

WESTWOOD BUZZ

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WESTWOOD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAY 2020
ISSUE 1

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PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



Together,
We Keep Ourselves,
Our Family and
Our Friends Safe

The year 2020 has arrived—and with it, the beginning of a new decade! This is the year we have marked for Westwood Primary to realise our Vision 2020 – to become a positive school of distinction. What a privilege for us to enter into yet another fresh start - now into our eighth year since our inception in 2013.

Yet, little did we expect that these are also unsettling times and COVID-19 is clearly impacting our personal and professional lives and those that we love. I would like to therefore take this opportunity to wish you, your loved ones and fellow colleagues, a safe passage through this difficult period. I am confident we will get through this together.

Looking ahead, we expect ourselves to take our community to even greater heights by harnessing the collective aspirations of our community to create new memories and special moments. Once again, may I invite all to come onboard with our school team to make this yet again, another extraordinary journey ahead!

Please take care, stay positive and be united as we ride this year together.

Mr Ng Yeow Ling
Principal

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VICE PRINCIPAL

Joining Westwood Primary at the end of 2019 was an exciting moment for me as Westwood's unique brand of education with Positive Education at its core was well-known in the education fraternity. The numerous and innovative programmes that Westwood has developed ensure breadth and depth in nurturing our students holistically while engaging them actively in all that they do. These past five months have been exhilarating



for me as I became a part of this innovative and vibrant family. From the playground to the classrooms, the joyful smiles and exuberant behaviour of our students never fail to make my day. I hope that I will be able to continue making a difference to the lives of students and staff at Westwood. Positively Westwood!

** Mr Low began his teaching career in Xingnan Primary School before his posting to Rulang Primary School and then Radin Mas Primary School as their Vice Principals. In December 2019, Mr Low was posted to Westwood Primary School. Mr Low holds the belief that every child, regardless of his/her background or family environment, must have access to quality education with an emphasis on Character Development.*

POSITIVE PARENTING REFLECTIONS

Every school year marks the start of a new beginning. A beginning where we welcome the little ones, the future pillars, the future leaders of society to embark on their journey of life. As a parent, you may feel a mixture of emotions i.e. feeling lost, eagerness, confusion and excitement when you leave your child in school. I have often experienced those emotions myself. Thankfully, with a robust system in place and committed school leaders and teachers, it will not be long before you see radiant smiles and joys on the faces of

your children when they return home each day from school. All parents can play a part in making your child's journey in Westwood a meaningful one, as you support the school's efforts in nurturing our children.

Mr Kelvin Lim
Parent Support Group (PSG) Chairman



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WESTWOOD'S BUNDLES OF JOY!

Congratulations to our colleagues, Mdm Khaizuran and Mdm Siti Aisyah on the birth of their adorable babies!



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1. Westwood Pri's Amazing Parent support Group!
2. Son of Mdm Siti Aisyah: Elsa Rauf
3. Twin daughters of Mdm Khaizuran: Yasmin Miqayla and Jasmin Marissa

POSITIVELY WESTWOOD THRIVING TOGETHER as a SCHOOL



P1 INDUCTION

The theme for this year's P1 Induction is 'Westwood - Where Learning Takes Flight'. In line with the theme of the event, a photo booth decorated with colourful images of hot air balloons, signifying learning taking flight was put up at the foyer to welcome our new batch of Primary 1 pupils. Many Primary 1 pupils and their families arrived early to capture this significant milestone of their child's life at the photo booth.

To help the little ones settle in quickly and comfortably, Primary 4 pupils were assigned to be their buddies for the 2 days of Induction. Under the patient guidance of their older buddies, the Primary 1 pupils were able to buy their own food independently during their recesses. They also forged strong friendships with their buddies and peers after these two days of interaction.



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PARENTS ENGAGEMENT DAY

Our Parents Engagement Day was held on 18 January 2020 on a Saturday morning. The objectives of this annual meeting are to enable parents to meet their child's form and Mother Tongue teachers and to have a bird's eye view of the year's activities concerning their child. They also get to have a deeper understanding of the

school's policies and have some of their queries addressed during the hall and class sessions.

Through this event, the school hopes to forge good communication pathways with the parents as we believe that having a good partnership with our parents will definitely benefit our students. Many parents felt that the session benefitted them and allowed them to have a better understanding of their child's learning journey as a Westwoodian. Thank you parents for making time to come down for this meaningful event!

