



association for persons with special needs

# Transforming LIVES, Inspiring CHANGE

50  
Success  
Stories

In Celebration Of

SG  
50



association for persons with special needs

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# FOREWORD

**When the Association for Persons with Special Needs was formed in 1976, the primary aim was to enable those mildly intellectually disabled children entrusted in our care to ultimately find jobs in open employment, and to become useful citizens by being independent and contributing adults in society.**

We currently run four schools and an adult vocational training centre catering to some 1,200 clients. When we first started, we had to raise our own funds to provide the necessary special education and vocational training. Throughout the years, however, the Ministry of Education provided increasingly more funding, so that at the moment the recurrent expenses of the schools are borne by MOE and Community Chest (the fundraising arm of the National Council for Social Service, NCSS). Our Centre for Adults comes under the Ministry of Family & Social Service (MSF), where not all programmes are funded. We therefore have to continue with our fundraising efforts to augment the Ministry subvention.

The end result of seeing our children becoming working adults is a heart-warming one, as it meant the fulfilment of our mission. As our contribution to the celebration of Singapore's 50 years of nationhood (SG50), we chronicle here a compilation of the success stories from our former and current students, trainees and instructors. We hope you will find the stories interesting and inspiring.



**Dr Francis C. Chen**, PhD (Lond), PBM, BBM  
Emeritus President  
*Association for Persons with Special Needs*  
August 2015

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Reuben Tan Yi Jian  
Matthias Yap Jin Xian



association for persons with special needs

## **OUR VISION**

To be a premier organization that develops individuals with special needs to their fullest potential so that they can lead dignified, fulfilling and independent lives as integral members of society.

## **OUR MISSION**

To equip persons with special needs, through best practices in education, training and support services, for open employment and life-long learning, in partnership with our stakeholders and the community.

## **OUR HISTORY**

Since 1976, The Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) is a voluntary welfare organization providing special education for persons with mild intellectual disability (IQ 50 – 70) through a holistic approach in the development of academic, vocational and social skills.

The Association provides dedicated and specialised educational pathways aged 7 years to 21 years. The Centre for Adults provides continued vocational training and preparation for open employment age 17 years old all the way to adulthood.

Our Association is an approved Institution of Public Character (IPC) and is supported by the National Council of Social Service (Community Chest), the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

## **OUR SCHOOLS AND CENTRE FOR ADULTS**

The Association runs four special education schools namely APSN Chaoyang School (APSN CYS), APSN Tanglin School (APSN TS), APSN Katong School (APSN KS), APSN Delta Senior School (APSN DSS) as well as a Student Care Centre (APSN SCC) and a Centre for Adults (APSN CFA).

We have Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Social Workers and Speech & Language Therapists to offer multi-disciplinary professional services to our students and clients.

## ❧ APSN Chaoyang School ❧

caters to children with mild intellectual disabilities (MID) and mild autism between the ages of 7 and 12. The curriculum focusses on developing the whole child with features like functional academics namely literacy, numeracy and science, enabled by information technology. Apart from cultivating sound character, pupils are instructed on personal-social skills, fitness and health education, visual and performing arts and provided the opportunity to shine through co-curricular activities.



## ❧ APSN Katong School ❧

caters to children with mild intellectual disabilities (MID) and mild autism between 7 and 16 years old. The values- based curriculum anchored with character and citizenship education and IT as the enabler builds every student through functional academics (literacy, numeracy and science), self-management (life skills and social & emotional), visual and performing arts, physical education and vocational (vocational guidance and work experience) besides co-curricular activities.

## ❧ APSN Tanglin School ❧

caters to students with mild intellectual disabilities (MID) and mild autism between 13 and 16 years old. The school offers a holistic curriculum with key learning areas in the Academic (Literacy, Numeracy & Science), Social (Social-Emotional Competencies, Physical Education & Sports, The Arts & Co-Curricular Activities) and Vocational (Vocational Guidance & Daily Living Skills/Vocational Education) domains. Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and Character & Citizenship Education (CCE), as the enabler and foundation of the curriculum, are infused into all key learning areas.





## APSN Delta Senior School

caters to students with mild intellectual disabilities (MID), aged 17 to 21 years old. The school facilitates the transition of the student's final phase of schooling at APSN into the community. It offers a competency-based vocational programme, providing broad industry skills, and practical knowledge leading to Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) certifications. Individuals are equipped with industrial knowledge to perform jobs in areas such as Food & Beverage, Hotel & Accommodation Services, Horticulture & Landscaping and Retail Operations. Students are also nurtured in their competencies for living and life-long learning through various character development platforms, such as CCA (Co-Curricular Activities), leadership, and CCE (Character & Citizenship Education) programmes.

## APSN Centre for Adults

provides clients with mild intellectual disabilities (MID), aged 17 years and above, with a comprehensive range of programmes and services. Over the years the Centre has been helping its clients find and keep jobs through training programmes that build industry-relevant skills. CFA provides vocational training in Horticulture, F&B and Hospitality which may lead to attaining Singapore Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) Statement Of Attainment (SOA). We also offer sheltered workshop opportunities such as Recycling and Thrift Shop, F&B, Contract-work and Art & crafts for clients who are not work ready yet. Clients who successfully complete their training will be assessed for their readiness for open employment.



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**Centre for Adults**



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# Centre for Adults

A photograph of a white sign with the APSN logo and text. The sign is mounted on a wall in front of a large, modern building with a glass facade and a white gabled roof. The text on the sign reads: 'APSN association for persons with special needs CENTRE FOR ADULTS 29 Jalan Tembusu'.

APSN  
association for persons with special needs  
CENTRE FOR ADULTS  
29 Jalan Tembusu

## OUR MISSION

To equip persons with special needs through best practices in education, training and support services, for open employment and life-long learning, in partnership with our stakeholders and community.

## OUR OBJECTIVE

In line with our mission, we aim to place all our clients into open competitive employment. Our sheltered work training programmes are tailored to suit the needs of our clients so as to maximise the learning experience and ultimately their readiness for open employment.



# Ang Dun Ye

25 Years Old



## My Love for Beancurd

Ang Dun Ye joined APSN Centre For Adults (CFA) in January 2010. He is 25 years old and has been working at Hanwell Holdings Limited since November 2014. He is not much of a talker unless to his family and friends and an introvert by nature. In September 2014, Dun Ye was involved in the Theatre Hora programme and it was the first time that Ms Siew Cheng (Job Coach) noticed he was eating beancurd (toufu) and refused to eat anything other than tofu during the buffet lunch.

In 2014, Hanwell Holdings Limited wanted to hire clients from CFA to assist in their tofu container washing. Siew Cheng approached Dun Ye as she remembered that he loves eating tofu. According to the HR staff, Dun Ye was forthcoming in his answers and was thus accepted for the job. Today he is in charge of washing the containers and would also move around the other departments to help out once he finishes the day's washing. Dun Ye lives near Tanah Merah but is willing to travel to Boon Lay everyday for work. He enjoys his job tremendously and has been opening up to the other staff and at times teasing them. He would proudly share his work experiences with his job coach and CFA staff every time he sees them.



*Dun Ye putting back the washed crates*



*Dun Ye with Ying Jie*



*Dun Ye putting the soiled crates to wash*

**Azizul Bin Jasmani**  
24 Years Old

# **Determination is the Key to Success**

Azizul Bin Jasmani is a 24 year old client who is diagnosed with MID, epilepsy and spastic hemiplegia. His physical challenge is significant when it comes to daily functions that require motor coordination. He joined APSN Centre for Adults (CFA) in January 2010 and was attached to the Commercial Handicrafts Training Programme where he learnt how to paint and make various crafts. He is a creative, cheerful and dedicated individual.



*Packing noodles at his workplace*



Azizul was recommended to work in Kwong Seng International dealing with packing of noodles and spices according to Halal standards. The company was on a look out for a Malay staff to work for a few hours each day and Azizul fitted the job requirements.

He attended occupational therapy service to improve his motor skills. His therapy intervention was to focus on integrating his upper extremity in functional activities. He is able to perform the packing task with adequate speed and precision.

His colleagues are very supportive and would encourage him to use his weaker left hand. As Azizul continued to improve on his work performance, Mr Sew, his boss, increased his working hours which pleased Azizul.

The company has moved from Kampong Ampat to Admiralty which is further from where Azizul lives but that did not deter him from work. He is glad to be able to earn his own income. Due to his good work performance, Mr Sew decided to hire another of CFA's client to work in his café.

# Camaliah Bte Abdul Malik

29 Years Old

## I Can Triumph over Life Challenges



*Internship at Hans Restaurant*

Camaliah Bte Abdul Malik joined APSN Centre for Adults (CFA) in April 2012. She is 29 years old and has a charming personality. She was diagnosed with Right Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy when she was young and currently walks with a slight limp due to weakness on her right leg. She attended occupational therapy

service at CFA to improve the upper extremity mobility and flexibility needed in functional activities. Camaliah was able to apply learned skills to the work environment in the form of carrying trays, plates and use both hands to hold the mop and clean the floor with adequate work standard.

Camaliah was selected for the F&B Pilot training in 2013. The F&B Pilot programme consists of three key training modules such as Food and Hygiene training, Bakery and Cafe Operations. The programme is a collaboration between CFA and SHATEC. Upon completion of the course, she was awarded the WSQ, SOA (Statement of Attainment) certifications in the various F&B modules.

She joined Hans under the Internship programme in January 2014 where she learned to clear the tables and clean the dining area. After her internship with Hans, she joined Popeyes where she helped out in the kitchen making mashed potatoes, scooping them into different containers and cleaning the lobby area. Camaliah loves her work and gets along very well with her staff. Many times, she was willing to forgo her off days and goes back to work when the company is short of manpower. Even with her slight physical disability, Camaliah still carries on her duties with pride.



*Camaliah cleaning the dining area*

# Farhana Bte Fazil

27 Years Old

## Life Is Not A Bed of Roses... But I Can Do It!

Farhana Bte Fazil is a 27 year old client diagnosed with MID and Psychosis. She has been with APSN Centre for Adults (CFA) since April 2011. During her first two years in the Commercial Handicrafts Programme, she was unable to focus in her work tasks and exhibited multiple challenging behaviours such as shouting and crying due to hallucinations and mood swings.



