

# Westwood

### **JUNE 2021 ISSUE 1**

### PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Wow! In a blink of an eye, we are already in the midst of 2021, marking my sixth month at Westwood Primary School. Just that day, while I was having a chat with our three Vice Principals and they asked me what had gone well over these six months. I replied that it was an easy question as there were so many things that had gone very well these months.

I am thankful for my wonderful fellow School Leaders for being very supportive. We have engaged in many discussions on how we could further value-add to make Westwood Primary "Positively Westwood". They were receptive to new ideas and helped make many ideas come to fruition.

I am thankful to a team of committed staff and educators. To date, almost all our staff members have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in their show of care for the parents and the students they interact with daily. Our staff are collegial and

hardworking, coming in very early every morning just so that they can be prepared to take the children through daily THRIVE lessons as they stand strong in their belief in developing every child to strive towards "Positively Westwood". To our wonderful support staff, thank you for showing the spirit of excellence in all your services.

I am thankful to strong partners. The School Advisory Committee, comprising professionals, are firm in making Westwood Primary a Centre for Positive Education. The Parent Support Group too are fantastic partners, working to foster stronger parent-school partnership and modelling the way to better support our children's development. As a result, we have started our Wushu and Soccer CCA trainings on Saturdays where parents who have kindly freed up their time can also partner in developing our children holistically. I understand that more activities are on the way.

I am thankful to parents for their kind understanding and strong partnership. Decisions in school have to be made with considerations at many levels. Thank you for trusting in us and accommodating our decisions.

I am thankful for wonderful students. I marvel at the students who make it a point to greet teachers and support staff. Parents, you have done a wonderful job to inculcate sound values in your children. I see Student Leaders in action: coaching, mentoring and teaching fellow peers

in prefectorial duties as well as in the 'Maker' sessions. I also see the P5 and P6 students putting in extra effort in their studies.

I look forward to an exciting second semester. Keep well! Be Positive!

**Mr Andrew Mah** Principal



### POSITIVE PARENTING REFLECTIONS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, forced to stay indoors, we find our children spending more time online. Being connected allows them some form of normalcy where they stay connected with their peers and continue with school activities. But this also presents an increased risk and dangers of strangers targeting children with malicious intent on social media, gaming, and messaging platforms. Our children are also more likely to be exposed to harmful content inciting suicide and self-harm, violence, misogyny, xenophobia, and cyberbullying.

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One way to protect our children online is by setting up Parental Controls such as turning on 'SafeSearch' on browsers. Setting up strict privacy settings on online apps and games will also help safeguard their wellbeing. At the same time, parents can also inculcate healthy and safe online habits in their children by involving them in creating family tech agreements on device usage. Children should also be taught how to keep personal information private, especially from strangers, and be reminded that what goes online stays online.

By Mr Ruzaidie, Westwood PSG Alumni member

### **BUNDLES OF JOY**

This year, we rejoice with the proud parents among us as they welcomed their bundles of joy.

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# POSTIVELY WESTWOOD thriving Together As A School

### INDUCTION 2021



the first time in our school hall

This year's theme for our pupils' induction is 'A Rainbow of Possibilities' because of the learning opportunities that await our newly inducted P1 Westwoodians and all our returning pupils.

Our P1 pupils learnt new school routines like assembling at our school hall for the first time, and visiting their classrooms and various other places all around the school. Parents attended briefings to understand the school programmes better. At the same time, our P2 to 6 pupils went through activities such as setting of goals, mindfulness routines, building friendships through games, learning self-reflection, leadership skills and nurturing a growth mindset. What an unforgettable induction programme for everyone!

PARENTS' ENGAGEMENT DAY

School Leaders prior to the Engagement Session.

Our Parents Engagement

Session was held on

zoom. The objectives of

this annual meeting are

for parents to interact

with the form teachers as

well as to get to know our

curriculum programmes

and important level-

our P4 to 6 pupils decorated their classrooms with creativity and teamwork. A concert, which included performances such as dance, Wushu and the presentation of Chinese New Year songs, was streamed live on Facebook. Indeed, we enjoyed ourselves and would continue to strive for excellence in the Year of the Ox.



