

NORTHSHORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Semester 2 | 2022

FOREWORD



This line art painting of lotus was a farewell gift from my previous school. The painting came with a quote "Be like the lotus: trust the light; grow through the dirt; believe in new beginnings." I like the painting a lot as it always reminds me of my conviction as an educator, in a continuous effort to build an enabling and supportive environment where all our students can acquire the knowledge and skills to help them navigate in the fast-changing world with growing uncertainties. Yet at the same time, not forgetting that our students remain firmly anchored on values.

The murky water from which the beautiful lotus flower has emerged from is likened to the VUCA world that we are now in - volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. COVID-19 has thrown the world a curveball. However, we have managed to keep our schools open most of the time and our students have been able to continue learning. Rising to the challenges faced during these trying times has offered us new perspectives in educating and developing our students.

Like the non-traditional way in the depiction of the lotus, our teachers have explored new ways to teach and engage our learners. For example, harnessing technology and providing experiential learning opportunities so as to make the lessons more interesting and relevant to real life. Learning journeys to the Singapore Zoo and River Wonders were also organised for our students in October as we believe that learning beyond the classroom has a positive impact on our student's learning and holistic development. Through the different learning activities, the students will also learn to connect and collaborate with others to generate solutions to solve problems.

Apart from imparting knowledge and skills, **adaptability** and **tenacity** are two very important values that we hope to inculcate in our students, to help them navigate the complexities of the new world and be future-ready. Our students are encouraged to keep an open mind, be courageous to explore new ideas and solutions and not to give up when faced with challenging tasks.

Hence, the lotus in the painting depicts a combined effort of students, teachers and parents. In this educational journey, we need to partner parents and the community in order to develop our students holistically and bring out the best in our children. With the easing of the COVID Safe Management Measures (SMMs), we are glad to involve parents in some of our school activities this semester. Our teachers enlisted the help from some of our parents to support school programmes such as Open House, Mid-Autumn Festival and Malay Reading Programme.

Let us continue to work together to bring out the best in our children, so that they can be like the adaptable and resilient lotus that emerges through the murky water and thrive in the future.

Mdm Gan Ser Min Vice-Principal



"Mdm Ong, why do we need to practise the drill? There's no fire in the school!"

"Mdm Ong, if the staircases that we use for evacuation is on fire, what do we do?"

"Mdm Ong, what if the intruder sees us through the glass windows?
What should we do?"

These are some of the questions that our students asked me after the safety briefings. I am thankful that they are so passionate about learning new things and asking relevant questions so that they can be better prepared for any emergency situations in school.

Safety in school is pertinent especially so when the school is newly built, and with our young students aged between 6 and 8 years old. At Northshore Primary School, we put in place regular checks to ensure that the school compound is safe for staff and students and resources for emergency situations are in place. We conduct exercises/drills for emergencies situations so that the school population is ready should the situation calls for it.

We are also constantly exploring to enhance the safety features around the school, reviewing the vehicular traffic and gate opening hours. One example is that we worked with LTA to extend the fence along Northshore Link to prevent jaywalking between Northshore Residence and School Gate E.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to practise any physical emergency drills in 2021 and I am glad that with the easing of Safe Management Measures, we were able to start preparing our students for the fire and lockdown drills this year and as well as practise the physical drill. The students were briefed to stay CALM and follow the teacher's instructions should they hear the Fire Alarm or the Signal of a lockdown in the school. The students did well and the whole school evacuation drill completed within the planned timing in Term 3 this year. A lockdown drill was also planned in Term 4.

During the drills, I was proud that our students exhibited the school values in showing **Self-discipline** and **Respect** by following all instructions to ensure safety of self and others, presented **eMpathy** by encouraging and supporting classmates who were affected by the sudden activation of the drill, demonstrated **Adaptability** in managing the disruption to their regular routine in school and showed **Tenacity** throughout the drill duration – how they kept silent in their classrooms during the lockdown to standing in the assembly area patiently and orderly, waiting for the stand-down signal during evacuation. These would not be achievable if not for our team of staff in Northshore who embraced and led the students with our school vision's Courage to Explore, Passion to Learn and Heart to Serve!



I also hope that parents can work hand in hand with us by reiterating the importance of safety for self and others in terms of road safety, play responsibly during recess and the 3 steps of "RUN, HIDE, TELL" in line with SGSECURE.

I am confident that with the combined efforts from our dedicated staff and supportive parents, we will be able to provide a safe place for our students!