*Farhana's practical and theory test for Hard Floor WSQ Assessment*

Investigation into her background, medical condition and family issues allowed a clearer explanation on her challenging behaviours. Her Instructor, Occupational Therapist, Psychologist and Social Worker worked closely together and implement various interventions to work on Farhana's self-esteem issues, lack of motivation and fears in life. The team also monitored her irregular medication intake and her family support system. Over time, she started to show improvement and gradually became more focused in her work. Her good performance boosted her self-esteem and social skills.

Farhana was transferred to the Hospitality training programme, a WSQ course where she was trained in two modules in hard floor and toilet cleaning. The WSQ course is a partnership between CFA and Sun City Maintenance Pte Ltd. She attended training punctually daily and showed great interest in learning. She practiced hard in various oral questions in the modules and would request for more extra opportunities in practical training. In April 2015, Farhana passed her two modules and has been offered a job with Sun City due to her strong determination to succeed.

# Elaine Gao Ni Yan

27 Years Old

## Disability Does Not Mean Inability



*Elaine doing her internship at  
Holiday Inn Orchard City Centre*

Elaine Gao Ni Yan joined APSN Centre For Adults (CFA) in January 2008. She was diagnosed with MID and Diplegic Cerebral Palsy. Elaine is pleasant in nature and adopts a positive attitude towards life. In 2010, Elaine was placed in the Recycling / Thrift Shop programme at CFA to maximize her ability in learning.

Motor skills have always been a barrier for Elaine. Despite this, she is always willing to go the extra mile during her training at the Thrift Shop. Elaine attended occupational therapy to improve her motor skills. Mr Jerome (Occupational Therapist) uses therapy intervention to focus on the upper extremity bilateral integration, stability and accuracy of functional activities.

An opportunity came in January 2013 when Holiday Inn Orchard City Centre started a new intake for their Centre of Training & Integration (CTI) programme. Mr Nelson Kang (Elaine's instructor) and Mrs Gao, Elaine's mother felt that the CTI programme is suitable for her to learn more skills.

During the attachment, Elaine was trained in area cleaning, vacuuming and dish washing. She was able to apply the learnt skills in the work environment to complete her assigned task. She always tries her level best to improve her work skills.

With the encouragement and support from Elaine's parents, she learnt to be an independent traveller taking public transport to and from work. Intercontinental Singapore hired Elaine after her six-month internship. Elaine is now in charge of cleaning the corridor area outside the hotel rooms. She has worked more than one and a half years since being hired. Mrs Gao said that Elaine's confidence has increased greatly since working there. Elaine continues to strive and fulfill her dream and aspirations in life.



*Elaine doing her internship at  
Holiday Inn Orchard City Centre*



*Elaine working at Hotel  
Intercontinental Singapore*

# Guan Chau Kok

27 Years Old

## Overcoming personal challenges and achieving vocational Success

Guan Chau Kok joined APSN Centre For Adults (CFA) in January 2008 and was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and MID. Chau Kok had an serious accident on a motorcycle and since then had fears of crossing the road alone using traffic lights.

An Individual Training Plan (ITP) was created jointly with his mother. A monitoring checklist was created to help Chau Kok increase his confidence with crossing the road using traffic lights. On weekdays, CFA staff guided Chua Kok on road safety and the correct procedures in using the traffic lights. During the weekends, his parents continued the interventions to support him in achieving his goal. The turning point started when Chau Kok started to go out for lunch with his friends. He slowly overcame his fear with the encouragement he had. The ITP was successfully implemented and he achieved the goal of being an independent traveller once again.

In his vocational development, he went through Hospitality training for five years in CFA. However, Chua Kuok tend to be rigid when there were changes in environment and work scopes. His emotions and work productivity were further affected with the passing of his mother. A lot of support was given by CFA staff, friends and family to help him overcome his great loss. On January 2013, Chau Kuok was selected for training at Holiday Inn Orchard City Centre under their CTI program for six months.

Chau Kuok was selected by InterContinental Singapore for full-time employment as a House Steward. Chau Kuok has been working there for more than a year and travels to work independently using public transport. Chau Kuok actively participates in the company's dinner and dance, enjoys working with his colleagues and looks forward to work every day.



*Chau Kuok sweeping the floor*



*Chau Kuok preparing the bin*

# Liang Ying Jie

27 Years Old

## I May Be Quiet but I Can Still Make a Difference

Liang Ying Jie joined APSN Centre for Adults (CFA) in January 2008. He is a 27 year old client with MID and Mild Epilepsy. He exhibits characteristics similar to those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but has not been clinically diagnosed with ASD. He is quiet and needs a lot of encouragement to open up and communicate. He was introduced to Art Therapy to encourage him to express his needs and emotions verbally and initiate conversations with others. He was also encouraged to make his own decisions and choices during the Art Therapy sessions. Gradually, he gained more confidence in exploring new art materials and was especially fascinated by colours and motivated to draw patterns of colours.

At CFA, Ying Jie was attached to Contract Work training programme. He has excellent fine motor skills and is capable of maintaining good quality work but requires support to improve his sense of timing in completing his job, work initiative and working independently. Clear work targets and a work schedule with time segments were set for him in his training development. He gradually improved and was a valued member of the contract work team.

When the job offer opened up at Hanwell Holdings Limited, Ying Jie expressed interest and his parents motivated him to take up the job. The company selected Ying Jie even though

he was very quiet during the interview. He impressed them when he started to perform the task as part of the interview requirements.

Today Ying Jie has worked for more than four months washing tofu containers and packing tofu. His manager, supervisor and co-workers feedback that Ying Jie is a good worker who works continuously without stopping. Ying Jie's mother is extremely happy that her son is now independent and earning a living for himself.



*Ying Jie collecting the washed crates from the washer*



*Ying Jie pushing the washed crates back*



*Ying Jie with Dun Ye*

# Tan Wai Loon

37 Years Old

## Me and my “Green Fingers”

Tan Wai Loon joined our Arthur Road Training Centre, the precursor of Centre for Adults (CFA) as a trainee in 1997. He was a 19 year old young man with mild intellectual disability and also speech and hearing impairments. He was a hard working lad and picked up skills pretty fast. He was adept at weaving and was the star performer at the loom when visitors came visiting. He was employed by CFA as a cleaner and handyman.

In 2006 when CFA started its horticulture programme, Wai Loon became interested in plants and gardening. CFA participated in the Singapore Garden Festival 2010 and Wai Loon was actively involved. In 2012 he was selected by NParks to be an ambassador in its Community in Bloom project.

His love for gardening propels him to equip himself with more knowledge about the trade. He is now an Instructor Assistant in horticulture at CFA and he imparts his knowledge to his charges by using pictures and visual aids. He is currently in charge of the three hydroponic green houses at CFA.

We are happy that Wai Loon has found his calling. He is earning a four figure monthly salary and we are proud that he is a contributing member of society.



*Transplanting seedlings over from germination tray*



*Cleaning up the hydroponics board*



*Maintenance of plants by clients under guidance from Wai Loon*

**Rueban s/o Swaminathan**

23 Years Old

# Looking for My Dream Job

Rueban is a low support trainee who joined APSN Centre of Adults (CFA) in January 2013. He was attached to the Hospitality Training Programme in CFA due to his expressive nature which allowed him to communicate effectively with others around him. Even with such good communication skills, he was not successful in gaining full-time employment due to his inability to accept instructions and authority. Job Coach, Siew Cheng approached Rueban and advised him that if he wanted to be successful, he needed to be more receptive to other's instructions.

In May 2013, Rueban joined the Equestrian Federation Singapore (EFS) in their 2nd round of training. The training ran for six months and although Rueban was not familiar with animals, he adapted quickly and fell in love with the horses. After the six months training, Rueban was accepted to work with EFS. Today, Rueban cleans about five to six stables a day. He is very grateful that he has a full-time job. He is also very courteous and would send his regards to the other instructors whenever Siew Cheng drops by for her job visits.



*Hard at work*



*Rueban doing area cleaning*



*Tidying up the stables*

# Toh Chik Yee

26 Years Old

## I Like To Work With My Friends



*Chik Yee with his favourite horse*

& pushing and pulling techniques (trolley). He executes the acquired skills in an adequate manner and is able to integrate the learned ergonomics skill in his working environment.

Chik Yee was in the janitorial training program at CFA. His work skills were good and therefore he was recommended for open employment. Chik Yee was placed to work in the CARElderly Senior Activity Centre doing area cleaning on a part-time basis in November 2011. Chik Yee preferred to

Toh Chik Yee joined APSN Centre For Adults (CFA) in January 2010. He was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and MID. He possesses great energy and the potential and interest to learn. He attended occupational therapy service to improve his Ergonomics skills in the areas of lifting and carrying techniques (boxes)

work with his friends and he therefore decided to join the training at Equestrian Federation of Singapore (EFS) for a year in March 2012. He enjoyed his training at EFS and thereafter continued to work there. Chik Yee's current job scopes include area cleaning around the stables and cleaning the feed bins of the horses. He gets along well with the other workers and enjoys his work at EFS eventhough the hours are much longer than his previous employment. He has been working for more than a year since then.



*Chik Yee cleaning the toilet*



*Chik Yee washing the feedbins*



## **OUR MISSION**

We aim to equip persons with special needs through best practices in education, training and support services, for open employment and life-long learning in partnership with our stakeholders and community.

## **OUR OBJECTIVE**

Delta Senior School will be the most visionary and purpose-driven community of excellence for person-centred transition.

# Abdul Azza Bin Mohamed Latib

21 Years Old

## Change is Good

Abdul Azza Bin Mohamed Latib started his Work Experience Programme (WEP) in Swensen's, Parkway Parade since July 2014 as a kitchen helper. He is stubborn, had trouble trusting people and that made it hard for people to reach out to him. In the initial stage, his Job Coach had a hard time reaching to him too and all these issues strained his working capabilities.

