Environment Education Lotus Sustained Achievement Award for Six Consecutive Years (2011-2016)

New Town Secondary School embarked on its green journey in 2005 with the establishment of the Green Guardians Programme. This initiative sought to bring like-minded staff and students who are interested in environmental issues together. Today, the Green Guardians remains a flagship programme of the school.

With a strength of 56 Green Guardians led by a team of committed Environment Education teachers, the school has once again attained the Lotus Sustained Achievement Award in 2016 for its sustained green efforts. This is the sixth consecutive year that the school has received the award and this is testament to all the efforts that the Environment Education Committee and Green Guardians have put in to create a better environment for the school and the community.

In alignment with the school's motto *To Forge A Better Life*, the Green Guardians Programme is designed with the purpose of creating opportunities for the staff and students to improve the school environment as well as to be involved in community-based activities to better the lives of the residents in the nearby estates.





The Environment Education key initiatives include:

- Resources Conservation Programme which focuses on water and energy conservation
- Integration of school environment values into formal curriculum and Character and Citizenship Education lessons (e.g. Secondary One Geographical Investigation on Water Quality and Water Conservation, Lower Secondary Interdisciplinary Project Work on Waste Management)
- Recycling Programme and Upcycling Workshops conducted by the Green Guardians
- Partnerships with National Environment Agency, Veolia and South West Community Development Council to provide platforms for student-centric and authentic learning on environmental protection and conservation beyond school

Indeed, multiple platforms will continue to be created within the umbrella of the Green Guardians Programme to meaningfully engage the whole school in conservation activities and nurture the youths of today for the environmental challenges of tomorrow.



Welcoming the Secondary Ones

Orientation Programme

3 January was the first day of school for the Secondary One students. This year, the Orientation Programme was conducted in the afternoon after curriculum time so that the students could carry on with lessons in the morning and enjoy the orientation activities in the afternoon.

The students got to know their classmates better through the team bonding games. At the same time, the students found out more about the school environment, school history and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA). It was a good start to their education journey at New Town Secondary School.

Co-Curricular Activities Open House



The CCA Open House was held on 13 January to familiarise the Secondary One students to the CCAs offered in school and help them sign up for a CCA that best suits their interests or talents. It was a day of vibrant activities

as the students interacted enthusiastically with their seniors from the various CCAs.







Meet-the-Parents Night

The parents and guardians of the Secondary One cohort were invited to the Meet-the-Parents Night on 13 January. The session was a great opportunity for them to meet with the School Leaders, Year Head for Lower Secondary, Heads of Department and Form Teachers to establish the home-school communication channel.

At the session, the parents and guardians were also informed about the various school policies, discipline matters and CCA selection process. The good turn-out at the session was an indication of the strong commitment from the parents and guardians to working closely with the school for the development of their children.

Learning for Life Programme

Developing Confident & Compassionate Student Leaders to Lead, Serve & Excel has always been the vision for the Student Leaders of New Town Secondary School.

The Student Leaders had two memorable events in Semester 1. On 19 January, the first batch of Secondary Three Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) was introduced to the whole school. These PSLs play an important role in caring, empathising and looking out for the emotional well-being of their peers.





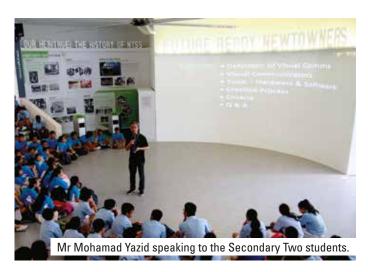
Subsequently, on 28 March, the school had its Student Leaders Investiture. The outgoing Secondary Four Student Leaders passed on the baton of leadership to the Secondary Three Student Councillors and Co-curricular Activities (CCA) Leaders. It was a proud and unforgettable moment for many as they pledged to lead their peers by example and do the Student Council and their respective CCAs proud.

Secondary Two Applied Learning Programme



As an extension of their learning from last year, the Secondary Two students participated in a design workshop during their Art lessons in Term 1. During the workshop, the students engaged in hands-on activities as they explored the role of visual communication in print advertisements. The students learned skills such as product photography, photo-editing, composition and digital layout, which they enthusiastically applied in their final group projects.

To complement the classroom lessons, the Secondary Two students also attended a talk by a graphic director from Pico Art International, Mr Mohamad Yazid, on 22 February. Being a veteran in the creative industry, he



shared with the students his experiences and useful insights of the creative industry in Singapore.

Secondary Two Litter Picking Activity



The litter-picking activity was organised by the Environment Education Committee for the Secondary Two cohort to serve their neighbouring community.