Pupils making CNY 'fish' red packets

### **TOTAL DEFENCE DAY**

Total Defence Day was commemorated on 8 Feb 2021 with the theme, Together We Keep Singapore Strong. Mr Chin, our Vice Principal, gave an opening address to the whole school via zoom. He highlighted the value of being prepared for emergencies in the event of crisis.

An assembly programme reminded pupils that come forth to preserve Singapore's prosperity and stability. Pupils watched the recorded skit, recess, the pupils observed 'Meat-free Day' food options during a crisis or war as well as to appreciate the importance of being prepared help pupils in understanding the importance of defending Singapore ourselves.



Together, we play a part to build national resilience.

Singapore strong.

the task of nation-building requires everyone to 'Let's Play A Part' in their classrooms. During to enable them to experience the scarcity of during times of emergencies. Lesson packages were also conducted during CCE MT lessons to



Together, we keep

Chinese New Year celebration this year was made even more joyous and meaningful when our staff got together to pack festive goodie bags for NTUC Health Senior Activity Centre (SilverACE) at Taman Jurong. Our staff also

donated a sum of money to purchase household cleaning products such as bottles of dishwashing detergent, stain removers, hand sanitizers and wet wipes. Other items that were donated included biscuits and milo packets that were distributed to



bags for the residents

the residents at the senior activity centre. All were packed into goodie bags and delivered to the centre by our staff. We hope that this initiative would inspire our pupils to contribute to the community in any meaningful way.

### FIRE DRILL WITH MK AND P1

On 9 February, a joint fire drill evacuation exercise was conducted for our P1 pupils and K1 pupils of our MOE Kindergarten. This exercise aims to familiarise the P1 and K1 pupils with the evacuation routes and procedures in the event of emergencies. Efforts were taken

to ensure that Safe Management Measures were observed during the exercise. On the same day, all other pupils had a refresher briefing on the fire evacuation drill.



### SAFER INTERNET WEEK

As Singapore works towards being a Smart Nation, digital technology will be a part of every aspect of how we live, work, and play. While the digital revolution presents opportunities for Singapore, it also makes us vulnerable to threats from the digital domain.

We celebrated Safer Internet Week, with the global theme "Together, for a better Internet". Especially evident during this pandemic, our young Westwoodians will need to equip themselves with the knowledge and wisdom to protect themselves against the downside of the Internet.

Pupils found themselves immersing in educational skits, specially designed Digital Literacy lesson packages, as well as carefully crafted games they played in the comfort of their homes

Congratulations to the winners of our Safer Internet Week Challenge!



Students learning how to be safe online through videos created by their peers

### 23 January 2021 on a Saturday morning via

etting ready for the final preparations to "meet parents online

specific important information. Parents also got to have a deeper understanding of the school's policies through the video recordings by the

Through this event, the school hopes to forge good communication and partnership with our parents which will definitely benefit our pupils.

Many parents gave feedback that the session allowed them to have a better understanding of

their child's learning journey as a Westwoodian. Thank you parents for making the time for this meaningful event!

**CHINESE NEW YEAR** 

**CELEBRATIONS** Our school organised interesting classroom

activities for P1 to P6 pupils, which deepened the knowledge of pupils' appreciation of Chinese New Year. Our P1 to 3 pupils participated actively and enthusiastically in the Kahoot

games that covered the cultural aspects of

Chinese New Year. Prior to the celebrations,



Celebrating success!

### **THRIVE FIESTA**

THRIVE Fiesta is held in Term 1 Week 10 every year and we hold true to our beliefs that pupils learn best through experiential learning and working with one another. The lower primary pupils engaged in classroom activities that encouraged them to work well with their classmates to complete their missions and solve problems. The middle primary pupils went through a programme that unpacked "Growth mindset" and taught them how to unleash their leadership potential to lead themselves and peers. The upper primary pupils embarked on a self-directed learning journey to explore the many different industries in Singapore and the possible pathways they could take to achieve their dreams and goals through the use of the Education Career Guidance (ECG) portal. In Westwood, we strive to help our pupils thrive by developing their character strengths to face challenges in the future confidently!