When Azza first started out at Swensen's, he tried his best to do the daily tasks assigned to him despite all the challenges he faced. One driving factor was his interest in cooking and baking. He attended F&B club and pastry classes every Thursday at Delta Senior School. He learned to enjoy his workplace and as a result, he learned to build good working relationship with his colleagues.

With the help of his supportive supervisor, colleagues and job coach along with all his relentless efforts, Azza is now a full-time staff, working as a commis cook in Swensen's. He is in charge of the fryer station; deep frying frozen products, fries and battered meats. Azza has attained the full certification in Culinary Arts and if given an opportunity, he would like to further pursue his interest in baking as a leisure activity or even for higher learning.



*Abdul Azza's efforts to change made him a proud full-time staff of Swensen's*



*From kitchen helper to commis cook; Abdul Azza is in charge of the fryer station*

**Carmen Goh Jia Wen**

22 Years Old

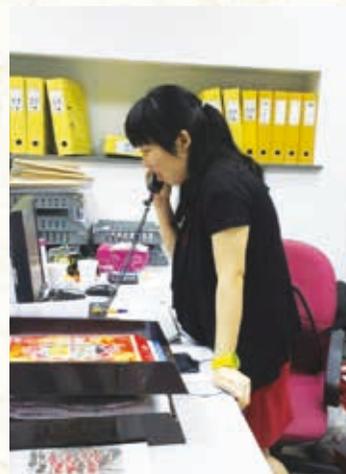
# **A dream is not just a dream**

Being the youngest child in the family, Carmen was naturally shy and quiet. When she was still in Delta Senior School, Carmen encountered many challenges during her transition from school to work-based environment.

Carmen had to improve on her social and work skills to sustain in the work force. Initially, Carmen did not interact much with her co-workers. She would keep to herself whenever she encountered difficulties. However, being a keen learner, Carmen gradually opened up and became more independent. When she encountered difficulties, she would approach her colleagues for help. She also learnt how to solve problems on her own.

Carmen also did not like taking on new tasks since they were unfamiliar. She was worried she would not be able to accomplish them. With continuous encouragement from her family and colleagues, Carmen realised that learning a new task was not difficult if she tried. Her confidence grew day-by-day and Carmen was able to take on more roles and responsibilities in her company.

Carmen's testimony proves that, 'a dream is not just a dream'. She is currently working with Kumpulan Development (S) Pte Ltd. She was eventually offered a full-time employment because of her good performance at work.



*Carmen answering to customers' enquiries*



*Filing and checking of documents*



*Emailing and keying in of service orders into the computer*



*Scanning of document into system*

# Jasmine Tay

22 Years Old

## Assistant Head Prefect wins Caring Host Award

Jasmine, a room attendant in Shangri-la Rasa Sentosa Resort and Spa Singapore graduated from Delta Senior School in 2014. She had always been active in school, taking part in the Overseas Learning Journey in Cambodia as well as holding the Assistant Head Prefect position.

Over the years, Jasmine has learnt crucial life skills such as taking public transport independently and most importantly maintaining employment. She is always looking forward to going to work and enjoys serving the guests.

One of her challenges was to travel to work which took almost 3 hours. This requires her to wake up early to reach work on time. To overcome this, she wakes up and leaves home early. As a result, her punctuality and standard of work performances improved.

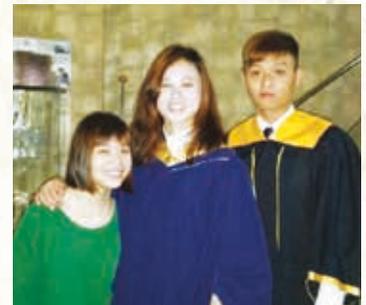
When she first joined as a Room Attendant at Shangri-la, she had mixed feelings. She felt excited, and a little bit nervous at the same time because she knew that Shangri-la was a reputable 5-star hotel. She was able to overcome her nervousness because of her Job Coach and colleagues who were very supportive.

During 2014, Jasmine received 4 positive guest feedbacks in the hotel. As a result, she was awarded the "Caring Host Award". She was very proud and happy about it.

"I want to continue providing good services to the guests," said Jasmine. "When the guests are happy, I am happy too."



Jasmine, with her classmate during DSS Graduation Ceremony on 14 November 2014



Jasmine, together with her siblings during their graduation ceremony



Jasmine, with her mother during DSS Graduation Ceremony on 14 November 2014



Jasmine with her family members during a family outing

# Jonathan Soh Hong Kuang

22 Years Old

## A NITEC graduate proceeds as a polytechnic student



*Jonathan receiving his 'NITEC in Electronics' certificate during the graduation ceremony at ITE College East*

Jonathan Soh was a student of Delta Senior School from 2010 to 2012. Being a highly self-motivated individual, Jonathan worked hard to achieve an outstanding result for Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN). He also attained a full 'Employability Skills Workplace Skills Qualifications' (ES WSQ) certificate in Food and Beverage which gained him the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC).

In order to strive for better remuneration prospects and to gain more skills and knowledge, Jonathan decided to enrol at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) instead of entering the workforce at the age of 19. He was accepted into a course of his choice; Nitec in Electronics (Mobile Devices).

His decision to further his studies led him to face challenges in both academic and financial issues. Due to the distinct differences between the special needs and the mainstream curriculum, Jonathan found it tough to meet the demands of the course. He also had to pay for his own school fees and therefore had to work part-time to make ends meet. Jonathan sought help from his classmates and did a lot of self-

revision to understand the course contents. He also applied for a bursary in order to support his studies during ITE.

Despite balancing both work and studies, Jonathan managed to complete his Nitec in Electronics course in December 2014. With an "above" average aggregate score of 3.6, Jonathan decided to advance further by applying for polytechnic studies. Jonathan was accepted into the Business Information Systems course at Republic Polytechnic and started school in April 2015.

Besides boosting his confidence level and instilling a sense of discipline, Jonathan feels that his studies at Delta Senior School had equipped him with the necessary skills to succeed in pursuing his goals in life.



*Jonathan attending the graduation ceremony at ITE College East*

# Thng Kai Bin

23 Years Old

## If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It

Kai Bin is a perfect testimony to the saying that lady luck favours those who persevere and work hard towards their goals. He is fondly remembered as a helpful but talkative student who would often get into trouble for chatting with his classmates during lessons.

He grew to take his training more seriously during his on-site training at NTUC Eldercare Silver Circle (Punggol South). Serving the elderly in the community setting also opened his eyes to see how his work skills could directly impact and bring happiness to others.

His Duty Manager from his Work Experience Program (WEP) at Holiday Inn Singapore, commended that Kai Bin would take initiative to volunteer and help guests out with their

luggage, and with the utmost sincerity and cheerfulness. This was truly admirable as helping guests with their luggage was beyond his job scope. He landed a full-time job at HISA and was promoted to front of house as a bell-man. With his trainer's and supervisor's guidance, he was able to overcome his challenge of reading.

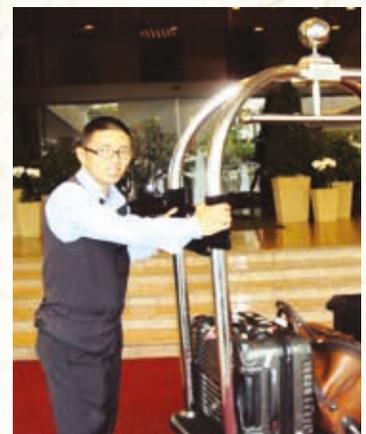
In 2013, Kai Bin won two honesty awards given by HISA. In January 2014, HISA nominated him for the Exemplary Employee (PWD) Category for the Enabling Employer Award 2014. He was also a nominated Environmental Ambassador, while he was in school. With this green role, he helped create a fun and caring environment in school. Kai Bin is now working towards his better days with enthusiasm and a bright smile.



*Kai Bin receiving one of the many awards he has been given*



*Promoted to front of house as a bell-man for his outstanding performance at work*



*Kai Bin doing more of what's expected of him. Helping with guest's luggage is beyond his job scope*

**Leong Kok Fatt**

26 Years Old

# **Determination and motivation pays off**



*Kok Fatt, hard at work folding towels*

Kok Fatt was a student of Delta Senior School between 2006 and 2007. He started his job trial with Zero Spot Laundry and is still proudly employed by Zero Spot Laundry after 8 years.

Kok Fatt's success was not without some initial challenges to overcome. He used to be easily distracted at work. He used to look up every three to five minutes and walked around. To help him know what he should be doing at work, the job coach gave him a set of specific work behaviours to follow. He became more self-aware of his tendency to walk around, when the job coach jotted it down visually on the tracking tool, whenever he did so.

Kok Fatt was often anxious about his off day and would repeatedly approach his co-workers about it. He was anxious as he did not have it written down. He was given a calendar to jot down his off days and that lessened his anxiety. He was highly motivated to maintain his employment at Zero Spot Laundry and thus he diligently followed through with the visual supports and managed to work on all his undesirable work habits.

Kok Fatt eventually became a star worker in Zero Spot Laundry.



*Kok Fatt, a star worker in Zero Spot Laundry*



**Seo Kwee Mun**

26 Years Old



# A dedicated Service Supervisor



*Kwee Mun a dedicated supervisor*

Seo Kwee Mun graduated from Delta Senior School in 2013. Since then, she has been working with Pizza Hut Singapore Pte Ltd as a Service Supervisor. When she was first placed out for her Work Experience Program, she was a timid and shy student. At her lowest point, she 'toyed' with the thought of dropping out. Through continuous support and encouragement from her job coach and personal development mentor, she found that she had the inner strength and determination to succeed at the workplace. She is now self-assured and is able to voice out her needs. Most importantly to her, she is financially independent and is able to provide for herself and her family members using her own hard earned money.

She often reminds the other students when they are bullied or mistreated, that they have to strive hard and not to be put down. Furthermore she points out that each student has their individual responsibility towards academic diligence and upholding workplace ethics and performances.

