

THE VIBES NEWSLETTER

Evergreen secondary's official E-newsletter



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SEC 1 ORIENTATION

by Reanne (3ITG) and Elisya (3ETP)

Secs Ones, do you remember us? We were your facilitators for secondary one orientation, Reanne and Elisya! There were various exciting activities specially planned for the secondary ones ranging from Human Tic Tac Toe to Adventure Hunt and most importantly the E-Campfire. This year's Camp Confidence allowed the Sec Ones to discover and embrace themselves. Let us walk you through the journey of the Sec Ones orientation.

We had many team building activities organised such as Silly Olympics, Zoom Challenge and Drawing Relay. We would like to specifically highlight Human Tic Tac Toe as it enabled the Sec Ones to build team spirit while having the atmosphere charged with energy. The objective of the game was for them to have a shared vision so they would be able to forge a plan to win the game. They were full of energy throughout the entire activity. We were able to see them enjoying themselves and being immersed in the games that we have planned.



We would also like to share about the Adventure Hunt that we had with them! The Adventure Hunt consists of the school tour along with the many different mini games in the respective venues. One of the mini games was Red Light Green Light which was played at the hall. Students had to quickly make their way to tap their facilitator's shoulder without getting seen moving. Due to the size of the hall, students were able to fully enjoy the experience of the game with the long distance they had to cross. Another mini game that was played was Match the Cards. It was played in the IT room. Students were given sixteen different cards faced down and had to match them by slowly turning two cards face up at a time. The cards had all our school motto, visions and values which helped the students in learning more about our school!



After the one week long orientation, we were able to wrap it up with the activity everyone looked forward to. The campfire. Due to this year's COVID-19 situation, it was held online, nonetheless, everyone was still able to enjoy themselves and showcase their wonderful performances. The performances represented how much they have grown closer with each other over the past few days. The sec1 classes worked together and crafted a performance that was uniquely theirs. We enjoyed watching the performances by the sec1s and were touched to see how much they have grown. It sure was a wonderful experience for us as seniors as well!

Of course, we could not end it without mentioning the School's Cheer. The Secondary Ones were actively participating in the different school cheers. It took awhile for them to adapt but eventually, they gradually got used to it. It was really heartwarming to see them build their pride and be united as EVGians.

At last all good things come to an end, the Secondary One Orientation Camp has come to a closed. As Facilitators, Reanne and I, deeply hope that the Secondary One students were able to enjoy themselves as much as we enjoyed ourselves and were extremely grateful for our Secondary One Classes, 1 Dynamic and 1 Character. It was truly a memorable experience for us and we hope it was the same for them! We also hoped that the Secondary Ones felt more welcomed and at home after the orientation camp as well as comfortable with their new classmates and even seniors!

SEC 2 ORIENTATION

by Yun Xuan (2CMT) and Errifah (2ETP)



Just after the reopening of school, each level received different talks from various teachers.

Subsequently, we had an orientation camp, with a theme to achieve. For the Secondary 2 students, our camp was 'Camp Dynamism'. It aimed to instill the motto of "Working in teams, leading others" into the class, as well as improving our leadership as students. The camp had its ups and downs, such as the disappointing announcement just a few days before the camp, that our orienteering activity in Sentosa was canceled due to the rise in Covid-19 cases. Instead, class activities would be conducted in school. Many of us were extremely dispirited, as only the camp allowed us to go out together as a class. Hence, the Secondary 2 students had anticipated going out of school.

We felt quite lethargic from listening to talks after talks which prompted us for the year ahead. However, we knew that it was to remind us of the importance of the way we represent ourselves.

Finally, it was orientation week!

With gleeful smiles and sheer exhilaration, we played a handful of games in school and bonded with our classmates. We also learnt one of the most important life-saving skills - CPR and using the AED. We are taught how to react and help people during an emergency, including the techniques of doing CPR with AED. While enjoying ourselves in the process, everyone had something to gain from this learning experience. Thereupon, we headed for the last segment of the orientation camp; the grand finale, Tag Archery. With the basics of using a bow and arrow, we had intense fights with the other team.

Overall, it was definitely a memorable experience playing and hanging out with one another!



As the new terms are upon us, we have hopes and expectations for the new year. Of course, who does not want excellent grades printed in our report book? However, let us not forget to always be there for our schoolmates through thick and thin. This year, our end achievement was to maintain a synergized and united class. The camp took this objective up a notch, and we were pushed to our limits to cooperate and strive forward together. We might have had disagreements but we were able to solve them peacefully in the end. Through the camp, the class has fulfilled the aim of, "Working in teams, leading others".

Hopefully, your experience with your level camps has been as exciting as ours!

SEC 3 ORIENTATION

by Yu Eng (3THK) and Franchesska (3CHR)

Every year, the newly promoted Secondary Three EVGians will experience their orientation programme, Camp Resilience. As a part of the current and most recent batch of Secondary Three students, let us tell you about our illuminating experience!

This year, Camp Resilience took place at Sarimbun Scout Camp, situated in Jalan Bahtera at Lim Chu Kang. Sarimbun Scout Camp boasts the largest campgrounds in Singapore, with plenty of facilities and amenities available for a multitude of recreational and leisure activities.

