by engaging in discussions on sports theory and video analysis of game plays. At the same time, physical training took the form of creative workout routines and skills drills that could be easily done at home. The Uniformed Groups employed various strategies such as the use of online platforms, hands-on activities and live demonstrations or pre-recorded videos to engage the students. Senior cadets were also given the opportunity to lead their juniors in online activities and discussions. The Performing Arts students continued to learn and practise new choreography and music pieces under the guidance of their instructors and teachers. The Visual Art as well as Clubs and Societies ignited creativity in students' work and generated conversations through the use of themes and current affairs such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The teachers, coaches and instructors all played a great part in innovating and creating engaging eCCA sessions for our students.

## PE in School and through FHBL



Basketball Sit-Ups Workout Challenge

At home or in school, quality Physical Education (PE) remains key to the holistic development of every child. Our PE department aims to develop physically active and healthy individuals who are thinking players of good character.

During the Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL), students continued effective learning in four areas: (i) Sports Module (ii) Physical Health and Fitness Theory (iii) Character Education (iv) 30-minute Workout Sessions.

To encourage students through FHBL and the circuit breaker, the PE Department launched the New Town PE Paperball Class Challenge in April to inspire social connectedness and unity despite the physical distancing. In addition, the PE Ergonomics CARE Package was customised to empower students to adopt good posture to improve productivity.

Returning to school for face-to-face PE lessons was re-energizing for our students. Adopting new safety measures as part of our new norms for PE lessons, students practised physical distancing and followed a clean routine for a safe learning environment. Individual and pair workout lessons were carried out with the use of music, gamification, visuals and in-depth training for motivation and engagement.



# Student Leaders' Appreciation and Appointment Ceremony

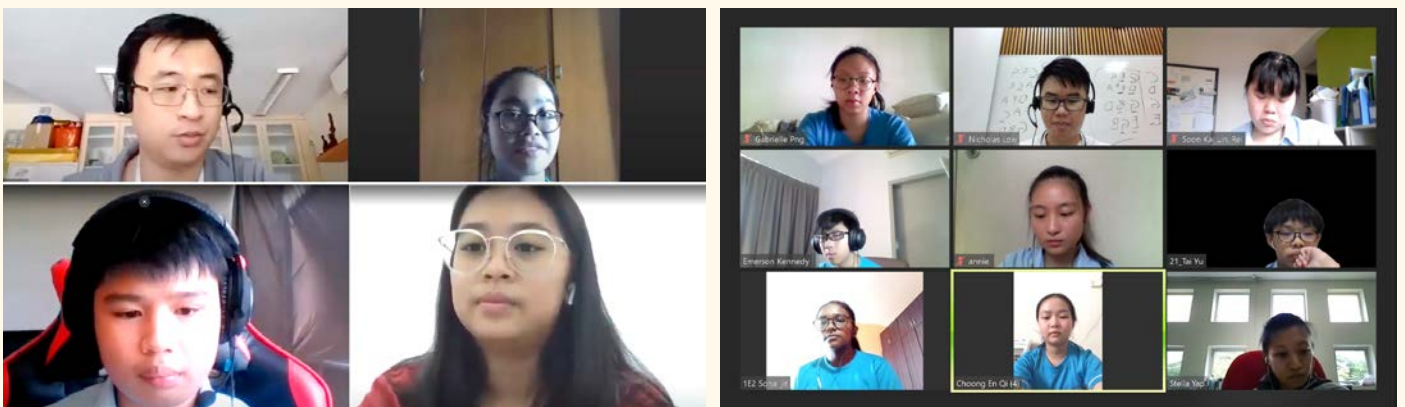


Presentation of certificates to our Student Leaders

The Student Leaders' Appreciation and Appointment ceremony marked the beginning of the leadership journey for many of our Secondary Two and Three Student Leaders. Many outgoing leaders would concur with Bram Agii D/O Martin (4N5), the outgoing President of Peer Support Leader Board 2019/2020, that commitment and dedication to the role they play is very important in leading the student body.

The influence the Secondary Four outgoing Student Leaders have on the next echelon of leaders cannot be underestimated. Marc Thomson Gan Boon Kiat (3E1), the incoming President of Student Council Board 2020/2021, values the opportunities where he learnt from his predecessors. He seeks to inspire his team mates by encouraging them and reminding them of their roles in the school. Similarly, Muhammad Syafi Rahman Bin Mohamad Zuki (2N5), Captain of 'C' Division Football, also shared that he looked up to his predecessor as 'he was always on time and ready to train.' Their personal experiences have shown how the Secondary Four Student Leaders have exemplified our school values and we hope our incoming Student Leaders will continue to learn and grow in their leadership journey.