Last but not least, Kwee Mun serves as a 'beacon of hope' to her classmates encouraging them to follow the school's motto 'I can I want and I will be the best that I can be'.



*Kwee Mun with DSS motto, "I Can I Want I Will"*

# Lau Choon Hock

22 Years Old

## Our valedictorian: a determined barista and a photographer

Lau Choon Hock attained a full WSQ Certification in Food & Beverage with the dedicated guidance from the staff of Delta Senior School (DSS). He expressed his gratitude and appreciation for their encouragement and support. At DSS, he was a good role model and was always respectful to his teachers and never failed to be polite and helpful. He was the valedictorian of his graduating class, delivering an inspiring speech during the graduation ceremony last year.

Choon Hock is currently working at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf as a full-time barista. He smiles from ear to ear as he recalls the moment when he first heard that he had been offered a full-time position.

His job is to prepare drinks and food such as ice blended beverages, coffee, pasta and sandwiches. Initially, he experienced challenges in learning the steps of preparing the sandwiches and pasta but with self-determination and a desire to succeed, he overcame all his obstacles. Gourmet preparation does not pose any problems to him anymore.

He enjoys his work and making good friends. He finds tremendous satisfaction in doing a good job. At the end of every month, he looks forward to receiving his salary and that gives him great pleasure to be able to give part of his salary to his parents.

Since young, Choon Hock had a great interest in computers and would frequently help his parents set up or fix the home computer. He would look for computer parts and assemble them together. Another interest of his would be photography. He had developed a great passion after winning the first prize in a school competition for a photo of a white tiger which he snapped at the zoo. He proceeded to purchase a camera using his own money and would take photos of birds and flowers during his leisure time.

Choon Hock has aspirations to further his studies in the future so that he can improve himself and continue to learn and grow.



Choon Hock with his manager at Coffee Bean



Choon Hock making hot beverage at work



Choon Hock cleaning his work area



## Foo Li Wen

26 Years Old



# With help and effort, all is possible

A former student of Delta Senior School, 26-year old Liwen is currently working at Zero Spot Laundry (Senoko) on an open employment basis. A confident and independent young adult, Liwen's expertise is to fold and sort hotel guests' laundry items.

When she was a student, Liwen had encountered some workplace challenges during her job attachment - one of which was work place communication. Whenever Liwen had completed a laundry task, she was found to be standing and waiting for further instructions instead of seeking out her supervisor. She was extremely shy and "did not dare" approach her co-workers. This affected her work flow at her work place. Some strategies were emplaced to help Liwen improve her communication skills. She was taught how to report on completed tasks and how to request for more tasks. Liwen's supervisors and co-workers also took extra effort to talk to her and help her adapt to her new surroundings. Gradually, Liwen started to speak clearly and more spontaneously in her department; thus, improving her communication at her work place.

Liwen has been working at Zero Spot Laundry for eight years now. With a good attitude towards work, she hopes to continue working there for many more years to come.



*Li Wen sorting guest's laundry*



*Li Wen hard at work folding uniform*

# Muhammad Firdaus bin Jamaluddin

22 Years Old

## Helping others is a rewarding experience



*Firdaus bundling up the pillow cases*

Muhammad Firdaus bin Jamaluddin, currently works full-time in SATS Aero Linen Services as an Operator. It was the same place where he completed his Work Experience Program (WEP) 1 and 2.

Firdaus's job responsibility is to fold the pillow cases from the ironing machine and bundling them up. He

will proceed to work stations upon completing his own tasks. The success of having a full-time employment did not come without challenges. Initially, he was uncomfortable of being asked to do things that were not part of his job such as clearing the rubbish. Initially, he felt very unhappy but soon he realised that helping out one another at the workplace improves his relationships with his colleagues. He overcame his unhappiness by doing jobs out of his scope without throwing tantrums. Now he is happy that there is no strain in his working relationships.

Firdaus works hard to keep his job at SATS Aero Linen Services. It would have been difficult without the support from Delta Senior School and his family.



*Firdaus folding pillow cases in the laundry room*



*Proud to be from Delta Senior School*



## **OUR MISSION**

We equip our students with skills, knowledge and attitudes through a holistic curriculum to enable them to lead independent and meaningful lives as integral members of the community.

## **OUR OBJECTIVE**

Leading independent and meaningful lives,  
Valued in the community.

# Goh Yu Xiang

22 Years Old

## Dare to Dream



*Goh Yu Xiang is currently an Instructor Aide at APSN Tanglin School*

Hi, I am Yu Xiang. I have a dream. I hope to be a sushi artist teacher someday. But when I was younger, I dared not even dream.

I was a student of APSN Tanglin School. Now I work as an instructor aide in the school. I enjoy in-line skating, a sport which

I learnt at Jervois Special School. I was able to pick up advanced skills and was very happy when I could perform in front of a crowd. Through my achievements in sports, I learnt confidence, something I didn't have in the past. This newfound confidence gave me the courage to dream.

I got to know Mr Fujisaki Tadao through a sushi course that my family encouraged me to enroll. Despite of my education in a special education school, Fujisaki Sensei took me in as one of his students. He was patient and meticulous. Whenever I faced challenges during the course of my study especially in the preparation stage, he would always teach me slowly, explaining the steps in an easy to understand manner.

I want to teach like Fujisaki Sensei. Anyone who wants to learn deserves a chance to learn, like I had. It doesn't matter if he or she has a disability or facing challenges in life, it is the attitude of learning that makes one succeed.

I also have my eldest sister, Yu Fen, to thank. She always dotes on me and cares for me. Even though she has to care for her own family and she works at the same time, she never fails to spend time with me. She believes in me and what I am capable of achieving.

I have Jie Jie Yu Fen, Fujisaki Sensei, and many others to thank for guiding and inspiring me to be the best I can be and to dream!

*\*Written by Ms Goh Yu Xiang who was a former student of APSN Tanglin School.*



*Yu Xiang receiving the Certificate for Basic Sushi and Japanese Cuisine*



*Yu Xiang (2nd from right) with her course mates at Tokyo Sushi Academy*



*Sashimi – a popular Japanese cuisine prepared by Yu Xiang*

# Muhammad Rohaizat Bin Razid

13 Years Old

## I am a Victor

My name is Muhammad Rohaizat Bin Razid. I am a victor, I hope to be successful in life.

Four years ago, I was sent to Pertapis Children's Home to receive proper care as there was a lack of commitment from my parents. I was separated from my parents; it was a scary place. I had to follow the rules in the home, and I could not go out at all, only to school and back to the home. I stayed there for 3 years. I missed my father a lot.

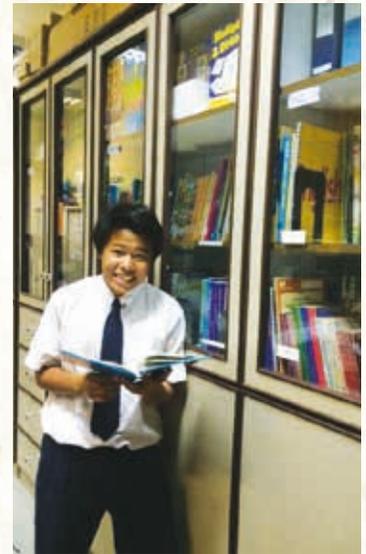
Last year, my cousin helped me to return to my family. I felt so happy that I could see my parents again. Staying at the home helped me mature. I have learnt - no matter how hard things are, to think positively and I must not give up easily.

In school, I am in the Soccer Team and have won many medals. I am also one of the prefects in the school. When I grow up, I want to work as a crewmember on a ferry, helping people to carry their bags, because I have never taken a ferry before. I will work hard to earn a living and provide for my family. I know one day, my wish will come true as long I persevere and work towards my goal.

\* Written by Muhammad Rohaizat Bin Razid who is a Secondary 2 student in APSN Tanglin School



*A Prefect of the school, Rohaizat takes pride in his job*



*Reading is what I like*

# Hay Qing Hui

23 Years Old

## I live a fulfilling life and I am happy

I thought my world had collapsed when I had to move from a mainstream school to a special school. I became very quiet and did not want to interact much. After some time, I thought to myself, "Why don't I try to work things out? Why don't I try to learn new skills and apply them? Why do I give up?" This change of attitude was the turning point in my life.

I began to see a whole new world of opportunities before me. I realized that all along, everyone, my family, my teachers and even my friends have been supporting me. I began to learn as much as I could. I became active in many co-curricular activities. Soon I was appointed to be a prefect. I obtain seven WSQ Statements of Attainments for Food and Beverage. I even took the 'N' Level exam to see how far I could go. I joined a volunteer group and soon I found myself having so much fun as a volunteer, reaching out to those who need more help than I do.

I see this as my way of doing National Service since I am not able to serve the country like my peers.

I have never turned back since. I live a fulfilling life and I am happy. I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me – my family, my friends and teachers as well.

To my friends who want to succeed in life, I say, "Don't give up because we can excel. Know your strengths and work on them. You will succeed, too!"

\* Written by Hay Qing Hui who was a former student of APSN Tanglin School



*Qing Hui loves the outdoors*



*Qing Hui is currently an Instructor Aide in APSN Tanglin School*



*Qing Hui performing the Cha-Cha-Cha*



*"My family is my pillar of strength" said Qing Hui*

**Hiren Tiwari s/o Ramesh Tiwari**

13 Years Old

# Mummy, I Love You!

My name is Hiren Tiwari. I had a stomach operation at the age of 9 due to some medical issues. During the operation, the doctor discovered I had hernia in my stomach and removed it. At the age of 2, I had to have another operation. When I was three, the doctors attached a tube into my stomach because I had difficulties eating. However after a few weeks the tube was removed. The doctor did not want me to undergo any more operations. Slowly I began to eat again. I went in and out of the hospital many times when I was young. My mother said that despite all the pain I went through, I was always cheerful and happy.

