

Temasek *Connections*

A Publication of Temasek Primary School

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Our Vision

We aspire to be the Vibrant Learning Campus where pupils learn, lead, serve and grow to become future-ready citizens rooted in values.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...



Did you know that if laid end to end, the number of LEGO bricks sold in a year would reach more than five times round the world? That there are over 915 million ways to combine just six of the eight-studded LEGO bricks? Put these two facts together and you can imagine the enormous creative potential that is possible.

In fact, in 2009, a man named James May in Surrey, Great Britain, constructed the world's first full-size LEGO house, using 3.3 million bricks. The house contained a working toilet with shower facilities and a bed... all made out of LEGO. In 2014, 12-year-old Shubham Banerjee from California used his LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 set to make a functional Braille printer. Shubham used the LEGO set to make the printer after he saw a flyer asking for donations to help the blind. His prototype cost less than a fifth of other Braille printers retailing online for thousands of dollars.

Now suppose a child has at least 10 learning experiences in a day and he or she connects these experiences with 40 other children in a multitude of ways. What would have been the possibilities of learning for him or her in just that day? I would say significantly larger than it would have been if the child had been learning on his or her own. That is the power of collaborative learning – it multiplies the learning process. I am not just referring to content learning, but also the valuable skills of working and learning together. If children don't learn to work together now, they will find it hard to work to learn together later in their life. Lacking that ability in the future would literally put them back to illiteracy because the rapid explosion of knowledge will overtake any individual's learning. They must invest not only in lifelong learning, but also in team learning, as Helen Keller wisely said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

It makes sense then that if we are to encourage children to "connect" with each other in their various learning experiences, they will sometimes get it wrong and not make the "right connection". After all, James May and Shubham Banerjee probably got more than a few brick connections wrong before they found the right ones. But the wrong connections are probably the most valuable ones they have made.

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If our pupils treat every difficulty or mistake as another learning experience, they are actually adding another “brick” to the ones they already have and that will only enlarge their learning capacity. Yes, it is painful to see our children struggle with their difficulties in their learning or with other children, but let us support them to learn and grow from their difficulties. You see, if they have enough “bricks”, they can build anything.

Last year, we named our first school orchid, the Dendrobium Temasek Perseverance, as part of our 35th Anniversary celebrations. This year, during the Temasek Starts Right programme in the first week of the term, we named another new orchid hybridised by our previous P6 pupils after our next school value of Open-Mindedness. This new orchid will encourage each of us to be ready and open to all the learning experiences that will come our way. Some of them may not turn out as expected. Some of them will turn out better. But we want to embrace them all to learn and grow.

Let me end by sharing an interesting fact behind the name LEGO. The word “Lego” is a contraction from the Danish phrase *leg godt* which means “play well” and in Latin, it can also be loosely interpreted as “I put together”. As we move into the New Year, there will be many opportunities for each of us to “play well” and grow as we “put together” our own exciting learning experiences.

Wishing you all a fruitful and constructive year ahead!

Wrapping up 2015

Speech Day 2015

Temasek Primary School held its 35th Speech Day on 20 November 2015. Mr John Yap, Chairman of the School Advisory Committee (SAC), was the Guest-of-Honour for the event. We celebrated the pupils’ academic and non-academic achievements as well as the contributions of the staff. It was an especially meaningful day for the school as the event marked the culmination of Temasek’s 35th anniversary and Singapore’s Golden Jubilee celebrations. Our talented pupils impressed the audience with their diverse talents and performance in a musical that portrayed Singapore’ journey to independence. The Temasek family definitely synergised to make the 35th Speech Day a resounding success.



Our Principal, Mr Francis Foo, presented our parent volunteers with a special orchid named after them, Dendrobium Temasek Parent Volunteers, Temasek PV for short, as a token of appreciation for their dedication to Temasek Primary School.

