

a newsletter by Presbyterian Preschool Services

# THE TBG DIGEST

stories, thoughts and updates from our centres

TRUTH • BEAUTY • GOODNESS

## HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

Significant events in Term 2

## GET TO KNOW US

Features on  
our culture and staff  
who keep stuff going

## A GOOD START FOR EVERY CHILD

NDP 2023 Music Video,  
Good Start Conference 2023  
and more!





# THIS AND THAT

Note from our Executive Director  
Lim Ee Tuo



Dear Parents,

Our schools ended the first Semester with an exciting public event - Creation C.A.R.E. It was a two-month environment care project that many of our children participated in. Another 1,500 children from other preschools also joined them in this effort to care for God's creation. This endeavour develops **grit, grace, grease, gratitude** and **generativeness** in our children.

To prepare for the next half of the year, the teachers and support staff had an early start with our **Learning Day** that focussed on understanding the image of the child and developing a more inclusive learning space through the **Universal Design for Learning Framework**. The staff also took time to recharge and rejuvenate so that they can give their best to the children.

For this new Semester, the focus is on inclusion. We will be encouraging our children to show care and support to their classmates with developmental needs (**Little Heroes of Inclusion**) so that we can build an inclusive community.

There will also be an **Ultra-Marathon GoodStart Run** for our children in support of raising funds for our Educational Support Programme (ESP) for children with developmental needs.

Collectively, the children will complete a total distance of 346km, which is the distance that Uncle Nghee Huat (a spouse of our staff) will be running in Scotland to raise funds for ESP. (Yes. 346km!).

We hope all parents can support this effort so that every child can have a good start in life.



\*Please refer to the Appendix for the Mandarin translation.

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# GET TO KNOW US!

5 Learning Dispositions



## Our 5Gs – Positive Dispositions in Children

Presbyterian Preschool Services' desire to build a strong foundation in truth, beauty and goodness for each child is expressed through the nurturing of the following positive dispositions in our children. Namely grit, generative-ness, grease, grace and gratitude.

As we journey alongside your family to inspire every child to learn, grow and glow, we hope you will find ways to inculcate these values at home too! Read on to find out more about these dispositions and visit our website at [bit.ly/PPS5Gs](https://bit.ly/PPS5Gs) for some practical examples your family can adopt!



Embodying the spirit of tenacity; recognising that failures are a part of life, embracing and rising from failures positively, and having the courage and resilience to overcome all of life's challenges and difficulties



Being a creative and restless contrarian who practices inventive thinking and sees possibilities even in impossible situations



Engaged and assiduous doers who are willing to get their hands dirty, demonstrating great willingness to try, explore and experiment

# Our 5Gs – Positive Dispositions in Children



Recognising that all of life is a good gift and that we are all recipients of grace from others, learning to extend this same grace to others which includes having the ability to forgive



Always being in a state of contentment and thankfulness, and ever-ready to show appreciation to others and reciprocate kindness

The process of journeying with a young one will prove to be challenging. Often times, we project our personal experiences in our own childhood on our own children. It takes intentionality, planning and unlearning in order to create opportunities for positive dispositions to be cultivated. However, with time, children will learn from the model we provide for them and this will set them apart for the rest of their lives. Read more at [bit.ly/PPS5Gs](https://bit.ly/PPS5Gs).



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## GET TO KNOW US!

Our People

At the heart of our Truth, Beauty and Goodness curriculum is a team that brings it to life. Our Care and Development Team comprises of individuals who have a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion about early intervention, curriculum design and implementation for children with developmental needs, and teacher mentorship.

In this newsletter, we take the time to learn more about Kanniga and Susila, to understand how their work supports our Centre Leaders and Teachers in our preschools.

### Ms. N. Kannigadevi

Assistant Director, Care and Development

Kanniga is one of the pioneering champions of inclusive preschool education in Singapore. She first joined Presbyterian Preschool Services in 1988 (back then, we were known as Presbyterian Welfare Services) as a Specialist Teacher because she strongly believes in the power of early intervention and inclusive education.

Even today as an Assistant Director who manages a team of Learning Support Educators and Education Support Teachers, she still spends most of her time in the Centres training, mentoring and working alongside the teachers and Centre Leaders on the ground. Her desire is to see more nurturing and inclusive preschool environments designed to support all children so that all children can thrive.

“What is my hope for children with developmental needs? You mean, what is my hope for all children? The answer is the same - to thrive!”



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## Ms. A. Susila

### Manager, Care and Development

Susila started as an Assistant Teacher in Presbyterian Preschool Services (then, Presbyterian Welfare Services) in 1987. After working as a childcare teacher for 12 years, she received training to be a Resource Teacher that specialised in integrating children with developmental needs in the mainstream preschool setting. This pivot in her career in the sector set her on the path to enhance her competences in order to serve children with developmental needs better.

Today, she mentors other Learning Support Educators and works with each of the Education Support Teachers from all our childcare centres. Her work as an early intervention professional was recognised in 2021 as the recipient of Early Childhood Development Agency's inaugural Outstanding Early Intervention Professional Award.