When I was in Lakeside Primary School, I had difficulty understanding what the teachers were teaching. I failed my examinations and was disappointed with myself and my mother was very sad. I was later transferred to APSN Chaoyang School in 2013 and then to APSN Tanglin School in 2015. Since then, I tried my best to do well at school and I have many good teachers to guide and advise me. This year, I am the class monitor. My desire is to become a prefect where I can lead and guide my peers in school.

I feel so blessed to have a mother who still loves and takes care of me although I am not the brightest child in the family. Mummy, I love you!

\* Written by Hiren Tiwari s/o Ramesh Tiwari who is a Secondary 1 student in APSN Tanglin School.



*As a toddler, Hiren Tiwari needed medical attention*



*Hiren Tiwari has become a confident teenager*



*At school, Hiren Tiwari is well-liked by his peers*

# Nurul Atikah Binte Azni

16 Years Old

## Not Disabled, Just Differently Abled



*A medal for speed skating at Special Olympics World Winter Games 2014*

As a volunteer of Special Olympics Singapore, I have the honour of being Nurul Atikah's coach in the Female Football Outreach Programme.

In 2013, Atikah was one of five speed skaters who represented Singapore in the Special Olympics World Winter Games. During one of the qualifying rounds of the skating competition, Atikah skidded, lost balance and fell. Blood started running down her face. I was recording the race from the sideline but the accident was too fast for me to react. Within a minute, Atikah got up, sped round the circuit and finished the race. She finished the race despite her injuries, I was speechless.

At the end of the race, I dashed to the athletes' holding room. Atikah was in pain and crying. The officials rushed her to the hospital in an ambulance. I stayed with her to calm her down as she was frantic over the blood that has stained her attire. She suffered a cut below her lower lip and needed stitches.

This year, Atikah was selected to be in the Female Football Team, representing Singapore in the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles. Although she is

the youngest member in the team, Atikah is leading her teammates with unflinching courage and skills to win a medal for Singapore.

Through her love for sports, Atikah has learnt to be more independent. With each achievement made in the sporting arena, Atikah has become more confident. She is motivated to take on new challenges and is always determined to work hard to make every training session worthwhile. I am proud to be not only her coach, but also a friend to Atikah and many special athletes like her. Atikah is not disabled, she is just differently abled.

\* Written by Ms Aznita Bte Md Amin who is a volunteer with Special Olympics Singapore and a Teacher in APSN Tanglin School.



*Ready for job attachment at IKEA*



*Football training for Special Olympics World Winter Games 2015*

**Jasmine Lee Jia En**

14 Years Old

# Proud of Myself



*I am one of the "Rata-the-Wanderer" casts*

My name is Jasmine Lee. I am 14 years old. During my childhood, it was difficult to be independent. I could not speak properly. I also had difficulties learning English. I went for many operations for my throat but still unable to speak properly.

When I was 7 years old, I went to a MINDS school. I was exposed to many reading mastery lessons with my other classmates. I would also go to the library to read more books so that I could learn to read more words. My mother supported me by teaching me how to pronounce simple English words.

After a few years, I was transferred to APSN Chaoyang School. By then, I could spell and read on my own. I have won many school awards for my good results.

Obeying and honoring my family is the thing that motivates me to persevere. I love my family very much. In future I want to get a job to support my family and myself. I feel proud of myself and my achievements.

\* Written by Jasmine Lee Jia En who is a Secondary 2 student in APSN Tanglin School.



*Jasmine and her "friends"*



*Jasmine working on a script with an audio equipment*

# Qisthi Isyraqi Bin Muhammad Ibrahim

13 Years Old

## My Grandson, My Life

I am the grandmother of Qisthi a student of Secondary 1 Collaboration at Tanglin School. I have been the main caregiver for Qisthi since his father passed away when Qisthi was just two years old.

When Qisthi was a toddler, he would not respond when his name was called. He would either shake or nod his head to indicate his likes and dislikes. He would flap his hands when he was feeling excited or anxious. In 2009, Qisthi was admitted to APSN Chaoyang School. Since then, Qisthi has shown tremendous improvement and in January 2015, he was promoted to APSN Tanglin School. He loves going to school and a favourite amongst his peers.

Qisthi always says "I love you Ibu" and kisses me on my cheeks. When I am sick he puts his hand on my forehead and although he does not say much, I know he cares for me. I love my grandson with my whole heart and soul. I can't image life without him.

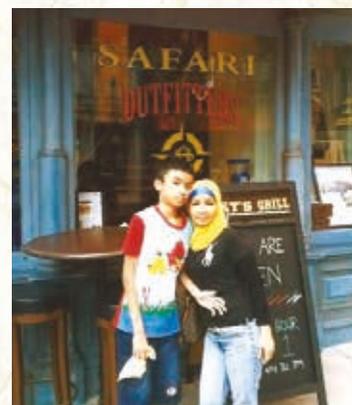
Qisthi taught me how to appreciate life and what unconditional love is. He also taught me what it means to be empathetic and the importance of having the faith to go through life. It is through him that I have learned to live in simple laughter and joy in the midst of challenges. As I observe Qisthi grows into a teenager, I have learnt to respect all children with special needs, for who they are and to appreciate their gifts and talent.



*Young Qisthi with his grandmother, Mdm Roziah*



*Qisthi expresses his affection towards his grandmother*



*Qisthi, a quiet and shy boy*

\* Written by Mdm Roziah who is the grandmother of Qisthi Isyraqi Bin Muhammad Ibrahim, a Secondary 1 student in APSN Tanglin School.

# Wah Ming Yang

14 Years Old

## A Mother's Heartbeat

I have a son with ASD, in short Autism and Ming Yang will be 14 years old this year. Not so long ago, he was a little boy sitting on my lap. Now, he is a young man standing tall beside me. Not long ago, I could hold him and calm him down when he was angry. Now, he is strong and full of energy.

I take him out lesser and lesser these days. It is hard when people stop and stare when he loses his temper in public. I often weep in silence when nobody is watching. When Ming Yang was in a primary school, his inappropriate social behaviours often annoyed people around him. He had few friends who would want to play with him.

In 2014, Ming Yang was admitted to APSN Tanglin School. Since then, the teacher and Psychologist have developed an Individual Education Plan to help Ming Yang integrate into a secondary school environment. Over the years, Ming Yang has improved significantly in his receptive and expressive language skills.

To me, Ming Yang is still that little boy who whispers, "Mummy, I love you." I have learnt more about life from him than he has from me. Before Ming Yang was diagnosed with "ASD", he was a young child. After Ming Yang was diagnosed with "ASD", he is my child and forever he will be.

\* Written by Ms Ng Chu Ha, mother of Wah Ming Yang who is a Secondary 2 student of APSN Tanglin School.



*Ming Yang and his parents*



*Wah Ming Yang is a Secondary 2 student of APSN Tanglin*

**Evelyn Lim Jia Xuan**

15 Years Old

# Uniquely Special

Evelyn loves sports and dance. She is good at soccer, table tennis, running and dance. She is also a member of TS Drama Club. Evelyn is a person with special needs.

I first noticed Evelyn when she was playing table tennis with her friends. She appeared quite skillful. I asked her to join the school's table tennis team as a co-curricular activity. Before long, she was competing in the Special Olympics tournament and won a medal. The Special Olympics sports officers noticed her talent and she was shortlisted to represent Singapore in table tennis at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles in 2015.

I find it a joy to train Evelyn. The smile on her face when she knows she has improved is what satisfies me. There are days I can see how tired she is. On a typical school day, she has to be in class from 7.30a.m in the morning to 12.30p.m. While other students go home, she stays in school till 5.30p.m so that she could train with the rest of her peers. On certain days of the week she trains with the Paralympics Team in table tennis and she has been shortlisted to represent Singapore in the 8th ASEAN Para Games in December 2015.

Evelyn is uniquely special; she is happy-go-lucky and enjoys the company of her friends. Nothing seems to keep her stay on task for long but she loves sports and the arts and she has the determination to excel in the midst of adversities.

\* Written by Mr Kenneth Lai who is currently the HOD for PE & Sports at APSN Tanglin School.



*A "New York" pose in dance*



*Evelyn – a member of the Drama Club*



*Evelyn's sport – Table Tennis*



*A trophy won at a table-tennis tournament*

# Stanley Neo Pei Qiang

26 Years Old

## Stanley Neo - Our School Gardener

Stanley Neo is a gardener at Tanglin School. He keeps the school lush and green and the grounds litter free. Everyday after work, Stanley goes home to help his mother with the housework. At the end of the month, he brings home a stable income to supplement his father's income.

Stanley is a person with special needs and was a former student of Tanglin School. He was a quiet boy when he first started at school, with very low esteem. During that time, the teachers encouraged him to be positive and he was exposed to different areas of vocational training. Stanley went on to do Horticulture at Delta Senior School. His first job after graduation was at a landscaping company.

Stanley, who has speech impairment, faced many challenges at work. His supervisor could not understand him. That made it hard for him at work. At home, things were not easy, too. His father was the sole breadwinner struggling to make ends meet. His mother stayed at home to take care of the household chores and look after his younger brother who is intellectually challenged.

When the gardener at Tanglin School retired, Stanley was offered to try out the gardening job as an intern. Mr Chua Hoo Ward, a senior staff member of the janitorial team, took Stanley into his care like a son. He helped Stanley to manage his work efficiently.

Three months later, Stanley was given a one-year employment contract because he met all the expectations of a gardener. In November 2011, Stanley was given full employment status. Stanley is a happy man and we at Tanglin School are very proud of him and so is his mentor, Mr Chua.

\* Written by Mr Philip Bay who is currently the Operations Manager at APSN Tanglin School.



Stanley takes care of TS Green when students are away from school



Stanley is currently the Gardener of APSN Tanglin School



Stanley, a former student of APSN Tanglin School



Stanley and his mentor, Mr Chua Hoo Ward



## **OUR MISSION**

To nurture pupils with conviction,  
to make a difference to lives

## **OUR OBJECTIVE**

Every member aspires to achieve; ready to give.

