



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

When I watched our children walk into the school on the first day, I thought about what I want them to be like when they walk out on their last day, or when I bump into them 15 or 30 years later. It was clear that I want each of them to be a Life-long Learner, a Leader with Character, and a Success in his or her Own Right.

I want pupils to learn to use the resources around them, to read something they are interested in and follow up on it. I want them to have an idea and then talk to people about it, pick up a book and read more about it, or sit down and write about it. When I imagine them as adults, I see thinkers and doers who follow their passions.

I also see them as fine men and women with strong bodies and

strong minds who can withstand the tests of life. They feel good about themselves and are good and honest people in the way they live their lives. They have the courage to stand up for what they believe is right, and to do the right things. They respect others and care about the people around them and the world. Their love for Singapore is the reason for them to excel in whatever they do. Even when they encounter obstacles like failures, they move on without losing sight of their goal. Such is their tenacity to succeed.

Hence, this is our vision:  
 Our School – a Caring, Learning Community;  
 Each Child – a Life-long Learner, a Leader with Character, a Success in his/her own Right.

Serving the community is the central purpose of Pioneer Primary. Our mission is to create a caring, challenging learning environment where our pupils can achieve

academic success, realize their talents, develop good character and leadership so that they can serve the community.

The focus for this year has been on discipline. **Discipline in Thinking, Discipline in Living, Discipline in Action.**

Without discipline, there is no learning. In fact, the keynote of discipline is joy. This newsletter is a celebration of discipline. It captures the holistic development and achievements of the pupils and staff in 2012, and expresses the joy we have as we exercise discipline in our school life. It fuels us with enthusiasm and gives us the strength to forge forward into 2013.

**Mrs Cheng Huey Teng**  
**Principal**

## Staff Accolade

One of our long-serving Tamil teachers was nominated for and won the Merit Award for the **Most Inspiring Tamil Teachers Award** conducted by the Tamil Newspaper and Tamil Teachers Union. Mdm Dhevikkaa has served as a teacher for more than 30 years, cultivating many a talented and well-rounded student into a successful and contributing adult. Not only is she an inspiration for countless students who have been under her wings, she had also been an inspiring mentor to many Tamil teachers. Through her mentoring, these teachers have learnt what it means to be a teacher. She has imparted not only her superb teaching methods, but also her enthusiasm and her passion for the students to these teachers, who have, themselves, become worthy teachers. Our heartfelt congratulations to Mdm Dhevikkaa for winning the award she so deserves.



# Developing **CONFIDENT** Communicators

The speech and drama programme is designed to provide an avenue for pupils to explore the use of English Language through the performing arts. It is hoped that pupils will develop greater self-esteem and self-confidence as they perform before an audience, an important tenet of the 21st century skills. Pupils were equipped with essential skills such as voice projection, vocal expression, non-verbal communication and movement. The culminating product - a performance - put up by the Primary 2 pupils was much appreciated by their enthusiastic parents.

## English in Action

The English Department organised two English Weeks this year. Each EL week is a celebration of the English Language. The objectives were to get our pupils to appreciate, to enjoy and to explore the use of English. The themes for the English Language Weeks were Learning English is Fun and Say it Right. Pupils had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language through the many fun-filled activities organised for them such as language games, recitations of poems and tongue twisters, listening to stories, and character parades.

The highlight of the EL Week was the Character Parade. Our lower primary pupils came dressed as their favourite book characters. Many came dressed as Princesses, Robin Hoods, Captain Hooks, Little Mermaids and Red Riding Hoods. It was certainly difficult to pick a winner as they were all winners in their own ways.



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# MATHEMATICS for All



Math Olympiad & High Achievers Mathematics Programme is designed to develop higher order thinking skills in the pupils; provide a wider scope and deeper depth of the Mathematics curriculum; develop pupils with the mindset and rigour required of the discipline and most importantly provide a fun environment for the learning of Mathematics and to develop pupils' confidence in participating in Mathematics competition. The Programme is for the Primary 4 to 6 high ability pupils. These pupils are exposed to varied problems, problem solving strategies and competitions.

## This is what our pupils have to say about the programme:

"The Math Olympiad Program was very tiring yet fun. We get to learn all sorts of methods to solve one question. Even though we do not understand some of the questions, the instructor was very patient with us."

~ Cai Jing, P6-2

"I think that the Maths High Achiever Program understands what we are dealing with and helps us to overcome and understand the questions. Some of the strategies are useful as they help us save time during the examinations." ~ Yuhan, P6-1

## Math Amazing Thinking Program and Math Exploring Numbers Programme

These two enrichments are carefully selected to assist the middle and lower ability pupils to master their conceptual understanding in the various key topics, such as Whole Numbers, Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.

