

THE TBG DIGEST

stories, thoughts and updates from our centres

TRUTH . BEAUTY . GOODNESS

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THIS AND THAT

Note from the Executive Director
Lim Ee Tuo

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued partnership with us in giving our children a strong foundation in truth, beauty and goodness.

2023 has been, and will continue to be a year of growth - not just for your children but also for our schools and staff!

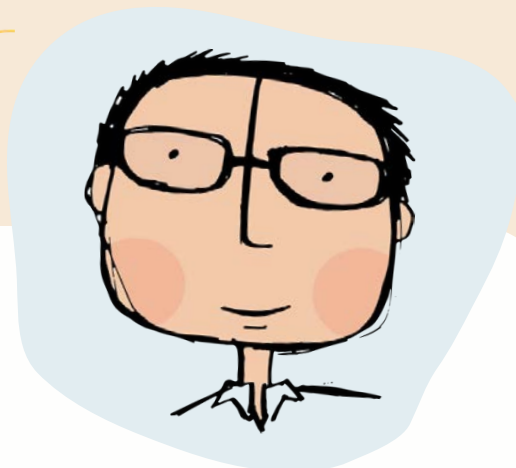
Growing in Numbers

Firstly, the number of our Centres has increased from 11 to 14. Our 3 new centres took on a new entity - Little Olive Tree by PPS. These new centres are located in church premises, and this provides more opportunities, possibilities and space for education and exploration. We are working towards the fourth Little Olive Tree in June specially for the young ones. It will be a dedicated centre providing care and development for infants and playgroup children.

Beyond our growing number of schools, our programmes are also growing in quality.

Growing in Quality

Having introduced the TBG curriculum for two years, we are now moving into the next phase of refining it. Areas of progress include refining our lessons to cater to children of different abilities and preparing them for primary school education. One such effort is the launch of our new Chinese Language Modules.



晨之星 (Morning Star) is our specialised thematic Mandarin programme, and 哆莱咪音乐律动 (DoReMi) is our Music & Movement Programme conducted in Mandarin. Together, they strengthen our children's interest and eventual mastery of the language.

Growing Our People

Further, we continue to invest in our teachers, up-skilling them through curriculum mentorship and regular lesson observations, targeted clinics, training and workshops. These efforts are driven by a team of experienced curriculum specialists, some of whom will be introduced in the next segments.

Truly, we are not able to carry out all the changes by ourselves. Hence 2023's growth includes growing in our collaborative efforts with partners like LEGO and Singapore Kindness Movement for the KinderMovement.SG project for Nursery to Kindergarten 2 children. In commemoration of our beloved Zoo's 50th anniversary, we are also working with Mandai Wildlife Group to bring Creation C.A.R.E. to all our children and communities.

Look out for these exciting new developments and we look forward to a year of growing and glowing together!

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WHAT'S NEW

Exciting Developments

Introducing our 3 new Little Olive Trees!



Presbyterian Preschool Services exists to meet challenges and needs of the community in Christian witness to touch lives. In our effort to expand this mission beyond our 11 Partner Operator Preschools, Little Olive Tree (LOT) was launched in January 2023 in partnership with other churches. Our hope is that through the LOTs, the Truth, Beauty and Goodness curriculum will extend its reach to more children and families.

We are excited to introduce the Centre Leaders running these preschools! Read on to find out more. You may also find out more about LOT on our website: <https://www.littleolivetree.sg>

Little Olive Tree (Bethany)

In partnership with Bethany Presbyterian Church

Centre Leader: Priscilla Lim

Having spent the last 20 years nurturing children, Priscilla believes that every child is unique and creative. With her gentle disposition, she grounds the children's learning experiences and lessons with great love, valuing each child by cultivating and developing their interests.

She endeavours to inculcate social skills and moral values through every day moments, seizing each interaction with the children, counting them as precious. She believes that school is but a microcosm of the real world that we are preparing our young ones for.

Her passion in the arts and aesthetic expression also shines through in the ways she works with her team to transform the learning spaces in LOT Bethany to inspire conversations, discovery and experiential learning in their classrooms.

"I firmly believe that we need to intentionally nurture a child's heart. Only then, will they grow to be compassionate, empathetic and responsible individuals who know to persevere in challenging times."



Introducing our new Little Olive Trees!



Little Olive Tree (Bukit Arang)

In partnership with Bethesda Church Bukit Arang



Centre Leader: Daphne Goh

Daphne spent more than two thirds of her early childhood career with PPS. Along the way, she has grown from a teacher to a Centre Leader, having been inspired, motivated and supported by her passionate and skilful colleagues.

