

THE VIBES NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of Evergreen Secondary School

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OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH EVG'S NEW TEAM OF VICE-PRINCIPALS

On Tuesday, 11 March, we had the honour of interviewing our new team of Vice-Principals, Mr Lak Yau Hui and Mdm Karen Tay. They have recently joined the school and we interviewed them to learn more about their leadership roles in the school.



We started off the interview by asking them, “What was your first impression of Evergreen when you first came to the school?” Both Vice-principals had similar responses. They mentioned that EVGians treated the school with care and that there was no litter lying around. Mr Lak and Mdm Tay were both impressed by these little things, saying that it is the small gestures and things we do that count, including doing the right thing when no one is looking. As EVGians, we should be proud that we have made a good impression on them and keep up the good work! We also got them to share their vision of what an effective school would look like. Mdm Tay mentioned the importance of the people and the community in a school such as EVG, where the teachers and staff can instill a sense of responsibility and social awareness among EVGians. The students can treat the school and one another with care, and do what’s right at all times. Individually, we may seem small, but everyone plays a part in making Evergreen a better learning environment for all.

Mr Lak then discussed the vision of the school as a whole. The three main points that he brought up were: being imaginative, having the desire to find out what you want in the future and hence striving to achieve it. Imagine what school could be like for us in the future when we have the same goal, same desire, and same mentality to do something together — as a result, the school would be a better place for everyone. This does not only apply to school but also our daily lives. We should be guided by the words - "Desire" and "Do" - and try to overcome our challenges together by doing the things that might look impossible. The VPs also shared their thoughts on some challenges they think they might face along their leadership journey in Evergreen. One of the challenges Mdm Tay mentioned was COVID-19, which has taken a toll not just on EVG, but also the wider community and the world. Despite these challenges, the school was able to think of different solutions to keep all the students safe while still keeping our lessons and selected school programmes going. Like what they have mentioned, challenges come daily, but what we should do is to learn how to overcome it just like how the teachers overcame the challenges COVID-19 has brought to us.

In an effort to try to find out more about the VPs, we asked them about their favourite subjects in school. Mr Lak expressed his love for Art, History, Literature, and Physics. History is one of his favourite subjects and this carries on till today, as he spends his free time watching historical dramas and documentaries. For example, he recently watched a documentary about the sixteenth century civil war period in Japan. He also shared how we, as Secondary Two students, should choose our subject combinations wisely based on our interests. This way, we will also be able to do well studying subjects that we enjoy. As for Mdm Tay, she enjoys Biology as she likes gardening and learning about plants. In fact, she shared that her favourite plants are succulents, which are quite difficult to take care of.



As a final question, we asked the VPs, “What made you who you are today?” Mr Lak then asked us to answer the question for him ourselves, which got us thinking. We thought it was because teaching is his passion, which is true, but it is not the only reason. Mr Lak’s eventual answer was, “I don't have one definitive answer, because we are always growing through new experiences and often only know on hindsight after much reflection.” This is interesting because it made us learn a valuable lesson. Sometimes we do not know why we are here, why we do certain things and why we enjoy them. Sometimes, there is no clear answer to a question. Instead, we should reflect on the reasons why we do what we do. As leaders, we should reflect on our work and try to improve to be the better versions of ourselves. These questions were not just for the Vice-Principals but we could also pose these questions to ourselves. What kind of impression do we want to make on others, and what kind of legacy would we want to leave behind? Pondering over such questions will help us to do better, no matter what it is that we do.

We hope you have enjoyed learning about Mr Lak and Mdm Tay as much as we have. They had some very insightful information and advice to share with us. We EVGians ought take their advice seriously and try to apply them in our daily lives. Let's all imagine, desire a better future and work towards achieving our goals!

BY NEO RUI AN REANNE (2 ETP) AND NATASHA NAUFAL (2 THK)



A NEW BEGINNING

The end of primary school marks the new beginning of secondary school for us. Although we felt a little sad about being separated from our friends, we knew it was time to move on. Still, when we stepped into Evergreen, our hearts were racing. We can vividly remember our anxiousness at seeing many unfamiliar faces. We thought we would never get used to this new environment in such a short amount of time.

Fortunately, the Secondary One orientation proved our thoughts wrong. We had some proactive and outgoing classmates who broke the ice and made us feel more comfortable. Some games we played during orientation were Catapult, Treasure Hunt and Touch Rugby. Catapult was our favourite since it was a game we had never played before.