Mdm Catherine Ong Vice-Principal (Admin)



Food from the Heart **2022**

A successful food donation drive was completed in Term 2 this year in collaboration with the organisation, Food from the Heart. Students embarked on this values-in-action (VIA) project and learnt that everyone can play a part in helping others in need. Every Northshorean understood his/her role and was actively involved in receiving the donated food items, checking and packing them. This VIA project was a testament of the strong united teamwork and bond among all students, parents and staff at Northshore.



Rise and Shine! Northshoreans came earlier to receive the food donations







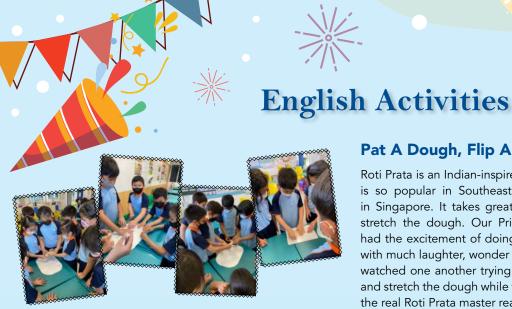
to a meaningful cause











Pat A Dough, Flip A Dough!

Roti Prata is an Indian-inspired flat bread that is so popular in Southeast Asia, especially in Singapore. It takes great skill to flip and stretch the dough. Our Primary 2 students had the excitement of doing just that! It was with much laughter, wonder and joy that they watched one another trying their best to flip and stretch the dough while trying to see who the real Roti Prata master really was!



Primary 1 Lantern-Making Activity

This year, our Northshoreans brightened up everyone's day (literally and figuratively) as they tried their hand at lantern-making as part of their extension activities after reading the STELLAR book, "Mid-Autumn Festival". Inspired by the adventures of the book's protagonist, Lee Ling, the students had a blast crafting, colouring and proudly displaying their handiwork in their classrooms!

The students' foray into lantern-making also piqued their interest about the cultural significance of the Mid-Autumn Festival in Singapore. The experience served as a teaser for the various exciting activities that awaited them as part of the school's Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations!





A Carnival of Tales

A Carnival of Tales was a collaboration between the English and Math Department. Through the week-long recess play activities, students had a joyful learning experience revolving around fractured fairy tales. Students participated in interesting recess activities, namely Count the Oranges on the Wolves' Plants, Guess the Mass of Rapunzel's Parcel, Reading with Papa Bear, playing 'Sticky Word Classes' and making sentences with Goldilocks. The students also took on treacherous tongue twisters where all but the most agile articulators inevitably got tongue-tied. Resilient students who persevered and managed to overcome the various challenges were rewarded with amazing prizes!

In addition to the engaging recess activities, our students continued their fairy tale adventure by going on an iPad trail around the school during their Math lessons where they were tasked to help fairy tale characters who were caught in various predicaments. The Primary One students went on a journey to help the three little wolves in their quest while the Primary Two students accompanied Rapunzel and the Prince to solve various mathematical problems. At the end of the trail, everyone went home with a jewel-studded crown that they had created as mementoes.



In commemoration of Racial Harmony Day, Northshoreans wore their beautiful ethnic attire to school. It was truly a depiction of the rich diversity of cultures within our school community.

During assembly, our students watched a theatre performance entitled 'The Wind and The Sun, the Traveller and the Plane Tree'. The performance conveyed important messages of how cultural diversity make up the unique Singapore life.

During recess, various recess play activities were held at the library so that students could have meaningful hands-on learning. Our students learnt about the traditional percussion instruments from the different ethnic groups and they also enjoyed playing a variety of traditional games. They learnt how it was through games that bonded the people of different races together. We were also heartened to have the support of parents who volunteered their time interacting with our Northshoreans and teaching them how to play the various games during recess play.





Iid-Autumn Festival Night



Mid-Autumn **Festival** was a day of celebration that Northshoreans had been looking forward to for a long time! It was the students' first time celebrating an event with minimal restrictions in place. The highlights of this year's celebration included carnival games, food-tasting, moon-viewing and the lantern walk at dusk.



Gather around this Mid-Autumn Festival and celebrate with some lovely mooncakes!



Searching for Chang E

in the school compound

this event was to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the culture. With interesting and meaningful activities organized, our students could have the unique opportunity to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival in a traditional manner.

