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2022 | ISSUE NO. 1

**Woodlands Primary School Newsletter** 

# Rhythm in the Woods







## Message from the Principal

Dear Woodlanders and Parents,

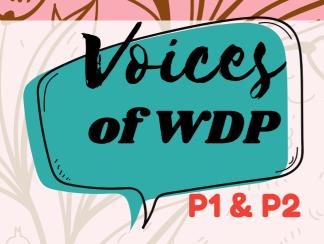
As Singapore moves on towards a new phase of living with COVID-19, I am heartened to update that the gradual easing of safe management measures (SMMs) has allowed the resumption of many school activities, including Play@Recess, face-to-face CCA, and many more. On 5th May, we even held our Hari Raya concert in the school hall. That marked the first time since 2020 that the entire school has been able to gather. It was a touching sight, seeing all the pupils watching the concert as a school, singing, laughing and learning alongside their teachers and peers. That said, we need to work together to stay disciplined, by adhering to the prevailing SMMs, in order for the school to remain a safe environment for pupils to learn and grow.

WDP staff has very quickly adjusted to the new normal amidst the evolving situation with SMMs being updated. I am happy to share that for the past semester, they continued to seek breakthroughs in teaching and learning in order to augment the learning experiences for our pupils. Our P2 pupils experienced kneading dough with their peers, as part of the enactment of the Modified Language Experience Approach (MLEA) in English class. The P4 students flew their own paper helicopter, as part of the Sci-sational Discovery activities.

We continue to implement programmes that allow pupils to exhibit the school's core values. For example, the new Habit Watch initiative focuses on one positive behaviour a month, and advocates positive reinforcement by catching students right for demonstrating these behaviours. Our Badminton and Volleyball Senior teams also competed in the National School Games (NSG), role-modelling the values involved in being good sportspersons for their juniors. We were proud of how they exemplified what it takes to be a gracious Woodlander with the zest to excel.

I would like to sincerely thank all our WDP parents, as you have been most supportive in working with us to provide the best learning experiences for your children. A special shoutout to WDP's Parent Support Group, for being ever so proactive, dedicated and giving of their time and effort. I look forward to your continual support as we strive to bring out the best in each and every one of our Woodlanders.

Mrs Lillian Chen Principal



### ARE YOU HAPPY THAT PLAY@RECESS HAS RESUMED?

96%

OF OUR P1 AND P2 PUPILS **FEEL HAPPY** 

4%

OF OUR P1 AND P2 PUPILS DO NOT FEEL HAPPY

We like the ball games and playing at the playground.

Adil Naufal Bin Mohammad Azhar and Nurhan Emir Qaiser Bin Sofian,

1 Respect 6

I love Play@Recess because there are many fun activities.



Issac Chew Jia Qian 1 Respect 7

I do not look forward to it because I will perspire and feel hot during lesson.

f love Play@Recess because I'll get to play sports other than those I play during PE.



Nia Kamilia Binte Muhammad Asri 2 Resilience 4

2 Resilience 6

I love Play@Recess because I get to play with the hula

hoops and lose weight.

**Thoo Chen Jye** 2 Resilience 3



I prefer drawing to sports.

Charlize Wee 2 Resilience 1

DO YOU PREFER TO HAVE ASSEMBLY IN THE HALL OR CLASSROOM?



20%

PREFER TO HAVE ASSEMBLY IN THE CLASSROOM

80%

PREFER TO HAVE ASSEMBLY IN THE HALL

It is very squeezy and I can't see what is on stage.



Chan Sheng Yea 3 Passion 4 I can sit with my friends in the hall.



Nur Maisara Dhia 3 Passion 3

We can sing together.



Lai En Xuan, Vanellope 3 Passion 4 My legs would get sore and numb.



Aden Chai Junyi 4 Adaptability 3

I can do my classroom duty.