Celebration of Character and Excellence Lunch

The celebration of Character and Excellence lunch was held on Tuesday, 17 November 2015 in recognition of our pupils' accomplishments in their respective fields, including those who have shone in their contribution in areas such as leadership and character. In partnership with the Singapore Disability Sports Council and the ASEAN Para Games Committee, we were most delighted to host three National Para Athletes representing the Singapore Goalball team in the 8th ASEAN Para Games. They gave an inspiring talk about their thoughts and experiences and the importance of character and values while training and competing. They certainly left a lasting impression on both the pupils and teachers.



With the help of Ms Nur Ain, our pupils were also given the opportunity to mingle and experience playing modified goalball with the National Para Athletes.



8th ASEAN PARA GAMES

Our fellow pupils, led by Mr Diyar, lent their support to the athletes at the 8th ASEAN PARA GAMES held at the Singapore National Stadium on 4 December 2015. Our pupils were impressed and motivated as they witnessed how the athletes, despite their disabilities, excelled in their own sports and category. One of the athletes who left a deep impression on our pupils was Singapore's wheelchair athlete, Lai Pak Lok, Jack, who took part in the 800m –T52/53 Finals.

Our pupils also viewed the swimming competition at the OCBC Aquatic Centre. It was an eye-opening experience for them. The athletes truly demonstrated that it is through sheer determination and perseverance that they achieved their goals. The ASEAN Para Games was indeed a great opportunity for students to realise that everything is possible if they put their heart into achieving their goals.



What's New This Year

P1 Orientation Week 2016

The STEP (Smooth Transition Entry into Primary School) Programme is part of the school's effort to provide the Primary One pupils with a "No Fears, No Tears" experience in their first week of school. No formal lessons were conducted during the first week of school. Instead, a special programme which included music and movement, storytelling and games was planned for the pupils.

The buddy system was also in place during recess. The Primary Two pupils were groomed to be responsible peer leaders as they helped to familiarise their Primary One buddies with the new school environment and assisted them as they learnt how to buy their food and drinks. Parent volunteers were also present to provide their support and assistance. Together with the teachers, they helped to make the STEP programme a huge success as our P1 pupils learnt to adapt themselves to the new learning environment in a fun and engaging way.



Primary One pupils interacting with their Primary Two peer leaders

Temasek Student Care Centre

For the first time this year, Temasek Primary has engaged NASCANS Pte Ltd to set up a Student Care Centre in the school premises.

NASCANS Pte Ltd was established in 2006 and its concept for the student care centre is to portray the centre as a pit stop between the school and home. The centre aims to create a homely feel with the ease of converting spaces for learning. Their vision is to transform Student Care as a place for children to learn, rest and play in a safe and controlled environment.

NASCANS also aims to be an extension of the school, complementing and expanding on the range of services that the school provides. It strives to be in line with the values that the school promotes. As such, engagement activities are specially designed to infuse the school values via special craft work, team-building games, competitions and ball games. Sports telematches will also be planned to motivate pupils to enjoy healthy competition. To date, our students enjoy participating in the various structured and fun learning activities. It is a home away from home!



New Reading Corners

As part of the school's effort to inculcate the reading habit in our pupils, new reading corners have been created to encourage pupils to read during their recesses. These cosy reading corners, which include the revamped spacious CCA room, provide a conducive environment for our pupils to catch up on some reading during their break.



Cosy reading corners

The Arti-licious Gallery – Making our pupils' learning visible through the arts

The school believes that Art education should not be limited to just the scheduled weekly lessons but one that transcends the classroom so that the learning experience is continuous and evolving. As part of the school's commitment to ensure that all pupils have access to quality art education for expression, learning and reflection, the school transformed the existing canteen pillars into a forest of trees to create the Arti-licious Gallery. This vibrant art space aims to promote the use of artful thinking routines and art vocabulary for art appreciation. The individual trees will be open for 'adoption' by various groups in the school community to showcase school-wide and level-wide celebrations, key school events or festive occasions. Opportunities are created for our pupils to have a deeper engagement with the arts. By being able to showcase their work beyond the classrooms, they to see themselves as part of a wider community.



