



How Jurongville and its alumni

**STRIVE TOWARDS
SUCCESS**



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A Word from our Principal, *Mdm Flora Ong*

by Cortes Neah Pauleen Vargas &
Benjamin Loo (2A)

What is your general impression of the Jurongville students and teachers?

When I first entered the school around mid-December in 2015, I felt like I was a Secondary 1 student adjusting to a new environment. There was a culture of care among the students and staff in the school. Responsibility to uphold the culture was not only borne by the teachers, but by the student community as well.

The theme of this newsletter is 'Flourish!' But before one can succeed, there may be obstacles along the way which causes stress. How do you deal with stress and pressure?

Well, I do some meditation and exercise when I'm stressed. I find that I can focus better during work after a nice long run, or even a few minutes of meditation. Many people have different ways to de-stress. A person I know jogs a specific distance to clear her mind after studying. She studies for a couple of hours and jogs for 45 minutes. She continues this cycle and it actually works for her!

If a genie could grant you three wishes for the school, what would they be?

You got me good on that one. Here they are. Firstly, I wish for everyone in the school to embody the school values of PRIDE because these values will help them in their everyday lives, in work or out in the world somewhere.

Next, for students to develop a love for learning. I feel that students learn better when they enjoy a subject. It would also help them get a different perspective of something. I want students to look forward to going to school, and to leave school looking forward to coming back the following day. Lastly, I wish for our school community, both staff and students, to continue to respect and care for each other, as a family.

What advice would you give so that students can excel and flourish?

For students to flourish, they should love what they are learning. At the same time, they should learn at their own pace; one cannot progress at the same pace as another. When they face obstacles, they should be aware that they can seek help, from teachers, students across classes or even their more experienced school seniors.

Students should incorporate the school's PRIDE values into their studies. Some may flourish earlier than others, but this should not discourage them from working hard to flourish. There is no need to rush, just stay at your own pace and sooner or later you will flourish!



Getting to Know Our New Vice-Principal

by Lemy Yong &
Tan Sok Leng (2B)

Hi Mr Koh, how long have you been in the teaching service? Could you please elaborate about some of your experiences in the service?

I have been in the teaching service for 14 years. I previously taught in Yusof Ishak Secondary School, which is near to Jurongville. I like teaching as every day is a different and interesting experience. I enjoy the relationships formed with my students. My previous students, who are currently working and are married, would still visit me every year.

What books would you recommend for students to be able to flourish in their studies and lives? How will these books benefit us?

I would recommend quite a few books for students, and they are: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and Secrets of Successful Teens. I am currently reading a book about Mr Philip Yeo, a former civil servant, who has done much for Singapore, for example, successfully persuading MNC oil companies to come to Singapore and set up companies on Jurong Island, thus creating more jobs for Singaporeans. The book about Mr Philip Yeo teaches us that we must be resilient, to try despite the risk of failing.



What is your general impression of Jurongville students and teachers thus far?

I can sense that the teachers as well as students in Jurongville are very caring and kind, and among the staff, there is a very strong culture of care. In addition, our students have a lot of potential, confidence, and the 'never-say-die' spirit. I hope that the students can exhibit these traits in all aspects of their lives.

Since you have an interest in books, may we ask what genres of books do you read?

I usually read non-fiction books - mostly inspirational books and books about teaching and learning.

Other than reading, what other hobbies/interests do you have?

Other than reading, I do sports, such as cycling and swimming, and also spend a lot of time with my family - fishing with my wife and playing tennis with my father.

What is your greatest challenge as a Vice-Principal?

I believe that the greatest challenge is to think about how to move in a direction which will help to improve the school, how to always do better than 'good', and how to instill the right values in our students. In the end, it is about teaching JVS students to be able to influence others, make a difference in others' lives, and contribute to society.



Learning *Beyond Classrooms*

by Elysia Susanti &
Shermay Lee Shi Min (2N1)

JVS provides a holistic learning environment for us through various programmes. The Learning for Life Programme (LLP), namely **Sports for Life**, centres on the building of character through sports. Students learn via modular Physical Education electives, P4P sessions and the various Sports CCAs. **In Health We Thrive** is our Applied Learning Programme (ALP). The ALP allows students to pick up science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills

through hands-on learning experiences. Students can then apply their knowledge to real-life situations. These skills were manifested in learning journeys such as the Shell STEM Youth Innovation Challenge this year, during which our students had the opportunity to meet the Shell engineers and innovate ways of revolutionising the future through science and engineering. Subject-based learning journeys are also organized throughout the year to take learning beyond the classroom.



Our Success Stories

By Lukas Chan, Lowell Chua &
Swayam Satish (2C)

We spoke to our students, past and present on their experiences in JVS and on their individual journeys towards success.

