

The Innovation Award

Chaoyang School – Express to Excel

In 2008, Chaoyang School set up an internet café to provide an authentic learning environment for its students. The goal was to equip its students with essential foundation skills and competencies to prepare them for life.

Commendably, it has followed up this year with a holistic performing arts programme which includes drama, dance and music. The school had earlier visited St Anthony's Canossian Primary and Port Philip Specialist School in Melbourne to learn about their performing arts programmes to prepare for their own programme. Now Chaoyang has created a platform in school where students can build their self-confidence in expressing themselves through fun and play. This develops their social skills and better prepares them for an enriching life ahead.

Chaoyang School has taken great pains to ensure that no student is left out of such an important programme. Students who are lower functioning or from lower-income families are also given the opportunity to participate in the programme. The programme has produced satisfactory results. Students have become more expressive and are empowered socially and emotionally to face life ahead with confidence.

Chaoyang School's total dedication in promoting students' learning has won them recognition through the Innovation Award again.

Tanglin School – Tanglin Business Entrepreneurship Project

The Tanglin Business Entrepreneurship Project is an innovative interdisciplinary student-centred teaching and learning approach taken by the school. With nominal capital given by the school, students work in pairs or small groups to embark on the complex task of setting up a business. They have to prepare a proposal, conduct research and market their products or services. At the school's Annual Family Day Carnival, students would then set up business stalls, which are patronised by their families, peers and volunteers from Keppel Corp, Tanglin School's community partner for the past 6 years.

A central feature of the project is the Token System. Tokens are used as currency at the Family Day Carnival. Not only is the token system an excellent behavioural management tool for the school, it has also provided opportunities for the teaching of thriftiness, saving and financial management.

Students are required to deposit their tokens every week with the Tanglin Bank, a simulated bank service operation, complete with computerised tellers as well as student bank officers, student security guards and student supervisors who are paid in tokens for their weekly service and contribution.

Students are guided by their teachers in keeping a record of the savings in their personal multi-media portfolio. The students are not only rated for their business performance and teamwork but also by the outcomes of their portfolios.

The project takes a dynamic approach towards teaching and learning. But most of all, it caters for the development of values, skills and attitudes, which are critical in preparing students for the demands of employment and adulthood upon their graduation.