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**NURTURING
NEW
WORLD-READY
YOUTHS**

NOVEMBER 2013



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OUR 6TH BATCH OF IDA YOUTH INFOCOMM AMBASSADORS



For the sixth year running, students from the Infocomm Club were selected as IDA Youth Infocomm Ambassadors, an honour bestowed upon only a selected few from schools in Singapore.

This year, all three of our shortlisted candidates, Salvador Jean Katherine O (3A), Hariprasath S/O R. Mohan (2B) and Koh Yue Zhong (2C) were appointed Youth Infocomm Ambassadors. The students underwent stringent group interviews where they were assessed based on their interactions with candidates from other schools.

Next, they had to pass a gruelling individual interview by a panel of representatives from the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA).

Their appointment is an affirmation of their enthusiasm and leadership potential in helping to shape the Infocomm landscape in future. Working with ambassadors from other schools such as the School of Science and Technology, Nan Hua High School and NUS High School, our ambassadors will also have the opportunity to foster leadership qualities and self-confidence, discover their Infocomm potential and cultivate their instincts to serve the community. This enriching experience will further develop our ambassadors into New World Ready Youths.

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STARS IN SPOTLIGHT

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN LENSEA BAHASA 2013



Lensa Bahasa Champions 2013!



We are proud of our Hong Kah pupils whose quality video production put them ahead of tough competitors from over 30 schools.

The team comprising of Muhd Adam Bin Ibrahim, Muhammad Dinie Bin Mohd Azly, Muhd Irfan Hidayat, Nur Sabrina Bte Mohamad Said, Siti Nuraisyah Bte Mohd Salim, Humaira' Bte Mohd Farid and Nur Hidayah Bte Johari, brought glory to the school by clinching the top spot in the Lensa Bahasa 2013 competition.

The Lensa Bahasa 2013 is an annual inter-school video vod-cast competition organised by the Ministry of Education. Under the guidance of their teacher-in-charge, the team had an enriching experience presenting the school value of Learning and Care in a humorous and heart-warming video on the topic of Friendship.

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'LIVE IT UP WITHOUT LIGHTING UP' PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO CONTEST



To promote a tobacco-free lifestyle, the National Health Promotion Board organised a photography and video contest with the theme 'Live It Up Without Lighting Up' to highlight the benefits of leading a tobacco-free lifestyle.

Hong Kah Secondary School sent two teams from the Info-comm Club to participate in the video contest. Our creative students garnered the first prize and one of the four consolation prizes in the videography category for 10 to 17 year olds.

The team which won the first prize prepared a short video that showcased how one would look better without lighting up, preventing the dreaded scenario of being shunned by friends. The other team presented a video which showed a daughter encouraging her father who smoked to quit with a touching drawing that she slipped into his cigarette pack.

Their prizewinning works can be viewed at <http://www.hpb.gov.sg/HOPPortal/gamesandtools-article/H-PB-047333>.

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OUTSTANDING CHINESE LITERATURE CREATIVE WRITING AWARD



Held on 27 July 2013 by the Raffles Girls' School and the Singapore Literature Society, the National Chinese Literature Camp for Secondary Schools was graced by Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Communications & Information and Ministry of Education.

The annual camp aimed to evoke interest in Chinese Literature and creative writing amongst secondary school students in Singapore. About 220 students from over 20 schools participated in the camp.

The theme for the camp was "Uncovering the Secrets of Literature in Mandarin songs". The camp programme included a dialogue with local Chinese songwriters, vocal talent display sessions and creative writing sessions.

Li Huimei (4A) did the school proud by winning the Outstanding Creative Writing Award.

W4 CHINESE DEBATE COMPETITION

On 18th October, Hong Kah Secondary School participated in the first Chinese Debate Competition organised by the West Zone Cluster 4.

Apart from our school, Bukit View Secondary School, Yuan Ching Secondary School and Hua Yi Secondary School also took part in the competition.

Hong Kah Secondary School emerged as the first runner up whilst Ai Xiaoyu f(3A) was selected as the Best Debater from the school team.



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NEW BUDS CHINESE LANGUAGE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2013

In April 2013, I participated in the National schools New Buds Chinese Language Creative Writing Competition. It is the largest annual Chinese writing competition in Singapore organised by Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan. I was honoured to be selected to represent my school.



