

CONTACT

The Teachers' Digest

FYI: MAKING TECHNOLOGY COUNT

Ideas and resources to use ICT effectively.

HELP THEM BUILD THEIR FUTURE RIGHT

Mr Wong Siew Hoong on the importance of values.

THE JOY OF GIVING

Fun ways to do good in the upcoming December holidays.



Entrepreneurial Mindset

CYBER
Savvi-
ness

SELF-
MANAGEMENT
SKILLS

GLOBAL
connectivity

THRIVING IN
UNCERTAINTY

Preparing
students
to be
FUTURE-
READY

Educators share their thoughts on the skills and attributes that students need to thrive in the days ahead.

DATA-DRIVEN WORLD

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How much do you know about our education heritage?

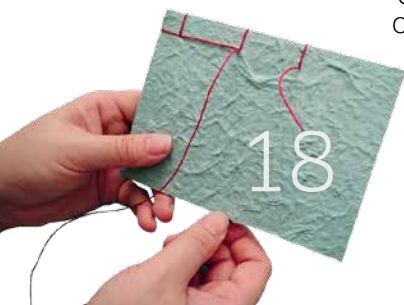
Put your knowledge to the test and you may be a winner!



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CONTACT

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THIS ISSUE...

What does the future hold? No one knows for sure, but we can keep abreast of the trends that will shape the world our students will live in. In our cover story, four educators give their views on how teachers play an important role in preparing students for the future.

To help educators keep their students ahead of the pack, we have listed ICT ideas and resources in our FYI and In Focus sections that they can use to enhance their lessons.

Teachers are indispensable as well in guiding students to have the right values, so that the latter will have a better chance at succeeding in the unpredictable future, says Director-General of Education, Mr Wong Siew Hoong. In Heart to Heart, he urges teachers to build strong professional bonds with students and constantly improve their pedagogy.

In this issue, we also share some memorable moments of "Good Morning 'Cher: Our Schools, Our Teachers, Our Stories", a public exhibition held to remember our past and honour our pioneers. More than 55,000 visitors made their



way to the exhibition, which went to various locations around Singapore in July and August.

Finally, turn to the Lifestyle pages for ideas on how you can have fun and do good at the same time during the upcoming school holidays! Find a list of things you can eat, buy and do to experience the joy of giving.

Happy reading!

The Contact Team

Readers' comments

What do you think of *Contact*? Share your thoughts at contact_online@moe.edu.sg and you'll receive a limited edition MOE SG50 NETS FlashPay Card! Get the soft copy of the magazine at www.moe.gov.sg/teachers-digest



The July issue has a good mix of colours, graphics and fonts, which makes the magazine attractive. The descriptions in "X Factor Teacher's edition" are funny, true, and a pat on the back for all teachers. We are quite excited about the word cloud on the schools' values [in FYI], as it shows how all our schools are moving in the same direction.

Staff
Character and Citizenship
Education Branch

Kudos to *Contact* for the excellent features on our fraternity. The special Heart to Heart feature on how the Tanjong Katong Primary School family dealt with the Sabah earthquake is particularly touching. I am really heartened that *Contact* does not shy away from covering such difficult issues.

Mdm Gan Ai Lee
Subject Head of Art
Endeavour Primary School

I look forward to receiving the magazine and reading the articles. I especially like that you invite teachers to submit entries about their thoughts and special moments in school. These give teachers a voice in this teacher-centred magazine.

Ms Joylynn Lim
Teacher
Pei Hwa Presbyterian
Primary School



In a dimmed room, a group of CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School students were seated in front of a huge video screen; with the help of their science teacher, they had just connected with Arctic explorer Jamie Buchanan-Dunlop over Skype.

"Good morning or good afternoon, what time is it for you?" greeted Mr Buchanan-Dunlop in a strong British accent. "It's 3pm!" replied the girls. When he turned his camera towards the window to show them the snowy landscape, the students reacted with oohs and ahhs. They soon

began a lively Q&A session, with the explorer being asked everything from what he did at the Arctic, to questions like how the current affects the amount of CO₂ dissolving in the ocean.

After the animated session, their teacher briefly reviewed the points discussed before assigning the students to reflect on learning points, in pairs. The lesson that had just transported them to the Arctic had piqued the girls' interest not just in science, but in global issues like climate change.

What are some skills and attributes that teachers can equip their students with, so that the young ones can thrive in the future? Educators share their thoughts with us.

The NEED to talk about the FUTURE

Experiences that transcend the physical classroom are becoming more common as the remotest parts of the world gain high-speed access to the Internet. It is a scenario that was hard to imagine two decades ago.

In fact, if the rapid pace of change in recent decades is anything to go by, the world that our students will live and work in will be vastly different from today's. It will be a future that no one can predict with certainty.

These two themes – an increasingly connected world and an uncertain work future – surfaced during MOE's discussions with teachers on the future, shares Mr Calvin Chong, Senior Deputy Director at the Planning Division.

Mr Chong heads a team that analyses future trends and anticipates how such developments will affect the education sector. He says one way for educators to prepare for the future is to talk about it. Hence his team has been holding focus group discussions with educators since 2014 to find out how they adapt to changes. To prompt discussion, Mr Chong's team uses resources such as "thought cards" – physical cards that highlight one trend each and ask probing questions such as "How will technology disrupt learning?". The team also gathers feedback on the growing trends in education from the Schools Division's meetings with teachers and principals.