As the students had already learned about the story of Chang-e flying to the moon after secretly drinking her husband, Hou Yi's, elixir of life, the main objective of

Learning to hold the chopsticks correctly so



The students were given time to make their lanterns as well as to play some of the games prepared at the different stations. They also enjoyed delectable mooncakes and pomelos, which symbolise unity and togetherness. As they strolled under the moon as a class with their lanterns, it was indeed a memorable



first 'night-walk' for many of them. In addition, the students watched a light-up ceremony right in the school hall. During the light-up ceremony, a chorus of loud "oohs" and "aahs" resounded when the brightly glowing words '北岸生明', representing the bright moon rising above the sea, rose to the top of the stage. Soon after, three glowing Jade rabbits leapt up as they sought to accompany Chang-e on the moon. With the school hall illuminated, the event finally drew to a close with the hearts and tummies of the students as full as the full moon itself.



National Day Celebrations * 2022

National Day was meaningfully celebrated as students learnt how Singapore journeyed through many challenges and emerged 'Stronger Together' each and every time. They witnessed the Observance Ceremony live in the school hall for the first time. Our matured young ones understood the significance of the ceremony. Northshoreans sang the National Anthem and said the Pledge with gusto.

Students were also engaged in a creative stage game which helped students learn the history of iconic places in Singapore such as the Singapore River, Padang and the likes. We also showcased the talents of students through their pre-recorded National Day song presentations. Beautiful performances and community singing filled the hearts of everyone with joy and hope as we celebrated Singapore's 57th birthday!







Cheering for their friends during the rac

Balancing while

Lower Primary Sports Day

n agility ladder



The Lower Primary Games Day was held in conjunction with Singapore's 57th National Day celebration. This inaugural event was significant as our students were able to gather for the first time to participate in the fun race events. The atmosphere in the Indoor Basketball Court was a lively one, filled with loud cheers to show support to the competitors.

Students were very eager to compete and win medals for their class. Our Primary 1 students were engaged in different activities such as balancing and walking on a bench, running while manoeuvring around cones and throwing a ball to a target. Games for the Primary 2 students included running across an agility ladder, performing a roll on a mat and jumping over a skipping rope.

At the end of each level's race, our Principal, Mrs Lam, gave out medals to the winners. The Games Day ended in high spirits with students giving a loud "HIP HIP HURRAY!" for their good sportsmanship throughout the event. Everyone enjoyed themselves and definitely looking forward to more challenging events next year!













School Leaders



MOE Kindergarten Educators





Teachers' Day Celebration















Children's Day



One of the most anticipated events in Term 4 is Children's Day. Our students were treated to a special performance by their teachers. With the theme of this year's performance being 'Childhood Ambition', each teacher dressed up according to his/ her childhood ambition. The students were delighted to see their teachers appear in a parade. They were also over the moon when they received the Children's Day gifts that had been specially prepared for them. From the similes that lingered on their faces, the students definitely had a wonderful and amazing day!



















Learning Journeys

As part of our Children's Day celebration, the Primary 1 and 2 students went on a much anticipated Learning Journey to learn more about the fascinating world of animals.

Primary 1 Learning Journey to the Singapore Zoo

For many students, it was the first time they had gone on a school trip with their classmates and they could barely contain their excitement. The Primary 1 students had a great time spotting hidden animals along the Wild Africia like the African lions and the giraffes, to name a few. They also attended a talk on how the body coverings of animals can help them survive better in their habitat.



Primary 2 Learning Journey to River Wonders

Giant Pandas Forest

The Primary 2 students visited River Wonders where they got to observe the animals in the aquariums and discover interesting information about the different habitats and its inhabitants. They listened attentively to their teachers who shared information about the animals as they completed their learning journey booklets. For many of them, the highlight of the learning journey were the Giant Pandas, Kai Kai and Jia Jia and their offspring, Le Le.

Through the learning journeys, the students were able to take their learning outdoors as they learn about the different species of animals and their unique characteristics.

International Students Integration Programme

Kampong Glam was buzzling with curious wide-eyed Northshoreans exploring the iconic places such as *Gedung Kuning, Sultan Mosque, Arab and Bussorah street*. This learning journey to Kampong Glam was a wonderful opportunity for our International Students to appreciate the Malay culture that contribute to Singapore's rich and diverse culture. Designed as a multi-sensory experience, students had a handson experience creating their own traditional top design and also got to taste traditional snacks. The highlight of the learning journey was the walking tour that broadened our students' knowledge about the sights, sounds, history and traditions in a fun and engaging way. This platform was also a wonderful chance to deepen friendships between our international and local students.



