

THE VIBES NEWSLETTER

-EVERGREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL-



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A BASIC RUNDOWN

BY JARREN GOH (3RSP)

Hi there reader! In this mini-edition of the newsletter, we have given you a sneak peek into the lives and aspirations of our student writers, in the hope that it will help you to reflect on this long year that we have had. Our students have applied what they had learnt in interviewing and writing about our fellow members. We have also featured a prize-winning essay written by one of our members, as we celebrate our school's achievements while also showing empathy for others. I do hope you will enjoy reading this edition! Happy holidays!

A GLIMPSE INTO AN ASPIRING JOURNALIST'S LIFE

BY CHEW YUN XUAN (1CMT) AND CHING YU ENG (2DYN)

In this article, we interviewed our multi-talented writer, Natasha Naufal! We hope that this will help you understand Natasha more by giving an insight into her life! For this interview, we went with general questions about her likes and dislikes, her dreams and her views about life.

For the first question that we asked her, we went with, "Do you have any aspirations for your future?" Natasha revealed that her childhood dream was becoming a musician, but as she grew older, she realised the music industry in Singapore wasn't very well-known or prominent. Natasha knew that the music industry was a highly difficult one for anybody to make a living off of, and that she was no exception. So, she decided that a career in music wouldn't be very realistic or practical as her future occupation. Now, she has her sights set on becoming a journalist at ChannelNewsAsia or any other news company, a fitting and apt choice considering she is one of our journalists in Vibes.



"You must go on a long journey before you can really find out how wonderful home is."

NATASHA,
AGE 14

Continuing on, for the second question, we asked her about her hobbies and pastimes. She told us that she has many hobbies that she likes to spend her time on such as crocheting and knitting as they are good ways to relax and unwind when she is stressed. Another hobby that she has is playing video games, with a preference for adventure games without too much violence. Even though she has many games that she is interested in, there are some that she admits she has purchased but neglects. Some of the games and game series she likes include Legend of Zelda, Fire Emblem, Animal Crossing and Ace Attorney. We also asked her if she wanted to learn any other hobbies and skills. Natasha was very enthusiastic about sharing with us her wish to learn how to play the trumpet and add to her already expansive musical arsenal of bass guitar, ukulele and harmonica. She also expressed an interest in embroidery, as it is quite similar to crocheting, and she can make her own designs and patterns.

We then asked Natasha: "Describe yourself in three words." This was most likely the hardest question for Natasha to answer as it took her the longest time and she was still very unsure about what to say.

With some time to think, she described herself as: creative, independent and kind. For the last word, it seemed that Natasha was really at a loss of what to say as she had to ask us for examples of adjectives. And, when we suggested the word 'kind', she decided to go with it. However, we found out afterwards that the word still suited her very well as Natasha had heard people describing her as a kind person. Whenever she sees a teacher walking by, she takes the initiative to greet him or her. Whenever she sees papers lying on the floor, she would pick up the papers to prevent someone from stepping on them and slipping. As for 'creative', she explained that she always had a huge and expansive imagination, and often played make-believe with her soft toys. When she grew up, she thought it was quite silly, but she still appreciates how her imagination has helped cultivate and develop her creativity, which she applies to writing, crocheting and music.

Last but not least, for the final question, we asked Natasha if she had a philosophy for life. This question also made her ponder for a while but she remembered a line from her favourite animated show, Moomin. The quote is as follows: "You must go on a long journey before you can really find out how wonderful home is." She interprets it as how no matter how much you wander, how many wondrous views you see, or how many fascinating people you meet, you will realise all of it pales in comparison to the home in your heart. We think it's quite a lovely philosophy to carry around.

While interviewing Natasha for this article, we learnt a great deal about her and gained a lot of insight into her life and personality. We are sure that some of you would also identify with her hobbies and aspirations. Natasha is an invaluable member of our CCA and right now, she is still steadily working towards her dream, experiencing and learning writing skills in our E-Journalism division. All of us at ELDDS wish Natasha all the best in her pursuit of chasing her dream job as a gifted writer for our local news companies!



"You must go on a long journey before you can really find out how wonderful home is."

YEN WENG'S FUTURE GOALS

BY FRANCESKA TAN (2ITG) AND
ERIFFAH ARDILA BINTE NORMAN (1ETP)



For this article, we had a special opportunity to speak to Yen Weng from 3 Thinking! Yen Weng is one of the few Secondary 3s we have in our division so it was a great pleasure interviewing her! We asked her some fun questions, to which she had some interesting answers.

Yen Weng is a very enthusiastic senior so it was definitely an enjoyable experience to interview her. She was very open with her answers and did not mind telling us more about herself. Since we were only given five minutes to interview her, we felt that it was too short to fit many questions into that time limit. Still, we have gathered some interesting things she had to say.

From the questions we had asked, we found out that she liked playing games such as Genshin Impact and Roblox. She loved the characters in the game so much, it gave her inspiration to draw them and bring them to life. This hobby of hers brought out the artistic side of her, that she began dreaming of becoming an artist. Furthermore, she found out she was good at giving advice when her friends often came to her for advice. She gained experience and thus, aspired to be a therapist so that she could help guide other people with their problems.

Besides her hobbies, she has participated a lot in E-journalism! She managed to achieve a lot while being in E-journalism such as learning to write engrossing stories and gaining better writing skills. With her writing skills, she can definitely come up with engaging questions to make people who are less open with their problems feel more comfortable when she becomes a therapist one day. Her creative mind will also help her in creating one-of-a-kind, stunning artworks.



One of Yen Weng's drawings!

Yen Weng is a very hardworking person as well! She puts in a lot of effort to edit her CCA members' articles before sending them to the teachers for checking. Her submissions for articles are always on time even though she is also busy with her other commitments.