Playing an instrumental role in developing children and growing them has also been her source of joy. She has grown to appreciate all facets that contribute to a child's development, from the more mundane and routine things like a child's learning environment and planned curriculum, to creative projects or innovation that involves the community.

The chief reason why Daphne continues to choose to be in PPS is because she identifies with the organisation's mission. Believing that we ought to bloom where we are planted, she strives to celebrate every child, engage with each family meaningfully and exemplify servant-leadership with her team.



"I am humbled and honoured to be given this opportunity to shape lives and my team in PPS. I hope to mould our children into God-fearing citizens with a strong foundation in truth, beauty and goodness when they leave our doors."

Introducing our new Little Olive Trees!



Little Olive Tree (Woodlands)

In partnership with Woodlands Evangelical Free Church & Truth Baptist Church

Centre Leader: Rachel Lee

"Few of us can do great things. But all of us can do small things with great love". This maxim by Mother Theresa has been the heartbeat of what Rachel seeks to do daily in her Centre.

Rachel left a lustrous career in the finance field, choosing to be a teacher in her son's preschool in 2012. Since then, she has not looked back. To her, working with children and families is a wonderful conduit for her to express God's love.



She treasures the relationships that she has fostered with the children and families she works with and recognises that before any learning and growth can take place, a trusting relationship must be the foundation.

"Even though the children in my school are not my own, I embrace each one as my own. Their well-being in all aspects will always be my utmost priority."



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Creation C.A.R.E



creation CARE 2023
ORANGUTAN
AND ITS RAINFOREST FRIENDS
Children's Action to Rescue Earth

What is Creation C.A.R.E?

Our children will all be involved in Creation C.A.R.E (Children's Action to Rescue Earth), a community project that endeavours to inspire, encourage and empower children to care for creation and the environment.

We want to teach children the importance of creation care and simple actions they can take to make a difference. Creation C.A.R.E will run from **1 Mar 2023 - 28 May 2023**.

Theme for Creation C.A.R.E 2023

This year's theme is 'Orang Utan & its Rainforest Friends'. In conjunction with the Mandai Zoo's 50th anniversary, we would like to raise awareness about the need for conservation for animals such as the Orang Utan, whose habitats are threatened due to human activity.

The Orang Utan has been the Zoo's flagship animal who has always been popular amongst the crowds since their opening! Other rainforest friends include the two-toed sloth, the red-ruffed lemur and the pygmy hippopotamus.

Due to deforestation to make way for palm oil plantations, we have lost over 50% of our orang utans worldwide - this means that there are 25 orang utans killed everyday. Our teachers will explore this topic with the children and find out more on how they can play their part in helping them.

Public Art Showcase

We will be showcasing children's artworks in a public space to spread awareness about Creation C.A.R.E! Refer to below for more details:



Location: One Punggol
Showcase Dates: 25 May - 30 May 2023
Opening Ceremony: 25 May (Morning - Timing TBC)
More details to come!

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Kindermovement 2023 Workshop

Organised by:



Sponsored by:



What is KinderMovementSG?

The KinderMovementSG workshop offers quality training to Early Childhood (EC) educators with innovative techniques to teach pre-schoolers kindness.

Theme for KinderMovementSG 2023

2023's workshop equips EC Educators on how they can integrate a higher order cognitive development strategy, Symbolic Representation with the LEGO Play System for character education to pre-schoolers.

What is Symbolic Representation (SR)?

SR is a 'concrete-to-abstract' higher-order thinking strategy that helps children to cognitively learn Generalization, see Patterns and make Predictions for creative problem solving in different situations.

Through this, children acquire the habits of mind to process their thinking and act with deeper understanding when situations require kindness.

Trainers for KinderMovementSG 2023

The trainers for the workshops are none other than our PPS staff, Alicia Yah (Curriculum Mentor) and Sun Ying (Head of Chinese Curriculum, Research and Professional Development)! Read more about them in the section "Our People".

Find out more at: bit.ly/kinderm2023



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GROW AND GLOW

Curriculum Updates

The Chinese Curriculum Team has worked hard to design lessons and programmes that would inspire a child's love for the Chinese Language. Having implemented Stories from the Bible last year, we rolled out two additional Chinese modules this year: Morning Star and Do-Re-Mi. Read on to find out more on how they serve to build a strong foundation in the language for your children!

