

RADIN MAS TIMES

A NEWSPAPER BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

SEMESTER 1, 2023 EDITION

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CELEBRATING AS ONE RADIN MAS



Teachers twirling umbrellas in a dance item for Hari Raya Celebrations. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the whole school could gather in the school hall to enjoy the festivities. Malay language students came together to present a string of performances that had the whole school applauding and cheering. Read about this and other celebrations in Mother Tongue language articles on Page 7.

To Lead, Serve

By Tan Kai Heng, 5N

It has been many years since the last time Leaders Day was done in person because of the pandemic restrictions. Thankfully, this year, with the relaxation of Covid-19 measures, we were able to conduct Leaders Day with our parents witnessing this occasion.

During Leaders Day, my heart was pounding with anticipation. I kept on whispering my lines in my head while leading up to my big moment. When my name was called out, I stood up confidently on stage. Together with the Head Ambassador, Mohamad Aariz Bin Mohamad Sharul, we said our speeches and led all the other student leaders in the

Student Leader Pledge.

As the Head Prefect of 2023, being a role model is very important. Being a role model is to be at your best behaviour, always. It also means, to be a both a "Leader" and a "Servant Leader." A leader should have integrity, initiative, dependability, justice, courage, knowledge and enthusiasm. However, a servant leader goes further to listen, understand priorities, persuade, empathise and put others before self.

One thing I have learnt from the student leaders' training is that all leaders should know that leadership is not about power. Leadership is about service to others, and that it is truly a privilege to serve.



STUDENT REPORTERS



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6. Gwyneth Oscar, 5N
7. Ho Ze Lin Skylar, 6I
8. Ho Zhuo Min Iris, 6I
9. Jensen Lim Heng Wu, 6M
10. Kwok Jeng Lun, 6N
11. Lau Yi Sun, 6M
12. Lee Hong Rui, 6N
13. Marlisha Dania Binte Nazrul Nizam, 6R
14. Mohammad Danish Rizqi bin Fredo, 6R
15. Ong Jia Le Darius, 5M
16. Tan Kai Heng, 5N
17. Tan Yu Xin, 5M
18. Zhang Taoran, 5N
19. Kwok Jeng Yee, 3M
20. Gnanakalathiepan Apirvhan, 4I
21. S.Sivakasthuri, 4I
22. Vetri s/o Kasinathan, 4N

Long Live the King!

By Kwok Jeng Lun, 6N

Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, her first child, King Charles III, became the King of United Kingdom. At the age of 73, he is the oldest person to accede to the British throne.

King Charles' coronation took place on 6 May. A coronation is a religious ceremony which formalises a monarch's role as the head of the Church of England and marks the transfer of title and powers. During the coronation, Charles III received the Imperial State Crown in a grand ceremony broadcasted live over television and social media.

It is not necessary to have a coronation to become a King. In fact, King Charles automatically became the King the moment his beloved mother departed. Nevertheless, the ceremony is a significant event that brings the country together.

As the monarch, King Charles' powers are symbolic and ceremonial, and he remains politically neutral. All laws must be approved by the monarch but the monarch



King Charles III and Queen Consort Camila

has traditionally agreed with what the British ministers have passed in Parliament.

During the coronation, there were formal celebrations across the United Kingdom and its commonwealth realms which still regard the King as their Head of State, including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

While Singapore, as a former British colony, is no longer a part of realms, let's extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the new King!

Word Bank

monarch (noun) - a head of state, like a king, queen, or emperor.

Monarchs of Great Britain

King Charles III is the present monarch to sit on the throne over Great Britain. Learn more about the other kings and queens who have ruled before him.



Elizabeth I (Reign: 1533-1603)

Well-educated, fluent in five languages, and known to be intelligent, determined and shrewd, Elizabeth I's reign also saw many brave voyages of discovery. During the 'Elizabethan Era', writers, such as William Shakespeare, flourished.



Victoria (Reign: 1837-1901)

At just 18, Victoria ascended to the throne and ruled over the most powerful nation on Earth. The realm was expanding greatly and by the time of her death, it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire. Victoria Street in Singapore is named after her.



George VI (Reign: 1937-1952)

The ruler of Great Britain during the tumultuous war years, George VI was the subject of a recent hit movie, "The King's Speech", which explored the monarch's struggle with public speaking and how he overcame his stammering.