## Student Councillors and Peer Support Leaders Recruitment



Teachers conducting interviews virtually

Student Leaders are integral in leading and positively influencing their peers in the areas of discipline and character development. Potential Student Leaders are nominated by their peers and teachers to lead as Student Councillors (SCs) or Peer Support Leaders (PSLs). With the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the normal face-to-face interviews could not be carried out. Instead, interviews through Zoom were conducted to get to know the nominees before the selection was made.

# New Town Kindness Day



Working online to produce the video 'Starting With You'



Folding of paper cranes in class



Presenting gift packs to canteen vendors



Presenting gift packs to the Operations Support Officers

New Town Kindness Day (NTKD) 2020 is a new programme led by our Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) as an initiative to spread positivity and kindness while inspiring others to care for one another and challenge for change. Launched in June 2020, our PSLs were trained to lead their classes during the Form Teacher Period.

In light of our theme for this year, 'Make Someone Smile Today', our PSLs brainstormed to create a meaningful experience for both our staff and students. The programme began with students viewing an original music video production titled '**Starting With You**'. This song was directed, sung and produced by our PSLs to encourage the heart of others; sharing that kindness begins with YOU. Newtowners then learnt how to fold an origami paper crane, before deciding on their preferred choice of gifting (drawing, digital drawing, origami folding). Finally, our PSLs launched a '7 Days of Kindness' programme within their own classes, where PSL-designed 'Appreciation, Motivation and Action' e-cards were sent out daily to serve as a reminder to care and begin the day with a smile.

By July, our PSLs collated all photo submissions to co-create a customised photo collage, partnering with Singapore Kindness Movement to pack a total of 150 Kindness Day Gift packs for all teaching and non-teaching staff of the school in appreciation for their effort and hard work. Furthermore, Newtowners have accumulated 1000 paper cranes that will be framed to signify hope and healing during this challenging time.

## Teachers' Day Celebration



Crossword puzzle activity



Folding heart-shaped origami to show appreciation



Gift presentation by Class Chairperson

The Teachers' Day celebration was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration took place in class, with activities focussing on appreciating and showing gratitude to teachers and school staff during these challenging times.

Each class kicked off the celebrations with a customised crossword puzzle developed by the student councillors. The twist was that the clues contained a trivia about each subject teacher of the class! Students proceeded to fold heart-shaped origami and wrote words of appreciation to non-teaching staff. These hearts were sorted and distributed to their intended recipients.

The Parents Support Group and the New Town Alumni also produced heart-warming videos to thank and encourage the school staff for their resilience in this unprecedented time.

The day's programme ended on a high note with gift presentations to all Form Teachers. The highlight was an individualised greeting card filled with well-wishes, words of appreciation, and even poetry from students collated by student councillors through an online platform. All in all, teachers and students agreed that this year's event carried great significance and meaning for all the sacrifices and challenges faced throughout the year.



Preparing gifts for school staff



Showing sense of fulfilment upon completion of origami hearts



Student Councillors sorting out the heart-shaped origami after the celebrations



**EZRA CHONG YU HERN (4E1)**

I realised the importance of staying disciplined during Full Home-Based Learning. I am grateful to my teachers for checking in on me. Sometimes I wonder how I could have made it without their guidance.

**KONDURI SREEJA RAO (4E1)**

While pace of life was slower during Circuit Breaker, my typing became faster.

**HUANG XIN YA (4E2)**

One area of growth for me this year was to be able to plan and stick to my study timetable. Not only did I have time to study, I had time to work out too!

**LIM YEE XUAN BELICIA (4E1)**

Our school has prepared us for Home-Based Learning in the past years. Still, I had to be resourceful in troubleshooting technical issues that came up from time to time.

**DINIE BINTE ABDUL AZIZ (4E2)**

I hope social distancing will not cause people to emotionally distance themselves from each other. We just have to learn how to stay connected using technology. That was how I celebrated Hari Raya with my family and friends!