When *Contact* spoke to educators on how teachers can prepare their students for an uncertain work future in an increasingly connected world, they say their focus is to equip their charges with skills and attributes that will remain relevant in the days ahead. This would

include nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset, teaching self-management skills, developing the ability to process data, helping students gain cyber savviness, and guiding them to make important life decisions.

NURTURING an entrepreneurial MINDSET

Two decades ago, careers like social media strategists or mobile app developers were unheard of. Similarly, the jobs our students find in the next decade may not exist yet.

As the job landscape evolves, students need to have an entrepreneurial mindset to adapt quickly to changes, says Mr Loh Chih Hui, who is the Head of Department (HOD) for St Nicholas Girls' Integrated Programme.

Such a mindset enables one to be quick in spotting and seizing opportunities, while being creative with new ideas. This will prepare students to "identify and ride trends" and react nimbly even as new developments emerge, Mr Loh says.

To this end, St Nicholas Girls' offers an entrepreneurship elective module for Secondary 3 students, where students learn to apply what they have learnt in the classroom, to the real world. One team, for instance, brainstormed and pitched ideas to help an urban gardening company market its products to the public.

At the end of the lesson, Mr Loh explained to the students the importance of what they had learnt. For instance, he helped them see that by pitching ideas, they were not just being entrepreneurial but were also honing their skills in communication.



Mr Loh Chih Hui
Head of Department
Integrated Programme
CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School

As the job landscape evolves, students need to have an entrepreneurial mindset to adapt quickly to changes.



Mr Calvin Chong
Senior Deputy Director
Planning Division

One way for educators to prepare for the future is to talk about it.



Ms Lavinia Selvakumar
Subject Head of History
Orchid Park Secondary School

“Flipped” learning... encourages students to be more self-directed while optimising class time for interactive discussions.

Teaching SELF-MANAGEMENT skills

An uncertain work future may see individuals working in unconventional management structures such as a holacracy, where each employee determines his own job responsibilities and handles different roles in various projects. Holacracy is already being practised in several US companies.

Work arrangements, such as telecommuting and freelancing, may also increase, meaning employees will have more autonomy over their time and their resources. Therefore, future workers will have to learn how to manage themselves well.

Teachers here are already helping students hone this skill by guiding them to manage their own learning.

Ms Lavinia Selvakumar, Subject Head of History at Orchid Park Secondary School, uses “flipped” learning, which she says encourages students to be more self-directed while optimising class time for interactive discussions or activities that enhance their learning.

A typical “flipped” lesson would go like this: Ms Lavinia assigns her students notes or videos on a new topic to read or watch before attending her lesson. Then, during class, she plays the role of a facilitator to get them to reflect on what they have read or watched with relatable real-life scenarios.

It is crucial to give students realistic examples to contextualise facts and knowledge, so that they can see the relevance of the lesson, she explains. “I want them to realise that the concepts they are learning are part of our everyday lives.”

Case in point: in a lesson on conflicts between nations, she gets her students to role-play as quarrelling friends and think about how they would resolve the imaginary dispute, in order to make a lesson more memorable.

Through the process, Ms Lavinia guides her students to practise critical thinking skills by raising questions, and assessing the pros and cons of different solutions. If the solution they choose is, say, finding a mediator, Ms Lavinia will use that to explain the function of intergovernmental organisations in world affairs.

With the benefits that “flipped” learning brings, educators that *Contact* spoke with believe it will become more common in the future.

Developing THE ABILITY to ANALYSE data

As Singapore works on becoming the world’s first Smart Nation, there will be an increased usage of high-tech sensors that monitor and collect data in every aspect of our lives.

The data from these sensors can help to improve everything from healthcare and traffic to policy-making, meaning that workers of the future need to know how to make sense of the deluge of data, says Ms Mindy Wong, HOD of Digital Literacies at Innova Junior College (IJC).

“Students who can process data to see connections and trends quickly can thrive in a data-rich world,” adds Ms Wong.

To work well with data, one needs to be able to break down and analyse vast amounts of data and sort them into useful patterns. Ms Wong plans to introduce data analytics courses, so IJC students can learn to process data using programs such as Excel.

ENHANCING cyber SAVVINESS

The increasingly connected and data-filled world also brings with it a complex cyber landscape.

To introduce students to the risks and benefits of living in this digital landscape, IJC partnered the Ministry’s Guidance branch to pilot a cyber wellness lesson on Smart Nation earlier this year. One issue that students were introduced to was data security, which Ms Wong believes is something students and teachers need to be more aware of as devices become even more connected in a Smart Nation future.

Mr Loh from St Nicholas Girls’ imagines a future where teachers could use experiential virtual

lessons to teach students to handle cyber risks. Students could participate in online simulations that require them to respond to issues such as invasion of online privacy and cyber bullying.

Teachers would then guide the students to evaluate their responses, such as helping them assess whether they could have chosen a better way to handle the issue, he adds.

Guiding students to make **LIFE DECISIONS**

Beside equipping students with future-ready skills and attributes, teachers also play an indispensable role in giving personalised advice on important life decisions, such as career choices.

As the career landscape becomes more fluid, students will need even more guidance on the varied paths they could take, says Jurongville Secondary School's principal, Mr Benny Lee.

This is where a strong, professional teacher-student relationship comes in useful: teachers who have built rapport with their charges would know their hopes, aspirations, and abilities better.


To support educators in this role, MOE has resources including an e-learning module that prepares teachers to facilitate education and career guidance, as well as the Community of Pathfinders in Action – a network of industry leaders who can be invited to speak to students

about sectors ranging from science and business to sports and the arts.