While the games were definitely exciting, the preparations for the campfire were quite stressful. On top of not knowing each other well, we had to cooperate and work together in order to put up a good performance. In our class, Group A chose to do a skit while Group B chose to dance. We each worked hard to perfect our performance despite only having 2 days to practice. Anxiety started to set in when some problems and disagreements surfaced during the rehearsals. Thankfully, our facilitators helped us ease the tension and guided us towards making a good decision together.

In the end, our performance turned out spectacular and we had so much fun watching other classes' performances! Our class even got awarded as the 'Most United Class'! Looking back, we feel proud that our hard work paid off. The campfire experience will forever be etched in our hearts as it brought us closer to our classmates and taught us valuable lessons such as putting aside our differences so that the end result would turn out well.

Overall, the experience was truly enjoyable and allowed us to bond with one another. Along the way, we made many close friends, and it is these friendships that will help us to feel supported and optimistic throughout our secondary school life.



**BY LYNN HO AND ERIFFAH
ARDILLA BINTE NORMAN
(1ETP)**

THE NEW LOCKERS



As we headed to our classrooms at the start of the new school year, we were greeted with shiny new lockers lined up against the wall outside our classrooms.

What are these lockers for? This question was surely asked by many of you. Well, these lockers are meant for storing your phones when you come to school until the end of the school day. This is to ensure that mobile phones are not used during lessons and that they do not serve as a distraction. Each student is provided with their own locker and they would have to set their own password for it.

Apart from storing our phones, the lockers also provide a personal space to store the books that we do not need to bring home for the day. This is truly convenient and will certainly lighten our heavily-loaded bags.

Although they have proved to be very handy over the past few weeks, there has been a trend of students reporting that they could not open their lockers due to issues such as forgetting the passwords or accidentally scrambling their codes before locking the locker. Hopefully, incidents like these will not occur again.

Since we are given this privilege, hopefully everyone will use it wisely. Previously, we had to pay a sum of money to use the lockers, but now we are lucky enough to be able to use them for free.

Another thing to add: you should not be vandalising the lockers. Although we are allowed to use these lockers at our own free will, they are still school property, and thus we have to respect the lockers and keep them in proper condition. These lockers would be used by future occupants of the classrooms so let us all keep them neat, tidy and clean so that everyone will have an enjoyable time using them.

BY CHEW YEN WENG (3 THK)

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2021

This year's Chinese New Year hamper wrapping was a little different from the norm owing to the Covid -19 measures put in place. The hampers were for the less fortunate people around the Woodlands community. Students were tasked to bring items for the hamper before the week of hamper wrapping itself. The contents of the hamper were a little different compared to previous years as with Covid-19 still ongoing, the items we prepared had to help residents keep safe and clean as well. They included items such as masks, hand sanitizers, and hand soaps to help families cope with the Covid-19 situation.



On the day itself, students were very excited to begin packing the hamper. Everyone brought coloured pens, stationery, and brush markers for the hamper wrapping. We were all involved and worked together to pack and decorate the hampers. Some of our classmates designed a card with vibrant colours and blessings written in different languages to paste onto the hamper. This year we were also provided with Chinese New Year cards designed by our own students for us to write down our blessings to people we wanted to thank or show gratitude to.

With much anticipation, the annual Chinese New Year celebration finally commenced! Due to the pandemic, the celebration was recorded and streamed on our own EVG YouTube channel on the day of the celebration. This concert was certainly an unforgettable and memorable experience with the performers sitting with us to watch their very own performance.

The celebration started off with a mesmerising performance put up by the talented Chinese Orchestra members which was then followed by the annual Chinese New Year speech presented by Mr Toh. The song performed by the Chinese Orchestra members was “Yang Ge Wu Qu” which was sung by farmers in the past to liven the mood. This year’s celebration was also an informative session which educated us on some stories behind the Chinese New Year celebration. Many Kahoot quizzes were also conducted by our lower secondary emcees. Some questions included the prime reason for distributing “Hong Baos” and some highlights of Chinese New Year.

The second performance that we had was a traditional folk dance, ‘Rain On the Plantain Leaves’ showcased by the graceful Chinese dancers. This song was used to express joy and delight while welcoming rain after a drought.

The last performance we had was a joint silat performance by Nurhazirah Binte Mohammad Helmy and Mohamad Zaki Bin Mohamad Riad from 2 Integrity. Last but not least, we also had Wushu, a kind of Chinese martial arts, performed by Ryan Ng from 4 Enterprise.