# N Sindhu Priya Nair, Rachel

16 Years Old

## Dancer, Leader, Chef

Rachel joined Katong School as a 12 year old in 2012. She lacked confidence in leadership and was weak in communication skills. The past three years have transformed her into a responsible school leader. Rachel could not read and write coherently when she began with Module two English and Mathematics. With determination and guidance from her teachers, she progressed to Module 3 and scored highly in Reading and Listening comprehension in 2015 WPLN examinations.

Rachel loves baking and was determined to be able to read the ingredients list on food packaging to enable her to choose the correct ingredients for her baking needs. This interest fuelled her determination to become a good reader soon. She aspires to be a pastry chef in the future.

Rachel grew into a responsible student and became head prefect in 2015. She led a team of prefects, guiding and mentoring them. She was also interested in dancing and honed her skills in ethnic and zumba dance. She choreographed a dance performance that was staged at the Octoburst Festival at the Esplanade in 2014.

Rachel maximised the opportunities that came her way to achieve success in her interests in life. As a dancer, leader and chef of the future, Rachel is determined to continue her journey of success.



Rachel participating in a colourful Indian dance at Katong School Prize Presentation & Graduation Day held on 14 November 2014



Rachel leading students during morning assembly to recite the national pledge



Rachel with her team-mates at the musical fiesta Octoburst at Esplanade on 3rd Oct 2014

# Jeremy Ng Yih Hao

13 Years Old

## Against all odds to reach the stars

Jeremy joined Katong School (KS) in Term 2 2011 when he was nine years old (Primary 3). When he first joined Katong School, he had several intense melt-downs in a day. He would scream loudly, bang on things or hit himself. He also displayed undesirable behaviours such as snatching things from peers, not sharing and not taking turns.

Interventions were planned to improve his social and communication skills. Teachers used visuals, social stories and social scenes to teach him expected behaviours and acceptable actions. Intensive PATHS lessons were also used to increase his awareness of his own emotions and those of others.

Jeremy is now fully integrated into the MID Programme in Secondary 1. He participates in all class and school activities, even in activities like Performing Arts, which he had refused when he was in Primary school as he disliked music and dance. He is compliant during work exposure. It was such a joy to learn that Jeremy took his first overseas trip (to Bali) in December 2014 with his family. Indeed, with his confidence and ownership in learning, Jeremy receives awards every year for numeracy and /or literacy. Looking ahead, we believe Jeremy will be able to join the workforce and play his part with pride and confidence.



*Jeremy in school uniform*



*Jeremy roaming the school's corridor*

**Adrian Tay Wei Xiang**

19 Years Old

# The Journey of Transformation

Looking back, it was not so smooth sailing in equipping Adrian with values, knowledge and skills in school. He was seven years old when he joined Katong School and was notorious for his challenging and defiant behaviours. He was hyper-active and obsessed with wrestling. As he moved up to the Secondary level, his disciplinary offences escalated to include truancy. All he was interested in then was to have fun.

With his passive attitude, it was a great challenge to get his buy-in to participate in simulated work activities. At the beginning, they motivated him using a “pay-roll” system so that he was “remunerated” for every work assignment completed. He could also withdraw “money” from his “bank account” to redeem for some gifts. This approach helped him to connect work with remuneration, and was later extended to other activities. Gradually, his teachers began to observe positive transformation in terms of his attitude and the reward system was no longer necessary as Adrian became more self-driven and intrinsically motivated.

Being a non-reader, he struggled to learn every single word but he made an effort to memorise the script by heart. Through repeated practices and encouragement from the teachers, he eventually became more fluent and comfortable to converse with them.

The school social worker who had been working closely with Adrian since he was 15 years old shared previously, he would not show any remorse when he made mistakes and would blame anyone but himself. He has since learnt to be more reflective and humble and thanked the social worker for not giving up on him and gave his word that he will continue to be a better person.

On his graduation day, Adrian led his cohort in singing the graduation song and he also took home the award for the top student in his Maths module. Adrian has lived up to KS values and is a testament to Katong School’s holistic approach in educating the whole child.



*Happily making delivery for fruit orders*



*Adrian on his grocery runner assignment @ Bedok NTUC*



*Packing fun bags for KS National Day celebration*

Jamie-Lopes Lam Wai Yin

20 Years Old

# Person-Centered Approach to Transition Planning

Jamie-Lopes joined the two years Transition Programme in 2012, when she was 17 years old. At entry point, her skill repertoires resembled those of very young children and she needed extensive support in functional academic, as well as independent living skills.

Jamie underwent weekly job training at Centre for Adults to get accustomed to an adult 'work' setting and cultivate positive work habits. During money and consumer math lessons, Jamie practised purchasing in NTUC supermarket. By the time she graduated, she was competent in locating merchandise and running errands for her family.

For training in independent travelling, she learnt to operate her mobile phone and internalised the process of identifying bus service number. By her final year, she was able to commute independently between home, school and CFA.

In June 2012, Jamie underwent a three months training at Bliss Restaurant@ Chengsan Community Club. She learnt to set up tables, dry the cutlery, sweep and arrange the chairs. For Jamie, although the learning curve was steep, she persevered because she knew this opportunity did not come easy. Jamie cleared her final evaluation and was immediately offered a job placement. As of today, Jamie is still working at Bliss and she continues to master new skills which recently included in taking orders from customers.

Jamie's journey from school-to-work was made possible because of the personalised transition planning and strong alliances amongst the stakeholders. Because we were aligned in our vision and aspiration for Jamie, we were able to work together to maximise her fullest potential.



*Jamie receiving her certificate of on completion of her training programme at Bliss Restaurant*



*Work Training programme at Bliss Restaurant*



*Work attachment @CFA Thrift Shop*

# Ting Jun Meng Jimmy

17 Years Old

## Jimmy's Struggle

Jimmy was a bright boy whom at the beginning had always been influenced by the wrong habits. He was often reprimanded for getting into fights with his schoolmates. In order to help Jimmy, his form teacher decided to work towards understanding and meeting his needs.

A discussion with the Vocational Education department reveals that Jimmy was actually compliant and was doing well in his Hard Skills especially in the area of Food & Beverage. An arrangement was made to have Jimmy who was then in Secondary three to work part-time at a Han's outlet. Han's, a valued partner, gladly took him in as a part-time staff. With guidance and coaching from our instructors and his new friends from Han's, Jimmy embraced the Han's culture and began to change. He is more focussed and is able to control his emotions better. Jimmy is now a valued employee at Han's and is still working there as a part-time staff.



*Jimmy on his first day of work attachment at Han's Bedok CC outlet*



*Jimmy at the end of his shift at Han's Seletar Mall in April 2015*

# Mohd Naufal Rahid Bin M Mukthnah

14 Years Old

## Holistic Support and Learning For Success



*Naufal in school uniform*

Naufal was diagnosed with ADHD at the age of eight. He was often seen jumping, squirming or running around the classroom and school. His short attention span resulted in being distracted, missing out items on worksheets and failing to complete all the instructions. During a home visit, Naufal's parents reported that he was very active at home. He seldom sat quietly except when watching television.

A structured behaviour management program was planned to manage his hyperactivity, inattention and impulsivity in school from the beginning of the 2009 and has been used continuously. The strategies included the provision of a structured classroom environment, the use of positive reinforcements, implementation of consequence charts and followed up with behavioural processing. Arrangements were also made for Naufal to attend sessions with the school's occupational therapist and the psychologist to improve his social skills, work behaviours and handwriting.

With the holistic approach, Naufal, improved steadily both in academics and behaviours. Back at home, Naufal helps out

with the simple household chores and takes responsibility in completing his homework. With his academic and behavioural improvements, Naufal received the school's Best Progress Award at the end of the school year in 2009.

Today, Naufal continues to develop and build his confidence and competence as he strives to acquire knowledge, skills and values that will enable him to grow up to be an independent and useful individual in an inclusive society.



*Naufal heading for his classes*

# Kymberly Yeoh

9 Years Old

## Reaping the benefits of the Handwriting Without Tears® (HWT) programme



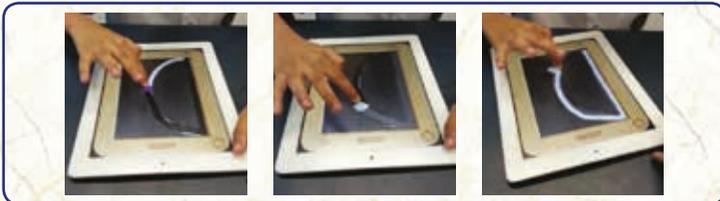
Online Digital Tools

Launched in 2014, the Handwriting Without Tears® programme aims to teach handwriting in a structured manner so that the younger students could master the right skills for legible handwriting.

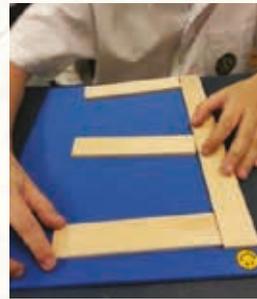
The programme uses developmentally appropriate materials and runs the gamut in multi-sensory approaches, to ensure skill mastery. Students are exposed to learning materials using online tools with the Smartboard, wet and dry tries on a slate chalkboard to allow them to have sensory experience and using the iPad to reinforce their learning. Students also used other materials for learning like wooden pieces and foam mats.



Wet and Dry Try using the slate chalkboard



Wet-Dry-Try on the iPad using the HWT app



Using the wooden pieces and foam mats to form letters and provide the students with different sensory experiences.

In order to benefit the students, there are other aspects that are needed to be addressed, for example, posture, pencil grip and finger dexterity.



Students using putty as part of exercises to develop finger and palm muscles.

One such student who has benefited well from this programme is Kymberly Yeoh. Kymberly started with poor handwriting skills in terms of pencil grip, posture and letter formation. Weekly use of the putty exercises to improve her finger dexterity, has enabled her to grip the pencil better and improve in her writing.

Where previously, she would write letters and numbers with poor control, after a year in the programme, Kymberly is now able to form her letters with the right firmness and size.



Before

After

Kymberly's handwriting and letter formation before and after using the HWT programme.

The multi-sensory methods of learning have also provided her with a fun manner to learning a relatively difficult skill.

