

Annex A**Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) 2008
WINNERS****Quek Swee Nee of Bukit View Primary School**

Quek Swee Nee is Head of Department for PE/CCA and Aesthetics in Bukit View Primary School. He believes that sports build character and hence should be enjoyed by every student. Spurred by that belief, he adopted an innovative approach to teaching and promoting sports among his students. For example, he makes reference to current world sporting events such as the 2008 Beijing Olympics to increase his students' interest in sports. He also introduced a mass CCA programme in his school to instil confidence and resilience through exciting and challenging experiences. Through this programme, students got to enjoy non-traditional and creative sports such as Hip Hop dancing and Crazy Cup Stacking.

His passion in sports is also evident from his efforts to inspire and raise the professional development of his peers in physical education. He wrote 'Disc In', a book about sports for physical educators, for that purpose.

Swee Nee also sought out collaborative opportunities with other schools and organisations to expose students to diverse cultures and experiences. He formed the national Ultimate Frisbee team in 2007 for youths. Beyond sports, Swee Nee also serves in grassroots constituencies such as Taman Jurong.

A source of inspiration to many, his passion in sports has motivated and challenged his students. For his spirit of determination and dedication in bringing sports to every one, Quek Swee Nee is conferred the Outstanding Youth Education Award 2008.

Luke Melvin Cher Teck Yiang of Mayflower Primary School

Luke Melvin Cher Teck Yiang is Acting Subject Head/Art and Aesthetics in Mayflower Primary School. Having a deep concern for foundation students, Melvin goes the extra mile to build and develop their self esteem.

To engage students in their learning, Melvin conceptualised *Project Carlos Santana* where every student was given the opportunity to learn to play the guitar. He believes that every student is gifted with musical talent, and refused to give up on helping them realize that potential. When one of his students found it very difficult to pick up this skill and nearly gave up on music, Melvin presented the student an alternative – learning a percussion instrument. By allowing his students to work at their own pace and giving them ample opportunities to explore their hidden potential, the student who almost gave up on music soon found himself performing to parents and members of the public. Melvin's project did not merely develop his students' musical talents, but also raised their self esteem.

His endless efforts have seen students being more engaged, open and curious in their learning. This is testimony to Melvin's belief that the discipline, values and social dynamics instilled through music and the aesthetics cascade into and beyond the academic area.

Melvin's passion in bringing music and the aesthetics to the students was evident in his school musical he organised last year. This musical was even given special mention in Prime Minister's National Day 2007 Rally speech.

For his innovative and passionate drive in developing students through music and aesthetics education, Luke Melvin Cher is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2008.

Chua Hwee Pheng of Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School

Chua Hwee Pheng, Acting Subject Head for Social Studies in Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School is firmly rooted in her belief that every student should be given an opportunity to start afresh in her classes.

As a classroom teacher and a Girl Guides' officer, Hwee Pheng seizes every teachable moment to develop her students. She recognises her students' different learning needs and abilities and she tailors her lessons so as to engage them in the learning. To better support her under-performing students, she gives them supplementary lessons and individualised coaching to guide them to realise their fullest potential.

Hwee Pheng believes in the holistic development of her students and shares an appreciation of the environment with her students in and out of the classroom. She makes a conscious effort to connect concepts with real-life examples. Drawing from her voluntary work in ACRES (Animal Concern Research Education Society) and the Night Safari, Hwee Pheng brings real life examples into the classroom to instruct and inspire her students.

One who walks her talk in respecting self and her peers, Hwee Pheng creates ample opportunities for her students to develop and grow. She sets high but realistic expectations for her students and is an excellent role-model for learning. She firmly believes in character education, and works actively in planning activities for that purpose. For example, she led students to Cambodia to build playgrounds for less privileged children there. Students appreciate her care and concern and many still keep in touch with her long after they have graduated.

For her dedication in instilling a passion for learning and devotion in the development of her students, Hwee Pheng is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2008.