"The children may not remember us...but them feeling loved, cared for and having their needs met at the right time will go a long way."



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# Creation C.A.R.E Highlights



## ON THE GROUND

Organisation-Wide Updates

On 25th May 2023, we launched the opening of the Creation C.A.R.E 2023 Art Showcase at One Punggol! Apart from excitedly spotting their own works at the showcase, they were overjoyed to get to pet some live insects at Mandai Wildlife Group's educational booth. They also had a chance to make a monkey headband and play some games on the spot.



As part of the opening ceremony, about 600 children and teachers from various preschools were treated to an exciting programme! We were thrilled to be joined by Speaker Tan Chuan-Jin, who is also Mandai Wildlife Group's Deputy Chairman. Ms Yeo Wan Ling, Grassroots Adviser to Pasir-Ris Punggol Grassroots Organisations also came by to tour the exhibits and to say hello to the kids.



Children started off the morning's activities with a lively action song about God's creation, before they were treated to both an English and Mandarin storytelling session, where they were introduced to fascinating characters from the rainforest, along with their unexpected stories.

They even got to expend their energy with an invigorating great rainforest workout, busting moves that perhaps a gorilla would have. Finally, everyone burst into song to wish the Singapore Zoo a very happy 50th birthday!



Read more at [bit.ly/CCceremony](https://bit.ly/CCceremony) and visit the Creation C.A.R.E website ([bit.ly/CC2023](https://bit.ly/CC2023)) for more information.

# Creation C.A.R.E Highlights



Apart from learning more about how they can protect the rainforest and its inhabitants, the children also contributed to conservation in practical way - by fundraising for the Zoo!



Our teachers and children were super creative in their fundraising efforts. Some held bake sales, while others sold handmade items such as coasters and paintings to sell. Little Olive Tree (Woodlands) even held performances and invited parents to come watch!



In total, children across all centres raised \$3000. PPS' symbolic adoption of Khansa the Bornean Orangutan will support the Zoo's efforts to care for her well-being. Khansa's strength is her grit (one of our 5Gs!), as she lost her mother just after she turned one. Her grit kept her going even though it was tough for her.

PPS Hougang made delicious apple jam



LOT Bethany made planters and craft items



\$40 Each

PPS AMK sold out all their cookies to their neighbours, and LOT Bukit Arang sold over 30 pieces of paintings and bags



PPS Bukit Batok setup a beautiful mini craft market



# Staff Learning Day - 23 June



Once a quarter, our entire staff team gathers for Learning Day. It is both a time for everyone to be aligned to the beliefs, values and practices that Presbyterian Preschool Services as a whole seeks to be practiced throughout all our centres.

On 23rd June, our team was reminded that each of us were created for a purpose. Despite our differences, we can work together to do good within our schools and hence, the community. The teaching staff also went through two different trainings: the Image of the Child and Universal Design for Learning. Both of these training were designed to equip our teachers to care for and nurture our children in a way that demonstrates each child is fearfully and wonderfully made – they are God’s wonderful work. Read more about it here:

[bit.ly/LD23Jun](https://bit.ly/LD23Jun)



## Primary School sharing session by former students

PPS Tampines



In May 2023, Julius and Kylie, former students of PPS Tampines came back to their alma mater to lead a sharing session about primary school for the K2 children. This sharing session allowed the K2s to ask burning questions about the life and practices in primary school.

Prior to the session, the K2s had shared their questions and feelings about them starting primary school next year. Julius and Kylie not only answered their questions, but also shared advice on how to cope in terms of punctuality and studying. They even brought their school bags to show the children what they bring to school daily!



## ON THE GROUND

Centre-Level Updates

"I find it so special and inspiring that our former students were able to carry out a sharing session with noticeable self-confidence. I hope to see our K2 children to do the same in the future."

- Teacher Jade

Transitioning to primary school can be daunting, but the K2s were definitely encouraged that they can also adapt as well their seniors did.

## A great veggie harvest at St Luke's Eldercare

PPS Hougang

Children shadowed the seniors from St Luke's Eldercare to learn the basics of harvesting vegetables. They listened attentively as the experts explained how to differentiate weeds from veggies, as well as how to pluck the veggies properly.



They even got to bring back some of the fresh produce for the centre cook to transform them into yummy dishes!



Even though it was their first time interacting with these seniors, they enjoyed being their apprentices. The children exclaimed that they had "so much fun" and that they "want to do it again next time".



## Hari Raya Puasa Celebration PPS Yishun

Across all levels, PPS Yishun had a chance to have a cultural experience - this time by learning more about Hari Raya Puasa and the traditions that come with the festivities.

Teachers conducted Music & Movement lessons with Malay Traditional songs, and did handicrafts that are common in the Malay culture. Children were also treated to a tasting of traditional Malay kuehs. Delicious!

Children thoroughly enjoyed the different foods they tried, as well as the new Malay dances they learnt. They couldn't stop talking about them! One child shared, "I made satay. I used the leaves and poke into the satay stick and then I pretend to eat!"



