BENDEMEER PRIMARY SCHOOL • ISSUE 1 2020



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Mrs Tan-Lim Kim Gek YOUR PARTNER-IN-EDUCATION

It is my second year in Bendemeer Primary and I can truly say that we are **One Bendemeer, One Family.** We continue to remain steadfast to our mission of nurturing today's learners and tomorrow's leaders who are committed to giving their best to their family, community and Singapore. It is indeed a changing future landscape and it is now, more important than ever, that our children are equipped with the competencies and skills to embrace changes so that they can find their footing in society, unfazed by what the future holds for them.

As COVID-19 continues to affect our lives both in and out of school, I am proud of all the ways I see both our students and teachers exemplify our school values to ensure that learning continues.

Amidst the uncertainty, our students have shown **adaptability** - to put the greater good first and be flexible. Our cohorts have shown **self-discipline** in these trying times. They know that their teachers and parents are tirelessly working for them and have shown that they are capable of taking charge of their learning. The students in our graduating cohort have been working hard at home to ensure that they are on task. They know it is an important year and they have exercised self-discipline and adapted well to Home-Based Learning.

Both teachers and students have shown resilience and have pitched in to provide support, to offer solutions, and propose better ways to help us be productive. While our students are learning, our teachers too have come together to create a community of teacher-learners, helping each other along the way. They have shown incredible creativity as they bring their lessons online and ensure that there is joy in home-based learning.

It is inspiring to see our Bendemeer family rise to the occasion, and we will need to continue to respond strongly and positively to whatever lies ahead.

Our students and teachers appreciate the hard and heart work that our workers at the frontline are involved in. They have created thank you messages to our medical workers in SGH and have also produced a video to thank our migrant workers and to show our support for them during this period of time.

This year, we also warmly welcomed Benour school mascot. Our school adopted the otter as our mascot due to its positive attributes and values such as teamwork, passion and resilience. Our prefects also worked as a team to brainstorm a variety of names and the student body voted for the name 'Ben'. Ben is now an important member of our school and will always be part of our school's important events.

As we forge ahead into Semester 2 of 2020, it is important that we continue to emphasise the importance of values in our students' lives. Our children must have the passion and the ability to learn for life as well as the resilience to bounce back from setbacks. With that, I thank all our parents and stakeholders for your patience and support thus far.

OUR SCHOOL MASCOT BEN THE OTTER



n 3 February 2020, we welcomed a new member to our Bendemeer Primary family and he is none other than Ben, the adorable and energetic otter! Ben, our school mascot, is the epitome of our school values of Adaptability, Self-Discipline, Passion, Integrity, Resilience and Empathy (ASPIRE). In addition, Ben's name was voted by our students as part of the school's Student Voices. We hope that Ben's positive energy and enthusiasm will inspire our students to pursue learning with passion, to lead confidently and to make a difference in the lives of others.

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THE OTTERS' DEN

On 15 November 2019, the Otters' Den was also officially opened by our School Advisory Committee member, Mr Loo Chin Nong, PBM. It is an innovation cum makerspace room for our students to engage in ideation, critical thinking and exercise their growth mindset while brainstorming on their projects. We strongly encourage our students to use the Otters' Den to host meetings among themselves as well as with their teachers.

OTTER TIMES



We also launched the first issue of our OTTER TIMES which featured our students' writings from the various levels. It will continue to be a platform for us to showcase our students' work.









n commemoration of the merger between Bendemeer Primary School and Balestier Hill Primary School in 2019, the school has installed a Heritage Gallery at the school foyer to document the two schools' history and heritage to tell the stories to our students on the past development and milestones of these two schools. The Heritage Gallery also includes the new vision, mission and values of our school. On 8 Nov 2019, we had the honour of inviting our School Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairman, Mr Tang Wen Yeow, to officiate the inauguration of the school's Heritage Gallery. We hope that the Heritage Gallery will enable students and staff to see themselves as part of a larger, continuous story of the new school and thus develop in them an appreciation for the present.





Welcome to our Heritage Gallery!

@BENDEMEER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bendemeer Primary School's student leadership programmes aim to develop students into becoming a gracious community of confident leaders with inquiring minds and strong moral values. We believe in providing opportunities for all students to assume leadership roles. Thus, there are various leadership opportunities and platforms available at Bendemeer Primary School where students are able to lead themselves, others and play an active role in bettering the lives of others in the community.

