

# Educational Feature

We often express ourselves in non-standard English when speaking about our daily actions such as eating and drinking. Here are some mistakes that we should be aware of. Remember these the next time you speak about eating or drinking!

1) What is the difference between 'I **take/took** breakfast' or 'I **have/had** breakfast' ?

When you're talking about meals, you should use **had**. So you say 'I **had** lunch' or 'I **had** breakfast'.

**Take** is used in the context of eating when you're talking about medicine. That's why you tell someone to **take** his or her medicine!

2) What is the difference between 'drink', 'drank' and 'drunk'?

**Drink** is the present form of the verb: *I drink coffee every day.*

**Drank** is the simple past form of the verb: *I drank coffee yesterday.*

**Drunk** is the past participle, used for the present perfect and past perfect:

*I have never drunk coffee until today.*

(present perfect—nearer to present situation)

*I had never drunk coffee until last month.*

(past perfect—further from present situation)

3) What is the difference between 'eat', 'ate' and 'eaten'?

**Eat** is the present form of the verb: *I eat bread for breakfast every morning.*

**Ate** is the simple past form of the verb: *I ate a heavy breakfast yesterday morning.*

**Eaten** is the past participle, used for the present perfect and past perfect:

*I have eaten my breakfast already.*

(present perfect—nearer to present situation)

*I had eaten my breakfast much earlier yesterday than today.*

(past perfect—further from present situation)



ADMIRALTY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Connecting the community @ Admiralty



## VICE PRINCIPAL'S PROLOGUE

The Greek Philosopher Heraclitus once said that no man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man. When I was appointed the Vice Principal of Admiralty Primary School last December, that was exactly how I felt. The thought of taking on a new role in the school that I love and have taught in for the last ten years, was exciting but at the same time daunting, because although I know the school, the staff and the parents and stakeholders, the role I play will be different.

The school's pupil-centred learning approach and vibrant community of teachers and learners have always inspired me to give my best. I am glad to say that we have been making great strides in our journey towards excellence and in its vision to be a vibrant and dynamic education hub but the world in which our pupils will step out into will be more volatile, unpredictable and complex. To enable our pupils to learn to navigate the unfamiliar paths in the future, our teachers need to work hand-in-hand with parents to create a positive school experience in order for each child to become a confident and lifelong learner. Our value-driven programmes which help to develop their character will give our pupils a sense of direction and equip them with the skills to excel in the future.

To prepare our pupils better for the future, our iPad classroom which resembles the classroom of the future prepares them for a world that is vastly different from the one that most of us grew up in. As a school leader, I am also constantly learning and making sure I prepare myself and my teachers for the challenges in the educational landscape. This leads us back to the quote by Heraclitus. With continual changes in our landscape, we must be mindful of keeping up with the changes because we never cross the same river twice. We change because our experiences change the direction of our lives and this in turn changes the challenges we face as well. Only through developing ourselves do we prepare ourselves better to meet these changes.

I look forward to working with my fellow school leaders, staff, parents and other stakeholders to bring out the best in every child and to maximise their potential and in preparing our school for the next river we will cross.

Mr Jay Mahardale  
Vice Principal



## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION 2014

Darren Ng Wei Liang from 5 *Endurance* took part in the Chinese New Year celebration and he shares with us his experience here. He speaks about his preparation for the part of "big head" in the lion dance performance.

"Right after school started this year, I stayed back after school on some days to practice for the lion dance performance. We had many rehearsals and I had to walk and jump with the big head to help me improve my movement. The head had to be kept steady and I couldn't let it sway too much in case it fell off my head.

During the performance, I felt very excited but nervous as all eyes were looking at me. I felt I couldn't let them down, so I focused my attention on performing well. I was nervous but I managed to put up a good performance and earned many praises from my friends. The other big head, small lions, big lions and I needed to co-operate during the performance. We did it and everyone performed very well. I would like to perform again next year so that I can make other pupils and the teachers happy.

Lion dance is performed during the Chinese New Year period and during other special occasions. Sometimes lion dance performances include a Little Buddha character who wears a big headed mask. The character is referred to as the "Dàtóu wáwá". He plays with the lion and also tames and directs the lion."



## TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

"30 Years of Total Defence: Because you played a part" is the theme for this year's Total Defence Day. As Admiralty Primary School commemorated Total Defence Day this February, we are reminded that we must play our part in the defence of Singapore.

A series of activities helped pupils to understand the significance of this day. Besides an assembly programme, they also made cards to show their appreciation to those who have contributed to the society. During recess, NE student ambassadors got their peers to pledge their contribution to the school by penning them down and reflecting on the significance of Total Defence Day. Through these activities, we are reminded that everyone can contribute in his or her own way and it is important that everyone plays his or her part.

To reinforce the message that everyone has a part to play in Total Defence, Nestle Singapore came to our school that week to do their part by distributing free Milo drinks to our pupils. This is in line with their meaningful community project to promote nutrition, health and wellness and to ensure that our next generation is ready to contribute for the future.





## #140 FLASH FICTION CONTEST

The #140 Flash Fiction Contest, organised as part of the Singapore Writers' Festival activities, challenged 7 to 19-year-olds to write a short story within 140 characters on the theme of "adventure". It was the first time that our pupils have taken part in this contest in the junior section. The top entries were put up online for voting. Public voting constituted 50% of the final score. The other 50% was based on the judges' scores. Our pupil, Barnabas Tan Tiang Han of 5 Gallantry emerged as the top winner in the junior English section!

His winning entry:

### My New Buddy

I was in my room when I heard a knock on my door. I was surprised to find a giant red dragon. He explained that he wanted to be my buddy.

For more information on this contest, please log on to: <http://www.singaporewritersfestival.com/wgr/140-winning-entries>



## AUTHOR TALK BY NEIL HUMPHREYS

*"To write well, you have to take risks."*

These were the words of wisdom by Neil Humphreys, a TV host, a journalist and author, when he came to Admiralty Primary School for a talk on 20 February. Neil Humphreys is a full-time writer, podcaster and a doting father. He has written a variety of books including books on football and parenting. His current focus is on writing children's books.

He came to motivate and encourage the pupils to let their creative juices flow through their writing. He also gave the students tips on how to write and to think out of the box, to make stories more interesting, by using humour.

He animatedly shared his personal story of how he became a writer, although he was at first discouraged by the fact that he was poor. He shared about how he persevered to achieve success. He also talked about his latest children's book. He also had an autograph session for our pupils after the session.



## PRIMARY 4 ADVENTURE CAMP

"NEVER GIVE UP!" "BEST EFFORT!" These were the very words that our Primary 4 pupils chanted throughout the Quest for Adventure and Character Camp this year. It was held at the SAFRA Yishun Adventure Sports Centre on 10 and 11 March. The camp provided an excellent platform to inculcate perseverance in them. The camp sought to develop this by getting them to work on a task in the presence of difficulties and to always strive to give their best. They were highly encouraged to complete challenges such as the Canopy Walk (18m-high walk through the tree tops of Yishun Park), rock climbing and abseiling. Pupils were seen cheering and motivating one another to complete the challenges.

Obstacles aside, the pupils had lots of fun—all those goofy chants and songs that were taught by the ever-enthusiastic trainers and the highly entertaining campfire performances that were put up together with their teachers. The little moments that the pupils shared will go a long way after their laundry is cleaned and the smell of the campfire forgotten. Even though it was only one night away from their parents, we believe the pupils went away from the camp 'bigger and better' and learnt many life skills that will go the distance with them in the future.



## SOCCER TOURNAMENT 2014

For the first time, Admiralty Primary School hosted the First Round of the North Zone Soccer Tournament for both Junior and Senior teams. It was a learning process for both the teachers and pupils. Teachers played the role of pitch manager and were responsible in ensuring that the field was safe for the games and updating the results to the respective convenors of the Junior and Senior competition.

With their teachers and fellow schoolmates supporting the boys at the side, the boys were motivated and rose to the occasion, achieving good results in the first round of the tournament. Both Junior and Senior boys remained unbeaten and topped their respective groups at the end of the first round.