Elizabeth II (Reign: 1952-2022)

Mother to the present king, Elizabeth's 70-year reign made her the longest-serving monarch of any female head of state in history. She presided over turbulent times and changes, such as WW2, decolonisation and most recently Britain's exit from the European Union.

Unlocking the Mysteries of Deep Space



A JWST photo of the Pillars of Creation, a massive collection of gas and dust in space more than 6500 light years away from Earth.

By Aaron Lee Zheng Yuan and Jensen Lim Heng Wu, 6M

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was launched on 25 December 2021 on an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana 2021.

The JWST is a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-metre primary mirror. The telescope is the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide. It will study every phase in the history of our Universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own Solar System.

Since its launch, the telescope has been used by scientists to see what the galaxy was like 200 million years ago since the big bang. This telescope has been able to capture images of some of the first galaxies ever formed. This telescope is also built to be able to observe objects in our solar system, look inside the dust clouds to see where new stars and planets are forming and examine the atmospheres of planets orbiting other stars.

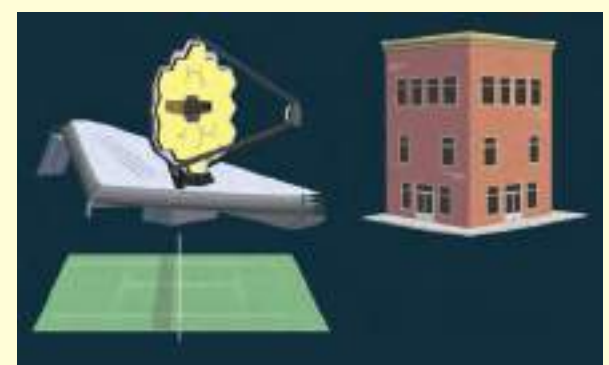
Of all the telescopes built over the years, the JWST is by far the largest,

most powerful space telescope. First off, it is big, very big. The telescope is as tall as a three-storey building and as long as a tennis court. It is so big that it has to fold its sun shield origami-style to fit inside the rocket. Secondly, it can see through dust clouds. This telescope sees the universe in a light that is invisible to human eyes. This light is called infrared radiation, and we can feel it as heat. This telescope uses its infrared cameras to see through the dust in our universe. So stars and planets that form inside those clouds of dust in our universe will be seen through the telescope and will lead to more exciting new discoveries. Furthermore, it will also be able to see those galaxies that are so far away that the expansion of the universe has made their light shift from visible to infrared.

Lastly, it uses a giant, gold-coated mirror to see the universe. Given the mass of the mirror, it would have been difficult to launch one giant, heavy mirror into space. So, the engineers gave the telescope 18 smaller mirrors that fit like a puzzle. The mirrors would fold up inside the rocket, and then unfold to form one large mirror in orbit. The mirror is

gold-coated because the thin layer of gold helps the mirror reflect infrared light.

Scientists are using the telescope to find out if there are signs of life on other planets. Using this telescope, scientists have discovered thousands of objects known as exoplanets orbiting our sun. These planets are being studied to see if they hold the building blocks for life. We look forward to the mind-blowing discoveries which will be made using this very special telescope.



The JWST is as tall as a three-storey building and the length of a tennis court.



Scan this QR code to learn more about the JWST!

Lighting up the Little Red Dot



The average monthly electricity consumption for a HDB flat is 376 kWh. In March, Radin Mas Primary School used a whopping 50,230 kWh! What can we do in school to help save energy?

- turn off lights and fans when exiting classrooms
- open windows fully to allow for natural light and ventilation
- switch off the lights along the hallways and stairwells

By Lau Yi Sun, 6M

Singapore will import 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity over two years from a gas-fired plant in Pasir Gudang, Malaysia starting in the second half of 2023. This will make up about 1.5 percent of Singapore's peak electricity demand, enough to power about 144,000 four-room HDB flats for a year.

Importing electricity from Malaysia is part of Singapore's plan to strengthen "regional grid architecture", according to Minister Chan Chun Sing in 2020. This first step allows Singapore to tap on regional power grids to access cleaner energy sources beyond its borders. It also brings Singapore closer to its aim to halve its 2030 peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and achieve net-zero emissions in the second half of the century.

