



# THE HORIZON

YIO CHU KANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 (JAN-MAY 2021)



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SERVICE TO ALL**



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# AMAZING RACE

The Secondary 1 Orientation had an Amazing Race Segment which was held on the 4th of January. It was to integrate Secondary 1 students into the new school environment, and to familiarise Secondary 1 students with the different venues of the school, its vision, mission, motto and song. It was also to inculcate school affiliation, a sense of belonging of the Secondary 1 students to their form classes and to encourage cooperative learning and build bonds and peer relationships. It was heartwarming to see the Student Councillors and Sports Leaders take the lead in the Orientation and bond with their Secondary 1 juniors.

Sun Yunxi Adeline of Secondary 1T1

**“My experience during the Amazing Race was really memorable as it was fun. We did not manage to finish all the games due to the short duration but we still managed to enjoy ourselves. My favourite game was the Guess Me game which required us to be quick in guessing as many musical instruments acted out by our team members within a time limit of 3 minutes. We laughed so hard during this game!”**

The Amazing Race consists of mini games and challenges. The participants had to collect Morse codes and puzzle pieces in order to achieve the mission of Amazing Race which was to escape safely from the dinosaur-infested wildlife park. The Secondary 1 students were engaged and excited to complete as many games and challenges as possible and at the same time forming new friendships.



*Aim beyond the goal to hit it*



DEWI QISTINA BINTE MUHAMAD HAIDI,  
SECONDARY 3A1

“As a member of the planning committee for the Amazing Race segment for Secondary 1 Orientation, I felt honoured to learn the skills of organising an event. On the actual day of the Amazing Race, as a Sports Leader, I led in one of the game stations. Although it was physically draining, I had a memorable experience interacting and bonding with my juniors. It was fulfilling to be able to ease them into YCKSS comfortably through fun games and to allow them to know more about our school. I am glad to say that I have managed to forge friendship with some of the juniors where they still currently turn to me for advice and to share the challenges or difficulties they face.”

PUVESH NAGARAJAN, SECONDARY 1E1

“On the first day, we had Amazing Race. It was fun and exciting. Our team managed to successfully complete many of the games and challenges. I also made a few friends when we worked together in the games and challenges. Unfortunately, due to time constraint, our team did not manage to complete all 20 stations of games and challenges. However, I still had a great time making friends and bonding with the seniors who led us during this Amazing Race.”



*Knock em' down  
Sec 1 YCKStars!*



# MTL FORTNIGHT

Mother Tongue Language Fortnight was held from 8th February to 19th February 2021, during and after curriculum hours. The Fortnight was conducted to create an immersive environment for the learning of the Mother Tongue Language and to cultivate an appreciation and passion in learning and practise authentic usage of the Mother Tongue Language.

**“Tamil students participated in competitions such as touch-typing and Kahoot quizzes. We also had the opportunity to create our very own version of the board game Snakes and Ladders. We had lots of fun, made lasting memories and learnt to appreciate our Mother Tongue more. I felt this was a meaningful experience.”**