1. Stories from the Bible

Stories from the Bible is one of our Character-Education modules conducted in Mandarin. Developed by our Chinese Curriculum Team, narratives from Bible stories are rewritten in developmentally appropriate ways, composed into easily digestible readers and accompanied by illustrations designed to inspire children's imagination.

Through these stories of courage, hope and integrity, just to name a few, we hope to nurture a strong foundation in truth, beauty and goodness for our children.



Intentionally designed to be carried out in Mandarin, we also hope to inspire a love for learning Chinese in our children. Its rich vocabulary will also serve the children as they listen to and learn to read the Stories from the Bible readers.



圣经故事
Stories from the Bible



An audio reading of the stories can also be accessed through the QR code at the back of the books. This provides opportunities for children to listen to the stories again at home and learn how to pronounce the words and phrases through repeated listening of the stories.*

*Chinese Version available in the Appendix

Our Chinese Curriculum



2. Do-Re-Mi Music and Movement Programme

Why do children like to move around?
What kind of music do they bob their heads along to?
Are there ways that we can marry their inclination to move with the growing need for children to learn and love the Chinese Language?

Do-Re-Mi was designed to engage children in their natural element in order to cultivate a love for musical expression as well as the Chinese Language. Designed in-house by our Chinese Curriculum Team, this module was introduced in our Centres this year.

Children will learn musical expression through a variety of creative means which include musical games, appreciation of classical music as well as catchy rhymes.

It is our hope that children will learn to express themselves freely through sounds, their bodies, language and musical instruments.

Through this curriculum, we also hope that children will experience and understand music through more concrete and visual ways.*



*Chinese Version available in the Appendix



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3. Morning Star Thematic Chinese Programme

How do we help children make sense of their world around them? How do we equip them with the ability to perceive language and the necessary vocabulary that would enable them to make meaningful connections with the people around them?

Morning Star Thematic Chinese Programme is yet another module that was designed by our Chinese Curriculum Team in-house to meet those needs.

Designed for children between 3 to 6, Morning Star takes into account the psychological development as well as the interests of the children in order to develop their cognitive abilities, emotional growth and language skills.

Our goal? Happy and healthy children who also love learning and using the Chinese language.



The lessons are also accompanied by new pictorial readers per term. The contents of the readers are designed to grow a child's self-awareness and their understanding and sense of belonging in their local culture. Word cards and audio recordings of the readers are also available to facilitate parent-child games and co-learning at home.

Further, Activity Books to complement the lesson contents and extend the children's learning are also part of the curriculum. To prepare the Kindergarten 2 children, workbooks on penmanship will also be added to prepare their basics in writing Chinese characters. The writing activities will be scaffolded and progressively more difficult in order to strengthen their language foundations before moving onto Primary School.



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OUR PEOPLE

Get to know our Staff!



At the heart of our Truth, Beauty and Goodness curriculum is a team that brings it to life. Our Curriculum Team comprises of individuals who have a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion about curriculum design, implementation and teacher mentorship.

In this newsletter, we take the time to learn more about Eileen Boey, Alicia Yah and Sun Ying, and how their work supports our Centre Leaders and Teachers in our preschools.

Eileen Boey

Head of English Curriculum

Having spent 12 years on the ground, Eileen has grown to realise that her mission in life is to spark transformation wherever she is planted, be it in Singapore or in Cambodia where she volunteers her time and skills working with local schools and orphanages.

Deeply passionate about transforming our Centres, she looks forward to the day when all aspects of our schools - from our teachers, learning environment processes and attitudes - are optimal in building a strong foundation in truth, beauty and goodness for all children that comes through our doors.

Realising her need to be ahead of the learning curve of our staff to be an effective agent of change, she's currently pursuing her Masters in Pastoral Studies. She was also previously enrolled with Harvard Graduate School of Education to complete her training on Making Thinking Visible - a pedagogical approach that equips learners to externalise their thinking, promoting engaged, understanding and independent learners.



"Truth, beauty and goodness must be 'caught'.

We must model for our children in and out of lessons what it means to be pursue truth, beauty and goodness in our lives."

Sun Ying

Head of Chinese Curriculum, Research and Professional Development

Sun Ying prides herself in being a dreamer – a dreamer that enables children to grow and glow in order to achieve their fullest potential. Having spent her entire early childhood career in Curriculum Research and Design, she leads her team in designing Chinese modules that exemplify Truth, Beauty and Goodness in the Presbyterian Preschools. These modules such as Do-Re-Mi Music and Movement, Morning Star Thematic Programme and Stories from the Bible are currently implemented in our classrooms.