To conclude, this year’s celebration was certainly one of a kind, as it was the first Chinese New Year celebration that was held in the midst of a pandemic. Through this experience, we finally realised that the sing-along session was really a crucial part of the Chinese New Year celebration. Memories of us putting our hands together to wish each other “Gong Xi Gong Xi” flooded our mind and made us realise that it was disheartening that we could not visit our relatives and friends as usual this year. With this new year, let us hope that the pandemic will be over soon so we can have another sing-along session and enjoy the Chinese New Year celebration as a whole school!

BY LIM EN YU (4 RSP) AND LIM JIA HUI (4 CMT)

A NEW CCA OPEN HOUSE

The CCA open house, as we all know, is a day when all CCA members gather together to promote their CCAs to the new Sec 1s. However, this year was a little different from before as Covid-19 is still active within Singapore and all around the world, making it necessary for us to look for new ways to hold our CCA open house.

This year's version of the CCA open house was converted to an e-open house held virtually. It was hosted by some of our very own EVGians, who answered the Sec 1 students' burning questions regarding how CCA works or what it would be like in the CCA.



The CCA teachers and students also held a Q&A session where parents and students got to ask anything they wanted regarding the CCAs in EVG. The e-open house was a great platform for those who were too afraid to speak up as they could inquire regarding things they are curious about on a virtual platform.

However, it could also have been a challenge as some of the parents who were not adept at using their phones had to step out of their comfort zones to join a Zoom meeting for their child.

Despite this, the new way of conducting our CCA open house was an eye-opening experience for me because I got to share about my CCA on a different platform. I feel exhilarated to have participated in the CCA open house and I hope that it was a sensational experience for everyone as well.

BY PAUL TEY (4DYN)



SEC 1 & 2 ORIENTATION CAMPS

During the Secondary One Orientation programme, the new Secondary One EVGians were introduced to a new environment, schoolmates, and teachers. They participated in many exciting activities planned by the school and our Student Leaders, in the Camp Confidence programme.

Day 1

We started the day with self-introductions and talks. After this, we played many Icebreaker games, such as Splat, Bang, and Splash to unite the class. Our facilitators also brought us on a tour of the school where we visited the various facilities and participated in activities there. After every destination, we were given an alphabet. At the end of the day, we had to try and figure out what phrase the alphabets spelled out.

Day 2

The second day of orientation was packed with fun! Filled with various exhilarating sports activities, students were participating actively either by cheering their classmates on or participating in the game themselves. The activities included Tag Rugby and Football.



Day 3 - Campfire

This was the main highlight of the camp. During the campfire, all the classes finally put on their spectacular showcases that consisted of creatively-choreographed dances and well-rehearsed skits.

After all the classes had performed, a prize-giving ceremony was held. All the classes received awards for different categories such as being most creative or being the most enthusiastic class.



Days 4 & 5

The last two days of the orientation were filled with numerous team-bonding activities. Many were difficult, but in the end, the classes got through them together by pushing through the difficulties as a team. Some of these activities were Laser Tag and Alligator Crossing.

The orientation week was exhilarating and memorable. From being complete strangers we slowly emerged to build stronger friendships with one another. Personally, we feel that everyone had a great experience that gave us a chance to bond with one another.

This year, the Secondary Twos were welcomed back to school with many lively activities during their Camp Dynamism. They went for activities such as rock climbing, tag archery, and CPR/AED training in and outside of school. Many of the students, myself included, were super excited to start the year with such an exciting event.



On day one, many classes went for their first activity: rock climbing. My class decided to try out some low-element rock climbing walls, but that was only a warm-up. We then went to try out some challenging rock climbing walls. It was difficult, but everyone persevered and cheered each other on. Some of my classmates who were afraid of heights managed to overcome their fear during the activity. After the activity, many of us had red palms and worn-out limbs because of the roughness of the rocks. Nonetheless, as the saying goes, no pain, no gain.

On day two, the classes went for a fun game of tag archery. Once we learned how to shoot arrows, we began our inter-class competitions. During the games, we learned to cooperate with each other and came up with strategies to beat our opponents. It was hard to aim with accuracy and dodge opponents' arrows. Despite our struggles, we enjoyed taking the opportunity to spend time and bond as a class.

On the third and last day, the Secondary Two classes stayed in school for a CPR/AED course. Some of us felt disheartened to be sitting in our classrooms but remembering that we could save lives after this course made us feel happier to take it. A few volunteers came to our school to teach us how to perform CPR and AED. They brought mannequins to let us try out the CPR technique. Although it may look easy, it definitely wasn't. CPR requires some strength and using the AED requires teamwork. After the instructors tested us on how to perform CPR and how to use the AED machine, we were qualified to become life-saving knights in shining armour.