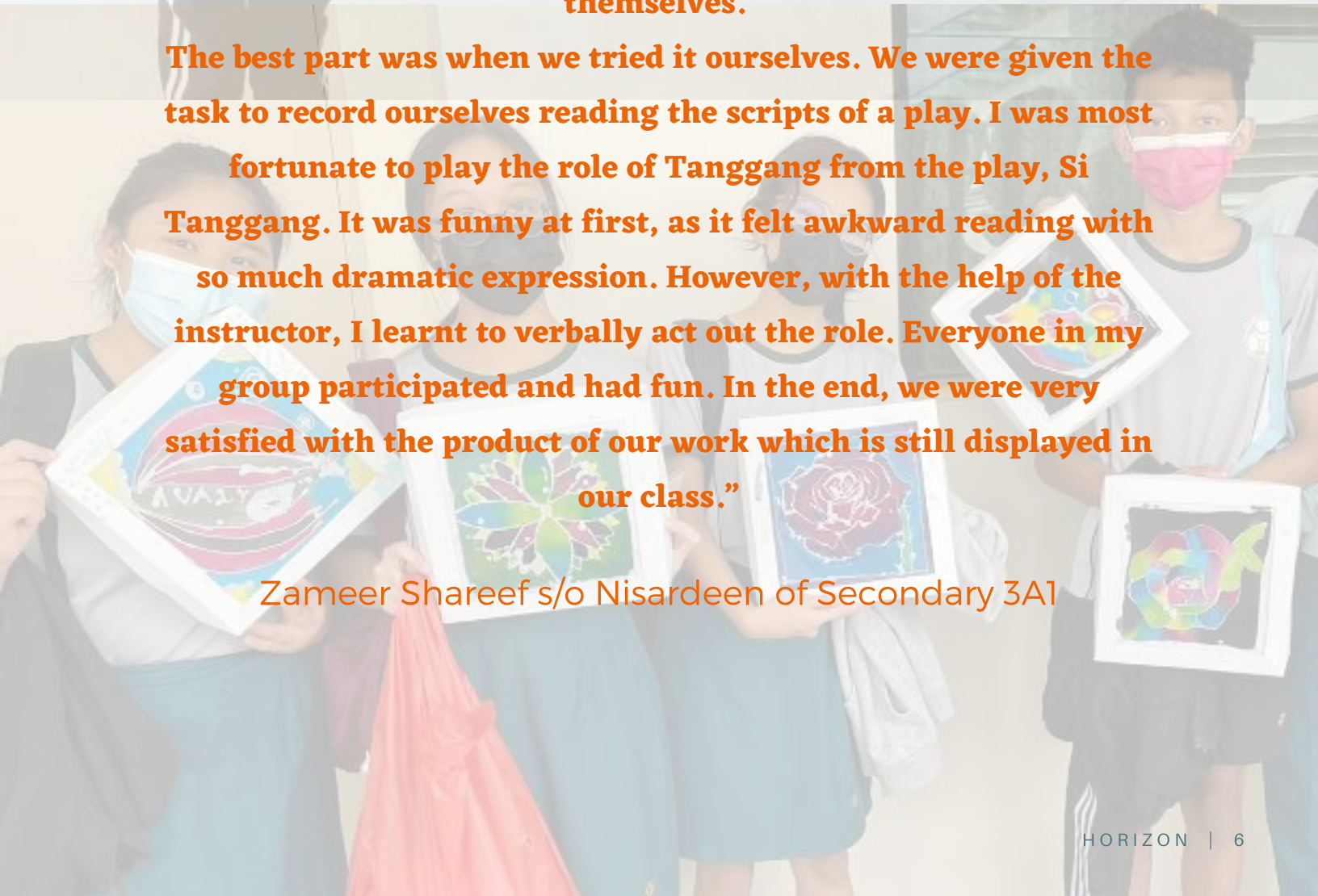
Raenisha Sherridan of Secondary 3E1

Teachers planned a range of activities for the students:

Copper Tooling,  
Kollattam Dance,  
Literary Competitions,  
Traditional Games,  
Story Telling Competition,  
Drama Appreciation,  
Debate,  
Sahibba Tradisional –  
Traditional Scrabble,  
Song Lyrics Appreciation



**“The most memorable moment I had was during the Pentas Radio (Podcast). It was a new experience for me as I have never listened or taken part in a podcast before. Along the way, we learnt many interesting facts pertaining to the Pentas Radio. Before the invention of televisions, the main source of entertainment was radio podcasts. Many stories were told in those podcasts. We had to visualise the stories in our heads by only using the audio/sounds in the podcast. I also learnt that the sound effects I heard in the podcasts were actually produced by the performers themselves.**



**The best part was when we tried it ourselves. We were given the task to record ourselves reading the scripts of a play. I was most fortunate to play the role of Tanggang from the play, Si Tanggang. It was funny at first, as it felt awkward reading with so much dramatic expression. However, with the help of the instructor, I learnt to verbally act out the role. Everyone in my group participated and had fun. In the end, we were very satisfied with the product of our work which is still displayed in our class.”**

**Zameer Shareef s/o Nisardeen of Secondary 3A1**

The Lunar New Year (LNY) Celebration was celebrated on 11th Feb 2021 to enable students to understand and appreciate the importance of traditional ethnic festivals and customs. This was the 2nd year that celebrations were held in the classrooms due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, it provided a meaningful platform for bonding amongst teachers and their students.