Following is a collection of reflections written by our student leaders:



Rope Skipping CCA Leader

I am Santhana Karuppan Kaushik from Primary 6-5. I am a CCA leader in rope skipping. I was appointed as a CCA leader in 2019. Previously, I was tasked to help with a small group of new skippers but now, I am in charge of leading the entire team of

skippers during warm-up and cool-down sessions. I felt anxious at first but I overcame it eventually. I feel proud of myself as it is fun teaching everyone and being able to help them achieve success. I also feel proud of my entire CCA team as we have put in a lot of effort to reach where we are now. Together, we manage to overcome our challenges with passion, patience and perseverance.



Track and Field Captain

My name is Maddala Maurya Mahadeva Naidu and I am from Primary 6-2. I am the captain of 'B' Division boys. I lead the 'B' Division boys in competitions and in training sessions. I feel happy and proud to lead the team as they look up to me as a leader

and role model. Being a leader also has responsibilities such as leading my team members to do the various stretching exercises correctly. Being a leader has taught me many leadership skills such as how to better communicate with my team members and also my juniors.



Concert Band Leader

I am Elizabeth Chong from Primary 6-2 and I am a band leader of our school's Concert Band. My duties span from helping teachers manage the Main and Junior Band sections in administrative matters to maintaining discipline of band

members during internal school events and public performances at Victoria Concert Hall, Adventure Band Camp and National Day Observance Ceremonies. Building a strong team in pursuit of excellence in Music, takes hard work and determination. However, I enjoy working with my band members. We are like a family, always working and supporting one another in our quest for excellence. There are challenges but we overcome them together as a team.



Malay Dance CCA Leader

I am Dinah Hazirah from Primary 6-4 and I have been a CCA leader since I was in Primary 5. I help my juniors learn their dance steps during practice sessions. I also encourage them to cooperate and work as a team. Besides teaching and

guiding my juniors, I have participated in many school performances such as Hari Raya and Honours Day concerts. Apart from that, I also took part in Singapore Youth Festival and performances outside school. I am passionate about dancing and I will continue to be a role model to the rest of the dancers in Malay Dance.



PE Equipment Manager (PEM)

Hello everyone! I am Vinodhagan Muthusamy from Primary 6-2 and I am a PE Equipment Manager (PEM). My duty is to assist with the loaning of sports equipment to my schoolmates during recess for them to play. Some of the equipment includes

basketball, soccer ball, badminton racquets, etc. I enjoy doing this duty as I can assist my teachers to manage the loaning of the PE equipment with my fellow PEMs and I also enjoy watching my fellow schoolmates actively involved in physical activities on their own.



Junior Environment Ambassadors (JEAs)

Lam Kaverikannan s/o Muthusamy from Primary 5-1. I volunteered to be a Junior Environment Ambassador (JEA) as I am passionate about saving the environment. I encourage my classmates to recycle and help to take down the recyclables to

the collection point every Wednesday. I am also in the Environment Club. I did some research on recent news about the environment and had the opportunity to share my learning with my friends and lead them to reflect about Man's impact on Earth. We also work together to plan school events such as World Water Day and Earth Day to raise awareness about environmental conservation. I have become more confident and I have also learned the importance of teamwork as I work with my fellow schoolmates.



Art Club Leader

I am Trinh Phuong Anh from Primary 5-1, one of the student leaders in Art Club. I help the younger members during our weekly meeting. I describe my art work to them so that they understand my art work better. During special occasions, we would

do some crafts for the school and sometimes, the community. For this year's Chinese New Year, I worked hard with my Art Club members to make 3D 'rats' ornaments for the business operators in our neighbourhood. I look forward to the next projects for Hari Raya and Deepavali. It is truly a satisfying experience to be a student leader of Art Club.



National Education (NE) Champs

I am Shavita d/o Meyanathan, a National Education (NE) Champ, from Primary 6-3. I have been in this role since Primary 4 and I am still loving it! As an NE Champ, I help out during NE events such as Total Defence Day, Racial Harmony Day, National Day

and more. I encourage my fellow schoolmates to participate in fun and knowledge-building activities about Singapore. I have learnt many interesting things about National Education and the role has allowed me to become more confident and responsible when dealing with my fellow schoolmates while carrying out the duties assigned to me.