Orchid Park Secondary's Ms Lavinia says that while online career tests are useful in pinpointing students' learning styles, they should be complemented with personalised career advice from teachers. For instance, a former student who scored high as a kinaesthetic learner on an online career test was advised by the career portal to become a baker – a career he was not keen on. Ms Lavinia, knowing his interest in aviation, however, affirmed that he could explore being a pilot instead, even though this option was not suggested by the portal.

Ms Lavinia says she draws from her understanding of her students' interests and aptitudes to guide them. She has sent students who are good in designing to related competitions and recommended schools or courses where they can develop their skills. In fact, Ms Lavinia herself became an educator after her junior college teacher spotted her potential and passed her an MOE scholarship form.

WELCOMING the FUTURE

As the educators have emphasised, nurturing future-proof skills and attributes – rather than predicting the future – is more useful in helping students to navigate an uncertain tomorrow. The role of the educator thus cannot be underestimated as teachers tap their invaluable personal experiences, along with their knowledge and the use of technology, to guide and facilitate their young charges. 



Mr Benny Lee
Principal
Jurongville Secondary School

As the career landscape becomes more fluid, students will need even more guidance on the varied paths they could take.



Ms Mindy Wong
Head of Department
Digital Literacies
Innova Junior College

Students who can process data to see connections and trends quickly can thrive in a data-rich world.

WAYS TO STAY AHEAD

Other avenues for teachers to understand future trends:

Leadership-driven dialogue within schools

- During staff meetings, school leaders can highlight relevant new trends to kickstart discussion, suggests Jurongville's principal Mr Lee.
- School leaders can also email teaching-related news articles to teachers as food for thought.

Learning communities across schools

- Link up with educators from other schools to stay updated on various pedagogical trends such as digital game-based learning.

A man with a mustache, wearing a white button-down shirt and dark trousers, is sitting on a modern metal chair. He is holding an open book on his lap and looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. He is positioned in front of a light blue wall that features a large, stylized white tree mural. To his right is a small white table with a glass of water and a closed book on it. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

Help them **build** their **future** right

Prepare your students for the uncertainties ahead by grounding them in values today, says Director-General of Education Wong Siew Hoong.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

We are moving into an increasingly complex and uncertain future. Our students will have to learn to deal with a lot more ambiguity in their adult lives. The challenges they face could be completely different from what we have experienced so far. Advances in technology may present them with fresh moral dilemmas. The jobs that many of them will do may not even exist now.

Despite the many uncertainties, one thing is for sure – with a solid value system in place, students will be better able to navigate the world of tomorrow. Values guide their motivations and actions, and will determine how they lead their lives.

I liken the future to a windy sky, and students to people trying to fly their kites straight and high. The kites represent their lives. To steer the kites against the changing winds, students need to stand on a firm ground of values.

As educators, we have the responsibility and opportunity to lay a strong foundation of values in our students' lives now before they take on tomorrow's challenges.

STAY TRUE TO OUR PROFESSIONAL VALUES

Once we have inculcated sound values in our students and equipped them with strong fundamentals of literacy and numeracy, we will be able to help them gain the soft skills and 21st Century Competencies they will need for the future.

How then do teachers cultivate strong values in students? It starts with us possessing a strong set of professional values.

In our day-to-day work as we interact with a multitude of stakeholders, we hold strongly to the belief that “every student can learn; every student matters”. Universal values like integrity, respect, and responsibility are equally important. More than being able to talk to our students about these values, we must be able to demonstrate them. By doing so, we'll earn and keep their trust and respect.

BUILD STRONG PROFESSIONAL BONDS WITH OUR STUDENTS

When I was teaching at MacPherson Secondary School, I gave each student an opportunity to practise their oracy and social-emotional skills by rotating them to speak for five minutes at the beginning of every class. Allowing them to

Despite the many uncertainties, one thing is for sure – with a solid value system in place, students will be better able to navigate the world of tomorrow.

share their interests or discuss light-hearted topics helped me to know them better as unique individuals, with different needs and personalities.

Such interaction with students does not take much time or effort, and yet goes a long way in forging positive teacher-student relationships.

Research has shown that strong ties between a teacher and a student greatly benefit the student's learning of academic knowledge and social-emotional skills.


These are valuable competencies they need to acquire in school, so they can be future-ready.