She is also deeply passionate about teacher training and mentorship, investing her time in members of her team to develop the right image of the children and be equipped with the best classroom practices. Beyond her work in PPS, she lectures at NIEC and is also a WSQ qualified trainer. At present, she is pursuing her Master of Arts in Counselling with Singapore Bible College.*



*Chinese Version available in the Appendix

"Real education is more than just imparting knowledge. It is about educating the soul and inspiring children to be curious and explore. A Karl Theodor Jaspers said, "education is a tree shaking another tree, a cloud driving another cloud, and a soul awakening another soul."



Alicia Yah

Curriculum Mentor

Alicia's early childhood career began with St. James Church Kindergarten. She grew to be the Principal at SJCK (Gilstead) and oversaw the running of multiple Centres under Anglican Preschool Services as the Cluster Principal before joining PPS as a Curriculum Mentor.

Her wealth of experience was enriched by her opportunity to visit Loris Malaguzzi's International Centre to experience the Reggio Emilia Approach in 2017. That experience, along with her years of working with teachers, deepened her drive to develop teachers so that they are able to learn well and teach well.

"Teachers are the best resources in the classroom to promote learning. When well-supported, they spark a child's creativity and love for learning, and enable them to make meaningful connections in the world."

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LOVE AND HOPE

Stories from Our Schools



Presbyterian Preschool Services exists to share God's love with the families that come through our doors. We do this by loving and caring for the children as our own; doing anything less than that would be a disservice to them.

By now, most would be familiar with our education mission - to nurture a strong foundation in truth, beauty and goodness in our children. Contrary to what one might think, the realisation of this education mission does not end in our classrooms; in fact it begins at home.

In this segment, we bring you stories of how our teachers and staff have sought to love our children beyond the confines of the four walls of their classrooms to give them hope to grow and glow. We hope these stories will inspire you to come alongside us as partners to bless our little ones.

Struggling to fit in

Children with developmental needs learn and interact differently from their peers. This can pose everyday challenges for the child especially if he or she does not receive the appropriate support.

Michael

Michael's* premature birth caused him to be born with a condition called Retinopathy of Prematurity, which means that he has an underdeveloped retina. This resulted in him being visually-impaired, which denied him the opportunity to attend school like every other neurotypical child. Unlike Michael, his twin sister did not suffer any complications from the early birth. She was thus able to attend preschool since the age of 2, which made Michael wonder why he was not able to go to school with his sister.

Andy

As Andy* has a condition called Global Developmental Delay, he struggled with development in motor skills and social-emotional skills.

His parents were highly concerned about Andy's social-emotional well-being, as he was unable to integrate into his previous preschool. He was left out of group activities and could not participate in lessons meaningfully due to the lack of appropriate support.

*Names have been changed to maintain anonymity.

Providing love and support

Our Educational Support Programme (ESP), provides a natural environment for children with special needs to learn, play, socialise and grow alongside with regular peers. Teachers support our children in various ways to help them learn and grow in the best way they can.

Michael

Through the Education Support Programme, PPS managed to provide Michael his first schooling experience, where he is able to participate in lessons and learn alongside his peers through tactile and auditory means. Michael uses braille to learn the alphabet and its sounds and to recognise his name, and also refers to a tactile schedule with pop-up items for him to feel.

Andy

One major challenge that Andy faced was emotional dysregulation, and he would often have energy outbursts when he was overstimulated, causing disruptions in class. Thus, visual aids prepared by the EST as well as cooling down strategies that both EST and teachers used hand-in-hand during classes helped guide him in regulating his emotions.

From Strength to Strength

With love, care and support, children thrive and make progress in leaps and bounds.

Michael

In the past 9 months under the ESP, Michael has progressed greatly in terms of self-help skills - the team has managed to assist him with his oral and motor difficulties.

Michael is now able to chew his food with minimal gagging and eats school food instead of snacks provided from home. Michael is also toilet trained now and is able to undress and dress himself with minimal assistance.

Andy

Overall, Andy has shown significant improvements in his fine motor skills development 7 months into joining us. He is now able to finish meals on his own and put on his shoes with less difficulties.

He is also exhibiting self-regulating behaviours – he manages his emotions and actions in class better, without reminders from teachers.

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From Strength to Strength (continued)

With love, care and support, children thrive and progress in leaps and bounds.

Michael

Additionally, it has been heart-warming watching his peers blossom into gentle, caring and others-centered individuals due to his presence. With Michael requiring verbal and physical support, his peers have shown great improvements in their communication skills as well as gentle physical behaviours. They often encourage him during activities and help him with tasks when needed.