Cyberwellness Ambassadors

I am Wong Kai Lei from Primary 4-1, a Cyberwellness ambassador. When I was first given the role in Primary 3, I was not familiar with the routines. Over time, I became better at fulfilling the assigned responsibilities such as assisting my teachers to manage CyberSpace activities during recess. Through this role, I have made many friends, learnt the importance of staying safe online and helped to raise awareness about cyberwellness amongst students.

PREFECTORIAL BOARD

ur Prefects are the voice of our student community and they lead the rest of the students in promoting a caring, conducive school culture through nurturing and sustaining positive relationships. We are proud to present our Prefectorial Board Executive Committee (EXCO) 2020 which comprises the following student leaders:



(6-2)

(6-1)

Dyan Dylanie (6-1)(6-3)

(6-2)

Ramineni Anshi Elizabeth Chong (6-2)

These EXCO prefects went through a stringent selection process before they were officially appointed. As EXCO prefects, they are given a greater responsibility to lead their fellow schoolmates. Their training focuses on decision-making and management skills. Their role in managing the operational duties of the prefectorial board, making decisions and deployments based on situations helps to develop in them the values of adaptability and empathy.

Let's hear from our EXCO prefects as they share on how being a prefect has put them on this meaningful journey of living out the school's motto of 'Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders':

Sng Le Xuan Rochelle, Head Prefect (2020)

I am Rochelle Sng from Primary 6-1. I was a cadet prefect in Primary 2 and I have been a prefect since Primary 3. This year, I am very honoured to be appointed the Head Prefect. As a prefect, I have been given many platforms and opportunities

to hone my leadership skills. Last year, I was one of the student leaders assigned to share interesting facts about our school to our K2

juniors from neighbouring kindergartens during the Kindergarten Visit. I was also assigned to brainstorm for ideas with our EXCO team for the name of our school's mascot. Moving forward, I strive to uphold our school values of Adaptability, Self-discipline, Passion, Integrity



Resilience and Empathy (ASPIRE) and to lead by example. I will also continue to work with my fellow prefects to be the best voice for our student community

on issues and views that will improve our schooling

Rachel Ong Wan Qing, Vice-Head Prefect (2020)

experiences in Bendemeer Primary School.

I am Rachel Ong Wan Qing from Primary 6-2 and I am the Vice-Head Prefect. From Primary 2, 1 have been helping my teachers by looking after and helping my schoolmates. As a prefect, I

have been given opportunities to share about our school during school events and projects. For instance, I was involved in hosting guests who want to learn more about our



school. I am proud to be able to contribute to our school's vision of building a community of passionate learners and confident leaders.

Samiksha Girish, EXCO Member (2020)

I am Samiksha Girish from Primary 6-1. I was appointed as a prefect in Primary 4. As a prefect, I ensure that all the students read their books during silent reading in the hall. I also help to usher parents to the hall during school events like Parents' Briefings and Parent-Teacher-Meet (PTM). These opportunities have boosted my self-confidence and brought out the best in me. I can now talk confidently to parents or guests and answer their questions bravely.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The school organised a Graduation Ceremony for our Primary 6 students on 13 November 2019. The occasion marked the end of an important milestone for our graduating students as they proudly received their graduation certificates from our principal, Mrs Tan. In addition, the Graduation Ceremony was also a platform for our Primary 6 graduands to showcase their talents. The students came together and put up excellent performances for their parents, teachers and juniors. We wished our graduating classes of 2019 all the best as they embark on another exciting milestone in their lives.

My Primary 6 Graduation Ceremony

By Alex Peniel Raj from graduating class of 6-1B (2019)



My Primary 6 Graduation Ceremony was a very special event that I will never forget. All of my Primary 6 schoolmates and I were finally about to graduate from Bendemeer Primary School (BPS) where we spent 6 years making friends, having fun and most importantly learning and honing the knowledge we were to acquire by the end of our primary school education.

All of us were definitely excited about life after we graduated from primary school but as our graduation drew closer and closer, we started to realise that we were all going to leave BPS as well as to part with our friends and move on with our lives.