The classroom activity involved the making of LNY mascot and lantern using recycled materials. Classes were split into groups and each took care of an aspect of the competition. Some eye-catching mascots and unique lanterns were created out of these recycled materials. This was followed by an engaging concert presented through Zoom. The students thoroughly enjoyed the segment where they had to guess the teachers behind the masks!

**"CNY celebration was exciting and fun. I enjoyed the games and activities with my classmates. While making the lantern and decorating the mascot, I got to bond more with my classmates. We had great teamwork."**

Nur 'Izzati Binte Jasman, Secondary 1A2

**"The Chinese New Year celebration was different from what I used to do in my primary school. It's much more fun. I hope to have more celebrations like this."**

Pirithianga d/o Santhana Bose, Secondary 1A1

# LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

## YCKSians ring in an Oxpicious Year



# Secondary 1 and 2 Level Programme

The Secondary 1 & 2 Level Programme on 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens was held on the 3rd to the 5th of March. In both programmes, students learnt and applied the 3 key concepts of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and used positive language guided by the Growth Mindset frame to affirm and encourage learning. Through lots of experiential learning and team-building activities, the students learnt more about themselves, their peers, as well as develop the necessary self-leadership skills that will help them adapt and thrive in their secondary school life.

Tessa Tng (Tang Qianqian) 1E3

**“I find the programme very interesting. It helps us to improve our teamwork and bond together especially since we were from different primary schools and did not know much about each other. I connected with my classmates at a deeper level and learnt more about their backgrounds and their personalities. The facilitators were very kind and encouraging too. When we were struggling with our tasks, they guided us along.”**

The programme was anchored around the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. Armed with these habits, the school hopes that students will be able to apply them for different situations they are in beyond the level programme. Students had fun playing the team building games such as the Maze Challenge, Roller Coaster Challenge and Bull Ring. They also reflected on themselves and thought through the values that they wished to possess and how they could further improve by practising the 7 Habits on a regular basis.





Over the three days, students felt a stronger sense of camaraderie as they further strengthened their friendship and class spirit. Students enjoyed the new challenges given to them especially the Human Caterpillar and the Small Office Home Office. In the latter, each class had to collaborate to assemble furniture to create a SOHO. Many found it an interesting experience as they had never done something like that before. They realised the importance of clear communication and strategic planning before embarking on a task.



Ilyas Safwan bin Muhamad Redzuan of Secondary 1E2:

**“I really enjoyed the level programme mainly because the activities are new to us. I especially liked Key Punch Game that forced us to work as a team. My class has definitely bonded better as a result of this programme. I got to know my group mates a little better and interacted further with them. We also learnt to speak up more and be more confident about ourselves.”**

# Secondary 4 and 5 Level Programme

The Secondary 4 & 5 Level Camp Programme was held from 3rd to 5th March 2021. It was designed to help graduating students:

- Create a personal portfolio (profile of personal strengths, interest & achievements).
- Acquire key knowledge to make informed decisions about one's education pathways.
- Learn and apply grooming skills.
- Learn and apply social skills like networking skills, starting a conversation in a small group, ability to engage in a conversation.
- Learn and apply interview skills.

Our School Leaders conducted a virtual interview of each student to simulate an interview setting that helped students practise what was learnt and hopefully apply it to virtual interviews they may take part in during the Early Admissions Exercise for Polytechnic, Junior College or ITE.