The students worked in small groups to clean the 18 blocks of flats in the housing estate and learned that they have a part to play in order to upkeep Singapore's reputation as a Garden City. They also wrote thank you cards to recognise the efforts of the cleaners who tirelessly kept their housing and school environment clean.

Secondary Two Sport Climbing

It was a real test of confidence and endurance as the Secondary Two students attempted the climbing walls at SAFRA Yishun on 20 and 21 March. The Physical Education Department introduced Sport Climbing to improve the students' awareness of body movement and usage of the entire body to climb. Through climbing, the students can develop confidence, strength, physical and mental endurance and also learn the basic concepts of problem-solving.

Surprisingly, some of the students, both boys and girls, showed remarkable agility and were able to climb the walls guickly and skilfully to reach the top. However, it was definitely not an easy feat for the rest of the students who were afraid of heights or had no prior experience in climbing. Nonetheless these students did not give up. Through sheer determination and constant encouragement from the teachers and peers, they challenged by choice and reached for the highest possible point on the various walls.



ourselves." - Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to conquer Mount Everest.





Secondary Three Outdoor Adventure Camp

Held at the Sentosa Camp Challenge campsite from 23 to 25 March, the Secondary Three Outdoor Adventure Camp was an invaluable experience for the cohort as their resilience, teamwork and ability to think on the feet were often put to the test. While situations such as staying outdoors in pitched tents and sharing common eating and bathing facilities ought to have put many of the campers outside their comfort zone, the students found the outdoor experiences enriching and memorable. They also had the opportunity to bond with their Form Teachers through the team-bonding and confidence-building activities. A campfire with the various student-led performances and class cheers provided a stirring end to the camp on the last night.







Best Female Camper, Liu Jia Xin (3E3), reflected that she has learned to be more independent and adaptable through the camp. She realised the importance of having good time management and teamwork so that tasks could be completed more efficiently.

Best Male Camper, Ahmad D Muzakkey B Mohd Ikbal (3N6), shared that he was thankful for the many valuable lessons he learned during the camp which helped him gain confidence in leadership and made him a stronger person. He hopes to transfer the skills he picked up from the camp to his daily life.

Secondary Three National Education Learning Journey

21 March was an exciting day for the Secondary Three students. They visited the Info-Communications Media Development Authority of Singapore, Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) City Gallery, Singapore Sports Hub and Lifelong Learning Exploration Centre.

The National Education learning journey allowed for an outdoor classroom experience for the students as they authenticate what they have learned in Social Studies. The students also saw the progress that Singapore has made and how Singapore is journeying forward to provide for the needs of its people.



Education and Career Guidance Fair

On 22 March, the Character and Citizenship Education Committee organised the school's inaugural Education and Career Guidance Fair for all the Secondary Three to Five students.

Themed Future Ready, speakers from the various postsecondary education institutions and industry partners were invited to share information on tertiary education and to prepare the students for the changing landscape of the working world.

The real-life experiences shared by Staff Nurse Chua from the National University Hospital and Mr Salihin from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore gave the students





interesting insights through the eyes of the professionals in the fields.

Booths were also set up to showcase various courses, thus giving the students the opportunity to interact with the staff from the different institutions.

Secondary Four and Five **Meet-The-Parents Session**

On 20 January, the parents and guardians of the graduating students attended a talk-cum-interaction session with the Form Teachers and Mother Tongue Language teachers. The session began with addresses by the Vice-Principal, Mr Yong Kek Shoong, and the Year Head for Upper Secondary, Mr Tan Say Pin. They emphasised the importance of early and consistent preparation as they presented the timeline leading to the national examinations. They also highlighted how home-school partnership was an important form of support for the students. The school's Education and Career Guidance Counsellor, Mr Teng Swee Hoe, also shared the multiple post-secondary pathways available. The session ended with an interaction time during which



the concerns of the parents and guardians were addressed and feedback from the teachers were given.

Chinese New Year Celebration



The school welcomed the year of the rooster on 27 January with a Chinese New Year concert themed 《金鸡 贺岁, 一家团圆》. The concert began with an enchanting performance by the Guzheng Ensemble, followed by a video clip on the significance of preserving cultural practices and an interactive quiz. The highlight of the



concert was undoubtedly the Lion Dance performance by ex-Newtowners. The staff and students alike were excited by the surprise appearance of the mischievous lion. The celebration ended on a high note, with Class Chairpersons and Student Councillors presenting mandarin oranges, which symbolise well wishes, to the staff.