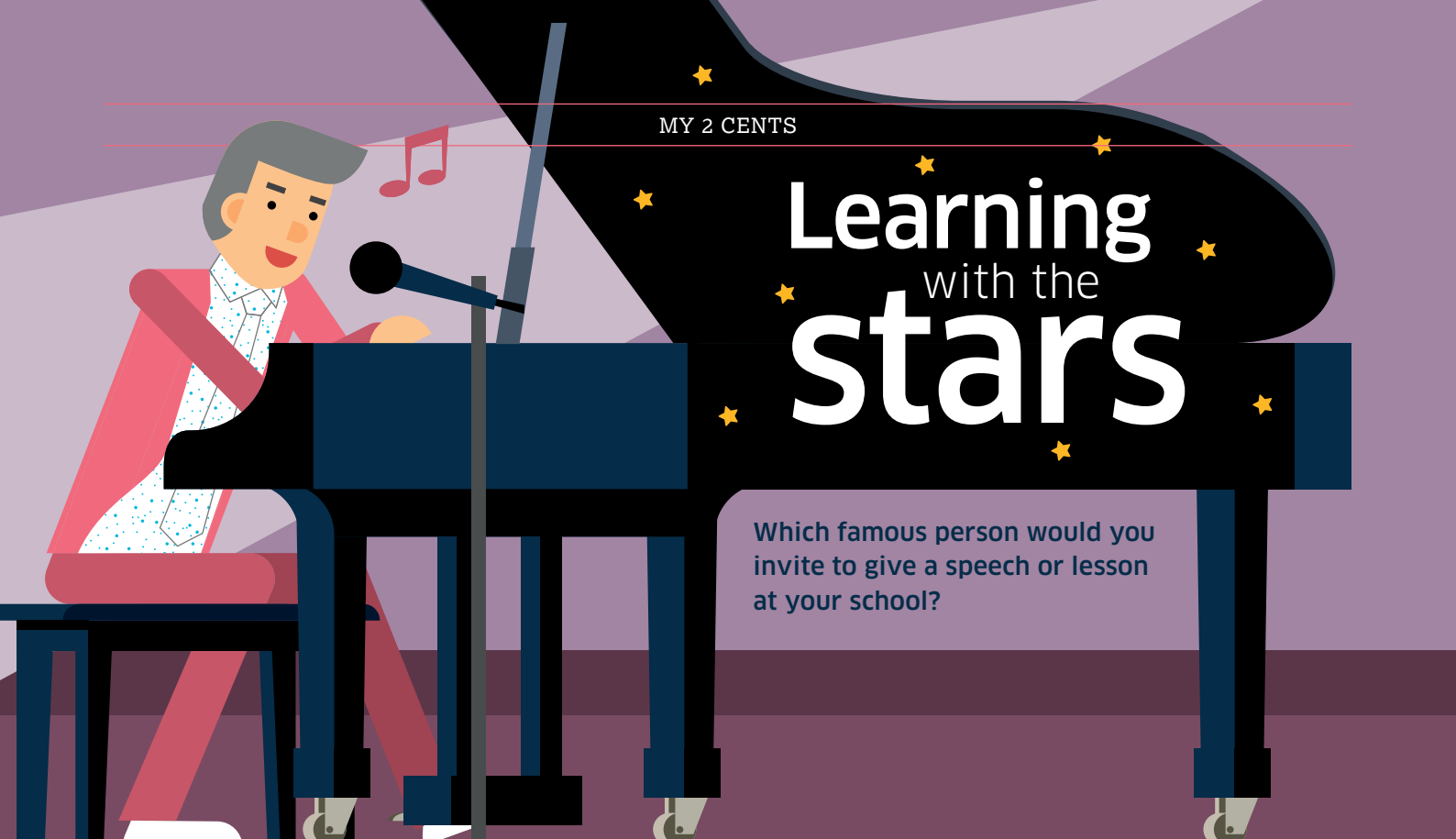
ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE BETTER

The world is changing rapidly, not just for students, but for teachers too. To thrive in such an environment, we must always improve ourselves — through professional development, mentorship, and communities of practice. And we do not do this alone. We are a part of a fraternity that will take care of each other, help each other grow professionally, and support each other in our work.

Inculcating values, teaching strong fundamentals and equipping students with 21st Century Competencies will require skilful pedagogies. Our sense of responsibility to our students must drive us to constantly think about and improve our pedagogy.

With sound pedagogy and a deep professional relationship with students, guided by a sense of mission and our professional value system, we will be able to do our best professional work with our students to help them acquire knowledge, skills and values and become productive citizens of Singapore.

As teachers, we hold a crucial role in this nation-building effort. I urge all of us to strive to be better and better teachers, so that we can raise our students to be better and better people. 



MY 2 CENTS

Learning with the stars

Which famous person would you
invite to give a speech or lesson
at your school?

★★ Best entry ★★

Ms Rebecca Ng
Teacher
Regent Secondary School

I would like to invite Mr Dick Lee. Students know his name and his popular song “Home”. It would be great for the artistic talents among my students to hear about the personal struggles and successes of a renowned artiste who has worked hard to be where he is today. Most importantly, students can see that someone else had walked this path, and they are not alone. It will be good to give them hope and inspiration.

Mdm Beanes Kartara
Teacher
Holy Innocents' Primary School

Nick Vujicic is an inspirational speaker who can motivate and encourage even those who are more fortunate than him. Although born with no arms and no legs, he looks at life with such excitement and knows how to turn his disabilities into opportunities. Nick's story would inspire our students to not take what they have for granted. He overcomes his disabilities by looking at life positively and we can learn from his example.

Ms Joylynn Lim
Teacher
Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School

Mr Siva Gopal from the Character and Citizenship Education Branch may not be internationally recognised, but his passion and involvement in community service projects and Values in Action (VIA) make him the right person to speak to teachers and students. In the midst of school life, sometimes the emphasis is placed more on what needs to be done than the why and how. Now and then, we need a spark to keep the fire in us going – Mr Siva may just be that spark to bring us back to the heart of VIA, so that we may light the way for future generations of teachers.

Next Issue

NEW EDUCATION IDEAS YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY OUT IN 2016

Get your creative juices flowing and share your thoughts with us!

Please send your submission to contact_online@moe.edu.sg by 19 Nov 2015. Submissions should be no more than 150 words, and these may be edited for length. Please include your name, designation, school and contact number. The best sharing will be published in the January 2016 issue.



MAKING TECHNOLOGY COUNT

Digital resources and tools, when used correctly,
can enhance your teaching work.

EDUCATORS' TOOLKIT

MOE's ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Masterplan 4 (mp4) aims to nurture future-ready and responsible digital learners. Educators are essential to its success and the following resources can help you in creating quality learning experiences for your students.