Ms Sheela Kumari Devi was a member of the Prefectorial Board and Concert Band during her time in JVS. She is currently the Senior Assistant Director at the Legal Aid Bureau.



What was your most memorable moment at Jurongville?

There are too many to count, but my fondest memories are of my classmates - we formed really strong bonds and still keep in touch with each other till now. I enjoyed my time in school and really enjoyed my CCA sessions in particular.

Which teacher in Jurongville had the greatest impact on you?

Mdm Zainah, my English teacher, was the teacher who had left the greatest impact on me. She was a very positive and kind person - she affirmed and validated me. My band instructor then, Mrs Chia, also left a positive influence on me - she was a motherly figure who gave me a lot of confidence.

What advice can you give to your fellow juniors to encourage them to strive hard towards their goals?

My belief is that as long as you have given your best and done everything to the best of your ability, you can walk away fine from any situation. In life, always aim to give your best shot and be satisfied with whatever the outcome is, for you have gotten this far.

Syed Haizad B Syed Salim from 4N2 is a school Sepak Takraw player who has also been picked to represent the Sepak Takraw National Team.

What has been your most memorable moment in Jurongville so far?

When I was in Secondary 2 and my team won the Sepak Takraw championship!

What are some obstacles you have faced as a sportsman?

Injuries due to sports and a lack of self-confidence, especially when the team is on the losing end during a match. When that happens, I just have to remind myself to do the best I can for the team and to stay positive.

What advice can you give to aspiring student athletes out there in Jurongville?

Always be confident when taking part in the sport and give your best. We often do not know how far we can go, so we just have to do our best! Balance academics and sports too. Do not spend too much time on one thing only.

How has sports helped you to build your values?

My experience as a Sepak Takraw player has enriched my life. As a leader, I had the opportunity to work with other players. I was also nominated to represent JVS in the 8th ASEAN Sepak Takraw Singapore School Games. Other than discipline, which I picked up along the way, I also learnt how to work with many different people. Sports has taught me to be more resilient and disciplined. It has also helped me to become more confident of myself when I am in doubt.



Mr Danny Tan graduated from JVS in 1997. He is currently the General Manager at K.U.S Holdings Singapore.



Which teacher in Jurongville had the greatest impact on you? Why is that so?

Mr Chelva Rajah. He was my History teacher then and also the discipline master. I was a fairly rebellious student back then who disliked studying. When he caught me doing something that was not right, he would take his time to explain to me the consequences of my actions. I appreciated that a lot. Mr Khairunan, our principal then, also made an impact on me. As a student back then, I really felt appreciated when he took me into his office when I knocked on his door and took the time to consider my opinions.

What advice can you give to your fellow juniors to encourage them to strive hard for their goals?

I would encourage you to take charge of your lives by developing a love for learning. I myself attained my diploma at the age of 30, which proves that learning should never stop at any age. I would also encourage you to not just think about your ambitions but also to plan how you will set out to attain them. In life, there is not always an easy way out, but obstacles can be overcome if you have the right attitude and if you welcome knowledge along the way.

Mya Thit Khet emerged as the top student in JVS at the GCE O-Levels in 2016. She is currently a student at Anglo-Chinese Junior College.

Good job on your excellent O-Level results! Before we begin, could you give us a brief introduction of yourself?

Thank you! My name is Mya Thit Khet, but everybody calls me Mya. I moved to Singapore from my home country, Myanmar, in December 2014 and joined the JVS family in January 2015. Even though I have only spent two years in Jurongville, the sense of belonging I feel is immeasurable.

What are some challenges and setbacks you faced and how did you overcome them?

There were several expectations to meet. My CCA teachers', my parents', my subject teachers', and most importantly, my own. There were so many balls to juggle. However, I went back home one day and reflected on my time management, only to realise that I spent too much time on leisure activities. I started planning for the days ahead and set aside a fixed period of time to study every day, with regular breaks planted in between.

What was your strongest motivation for studying?

I am a very family-oriented person and my strongest motivation for studying is my parents. They are the ones who have always been on and by my side, whether I am at my happiest or lowest. Thus, I study hard so that I can do well and meet their high expectations. However, I believe that what drives us forward should not solely be motivation but discipline and determination as motivation tends to come and go.

What advice can you give to your fellow juniors to encourage them to strive hard for their goals?

As Henry Ford once said, "Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, you're right." I would like all of you to have big dreams, have a strong mindset, equip yourself with self-discipline and determination, and keep pushing through no matter how hard things become. When faced with situations and responsibilities that make you just want to run away, say "try me" instead of "why me". Refuse to settle for anything less than what you want. Be the best version of yourself. All the best!