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Westwood Primary celebrated Chinese New Year on 24 January. The theme for this year celebration is 'Reunion', which highlights the importance of family and appreciating everyone at home. The festive mood in Westwood was heightened as students were treated to interesting recess and class activities that allowed them to learn about the traditions associated with the festival.

The concert started on a high note with an exciting performance by the lion dance troupe

and a surprise dragon dance performance by our Parent Support Group. Students also had a joyous time enjoying the vibrant performance put up by our Wushu and Chinese Dance CCA groups. The entire celebration ended with singing of festive songs led by our teachers. Everyone had a lively time celebrating this festival together as one Westwood family!



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TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

Westwoodians commemorated Total Defence Day in a different setting, responding appropriately to the current Covid-19 situation and making the best out of it. The pupils stayed in their respective classrooms to watch the live streaming of the opening address by our principal, Mr Ng and the skit 'Together We Defend'.

Over the years, Total Defence has kept Singapore strong. The 6 pillars of Total Defence have reminded us that everyone plays a part in defending our



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homeland, Singapore. Total Defence brings on a special meaning this year as we rally together as a nation to fight against the Covid-19 outbreak. By doing our temperature-taking, practising good hygiene and adopting sensible social distancing measures, we believe we can and will overcome this challenge together.

1. All smiles and ready to be a Westwoodian!
2. Bonding Time!
3. The caring P4 pupils leading their young buddies to the canteen for recess
4. Mrs Tai, our Vice Principal, addressing some of the parents' queries during one of the hall briefings
5. Exciting Lion Dance troupe and Dragon dance performance by our Parent Support Group
6. Beautiful Chinese Dance CCA performance
7. Mass singing of Chinese New Year songs together added to the festive mood
8. Recess activities during Total Defence Day



THRIVE FIESTA

The annual THRIVE Fiesta 2020 was held at the end of the term. The objective of this fiesta is to inculcate our school's character strengths in our students by using various platforms such as Pre-Assembly Moments (PRAM), THRIVE periods and recess activities.

The lower primary students went through Character Building Activities where they internalised the school's character strengths by working in teams to solve problems. For our middle primary students, they learnt about leadership qualities that helped them to grow

as an individual and as a peer to others. The P6 pupils embarked on a discovery journey to explore the educational pathways available to them and find out more about choosing their secondary schools at the end of the year through the E-Career Guidance Programme.

The students were also treated to a wide array of recess activities such as the making of calming bottles, texture boxes and Jenga games focused on getting them to learn and practice mindfulness in their daily lives by paying attention to details and to be in the moment.



MAKER FIESTA

The theme for Maker Fiesta 2020 was "STEAMING AHEAD, LEARNING FOR JOY". This year, Maker Fiesta showcased the different aspects of making with S.T.E.A.M. booths. S.T.E.A.M. which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics is the foundational approach in which Westwood has planned our maker activities. From making a simple paper airplane to making music with a drum set using coding, the pupils celebrated the wonders of 'making'

during the fiesta. Gleeful laughter resounded from the different booths and their eyes widened in excitement at their peers' creative innovations. Our proud P4 pupils stood by their carnival games built with Micro:bit technology and confidently presented their projects. Pupils had a Maker card which they carried around with them as they visited each booth. Upon completion, they redeemed a personalised drawstring bag made using heat transfer technology. Westwood Staff had their share of fun making the personalised bags with their own designs too. The fiesta has sparked the spirit of making in both staff and students to be future Makers.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXCO RETREAT

The EXCO team and the School Advisory Committee (SAC) had a retreat where we brainstormed and dialogued on a few pertinent matters. We looked at what Westwood had done well so far, our areas for improvement and what the next lap for Westwood should look like. It was a very useful session as the SAC had a deeper understanding of our Westwood's journey of growth and the EXCO also benefited from the valuable insights and perspectives of our SAC. We look forward to the implementation of the ideas birthed through this retreat and to see Westwood Primary School scale new heights in this new decade!



SG UNITED, WESTWOOD UNITED

Westwood Primary School is determined and resolute in fighting Covid-19 with our nation. As a school, our number one priority is the safety of our pupils. We also want to ensure that learning goes on so that our pupils are meaningfully engaged. Here are some of the step-up measures we have adopted along the way:

- Pupils take their temperatures in the morning and in the afternoon (if there are afternoon programmes). They are also taught to take their temperatures whenever they do not feel well.
- After mealtimes, pupils do a wipe-down of their tables. Wipe-downs are also done in class.