On our graduation day, we were seen with rather glum looks. However, the principal's and teachers' efforts to make the last day of our primary school lives memorable, fun and exciting, lifted our spirits in no time. Our parents were invited to this memorable event too. Soon, the ceremony started. With our parents and guests seated,



we marched proudly and confidently into the hall. Then, one by one, each student was called onto stage to receive their graduation certificate. After that, the Primary 5 students sang a song for the Primary 6 cohort before we had a refreshment break.

During the break, all of us prepared for the concert segment in which each class was to give a performance. All of us worked together to give the best performance of our lives and we were very heartened when all of our primary 6 schoolmates and parents clapped loudly for us after each performance.

After the concert, everyone went down to the canteen where lunch had been prepared for us. All of us had a lot of fun but all good things must come to an end. We finally plucked up the courage and accepted the fact that we were to move on. We bade good-byes and promised one another that we would meet again. We got one another's as well as our teachers' signatures on our scrapbooks and noted down our contacts so that we could keep in touch. There were a lot of crying and emotional conversations. After our heartfelt conversations and reluctant goodbyes, we left for home and knew that the day had finally come for us to leave BPS.

As I look back, my Primary 6 Graduation Ceremony was indeed a very memorable occasion. Even though I am no longer studying in Bendemeer Primary School, I am still a Bendemeerian at heart.



HONOURS DAY

n Bendemeer Primary School, we strive to develop our students holistically, placing equal emphasis on both academic achievements and character development. On 15 November 2019, we held our inaugural Honours Day to celebrate our students' achievements in academic areas, co-curricular programmes as well as their contributions to the school in areas of leadership and service. The following awards were given out:

Colours Award – CCA

Recipients of the Colours Award in co-curricular activity (CCA) category are recognised for their contributions to the Sport and Games, Visual and Performing Arts and Clubs and Societies. This award acclaims their dedication, passion and pursuit for excellence in their respective areas and also for displaying exemplary conduct and character.

Colours Award - Leadership and Service

Recipients of the Colours Award in the Leadership/Service category are recognised for their significant contributions to the school and community. This award acclaims their commitment and dedication to serve and lead and for displaying exemplary conduct, character and leadership qualities. They live up to our school's motto of becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

Otter Award

The Otter Award is a holistic achievement accorded to an all-rounded student in each level from Primary 1 to Primary 5. This award recognises the exemplary conduct, character, leadership qualities displayed by the recipient and acclaims his/her good academic results and contributions to CCA, Values-in-Action (VIA) and/or leadership.

Recipients of OTTER Award (2019) with our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Loo Chin Nong, PBM:



Anshika Saxena - ASPIRE Award Recipient (2019)

ASPIRE Award

The ASPIRE award recognises the exemplary conduct, character, leadership qualities and contributions of the recipient. The award recipient embodies the ASPIRE values of Adaptability, Self-Discipline, Passion, Integrity, Resilience and Empathy. He/She is also a good role model to his/her peers and has excelled and contributed significantly in the areas of leadership, CCA and VIA. He/She exemplifies the school's vision of a Bendemeer Primary student who is a passionate learner and a confident leader.

am a proud Alumni of Bendemeer Primary School (BPS). I am currently studying at Temasek Junior College in the first year of the Integrated Program. I will always be thankful to BPS for laying the strong foundation for a fulfilling future for me wherein I aspire to excel in everything I do and contribute to the success of Singapore.

Five years at BPS gave me an opportunity to get educated by some of the best teachers in the country. I was fortunate to be in the company of some of the most talented students in my batch with whom I have developed a life-long bond of friendship. The hours which we spent together, having fun, helping one another blossom and growing up together, shall always have a special place in my heart.

I also enjoyed being a part of the Singapore Youth Festival winning

concert Band and was honoured to hold the position of Band Leader in Primary 6. I remember my transition from being a clueless child who boarded a wrong school bus on my first day in school to being the Head Prefect of the school in Primary 6. This journey and the trust and confidence which my schoolmates and teachers have put in me by appointing me as

the Head Prefect is one instance which will always motivate me in my life when the chips are down.