**Showing care and concern to my family means ..**

extending my role beyond my peers to everyone around me. I talked to my family about their day. Having empathy and respect goes a long way to brighten up the day and lift people's moods.  
- Soon Kai Lin, Rei (3E3)

organising family movie nights. In between scenes, we shared our thoughts and found we had more things in common than we thought!  
- Hadhinah Binte Mohammed Tahar (3N5)

keeping track of the amount of food I ate daily. As my family ordered groceries online, it took two or three days to arrive. I kept a daily journal to record the amount of food we ate as I was concerned that should we overeat, there might not be anything left for the next day!  
- Chain Ming Yu (3E4)

calling my grandparents regularly to encourage them to stay at home. I entertained them through a live karaoke broadcast so that they would not be bored.  
- Aaron Kwek Yin Kang (3N6)

**Voices of New Town – Experiences of Full Home-Based Learning**

**Showing care and concern to my friends means ..**

checking in with my friends on their well-being and seeing how they were holding up during this unprecedented time.  
- Noor Fazila Binte Farook (3E3)

role-modelling for my friends. Many could not get used to the study-from-home idea. When I cleaned my room, I would also encourage my friends to do the same thing. It made my room more conducive for studying and also lessened my mother's household chores.  
- Puteri Alya Qistina Rosley (3N6)

sharing about myself and listening to my buddies. Investing time in our friendship made us feel connected and bonded.  
- Grace Wong Jyn Xue (3E4) & Lim Zhi Jun (3N5)



Celebrating grandma's birthday online  
- Kok Yu Heng Jeremy Truang (1N5)



Another engaging online lesson!  
- Hanie Zafirah Binte Muhamad Munif (2E3)



The table tennis robot as my training partner :)  
- Low Choon Eng, Jasper (2N5)



#Exercise #fitness #bodybuilder  
#determination  
- Radhakrishnan Santhosé Kumar (3E4)



**LUQMAN NURHAKIM  
ABDOL RAHIM YASSIN (4E3)**

Being resourceful is both a means and an end. We need to be resourceful to overcome any limitations. When we are resourceful, we see possibilities in every situation and solutions in every problem.

**TRAVIS CHEE (4N5)**

What is going to set one apart from others is the ability to stay disciplined during times of uncertainty. I hope I will one day master self-discipline.

**JUSTIN YAU CHAO YANG (5N1)**

Life is about trade-offs and making the best of what we have. Yes, I did not have fast food and bubble tea for quite some time. But the pleasure I gained from learning to play a new song on the piano or catching up on my sleep was precious and priceless!

**NURUL SYAFIQAH BINTE MASRI (5N2)**

The sudden long period away from school made me miss my friends and teachers. Also, I missed our school canteen – the noise, the smell and everything. I called my friends and sent messages to my teachers all the time. The thought of being able to sit in the classroom with my classmates once again brought a smile to my face.

**LIM GIA ZHUN (4E4)**

This year, I have learnt not to take things for granted. For one, when we learn from home, we will not always have the convenience of consulting our teachers face-to-face. We have to learn to deal with changing situations positively.

**MUHSINA KHUDSIA BINTE PREM NAVAS (4N6)**

After attending online lessons, I am more familiar with the possibilities and limitations of technology. It can help me gain access to knowledge but it can never replace the effort I need to put in to acquire knowledge.



Teachers leading by example through creativity, positivity and spontaneity in the Paperball Challenge

**NEW TOWN PE PAPERBALL CHALLENGE**

Crisis presents itself with opportunities, and opportunities awaken us to new possibilities. To encourage students through Home-Based Learning and the Circuit Breaker measures, the PE Department launched the New Town PE Paperball Class Challenge in May to inspire social connectedness and unity through diversity despite the physical distancing measures.

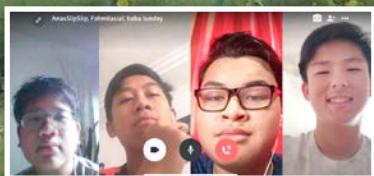
Students exhibited resourcefulness and communicated as a class to plan, record, and even include their Form Teachers in producing their original class videos.

Encapsulated in every video were positive messages of creativity, integrity and resilience while staying home, staying strong and staying united.

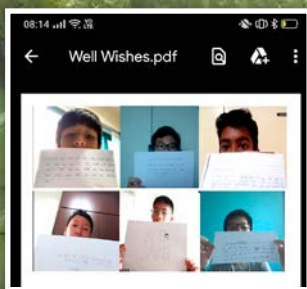
The winning classes for the Paperball Challenge were 1E3, 1N6, 2E2, 2E3, 2E4, 2N6, 3E1, 3E2, 3E4 and 4E2. Our heartiest congratulations to 1E3 for receiving the 'Best Class of the Year 2020' Award.