It is Singapore's first-time importing electricity from Malaysia on a commercial basis, but it is not Singapore's first-time buying electricity overseas. In 2022, the Keppel Electric of Singapore started the import of 100MW of hydropower electricity from Laos to Singapore via Thailand and Malaysia for two years.

In the long-term, Singapore aims to

import up to four gigawatts (GW) of low-carbon electricity by 2035, contributing 30 percent of Singapore's electricity supply for that year.

Singapore faces challenges in enhancing energy security, including limited land area for solar panels and lack of renewable energy sources such as wind or hydropower, further aggravated by an increasing electricity consumption over the years.

To overcome these challenges, Singapore is developing a "four switches" approach, comprising natural gas, solar energy, low-carbon alternatives and regional power grids, to guide and transform our energy supply.

Despite Singapore's efforts to enhance its energy security and **diversifying** its energy sources, Singaporeans have to do their part to conserve energy. For example, switch from air-conditioners to fans, switch off power sockets when not in use, switch off water heater after use and many more. Every effort counts and this can go a long way.

Word Bank

diversifying (verb) - making more varied, expanding

Singapore Goes to the Polls

By Ho Zhuo Min Iris and
Ho Ze Lin, Skylar 6I

Come September, Singapore will go to the polls to vote for her President. This election takes place every six years. Do you know what our President does?

The President ensures the impartiality of the public sector and government companies. Our President also safeguards the nation's financial resources and can veto part or whole of government budget if there is a reason to do so. The President promotes ties between Singapore and other countries by hosting visiting dignitaries and making state visits overseas.

Since 14 September 2017, Mdm Halimah Yacob has been the President of Singapore. She was also the first female president of Singapore and the 8th President of the Republic of Singapore.

As the Head of State, Mdm Halimah Yacob has presided over the National Day Parade, opened each session of Parliament and officiated at swearing-in ceremonies of key appointment holders such as the Prime Minister and Judges of the Supreme Court.

Mdm Halimah Yacob also had a huge part to play in promoting ties between Singapore and other countries by hosting visiting dignitaries and making state visits overseas. Most recently, she was in London to attend the coronation of King Charles III.



President Halimah Yaacob's term ends in September 2023

Prior to her role the President, Madam Halimah Yacob was the Speaker of Parliament. She served in the national Trade Union Congress for 33 years. This is maybe why she was nominated to be the President of Singapore as she is so talented and experienced.

Read on to learn more about some of our past presidents.

Interesting Facts about the Presidents of Singapore

Yusof Ishak

1965-1970

Something you didn't know:

Mr Yusof excelled in his studies but was also an athlete, a boxer and a champion weightlifter!



Wee Kim Wee

1985-1993

Something you didn't know:

In 1930, Mr Wee left school to work as a clerk at the Straits Times and worked his way to be an editorial manager.



Ong Teng Cheong

1993-1999

Something you didn't know:

Mr Ong had great foresight. He fought for the MRT to be built. Without him, we might all be stuck in a traffic jam!



SR Nathan

1999-2011

Something you didn't know:

In 1974, Mr Nathan and his team volunteered to take the place of hostages who were kidnapped by terrorists!





Having Fun Learning

Primary 1s had a wonderful day during their camp during the first week of school. “I enjoyed playing with my new classmates. I learnt the different ways to play with a ball,” said Audrey Tan Yixin, 1S.

Since restrictions imposed during the pandemic had been lifted, the Primary 5s were given the opportunity to mentor their Primary 1 buddies.

“I liked spending time with my P5 recess buddy because she helped me count the money to buy food. I enjoyed searching the

statues representing our school’s core values,” said Lim Xuan Le, Charlotte, 1N.

At the camp, through learning simple life skills to learning to work with their new classmates, our new P1s got a taste of what it means to work and play hard!

“I enjoyed wearing a bandana as a cape behind my back and walking around school with my classmates. I learnt how to tie shoe laces,” Hia Jiak Hee, 1I.



Hiking up the Waves

Primary 2 classes took to the Henderson Waves as part of their camp. Trekking from school, students learnt to navigate and work collaboratively to reach the highest pedestrian bridge in Singapore.

Goh Xin Rui, Myra, 2A, shared, “I was happy as it was my first hike to Henderson Waves with my classmates.”

