

TOWNSVILLE

CONNECTS



Issue 4 2017

Connecting Parents with School



Can you find the
the **mistake**?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Did we spot it?

Let's take a step back, slow down and look at the stimulus again.

What we notice is that sometimes, with things that are familiar to us, we tend to quickly conclude that the outcome will be the same. For example, in the above stimulus, we see the word **mistake** and are quick to look for it in the coloured numbers, sometimes even making up a story to help our interpretation. From our experience, we usually start looking for mistakes after the statement and not within the statement. Therefore in this case, that is usually what most of us did, we failed to see two "the"s within the question but jumped ahead to look at the numbers instead.



What we can learn from this is that we can sometimes be hasty, prescriptive, prone to "jump to conclusions" or find ourselves constantly pointing out to our children corrections to what we think are "for their own good" based on our experience. We may not notice that we are doing it but we may need to ask ourselves what the impact of this behaviour is on our children.

Experience is useful. We use our experience to interpret many new things that come our way. However, the caveat is to remind ourselves that it may not be the way our children encounter the world. They are growing up in a world that is "different" from the one we adults grew up in. For example, we used to plan our day ahead and keep the appointments made as it is difficult to make any changes. Nowadays, everyone is always connected. We have Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Messenger, Snapchat, Periscope, etc. The list is a long one. New ways of interacting are formed. New "rules" are adopted. New norms are also established. Another example is "fashionably late". That has now become socially acceptable. The world of the digital native is different from that of the one many of us grew up in.

However, there is certainty in a few things. Our roles as adults who can influence our children and our role to model respect and values remain. In the example above about communication and the affordance of social media, does it mean we no longer observe the value of punctuality? What we do, demonstrates to our children, what we value. If we respect the people we meet, we should keep our appointments and be punctual. We should use actions and language that demonstrates respect when we communicate. Living in a world that is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA), we cannot help but think about some of the skills and dispositions that our children need to continue to thrive in and beyond the 21st century.

So what has this got to do with the stimulus above?

The stimulus reminds us not to be too quick to jump to conclusions and subject everyone or everything to only our interpretation of our world. Let us help our children learn this skill when we reflect, and show them how we understand what they are experiencing. It does require a disciplined approach. It does require the use of listening skills, the act of balancing inquiry and advocacy, and our sense of empathy.

Have a great year end break with the children and we will see everyone in 2018.



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Art Club Learning Journey Yayoi Kusama exhibition: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow

P1 and P2 students from the Art Club had a wonderful museum experience at the National Gallery of Singapore. As they were taken around on a tour of the exhibits by the museum's docent, they learnt how our forefathers lived in Singapore years ago.

In the international artist exposure segment, our students were engaged in connecting the dots and lines in the world of renowned artist, Yayoi Kusama. Known for her iconic dots, nets, pumpkins and infinity rooms, her captivating masterpieces inspired our young ones to learn more about colour, form and space. It was truly a whimsical world of colours for them.



The colourful dots of the renowned artist, Yayoi Kusama



Learning about the lives of our forefathers



Touring around the National Gallery of Singapore



P1 and P2 Art Club students at the museum

P6 Graduation Camp

The long-awaited P6 Graduation Camp was finally here. A well-deserved break after having worked hard for the recent Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE), P6 students spent two days and one night bonding with one another at Yishun Safra Club. Spending a night away from home helped many of them better appreciate the comforts of home.



P6s trying their hands at the high elements, archery tag and even administering first aid



Children's Day Celebrations

There was great excitement amongst the Townsvillites on 5 October. The highlight of the day was TVPStar 2017. Students selected during earlier auditions showcased their talents during the concert. They gave the judges a tough time in deciding the winner. To top the day off, *Micappella*, a local acapella band, performed medleys of popular songs. It was a performance which everyone immensely enjoyed.



Our talented Townsvillites impressing the judges



Micappella thrilling the crowd with their acapella talents



P5 Values-In-Action

This year, elderly citizens from Ang Mo Kio FSC Community Service came by to our school to spend Wednesday afternoons with our P5 students. P5 students had the opportunity to plan for the event as a class. They led the elderly in simple exercises, put up a variety of short performances and interacted with the elderly through games and art and craft sessions.



Our students interacting with the elderly



Enjoying a game of Chinese chess with the elderly

Teachers' Day Celebration

Teachers' Day is a day for students to show appreciation to their teachers for their hard work. A concert which included fun quizzes as well as performances by CCA groups was put together by our dedicated team of parent volunteers. There was also a segment by P4 classes. Their original compositions of raps and songs using Garage Band software were screened, to the delight of both teachers and students.



Poetry recitation by English Drama Club



A captivating performance by the Malay dancers



Lighthearted moments during the concert



Reciting the Teachers' Pledge



Teachers' Day Lunch

It was a time for teachers to let their hair down during the Teachers' Day lunch held at the Village Hotel. It was an honour to have the Chairman, Vice-Chairman as well as members of the School Advisory Committee join us for the occasion. Keeping to the theme of 'Sports For Life', all staff came clad in their sports attire. There was much laughter during the table games. It was a perfect opportunity for all to bond over food and games.



Mr Lim flexing his muscles



Very determined to win the table game



Presenting our one and only Team Japan

Townsville Gems



P5 students took part in the Innovation Programme (IP) for the first time. This programme is conducted by MOE Gifted Branch. The students worked tirelessly over seven months. The programme culminated in the Young Innovation Fair, where they had to present their ideas to those who attended the fair. They emerged with a Distinction Award (Dillon Yeo and Soh Kai), Merit Award (Md Samee, Clark Tang, Zoel Luah and Nadiah Jing Ling) as well as a Participation Award (Rongaln Hamsini and Ayen Julia Talactac Gatulan).



For the 23rd National Primary School On the Spot Essay Writing Competition (Chinese), Yolanda Naing (P4) emerged first in Category E while Lee Wei Xian (P6) and Jiang Xin Yue (P5) received Merit Awards for Category A & B respectively.



Our ex-student, Dhanabalan Jeevakaarthik (P6 2016) received the Sinda Excellence Award 2017. We are proud of him!



Rachel Wong (P6) took part in Tales of 'S' eBook Competition organised by Civica. Her story, along with selected stories written by students of other schools, was selected to be published in the hardcover version of the book.



Four students, Lin Zi Cheng (P3), Averyl Pang (P4), Chloe Ho (P4) and Jocelyn Chng (P5) received the Young Illustrators Award for illustrating the stories in Tales of 'S' eBook. Their drawings were selected to be included in the book.



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