The Art Club which has adopted the tree will select the art pieces that best represent the elements of art and principles of design learnt in the classroom to be put on display.



For key National Education (NE) events or festive occasions, the blackboards can serve as reflection pads for pupils to post their reflections on the event/occasion, making their thinking visible to the school community.



To further enhance our existing partnership with the Singapore Japanese School, a tree will also be offered to it for adoption. The school can put up their pupils' art work so that our pupils are further exposed to the varied art education available in the global landscape. This will further extend our pupils' repertoire of art knowledge.

Spotted something interesting just outside the hall? The school has just recently installed a trick eye wall using a famous painting "Cafe Terrace At Night" by Vincent Van Gogh as the backdrop. This initiative to put up famous artists' works is part of our Art curriculum whereby pupils get to learn and appreciate the works of the great artists and to also make the art scene in Temasek more vibrant!



Other pieces of artwork by our pupils were also on display near the hall

Programme for Active Learning (PAL) @ Temasek Primary
“My Little Adventure Around the World”

We are delighted to inform you that the school has embarked on the Programme for Active Learning (PAL) for our Primary One and Primary Two pupils. PAL is an initiative by the Ministry of Education (MOE) aimed at providing greater balance between the learning of knowledge and the development of skills and values to better prepare our pupils to thrive in a fast-changing and globalised future. At Temasek Primary, PAL is part of the curriculum and is carried out during time-tabled time.



Temasek’s PAL programme “My Little Adventure Around the World” aims to develop the character of our pupils by bringing them on an adventure around the world where they would be able to explore a wide variety of activities which are experiential in nature and incorporate elements of fun and enjoyment. Pupils also learn socio-emotional competencies such as respecting others and responsible decision-making.



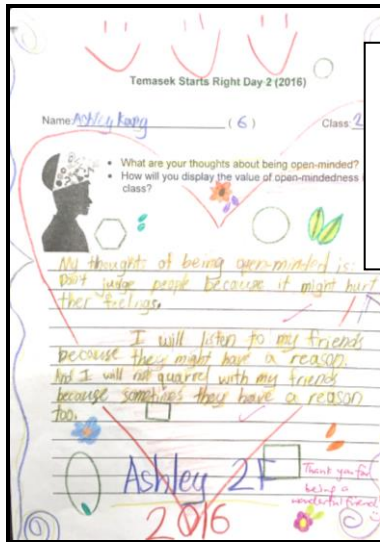
Pupils will be exposed to different modular activities in 4 broad areas of Sports and Games, Outdoor Education, Performing Arts and Visual Arts. The school will be implementing 3 PAL modules for each level as shown in the table below.

Level	PAL Modules		
Primary 1	Sports and Games	Visual Arts	Drama
Primary 2	Drama	Music and Dance	Outdoor Education

Launch of Dendrobium Temasek Open-Mindedness

During the assembly on 8 January 2016, the Year Heads shared reflections by staff and pupils on of open-mindedness. These reflections were penned down during a session facilitated by the form teachers as part of Temasek Starts Right, a two-day programme held at the start of every year that aims to help our teachers and pupils renew relationships, establish expectations and discuss the values and habits that will help shape the classroom community.

Our pupils' reflections...



"I should not judge people because it might hurt their feelings. I will listen to my friends because they might have a reason..."

~ Ashley 2F ~

"I think open-minded is about being positive. It is also about being brave and not being afraid."

~ Joshua 3D ~

"We should be open-minded because only then can we make new friends and learn new things. We must also have a positive attitude. I like having new friends and new experiences because that will create a lot of memorable moments for me."

~ Jia En 4D ~

"Open-mindedness is about accepting all people regardless of their race and religion. Everyone is unique and has his/her own strengths and weaknesses. Hence, we should make friends with one another so that we can learn from each other."

~ Jian Wei 6D ~

"Everyone can learn to be open-minded if we are willing to listen to others and also contribute our own ideas."