Primary 6 was the most eventful year during my stint at BPS. The challenge of

PSLE, the joy of being a part of memorable performances with the concert band and the leadership assignments given to me were further amplified by the merger of Balestier Hill Primary School and Bendemeer Primary School. The vision of the newly merged school was laid out through a new set of values which were created by the students, for the students. I was happy

to lead in that activity. I look forward to future batches of BPS students living out those values and making all of us proud. On the last day of the school, I was felicitated with the prestigious ASPIRE award for living out the school values. It gives me a feeling of 'Responsibility well lived'.

Anshika giving a speech to the guests

I conclude with a message for all my dear juniors – 'Dream

Big, work smart and try to beat your own excellence every day'. You have a great platform in BPS and sky is the limit if you "aspire" for all the successes in the world, remain true to the school values and stay disciplined.



"I READ, YOU READ, WE READ!"



Read, You Read, We Read!" is the motto for our school's Reading Programme. Through this motto, we want to promote the love of reading in our students and to foster an environment which supports reading.

Reading is carried out actively during reading lessons by both English language and Mother Tongue teachers. In the classrooms, libraries are well stocked up with story books for our students to read. Many new books were added to the class libraries at the beginning of the year to provide our students with a wider range of titles. In addition, teachers bring resources to the classrooms which include books on puppets, fairy tales, critical literacy, Science, History and many more.

During Mother Tongue lessons, teachers also bring along various story books and cards which further inculcate the love for reading in our students.

As a whole school approach, the school's Media Resource Library (MRL) has organised interesting activities to enthuse and encourage our students to read and they include:



Book Talk (Primary 1 to Primary 5)

Students are encouraged to write a synopsis of a book read. Then they would stand in front of their classmates and share what they have written. This also fosters confidence building and studentstudent-relationship.



Reading booklets (Primary 1 to Primary 4) Reading booklets are given to students so that they may note down different aspects of story books read. For example, interesting words, favourite sentence or character, drawings of the book cover and many more. To make it more interesting, Science is also incorporated into these reading booklets as follows:

READING

P1: Living and non-living things P2: Plants P3: Life Cycles P4: Magnets



ADEME

Reading lesson conducted by Mrs Ang Kailing



Book Talk conducted via ZOOM during full Home-Based-Learning (HBL).

Level Champion Readers

One class is given the Level Champion trophy each term. This is based on the average number of books students from a class have borrowed from the school library.

Finally, we would like to invite all parents to come on board and go on this exciting journey of "I Read, You Read and We Read!" to discover all the hidden treasure in books with our students!

GRATITUDE WALL @BENDEMEER PRIMARY SCHOOL

with a full

eaching our students to show gratitude to the people around us is important. It reminds us of the good things we have in our lives and how blessed we are. Term 1 was definitely a special term for us as we came together as one school community as well as one united Singapore in our fight against COVID 19. As Term 1 drew to an end, our students contributed to building the 'Gratitude Wall', an initiative by our Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) department to build a gracious community of passionate learners and confident leaders. Our students were given time to reflect on the happenings in both our school and Singapore and they were encouraged to write simple notes of gratitude to their parents and friends for their love and support. They also wrote thank-you notes to our security guards, school attendants and healthcare workers who have been working relentlessly to keep Singapore safe and secure.

Dear security uncle,

Dear Parents,

love às

Proud!

wears out.

Thank you for going around the school patrolling to ensure Our safety, I appreciate it a lot and the school should appreciate it too ...

Thank you for taking care of us and

ove, you still

lia rui

buying us new things when our old ones

best in all we do and make you

Eventhough we misben and care for us. we nope that we can try out

From : Aiyanna Sayson 6-2

Dear healthcore hero, mank you for taking great care of our fellow pupils, we appreciate all you do

From: cheryl 6-2

Our 'Gratitude Wall'

POSTING OF SCHOOL STAFF

The school welcomed the following personnel into our Bendemeer Family.





Mr Lam Chee Yuong Vice-Principal (Administration)



Mdm Sheila Chow Hui Niang Teacher



Ms Izza Nazura Binti Abdul Teacher

PROFESSIONAL SHARING

n 25 February this year, one of our staff, Mdm Wong Xiao Lee, represented the school in the Digital Age Learning Conference – a platform for educators to share their innovation and creative pedagogical practices at the national level. Mdm Wong's presentation entitled "Speak-Up! Using FlipGrid to Enhance Oral Assessment" was wellreceived by the participants!