The topics for the compositions were interesting and unusual. For instance, students were tasked to create their own stories based on a simple picture. I chose the topic "Making way for..." At first glance the topic did not seem daunting. However the aim of the organisation was to inspire students to come up with deeper understanding of the title. I wrote about my grandmother, who was unable to be paralysed after a stroke. Bound to a wheel chair she always made way for others on the street and showed her compassionate nature. She was the one who made many sacrifices for our family. My grandmother persuaded my mother to continue her job because she did not want my mother's work to be affected. I described how selfless my grandmother was and in what ways she made way for the people she loved in her life.

I really enjoyed the two hours because I was given an opportunity to express my real feelings through the composition. When I was informed that I had won the Bronze Award in the Upper Secondary category, I was surprised and glad at the same time. What made me really proud was the fact that the organising committee had published the essays of all prize winners. After reading the comments written by the judges, I felt a sense of achievement and I learnt about my weaknesses.

I really appreciate this opportunity given to me by my teachers. I look forward to taking part in similar competitions in future.

Written by Hui Lun 3A

ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KAH LITES IN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS

Our Hong Kah lites have done very well in various mathematics competitions this year.



Each year, thousands of students from all over the country take part in the Singapore Mathematics Olympiad (SMO). This year, Lai Jing Wei and Toh Hong Zhen from 4A both made significant achievement in the SMO 2013 (Senior Section). Through their diligence and hard work, they managed to clinch the top 64 positions and received Honourable Mention in recognition of their talent.

This year the school ranked 64 out of 108 participating schools in the senior section. This is the school's best achievement over the past

five years.

On top of that, Lim Jun Ming Adrian of 4T1 won the 7th position (Upper Secondary Normal Technical) in the All Singapore Secondary Mathematics Competition for Normal Course Students 2013, emerging as the top 10 among 696 participants from 62 schools. All Singapore Secondary Mathematics Competition for Normal Course Students 2013 is opened to all Normal Course students, for all secondary schools in Singapore.



Four of our secondary two pupils have also done the school proud in the Australian Mathematics Competition 2013 by clinching one Distinction and three Credits. These pupils are Wang Ruitong (Distinction), Du San San (Credit), Lin Ying (Credit) and Lee Yi Ting (Credit). We congratulate them for their achievement. Furthermore, Wong Ruitong did the school proud by coming in the 93rd Percentile in the Grade 8, also known as Junior Section in the competition.

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NATIONAL DESIGN & MARKETING COMPETITION



A group of Hong Kah lites from the D&T and MICE Club have achieved Gold Award for the first National Design & Marketing Competition organised by the Designlab Innovation Company.

The pupils were challenged to come up with an innovative idea and marketing business plan after they had gone through the rigorous Youth Entrepreneurship Skills programme.

The group presented their design idea to the judges and their idea was declared the best.

The group consisted of Si Ying(3B), Ho Jia Jun(3C), Muhammad Sheiqqal B Salim(3N2), Belinda Lee Chun Ling(3T1) and Beryl Ng Zi Xuan(3T1).



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ACHIEVEMENTS IN FOOTBALL



Every year the school population eagerly awaits the football season and this year was no different. And we are pleased to report that this year our Football Club has done us proud with their achievements. The C Division boys defended their National Championship title and emerged as Champions for a second consecutive year. The B Division boys showed their mettle and fought hard, clinching the first runners-up spot in the Nationals.

The girls also put their best foot forward. The B Division girls were the champions of the SYOF Futsal Tournament Under-17 category and the C Division girls were within the Top 4 in the Nationals.

These achievements highlight the strength of character and determination of the students. It is not easy competing at the national level, but our students have proven themselves worthy and risen to the occasion every single time, overcoming obstacles and proving themselves. This is what the Niche Programme is for: to develop our students' character and inculcate in them the values of discipline, learning and care. The programme has largely been successful, because they would not have clinched these awards without discipline in training, their determination to learn and to do better, and care for their team-mates.

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NATIONAL DAY CUM HARI RAYA CELEBRATIONS

It was a double celebration this year when Hari Raya Puasa holiday fell on the eve of our nation's 48th birthday. The celebration kick-started with a National Day Parade and Recollections led by Theophilus, President of the Student Council. This was followed by a concert in the hall which was flooded in a sea of red and white.