### **MAKER FIESTA**

The theme for Maker Fiesta 2021 was "The Magic of Making, Making an Impact". Kick-starting Maker Fiesta on 5 April, two Maker ambassadors amazed us by revealing the secrets of some magic tricks during the assembly programme. On 6th April, all pupils took part in a 3-minute instant challenge during the thrive lesson. The lower primary pupils built the tallest freestanding structure using their stationery while the upper primary pupils built a paper structure that could hold books. The pupils showed resilience, creativity and teamwork. During recess, pupils had fun participating in Science, Arts and Math-related activities. On 8 April, 78 K2 pupils joined us in the fiesta. They made a personalised bookmark using scratch cards and stencils. We also presented to each MK pupil a Maker badge designed and made by our pupils. On 9 April, we concluded the Maker Fiesta with our pupils having fun making their personalised drawstring bags using heat transfer technology.



Makey Makey Piano



Discover the science behind the making of a bath bomb

### PAY IT FORWARD WORKSHOP



Three P6 Maker Ambassadors made use of what they had learnt in school and transferred their knowledge to their fellow maker ambassadors. They planned what to teach their peers and prepared the slides, displaying their confidence and resilient mindset as they guided their peers along in the workshop. It was also heartening to see our P4 and P5 Maker Ambassadors taking up the role of assistant presenters, actively helping out during the workshop. Our Maker Ambassadors are indeed our "Change Makers", making a positive impact on their peers! Keep it up!

### **MAKER WEDNESDAY**

Maker Wednesday a.k.a. Design and Innovation Workshop is introduced this year to engage our pupils in Maker activities after school. The workshop is designed based on pupils' interest. The details of the workshop are advertised in the morning PRAM sessions and interested participants would sign up for this workshop.

In Term 1, our P5 and P6 pupils learnt how to create digital art using Microsoft PowerPoint. These designs were used to make face masks. At the end of the workshop, some of the face masks designed by the pupils would be given to a selected external organisation as part of our school's outreach programme.

In Term 2, we had another Maker Wednesday workshop planned for the upper primary pupils. They learnt how to do coding using Micro:bit and Boson kit. The pupils identified a problem and found ways to solve it by creating a prototype and coding



### YOUNG FLOURISHERS PROGRAMME

Young Flourishers Programme, a schoolbased initiative conceived this year, aims to inspire and nurture our young minds here at Westwood to thrive and flourish. Through weekly Wednesday after-school sessions, our pupils



have been taught valuable skills that they will need as they grow up. With the motto "From a small seed, a mighty tree grows" guiding us, we have witnessed our Young Flourishers becoming more confident and self-reliant! On 7 & 14 April, we had the privilege of inviting Mr Sunny Ang, an avid toy photographer, to impart his skills to our Young Flourishers. We have also embarked on an Arts Engagement journey "Fresh Perspectives through My Lens" with professional photographer, Mr Wayne Toh, in which pupils learn photography and photo-editing skills to develop keen observation skills and gain insights and new perspectives of themselves and the world they live in. This will culminate in a mini Photography exhibition later on this year.

### FUN-NATICS

We had our Math Fun-natics from 12th to 14th April, where the pupils got to learn through playing. The lower primary pupils were so excited to play



A Number Stacke

Addition games like Double Dash, Dice Wars & Number Stacker. The middle and upper primary pupils put their problem-solving skills to the test by attempting to unlock metal puzzles, solve the wooden Kong Ming lock puzzle, Rubik's cube and they played multiplication tables through the Kahoot app. Pupils were awarded with play money which they used to redeem their prizes at the end of their recess.

During PRAM sessions, the pupils got to learn about Heuristics through storytelling.

In their classroom activities, the lower primary pupils were eager to create their own Subtraction Squares, while the middle primary pupils worked on Palindromic Addition and the upper primary pupils solved a Sudoku puzzle. It was a fun-filled week of Math games and puzzles!