ICT CONNECTION

Check out the latest educational initiatives and information about mp4 on the ICT Connection portal launched by the Educational Technology Division. You'll find strategies to help students deal with cyber bullying, and advice on netiquette. If you want to meet like-minded educators from different schools, you can view the information of learning communities and communities of practice that you can join.

► ictconnection.moe.edu.sg

EDTECH SCAN

Stay updated with the latest developments in educational technology around the world by reading this monthly email on emerging innovations and applications. You'll see thought-provoking articles about the impact of technology on learning and youths; infographics of topics from teens' usage of media to skills needed for work; and recommendations of tools to boost learning.

► bit.ly/edtechscan1
(requires OPAL sign-in)

EDULAB@AST

Have a wild idea to use ICT in your lesson? Book a space at eduLab@AST to test your idea. You can also explore the newest technologies and try out innovative lesson packages developed by other educators. And do sign up for workshops conducted by experts in the field. These workshops may have you itching to try out creative teaching methods such as digital storytelling and mobilised learning.

► bit.ly/edulab-ast

CLICK

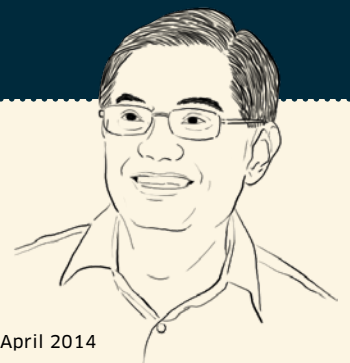
School leaders and key personnel, here's a microsite specially designed for you. CLiCK (Connecting Leaders in harnessing ICT to Create Knowledge) offers you resources to lead the integration of ICT in teaching and learning. You can also use interactive platforms to spur conversations, collaborate with fellow educators and learn from one another's experiences in overcoming challenges.

► bit.ly/clickmoe
(requires OPAL sign-in)

Information from the Educational Technology Division

"To be masters of technology, our teachers must adapt and learn – learn new skills and new ways of teaching and learning; learn how the young today are using technology."

– Education Minister Heng Swee Keat at the International Conference of Teaching and Learning with Technology, 9 April 2014



DOING TECH RIGHT

Seek inspiration from these local educators who successfully used ICT in their lessons.

LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE

>>> YISHUN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Objective
Tamil Language teacher Ms Sivakami D/O Ratha wanted to help a student whose communication difficulties were affecting his ability to express himself and interact with his peers.

Method
She taught him to use the 10”T Sigaram, a portal for Tamil Language students to pick up language competencies on their own within the lesson. He tapped the karaoke-style passages to record himself as he read the words on the screen. He also used the mouse-over function to listen for the proper pronunciation of the words, and conversed with his peers using the questions at the end of each passage.

Result
The student was able to share his thoughts clearly and confidently with his peers.



READ AND RECORD

PLAY WITH CHEMISTRY

>>> PEICAI SECONDARY SCHOOL

Objective
Chemistry teacher Mr Haresh Sivaram wanted to motivate his Secondary 3 students to grasp the nomenclature of ionic compounds.

Method
Using the free wRiteFormula app, he engaged his students in a game about the formation and naming of ionic compounds. Students advanced in the game by gaining experience points and they’d receive immediate feedback on their performance. The app, which was part of an eduLab project developed by ETD with four schools, allowed Mr Haresh to control the difficulty level of the gaming content to best suit his students’ learning pace.

Result
Chemistry concepts came alive in an exciting form, helping students to enjoy the process of learning that much more.



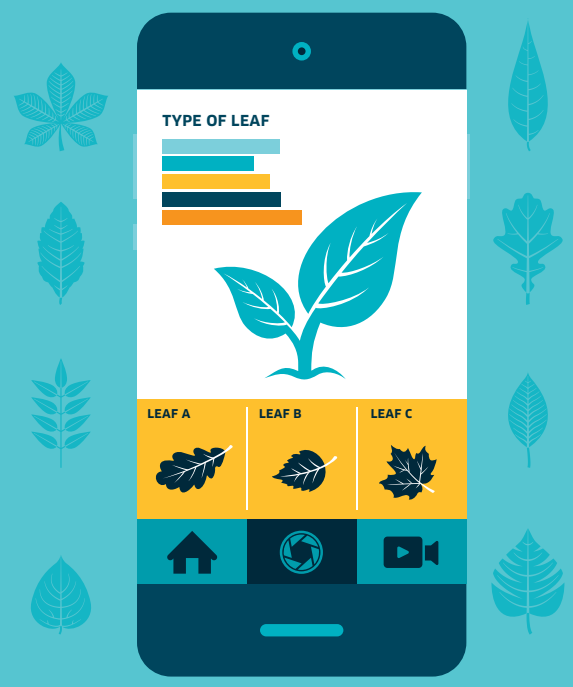
LEARNING ON THE GO

>>> FUCHUN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Objective
Mr Oh Ming Yeo, a Science teacher, wanted to guide his Secondary 1 Express Science class to understand leaf classification.

Method
After giving a lesson about the anatomy and key features of leaves, Mr Oh handed students iPads containing the ‘Explain Everything’ app. The students went to the school’s gardens and used the app to take photographs, videos and notes of various leaf types they found. With their observations and findings, they used the app to create videos on how leaves are classified. They then uploaded the videos on networking site Edmodo for peer assessment.

Result
Through the use of ICT, students improved their skills in observation, classification and verbal presentation.



GET YOUR CODING GAME ON

>>> RADIN MAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Objective
Mr Fok Yew Kuan, Subject Head of Knowledge Management, wanted to equip Primary 3 to 5 students with basic coding skills.