Total Defence Day







Commemorating Total Defence Day is an annual highlight in New Town Secondary School. During the assembly programme, the Commanding Officer of the National Cadet Corps, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Koh, emphasized the importance of staying vigilant and how the application, SG-Secure, is vital in safeguarding Singapore from terrorism. The Student Leaders from the various Uniformed Groups

echoed similar concerns and shared tips on how to stay vigilant and resilient. The assembly programme wrapped up with a presentation by the Housing Development Board, reminding the students of the importance of Social Defence and staying united regardless of race, language or religion.

International Friendship Day

International Friendship Day (IFD) was commemorated on 4 April with a special assembly programme with the theme, *ASEAN 50*. The staff and students were enthralled by the sharing of the rich culture, unique facts and beautiful folklores of three countries in ASEAN – Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia. The presentation also provided a good opportunity for the students to reflect on the friendship and collaboration that Singapore has established with its ASEAN peers.





Apart from the assembly programme, a fringe activity in the form of the game, *Wheel of Fortune*, was held in the library after school. The students had an enjoyable time learning about ASEAN and winning prizes at the same time.

A special Character and Citizenship Education lesson was also delivered by the teachers to inculcate values and mould character through the theme of building and appreciating international ties.

Finally, Zachary Kang (3E2) shared his thoughts about IFD and the value of friendship during the *Thursday Morning Inspiration* segment on 6 April.

In conclusion, this year's IFD was indeed enriching as it has sparked many students' curiosity about the different countries and their cultures beyond the shores of Singapore.

Cross-Country



On 13 April, all the staff and students gathered at the West Coast Park Grand Lawn to participate in the annual Cross-Country organised by the Physical Education Department.

Despite the wet and rainy morning, the spirits

of Newtowners were not dampened as they pushed themselves on and encouraged one another throughout the 2.4 kilometres race. It was heartening to see much camaraderie among the students and the resilience displayed by the runners who gave their best to finish the race.

This year, the Parent Support Group was also actively involved in the Cross-Country as they led the Zumba mass

dance as the warm-up activity. In addition, they set up a photo booth for the staff and students to capture the wonderful moments and acted as cheer leaders at the finishing line.

Finally, the school would like to congratulate the top 20 runners from each cohort level in the boys' and girls' category, as well as both the boys' and girls' Basketball team for coming in first for the Inter-CCA Challenge Trophy.



New Town Alumni Annual General Meeting





The New Town Alumni held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 25 March. This year's AGM also involved the election of members into the Executive Committee for 2017 and 2018. During the meeting, the President of the New Town Alumni, Mr James Chia, emphasised the importance of the Alumni in contributing to the continued development of the school. It was clear that his point resonated with those who were present as many stepped forward to serve their alma mater so that more collaborative opportunities can be created to nurture relationships between the Alumni and the current students, and thus strengthen their commitment to the school.

Opening of Amphitheatre







21 April marked the official opening of the newly-renovated Amphitheatre, an event which is graced by the President of the New Town Alumni, Mr James Chia, Chairman of the School Advisory Committee, Mr Edmund Kea, Chairperson of the Parent Support Group, Mdm Jen Lee, and Superintendent, West 1, Mrs Rathi Parimalan.

The Amphitheatre was reconstructed in mid-2016 to achieve the three-pronged objectives of serving as a National Education (NE) Gallery, a School Heritage Corner and an Open Learning Space.

As the NE Gallery, it supports the school's efforts to inculcate NE messages and to strengthen the Singapore heartbeat. There are 15 outer pillars which showcase the key messages concerning the nation's future and 5 inner pillars which highlight the school values. There are also noticeboards which are regularly updated with students' reflections and perspectives on Character and Citizenship





Education (CCE), especially after events such as Total Defence Day and International Friendship Day.

The School Heritage Corner captures the memories of the 52 batches of students who came through the doors of New Town Secondary School. It also highlights how the school has transformed with the nation, progressing from a model of mass education which prepared the students for industrial work to the current model of holistic education which focuses on bringing out the best in them. The School Heritage Corner also houses the school's interactive time capsule, in which one can find different generations of report books, class photographs and school uniforms which have withstood the test of time.

The Open Learning Space provides an alternative venue for the students to learn as it is equipped to host classes and enrichment programmes. Some of the daily activities which take place in the Amphitheatre include mass lectures, dance showcases, leadership workshops and CCE related activities.

Indeed, the Amphitheatre is designed as a vibrant learning space for everyone and it will be a platform to nurture in the students a sense of place, history and confidence in their future.