### **CAUGHT DOING RIGHT**

Caught Doing Right!, as its name suggests, aims to capture Westwoodians doing the right thing. In these few photos, we have managed to capture

shots of Westwoodians taking the initiative to help their fellow friends, be it holding the door, picking up books and helping a Westwoodian to log into the computer during a lesson or sweeping the classroom floor at the start of the day. Doing the right thing can be a breeze!



Helping to pick up book

# POSITIVELY HIGHLIGHTS Lower Primary

### **NOTE FROM LOWER PRIMARY YEAR HEAD**

Dear Parents,

2021 is a special year, as we welcomed our 9th batch of P1 pupils with Safe Management Measures implemented. Although only one parent or guardian was allowed to accompany their P1 child or ward to Westwood to familiarise with the new environment, our little ones have settled in well to the new routines. We would like to thank all parents for your strong support during the P1 Induction and helping them to transit smoothly into the new school environment. As we continue to provide opportunities for our Lower Primary pupils to adapt to the new learning environment, and learn more about self-care and social awareness through varied experiences such as PAL lessons, Positive Education lessons etc., we look forward to your continuous support in cultivating a holistic and meaningful learning experience for your child.



Programme for Active Learning (PAL) focuses on developing Lower Primary pupils' soft skills - primarily in building their confidence, improving their cooperation with their classmates and arousing their interest to get curious and look for diverse answers and solutions.



Trying out their 'Sun Catcher' to see the shadows they have created as part of Outdoor Education



Pupils from 2 Synergy created their unique picture frame together



Nominees for Greeting Master, Routine Ambassador, Environment Star and Safe Distancing Champion



Greeting Masters and R2 Champions standing proud with their Certificates of Acknowledgement

### **REACH FOR THE STARS PROGRAMME**

The Lower Primary pupils continue to exhibit the positive habits instilled in them and strive to be good role models through the 'Reach for the STARS' programme. A new role title 'R2 Champion' was also introduced this year for our new batch of P1 pupils, to encourage them to be responsible for their own belongings and always ready for lessons!

### P1 KEYBOARD MODULE



Keyboard playing in a class



Playing keyboard with the right hand

The "Keyboard Fun" Music Module was specially catered for the P1 pupils to learn basic keyboard skills through an effective mix of teacher guidance, frontal teaching and an e-software. The programme cultivates pupils' musical and keyboard skills through a fun-based learning approach. During the module, they had the opportunity to learn how to play familiar tunes and develop their music theory knowledge through music note-recognition and clapping of rhythms.

# POSITIVELY HIGHLIGHTS Middle Primary

### NOTE FROM MIDDLE PRIMARY YEAR HEAD

Dear Parents,

Transiting from lower primary to middle primary is definitely not an easy task for our P3 pupils. Having been in a class of 30 pupils since Primary 1, the pupils have demonstrated high adaptability and resilience in getting used to interacting and learning together in classes of 40 from this year onwards.

With the Safe Management Measures put in place in school to fight against Covid-19, our pupils had to adapt to some changes in the school operations while continuing to learn and work together with one another. Kudos to all our precious ones who have been facing all challenges positively with the unwavering support from our parents!

Let's encourage them to build their resilience and confidence to become future-ready and independent lifelong learners!

Our P4 pupils embarked on a Character and Leadership Programme during THRIVE Fiesta. Through the programme, pupils were able to acquire a growth mindset in building positive peer relations through appreciation and affirmation, and to understand how to handle their relationship with their peers, in relation to the THRIVE Framework. We will continue to provide opportunities for the P4 pupils to ensure that they will have a meaningful learning experience. On behalf of all P4 pupils, thank you once again for your continuous support!

### **P3 PROJECT WORK (CARING FOR PETS)**

At the start of Term 2, our P3 pupils embarked on their ICT Baseline cum Project Work. Anchored on the theme 'Caring for a Pet', the pupils worked in groups to research on the needs of their chosen pet and the care it needs. They created an infographic related to the theme using Google Slides, and even did a presentation on their posters virtually.



Listening attentively to the sharing on SPCA



### P3 ORFF ENSEMBLE MODULE



Playing on a metallophone

Our P3 pupils developed their musicianship, music theory knowledge and the ability to play as part of an instrumental ensemble during their Orff Ensemble Module. They displayed teamwork and discipline as they played melodies and accompaniments on various Orff instruments such as xylophones and metallophones. They were given the opportunity to express their creativity through improvisation and music-making activities as an ensemble.