School in Action



Outdoor Recess Play

"Is it our turn to play at the playground today?" We hear that only too often during recess!

The outdoor playground in our school finally welcomed its first group of students this Semester after one and a half years of wait. Due to the safe management measures, the school had to suspend outdoor play at the playground. In Semester 2 this year, Northshoreans were finally able to enjoy the facilities!

To promote safe play, Northshoreans were taught how to play at the playground safely and responsibly during PE lessons. Classes were then scheduled for playtime on different days of the week.

The playground is indeed a popular place where our Northshoreans spend their recess with friends. They definitely have a whale of a time!



Staff Farming Workshop

In August, all our staff members participated in a farming workshop conducted by Nature's International Commodity as part of the school's efforts to promote sustainable practices. During the enriching session, we gleaned valuable knowledge on Vertical Grow Tower technology and the seed to harvest process.

Everyone got their hands dirty and experienced what it was like to be a farmer for a day! We planted vegetables in self-watering pots and transplanted seedlings into orange grow towers. We are excited to watch the plants grow and flourish in our edible garden. Some colleagues also displayed the courage to explore and volunteered to place earthworms in the towers' soil using their bare hands! It was an afternoon filled with laughter and camaraderie, bolstered by the spirit of caring for Mother Earth.



School in Action

Deepavali Celebration

On 26 October, all students and teachers gathered in the Multi-purpose hall to celebrate Deepavali. Deepavali is fondly called the festival of lights. This is because the light dispels the darkness in our lives. Our school leaders, Mrs Lam, Mdm Gan and Mdm Ong were invited on stage to light up the oil lamp. They wore traditional Indian costumes specially for the occasion. The celebration started after the light-up ceremony and highlights of the programme included classical Indian music performance and the Peacock dance performance. Students watched with enthusiasm as the musicians played the Indian drum tabla and violin. They applauded loudly when the dancers appeared on stage, proudly donning the peacock-feathered costume. Students also learnt interesting facts about how Deepavali is celebrated by our Hindu friends in Singapore and they participated enthusiastically in a question-and-answer session.







Light-up ceremony by School Leade

Open House 2022

Our school opened her doors to visitors for the very first time at this year's Open House on 23 July. There was an overwhelming response and we welcomed many families into our premise. There were various activities planned for the children at the Art Room, Music Room, Outdoor Playcourt, Library and Indoor Sports Hall. The visitors could also tour around the school and look at the various

during Q&A

the Art Room, Music Room, Outdoor Playcourt, Library and Indoor Sports Hall. The visitors could also tour around the school and look at the various classrooms. With everyone gathered at the School Hall for a presentation as we closed the day, we were really glad to host all the visitors and look forward to the children joining our school soon!

Text Recital Competition

The Text Recital Competition aims to raise students' Chinese language reading proficiency and deepen their understanding of the Chinese texts in their textbooks.

Contestants were judged according to their choice of texts, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, and stage presence.

The following students participated in the competition and did the school proud by obtaining the bronze and silver award for the individual and group categories.

Individual Category

Garna Tan 陈嘉娜 (1 Armstrong) Bronze Award

Valencia Lee 李姝萱 (2 Bly) Bronze Award

Group Category

Yang Jiayi 杨佳怡, Chua Chen Yi Jolin 蔡辰依, Tay Xi Yan 郑西妍 (2 Columbus) Bronze Award

Lee Yong En 李咏恩 (2 Everest), Gu Yuchen Lawrence 顾雨辰 (2 Everest), and Lam Yan Yan 林欣恩 (2 Franklin) Silver Award





Partnership with Choujiang Primary School in China

On 1 September 2022, Mrs Lam, Mdm Gan and Mdm Ong had an inaugural virtual meet up with school leaders and representative of our partner school, Choujiang Primary School in Yiwu义乌稠江小学, China. Attendees from Choujiang Primary School include the Principal, Mr Ding Guoqin丁国钦, Vice-Principal Mdm Wang Wenjuan 王文娟, Vice Principal Mr Xu Jianzhong徐建忠 and HOD Mdm Sheng Saigin盛赛琴.

Choujiang Primary School is located in central Zhejiang province in China. It has a student population of 1127 and 70 staff. It has just shifted to a new campus in September 2022.

Both schools got to know each other better and discussed possible areas of collaboration. We hope our partnership will provide an opportunity for our students to gain a deeper understanding of different cultures, traditions, lifestyles and global issues and hence, enhance their learning experiences.

100