Method
He guided students to design games for one another using basic concepts of coding and tools such as Scratch, Game-maker and augmented reality. After receiving feedback from their peers, the students improved their games and clarified misconceptions about the contents.

Result
Besides gaining a stronger foundation in coding, the students were able to hone their logical thinking skills and nurture their creativity.





TRUSTY TEACHING AIDS

Local teachers share how apps have come in handy in their work.



"I find apps like Coach's Eye very effective in analysing the physical movements of my students. It allows me to correct their technique in, say, the standing broad jump."

– Mr Geoffrey Swee,
Nanyang Junior
College



“You don’t always need specialised educational apps to make an impact... I find Google Earth very helpful in teaching children about physical landforms and human settlements.”

– Mr Lam Yao Lun,
Kent Ridge
Secondary School



"Dots 4 Tots... is great for tracing shapes, letters and numbers. It also helps to improve my students' hand-eye coordination and attention span."

– Ms Estella Ng,
Movement for the Intellectually Disabled
of Singapore (MINDS)

COMPUTER TALK

Coding is quickly becoming an important skill. But first, get to know the three languages that the Internet can't do without.



HTML5

The fifth iteration of the Hyper Text Mark Up Language (HTML) standard, HTML5 defines the structure of a webpage. Even the most basic websites use HTML, making it arguably the most important language on the web.

► bit.ly/introhtml5

CSS

If HTML is the skeleton of a webpage, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is the flesh. CSS determines a page's appearance, including elements such as font and colour.

- ▶ [bit.ly/intro to CSS](http://bit.ly/intro-to-css)

JAVASCRIPT

JavaScript determines the behaviour of a webpage. Currently one of the most popular programming languages in the world, JavaScript is used in a wide range of web applications.

- ▶ [bit.ly/intro to javascript](http://bit.ly/intro_to_javascript), bit.ly/javascript_1

FREE WEBSITES WHERE YOU CAN LEARN THE BASICS:

W3SCHOOLS

The site is packed with text-based instructions and tutorials. Take your pick from a wide array of languages.

► www.w3schools.com

CODEACADEMY

With more than 20 million users, the site takes students through interactive, hands-on projects.

► www.codecademy.com

BEYOND OUR SHORES

Take a sneak peek at how other countries are using technology in education.

MAKING LEARNING A WAY OF (VIRTUAL) LIFE

An educator can now boost his skills and knowledge through MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) providers. edX offers lessons from Java Programming to languages. Coursera has courses on character education and blended learning.

- ▶ www.edx.org
- ▶ www.coursera.org

HARNESSING AUGMENTED REALITY

As educational institutions explore augmented reality, we may soon see students learn through virtual images and spaces. Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, for instance, has their medical students examine 3D holographic anatomical models of humans through Microsoft's HoloLens.

► bit.ly/hololens1

HELPING THE
UNDERPRIVILEGED

Initiatives to expose less fortunate youths to science and technology are happening. The Thinkabit Lab in San Diego guides students to make robots. Crowdfunding project Mars Academy has sent scientists to teach children in Brazil about planets and space exploration.

- ▶ bit.ly/thinkabit
- ▶ bit.ly/marsacademy1

ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION

Technology has taken collaboration to a global level. Online education programme, Level Up Village, brings together students from developing nations and those in the US to design solutions to global issues, such as making 3D-printed lights to tackle energy scarcity.

▶ www.levelupvillage.com
▶ bit.ly/luyedu



FIND US ON

Instagram



❤️ 89 likes

Young dancers exuding passion and grace through their movements. #Arts #YouthCelebrate



❤️ 599 likes

Let's gather for a #youthfie with Minister Heng Swee Keat!



❤️ 451 likes

We were so proud to see our students performing at a NE show. They did a great job! #MOESG50



❤️ 458 likes

Our very own MOE Contingent marching at a NE show, in preparation for #NDP2015.



❤️ 76 likes

Rugby players showcasing their hard work and determination. #Sports #YouthCelebrate



❤️ 302 likes

Happy birthday, Singapore! Woodlands Primary students had a blast at a NE show. #SG50



Follow **@moesingapore**
for the latest happenings in education.

To schools, with love

Held in July and August at various locations, and drawing more than 55,000 visitors, the exhibition “Good Morning ‘Cher: Our Schools, Our Teachers, Our Stories” showcased 50 years of our education journey.



01



02

“ Our teachers really had a never-say-die spirit. They did foot drills and went to training after a full day of work. They overcame the challenges and struggles very bravely. ”

Mr Gui Eng Hong
Teacher
Manjusri Secondary School



03



04



05



06

“By far the prettiest free goodies I’ve ever had.”

Instagram user
rimikooo



07

“A lot of the exhibition content relates to what I’m learning in Social Studies.”

Jacelyn
Student
St Margaret’s Secondary School

- 01 An officer from the Design and Technology (D&T) Unit explains the mechanics of a lamp created by a student for a D&T competition.
- 02 The public gets to interact with schools too. Eunus Primary School engages visitors in some interesting craft work.
- 03 The artefacts and replicas of past teaching materials fascinate the young and bring back memories for parents.
- 04 Oversized replicas of old textbooks. Do you recognise any of them?
- 05 Young children watching a video on an early 90s computer.
- 06 It’s selfie time with the “Good Morning ‘Cher” logo.
- 07 The complimentary tote bags and goodies bring smiles to visitors’ faces.