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## LOVING EARTH —Do your part!

The Science Department together with the Environmental Club launched the Science & Green Week from 31 July to 3 August with the objective of promoting the love for Science. Throughout the week, there was a heightened awareness about environmental issues and the need to combat global climate change. Pupils participated in a series of exciting and interesting activities to immerse themselves in Science and value the importance of saving the earth. Pupils had the experience of discovering Science through the fun life exhibits brought in from Science Centre. They learnt about static electricity and how to produce electricity by using two metals and an electrolyte, in this case, the 'human'. In addition to the hands-on activities, pupils were invited to participate in an interactive quiz held at the Physical and Life Science Corners of the school. It was indeed an enriching experience for the pupils.

The school also organized a school-wide newspapers collection drive for three consecutive days. Pupils came with their big bags of newspapers and donated it at the newspapers collection point as an effort to promote recycling initiative. It was also a way to contribute to the society by helping the less fortunate as proceeds of the collections were donated to charity in support of the President's Challenge to Adopt-A-Train.

## Innovation Programme 2012

Innovation Programme 2012 serves as a platform for our pupils to explore limitless possibilities. The objectives of this programme includes coming up with innovative ideas or products, to develop problem solving and inventive skills and to expose students to knowledge and experiences beyond the classroom through interaction from expert mentors from tertiary institutions and other organisations.

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## MOTHER TONGUE Fortnight

Our MT Department held the Chinese Fortnight from 2nd to 13th April 2012, aligned with MOE's initiative to create an environment conducive to the learning of the Chinese Language and its culture within schools. In the course of the two weeks, various traditional Chinese games and activities were planned for our pupils to engage them in the learning of our rich Chinese culture and to encourage them to speak Mandarin. The pupils were very enthusiastic and participated actively in activities such as Chinese cross-talk performances, tongue twisters, the making of Chinese opera masks 《三国演义》 & 《西游记》, crafting the traditional Chinese kite, handling traditional Chinese puppetry and Clay Figurine making. The school hopes that these activities would ignite the passion and cultivate the interest in our pupils, to deepen their understanding towards the Chinese culture and language. We look forward to more exciting events to promote the learning of Mother Tongue next year!



My mask looks beautiful.

Kite making in progress.

## TAMIL LANGUAGE Department

The Indian Cultural cum Tamil Language Camp was conducted for our P5 pupils on 12th March 2012. The objective of the camp was to provide the pupils with an opportunity to understand the significance of the Tamil culture and to boost the self esteem of the pupils to use the Tamil Language confidently. They were introduced to traditional games and martial arts forms such as "silambattam". Pupils gained a better understanding of theatre etiquette, performance and presentation skills through the language activities such as drama and role plays. Pupils also had hands-on practice on "kolam drawing", henna painting and flower tying.

The Annual Tamil Language Competition was held on 28th July 2012 for Tamil pupils of all levels. The pupils were presented with the opportunity to perform and showcase their talents through activities such as storytelling, quizzes, singing, a fancy dress competition, character impersonation, role-plays and dance items. Internal competitions such as composition writing, proverb recitation, poem writing and show and tell sessions were held throughout in Term 3.



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Words of wisdom from a great man.



Do you know where I come from?

## EMBRACING Diversity

This year, the theme for International Friendship Day (IFD) is "Singapore in the World". The world today is getting increasingly interconnected and people are more mobile. There is an increasing need for Singaporeans to possess a global outlook and operate within multinational settings. At the same time, it is important for them to be rooted to Singapore while developing a cosmopolitan mindset through appreciating the diverse cultures and opportunities that abound in the world arena.

A concert was put up to showcase the performance by Indian Global School and our Pioneer Primary international pupils did a catwalk dressed in traditional costumes.

The friendship band is a popular bracelet traditionally handmade and exchanged among friends as a sign of friendship and goodwill. Pupils were encouraged to make and give the friendship bands to someone who has helped them in some way. Pupils are also encouraged to welcome their international schoolmates with this gesture of friendship.



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Coming up next is a dance performance.



## APPRECIATING Our Diversity

This year's theme for Racial Harmony is "People. Places. Memories." Our theme seeks to bring together the future aspirations of our nation and the recollections of past moments of joy that we share with our friends from all races. These aspects reflect our shared history and common destiny upon which our sense of identity as Singaporeans is built.

Enlisting the help of parent volunteers, booths were set up for the children to have henna drawn on their hands.



## NATIONAL DAY Singapore



Proud to be a Singaporean.