# Noriadi Bin Baharon

21 Years Old

## Against all odds

Noriadi was a student from Katong School who was unable to meet the minimum requirement for WPLN even after his third attempt.

However, even though he had difficulty with his academic subjects, his work habits and attitude was excellent and that encouraged us to try him out for Work Attachment. Arrangements were made by the instructors to let him be our first student to be attached to a new partner, Crowne Plaza. Instructors trained Noriadi to make his way to the hotel independently, get his uniform and perform his duties. It took a while for Noriadi to settle into the work environment but in the end, Noriadi was competent in performing his duties and his supervisor liked his consistently good performance, behaviour and attitude. After 1 year of working, Noriadi was made a full time staff and was given full benefits and pay scheme as the rest of his co-workers.



*Getting recognition for his hard work*



*Noriadi as a full time staff of Crowne Plaza in March 2014*



*Noriadi getting used to the routine after 1 week of work attachment*

# Danielle Moi Yan Ting

16 Years Old

## Splashing her way to Success!

Danielle Moi joined Katong School as a 12 year old in 2012. Her determination and competitive spirit have won her many medals in swimming, both locally and internationally.

Danielle also worked hard to do well in her studies, progressing from module two to three in English. As a school prefect, she guides junior prefects in discharging their responsibilities well. As a photographer, she won third prize in the Urban Moments Photography Competition 2014 organised by South East Community Development Council.

Danielle loves swimming and competed in the Para Swimming Mexican Open Championship 2014 at Cancun, Mexico. In 2014, she won gold in 50-metres freestyle, 50-metres Backstroke and 50-metres Butterfly at the 5th SDSC National Special School Swimming Championship. She was awarded the Katong School Star Award in 2014 for her achievements in swimming.

At the 55th National Inter-School Swimming Championships 2014 ,she won Bronze in the Special Event 50-metres Freestyle. During the SPH Foundation National Para Swimming Championships on 10 May 2014, she won the 100-metres Breaststroke and 100-metres Freestyle.

At home, Danielle helps her parents with household chores and participates actively in church camps. Danielle has certainly made her school and parents proud of her achievements.



*Danielle Moi with her gold award she won in the 50 m freestyle, backstroke and butterfly stroke at the 5th National Special School Championship 2014*



*Danielle Moi striking a pose*



*Danielle Moi guiding her junior prefects*

**Yeo De Rong**

22 Years Old

# Soaring High with KS Values

In 2001, Yeo De Rong joined Katong School (KS) in Primary 2. In 2009, he graduated from KS and moved on to Delta Senior School (DSS) from 2010 to 2013.

After graduating from DSS, De Rong did not want to go on working full-time. He aspired to further his studies and decided to find out more about ITE courses. He sat for the WPLN exams again on his own effort and achieved Level 5 for Listening and Numeracy and Level 6 for Reading.

With these results, he applied for the ITE NITEC course in Social Media & Web Development. He learnt how to develop interactive web content. De Rong shared this information with two of his friends from DSS, who subsequently also registered for the same course.

De Rong hopes to work for an Events Management company where he can use his knowledge to plan weddings and leverage on his F&B training and experience in planning menus for weddings.



*Der Rong and his little cousin*

De Rong had shown tremendous courage and initiative by taking on this course. He studies and works part-time to ease the financial burden of his parents. In 2014, he achieved a 2.0 GPA and hopes to do much better this year. He is determined to try to achieve the best for himself.

De Rong finds support from his parents who encourage him to persevere. He finds strength from the encouragement of his teachers at KS and DSS.



## **OUR MISSION**

To equip our pupils with the necessary skills for independence and integration into society.

## **OUR OBJECTIVE**

A caring school that develops pupils with special needs to achieve their fullest potential.



**Faith Lim Jian En**

11 Years Old



# The Artist in Her

Faith Lim was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). She joined CYS in 2014 and is placed in the ASD Structured Programme (ASP). When Faith first joined the school, she demonstrated challenging behaviours and had difficulty adapting to the school's setting and routines. Whenever she faced difficulties, she demonstrated non-compliance behaviours, manifestation of her problem transitioning from one activity to another.

Faith was then taught to read and follow the schedules in order to ease her transition from one activity to the next, allowing her to anticipate the tasks she was required to participate in. Through these schedules, Faith gradually understood the meaning of the words and pictures found in the visual schedules that was reinforced every day. Indeed, she is able to regulate herself much better now than she first came to CYS. It definitely permitted her to gain access to better learning as well as understanding of her environment.

Currently, Faith is benefitting from the school's curriculum of Life Skills, Literacy and Numeracy. As she progresses academically, Faith has been discovered to be talented in Visual Arts - drawing. She is able to make impressive sketches on her own be it using the pencil or the Microsoft Art tool – Paintbrush. She is artistic in the use of colours as well as in the portrayal of scenes, people, etc. She is able to draw whatever that she finds interesting in her surrounding, in her experience and most importantly an expression of her feelings.

To further encourage her artistic potential, she is in the selected few of the school's Art Talent Development Programme that aims to hone and sharpen the artistic skills of the pupils in the visual art. Indeed, several of her artworks are chosen for the SG50 contribution, this year for the section of Mr Lee Kwan Yew (self-portrait) and SG50 e-book for the school. Faith has certainly come a long way as she is ready and will be integrated into the MID programme in July this year.



*Participating in group discussion with friends in the MID programme*



*Enrichment programme @ Pastamania, Doughworkz – completed pizza, ready to bake!*



*Faith making her masterpieces @ Art Talent Development Programme*

# Jennis Neo Jek Ni

9 Years Old

## You can do it, Jennis

When Jennis joined Chaoyang School in 2013, she was initially a relatively quiet and reserved girl. Although she was able to respond to the teachers' questions, she had unclear speech and sometimes, mumbled her answers. She lacked confidence and would often look down when spoken to. Jennis was diagnosed with having Mild Grade Learning Disability in 2012.

The school's interventions for Jennis' speech difficulties include providing her with weekly one-to-one sessions with the school's Speech and Language Therapist. Academically, Jennis is on the school's Direct Instruction Reading Mastery (RM) programme three times a week where she is trained to recognize and articulate the letter sounds as well as blend the letter sounds to read words. In class, she is often encouraged and given opportunities to practise articulating her thoughts and speak up during class discussions.



Participating in classroom activity through interactive whiteboard



Receiving reward from form teacher



Interacting with friend

Jennis has made so much progress since joining the school. Two years in CYS, has seen her gain self-confidence. She was also appointed Junior Leader for demonstrating the school values well. Although her speech is at times unclear, Jennis is very eager to express herself and share her thoughts and ideas now. Generally, Jennis is respectful to her teachers and shows good manners in class. She often takes the initiative to help her teachers and peers. She shows great enthusiasm for learning and participates actively in school and class activities. She works well with others and is well-liked by her peers.

With continued support in her speech and learning in school, Jennis will certainly progress in years ahead.

"When I grow up, I want to be a Teacher!"



# Joshua Tay Yong Kang

10 Years Old



## From Shy Guy to Pupil Leader

Joshua did not speak much and was a quiet boy. He was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability and has difficulties with his motor skills. With support and care from the school, Joshua was able to receive a holistic education that helped him develop to be the best he can be.

Indeed, Joshua has progressed well in his academic learning since he joined Chaoyang School. Many opportunities have been given to Joshua to express his ideas and opinions during lessons. He now speaks clearly and accurately despite his slow speech. In 2014, he performed well in both Literacy and Numeracy and received the School Achievement Awards (SAA) for Numeracy (Module 2).

By attending occupational therapy sessions in school, Joshua exhibited improved motor planning during gross motor activities. He showed good control of his hand and fingers while using the scissors, as well as manipulating the small buttons of his uniform.



A proud moment - Receiving the Junior Leader Badge on stage with friends



Joshua - posing as an army officer at the Discovery Centre



Performing his recess duty as Student Leader @ school canteen



Joshua - Warming-up during PE lesson

Besides excelling in academic areas, Joshua has also displayed good leadership skills.

In 2015 this year, he has progressed from being a Junior Leader (Stage 1) to being appointed a Student Leader (Stage 2). As a student leader, he has been assigned leadership duties and carried them out well. He is more responsible now and shows initiative in completing the assigned tasks.

Joshua is a well-mannered and enthusiastic boy who participates actively in his class activities. He is very sociable and well-liked by teachers and peers. Certainly, with continuous support and practice in his learned skills, Joshua will advance in years ahead.

# Muhammad Khidhir Bin Mohamed Zakariah

12 Years Old

## Never too late to Shine

Khidhir joined Chaoyang School in June 2012 from a primary school. When he first joined CYS, he showed very low self-confidence with difficulties in academic skills. He would not talk to his peers, was timid and showed no motivation in learning. Khidhir was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability in year 2011 and has a history of delayed development.

As his self-confidence increased, Khidhir progressed steadily in his academic learning in CYS. He performed well and received the School Achievement Awards for Numeracy (2012 & 2014) as well as Student Talent, Achievement and Recognition (Star) Award (2013 & 2014). He was also the recipient for the Model Pupil Award. Khidhir also participated enthusiastically in many school programmes and events which included: 8-day Academic and Cultural Exchange to New Delhi, Buddy Reading programme with Presbyterian High School (PHS), Hip Hop dance external performances and Money Skills-Uniqlo ISSE (In Store-Shopping Experience).

Khidhir is talented in sports especially soccer. He won several medals in Special Olympics soccer & sports events and SDSC Special Schools National Track & Field Championship. Furthermore, he shows responsibility and demonstrated good leadership qualities who takes pride in doing a good job. As a School Prefect, he has participated in the Student Leadership Training Camp at PHS and 3D2N overseas leadership camp in Malaysia. His participation in the camps enhanced his self-esteem and provided him with opportunities to demonstrate his leadership traits e.g. displaying initiatives and resilience.

Khidhir shows lots of perseverance and positive attitude towards his work now. Feedback from home further affirms the fact that lifeskills and CCE lessons on values are very evident in Khidhir's actions and character building. With continuous guidance at home and school, Khidhir will certainly advance well as he moves to a secondary school next year.