Innovative Ideas in PE Paperball Challenge



My best friends and me socialising from a distance. - Mohammad Fahmi B Af (5N2)



Heart-felt wishes by everyone to everyone. Stay safe. - Kinshen Tang (1E2)



Setting the table for family dinner - Hanisah Binte Mohamad Tahar (2N5)



Reigniting my passion for reading - Wong Zhiqing (3E1)



New pet fish - Mah Kok Wai Caden (2N5)



# Together A Stronger Singapore – National Day Commemoration

Our National Education (NE) Committee organised a unique commemoration that provided opportunities for students to participate in the Singapore Story through in-class discussions and student involvement in various activities. Our CCE lesson on 5<sup>th</sup> August brought out stories of Singaporeans contributing to the disadvantaged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each class submitted a picture and a message to spur each other on in this challenging year. On 7<sup>th</sup> August, we organised our very own National Anthem and Pledge moment during morning assembly, leading students to affirm their commitment to uniting as one nation. Students also revisited the Singapore story through the Recollections and listened to our Minister's encouraging National Day message. The session then ended on a high note with a video that featured students' contributions and a celebratory music video produced by our NE Committee and student performers.



Our National Anthem moment



NE Ambassador reading the National Day message via the public address system



3N5 students displaying their fun packs won from the CCE Class Activity Competition



Teacher and student performers rehearsing for the music video

## Green Schools Assembly Programme

New Town Secondary School is an active participant of the South West CDC's Green Schools @ South West Programme. During a school assembly programme, students learnt about recycling projects which could be done at home through a sharing by Green Guardian, Anya Angelita (3E2). Students enjoyed a hands-on activity where they learnt to make paper boxes to contain scraps using magazines. Following that, students embarked on different modules on specific environmental themes. Secondary One students learnt the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of public toilets through a series of videos and fun facts. Secondary Two students were educated on the role they could play in ensuring a litter-free environment and designed appreciation cards for our school's Operations Support Officers (OSO) who help to upkeep the cleanliness of our school environment. Secondary Three students deepened their knowledge on dengue prevention and created posters to educate their families and friends.



Our OSO, Mr Hussin received appreciation notes from class 2E1



Paper box created out of magazine



Students who participated in the Clean and Green Carnival organised by Southwest CDC in 2019



# Racial Harmony Day – Multicultural Singapore

This year, we commemorated Racial Harmony Day through various in-class activities. Our programme led students through a role-playing activity where they learnt about the marriage rituals of people from different races and religions. The marriage rituals chosen for the programme were based on the personal stories of our very own teachers. The programme led students to realise that even though marriage practices, customs and traditions can vary, Singaporeans are united by common values of gratitude and respect.



Teachers donning ethnic wear as part of the commemoration

Teachers' stories on marriage rituals

National Education Ambassador, Jiang Qiyang (3E2) shared on how racial harmony could be observed in his badminton team. He shared that his multiracial team was not only connected through sports, but also gathered to celebrate each other's cultural festivals. Newtowners also learnt about the different festivals celebrated in Singapore during the CCE lessons.

## Geographical Investigation on Weather and Climate

To deepen students' understanding of geographical concepts through experiential learning, the Humanities Department conducted a Geographical Investigation for Secondary Three Elective Geography students within the school premises in July. At three different sites in our school, Geography teachers guided students to use various fieldwork tools to collect data on weather elements, including sling psychrometers to measure relative humidity and our self-created observation templates to measure the extent of cloud cover.



Measuring wind speed using the electronic weather tracker



Assessing the extent of cloud cover

## NUS Geography Challenge

Four of our students - Luqman Nurhakim Abdol Rahim Yassin and Palaniappan Shanthal from 4E3, as well as Errick Schumacher Kennedy and Low Jing Xi from 4E2, participated in the 2020 NUS Geography Challenge. Luqman and Errick received the Silver and Bronze Awards respectively for their excellent performance. For his exceptional showing, Luqman was also identified for the MOE Geography Talent Development Programme. Congratulations to the team!