Achievement

Our operations manager, Mr Jason Wong, received the prestigious "Indo-Dubai Friendship International Award" at a conference held in Dubai in December 2019. This award is a recognition for his outstanding achievements in sports.

Congratulations to the talented staff of Bendemeer Primary School!

TRAINEE TEACHERS FROM NEW ZEALAND

n January this year, we welcomed two trainee teachers from New Zealand, Ms Kelsi Marsh and Ms Jana Verbeek. During their training stint at Bendemeer Primary School, they were mentored by Ms Chan Hoe Kim Stacey, Mrs Elyssa Kwok, Mrs Grace Yee, Mrs Seetha Dhillon and Mr Lim Ling Siang.

A Thank-you note from Ms Kelsi Marsh and Ms Jana Verbeek

We would like to start by saying thank you to the staff and students of Bendemeer Primary School for making us feel so welcome.

We both have thoroughly enjoyed our experiences and have been lucky enough to learn so much from our cooperating teachers. In particular, we were able to observe a variety of pedagogies and absorb all the varying characteristics and nuances they presented. This learning has been very beneficial as we can use it to inform our future teaching practice and curriculum implementation in New Zealand.

At Bendemeer Primary School, we were also exposed to many enriching cultural experiences which were presented in a variety of forms such as assembly, CCA, Chinese New Year celebration and teachers extending their courtesy to us. Also, through the many interactions we had with students and staff, we were able to learn so much about the diversity of Singapore and particular cultural customs and traditions.

Once again, we would like to say thank you to the students, staff, school leaders and Bendemeer families for allowing us to be a part of their family. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Joyce Lim for taking the extra time to care for us and make us feel at home in Singapore.

Because of the hospitality and courtesy shown to us from many people, we have been so lucky to have such an amazing cultural and educational experience in Singapore.



BUNDLES OF JOY

Congratulations to our teachers and we welcome their little bundles of joy to our big family **@Bendemeer Primary School!**



FESTIVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

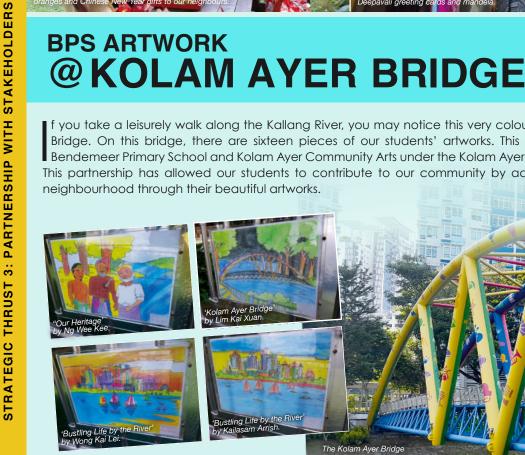
n our continuous effort to promote a sense of community and neighbourliness between our school and its community, we continued our community outreach projects by distributing greeting cards and gifts to the business operators in our neighbourhood during Deepavali 2019 and Chinese New Year 2020. These cards and gifts were specially prepared by our students.





BPS ARTWORK @KOLAM AYER BRIDGE

If you take a leisurely walk along the Kallang River, you may notice this very colourful bridge called the Kolam Ayer Bridge. On this bridge, there are sixteen pieces of our students' artworks. This project is a partnership between Bendemeer Primary School and Kolam Ayer Community Arts under the Kolam Ayer Citizens' Consultative Committee. This partnership has allowed our students to contribute to our community by adding colour and vibrancy to our neighbourhood through their beautiful artworks.



OUR OVERSEAS

n Term 1, Bendemeer Primary School and Stamford Primary School co-hosted a group of educators from Xi'an, China. They came to our school for a learning journey on 9 January 2020 and visited our facilities such as our Heritage Centre, Eco garden, Art gallery and Student Care Centre as well as to learn more about our school programmes. There was rich learning and exchange of ideas as we learned about each other's education system.



We also hosted a group of students and staff from Sichuan Dayi Beijie Primary School, China on 16 January. Our visitors spent a fruitful morning experiencing school life in Singapore by mingling with our students during classroom experience as well as being led on a school tour conducted by our student leaders.