## Power of Playdough for Parents PPS Woodlands

During the June holidays, parents and children were invited to a workshop where they got their hands dirty, learning how to create playdough from scratch! Parents learnt that playdough can be used as a powerful tool to support their child's learning and development across age groups. For example, it can improve hand-eye coordination and can be used for symbolic thinking.



During their interactions with the children, the parents immediately applied what was shared with them. For example, they got the children to express their ideas, tell stories and experience the texture and qualities of playdough.

The possibilities are endless with playdough as long as you have imagination and creativity!

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## National Day 2023 Music Video

What does loving Singapore mean? How do we express our love for Singapore beyond waving our flags and being excited about the National Day Parade?

Through the lens of the Bible, we learn from stories such as the one about the good Samaritan, that one demonstrates love by loving people. In the same way, one of the surest ways to convey our love for our nation is to show love to the people who live in it.

Last year, we found ways for our children to love our community helpers who may be migrants far away from home. This year, our children are also given opportunities to show love to communities in our midst who may be forgotten. One of those groups are people with additional or developmental needs.

This year, children from our Ang Mo Kio, Pasir Ris 51 and Yishun Centres came together to be part of our 2023 National Day video. Keep a look out for it!

In the mean time, check out our past years' videos here: [bit.ly/PPSNDP](https://bit.ly/PPSNDP)



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# Good Start SG Movement



The Good Start SG movement is borne both out of a desire to respond to the government's call for more inclusion and inclusive practices in Singapore and also of a restless spirit to effect change in areas where gaps in the sector are observed. This movement was started by practitioners who desire to bring everyone together to create a community of practice that equips, supports and advances inclusion in preschools.

## Little Heroes of Inclusion

Children play an essential role in creating inclusive preschool environments, and by extension, an inclusive Singapore. The Good Start SG movement aims to raise children who are exemplars to others (both children and adults alike), hence the Little Heroes of Inclusion campaign.

Starting from their early years, we hope to inculcate values integral in creating an inclusive society, such as compassion and acceptance. We want to raise them to be active change agents that are capable of shaping a compassionate meritocracy for the generation after ours.

If you have any inspiring stories you'd like to share with us, please do so here: [bit.ly/LH10Ways](https://bit.ly/LH10Ways)

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# Good Start SG Movement

## Good Start Early Childhood Conference 2023

Part of our effort to build a community of practice that equips, supports and advances inclusion in preschools is the organising of the annual Good Start Early Childhood Conference. Each year, our Conference aspires to bring in presenters who are experts in their field to equip Conference attendees with practical handles they can immediately apply at work (or at home for the parents).

Registration is now open for educators and parents!

Check out the workshops available here:

[www.goodstart.sg/breakout2023](http://www.goodstart.sg/breakout2023)

Register for the Conference here: [bit.ly/GS23Reg](https://bit.ly/GS23Reg)



**Save the Date!**

29 September 2023, Friday

8.30AM - 6PM

Suntec Convention Centre



## Good Start Run – 346km Ultra Marathon

Funding programmes to the benefit of children with developmental needs is costly but worthwhile as every child is precious in God's sight, and fearfully and wonderfully made. Our efforts to give each child a good start in life goes further with partners who join us in our endeavour.

This year, to raise the funds needed in our Educational Support Programme, Uncle Nghee Huat is running an ultra-marathon, the coast-to-coast Race Across Scotland on 12 August 2023. Having run for charity for many years, he believes in using his "superpower" of running to bless the community.

Read more about Uncle Nghee Huat here:

[www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/alumni-stories-news/detail/the-running-man](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/alumni-stories-news/detail/the-running-man)

Read more about the race here: [www.gbultras.com/ultra-great-britain](http://www.gbultras.com/ultra-great-britain)

Click here to donate: [bit.ly/GSRun23](https://bit.ly/GSRun23)

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## 这个那个 (Executive Director's Note)

亲爱的家长，

我们的学校以激动人心的公共活动—Creation C.A.R.E 结束了第一学期。这是一个为期一个月的环保项目，我们很多孩子都参加了。另外还有来自其他幼儿园的1500名孩子也加入了他们的行列，共同关爱上帝的造物。这项努力培养了我们孩子的勇气、优雅、勤勉、感恩和创造力。

在这个新学期，教师和支持人员提早开始了我们的学习日活动，重点是了解孩子的形象，并通过通用学习设计框架开发更具包容性的学习空间。工作人员们也抽出时间来充电、恢复活力，以便为孩子们奉献最好的自己。新学期的重点是建立一个包容性的学习环境。我们将倡导孩子们关心和支持有发展需要的同学。

我们还将为我们的孩子举办超级马拉松 GoodStart Run，以支持为我们针对有发展需要的儿童的教育支持计划 (ESP) 筹集资金。孩子们总共将完成 346 公里的总距离，这是 Nghee Huat 叔叔（我们员工的丈夫）将在苏格兰为 ESP 筹集资金的跑步距离。（是的。346公里！）。希望所有家长能够支持这一努力，让每个孩子都能有一个良好的人生开端。