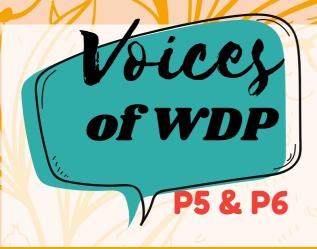
Ilankeeran Thivisan 4 Adaptability 1



I have missed going to the hall for the past two years.



Reiko Wong 4 Adaptablity 5



### WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO STILL WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU ARE OUTDOORS?

69%

OF OUR P5 AND P6 PUPILS SAY YES!

31%

OF OUR P5 AND P6 PUPILS SAY NO!

I would wear one because I might get Covid if I do not wear a mask.



Liu Jiaxin 5 Collaboration 5 I would prefer not to wear because my mask would become wet when I perspire. I find it disgusting.



Ng Jia Xuan Sherie 5 Collaboration 3

I feel that the mask makes it harded for me to breathe. So, I would choose not to wear a mask outdoors.



Dylan Lee
5 Collaboration 2

I would wear a mask because people may have COVID without any symptoms. I could not sleep and breathe well when I had COVID.



Tejeshwar S/O Killivalavan 6 Innovation 4

I would still choose to wear my mask because I had COVID before. It was a horrible week!



Kellyn Neo Yan Ling 6 Innovation 6 I would not wear one because my face gets sweaty.



Yuvaan Prakash S/O Mohan Prakash 6 Innovation 3

Reported by: Adam Zidan Bin Mohamad Afizukil and Parineetaa Harikrishnan (4 Adaptability I)

## PI & P3 Buddy System



The P1/P3 Buddy System is a programme that all Woodlanders experience when they are in P1 and P3 levels. In P1, you will have a big buddy to help you get acclimated to the new school surroundings and environment. When you are in P3, you will be the big buddy responsible for your P1 buddy.



We have fond memories of helping our P1 buddies buy their food, reminding them to go to the toilet before recess ends, and guiding them to the gathering point after recess. Although it was exhausting, it was a good experience because our buddies were very kind and fun to talk with.

Let's hear how some P3 pupils felt about their experiences as buddies this year:



Thasha Pillay (3 Passion 6A)

My buddy was a pupil from Respect 6. I helped her to count money when she had to pay for her food. I felt happy that I could help the PI pupil just like my buddy who had helped me when I was in PI.

I felt really helpful as I was helping my buddy get familiarised with the school. I enjoyed guiding and communicating with my buddy. Although she was quiet, I managed to have a full conversation with her. She was very lost at first, but after introducing and telling her about some amazing places in school, she was excited and began feeling more comfortable. I hope she has as great an experience as I did.



Rainie Zhou Yi En (3 Passion 2)

## Prefects' Investiture

Reported by: Tay Jiaxuan (5 Collaboration I) and Tan Yan Ting, Hillary (5 Collaboration 2)

The Prefects' Investiture is a special day for all WDP Prefects. The theme for this year's Prefects' Investiture was "Serve with pride, lead with confidence". The event was broadcasted live via Zoom. Though the P4, P5 and P6 Prefects assembled in various venues according to levels, our hearts and spirits were united as one.

We clapped and cheered for the P5 Prefects who were appointed as Deputy Head Prefects. We then watched our newly appointed Head Prefect, Chloe Leow, deliver an inspiring speech. She spoke of the challenges that all of us had faced over the past two years, and how, with resilience and positivity, we managed to overcome all difficulties. With adaptability and tenacity, we Prefects have also continued to carry out our duties and responsibilities confidently. Listening to the speech made us stand proud and tall. Following that, we recited our Prefects' Pledge and re-affirmed our dedication to be righteous and responsible Prefects.







# Total Defence Day

Reported by: Elil Nila D/O Mahendran (5 Collaboration I) and Nur Zara Nabilah Binte Hisham (4 Adaptability I)

This year, WDP commemorated Total Defence Day (TDD) and the pupils enjoyed the engaging and funfilled activities planned for them.