Exploring the areas around Henderson Waves with her classmates was also what made it enjoyable for Colette Oon Eng Ling, 2R. Wong Ding Ye, Evans, 2I, enjoyed the snack break with his group. “I enjoyed taking photographs with my classmates,” he added.



Fun in the Sun!

By Aidan Chua Kiat Oon & Lee Hong Rui, 6N

Fun. Inspiring. Interesting. This is how Lu Yiyi, 6I, described the Primary 6 Outdoor Camp. “And painful!” she added, echoing how Ho Feng Lin Fion, 6N, described her sunburn.

“It was a thoroughly interesting experience, and a lot of fun activities took place. Even though we were sunburnt, I enjoyed the experience,” Fion said.

RMPS devotes time for camps because it is part of the school’s holistic approach to education, explained Mr Idham Anis Ashible, HOD PE, CCA & Aesthetics.

“We want students to try new experiences,” said Mr Idham.

The camp experience covers many different activities, from the kayaking to team-building activities such as the knot-tying activity. For Aidan Chua, 6N, the highlight was kayaking, as it was a breathtaking experience and he got to do it with his friends. Classmate Hong Rui enjoyed the team-building activities, as classmates could work together to try to win the different games.

“It was fun overall, especially kayaking,” said Soh Le Qi, 6D. Kayaking was challenging as students had to work in pairs to steer the boat and it required **tremendous** strength. They managed to overcome this liability by not giving up even when they were tired, and continued to row until they reached our desired destination.

The camp taught students what G.R.I.T stands for: Growth mindset, Resilience, Independence and Teamwork. They learnt that it is important to have a growth mindset, as a fixed mindset will get them nowhere. The activities taught them resilience, how they should never give up even when in a tight position. At the



camp, they had to be Independent and not over-rely on others to help them. Lastly, students found they had to work as a team for every activity at the camp.

“It was fun, and I managed to bond well with some of my classmates,” said Dennis Thong, 6M, “I wished it could have been longer.”

Word Bank

tremendous (adjective) - very great in amount, scale, or intensity



Primary 6 students preparing to launch their kayaks into the water.



Fun with Learning Day!

By Gwyneth Oscar, 5N

Gardening would be our Vice Principal Mrs Linda Tan's first choice if she were to choose a topic for RMPS Fun with Learning Day. "Gardening is like watching the students grow." Children and gardens need the same things to flourish - love, patience and someone who will never give up on them.

Fun with Learning Day is a new initiative that RMPS introduced to cultivate life skills and to encourage learning beyond textbooks. It was held during STEAM week to end the term with something fun and meaningful for students.

During Fun with Learning Day, Primary 3 to Primary 6 participated in various Learning Stations of their choice. Students were able to choose from different stations such as K-pop Dance, Aviation, Chess, and Astronomy. We had a lot of fun and gained a mountain of knowledge that we would not be able to learn in any subject classes.

This program would not have happened without the support of teachers and parent volunteers. One of the more interesting stations must surely have been the aviation talk by Mr Kenny Khoo, a parent volunteer. Mr Khoo, a flight training instructor for RSAF, even donned his flight suit and helmet for the talks!

Kelly Khoo, 5N, did not get her first choice at the Fun with Learning Day, but she still went to the Chess station with an open mind to learn. She did enjoy the experience, and shared, "I was exposed to something I have not done before. I learnt that chess is way more difficult than it looks."

In the future, the school will plan for the Lower Primary students to be able to participate in the Learning Stations as well, so that they too, can experience something new.



Full Steam Ahead!

By Zhang Taoran, 5N

Inspiring students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering & Entrepreneurship, Art and Mathematics, Steam Week this year was filled with activities for students to participate. The recess activities were indeed very fun and interesting!

At one of the activity booths, students could make chromatography flowers, which are dyed paper flowers. Phoon Chenyu, 5M, tried out this activity and she exclaimed that she had enjoyed herself very much through decorating the flower-shaped paper with different colours before folding it and dipping the tip of the "flower" into the water. Gradually, the ink from the marker pens used to decorate blended due to the water and revealed a pretty mixture of the colours. Chenyu felt that this activity allowed her to explore her creativity and she hoped that the same activity will be held next year.