With her bright personality, Yen Weng makes people feel welcomed! Her strong determination must surely inspire others, and we are sure that she will be able to achieve her future goals. It was really an exciting experience interviewing her, and we hope that we would have more chances to interview other people too!

JARREN'S THOUGHTS ABOUT SCHOOL

BY ZARIFAH BINTE ZAIDI (3THK) AND NURUL NABILAH BINTE MOHAMMAD NOOR HIDAYAT (1CMT)

Would you like to step into the world of a student? Well, we interviewed Jarren, the Head of the E-Journalism division of ELDDS, on the topic of school, and we thought that the answers we got from him were really interesting.



The big man himself

The first question we asked was if he liked school. His response was that he liked some aspects, such as his friends, due to the pandemic making him feel low at times. His friends helped brighten up his mood and made him more motivated. He also commented that school helps him prepare for the future, which is an important aspect of school. We found this very interesting because many students would not be able to think of the good aspects of school and how it is beneficial. However, Jarren's answer is a welcome change as he is able to see school in a positive light.

Secondly, we asked whether he feels the school gives too much homework to students. He commented that school gives a reasonable amount of homework and that he spends around 3 to 4 hours a day on it. He added that he still has time to relax after doing his homework. We then asked about whether giving less homework would improve the quality of students' work. He replied that it depends on how the class is doing. For example, if the class did badly on an examination, the teacher should increase the amount of homework given. However, if the class did well, the teacher should reduce the amount of homework given, so the students would not be so stressed out, and also to ensure the quality of the work submitted. He felt that homework plays a crucial role in a student's life and if given the wrong amount, the quality can be affected badly. For us students, we definitely would love to have little to no homework. However, homework can definitely help in one's revision. On the other hand, us students would definitely suffer under pressure if we receive too much homework on a daily basis.

"School can be nice at times. Mostly because of the friends you make!"


JARREN,
AGE 15

Thirdly, we asked Jarren if he would prefer more lenient teachers, or stricter ones. Jarren said he prefers more lenient teachers as he believes that active communication between the students and teachers is needed for a good classroom setting. This is because the teacher might feel the workload given to the students is suitable, but the students might think otherwise. This can result in sloppy and rushed homework, which would leave both the teacher and student unsatisfied. He also added that teachers should take note of the students' timetables and give homework based on their dismissal times. We then asked if he thought that stricter teachers would affect the quality of the work given. He agreed, and mentioned that if the teachers rush the students with their homework, it would decrease its quality. This would lead to a cycle of scolding and students being rushed about their homework. In our opinion, teachers play a critical role in helping their students to excel in their studies and at the same time, motivate them to study smarter. Hence, it would be great if teachers could step into their students' shoes and understand their struggles in this day and age.

To sum it up, a student has many responsibilities to juggle. Work-life balance is crucial in keeping ourselves physically and mentally healthy. From Jarren's perspective, we can sustain our mental health by keeping a positive outlook on school, communicating with friends and asking teachers (nicely) for less homework!

1ST PRIZE–WINNER (JUNIOR CATEGORY) IN THE 'LIVE ON' ESSAY– WRITING COMPETITION: THE GIFT OF ORGAN DONATION

BY CHING YU ENG (2DYN)



A few months ago, if you had asked me about organ donation, I would have merely shrugged. That's because that was all I could say about organ donation. To me, organ donation was just one of the many heartwarming stories that I would see on a screen but ultimately never experience for myself. I knew it was an actual tangible experience that held much weight and gravity. Yet, to me, a young teenager, it scarcely held much significance. I was after all, too young to be thinking and considering such matters. Now, after sitting through a talk regarding organ donation, I have much to contemplate and many more implications to explore.

I was greatly sobered by the statistics that informed me of the risks organ recipients had to go through. My consternation only continued when I heard about the difficulties of people waiting for organs. This made me think. What is it like for them? How does it feel waking up everyday knowing you're getting closer and closer to death? How does it feel sitting alone in a gloomy hospital surrounded only by other patients, with a giant needle in your arm? How does it feel wearing a VAD, a veritable ticking time bomb that could fail suddenly at any time, on your heart everyday? That constant shadow of despair and despondency looming over you. No one deserves to experience that.

That's why I support organ donation wholeheartedly.

Everyone's time will eventually run out one day. It may be sudden. It may be a shock. It could be an accident. Or, it could be expected. It could also be an anticipated event. That doesn't mean it's not as tragic. That doesn't mean the impact and grief in the aftermath isn't as powerful and potent. Still, if I could do one last good deed before I pass on, why shouldn't I grasp the chance? If my time has ended, why don't I give it to someone else?

I like to imagine a human life as an hourglass. All the small grains inside are what make a person up. Some are granted with plenty of sand and some are given little. And likewise, an hourglass can get knocked over unexpectedly. It can shatter. It could happen anytime. All the sand could pour out. There are no guarantees in life. However, wouldn't it truly be a wondrous thing if I could pour all my spilled sand into someone else's hourglass? Take all my little grains of life and give them to someone. Years and centuries of research into medical science has culminated into this, the miraculous ability to grant someone a new start.

And it's not only one person I'm helping by donating my organs. It's not just the recipient who has to endure agony and pain. There's also the recipient's family members and friends. They have to bear anguish and hardship also. People close to the recipient have to watch their loved one suffer, knowing that there's little they can do to alleviate their misery.

There are so many hearts one can touch by being an organ donor.

So, my feelings towards organ donation can be summed up in the following two words. Why not? Why not prolong someone's life, someone's existence, just by donating organs that you will no longer require when you pass on. Why not give them another chance?

Why not leave behind a legacy? Why not live on inside them? Why not let them live on for me?

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And you! Thank
you for reading!