The Junior and Senior players showed the hunger for success in the games. The Senior boys led by example and overcame the odds to upset Yio Chu Kang Primary with a 3-0 final score. The Junior boys scored a whopping 23 goals and conceded only 5 goals as they sliced their opponents to advance to the Second Round of the North Zone Soccer Tournament. We were one of the top 8 schools at the end of the campaign.



## NATIONAL STORY CHALLENGE 2014

The National Story Challenge was organised by the Theatre Practice and supported by National Library Board. It was an extremely challenging competition as each participant was given only 15 minutes to prepare his or her story. Within three minutes, the participant must tell a complete story.

The participants for the individual category were Jamie Lim Yee Kee from 5 Challenge and Samantha Tan from 6 Challenge. Jamie made it to the final and Samantha made it to the semi-final. Zhou Wanting from 6 Challenge, Kumaran Yoshita, Sheyshini Mitraa D/O Pathmanathan and Ashley Seah En from 4 Challenge represented our school in the team category.

Jamie's and Samantha's stories qualified them for the semi-final after a battle with 41 students from other primary schools. Jamie made it through the semi-final to reach the final stage where she had a tough fight with 5 other finalists. Though she did not make it to the Grand Final, she has performed well in this challenging competition. We also wish to commend on all the pupils who represented our school in this competition. We will continue to have outstanding storytellers represent our school in more of these nationwide competitions.

## GREEN MART

Green champions from the Green Club set up stall in the canteen on 3 March to sell their freshly harvested pesticide-free hydroponic kangkong. The water spinach was grown at our very own Rooftop Hydroponics Garden!

Club members had a hands-on experience as the kangkong was grown and harvested by the pupils themselves. Then, they had the chance to be entrepreneurial in trying to market and sell their harvests. After finding a strategic spot in the canteen to set up stall, the pupils went around promoting the kangkong to teachers and pupils alike. At the special price of \$1 a packet, the kangkong proved irresistible to all and was quickly sold out.

Through this activity, pupils grow to appreciate the hard work behind the food they eat, and learn that they should not waste food. Furthermore, school values are inculcated as they sell the kangkong, with the proceeds from the sale going towards helping the needy pupils in school.

Ong Zi Xuan, Gin from 6 Gallantry: "The more people buy the vegetables, the more excited I felt selling it. As a CCA leader, I need to be responsible in order to guide my juniors so that they will learn more about our green efforts and be motivated to give their best in the CCA."



## WORLD SCOUTS' DAY AND WORLD THINKING DAY

On 22 February every year, Scouts and Brownies (including Girl Guides) all over the world celebrate World Scouts' Day and World Thinking Day respectively.

Mr Tan Cheng Kiong, Chief Commissioner Singapore Scout Association, in his message, reminded scouts "about learning life skills such as self-awareness, teamwork and creative thinking". Scouts can expect more activities "that will develop life skills, from outdoor adventure challenges to leadership development programmes".

The scouts will also have a revised the badge scheme to "make learning more self-directed". Scouts will be able to decide what activities they want to participate in and set their own targets. Scouts are encouraged to take part in the different activities and seek to develop themselves in all areas. In doing so, scouts will gain "experiences that will help them become better individuals".

World Thinking Day is a day for the Brownies and Girl Guides to think about their guiding 'sisters' and scouting 'brothers' all over the world in terms of love and friendship, the meaning of Guiding and its global impact.

In recent years, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has selected an important global issue as the theme for each year's World Thinking Day. It has also chosen a focus country from each of their five world regions for Guides and Brownies to make use of this opportunity to learn about these countries and cultures, as well as to increase their awareness regarding global issues. This year, the theme for World Thinking Day is 'education opens doors for all girls and boys' which is inspired by one of the United Nations Millennium Goals. The five focus countries are Egypt, Bangladesh, Armenia, St Vincent and Grenadines, and Benin. Education is a key issue affecting mostly girls and young women around the world. WAGGGS hopes that with this year's efforts, Guides and Brownies all over the world can help to heighten awareness and ensure that every girl has the right to learning.



Zhou Wanting, one of the team members with Mdm Normala and finalist Jamie Lim at the finals