08



09



10

“ The exhibition helped the public [to] understand our education history and also helped me [to] make a more personal connection to our history. ”

Mrs Lai Yee Tyng
Good Morning 'Cher Ambassador

08 Some of the interactive displays that detail Singapore's education journey.

09 Kids filling out the activity cards with answers that they have learned from the exhibition.

10 Visitors hunt for their school crests among the hundreds on display.

11 Good Morning 'Cher Ambassador Mrs Lai Yee Tyng enjoying herself at the exhibition with students from Hougang Secondary School.

12 Arguably one of the most popular stations at the exhibition, the school songs booth attracts both adults and children.

13 A replica of a classroom of the past. The display's at the MOE headquarters.

14 Postcards showing schools and students in the past. Teachers from Stamford Primary have used these cards to discuss how they can build on the legacy of pioneer educators.



11



“ I love the school songs booth. I recorded part of my secondary school song and sent it to my ex-schoolmates – they loved it. ”

Ms Tammy Teo
Teacher
Eunos Primary School

12



13

“ The exhibition offers a glimpse of the past and helps me appreciate what we have now. ”

Eda Chua
Student
St. Hilda's Primary School



14

The Joy of giving

As teachers, we know that simple gifts like a note of encouragement, a small snack to say “good job”, or even just a warm smile could well make a student’s day. Beyond the classroom, and with the December holidays almost upon us, let’s keep that giving spirit going with a list of things that we can buy, eat and do for a good cause in Singapore.

EAT

HAVE LUNCH IN THE DARK

Organised by Dialogue in the Dark Singapore at Ngee Ann Polytechnic Block 5, you are led by a visually-impaired guide to a dining area to eat a full-course meal in utter darkness. Through the temporary loss of sight, you are challenged to use your other senses to taste the food and pour a drink for yourself. A great way to encourage empathy! Reservations are required.

► bit.ly/lunchindark



SOCIAL CUPPA

Not only does Crossings Cafe at 55 Waterloo Street employ youths at risk and disadvantaged individuals, all its profits go to charity. Its partnership with Assumption Pathway School also means students have internship opportunities. We hear the service is impeccable, making the cafe ideal for a pleasant day out. Opening hours are 8am to 10pm, weekdays; 10am to 10pm, weekends.

► bit.ly/crossingscafe

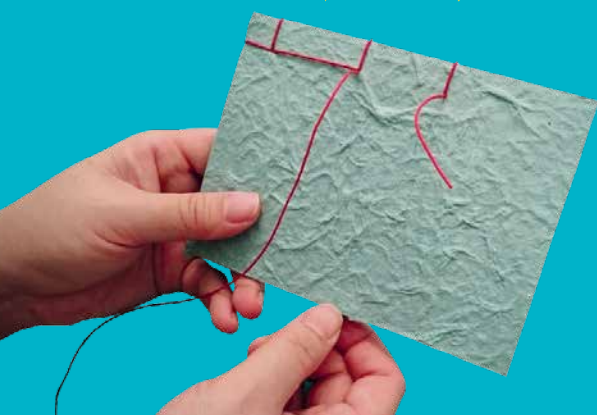


DO

BOOK THAT CAUSE

Hear ye, hear ye, book lovers and aspiring craftsmen. Learn to put a book together by hand at “A Bookbinding Cause”, a series of workshops conducted by The Thistle Bindery. Proceeds go to Child at Street 11, a childcare centre that helps underprivileged children.

► facebook.com/TheThistleBindery



FIX-IT-ALL

If you’re a whiz at mending fabrics or appliances, you can join Repair Kopitiam’s training programme to become a coach at its community meet-ups. Don’t worry if you’re the one who needs help for a fix. Repair coaches would be around at the meet-ups to guide you. Check out the Facebook page for the next session. Interested parties can also contact Repair Kopitiam at farah@sl2square.org

► facebook.com/repairkopitiam



HAPPY POTTERY

The Visually Impaired Potters (VIPs) of See-No-Clay make unique kitchen sets and sculptures. You can commission them for projects, or get your hands dirty by signing up as an angel to help these VIPs in their work every Wednesday, from 10.30am to 1pm. They promise lively chatter in return!

► bit.ly/seenoclay



SINGAPORE’S MASTER CHEF

Want to learn to cook and do good at the same time? The Dignity Kitchen, which trains the disabled and disadvantaged to become hawkers, has a ‘Hawker for the Day’ programme that will teach you how. You get to prepare dishes with these trained hawkers and serve the meal to the elderly and needy.

► bit.ly/dignitykitchen1

BUY

ANIMAL LOVER

Know someone who’s crazy over animals? The Animal Project’s quirky selection of flasks, t-shirts and notebooks would make the perfect gift. Not only would the artsy impressions of dogs, penguins and polar bears get ‘oohs’ and ‘aahs’, it’s rewarding to know that royalties are paid to artists with special needs who create the unique illustrations.

► bit.ly/theanimalproject



BLING RING

What’s better than wearing beautifully crafted accessories? Wearing jewellery that helps create jobs in developing countries! Designed in collaboration with acclaimed designers and design schools, and handcrafted by Cambodian artisans, each Saught accessory is made of scrap metal taken from artillery shells found in Cambodia. If you like the cause, wear some bling supporting it.

► vsaught.com.sg



PURR-FECT COMPANY

Need a mood booster? Cozy up with the adorable felines at The Company of Cats cafe at 6B Mosque Street. Once strays or abandoned, these cats are now part of the furniture. Part of the cafe’s profits go to the Animal Lovers League, so dine for a good cause. Opening hours are 12nn to 10pm, Tuesday to Friday; 11am to 10pm, weekends.