### **P4 SWIMSAFER**

Swimming is one of the 7 areas to be covered in the primary school PE curriculum (2014 syllabus). Called SwimSafer (version 2.0), it aims to educate pupils on water safety and confidence. After a nationwide pause due to the pandemic, the affected cohort persevered on and completed their swimming lessons at the end of Term 1.



More advanced pupils trying out another way of water entry under the guidance of their instructor



Lessons at the brand new Jurong Lake Gardens ActiveSG pool





### **GREENING FOR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME**

As part of our pupils' holistic education in P4, the school carried out the Greening for Sustainability Programme. Different classes are scheduled during the year to plant vegetable seedlings which are harvested at the end of four weeks. Through the planting programme, pupils understand the importance of plants in our ecosystem. Not only will they be responsible when caring for plants, they will understand the cause-and-effect relationship through studying the factors that affect plant growth. Pupils will also develop self-confidence, teamwork and cooperation through the activity. Subsequently, the vegetables are donated to suitable beneficiaries. This is part of the school's community outreach efforts.

### **P4 UKULELE MODULE**



Ukulele Module

Our P4 pupils were equipped with the basic knowledge of playing on the ukulele through an 8-week Ukulele Module which laid the foundation for life-long music appreciation. They learnt to press chords (C, Am, F, & G) with their left hand and strum various patterns with their right hand, thus improving their coordination of both hands and enhancing their rhythmic sense of counting beats and bars. They developed resilience and confidence through practice, and built camaraderie with their classmates as they played familiar folk and pop songs together.

### P4 PROJECT WORK (MICROBITS)

Our P4 pupils embarked on their ICT Baseline cum Project Work at the start of Term 1. Pupils were taught basic coding skills which enabled them to integrate Micro:bits into their prototype, turning their prototype into a digital product. Anchored on the theme 'Passion for Community' and aligning it to our ALP Positive Design Framework, the pupils eventually came up with a Micro:bit carnival game prototype that could meet the needs and improve the lives of a targeted community.



Demonstration of self-directed learning



- Law of teamwork



Positive comments left by peers and parents on the Padlet

### **P4 MUSEUM-BASED LEARNING**

Our P4 pupils went on an immersive experience of Museum-based Learning at the National Gallery Singapore, one of the Core Learning Experiences of the Primary Art Syllabus. While observing the safety measurements, our pupils were engaged in observing artworks and learning about Singapore's history through the featured artworks by our Singapore artists.



Reflecting on their learning



Examining the 3-dimensional artwork



Observing the details of the artwork

### **P4 SCIENCE CENTRE LIGHT WORKSHOP**

In March and April, P4 pupils went on a Learning Journey to the Science Centre to attend a light workshop. At the workshop, they explored how different mirrors, lenses and materials affect how light travels. They also learnt about various aspects of colours, shadows and light as a form of energy.





Investigating how the distance between an object and a screen car affect the size of a shadow



Investigating the reflection of light using a mirror

# POSITIVELY HIGHLIGHTS upper Primary

### NOTE FROM UPPER PRIMARY YEAR HEAD

Dear Parents,

Thankyou for being a part of the Westwood family for the last few years. Time files and your child will be taking the Primary School Leaving Examination soon and completing yet another milestone of his/her life. On behalf of all the P5 and P6 teachers, thank you for partnering us closely in helping your child have an enriching learning journey in school. Here are some tips to help you support your child in his/her learning journey ahead and enjoy his/her moments in school with us.

- 1. Stay involved and feel free to contact your child's teachers for any queries or concerns.
- Ask your child about school and encourage them to talk about their positive moments in school.
- 3. Encourage your child to learn to manage his/her time and be responsible for his/her school work and actions.
- 4. Ensure that your child balances his/her time for work and play.
- 5. Make sure your child has sufficient rest each day and is ready for school the next day.