- Handwashing is done frequently. Teachers also reiterate the importance of personal hygiene.
- Social distancing is done in class with pupils sitting apart. Students also queue at a distance from each other in the canteen.

The nation also went into the circuit breaker mode. Teachers worked tirelessly to prepare online lessons to make our pupils' learning at home, a meaningful one. Together, we believe that as we all play our roles and parts well, we will be able to overcome Covid-19 ultimately. SG and Westwood United!



1. Students exhibit character strengths by working together to solve problems
2. Students learn how to lead themselves and their peers through games
3. Bright smiles after redeeming their personalised bags after completing all STEAM activities!
4. Eager learners awaiting their turns to participate in the STEAM activities during Maker Fiesta
5. Mdm Sherine Yap, our Lower Primary Year Head, facilitating one of the break-out groups
6. An envisioning session facilitated by Ms Elaine Lai on how we want Westwood to be like in ten years' time
7. Taking temperatures in class is taken seriously by all pupils

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS LOWER PRIMARY



A NOTE FROM OUR LOWER PRIMARY YEAR HEAD, MDM SHERINE YAP



Dear parents and pupils, it is my pleasure to be your Lower Primary Year Head this year. In Westwood, we firmly believe in the importance of a holistic education that extends beyond the confines of the classroom. We want our pupils to excel not only academically but also physically, socially, emotionally and mentally with strong character and leadership qualities. All our Lower Primary teachers are committed to nurturing each and every of our young

charges to help them maximise their potential and achieve our school's vision of nurturing 'Future-ready, Anchor-steady' Westwoodians.

I firmly believe that each pupil has his/her own individual strengths and talents. As we receive pupils of different abilities, talents and potential into Westwood, we aim to help every one of them achieve success and maximise their potential in the various domains. Some of the varied experiences provided at the Lower Primary level are the P1 & P4 Buddy Programme and our exciting PAL lessons and interaction time which provide opportunities for our Primary 1 and 2 pupils to learn about self-care, social awareness, as well as develop their appreciation for others. We hope that these little ones will be able to live balanced and holistic lives through the development of character and values while they pursue their dreams and aspirations. We look forward to seeing their achievements in all aspects!

HAPPENINGS AT THE LOWER PRIMARY LEVELS (SEMESTER 1)

Level Buddy Programme



Our P4 pupils teaching our P1 pupils how to buy food during recess time on their first two days of school.

PAL Programme



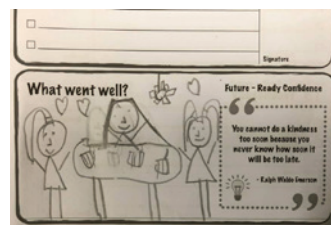
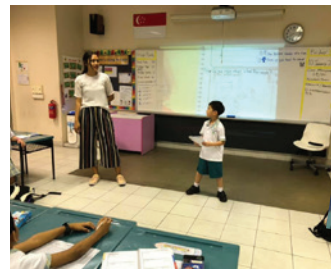
The Programme for Active Learning (PAL) is an important part of our holistic education in Westwood. Pupils learn social and emotional skills through play and activities. Their satisfaction, smiles and creativity are priceless.



Everyone learns best when they have fun, especially when they have fun together! That is what the Primary 2 and 5 pupils from the various classes did today for a time of bonding. Using Strawbees, the P2 pupils learnt through exploration with their P5 buddies. Together, they made fascinating prototypes to bring home.



What Went Well



Our Primary One pupils had their first What-Went-Well session today, where they reflect on the positive moments for the week. From their drawings and reflections, we are heartened to know that many of them had good experiences in their first week of school.



A NOTE FROM OUR MIDDLE PRIMARY YEAR HEAD, MR PREMNATH

Dear parents and pupils, in the midst of the changing times, it has been a rewarding journey working hand in hand with all of you. My team of dedicated Primary 3 and 4 teachers always believe in going the extra mile to provide the best learning opportunities for your child.

Westwoodians in the Middle Primary are given numerous opportunities to hone their interests and passion. At a young age, pupils embark on Project Work where they leverage on their ICT skills and immerse in collaborative learning experiences. This is also an opportune time for us to reflect on the importance of working together and forging strong ties with one another. I am heartened to share that during our THRIVE

lessons, teachers focus on Peer Relationship Management and Building Resilience and Teamwork in a child. Through these enriching learning experiences, teachers work closely to instill essential values in our pupils. Under the Positive Education Programmes, our pupils truly thrive and flourish!