Hosted by Eunice Han and Noah Koa from Secondary 3B, the celebration got going with a heart-warming video-clip of celebratory messages from fellow Hong Kah Lites for both National Day and Hari Raya Puasa. The celebratory mood was further enlivened by the energetic dance of the members from the International Dance Club.

To encourage greater participation from the students in the audience, two games were played: 'Don't Forget the Lyrics', where students were tested on how well they knew our National Day songs and a game called 'NE Confessions'; this time to test our students' knowledge about our country. To add to the celebratory atmosphere of the Hari Raya month, Admira, Hazwan, Syawal and Isnina from Secondary 4 led the audience with several Hari Raya songs. Dressed in their best ethnic Malay costumes, our young teachers gamely took part in a game on how to tie the 'kain samping', a skirt-like costume usually worn by Malay men. These teachers then sportingly did a catwalk down aisle of the hall, to the pleasant surprise and delight of our students.

The highlight of the day was the Prize Presentation Ceremony for winners of various competitions held throughout the month to commemorate National Day: Racial Harmony Competition, Greeting Cards Competitions, Green Bin Competition and Our Story @ HKSS Competition. The day culminated with a sing-a-long session of our National Songs in all the four official languages. The day had been a long one but it was a day to remember for our students and especially for all participants for their well-practised efforts in making National Day cum Hari Raya Celebration 2013 a successful event.



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TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION



It was a different Teacher's Day Celebration this year when for the first time, our ICON Student Leaders were tasked to plan the event. The celebration began with a quiz to get our students to guess which personal item belonged to which teacher. Students also had the rare opportunity to see how their teachers looked like as babies through another quiz. It was a pleasant surprise that our students were able to guess the teachers correctly from their baby photos. This showed how well they knew their teachers.

The celebration continued with a video show of special messages from individual students and CCA groups to their teachers. Another video montage showed how a teacher had inspired a student to turn over a new leaf and score well in his exam. It was a touching video, made all the more impactful as it was created by the Secondary Four pupils as their last contribution to the school before they graduated at the end of this year.

To liven up the mood of the celebration, there was a 'Dress up the Teacher' segment where students had to dress up their teachers using recycled materials.

The highlight of the Teacher's Day Celebration was the presentation of 'The Caring Teacher Award' to our teachers. The Teacher's Day Celebration was a successful event which served as a platform for our students to honour and show their appreciation to their teachers.

CARING TEACHERS' AWARDS

It's the time of the year again when the students pay tribute to our teachers who have shown care and concern for the students' holistic development and gone the extra mile to ensure that they grow to be strong in character, are thinking and caring and ready to serve our country and beyond.

This year, the award goes to Mrs Emilline Tan who is 'encouraging and patient'; Ms Pasiyah Mohamed Diah who is 'like a mother to the students', Mr Tan Chong Chay who always makes 'his lessons enjoyable and fun'; Mr Senthil Silvarajoo, who is 'always there for his students when they feel sad' and last but not least, our Discipline Master, Mr Tan Eng Wee, whose students 'are touched by his patience and his ability to understand them'. Congratulations to our award winners this year and thank you too to all teachers who always have our student's well-being in their hearts and mind.



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STARS IN ACTION

GOOD BYE MRS TAN



This year, we bid our Principal, Mrs Tan Wan Yu, a fond farewell.

When Mrs Tan first joined the school in 2008, we were in the midst of building a new school compound. Mrs Tan dreamt big as she envisioned a place in school where students could relax at during breaks and after school hours. She organised a charity golf event to raise funds for the school's Star Centre. Over the years, the Star Centre has expanded and is now a cosy place and learning hub for students to spend some quality time with their friends and meet for collaborative learning.

Mrs Tan also worked hard to develop the professional competencies of her staff through the provision of continuous learning opportunities and protected time for teaching staff to meet weekly to discuss classroom practice and maintain their professional currency.

Mrs Tan firmly believed that Hong Kah lites should be thoughtful, independent individuals anchored in values, powered by passion to take on the fast-changing world, and yet remain rooted in Singapore. To achieve her vision she spearheaded many new programmes, helping the students to achieve things they'd never have thought possible—achieving academic value-addedness and performing well in many other arenas.

In 2014, Mrs Tan will be moving on to head Millennia Institute. We wish her all the best in her new posting. Mdm Sung Mee Har, formerly Principal of Woodgrove Secondary School will succeed Mrs Tan as our Principal.

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