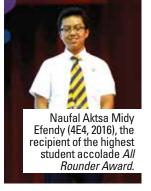
Commendation Day

On 21 April, the school celebrated its 52nd Commendation Day. The Guest-of-Honour was the President of the New Town Alumni, Mr James Chia.

In line with this year's theme YouthHeARTS, there were opportunities aplenty for the students to showcase their artistic talents. The pre-programme performers comprising beat-boxers, guitarists and vocalists impressed with their medley of songs. The members from the Cabin Club captured the hearts of the audience with their confident Sand-Art performance. None would have suspected that all the performers had no prior experience in Sand-Art and had undergone only 10 training sessions. To conclude the celebration, the school's Guzheng Ensemble put up a sterling performance befitting the Certificate of Distinction it was awarded at the recently-concluded Singapore Youth Festival.

In his passionate speech, Mr James Chia shared how New Town Secondary School had nurtured him in his formative years. From the humble beginning of managing a small commercial art firm, Mr Chia is now











the group president of Pico Art International, a global event management and marketing group with offices in more than 36 cities worldwide.

In the principal's address, Mrs Sng Siew Hong provided a reality-check of the challenges and opportunities in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) environment. In congratulating the prize recipients, she urged them to remain consistent and build up their character in order to achieve success in life. She also encouraged them to show gratitude towards those who have contributed to their success.

One person who needed no such reminder was the Valedictorian, Divya D/O Nanthakumaran. In her moving speech, Divya thanked her friends and staff in New Town Secondary School as well as her Primary school teachers; one of whom was present at the ceremony. Divya concluded with a quote, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams". Indeed, the Commendation Day celebrates the success of those who believed in their dreams and worked hard to realise them. New Town Secondary School will continue to nurture the students to be future-ready by owning their dreams and aspirations.



Secondary One Geographical Investigation





Engaging in collaborative learning.

This year, the Secondary One students were exposed to primary research skills through their fieldwork at Sungei Ulu Pandan. The students were tasked to investigate how different human activities in the Clementi neighbourhood affected the water quality in Sungei Ulu Pandan. The students worked in groups to test the water quality of the river near some of the major drainage points, construction sites and protected water areas. It is through such an authentic learning experience that the students learned to understand how their personal actions could impact water quality positively and negatively.

"I had a great time learning with my classmates. We must take responsibility in keeping our water clean."

— Tracia Lee (1N5)

"We have learnt how to determine pH values and dissolved oxygen levels in the water and how these affected the survival of marine lives."

Gautier Chang (1E3)

Secondary One Art Learning Journey and Sculpture Walk



The Art Unit conducted a learning journey to the National Gallery Singapore, as well as a sculpture walk around the Central Business District area for the Secondary One students.

During the teacher-guided tours, the students completed their activity booklets to learn more about the processes of creating artworks and gain a deeper understanding of local artists.



Secondary One Financial Literacy Trail





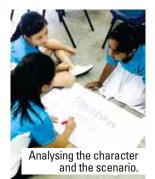
As part of the Multi-Level Activities Week, the Mathematics Department, in partnership with Citi-NIE, organised a Financial Literacy Trail for the Secondary One students. The Mathematics Representatives of each class and selected students led their peers through the trail as facilitators. During the trail, the students were exposed to various practical scenarios related to money management and responsible decision making. The students learned about the importance of managing their needs and wants as well as the importance of saving.

The student facilitators exhibited their creativity and leadership through the design and implementation of the trail to ensure that it was engaging and meaningful for their peers.

Secondary Two Drama Enrichment Programme

On 23 March, the English Language and Literature Department organised a Drama enrichment programme for the Secondary Two students.

The programme aimed to inspire as well as engage the students as they step into the world of theatre. Led by an enthusiastic and talented team, the students worked on dramatising a story from their Literature textbook, *Ten Short Stories*. The programme provided an avenue for the students to experiment with the different dramatisation techniques and to gain presentation experience.





Secondary Two and Three Science Challenge







During the Multi-Level Activities Week, the Secondary Two and Three students participated in the Science Challenge, which was held to develop the students' interest in Science through interesting learning activities.

The Secondary Two students had to answer a round of quick-fire questions about everything they had ever observed in their surroundings, before learning more about the lesser known, yet important occupation, scientists. The Secondary Three students used their skills to build the tallest structure they could using only recyclables, and then uncovered different methods to measure the duration of one minute.

The Science Challenge has effectively triggered the students' interest to find out more about the world around them.

Mother Tongue Language Fortnight

The annual Mother Tongue Language (MTL) Fortnight was held in Term 2 with the theme *Craft and Games*.