### **P6 SONGWRITING MODULE**

Our P6 pupils developed an appreciation for songwriting through this introductory module in which they learnt about the key elements of a pop song such as song structure, lyrics-writing, melody and chord-harmony. They also learnt about the roles of professionals (Producer, Artiste, Arranger etc.) in the music industry. The pupils' creativity were harnessed as they composed their own melodies and lyrics in small groups. The pupils were given the opportunity to showcase their work to their classmates, thus developing their confidence and appreciation of how songwriting and music can be a medium of self-expression.





Learning about Song Arrangement

### **P5 HOPE PACKAGE**

This semester, all P5 pupils embarked on a 'Journey of Hope' through our uniquely designed activity booklet. The Hope package aims to inspire our pupils to lead meaningful and purposeful lives. During the lessons, pupils set meaningful goals and reflect continuously to keep track of their progress towards their goals.



Pupils writing HOPE cards to encourage their peers

### **P6 VIBRANT VOICES PROGRAMME**

The Vibrant Voices programme aims to pique pupils' curiosity about real world issues and build their oracy skills. Using the TREES model, pupils frame their thoughts clearly with reasons, explanations, experiences and suggestions. Tapping on multimodal platforms, pupils create a video presentation and present their views succinctly and confidently!





### **P5 TABLE PERCUSSION MODULE**

We can have fun making music in many ways - with our voice, our body, instruments and even everyday objects like plastic cups! Our P5 pupils explored the different percussive sounds they could create with a cup. They learnt and played different rhythmic patterns as an accompaniment to different songs. They also had the opportunity to experiment and create their own rhythmic ostinato in groups. Through this module, they strengthened their rhythmic skills, physical motor coordination and teamwork.



Playing rhythms with cups



P6 MINDFULNESS PACKAGE



In term 1, the P6 pupils were engaged in the Mindfulness package during the THRIVE periods. To help them regulate their emotions and increase their focus, pupils were exposed to different ways of practising mindfulness to help them find a suitable way to regulate their emotions. During the lessons, they reflected on their actions and behaviour with a bi-weekly checklist to keep track of their growth.

# POSTIVELY ACCOMPLISHMENTS our Pride and Joy

### 8TH NATIONAL TEACHER-LED PROFESSIONAL SHARING SESSION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Our TL teacher, Mdm Alamu, presented during the 8th National Tamil Language Teacher-Led Professional Sharing Session for Primary Schools via Zoom. She shared insights of her lesson packages on using Inquiry-Based Learning to teach Tamil proverbs and Sensory Learning as well as infusing the Tamil cultural aspects.







Pupils crafting a story using Tamil cultural words



erly residents from Taman Jurong Eldercare planted and harvested their own vegetables at Westwood Primary School as part of the school's outreach efforts

### **SOUTH WEST ECO AWARD**

Our school won the South West Eco (Environment and Community) Awards 2019 under the Schools Category. The much-awaited award was received by the school in Term 1 this year, due to a delay during the Covid period.

The South West Eco Awards is an annual district award that recognises the community (including educational institutions) and corporate organisations for their contributions and efforts towards environmental and social sustainability. Our pupils have been actively engaged in activities such as planting and harvesting of vegetables which are then donated to the elderly residents at eldercare centres in Jurong. Environment Monitors have also been appointed to ensure electrical appliances are switched off when not

This is testament to our school's commitment to building a more sustainable Singapore. We will continue to keep up the good work and complement the nation's fight against climate change and drive for sustainable development.





### WESTWOOD MAKER SHARING

It is indeed our honour to be able to share with the Maker fraternity on how we flourish and innovate our Maker Education Programme and Makerspace activities in times of COVID-19. Mdm Long and Ms Teo shared with the participants over Zoom on how Westwood has redesigned the Maker programmes to enable making beyond physical boundaries and foster self-directed and the joy of learning. We hope that participants had a fruitful learning experience with us and we will continue to foster the good partnership to learn from one another



A group photo with the participants

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Environmental Science Society members participated in a poster design competition organised by Dunman High School in February to promote environmental sustainability. It was indeed an enriching experience for most of the members as it was their first time using an online platform, Canva, to create e-posters. Posters designed by our pupils were chosen to represent our school for this competition.