The team of students who participated in the NUS Geography Challenge 2020

# Igniting Joy and Creativity in Mother Tongue Classrooms



Tamil Language students giving a presentation



Malay Language Google Site created by our Senior Teacher

The Mother Tongue Language (MTL) department believes in nurturing the joy of learning in every child and seeks to create an environment where learning is fun and yet rigorous. This year, our students embarked on various language programmes and discovered their interests in learning MTL when they participated in engaging performance tasks and activities. In the process, students acquired new knowledge and skills which helped to enhance their language proficiencies.

Even during the challenging Full Home-Based Learning period, both teachers and students showed extraordinary resilience and active learning was kept alive with the use of e-pedagogies. Our Senior Teacher/ML, Mdm Kasumawati, was quick to spring into action and created a Malay Language (ML) Google site as a one-stop resource repository for Upper Secondary ML students. Besides providing the ease of access to resources, the site also allowed students to carry out self-directed learning.

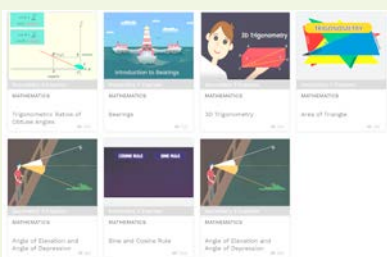


Using the phone to do research



Mini research booklets by the Chinese Language students

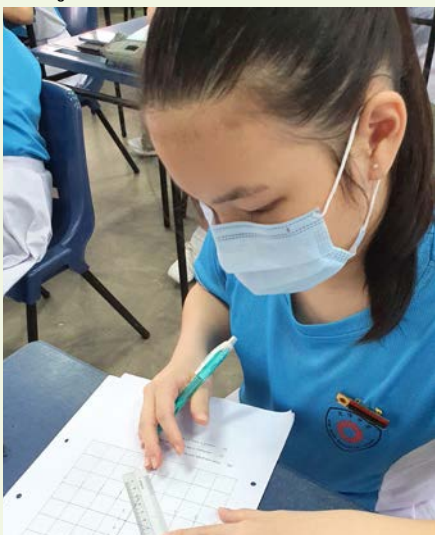
## Students' learning experiences in Mathematics



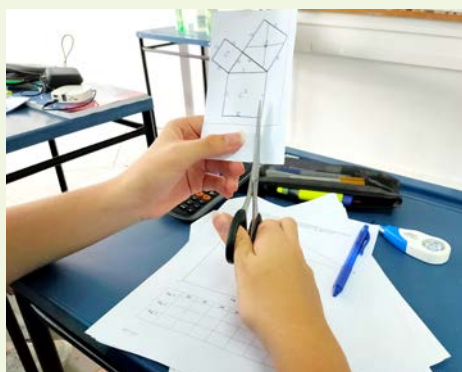
Learning resources from SLS

During the Full Home-Based Learning in April, besides adopting video conferencing platforms such as Zoom to teach students, teachers utilised the Mathematics resources in Student Learning Space (SLS) to conduct asynchronous learning. These resources, which were partly developed by Master Teachers, aided students in understanding the mathematical concepts they were learning.

Teachers revisited and revamped some teaching resources to provide students with appropriate learning experiences that would help them understand the concepts taught. Hands-on lessons on Pythagoras' Theorem and the use of real-life examples to understand Gradients have enhanced students' engagement.



Practising drawing a straight line graph



Having fun while learning Pythagoras' Theorem



Understanding sine ratio of obtuse angle using a 'ferris wheel'



# Use of Technology to Engage Science Learners



Students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with their classmates during the online oral presentation



Zachary Loh Sheng (3E1) performing his science experiment at home

Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) did not stop our students from learning through collaboration. Teachers adopted the idea of 'expert groups' in which students first performed independent research on a topic using Google Classroom. Subsequently, students shared their research findings with their peers through video conferencing under the guidance of their Science teachers.

Using the online application Classkick, students were able to make their thinking visible through drawings and writing of chemical equations on an online whiteboard. Science teachers also used Classkick to provide timely feedback on students' work.

During FHBL, the science teachers continued to encourage learning through inquiry by encouraging students to carry out simple and fun experiments at home. The Chemistry students investigated the changes in the colour of the red cabbage indicator in common household items and reported their findings using ICT tools.

## Scaling up practical skills and competencies

The Secondary Four and Five Science students had the opportunity to go back to the Science laboratories to brush up on their practical skills and competencies when school reopened at the end of the circuit breaker period. Safe-distancing measures were implemented in the laboratories and students were also given additional practical sessions.