The Chinese Language unit arranged games and craft activities like Chinese yoyo and straw painting for the students to enjoy. The Malay Language students explored the different aspects of the Malay culture, for instance silat pengantin and tarik upih in an Amazing Race format. The Tamil Language students attended a drama workshop where they had the opportunity to write their own scripts and act them out.

2016 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations Release of Results

Congratulations to the following Newtowners for achieving excellent results in the 2016 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations!



Top Secondary Four Normal Academic Students

Dawn Fu Minyan (4N6)
Gordon Hoon Teng Siang (4N6)
Lee Wen Da (4N6)
Liang Shi Yin, Marcus (4N6)
Ong Li Qi (4N6)
Eo Sze Meng (4N7)
Aloysius Wong Jing Jie (4N8)
Chan Hui Shan (4N8)
Gong Shuran (4N8)
Ram Shekar S/O Kuna Shekar (4N8)



Top Secondary Four Express Students

Mavis Loh Shee Wen (4E1)
Valencia Maggie Candra (4E1)
Xu Kailin (4E1)
Zhu Enyao (4E1)
Dazlin Arumugam (4E2)
Lee Hui Lin (4E2)
Ma Thinzar Thwin (4E3)
Natasha Bernadette Anthoniel (4E3)
Naufal Aktsa Midy Efendy (4E4)
Sitolay Arshwee (4E5)

An Interview with 2016 Top Secondary Five Normal Academic Student



Kerthana Shree AP Shanmugavelu emerged top of her cohort in the GCE 'N' Level Examination in 2015 and was also the top Secondary Five Normal Academic student in the GCE 'O' Level Examinations in 2016.

It has been a few months since you graduated from New Town Secondary School. What course are you pursuing now?

I am currently in Singapore Polytechnic, pursuing my diploma in Applied Chemistry.

What or who do you miss about New Town?

I miss the concern and guidance shown by the teachers. Now that I am in a polytechnic, I realise that everything is fast-paced and I have to be very independent. The lecturers do not come after me for my assignments or teach every concept in detail like the teachers do in New Town. In New Town, the teachers constantly check on our improvement and make sure that the weaker students are being further coached. However, in a polytechnic, we are expected to be responsible for our own learning. I also miss attending

my CCA and spending time with my friends in school almost every day.

What was one challenge you faced in your learning when you were in New Town and how did you overcome it?

I take a longer time to understand and master concepts and topics. That was a challenge for me because I was always one step behind the others. I overcame it by asking my teachers for more practice questions and specimen papers. Whenever there was an opportunity to clarify my doubts, I made sure I made the most out of it. I also overcame the difficulties by studying smart and paying more attention in class.

What advice would you give your juniors who are preparing for the national examinations?

Do not leave revision to the last minute and be consistent in your work so that there would not be much stress on you when the national examinations are nearing. Do not be afraid to ask questions in class or consult teachers after school to clarify all your doubts. Plan your time well so that it is not all work and no play. Make sure you get sufficient rest before a paper. Lastly, believe in yourself that you can do it.

School Visit by Vietnam Education Delegates



On 10 March, a group of 51 education delegates from Vietnam visited New Town Secondary School. These include 3 administrative officials and 48 M.A. students enrolled in the Education Management Programme at Thu Dau Mot University in the Binh Duong province.

The visitors marvelled at the conducive school environment as they were brought to the air-conditioned school hall, newly-renovated amphitheatre, well-equipped computer laboratories and specially-furnished Applied Learning Programme (ALP) room. They also had the opportunity to observe how lessons were conducted.

This was followed by a sharing session by the School Leaders and staff who talked about school leadership, student holistic development, staff development, facility management as well as the interaction between the school and the community.

New Staff



(left to right)

Row 1: Ms Chai Yoke Leng (School Staff Developer), Ms Tan Zhen Yan, Ms Cynthia Lui,

Mrs Shanmuganathan Manjula

Row 2: Mr Alan Cheng (Head of Department/ Discipline),

Mr Nar Soon Keong, Mr Andy Zui,

Mr Muhammad Nur Azman Shah Bin Jumahat,

Mr Alvin Tan, Mr Chye De San

Professional Learning and Sharing







In New Town Secondary School, the teachers make use of the scheduled Professional Development time to find ways to make learning more engaging and meaningful.

Teams are formed within the departments to explore innovative and creative ways to improve teaching and learning by making their subjects relevant and interesting.

One of the projects completed last year was presented at the West 1 Cluster Professional Learning Day on 24 March. The presenters from New Town Secondary School shared their learning points with Science teachers from the other schools in the cluster, and also picked up good ideas from their interaction with the participants.