**“I have many friends in Chaoyang School.  
I like to play soccer and perform hip hop dance.  
I like to help my friends and teachers.”**



*Planting during the Academic and Cultural Exchange (ACE) Programme @ New Delhi, India*



*A winner in a race @ CYS Sports Day*



*Leadership Programme - Learning First Aid from the NCDCC cadet of PHS*



# Muhammad Syahir Zulfiqar



8 Years Old

## Changing for the better

Syahir joined Chaoyang School in January 2014 after having studied at PCF Kindergarten. He had difficulties with academic skills such as Literacy and Numeracy due to poor attention span in his previous school. According to his mother, Syahir had poor concentration and was unable to sit still; often he would be standing up and running around the classroom. He was also not afraid of his teachers or figures of authority. Syahir was diagnosed with global developmental delay.

Academically, Syahir's mother has seen much improvement in her son ever since he joined CYS. Syahir has progressed in his academic learning in school. He is able to follow instructions and listens to his teachers better now. He has, indeed, adapted and settled well in the class. He is able to speak without stammering and is able to express himself better. He

is also able to read simple books and recognize signboards on MRT and roads; a good progression in comparison to before joining CYS.

In the classroom, Syahir is a diligent pupil who is able to express his thoughts and ideas quite clearly. He picks up vocabulary well and is rather inquisitive. He is a helpful and enthusiastic boy who can be engaged in active communication with people around him. He shows resilience in his learning thus far and continues to strive to do his best when tasked to various activities. With good support from both home and school, Syahir will grow in his learning as well as socially.

**“I like Chaoyang School...**

**I want to be a school leader (prefect).**

**I want to listen to my teacher and be responsible.**

**I like to help my friends and teachers.”**



*Mass exercise participation in school hall during assembly programme*



*Performing a task – Numeracy (time-telling), during Performance Based Assessment*



*Doing written work independently*

# Nadia d/o Mahthivanan

12 Years Old

## The Go-getter

Nadia was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability (MID). With the support from SPED Financial Assistance Scheme and Edusave scheme in school, Nadia is able to receive holistic education that would develop her potential to the fullest.

Indeed, Nadia has progressed well since she first joined CYS. She is currently placed in one of the higher ability classes in her level (Primary 6). She has also demonstrated leadership qualities and is a school prefect. She has demonstrated her 3Rs school values (respect, responsibility & resilience) well, in most of the activities she participated e.g. leadership camp with Presbyterian High School (PHS) and Primary 6 Graduation Camp this year.

She has done well both academically and non-academically, of which, she has received the School Achievement Award – 2014 Student Talent, Achievement and Recognition (STAR) Award. She participated actively in many school programmes and events that allowed her to be better exposed in various learning experiences such as in 2014, she was involved in the Academic and Cultural Exchange Programme to New Delhi, 3D2N overseas leadership camp in Malaysia, Buddy Reading programme with PHS, Choir and Dance performances in external events as well as sports events (e.g. swimming competition).

Nadia remains resilient in her learning and strives to do her best when tasked to various activities. She has joined the

Talent Development programme in school to maximize her potential in the Visual Arts. As a student leader, she has dutifully carried out her assigned tasks in school.

With her active participation in the school's Choir CCA group, Merry Melodies, it gives her an excellent platform to further build her self-confidence and enhance her social skills, and most importantly, give back to the community by performing at public events.

**“I want to be a doctor.**

**Because I like to help the patient so they can feel better.**

**My dream is to be a doctor.**

**I hope that I can earn more money to support my family.”**



*Pres entation by school prefects during CCE Assembly activity*



*Pott ery making using the clay spinner during the Academic and Cultural Exchange (ACE) Programme @ New Delhi, India*



*Total Defence @ PHS*



*Participatin g during assembly programme-activity*



**Ng Yi Gui**

10 Years Old



# The Rough Diamond

When he first joined Chaoyang School in 2012, Yi Gui had poor personal hygiene. He also had difficulties in reading and did not recognize all the letters in the alphabet and did not know any basic sight words. He would not talk to his peers. He did not participate in classroom discussions and was quiet. He was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability (MID).

Given many opportunities to enhance his learning as well as his self-confidence, his teachers have also worked with his parents to equip them with strategies to improve his reading skills and personal hygiene. Indeed, academically, Yi Gui has progressed since he joined CYS. He is a diligent pupil who now performs well in both Literacy and Numeracy.

Besides excelling in academic areas, Yi Gui has demonstrated potential in leadership abilities. He has participated in the school's Leadership Programme and is appointed a Junior



*Participating in  
Assembly programme  
- activity with friends*



*Classroom work  
- completing task  
independently*



*Posing at the PATHS  
feelings corner  
@ canteen*

Leader in school. This year, he has progressed from being a Junior Leader (Stage 1) to being appointed a Student Leader (Stage 2). He is responsible and proactive and is observed to have good problem solving skills. Yi Gui also joined the Talent Development programme in Chaoyang School to maximize his potential in the Visual Arts.

In 2014, Yi Gui received the School Achievement Awards (SAA) for Numeracy (Module 1). Yi Gui is able to express himself well in English now and interacts appropriately with his classmates. As for his personal hygiene, he has increased self-awareness to keep himself clean and tidy independently. He does not need any supervision from his parents. Yi Gui will definitely continue to advance in both his learning and social skills in years ahead.



*Proud to be chosen as a CYS Student Leader!*

**Seraphine Lin Min Er**

9 Years Old

# Succeeding with good Character

Seraphine was diagnosed with developmental and learning disorder as well as ADHD. When Seraphine first came to Chaoyang School in 2013, she was a very defiant young girl who was often disruptive in class. She was disrespectful towards teachers and refused to follow teachers' instructions. The teachers had much difficulty in managing her behaviour. Additionally, she often provoked her friends hence, she was not well-liked by her peers.

In the past when Seraphine displayed serious deviant behaviour, a management team comprising the class teacher, level head, school psychologist and social worker, would work collaboratively to counsel and guide her. The school's emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning has helped Seraphine to better manage her emotions. The school's PATH (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) curriculum has taught Seraphine how to express her emotions in more socially acceptable ways. Constant exposure and reminders of the school and CCE (Character and Citizenship Education) values have taught Seraphine to better regulate her own behaviour.

Seraphine has made much progress in her academic learning since joining the school. She has demonstrated a keen appetite for learning and is currently placed in one of the higher ability classes in her level. After having been with the school for about a year-and-a-half, she has made much

transformation in her attitude and behaviour. She shows respect to teachers and is now happy to follow instructions and class routines. She is task-oriented and willing to accept corrections. She now interacts well with her peers and is always helpful towards both teachers and pupils.

**“When I grow up, I want to be a Doctor!”**



*Sharing and reading a book with friend*



*Performing her class duties well*



*Participating in class activity on SmartBoard*



*Performing on stage*



**Reuben Tan Yi Jian**

10 Years Old



# Building Confidence, one step at a time

When Reuben first joined Chaoyang School in 2013, he would scratch the form teacher and was very clingy to his parents. For the past 2 years, his attendance in school was not regular. In fact, he was reported to have school refusal and had lots of task avoidance behaviour for a period of time last year. It was observed that he needed time to adjust to new school environment.

Reuben was diagnosed with various medical conditions. Additionally, Reuben has difficulty walking independently. Besides his weak gross motor skills, he had difficulty with his fine motor skills e.g. hand grip and handwriting. He too lacked organizational skills and was unable to pack his bag independently.

However, Reuben has adjusted well to his new classmates in the beginning of this year without difficulty. Reuben gets along well with them and his attendance in school has improved and is more regular. When he is absent from school, it is supported with medical reasons. For gross motor skills, he has improved in endurance when doing heavy work activities. In handwriting, he can now copy 5-6 words per sentence. In past occasions, when given a task, Reuben would immediately say 'I don't know, I cannot do it'; today, he has improved on his work behaviour as he is more resilient in completing his tasks. He participates actively in classroom discussions and group activities.

Although he still needs support in his motor skills and learning, it is indeed, heartening that he often says "I like to come to school. I can learn many things."



*Filing worksheets into the file with friend*



*Participating in a quiz at CCE Assembly programme programme - activity*



*Playing blocks with my friends – Oops!*

**Matthias Yap Jin Xian**

11 Years Old

# **A Little Care goes a Long Way**

Matthias Yap was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability (MID). He did not attend primary school. In 2012, Matthias joined CYS. He found it quite challenging to adapt in his new school environment. Matthias displayed defiant behaviours especially teasing his classmates and refusing to comply with given instructions. He was stubborn, hot tempered and would be easily distracted; thus unable to stay on task to complete the allocated work duly.

It was through continued encouragement from teachers who reinforce the good behaviour that he displayed, (such as through CYS Model Pupil Programme) and more significantly his appointment as pupil leader, that Matthias proved that he could excel in whatever he set his mind out to do. He strived to be a good role model to his friends and found joy and motivation when praised for his good behaviour. Indeed, it is gratifying to see him blossoming into an independent boy who is caring, respectful, resilient and responsible.

Matthias has progressed academically and is always ready to help friends who are in need. He readily volunteers and ensures that his classmates listen to the teacher. He is able to listen to instructions and complete his tasks with minimal promptings now as compared to his early years in the school.

In addition, his active participation in the school's leadership programme as a pupil-leader gives him an excellent platform to build his self-confidence as well as display his leadership

traits such as showing initiatives. With all these achievements, Matthias has proven himself well as he is one of the few pupils selected in his level to participate in the 2015 India Exchange Programme to New Delhi, India this year. Indeed, Matthias has blossomed into a responsible boy in the school.

**“I love to go to Chaoyang School.  
I like to play soccer and dance in my hip hop CCA.  
I also like to help my friends and teachers.”**



*Using ICT tool - Sharing an iPad with friend*



*Enrichment programme – making a pizza @ Pastamania, Doughworkz*



*PATHS Circle Rule No. 6 – Raise my hand to answer question*