As educators, we hope to seek your continuous support in preparing your child not just for his/her education, but for his/her journey ahead. As the quote says, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Let us work together to bring out the best in your child!

HAPPENINGS AT THE MIDDLE PRIMARY LEVELS (SEMESTER 1)



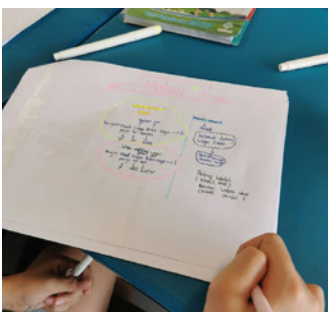
P4 Project Work



The P4 pupils embarked on their Term 1 Project Work cum ICT Baseline Programme and they acquired skills such as coding, collaboration and independent learning. They also experienced the joy of learning and making! They came up with many interesting and creative Micro:bit carnival game prototypes for their target communities.



Conversational Chinese/Malay Programme



Under this programme, Primary 4 pupils taking Chinese Language will learn Conversational Malay and pupils taking Malay Language and others will learn Conversational Chinese. The purpose of this programme is to strengthen bonds among students of different races and at the same time, help them acquire the languages that would enable them to operate comfortably in the region.



P3 Prefects Annual Leadership Training

P3 prefects had their first session of the annual leadership training on 11 February. The training session focused on getting pupils to complete a kindness project by showing a heart of gratitude. Prefects learnt how to communicate effectively and kindly through the session.



P4 Science Greening for Sustainability Programme



The Kai Lan seedlings which were planted by our Primary 4 students as part of the Science P4 Greening for Sustainability Programme had grown into large and juicy vegetables. Being the first crop of the year, it was a bumper harvest indeed! Green Club students were delighted as they helped to cut and pack the vegetables.

P4 ORFF Ensemble Module (Music)



Our Primary Four 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, metallophones. They were given the opportunity to express their creativity through improvisation and music-making activities as an ensemble.



A NOTE FROM OUR UPPER PRIMARY YEAR HEAD, MDM SOPHIA TAN

Our lives are made up of different stories and each one of us are unique in our own ways. Every child, every one of you, is significant in your own way. We play multiple roles in our lives, encounter different people

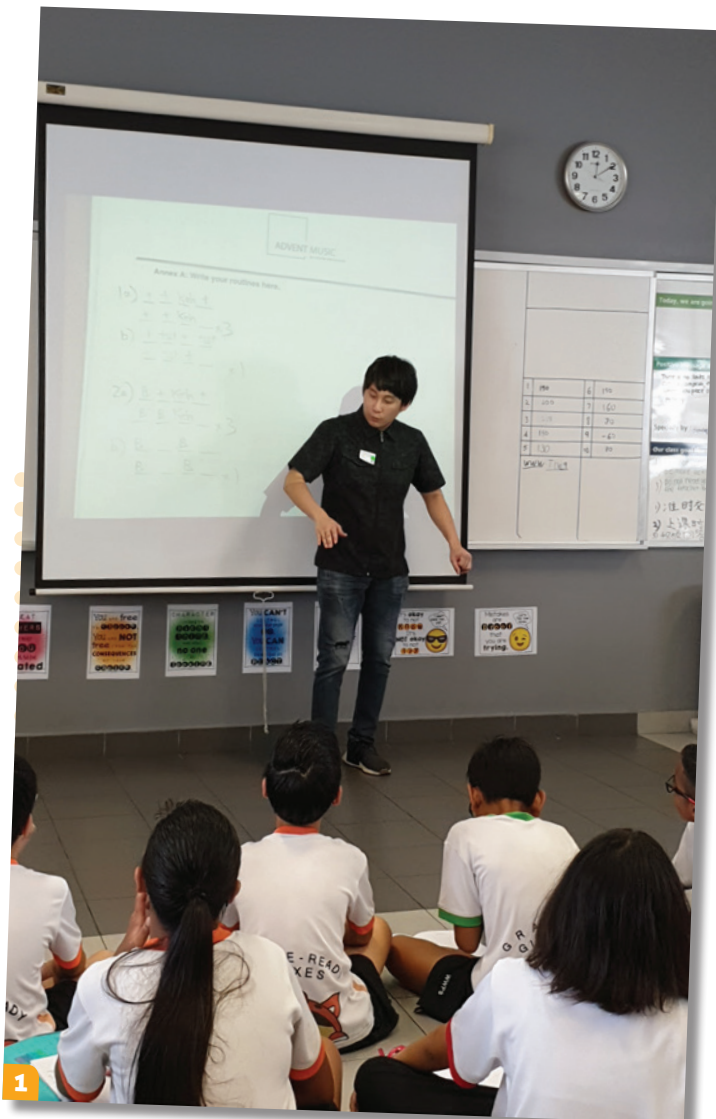
and learn from different experiences daily. Every challenge or opportunity is part of our learning process. In the spirit of Positive Education, we hope that every child will continue to strengthen his or her own character strengths, embrace a growth mindset, finding hope in all that he or she does. May each and every one of you continue to flourish and thrive in all you do.