The theme for National Day Parade (NDP) 2012 is "Loving Singapore, Our Home". "Loving Singapore" encourages Singaporeans to reflect on what it means to love our country, what we appreciate about Singapore, and how each individual can express our love for our nation. It is an invitation for all Singaporeans to join us on the NDP 2012 journey to rediscover and remember what we love best about our country.



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## Celebrating OUR SUCCESSES

The main aim of CCAs in Pioneer Primary is not to win medals and competitions, but to:

- build character
- inculcate values such as perseverance, commitment & teamwork
- promote racial integration
- provide opportunities for potential to be discovered and developed
- develop leadership and resilience in our pupils

Nonetheless, with the right character and values inculcated in our pupils, their own commitment to excellence spurred them on to pursuing success.

Other than commending the pupils, teachers and coaches who have worked hard for their CCAs, there is a special group of people we should thank – the parents. Through the course of the year, they have shown their unstinting support by making changes to their schedules, delaying holiday plans, taking their children to and from school, coming to support their children's practices and being there as their children took centre stage, volunteering to help with the logistics support for the CCAs, and working with the school and believing that the holistic development of their children is of the utmost importance. Thank you!



# Pioneer Celebrates **SPORTS DAY**

Our annual School Sports Day was held at the Jurong West Stadium on 5 April. This year, the P4s to P6s had the honor of having Mrs. Cheng, our new principal, grace the event for the first time. The trials were held over three separate days and the pressure was on for the respective house masters to choose their champions. On the Actual Day, the impressive Olympic torch run and flag march-in and the International Friendship Day commemorative ceremony set an impressive tone for the morning's events. The sweltering heat did nothing but raises temperatures further and saw Leopard and Cheetah House, defending their Champion and 1st Runner-up positions, for 2nd and 3rd consecutive years, respectively.



## **SWIMSAFER** Program

The Swimsafer program is meant to hone basic swimming skills so that our students would be water-safe. Held at the Clementi and Bukit Batok Swimming complexes from 17 May to 29 May, 228 of our P3s were lead by coaches to do the breast stroke, and for select intermediate students, the free style as well. They also did water trekking. Over 8 sessions, our students became progressively water-proficient.



## **DRAGON BOAT**

As part of the PE department's Sports Exposure Program, 239 P6 students were given the opportunity to try out Dragon Boating. The sunny skies and sea breeze made the three afternoons spent, 24 to 26 July, worthwhile. A team sport that requires camaraderie among the rowers, it tested the limits of the participants' arm strength. The students got to learn the basic rowing technique and got to paddle their way to the Singapore Flyer and back. The mini-dragon boat races set the adrenalin-a-pumping. Soaking wet, our students had a whale of a time.



Held from 28 to 30 May during the June Holidays, 257 P5 students took part in the ever-exciting, annual P5 Camp at the Changi Coastal Adventure Centre. A camp designed to take our students out of their comfort zone, it involved high elements, kayaking, rafting and team building activities. Home sickness notwithstanding, the Camp fire under the stars attended by our principal, Mrs Cheng, lifted everyone's mood and was a night to remember. At the end of 3 grueling days after much sun and sea, most of the participants emerged stronger and more resilient than ever before coupled with lots of sentimental memories.



# SERVING Our SOCIETY @ Pioneer

This year, various Community Involvement Programmes were organised for our pupils. It is hoped that through these activities, our pupils will develop their character, competence and commitment as responsible citizens and future leaders.

In term 1, a food donation drive was conducted as part of the activity for International Friendship Day. All pupils and teachers were actively involved in the drive. Our teachers did Chinese New Year Hampers using the food that they have donated. Our Cub Scouts assisted in the delivery of the donated food and hampers to St Joseph Home and Jamiyah Nursing Home.

In term 2, our Primary 5 pupils went through the "A Touch of Love" Program by HCA, which was conducted during their CME lessons. Subsequently, 40 P5 students were selected, based on the feasibility of their proposed activities for the HCA patients, to visit the HCA Centre in May. The aim of the program is to foster a spirit of compassion for the community and develop in our pupils a sense of compassion for the elderly and sick.

The selected pupils planned the itinerary for the visit and prepared goodie bags for distribution to the residents of the home. During the visit, the pupils did a Malay dance, Indian dance, Chinese orchestra and mass singing performance. They also brought cakes and served it to the residents during their tea time.