Our classes were buzzing with excitement as we were all looking forward to taking part in the activities the teachers had planned for us with the help of the Parent Support Group. We each received an iPad and watched an interesting video which was about people who do their part to defend Singapore. After watching it, we answered a few questions related to the video based on our knowledge of TDD.

During the assembly programme, we learnt more about the Six Pillars of Total Defence. Our very own WDP teachers, Mr Kenny Koo and Mr Shawn Sng, wore their army attire and shared their National Service (NS) experiences with us. Woodlanders had the opportunity to ask them many questions which we were inquisitive about, such as "What vehicles did you drive?" or "Did you use any weapons?"

All in all, TDD was a meaningful event for the pupils and we hope that next year's commemoration will be just as informative.







## Reported by: Nur Zara Nabilah Binte Hisham (4 Adaptability I)





Hydroponics is a programme which only P3 pupils get to be involved in. It is one of the most exciting activities carried out for the level as pupils get a hands on experience of growing their own plants after learning about them during Science lessons.

When the P3 pupils start their planting, they would first place a baby plant in a wet sponge. Then, they would put the wet sponge in a big styrofoam board with holes in it. After that, the pupils have to wait for a few weeks for their plant to grow. After waiting for a few weeks, the P3 pupils were all very surprised to see how large their plant had grown. They felt immense satisfaction when they brought home the spinach they had harvested and asked their parents to cook it.

Here's how a P3 pupil felt about his Hydroponics experience this year:

## P3 Hydroponics

Hydroponics was fun as I've never planted anything in school before. I was over the moon, planting spinach together with my friends.

Through hydroponics, I learnt that some plants can grow in water while some are unable to do likewise. I would love to grow new plants using hydroponics again.



Zayyan Danial (3 Passion I)

## Reported by: Chloe Tan and Natania Goh Jing Hui (5 Collaboration 2)

The classroom decoration competition and recess activity were the highlights of the Lunar New Year festivities for us this year.

To prepare for the decoration competition, we had constructed handmade lanterns which were then hung with red strings outside our classroom. A huge red packet made of smaller red packets was also constructed and pasted on the window panels of our class. Finally, we had a large handmade tiger that our class could write well wishes on, for others to view as they passed by our classroom. We were thrilled when we learnt that our class was one of the winners of the competition. Our success would not have been possible without everyone's contributions and strong collaboration between us.

During the recess activity, my friends and I made a small tiger pop-up origami. When we opened it, a tiger would pop up with the Chinese greeting for "Happy New Year". We enjoyed the recess activity because it was fun and exciting. We are thankful to our school and the PSG for organising such interesting activities. We hope that next year, even more pupils will participate in the Lunar New Year activities.

### Lunar New Year Celebration





# Health Fair and Eye Care Week

Reported by: Regis Lee (5 Collaboration I) and Rashini Selvakumar (5 Collaboration 2)

WDP celebrated Health Fair and Eye Care Week in March this year. This was organised with the aim of increasing our knowledge on how to lead a healthier lifestyle. We had interesting challenges and quizzes which were put together by our very own PE teachers in WDP.

Preceding the Health and Eye Care Week, we had a challenge called 'Eat your Fruits and Vegetables'. Over the span of two weeks, if we bought fruits or vegetables from certain canteen stalls, the canteen vendors would endorse our purchase by giving us cards. The top two classes from each level which collected the most number of cards would then win a prize. We thought that this was a very fun experience as it encouraged Woodlanders to eat healthier food in school. We truly had a lot of fun participating in the event and competitions organised by our teachers. We hope to have more exciting activities prepared for us next year. Congratulations to all the winning classes for this competition!





#### Winning Classes

PI: I Respect 3 & I Respect 7

P2: 2 Resilience 3 & 2 Resilience 6

P3: 3 Passion 2 & 3 Passion 6B

P4: 4 Adaptability I & 4 Adaptability 4

P5: 5 Collaboration I & 5 Collaboration 2

P6: 6 Innovation 3& 6 Innovation 6B

I am proud of my class for winning this competition. As a class, we planned to eat more fruits and vegetables so that we could get more cards. During recess, I would buy a slice of watermelon

and a banana.