HAPPENINGS AT THE UPPER PRIMARY LEVELS (SEMESTER 1)

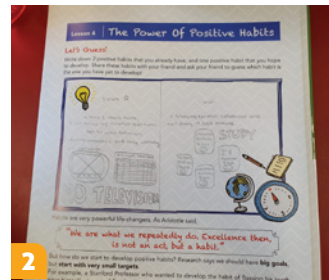
P5 & P6 Beatboxing Music Module

Our Primary Five and Six pupils are exposed to the art of Beatboxing during their Beatboxing Module and learnt to perform the basic sounds of Beatbox and apply them in simple groovy routines and improvisation. They have developed creativity and perseverance as they explored vocal percussion (organic sounds), vocal instrumentation, and the versatility of the human voice and beatbox as a music genre. They were much inspired by external instructors who are veteran professional beatbox artists who guided them on performance and showcase techniques.

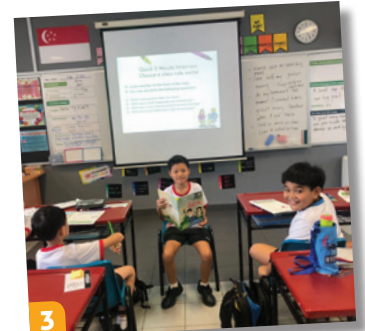


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P5 Hope Programme (T2)



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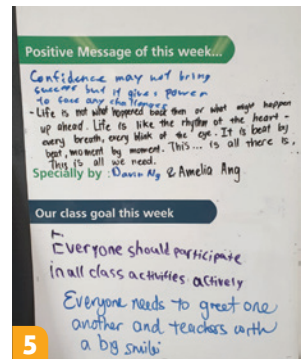
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Aligned to our Positive Education focus - "My Journey of Hope", an activity booklet was created to inspire our P5 pupils to set meaningful and achievable goals through exploration. The booklet also aims at developing their Character Strengths and Positive Habits. Students were led through a series of themes, to understand how to set meaningful goals, identify strategies that could help them achieve the SMART goals they have set along the way, track their successes and reflect on the overall process.

P6 Growth Mindset Programme



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The graduating year is sometimes an anxiety-filled year for some pupils but at Westwood Primary, pupils are taught to manage these emotions with positive education strategies. Through board games, pupils are taught to embrace the growth mindset instead of the fixed mindset and look at learning positively. They are taught to embrace challenges positively as a chance to grow in resilience and strength. Pupils also know that they are not alone. As a class, they work towards their class goals and pupils are also encouraged to share a class quote to inspire the class to work towards their goals in a positive manner. Every Friday, pupils also write a 'What-Went-Well' moment in the week to cultivate gratitude.

1. One of our instructors, Mr Charles 'Stitch', demonstrating skilful and enthralling beatboxing techniques and performances.
2. Pupils reflect and share positive habits they are have or are trying to develop
3. Interview with one of the class role models on how he developed and sustained his positive habits
4. Teachers play the Growth Mindset Board Game with their pupils so that they can use spot teachable moments to educate the pupils
5. An example of a class quote and a class goal

POSITIVE COMMUNITY



COLLABORATION WITH HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

A group of 17 Hwa Chong students organised a series of activities to inculcate leadership qualities in our P3 to P5 prefects. This collaboration provides a valuable opportunity for our prefects to learn from the more experienced Hwa Chong students and to be able to view student leadership from a different lens.



OUTREACH TO THYE HUA KWAN SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTRE

Just before Chinese New Year, Westwood Primary sent our love to the senior citizens at Thye Hua Kwan Senior Activity Centre at Taman Jurong. Our pupil representative and teachers were warmly welcomed by them. The cards made and decorated by the Primary 4 and Primary 5 pupils also brought a smile to their faces.