There was also a performance at the library by the ELDDS cast members about

the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Jarett Neo, 5N, commented that the performance was funny yet educational. It allowed him to understand the importance of saving paper so that less trees are cut down.

The activity that I liked the most was playing with perler beads. This activity requires a lot of perseverance and time as I had to place the beads onto the board slowly and carefully to form a **symmetrical** design. After that, the teacher-in-charge helped to iron the beads together so that the plastic perler beads would melt under the heat and join together to create a fixed structure.

I am so glad that the Steam Week activities allow us to understand scientific concepts in a creative and fun manner. I look forward to Steam Week next year and I hope you are too!

Word Bank

symmetrical (adjective) - made up of exactly similar parts facing each other



The Rivers of Life

Since its opening, the River Wonders (formerly the River Safari) has been a favourite of many a child. Our Primary 1s had the opportunity to explore it with their teachers in Term 1.

For Tan Wee Hong, Tristan, 1M, it was his first visit. "It was fun because I could see many different types of animals there," he said.

Seeing the wide variety of animals also made Maxton Ch'ng Yi Fan, 1A, happy, but being with friends made the experience better. "I enjoyed going out with my classmates as

it was fun looking at the animals together," Maxton said.

As for Marco Lee Jia Rong, 1R, catching sight of the park's most famous resident was the highlight. "I got to see the baby panda, Lele! I also enjoyed looking at the river as we crossed the bridge."

"It was enjoyable as there were many types of animals and plants to see. It was relaxing to have snack time with my classmates," Arshiya Kaur, 1D. It is a day they will remember for a long time!



RAYA, RAYA, RAYA!

By Marlisha Dania Binte Nazrul Nizam and
Mohammad Danish Rizqi bin Fredolin, 6R

Konsert Hari Raya di Sekolah Rendah Radin Mas tahun ini sungguh gah! Seramai 83 orang pelajar Bahasa Melayu sekolah kami telah mengambil bahagian dalam konsert tersebut.

Sebelum hari persembahan, kami telah berlatih bersungguh-sungguh selama empat bulan. Walaupun latihan kami diteruskan semasa bulan puasa, kami tetap bersemangat. Murid-murid Bahasa Melayu RMPS memang berdaya bingkas! Kami semua ada peranan masing-masing dalam persembahan itu. Contohnya, ada murid yang menjadi awok-awok dalam persembahan dikir barat dan ada

pula yang menjadi pelakon dalam sketsa raya. Guru-guru kami pun turut menyumbang bakat mereka dalam tarian!

Di hari persembahan, ramai murid yang mengambil bahagian berasa takut kerana seluruh sekolah telah berkumpul di dewan untuk menyaksikan kami beraksi di pentas. Sebenarnya, kami bimbang akan membuat kesilapan semasa persembahan. Pejam celik, pejam celik, persembahan kami selama 25 minit sudah pun berakhir. Cepat sungguh!

Perasaan gembira dan bangga yang dalam diri kami tidak dapat diucapkan. Pengetua sekolah telah mengucapkan tahniah kepada kami semua dan dia menyatakan ramai guru berpendapat bahawa konsert ini ialah konsert yang terbaik yang pernah mereka saksikan. Inilah pengalaman yang tidak dapat kami lupakan. Sudah tentu kami ingin melakukannya sekali lagi tahun hadapan.



喜气洋洋庆新年

陈宇心 By Tan Yu Xin, 5M

在新加坡，“农历新年”是华人一年当中最重要的节日，我们学校也很重视这个传统节日。为此，我校在礼堂举办了大型的庆祝活动。

庆祝活动极为丰富多样。舞台上有的同学载歌载舞，有的表演精彩的武术。当然还少不了我校华乐团、华族舞蹈队呈现的节目。由于今年是防疫措施放松后的第一年，我校还特地请来了舞狮团助兴。

伴随着欢天喜地的锣鼓声，整个礼堂沸腾了。全体师生的目光都聚焦在两只“雄狮”身上。只见“雄狮”时而威猛腾空，时而乖巧灵动，引来了阵阵喝彩声。有些同学控制不住内心的喜悦，情不自禁地欢呼了起来。大家都感受到了喜气洋洋的节日气息。