## Kinder Buddy Programme

Term 3 saw a flurry of CIP activities. Our student councillors were involved in the Kinder Buddy Programme. A group of Kindergarten 2 pupils from Agape Little Uni visited our school on 12 July. The Kinder Buddy programme aims to enhance the social and cooperative skills of our student councillors. It also enables them to build cross-age friendships with younger children, and develop their leadership skills. They led the kindergarten pupils during a tour of the school. Besides a school tour, the K2 pupils also observed an actual primary one class lesson. At the end of the visit, they were entertained by a series of wonderful performances by our Malay Dance, Indian Dance and Chinese Orchestra.



# Pupil LEADERSHIP

2012 has been an eventful and exciting year for our student councillors. They attended formal trainings sessions conducted by professionals and were equipped with team building skills, conflict management, public speaking and project management skills. This helped the councillors in organizing school wide-events. One event which deserves mention is the Teacher's Day Celebration.

Our student councillors adopted Disney Academy as the theme of the celebration and carefully centered all activities on it. From gifts, songs, acrostic poem competition, lucky draws, fun facts, auditioning of performers to decoration, our councillors were not daunted by the amount of work as they took pride in what they were tasked to do. The drama team wrote and directed their own script and even made their own costumes. We had some interesting character like Mr Woody, Miss Cinderella and Miss Snow White visiting our school that day!

Another highlight is the TOUCH-PREP programme. Our student leaders took caring and loving peers to a whole new level. Our councillors were trained by TOUCH COMMUNITY SERVICES to conduct a Primary 1 readiness programme to prepare siblings of pupils aged 4-6 years old for a better transition into Primary 1. Our councillors used CD-Roms and books, in line with the latest Primary 1 syllabus, to teach these children in a classroom environment at the school. The pre-school children also learnt social skills as he or she interacted with other students, and built self-confidence.





## A LEARNING JOURNEY Beyond Singapore

As part of the cultural immersion programme, our school embarked on an ambitious mission of bringing 224 Primary 4 pupils on a learning journey beyond Singapore. On the 3rd and 4th of September, our pupils set off for their destination, Malacca – a historical and culturally rich town. The objective of the programme was to create a learning experience for our pupils to gain knowledge outside Singapore; understand more about the world they live in and understand Singapore's place in relation to our neighbours. We also wanted our pupils to experience the rich Peranakan culture of Malacca.

Our pupils had the opportunity to soak in the sights of Malacca as they went on their

kampong visits, visits to rubber plantation, visits to 2 local schools and historical tour of museums. They even tried their hands at traditional games like the gasing and making rubber sheets. In addition to this, we also trained and deployed teams of journalists to capture on film the sights and sounds of Malacca as part of the Roving DV project. This added another dimension to the trip as our pupils were given the opportunity to be self-directed learners. It was indeed a fruitful learning experience for all our pupils.

This trip has indeed brought out the best in our pupils and we are proud that they have affirmed the Pioneer Spirit in them!



## STAFF RETREAT

The staff of Pioneer Primary broke away from the norm and left the familiar locales of Jurong for a staff retreat at the Serangoon Gardens Country Club on 20 & 21 June 2012. There, the staff participated in team-building activities to strengthen the camaraderie among the teaching as well as the non-teaching staff. On top of that, the staff also had a chance to understand themselves and their colleagues better through personality profiling.

The main aim of the retreat is to allow each member of the staff to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of school life so as to reflect on some basic beliefs we have as a school. We re-affirmed our belief that every child can be a success in his or her own right. We also re-committed ourselves to the core values of the teaching fraternity – that learning is our passion, built on the foundation of integrity focused on people with excellence being the goal that we pursue.

It was also at the retreat that the school's new strategic thrusts were launched:

- Thrust 1: Developing Character
- Thrust 2: Developing Potential
- Thrust 3: Building Staff Capacity

The strategic thrusts would guide the school in our policies and programmes so that we centre our focus on what we believe in and truly want to



develop in those who journey with the school.

The teachers also had a fun time roaming the streets of Serangoon Gardens on an Amazing Race. They solved riddles and puzzles or performed tasks to earn clues to find a number of checkpoints that took them to the streets, schools, food centres and the iconic circus of Serangoon Gardens. It was a fun time bonding and exercising from the walk together.

At the end of the 2 days, the teachers left recharged, re-energised and revitalised to begin the new term.