The Sec Twos were certainly lucky to be able to have their Camp Dynamism outside of school as we battle with the on-going pandemic. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to have a physical camp and I'm looking forward to more exciting activities in the Sec 3 Camp next year.

BY GRACELYN ONG (1 THK), IZLAN YAZID (1 ETP) AND NATASHA NAUFAL (2 THK)

SECONDARY 3 & 4 CAMPS

It was that time of the year again! The time for us to make new friends and to enjoy ourselves before the hectic and busy school life starts.

The camp began with getting to know one another. We had a classic game of splat, followed by our group creating our goals for the year. Next was the kayaking activity and I was super excited for it to begin!

We took a bus to Pasir Ris Park and when we reached, we were taught how to put on a life jacket and how to paddle by the experienced trainers. Hitting the water, I immediately found the activity really fun. Despite me shivering due to the rain and my eyes stinging due to the seawater, I had a lot of fun paddling the small boat across the beach. Unfortunately, the afternoon quickly passed by and we had to return our kayaks onto the beach and return home.

On the second day of camp, my class headed for the high elements course. The course, Forest Adventure, had us navigating rope bridges and tightropes above the ground. After wearing a safety harness and learning how to use the harness system, I immediately started on the course that was moderately difficult. I made it to the end and finished the course with the long zip line overlooking the sea. However, our time was cut short due to a sudden downpour of rain. Due to this, we made our way to the second venue, SCAPE, a little earlier than planned. We did the final activity of the day: learning skills such as teamwork from building a tower of straws and tying knots. That concluded the day, and we all went back home to rid our feet of soggy socks.



On Monday, we sat on the bus to our next activity venue. This time, we headed to Jurong Lake Gardens for a hike. Upon reaching the park, we were told to locate the key locations by using the compass and looking at the bearing. Hence the hunt began! We found a few of the landmarks, such as a small water playground for children, a floating stage, a sphere-like shelter, and a small gravel footpath. After finding the locations, we returned to school for more team-building activities. Our first activity saw us crafting parachutes for eggs with our assigned groups. The groups tested the parachutes by releasing them from level 4 of the nearby blocks and to my surprise, our team did decently in the mini-contest. Finally, the last activity before we ended the camp was to create a word/picture using dominoes. My group made a multi-coloured word saying 3RSP, with the 'R' looking a bit like the "Among Us" avatars.



Although the camp was met with many inconveniences like heavy rain and sandy shoes due to walking on the beach, the amount of fun I had was much more memorable than the inconveniences. I do hope that next year when COVID-19 is (hopefully) no longer a problem, the school can bring us to more fun places!

Every year, the Secondary 4s and 5s attend Camp Readiness, a camp to prepare us for life after secondary school. As we are now living in the new normal, Camp Readiness was converted to an online camp.

This year, the camp was inspired by the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey. This camp aims to inspire us to build better habits so that we'll be prepared for our National Exams and not get distracted easily. Having gone through this camp, I find myself becoming more aware of my bad habits and more efficient in finding out ways to change these unpleasant habits into good habits that will help me improve myself.



We started off the first day of camp with a whole array of school talks. By the end of the first day, we felt quite tired after having looked at the screen for so long. However, as tiring as it sounds, the camp was actually really fun and informative. The talks were interesting and there were activities sprinkled throughout the camp to keep us constantly engaged.

One activity that I fondly remember would be the sports periods on day 3 of the camp. After spending 2 days sitting down and listening to others talk, this was a very exciting reward. This helped to unite the class after a long 2 months of being apart from each other. Other activities included open houses done by NYJC (Nanyang Junior College) and NP (Ngee Ann Polytechnic), not forgetting the alumni talks. These helped us to better understand the different paths after secondary school and gave us a peek into life after graduation.

There was also a Career Success Workshop to help us learn interview and problem-solving skills, as well as effective communication techniques. Lastly, on the final day of camp, we had a class lunch where we all got bento boxes and ate to our hearts' content together as a class. As they say, food brings people together, and they weren't wrong. We ended the camp fruitfully with happy tummies.

During the camp, my teacher said something that really resonated with me. "You can make camp interesting for yourself if you participate actively." Isn't that true? If we have passion, everything will be interesting, and we will get the opportunity to expand our knowledge and gain new experiences. So, take a chance to try something new, don't be held back by fear and who knows? Maybe you'll find several passions of your own.

BY JARREN GOH (3 RSP) AND NATALIE CHOONG (4 ITG)

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