OUTREACH TO MOE KINDERGARTEN

Pupils from Westwood's MOE Kindergarten came to join us for some Chinese New Year activities. The pupils learnt more about Chinese New Year traditions and they also learnt how to make mandarin orange craft. Look at the happy faces of the pupils as they brought home a pair of oranges that was made by them!



OUTREACH TO YUHUA ELDERLY CENTRE

As part of our community outreach, the Kai Lan vegetables planted by our P4 pupils were harvested and packed. They were presented to the elderly centre at Yuhua. The elderly folks were very happy to receive the vegetables.



GIFT OF LOVE PROJECT – NG TENG FONG HOSPITAL



This year, our Gift of Love Project focused on our admirable healthcare workers. The staff and pupils contributed tokens of appreciation to Ng Teng Fong's staff, represented by Mr Foo Hee Jug, CEO of Ng Teng Fong General Hospital. We wanted to express our thanks to the medical staff at the frontline fighting against Covid-19. Our pupils wrote words of appreciation and encouragement to spur them on. We believe that together, we will overcome this difficult time as a nation!

POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OUR PRIDE AND JOY



MAKERSPACE CATAPULT AND ARMY MAN LAUNCHER CHALLENGE

Army Man Launcher Challenge 2020
Make a launcher to help the army man fly across the river for safety!

Name	Class	Distance (cm)
KAELYN BAK XUAN YIN	3 Confidence	270
LIM YEW RUI CLARENCE	4 Diligence	810
IAN TOH JIACHENG	5 Diligence	810
YDE EZEL	6 Synergy	480

Change Makers - Making a Difference



"We are all Makers!" Some pupils took part in the Makerspace Catapult and Army Man Launcher Challenge! They were given prizes for their efforts and skills.

GRADUATION OF OUR BEGINNING TEACHERS

Time flies! Our beginning teachers have been with us for two years already. We celebrate their growth and success as they continue their journey as Westwood teachers!



PRESENTATION OF PAPER AT MALAY LANGUAGE SEMINAR 2020

Mdm Elna presented her research paper on Oral Interaction Skills using the SLS portal at the Malay Language Centre Singapore during the Malay Language Seminar 2020. She was presented with an appreciation award for her sharing which benefited the educators from the fraternity. Congratulations, Mdm Elna!



SILAT COMPETITION AWARDEES



Mr Ng presented the medals to our silat competition winners, Nur El'rina from 4 Synergy and Muhd Dani from 3 Gratitude. Keep up the good work and continue flourishing!

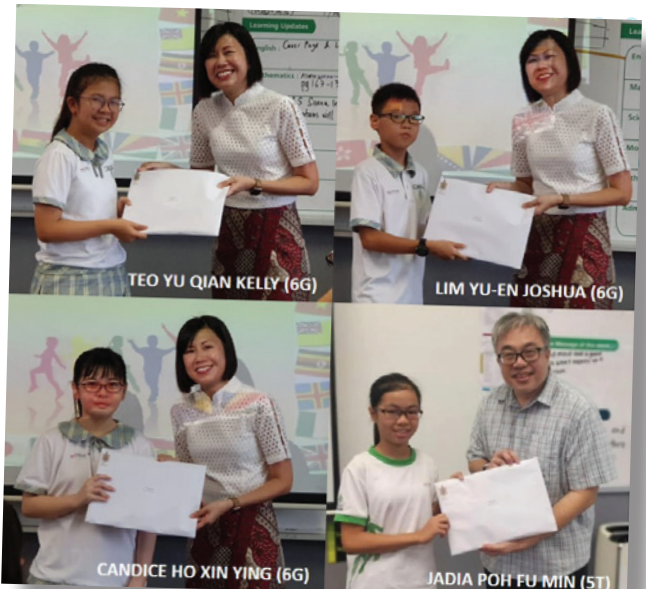
OUTSTANDING CLASS AWARDS

Congratulations to the winning classes (1G, 2H, 3S, 4D, 5T and 6G) for the Outstanding Class Award for Term 1. Keep up the good work and keep thriving!



RAFFLES SCHOLARSHIP 2020

Since 2015, the Raffles Scholarship Series has supported more than 2000 students, including 189 students from 87 primary schools. Congratulations to all the award recipients!



CHARACTER STRENGTH AWARDS

Every term, the teachers will look out for a pupil in their class that demonstrated the Westwood character strengths strongly. The teachers presented the certificates and gifts of appreciation to the awardees of the Character Strength Award in class.