Mah Wei En (6 Innovation 6A)

Iva Amelia (6 Innovation 6B) During recess, we would ask the canteen vendors to serve us more vegetables. We were excited and agreed as a class to eat more fruits and vegetables so that we would get more cards.

## Fruity Friday & BYOF

Reported by: Nur Afifah Binte Mohammad Azhar and Isabelle Chan Yu En (4 Adaptability I)

Bring Your Own Fruit Day (BYOF) and Fruity Friday are two school programmes that aim to encourage WDP pupils, and even teachers and other staff, to eat and bring fruits to school. These good habits encourage us to maintain a healthy lifestyle as fruits contain a lot of nutrients and fibre. These programmes also give Woodlanders the opportunity to try different varieties of fruits that we have not eaten before!

On BYOF, which happens monthly, pupils are encouraged to bring their own fruits to school and eat them during meal break. It is thrilling to take a look at everyone's lunch boxes to see what fruits they have brought and our classmates never fail to amaze us by bringing a wide variety of fruits. Some of the teachers also bring their own fruits to eat them during their break time. We always enjoy eating the fruits that we bring!

Fruity Friday falls on every last Friday of the month. On Fruity Friday, our teachers will distribute fruits to all classes. The fruits we have had so far include bananas, pears and oranges. Our PE teacher will share with us fun facts about the fruits we are given. For example, we learnt that there are many different types of oranges which yield different levels of sweetness. We love these two programmes as they give pupils who do not often eat fruits at home a chance to try a variety of fruits. We hope the school continues to organise such healthy and meaningful activities for us!



Muhd Raimi (3 Passion 5)

I like Fruity Fridays because I get to eat fruits and stay healthy. I look forward to receiving bananas as it is my favourite fruit.

I participate in BYOF and Fruity Friday. I like it because the fruits I eat are delicious and yummy! This is a good idea because it encourages other pupils and teachers to eat fruits!



Iden Chan Yu Heng (3 Passion I)











## Reported by: Akshayah Thevaranjan and Edricus Lim (5 Collaboration I)





International Friendship Day celebrates friendships between people, across countries and cultures in order to inspire peace efforts and build bridges between countries in ASEAN. In WDP, we celebrated International Friendship Day with a series of meaningful activities.



The highlight was the preparation of care bags for migrant workers. We generously donated essential items such as masks, sanitisers, disposable shavers, soaps, as well as food like noodles and coffee. We packed them into the bags and designed beautiful cards to thank the migrant workers for their contributions to Singapore. We had lots of fun and felt very happy to show our appreciation to the migrant workers.

We learnt the importance of building friendships and understanding people from our neighbouring countries. A big thank you to the teachers for organising such a meaningful programme and Parent Support Group members for supporting us in the activities.

#### Hari Raya Puasa Celebration

Reported by: Qayumi Sara Bte Shufaat (5 Collaboration I) Nur Sofhea Isabel Bte Mustafa Kamal (5 Collaboration 2)

WDP welcomed the month of May with a joyful Hari Raya Puasa celebration. Hari Raya was the day all Muslim pupils and staff had been looking forward to as it marked the end of Ramadan, during which we had to fast from sunrise to sunset without consuming any water or food.

The celebration started with a bang as we were invited to view a special pop-up exhibition at the Performing Arts Theatre that showcased Ramadan and Hari Raya through fun and interactive displays. The exhibition, which was put up in collaboration with the Malay Heritage Centre, showcased many features of Hari Raya and the Malay culture - from recipes of traditional Malay dishes and treats to traditional Hari Raya clothing.

The highlight of the Hari Raya celebration was the concert held at the hall. It was also the very first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic that Woodlanders could assemble as a whole school to celebrate an event together. We were treated to wonderful videos, such as vlogs of various Muslim pupils and teachers going through their daily activities leading up to Hari Raya. The most exciting part was when the Malay dancers stole the limelight with their beautiful dance. By the end of the concert, the hall was filled with cheers and applause of all pupils and teachers.

