

**OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD (OYEA) 2009
WINNERS**

Eugene Ng Ming Teck of Jing Shan Primary School

Eugene Ng Ming Teck of Jing Shan Primary school is deeply passionate about working with pupils and creating conducive learning environments for them. To keep his pupils excited about learning, Eugene is always thinking of creative ways to conduct innovative lessons out of the classroom. He brought his pupils to the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve for a lesson to help them better understand the magnitude of the forest, believing that visuals have a powerful impact on their learning process. Through careful planning of enriching outdoor learning experiences for his pupils, Eugene was able to imbibe in them values such as perseverance, resilience and team-building.

Believing that 'every child matters', Eugene establishes good rapport with them through his firm yet friendly demeanour. A sporty and 'fun-loving' individual, he is well-liked by his current and former pupils who appreciate his care and concern. He frequently shares anecdotes of people who have succeeded in life despite different challenges to encourage and motivate his pupils. He makes them realise that persistence in overcoming setbacks is a virtue. This was evident when he guided and coached one of his pupils to progress from merely copying the composition question to writing two lines and then finally completing an essay of 150 words for the PSLE.

Eugene initiates projects with external agencies such as the Scout Movement in Ang Mo Kio District to provide collaborative opportunities for his pupils to learn entrepreneurial and life skills. To boost their self confidence, he encouraged his pupils to perform at campfires and national skit competitions. He also organized fund-raising activities which led to increased interest and more pupils wanting to join the scouts' movement. By being involved in the Youth Expedition Programme, not only was he able to raise funds for the less fortunate in India, he also created a ripple effect among his colleagues to be involved in other charitable work.

For inspiring a passion for learning in his pupils, Eugene Ng Ming Teck is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2009.

Leow Hwee Fen of Anderson Secondary School

Leow Hwee Fen, the Subject Head for Mathematics in Anderson Secondary School, believes in the adage that 'a teacher is for life'. She exemplifies this both within and beyond the classroom. She constantly encourages her students to believe in themselves and take up the challenge to go beyond the limits they have placed on themselves.

Hwee Fen establishes excellent rapport with her students and spends quality time nurturing their interests. She goes the extra mile to tap the potential of each student under her charge. Hwee Fen spends much time with them after curriculum hours, motivating and guiding those who need extra help in Mathematics. To enable her students to better grasp Mathematical concepts, the classroom is brought outdoors so that her students can experience exploratory learning.

Hwee Fen believes passionately in the development of her students' character and morals. To her, teaching is about forging mentoring relationships with her students. Once a strong teacher-student relationship is established, effective and deep learning can take place in an atmosphere of warmth and trust.

To encourage innovation and creativity, Hwee Fen adopts a flexible approach in her teaching. She helps to develop the spirit of inquiry in her students by encouraging them to be forthcoming in giving feedback to other students and by questioning their answers and opinions. While working with her students on a Mathematics project on transportation organised by the NUS Mathematics Society, Hwee Fen focused on increasing her students' commitment level to the project as well as building their camaraderie. Though they did not emerge winners, her students gleaned important life lessons from the enriching learning experience.

Outside school, Hwee Fen is an active grassroots leader in the area of youth development where she serves as an Executive Committee Member of Anchorvale Community Club. She works closely with the Grassroots organisations to implement community development projects.

For her dedication in instilling a passion for learning and her devotion in developing her students, Leow Hwee Fen is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2009.

Muhammad Rezal Bin Ramli of Ping Yi Secondary School

Muhammad Rezal Bin Ramli, the Subject Head of Student Leadership (Internal) of Ping Yi Secondary School, is a dedicated teacher who strongly believes that sports and community service are powerful learning opportunities to develop students to become caring and responsible individuals and citizens.

As a teacher, Rezal understands the importance of actively engaging his students in the learning process and has initiated many interesting projects to achieve this. One such project was an ICT innovation called the 'Collaborative Classroom', where Web 2.0 tools were introduced to the students, enabling them to express themselves more effectively and learn beyond the prescribed curriculum. In addition, the project helped to equip his students with relevant life skills to better meet future challenges.

Rezal's involvement and dedication in serving both local and overseas Community Involvement Projects is exemplary. He initiated an annual youth development project entitled JASEAN Bridge that has made an impact on youths. He was also able to rally a team of committed teachers to participate in a Community Involvement Programme in Chiangrai, Thailand.

As President of Tchoukball Association of Singapore, Rezal coached his school team and many of them have become national players. He has also introduced this sport to other schools. In addition to skills acquisition, he emphasizes character development and instills discipline, teamwork and commitment through his training. His efforts have paid off, for instance, when a rebellious student was made a goal-keeper and later became a responsible team leader. The success of the players has increased their confidence and spurred many to return to train the school players, even after they have left school.

Rezal also serves as Chairman of the Tampines East Community Youth Executive Committee which spearheads projects like the Youth Olympic Games Open Space Forum and the Supernova Camp.

For being an inspiration, and for his dedication as an educator and promoter of sports and community service, Muhammad Rezal Bin Ramli is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2009.