~ Nur Afrina 5B ~

"I think being open-minded is very important as we will always be looking at the bright side of things. If you are open-minded, you will help others by giving constructive feedback instead of criticism that might hurt others."

Having an open mind leads us to our goals faster and easier. Being open-minded also means we will have more friends which will brighten up everyone's day."

~ Shu Han Chen 6F ~

Our teachers' reflections...

"Embracing open-mindedness makes life more interesting as we look at things from different perspectives. It helps me to stay connected with people."

"Having an open-minded mindset will make me happier and more efficient. I will not limit myself to the present constraints or situations but instead, I will be more willing to explore new possibilities."

Following the sharing of reflections, the school launched its second orchid, Dendrobium Temasek Open-Mindedness, which was hybridised by our 2012 P6 pupils during their Life Science Programme. It is a hybrid of Dendrobium Lucian Pink and Dendrobium Peach. Its flowers could be either white or purple. It is named Temasek Open-Mindedness as it is difficult for one to tell the colour of the flower until it is fully bloomed. It really takes an open mind to accept whichever colour the flowers choose to present themselves.



New faces in Temasek



We welcome the following staff to the Temasek family:

- Ms Loh Ooi Wan, School Staff Developer
- Mrs Charis Quek

Road Safety Matters

Our school seeks the cooperation of parents and guardians of pupils coming to and leaving the school. This is especially important as young children may not have the skills required to use the roads properly. Our children need to be educated on road safety rules.

The road safety policies of the school are as follows:

1. Reduce vehicle speed and stay alert for pedestrians in the school zone.
2. Cooperate with traffic marshals to ensure overall safety and smooth traffic flow.
3. Let your child alight only at the designated drop-off point.
4. Be advised not to violate traffic rules by driving recklessly or making illegal manoeuvres such as turning into the school from the outer lane(s) of the road.
5. Do not honk indiscriminately.
6. Remind your child to alight from the car as quickly as possible.
7. Reinforce correct road safety behaviour such as using the pedestrian crossing, and not jaywalking or using a mobile phone while crossing the road.
8. Remind your children to practise the kerb drill before crossing –“look right, look left, look right again, ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise your hand high up and cross the road briskly”.

Finance Matters

Pupils with financial difficulties may apply for financial assistance through the following schemes:

1. MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (MOE FAS)

To qualify for financial assistance, the pupil must be a Singapore Citizen and satisfy one of the following:

- Gross Household monthly income not exceeding \$2,500.00
- Per capita Income of the household is \$625.00 or below.
(Per Capita Income is derived from the Total Household Income divided by the No. of Household Members.)

Benefits:

- * 100% waiver of Standard Miscellaneous fees (\$6.50)
- * Free Textbooks and School Attire
- * 75% subsidy of PSLE examination fees
- * School Meals Programme

2. Financial Assistance Scheme by the School Advisory Committee

This is given to pupils who fail to qualify for the MOE FAS. The nature of this assistance varies. It could range from the provision of free textbooks, or assistance in payment of fees or school-related expenditure.

How to Apply

Application forms can be obtained from the General Office.

Term 1 Calendar of Events

Date	Events / Programmes	Level
22 Jan	Parents' Meeting	All levels
26 Jan	Leaders' Day	P1 – P2
27 Jan	Leaders' Day	P3 – P4
28 Jan	Leaders' Day	P5 – P6
1 – 3 Feb	P5 Camp	P5
5 Feb	Chinese New Celebrations (School)	All levels
8 – 9 Feb	Chinese New Year (Public Holiday)	All levels
15 Feb	Total Defence Day	All levels
24 Feb – 1 Mar	P6 Common Test	P6
3 Mar – 9 Mar	P3 Learning Tapestry	P3
4 Mar – 10 Mar	P6 Learning Tapestry	P6

- Habit of the month (January): **Be Proactive**
- Habit of the month (February): **Begin with the End in Mind**
- Habit of the month (March): **Put First Things First**