Students were eager to get back to the laboratories to learn titration techniques in Chemistry, experiment with electrical circuits in Physics and conduct food testing in Biology. Overall, our students enjoyed the practical sessions and were thankful to have the opportunity to revisit the practical skills in school.



Students conducting titration



Measuring with a measuring cylinder

## E-pedagogy in the English Language classroom



Online presentation of group work through Zoom



Using Nearpod for teaching of literary devices

The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed brought many unprecedented challenges for everyone. However, over the past months, the English Language and Literature Department rose to the new challenges with a can-do spirit that stemmed from our care for our students. The teachers changed their pedagogies innovatively and readily shared their strategies with one another in response to the demands of Full Home-Based Learning.

Our teachers showed resilience as they learnt to operate new digital platforms and video conferencing tools that they were unfamiliar with. The use of Nearpod to conduct Literature lessons enabled the teaching of content virtually in a fun and interactive way. It also helped the teachers to monitor students' learning.

Embracing the challenges of virtual collaborative learning, students learnt to use Google Slides as they collaborated to create their oral presentations and shared them live during Zoom sessions. Such virtual platforms have enabled students to be self-directed learners and effective communicators.

# Applied Learning Programme

Our Secondary One students went through a seven-week photography module during Art lessons as part of the school's Applied Learning Programme. We adopted a blended approach to learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The module focussed mainly on art discussions, exploration of angles and composition, and telling a story using digital tools such as the mobile phones and iPads.

Students had the chance to discuss works by local photographers and present their ideas during classroom sessions, while they practised and applied the skills during Full Home-Based Learning.



Our student exploring ideas during the fashion collage workshop



Exploring lighting and photography at the still life photography workshop

# Enhanced Art Programme

Our Secondary Three Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) students had the opportunity to work with the artist mentor of their choice over a two-hour workshop at LASALLE. Through this programme, the EAP students acquired basic knowledge, skills and attributes as they worked with their peers and industry practitioners. This experience complemented the students' learning in the classroom and served as a prelude to their participation in I-LEAP in November this year.

## EAP Master Class with RIPPLE ROOT

Our Secondary Three EAP students had the privilege to meet and learn from local artist-duo Liquan Liew and Estella Ng on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. They learnt about creative processes and how bold colours, rhythmic strokes and patterns are applied to depict scenes and sights around them. They also had a hands-on session creating works of art of their own. The collaborative nature of the artists' creative processes also sparked curiosity and interest among our students who were seen swapping their artworks and providing constructive inputs to their peers. This helped to build a collection of works that was original and spontaneous.



Art discussion at the end of the masterclass

Besides learning from the artists, our EAP students collaborated with them to come up with the design for our school's student handbook. Their collaborative work will be reflected on the cover of the handbook for 2021.



Our students working on their artworks



Artist demonstration during the masterclass



Illustrations inspired by the flora and fauna within our school

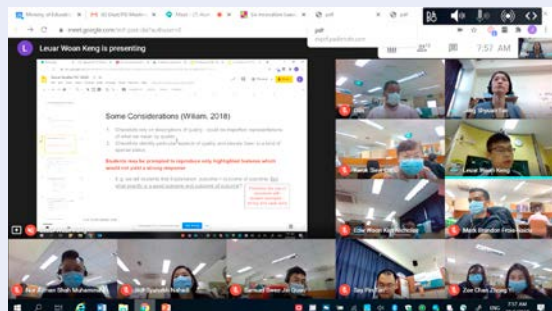


# SkillsFuture for Educators

To ensure the safety and well-being of our teachers, all professional development courses were conducted online, comprising both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Full Home-Based Learning was an uncharted territory and it was vital that all teachers supported one another during these challenging times. Our teachers met regularly online to discuss ways to make virtual learning more engaging as well as to work around the obstacles. They also shared their lesson plans and resources so that learning could become more accessible and effective for students.

When the teachers were back in school, they regularly discussed the ways to implement blended learning and Differentiated Instruction in the classroom. They continually consolidated their learning as a teaching community in order to improve their teaching and learning skills. This enables them to equip students with the abilities, skills and habits for independent and lifelong learning.