I took part in the Malay Dance performance. I felt nervous as it was my first time performing on stage. However, I am happy that we did well. I look forward to more dance performances.





Sharifah Mariam (4 Adaptability 6A)

# Learning outside the Classroom

Reported by: Andrea Ong Zi Ying (4 Adaptability 2) and Shazneen Binte Omar (4 Adaptability 3)

P4 VIA



This year, the P4s participated in a collaboration with Woodlands Gardens School (MINDS). We had to prepare an Art and Crafts activity for them via Zoom. On the actual day, we taught them how to make the craft, and also carried out other fun activities with them.We learnt how to communicate with the WGS children, and had a memorable experience. We had loads of fun during the activity and made new friends along the way.

Though I found it hard to communicate with the WGS buddies at first, I put in effort and it got better along the way. Some minor things went wrong, such as the materials falling apart. Nevertheless, I was happy that we managed to have fun. It was an interesting experience.

Andrea Ong Zi Ying (4 Adaptability 2)

My classmates and I did a Zoom session with WGS. We wanted to teach them how to make a Minion pencil holder. Before the Zoom meeting, we had to do plenty of preparations, such as cutting and pasting. We had to do it collaboratively and we came up with a script on what to say and how to give clear instructions.

Although I was hesitant at first as the other children were unfamiliar to me, I had lots of fun once we warmed up. After some time, I managed to build up some confidence. I enjoyed doing this activity and I would love to conduct it again.

Shazneen Binte Omar (4 Adaptability 3)

## P4 Project Work

Reported by: Misaki Hiroshima and Chew Zi Le Leah (4 Adaptability I)

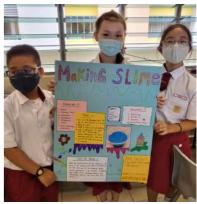
As part of Project Work this year, the P4 pupils had to make an instructional poster about slime. It was a very interesting experience for all of us.

During the March holidays, our Science teacher assigned us a lesson on SLS. We learnt how to make our very own slime, which was fun, interesting and messy at the same time! We did this with the help of our family members although we encountered some mishaps along the way. For example, half of the slime actually spilled on the kitchen island top. As it was sticky, it stuck onto the table. As a result, we had to spend time scraping it off the table.

Once we returned to school after the March holidays, we learnt that we had to make an instructional poster to teach others how to make slime. In our Project Work groups, we worked hard to make our poster attractive, colourful and interesting. As some of us had taken photos of our slime-making process, we printed them out and pasted them on our poster to make it more informative. Once we were done, we presented our beautiful poster to the rest of our classmates.

We loved working with our classmates in a group setting. From this project, we learnt how to collaborate with our classmates and got to understand them better while making slime. We hope to do this again in the future.







#### P5 & P6 Prefects VIA

Reported by: Elil Nila D/O Mahendran (5 Collaboration I) and Yen Qian Bai (5 Collaboration 2)

This year, the P5 and P6 Prefects had the opportunity to get to know the elderly residents from Lions Befrienders, as part of our Lunar New Year celebration. We were delighted to have this valuable opportunity and put our best efforts into it.

Due to COVID-19 SMM, we could only connect and celebrate with the elderly residents online via Zoom. However, this did not dampen our spirits. We were enthusiastic and had a 30 minutes long chat with them in our small groups to get to know them better. During our Zoom meeting, we found out their likes and dislikes, such as their preferred choices of food and drinks. Besides getting to know them better, we also had a conversation about their school life in the past. Some of the elderly also gave us important life advice!









After the Zoom meeting, using the information we had learnt about the elderly residents, we packed personalised care packs for each of them. We packed hand sanitisers, masks, canned food and many other essentials that would be of use to them. Besides packing the care packs,we also wrote a card for the elderly person assigned to our group. We put all the items inside a beautifully wrapped box. The school then delivered all the care packs to the Lions Befrienders.