► thecompanyofcats.sg



Digital natives:

How to hook 'em

Contact susses out the defining traits of this new breed of learners and how you can capture their attention.



OUT-OF-BOX THINKERS ↑

They connect (seemingly) discrete concepts and explore different solutions to learn.

Strategy: Introduce these inquisitive ones to online mind-mapping tools (Coggle, Popplet, Mindmeister, Mindly) that can help them zig-zag their way to organising ideas and developing questions.

← KIND TECHIES

They're drawn to social causes, whether it's looking out for the needy or standing up for animal welfare.

Strategy: Start a blog or micro-blog (Wordpress, Tumblr) for students to share inspiring stories, promote causes and reflect on social issues. And let them spread these messages on Twitter.

MULTIMEDIA NINJAS →

They have a knack for using different forms of media in creative ways.

Strategy: Let them convey their ideas through short videos, photo journals, infographics or online presentation tools (Prezi, PowToon, GoAnimate, Infogr.am).

TEAM HUDDLERS ↓

Often seen working in groups, they are no strangers to collaboration and crowdsourcing.

Strategy: Get your students to consolidate research findings in a shared Evernote online notebook, where they can save webpages, photos, voice memos or handwritten notes. Go wild!

OMG ikr!
So #happy!
#examsover
#finally

KEYBOARD SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES →

They may be shy in person, but they express themselves comfortably online with acronyms and hashtags.

Strategy: Create a "back channel" of online polls, quizzes and comments (Poll Everywhere, Kahoot!, Nearpod, Twitter) to hear from all your students, even those who rarely raise a hand in class. Because they're too busy typing their opinions in an online forum.



Winning entries
this issue

Gifts fit for a teacher



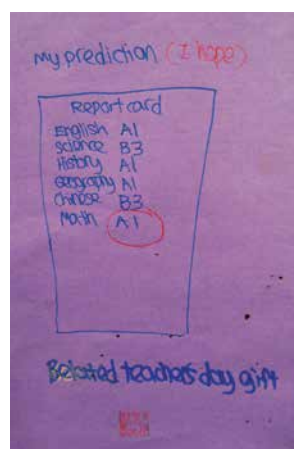
Handmade gifts will always have a special place in my heart. They speak of my student's love, creativity, thoughtfulness and effort.

Ms Clara Khoo
Teacher
St Hilda's Primary School



A gift to remind me to always shine bright no matter how dark it may be. My lamp may bring light to others.

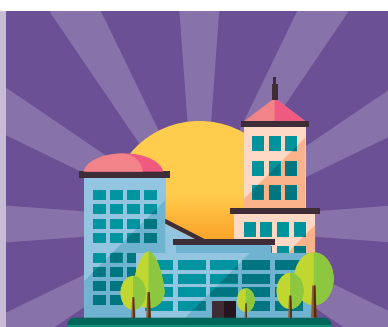
Mr Ahmad Abdillah bin Abdollah
Teacher
Hillgrove Secondary School



The students' willingness, sincerity and motivation to give their best to achieve anything is the best gift any teacher can receive.

Ms How Kai Tong Sonia
Teacher
Catholic High School (Sec)

Thank you for sharing your photos!
Each published photo wins a \$30 voucher!



NEXT ISSUE

INSPIRING SIGHTS AND SITES

Share with us an image or an area in school that catches your eye and energises you.

- The competition is only open to staff of Ministry of Education (MOE) Singapore.
- Each participant is allowed only one entry. The photo entry must be original and unpublished. The staff must be the original author and sole owner of his/her photo entry.
- The photo should be in high resolution, JPEG format.
- Submit the photo with your full name, institution, designation, email and contact number, failing which the entry will be rendered void.
- Provide a caption (max 25 words), explaining what the photo is about and how it reflects the theme. Captions may be edited for length, flow and clarity.
- Send both photo and caption to contact_online@moe.edu.sg by 19 Nov 2015.
- The photo entry will be judged based on relevance to theme, creativity and originality. The judges' decision is final.
- Three winners will each receive an attractive prize. *Contact* reserves the right to change or replace the prize with another of equal or greater value should the featured prize become unavailable.
- Prizes are not exchangeable for cash.
- All winners will be notified by email. Prizes not collected within two weeks will be forfeited.
- The copyright of all entries shall remain with the photographer. However, *Contact* reserves the right to use and modify the selected entry as well as other suitable ones, with full acknowledgement to the copyright owners, for future use.

GUESS & WIN!

How much do you know about our **education heritage?**

Find out with our SG50 quiz! This issue, we feature a machine used in the past. The first three readers who correctly guess what it is win an attractive prize each!



An equipment that
shapes material such
as wood and metal.

**THINK YOU HAVE
THE ANSWER?**

Send it to
contact_online@moe.edu.sg
by 19 Nov 2015.

The answers to last issue's quiz:

**1. VOCATIONAL
AND INDUSTRIAL
TRAINING BOARD**

**2. TEACHERS'
TRAINING COLLEGE**

**Congratulations to
these lucky winners!**

Mr Suneshkumar Mahalingam
Teacher,
Zhenghua Primary School

Mr Soh Beng Seng
Teacher,
Chua Chu Kang Secondary School

Mrs Toh Yoke Fan
Senior Teacher (Chemistry),
Catholic Junior College



Exhibition Moments

Didn't manage to visit the "Good Morning 'Cher: Our Schools, Our Teachers, Our Stories" exhibition? Flip inside to see some of the special moments in pictures!