Virtual discussion on the implementation of blended learning and Differentiated Instruction



Making learning fun and exciting through a flipped-classroom approach



Sharing on blended learning and Differentiated Instruction

## PSG Dedication To Teachers



Mr Ong Lye Soon  
PSG Chairman

“This is a challenging year for the school as we face COVID-19. Teachers are the front line personnel in the education service who ensure the continuity of lessons for the students. The PSG would like to thank all the teachers and staff who have made learning possible for our children in these unprecedented times.”



Mr Parikshit Sharma  
PSG Vice-Chair

“Thank you for helping to mould our children’s character over the last four years and nurturing them to be agile individuals to face society. On behalf of the PSG, we would like to express our gratitude to the teachers at NTSS.”



Mdm Gn Fang Hong  
PSG Vice-Chair

“Teachers at NTSS have been quick to adapt to teaching lessons online for Home-Based Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. You are all passionate educators and never give up on the students. Thank you for your dedication during this unpredictable and challenging period.”



PSG EXCO  
Zoom Meeting –  
Thanking all  
teachers and staff of  
NTSS for their hard  
work and dedication

## Caring for our Staff

2020 has been a challenging year for NTSS staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, the Staff Well-Being Committee (SWBC) continued to take care of the needs of staff to boost staff morale. Individualised snack packs were distributed to staff as this helped to reduce intermingling in the pantry. Since takeaways became the new normal when purchasing food, executive lunch boxes, sponsored by the School Advisory Committee (SAC), were distributed to staff to reduce single-use items. Despite the challenging times, SWBC is committed to ensuring staff welfare is not compromised.



Boosting staff morale with snack packs



Mangoes, peaches and fruit juices for every staff



Sending delicious bento meals to our staff

# Staff Induction and Mentoring Programme

To ensure that all new and Beginning Teachers are effective in engaging and inspiring our students, staff undergo structured and customised induction and mentoring programmes. These programmes enable them to reflect on their teaching practices and get accustomed to the profession.

The induction programme, attended by staff newly posted to the school as well as Trainee Teachers and Beginning Teachers, was conducted by our school leaders and middle managers. The series of sharing sessions help new staff understand the school culture better.

Our structured mentoring programme provides the platform for both mentors and mentees to come together on a regular basis to discuss strategies for quality teaching and learning. Our mentors play an important role in guiding mentees to identify growth areas and giving effective feedback to help mentees move ahead.



Sharing ideas while working on lesson preparation



Discussion on Mentee Needs Assessment and Developmental Plan



Customised induction for our untrained teachers by our School Counsellor



Ms Janice Han  
(School Staff Developer)



Mdm Kasumawati Bte Wansi  
(Senior Teacher)

## National Day Awards 2020

### Commendation Medal

Congratulations to Ms Janice Han and Mdm Kasumawati Binte Wansi for receiving the National Day Award Commendation Medal. The Commendation Medal is awarded to any officer who has distinguished himself/herself through commendable performance and conduct, or with significant efficiency, competence and devotion in his/her duty.



Mr Yee Hsien Hsi Francis  
(Year Head)



Mdm Abirami D/O  
Thavasumuthu  
(English Language  
Teacher)

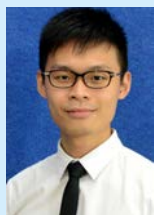
### Long Service Medal

The school congratulates Mr Francis Yee Hsien Hsi and Mdm Abirami D/O Thavasumuthu for their Long Service Medal. This award is for a duty-holder who has completed at least 25 years of service.

## Caring Teacher Awards

The Caring Teacher Awards is organised by the National Institute of Education, with support from ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd and the Ministry of Education. It aims to acknowledge teachers in our schools who go beyond the call of duty for the holistic development of their students and ensure that the students grow up to be confident and independent learners for our nation.

We would like to congratulate the following staff recipients.



Mr Leuar Woan Keng



Mr Teoh Tick Meng



Ms Yap Sze Hui  
Stella

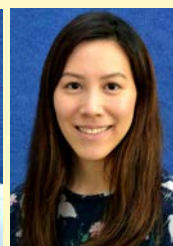


Ms Chua Enyi  
Samantha

## Welcoming New Staff



Mr Ang Xiang Rui



Ms Vanessa Jane  
Toh Wei Min



Mr Loh Yong Qi

### Publications Committee

Ms Malarvizhi Durai (Chairperson), Ms Nur Syahirah Nahadi, Ms Sandra Maria Gomes, Mdm Abirami D/O Thavasumuthu, Ms Lai Chiu Shuan