**“I was quite nervous during the interview and I stuttered. Thankfully, the interviewers were very patient with me. The advice that the interviewers gave was eye-opening. I have gained some confidence and learnt to present myself better during an interview. I strongly encourage the school to continue doing this to prepare students for future interviews.”**

Phelin Ho Xue Ting of Secondary 4A2



**“The education and career guidance workshop was very useful. It made me have a better vision of what I want to do after my O' Levels and what course I want to pursue in future. Not only that, the workshop also made me more aware of what an interview would be like and it helped me understand what to expect in real interviews in the future.”**

Balqis Bte Bahktiar, Secondary 5A1



# GAMES CARNIVAL

The Games Carnival was held on 26th March. The students of YCKSS were so thrilled to participate in this event as it brought about hope and joy during this challenging time. It also helped to strengthen teacher-student relationships.

There were 3 different segments. They were the Minute To Win It Games, Traditional Games and Telematch. All the games took place in the classrooms except for the Telematch which was held in the field. Having had missed the Games Carnival in 2020 due to the pandemic, the competitors were raring to go. The Telematch was the highlight of the Games Carnival and hence it was live telecast to all the supporters in the classrooms. The students were thrilled to see their classmates participate in The Telematch and cheered from afar.

## Winona Pang of Secondary 3E3:

**“As a Sports Leader for the past 3 years, this was my first time organising Games Carnival. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we had to replace our annual Sports Carnival with activities such as traditional games and Minute To Win It challenges held in the comfort of the classroom. It was a different experience!”**





Seeing teachers competing in the “Minute To Win It” and traditional games alongside their students for their respective classes was tremendous fun. Students and teachers were able to see each other from a different perspective and discover the unique talents each possesses.

**Cao Yurong of Secondary 4E1:**

**“I am appreciative of every opportunity given to us to understand the concepts of healthy lifestyles and improve our fitness level. Events such as this year’s games carnival was very well-organised, enjoyable and meaningful.”**



*Healthy Body*  
*Healthy Mind*



# 56TH SPEECH AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY

On 9th April, YCKSS celebrated its 56th Speech and Prize-Giving Day in a unique and special way! After a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, it was with great joy that we celebrated our students' and staff members' achievements of the past 2 years. To enable all students, parents and staff to join in the celebration, the event live-streamed on YouTube.



The pre-concert was a static parade that welcomed the Guest of Honour, Mr William Oh, Chairman of our School Advisory Committee. The Uniformed Groups contingent comprised of cadets from our National Police Cadet Corps and Red Cross Youth. Leading the parade were our Parade Commander Sergeant Lim Boon Yu from 3A1 and the Contingent Commander Sergeant Eve Ong Xinru from 4E1.



It was followed by the Opening Ceremony of YCKSS Techno Sphere. Mr William Oh released a paper aeroplane and received a drone in return to signify the transformation of the previous D&T Design Studio into the current Techno Sphere. Techno Sphere is a new maker space where creativity and innovation take place.





The guests learnt first-hand from our young YCKSians about the Applied Learning Programme and Maker Programme that our students experience during curriculum and in after school interest activities.

The theme for this year's Speech Day was "Dare to Dream Big". It espouses the school's desire to encourage all YCKSians to dream big and believe that nothing is impossible if they work hard for it. To further inspire our YCKSians to do so, we shared the stories of two of our alumni, Ms Lau Li Feng and Mr Ly Nicolas, who had dared to dream big and are now living their dreams.



Goh Yen Ting Trishelle of Secondary 4E3: **"Even though this year's speech day was live-streamed, I still managed to catch a part of it. I was amazed by the different technology that was displayed. Besides, the rest of the events planned such as stories of alumni who dared to dream big were exciting as well. Overall, I think that the event was carried out smoothly and was an enjoyable experience for us viewers."**



The opening item was a Samba Percussion performance by our Gear-Up students. Entitled the Sound of Carnivals, the performance was a unique blend of dynamic and vibrant beats that added to the celebratory mood.



One highlight of the day was the celebration of Staff Long Service Award presented to Mrs Mak Ee Moi for 45 years of distinguished service in Yio Chu Kang Secondary School. She was especially touched that SAC member and alumnus, Mr Herald Yeo, remembered her as his teacher. He made a special effort to catch up with her after so many years, truly modelling our school values of gratitude and respect. Mrs Mak, who has been a teacher in our school for 46 years, remembered how he excelled in sports when he was in Secondary 1. She was then the teacher in charge of Jupiter House. They had a good time reminiscing his school days at Yio Chu Kang Secondary School. She is really proud that he is now actively involved in community projects despite his busy schedule.

