

WINNERS OF THE OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD (OYEA) 2016

Ms Nurul Munirah Bte Abdul Samad, CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School (Primary)

Nurul Munirah Bte Abdul Samad's mission is to develop students into confident leaders with a strong sense of national identity and community spirit. She cares deeply about the character and citizenship development of students and has contributed strongly to shaping a positive Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) culture at a school level.

She has hosted a mock Indian wedding and organised a mini *Amazing Race* around Little India and Arab Street to create opportunities for her students to learn about cultural diversity. Munirah also collaborates with the Eurasian Community House, home of the Eurasian Association, and a performing arts company, Sri Warisan, to cultivate an appreciation for the culture of the various ethnic groups.

Munirah has developed a team of student ambassadors to encourage their peers' active involvement in events related to Social Studies and National Education. These student leaders have undergone a programme such as visits to the Singapore River and the Marsiling Tunnels used during World War II, to build their knowledge and conviction. A dedicated teacher, Munirah has also designed innovative curriculum packages for Social Studies to include fun-filled learning centre activities.

To support her peers in their professional development, Munirah organises learning journeys for teachers to understand the historical significance of street names. She also chairs sharing sessions to help her colleagues build confidence in delivering Social Studies concepts.

For her commitment to developing students with strong values and being an inspiration to her colleagues, Munirah is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2016.

Mr Joel Prathiev Vinson, First Toa Payoh Primary School

Basketball opened up the world for Joel Prathiev Vinson as a child. He spent many hours perfecting his game and that kept him out of trouble. Today, he is passing on some of those lessons as a PE teacher and Basketball coach. He believes in developing his students' character through PE and co-curricular activity (CCA) by teaching them about teamwork, responsibility and sportsmanship.

Joel expects his players to be good role models on and off the court. He organises study groups to ensure his players keep up with school assignments and places a lot of emphasis on values even in sports.

To ensure his students are rugged and resilient, Joel spearheaded an Outdoor Education programme, comprising camps and other activities. As Head of Department for Physical Education (PE) & CCA, he found a way to get every student interested and involved in the school's annual Sports Carnival.

Joel taught his students to use technology to record and analyse their movements during their lessons in the field or on the courts. This targeted feedback helps both students and their peers to improve their techniques and has sparked off a whole research project involving him and his team of PE teachers.

For his commitment to instilling values in his students and advocating student-centricity in teaching and learning, Joel is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2016.

Ms Toh Xin Yi Sheena, Seng Kang Primary School

Toh Xin Yi Sheena strongly believes in guiding her students to develop cultural understanding and a lifelong appreciation of music. She developed a multicultural aesthetics curriculum that has contributed to the school's robust and vibrant music scene.

As Subject Head of Aesthetics, Sheena introduced ethnic drumming to Primary Five students. They picked up basic percussion skills from playing different ethnic drums, and learning about different cultures. They also had the freedom to explore and have fun with various percussion instruments.

Following the successful championing of rhythm-based music engagement in her school, Sheena embarked on an Artist-in-School (AIS) project, with her music teachers. Together with professional musicians, they co-developed music modules ranging from ethnic drumming to ukulele strumming for the various levels.

Sheena also created differentiated platforms to showcase talent and build confidence through busking opportunities, recess performances and the school's talent competition called *SK's Got Talent*. These opportunities help students experience small successes and develop confidence, and also teach audience etiquette. More importantly, she feels that these opportunities help students internalise skills like collaboration and decision-making.

For instilling lifelong interest in music in her students and championing music education as a means to develop character, Sheena is one of the winners of the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2016.

Mr Cai Zhiwen, Juying Secondary School

Cai Zhiwen believes that discipline can be instilled through character education. To him, every child is unique, hence he emphasises the importance of understanding the child and the intentions or reasons behind his behaviour and actions. To cultivate a positive school discipline culture, he encourages teachers to acknowledge and reward students for good behaviour instead of catching those who trip up.

As Head of Department for Discipline, Zhiwen realised that the usual focus on misbehaving students is insufficient. To change mindsets, he initiated the *Good JYian Notice*, which encourages teachers to look out for students doing good. A teacher who finds something praiseworthy will write a note on a card, which is signed by the Principal and mailed to the student's home. It has proved to be a great motivation for students who received the cards.

To engage unmotivated students, Zhiwen came up with a novel idea of starting a drumming interest group under the Time Out Programme. Drumming, he believes, appeals to students' interest and gives them an outlet to release their frustrations.

Students also have access to counselling and mentoring sessions. Under his charge, the school has seen a reduction in truancy and punctuality issues.

As a Mathematics teacher, Zhiwen took on a very challenging Normal (Technical) class in 2015 and motivated the students with a game-based approach to teaching Maths. The students became more engaged and found the lessons enjoyable.

For his commitment to building character and his unwavering belief in his students, Zhiwen is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2016.

Mr Low Wei Chuan, Nan Hua High School

Low Wei Chuan strongly believes in the character development of a child and seeks to nurture students who are firmly grounded in moral values. He embarked on *Project DREAM* to build strong class identity. As a result, one class came up with the idea of subject-based study groups, where stronger students help their weaker classmates. Another class came up with a simple yet heart-warming idea of making birthday cards. His perseverance has fostered compassion and camaraderie among the students, enabling each class to be united and at the school-wide level, building a strong school community and identity.

Wei Chuan has also mentored student leaders to spearhead student-led initiatives, such as "*Class Eat Together Day*". He encourages them to thank the unsung heroes in the school and is determined to spread the message of kindness and create a caring school culture.

As a Chemistry teacher, Wei Chuan embraces the spirit of innovation and ignites a passion for learning and curiosity in his students through enrichment modules such as "Forensic Science" and "Green is the New Black". He has partnered the Singapore Police Force's Forensic Science Division and the Health Sciences Authority to provide students with authentic examples on how Science is applied in real life. These platforms allow students to think beyond and use their knowledge and skills for real-world problem-solving.

For his dedication to character education and his impact on young lives, Wei Chuan is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2016.