A few weeks after Lunar New Year, we checked in with the elderly residents through Zoom to find out if they liked the care packs that we had specially prepared for them. Fortunately, all of them were very happy with their personalised care packs. It was great that we were able to catch up with the elderly on how they were doing since the last time we met them. This was indeed a meaningful experience for the Prefects.

When I found out that my fellow Prefects and I would be embarking on this VIA programme, I felt nervous yet excited as it would be my first time interacting with an elderly person over Zoom. When I first met the elderly lady my group was assigned to, I found out that she was talkative and friendly. The ready smile she had when she spoke reassured me.

We started getting to know one another and even cracked some jokes to lighten the mood. I was ecstatic when the jokes and riddles made her break out in laughter and smile in glee. Later, when we met her over Zoom the second time after she had received her personalised care package, I was glad to hear she appreciated the items we had included.

This was a wonderful experience I'd love to do again in the future as we had the chance to interact with more elderly persons and make their day.



Lucas Neo Kai Feng (5 Collaboration I)

# Learning outside the Classroom



Reported by: Ravichandran Roshan (5 Collaboration I) and Ng Ke An Annette (4 Adaptability 3)

# Sci-sational Discovery

In Semester 1 this year, the P4s and P5s had their first ever experience of participating in Sci-sational Discovery - a programme arranged for us to learn Science concepts and have fun at the same time! During recess, we took part in fascinating mini Science experiments.

In Term I, the P5s made a spectacular catapult during recess as part of Sci-sational Discovery. We created catapults using spoons, some rubber bands, sticks and a metal clip. While there was nothing special about the materials used, the activity was really riveting and engaging.

The main purpose of this activity was to help us understand the scientific concept of kinetic energy in a moving object. Specifically, it taught us how kinetic energy in the moving spoon helped to launch the ping pong ball. I found it very fun and educational as we did this with our friends and we learnt science concepts through exploration.

After learning the steps, I made more catapults at home with my family members. My parents found it very productive to spend time doing an educational hands-on activity like this.



Ravichandran Roshan (5 Collaboration I)



The P4s participated in our Sci-sational Discovery in Term 2. We learnt how to make a simple helicopter with a slip of paper and a few paper clips.

First, we fastened just one paper clip on our helicopters and threw them in the air. We watched in awe as our paper helicopters floated down. After that, we fastened more paper clips and did the same thing again. We observed the relationship between the number of paperclips and the duration the paper helicopter stays in the air.

I was amazed at how much fun we had with such a simple and educational activity! I would like to thank the teachers for organising such activities to make Science learning fun.



Ng Ke An Annette (4 Adaptability 3)



# Zest to Excel

# Wits and Words Debate Competition

This year, four P6 Woodlanders were selected to participate in Wits & Words: Inter-school Debate Championship 2022, which was organised by the Gifted Education Branch. It aimed to actively develop the oral communication skills of verbally talented pupils.

Here's what two of the participants had to say about their experience:

The actual debates were nerve-wracking but thrilling at the same time. My teammates and I encouraged each other before the debates began and it was extremely fun once we gained more confidence. We felt exhilarated and so proud of each other when we won some of the debates.

However, in the end, it did not really matter whether we won or lost. Overall, we really appreciated having the opportunity to go through this journey as it was a great learning experience, and we gained the motivation to try harder and learn from our mistakes. We look forward to participating in more debate competitions in the future.

Through this debate journey, we learnt about leadership, teamwork, determination and friendship. By working together, we leaned on each other and were able to come up with great ideas on how to rebut the opponent's points.

We tried our best to be resilient and continued to persevere, despite the fact that as P6 pupils, we had to juggle our time between exam and debate preparations. Never once did we regret the time put aside to sharpen our points and speeches as that not only made our preparation for the debate better, but also strengthened our friendship and teamwork.



Diya Abhilash (6 Innovation I)

Kareshna Maghendran (6 Innovation I)



## Our Newsletter Editorial Committee

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Special thanks to the Junior Reporters from English Excel Club.