我很喜欢观看舞狮表演。每头“雄狮”都由两个人合作，一人舞头，一人舞尾。他们表演得惟妙惟肖，真是惹人喜爱！我想这些舞狮者在平时训练的时候一定投入了不少的精力和时间，才能呈现这么出色的表演。

我期待明年学校能有更精彩的农历新年庆祝活动！



தாய்மொழி வாரம் - நான்காம் வகுப்பு

By S. Sivakasthuri, Gnanakalathiepan Apirvhan, 4I, and Vetri s/o Kasinathan, 4N

முதல் தவணை பள்ளி விடுமுறைக்குப் பிறகு, எங்கள் பள்ளியில் தாய்மொழி வாரம் நடைபெற்றது. நான்காம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்களான எங்களுக்கு நாடகம் நடிக்கும் வாய்ப்பு கிடைத்தது. ஆசிரியர் எங்களை மூன்று குழுக்களாகப் பிரித்து, ஒரு கதைக் காணொளியைக் காட்டினார். ஆனால், அவர் அந்தக் கதைக் காணொளியின் இறுதிப் பாகத்தை நிறுத்திவிட்டார். குழுவாக அந்தக் கதையின் முடிவை உருவாக்க வேண்டும் என்று அவர் எங்களிடம் கூறினார். இதைக் கேட்டதும் எங்களுக்கு மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருந்தது.

பிறகு நாங்கள் குழுக்களாக ஆர்வத்துடன் உரையாடத் தொடங்கினோம். குழு உறுப்பினர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் தங்களுடைய கதையின் முடிவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொண்டார்கள். இந்த முடிவுகளைக்கொண்டு ஒவ்வொரு குழுவும் புது முடிவை உருவாக்கியது. அப்போது எங்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட ஐயங்களை ஆசிரியரிடம் கேட்டுத் தெளிவுபடுத்திக்கொண்டோம். அவரும் நாங்கள் எவ்வாறு இன்னும் சிறப்பாகச் செய்யலாம் என்று கூறினார்.

முதல் மூன்று நாட்களுக்கு நாங்கள் கதையின் முடிவை எப்படி சுவாரசியமாக அமைக்கலாம் என்று கலந்துரையாடினோம். அடுத்த இரண்டு நாட்களுக்கு நாங்கள் அந்தக் கதையை நடித்துப் பயிற்சி செய்தோம். நடிப்புப் பயிற்சியின்போது நாங்கள் செய்த தவறுகளிலிருந்து எவ்வாறு நடிப்பை மேம்படுத்திக்கொள்வது என்று கற்றுக்கொண்டோம். இவ்வாறான நடவடிக்கை எங்களுக்கு ஒரு புது அனுபவத்தைக் கொடுத்தது. நாங்கள் எங்கள் நாடகத்தைப் படைத்தபோது அனைவரும் மிகவும் உற்சாகத்தோடு ரசித்தார்கள்.

இந்தப் படைப்பின் மூலம் நாங்கள் தமிழில் சரளமாகப் பேசவும், நன்றாக நடிக்கவும் கற்றுக்கொண்டோம். மேலும் இந்த நடவடிக்கை எங்களின் தன்னம்பிக்கையையும் படைப்பாற்றலையும் வளர்க்க பெரிதும் உதவியது.



Appreciating Culture through Art and Games

By Kwok Jeng Yee, 3M

On 28 March, our school organised the Cultural Camp for the Primary 3 students. There were interesting activities that teachers organised to help students appreciate Chinese culture.

Students picked up a traditional Chinese game called Animal Chess, which was relatively easy to learn and a lot of fun to play. This game mimics life in the jungle. Each chess piece represents an animal. In total, there are eight different animals - elephant, lion, tiger, leopard, dog, wolf, cat and mouse. The rules of the game are simple to understand! For example, the elephant is the most powerful chess piece and can attack the lion or even the tiger. Interestingly, while the rat is the weakest animal in the game, and can be attacked by many of the animals, it is able to attack the elephant. Many Primary 3 students enjoyed learning and playing Animal Chess.

Students also tried Chinese Fan Painting, a unique art form. We not only had to learn



fan painting techniques, but also had to exercise patience in order to draw a nice picture. Vera Ng, 3M, shared that it was the first time she drew with a Chinese calligraphy writing brush. Thania Kuo, 3N, accidentally wet her tie during the painting activity! It is indeed a memorable experience for the students.