Andy

His parents had shared with the teachers recently that Andy had took the initiative to stand in front of the class to lead his peers to perform dance moves while singing in church! His parents continue to be supportive and active in working alongside with the EST and class teachers, proving that a strong home-school partnership is essential for child's development and progress.

Little Blessings for Little Ones

Our work at PPS extends beyond what we do for the children in the classrooms. We hope to show care and support for families in practical ways to help each child grow and glow. This way, more children can come and share in the knowledge of God's love.

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

If you would like to partner us in our work, you may consider donating to the **Little Blessings for Little Ones** fund. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/LilBlessings>

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华文课程

2023年开始，长老会学前教育中心和小小橄榄树托儿所全面启用新的华文课程。这套课程是为公司属下的幼儿量身打造，有几个不同的版块组成。具体内容包括：

1. 圣经里的故事

圣经里的故事是专门为0-6岁婴幼儿绘制的图画书。充满美感的丰富画面，带给孩子们无限的想象空间和视觉享受，不仅能够愉悦幼儿的情绪、情感，也能够激发幼儿跃跃欲试拿笔临摹的兴趣。

故事书不仅能够帮助幼儿奠定坚实的真、善、美生命根基，也能够满足幼儿学前阶段华语学习的综合目标。为第一语言非华语的幼儿提供更多学习华语的契机，幼儿能够通过画面与故事内容探究世界，认读词汇，学习故事中人物的品格，培养幼儿对华语的喜爱。

扫描书后的二维码，就会听到故事的音频。意在帮助非华族家长，会说华语却不会读华语的家长，以及对自己的发音没有信心的教师，都可以通过音频了解每一字、每一句的正确发音。幼儿也能够通过反复听读故事，发展和提升华语的听、说能力。

2. 哆来咪音乐小课堂

哆来咪以音乐游戏的形式带领婴幼儿用肢体、语言、乐器等自由演绎音乐，以独特的方式抒发自己的内心世界。让幼儿更具体、形象地感受和理解音乐，获得情绪情感的满足。幼儿也在音乐游戏中学唱生动活泼、朗朗上口的儿歌，培养幼儿学习华语的兴趣的同时，也发展幼儿的语言表达和理解能力。

华文课程

3. 晨之星幼儿华语系列丛书

这是一套为3-6岁幼儿设计的主题华语课程，以幼儿的生理和心理发展特点为依据，以幼儿的兴趣和成长需要为出发点，以发展幼儿的认知、情感与技能为主要目标，在促进幼儿健康快乐成长的前提下，致力于奠定幼儿华语学习的良好根基。

主题绘本每个年级全年都有4本，充满了童趣，内容和幼儿的衣食住行息息相关，包括：我自己、我的家人、食物、我的朋友、学校、我的老师、我的动物朋友、我生活的环境和国家等等，不仅帮助幼儿很好地建立自我意识，同时也通过本土文化培养幼儿的归属感。

主题绘本内附有字词卡片，幼儿可以在家中自己游戏，也可以与父母共同进行亲子游戏和互动。绘本后面有音频，家长只要扫描二维码就能够和幼儿一起反复听故事了，这些贴心的设计不仅提升了幼儿学习的兴趣，也为家长提供了协助孩子的便利。

(a) 活动本

配合主题绘本的内容，特别设计创编了活动本来巩固和延续幼儿的学习，幼儿通过对活动本的操作丰富华语学习的同时，也培养了书写和绘画的技能。

(b) 写字本

为了满足K2幼儿的书写练习，我们为K2幼儿设计了全年4本写字本，每个学期一本。从华文字的基础结构开始，包括笔画、偏旁部首、字、词、句子，帮助幼儿循序渐进地了解华文字的架构，由浅入深地进行书写练习，为幼儿进入小学预备和奠定基础。

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Sun Ying 孙颖

华文主管

孙颖从事学前教育19年，拥有丰富的的一线教学实践和教师评估经验，对教师专业技能的成长与发展颇有心得。如今，她的职责范围包括负责课程研发、设计与创编，教师师资培训，教师的招聘与管理，以及受训教师毕业实习督导等。本人致力于幼儿二语学习方法与策略的研究，多次在国际二语研讨会中发表论文，并在研讨会工作坊中分享经验。也多次受邀在幼儿培育署（ECDA）研讨会中担任工作坊主讲嘉宾。

“我深信：教育就是一棵树摇动一棵树，一朵云推动一朵云，一个灵魂唤醒另一个灵魂。”