This year, the school also introduced 2 new types of student awards: the SAC-YCKSS Sportsmanship and the SAC-YCKSS Caring Hearts Awards to recognise students who demonstrated sportsmanship and a high level of compassion and service to others. We congratulate all prize and award recipients and wish them continued success in their future endeavours. We hope more YCKSians would follow in their footsteps and strive for personal growth and excellence.

Finally, the guests were treated to a choreography of multiple Tello EDUs drones. These delicate machines flew in a swarm and performed coordinated flips piloted by MARs Club students. The dramatic performance closed with a short animated video clip with 3D characters showing dreams of their future by the talented students of the Digital Animation Club.



## SECONDARY 2 COHORT LEARNING JOURNEY

### MUSEUM VISIT

**"The Elizabeth Choy artefact interests me the most. This is because she was loyal to Singapore and refused to reveal any information even when she was tortured by the Japanese during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. Her courage and resilience impressed me. During the difficult period of Japanese Occupation, people were connected by the hardships they experienced. But it was their resilience that got them through it."** Yoganandhan Harini, Secondary 2E1

The Secondary 2 Cohort Learning Journey was held in April and it was a happy trip to the National Museum of Singapore. Cohort Learning Journey is a key Student Development Experience in the new CCE 2021 curriculum. During the specially curated journey, students found out more about communities living in Singapore's early history and conducted their Historical Investigation, where they worked in groups to investigate a historical issue using the guided inquiry approach.

Through this common experience, students experienced real-world application of historical knowledge and skills while appreciating the rich history of Singapore.

It was a rare privilege for students to tour Level 1 and Level 2 of the Museum with Museum Educators on hand at specific display areas to elaborate on the fascinating stories behind the museum artefacts. The students were excited to be able to participate in the learning journeys and explore the museum with their friends. The trip to the museum left a deep impression for many about the history of Singapore.



## NATIONAL DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

The National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) – Personal Learning Device (PLD) Presentation & Unboxing Day took place on 27th & 29th April. It was an exciting highlight and the school seized this opportunity to instill in students a sense of ownership and empowerment, guiding them to unbox and set up their PLD effectively and equipping them with skills on the basic operation of the PLD classrooms.

**Sami Sharieff II of Secondary 1E3:**

**"Super cool! That is how I described the news of getting an iPad. We were undoubtedly excited to have our hands on these prized devices at last. Of course, as with any device, we ought to manage our usage of the PLD and use it responsibly, so our teachers reminded us on the school's Digital Wellness Policy during our lessons."**

The NDLP aims to equip our students with key digital literacies so that they can be future-ready, and enable them to become self-directed and collaborative learners. Through the YCKSS Digital Education Programme, students develop knowledge and skills in the 5Cs domains of:

**Curation: access, collate and analyse digital information**

**Creation: innovate and create products/content using digital tools**

**Communication & Collaboration: communicate and collaborate through digital media**

**Computational Thinking: investigate and solve problems systematically**



**"I have a greater  
responsibility  
in taking care of the iPad  
because it is quite costly."**

Winona Pang, Secondary 3E3

As part of the NDLP 2021 at YCKSS, all Secondary 1 to 3 students have been equipped with an iPad, which serves as their PLD. Students received their devices in school during the PLD Presentation & Unboxing Day. Teachers presented the students with the PLDs individually before taking them through the process of unboxing and set up. The PLD came pre-installed with the Device Management Application (DMA) to encourage responsible use of the device in a safe learning environment.

There was certainly a lot of excitement in the air when the students received their PLDs. The programme included guiding students through the unboxing and setting up process, going through the Acceptable Use Policy and learning routines, as well as familiarising them with the basic functions on the iPads.





# THE HORIZON

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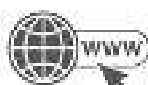
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