Exploring Indonesia!

By Lim Yu Xi Carrie, 5M

On 5 April, as part of International Friendship Day and the Radin Mas Visit series, the Primary 5s were transported to Indonesia! Through the virtual cultural immersion programme, students got to learn more about Indonesia and the importance of ASEAN.

One interesting thing we learnt was about the volcanoes in Indonesia. I was shocked to learn that there were still so many people living dangerously close to active volcanoes due to the fertile volcanic soil there. I also learnt about the fascinating myth of Lake Toba and how it formed after a supereruption.

As part of the Cultural Immersion programme, we got to make our own wayang kulits. Wayang kulits are traditional puppets that are important in Indonesian culture. I thoroughly enjoyed fixing up my wayang kulit and then designing it.

During recess, we got to participate in some fun and interesting activities at the NE promenade. Students were able to try their hand at writing “love” in various different languages and creating some traditional Indonesian art. The activity that amazed me the most, however, was the stunning performance by a traditional Balinese dancer.

Through the fun activities and interesting talks, this experience taught us about the rich culture of Indonesia. My classmates said they too enjoyed the Cultural Immersion and hoped to learn more about other cultures in future.



Ohayō gozaimasu

By Brian Chai Kai Jun, 6N and Evan Tan, 6M

During the March school holidays, on Thursday, 15 March, the P5 and P6 Student Leaders “went” to Japan!

The teachers had organized a Virtual Exchange between the Radin Mas Primary School and Kugayama Elementary. The Japanese students made some paper cards with a picture of their favourite items, food, places or events, and shared about these things in front of a video camera. Likewise, a group of Radin Mas student leaders, showed some PowerPoint slides about Singapore, such as places of interest, food, housing, transport and what daily life is like.

At the end of each presentation, we took turns to have a lively and friendly discussion. The students from Kugayama Elementary asked a lot of questions, keeping the Student Leaders engaged all throughout the Zoom exchange.

One takeaway from this virtual exchange is to

be appreciative of other culture, because it helps us to have a better understanding of behaviour and thoughts, It also broadens our perspective.

“It was truly an eye-opening experience, as I got to know more about the Japanese culture, especially the traditional cuisine. They were also very kind and asked a lot of questions to keep us engaged,” said Yeow Wen Qi, 6M.

The highlight of the Zoom exchange was when the Student Leaders asked the students from Kugayama Elementary whether their test papers were hard and the boy that was supposed to answer replied, “Easy!” The student leaders and teachers split their sides at the confidence that the boy showed as we answered that our test papers were very hard. The boy also showed us a sample of a Listening Comprehension paper, which was filled with Japanese words.

We **honed** our communication skills when we learned that the Japanese students had difficulty understanding if we spoke too fast, as English is not

their first language. We learnt to be patient and speak slower to help them understand what we were saying.

“I thought it was a very interesting experience and it was something that I would like to have more often as it was fun to interact with the Japanese students,” said Hilda Ong, 6N.

Word Bank

honed (verb) - improved, refined, perfected



Interview with Mr Tan Tong Hong, SAC



By Ong Jia Le Darius, 5M

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I love toys and I am a collector, so I started a toy collecting business in 1999. I started an action figure shop called ‘Action City’ located in VivoCity in the year 2000. I started ‘Action City’ to have a stable source of income during the recession in the early 2000s. To my surprise, I managed to earn \$600 in a day by selling my collection of toys. After adding the \$600 to my usual paycheck, I found out I could make \$2004 in a month! I quit my fulltime job to turn my simple hobby into a booming success of a business.

Can you tell us about your family?

I was the middle child of my family, and had a younger and older brother. My father and mother came from a very low-income family, so I would work to help my

parents. I was not very good in my studies during my school life, but I was very good in art. I believed if I excelled in my art, I could find a way to becoming a contributing member of society. In Secondary 2, I applied to art school to be able to work harder on my best interest.

You are part of the SAC. Can you tell us what that is?

The School Advisory Committee or SAC for short, is a committee that serves in an advisory and voluntary capacity to support our schools programmes, functions and activities. Some ways the SAC supports our school is sending members to attend interviews and host assemblies.

What advice can you give to our students?

Work hard, and enjoy the things you love.

Word Bank

advisory (adjective) - in a position to make recommendations