Secondary 1 Orientation Programme: *Euphoria*

By Koh Ya Kun &
Mikhail Rifa'ie (2N2)

Integrating into a whole new 'family' and making new friends can be a challenge for Secondary 1 students. This year, we heartily welcomed our new students into Jurongville Secondary School. The theme for this year's Secondary 1 orientation was Euphoria. During the programme, students were engaged in lots of fun activities that had been planned specially for them. The three-day programme helped to boost the new students' confidence and gave them an opportunity to interact with their new classmates and student leaders.

'I would describe Jurongville as a welcoming school - the environment is also very clean! The Secondary 1 orientation programme was truly a memorable experience for me, as I enjoyed everything that our student leaders had planned for us. The games were very interesting and engaging and helped to break the ice between my new classmates and me.'

- Jorgina Ng Zi Yi (1C)

'The orientation was really fun as I had the chance to come up with and practise dance moves with my new classmates - we had to perform a dance for our parents to watch on the last day of orientation. I was nervous at first, but slowly gained self-confidence over the three-day programme.'

- Aweera Alesya Bte Zainal Abidin (1N2)

'I found the orientation very exciting as I had the chance to learn new games that our student leaders taught us. The game that I enjoyed most was the ice-breaker. It was very intense and tested our alertness.'

- Lee Kelly (1H)





Parent Engagement Day

By Koh Ya Kun &
Mikhail Rifa'ie (2N2)

Parent Engagement Day took place on Friday, 6th January 2017, after a whirlwind of orientation activities for our new Secondary One friends. After the opening address by our Principal, Madam Ong, the Secondary 1 students and their parents were entertained with performances put up by our Aesthetics students. The Choir, Angklung, Malay Dance, Band, Chinese Orchestra, Chinese Dance, and English Drama Club all put up eye-opening performances.

The parents and students then took a walk around the school vicinity for a fascinating, one-of-a-kind experience - the Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) Fair. With a wide variety of CCAs to choose from, both

the new students and their parents looked eager to explore and find out more about the different CCAs that we offer.

The day culminated in one of the most treasured memories of the Secondary 1 Orientation, namely the orientation finale, where all the Secondary 1 classes got to present their class performance pieces in a show of teamwork and class spirit. And who could forget the mass dance, where everyone danced to the groovy tunes of Justin Timberlake's 'Can't Stop the Feeling!' This day was indeed one that all Secondary 1s and their parents will remember for a long time to come.



Jurongville's *Chinese New Year Spirit*

By Chan Yan Liang Lukas (2C) &
Zikri Aiman (2B)

On 27 February 2017, the long-awaited and much-anticipated annual Chinese New Year celebration was held in Jurongville Secondary School.

That day, you could just feel the excitement in the air. Students were first introduced by their class mentors to the story behind the Chinese zodiac, then proceeded to create various festive objects like Chinese New Year cards. The day then ended with performances by both students and teachers, which reinforced the festivity of the atmosphere.

Prior to the celebration, students and teachers alike had exercised their creativity in decorating their classrooms for the classroom decoration competition, so as to warmly usher in the Year of the Rooster. This helped students of other races learn more about Chinese traditions and customs.

To end off this joyous occasion, students, staff and teachers gathered together in the school hall for a fun filled concert. Both students and teachers performed to create a fantastic show filled with joy and laughter.



'Decorating my classroom was such a fun experience as it allowed me to bond with my Chinese friends and understand Chinese culture better. One of the tasks I was assigned was the putting-up of anghaos around the classrooms. I googled the meanings of different Chinese characters, but it became more manageable with the help of my Chinese friends. With their help, I was able to put up the decorations with ease even though I did not fully understand the language.'

- Gayanna Bte Gani (2C)



'Preparing for the Chinese New Year concert was very interesting. I really enjoyed learning to sing Chinese songs, even though I found the language a little tough to grasp! I also got to bond with my friends over this activity, so being part of the performance was a very pleasant experience for me.'

- Nurul Annah Bte Muidh Agmy (2B)





Empowering Students

by Cortes Neah Pauleen Vargas &
Benjamin Loo (2A)

Jurongville Secondary School has a wide array of activities to bring out the best in its students and enable them to flourish in all aspects of life. One such activity would be the Values in Action (VIA) projects that the various classes are tasked to complete. For example, our Secondary 1 students have the opportunity to give back to the community by recycling old newspapers. The Jurongville library has its own café, and students get the chance to run and manage this café. This especially appeals to those who study Principles

of Accounts, as they can put their business and accounting skills into practice.

Last year, the Secondary 5 Normal (Academic) students organised a Run for Rice event, wherein for every 5 km they ran, 5 kg of rice would be donated to low-income residents in Jurong. Their generous act of youth volunteerism both benefited the community and served as a healthy workout for the students!



Our Student Contributors



Jurongville
Secondary School

202 Jurong East Avenue 1 S (609790)
www.jurongvillesec.moe.edu.sg