## “나는 수학을 사랑 (NANEUN SUHAG EUL SARANG)”

That's Korean for "I Love Mathematics". Two of our teachers, Mrs Tay Ling Ling (Level Head for Mathematics) and Miss Lin Xiuyue (Research Activist) travelled to Seoul, South Korea for the International Congress Mathematics Education Conference in July this year. They were there as presenters at the conference for their project in using Computer Supported Collaborative Learning in the learning of fractions. The project was aimed at improving scores and developing a love for learning in the students. Students used wireless tablets to work together and learn about fractions in a fun and engaging way. At the conference, they not only presented, but also benefitted from other educators' presentations. They learnt many creative and experiential ways through which educators taught Mathematics in





# Achievements 2012

## ENGLISH

### Mastery English Creative Writing Competition by Adam Khoo Technologies:

1st Place: Ee Dakang (P5-1), 2nd Place: Lim Kai Ting Elaine (P6-1), 3rd Place: Subramaniam Abirami (P6-1)  
BIC Writing Competition: Aden Teo (P6-1)

## MATHEMATICS

### RI World Contest Credit:

Keh Li Ying ( P5-1), Khoo Jia Wei (P5-1), Quah Kian Seong (P6-1)

### Singapore Mathematical Olympiad for Primary School

Silver: Quah Kian Seong, Bronze: Rezwan, Godwin NMOS (NUH High)

Silver: Valliappan, Bronze: Chiam Wee Hung, Tan Wei Hong, Ee Dakang, Sin Ming Wei Xiang Yang

Honourable Mention: Khoo Jia Wei, Lin Zhong Kang, Keh Li Ying, Lau YingRu, Ng Hao Wei

## SCIENCE

### 4th Young Whizzes Challenge

Gold Award: Godwin Moh, Silver Award: Htet Nay Thwe, Bronze Award: Huang ZhiZhou  
Innovation Programme 2012 Certificate of Distinction – Yap Jun Liang (P5-1), Javier Yeo ( P5-1), Serena Devi ( P5-1), Siti Nabilah (P5-1), Lau Cheng Yann ( P5-1)

## MOTHER TONGUE

### Malay Language:

Annual Malay Soliloquy Competition- Md Bukhari bin Zurai

Karya Minda Kreatif Competition- Bronze: Nabilah Nik, Harun Azfar, Nuraisyah Rosman, Nazurah Irdina, Norasyiqin Mohd Wahid,

Silver: Sherly Nur Fatania, , Eliya Syaza, Nuryasin Omar,Syasya Adriana Shamsuddin, Nurul Hanisah Suhaimi, Ameerah Syahirah,

Nurul Adila Edriana, Nadrah Basyirah. Gold –Muhammad Ramdzan, Qistina Aman

Sayembara Karangan Cilik – Muhd Danial (P5-1)

### Tamil Language:

"Killadhi" Adventure Show orgainised by MediaCorp-Vasantham-SemiFinal Winners: Adithiya (P6-1) and Valliappan (P5-1)

Debate organized by Mediacorp Vasantham Winners: Adithiya (P6-1), Meera (P6-5) and Ruthraesh (P6-5)

Best speaker: Ruthraesh

Fancy Dress and Poem Writing Competition organsied by Boon Lay Community Club: Consolation prize-Prabhanjan (P1-3)

Tamil Speaking Month organized by Clementi Community Club: Anusri (P5-1) –1st placing, Aarthi (P6-6) – 3rd placing

Fancy Dress competition organized by Association of Singapore Tamil Writers -Consolation Prize: PN Viknesh (P1-8)

### Chinese Department

W3 Cluster On-the-Spot Writing Competition • 1st - Wong Rui ( P5-4) , Lin Keying (P6-1)

W3 Cluster Calligraphy Competition Wong Rui (P5-4) 3rd placing

## ROPE-SKIPPING

National Inter-Primary School Rope-Skipping Competition • Senior Boys Team, 2nd • Junior Girls Team, 4th

## BASKETBALL

West Zone Inter-Primary School Basketball Competition: Senior Girls (4th)

## ATHLETICS

National Inter-Primary School Track and Field Championship:

- C Division Girls (Top 4 team in Singapore) • Nurasyiqin (100m, 2nd; 200m, 3rd)
- Nixon Ng (600m, 1st) • 4x300m C Boys, 4th • 4X100m C Girls, 2nd

## INFOCOM CLUB

Freedom Challenge 2012: Judges Finalist Award – Khairi Bakri (P6-4)

## ROBOTICS

National Junior Robotics Competition—Certificate of Merit

Muhammad Ashraff Bin Abdul Rahim P5-5, Anapana Dinesh Kumar P6-1,

Lee Jun Yi P2-4

Eizul Syahiran Bin Mohammad Sharin P2-4, Siti Nur Aisyah Bte Zailani P4-4

**Chinese Dance and Rhythmic Girls** Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging (Gold)

**Chinese Orchestra** Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging (Silver)

**Malay Dance** Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging (Silver)

**Indian Dance** Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging (Bronze)

**Choir** Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging (Bronze)