Camp Resilience is all about “Leading in the Community”. As we students progress through the different stages of life, we learn to handle more responsibility for both our own lives and our community. It is the mission of Evergreen Secondary to nurture students into growing into their best selves, ensuring that by the time we move on to our tertiary education prospects, we will graduate as compassionate and conscientious people who are capable of contributing to the community. Thus, Camp Resilience aims to instill and develop crucial life-skills and values in EVGians.

Camp Resilience included activities like Egg Drop, where we were allowed to scavenge for leaves, twigs, dried grass and other natural detritus to construct a protective covering to protect an egg that will be dropped, and RollerCoaster Challenge, where we were given materials like tape, newspaper and ice cream stick to craft a “rollercoaster” for a ball to roll on, encourages critical-thinking among EVGians. Although our creations were far from perfect, these activities encouraged us to think out of the box, testing our innovation and resourcefulness.

The activities Values Corner and Teambuilding aimed to foster strong bonds of companionship between classmates. During Values Corner, we penned down encouraging messages to our other group members, while Teambuilding consisted of various games intended to give us opportunities to bond with our new classmates.

There were also activities focused on promoting teamwork, like the Catapult challenge and Blue’s Clues. As the former’s name suggests, our group was tasked to build a catapult by tying together long wooden poles with rope and knots. With the latter, team members in a group had to solve or complete a series of small tasks together. This engendered cooperation and collaboration, incentivising EVGians to work together in solidarity.

The activity I liked most was the Masterchef Challenge. We were tasked by the camp facilitators to buy ingredients using the amount of money we were allocated and cook a main dish and some appetisers. The amount of money we had was different for each group as all of us had different points. We were given a list of ingredients and tools that we would need to cook our dishes. It was a tough challenge as many of the groups could not finish cooking within the time limit that we were given. It was a pretty fun experience as I have never cooked with a group of people before and it also helped everyone in the groups learn more about each other. It also tested our patience as many of us were getting frustrated due to the hot weather that we had to endure while cooking.



MasterChef

- Franchesska

My favorite activity was the Learning Journey. The camp facilitator took my group on a trek around the campgrounds. He spoke about the history of the campsite, its facilities, and other interesting tidbits of information. However, to be completely frank, I was mostly distracted during the tour. I was trying to collect these small little red Saga seeds that were scattered all around the camp trails. Most of my attention was spent trying to spot these tiny seeds and unearth them from their hiding place in the soil. In the end, I asked others for their Saga seed collections in order to amass enough to bring home and display in a little jar.

- Yu Eng

Camp Resilience was both an enriching and enjoyable experience for us this year! We hope that the Secondary Threes next year will have as much fun as we did.

Best of luck to all for this new school year!

SEC 4 ORIENTATION

by Yen Weng (4THK) and Zarifah (4THK)

The new year has, sadly, arrived, and everyone has dragged their feet reluctantly back to school. Fortunately, our kind hearted principal has provided all the levels with a level camp! At the start of every school year, each level cohort is provided with a camp packed with activities and helpful tips that could support you in the long run.

The Secondary 4 and 5 camp is called Camp Readiness, and it teaches us how to get the jobs that we want, and the choices offered in the next stage of our lives, polytechnic. Despite some parts of the camp being dry, the information given to us was helpful and informative. For example, we learned how to act in an interview and how to prepare our portfolios. I am very sure all these tips will come in handy when the time comes for us to get a job.

Of course, not all parts of the camp were talks. Taking turns, each of the classes engaged in physical activities with their classmates. It was very fun seeing our classmates getting active and laughing with each other, which shows that school is not only all about studying.

On the final day, we even got to eat lunch together in our classroom. Although we couldn't walk about and talk to one another, the whole experience still felt very fulfilling. We knew that over the 3 days of the camp, we all took an important part of the lessons home.



A bento similar to what we ate
-person who did layout



101 TIPS AND TRICKS TO EVERGREEN SCHOOL LIFE

YOU MAY NOT KNOW?!

by Zarifah (4THK) Natasha (3THK)

It's that time of the year again! School. Now, I know what you may be thinking, "Oh no, it's going to go so bad!!", "Oh no, I haven't finished my homework," or even, "Oh no, I forgot to do my essay long Social Studies homework!" But fear not! We have done our diligent and thorough research to bring you the tips and tricks to survive this final boss called School.

★ Have a Weekly Planner!

First of all, create a weekly planner. In your weekly planner, you should plan out upcoming events throughout the week. Don't forget to give yourself time to eat, study and play! You should make sure you prioritise what is important such as homework, studying, and family time. Those events should come before what isn't important or urgent such as your hobbies. Planning may seem a bit daunting, especially before going back to the school grind. However, planning can make your school life easier for you.



★ Pack your bag!

Secondly, be prepared for school. Make sure that your iPad has been charged fully and that you have all your essential materials such as your pencil case, water bottle and textbooks according to your timetable. You should pack your materials on the night before the school day so that you don't forget! In the morning, before you leave your house, you should check your school bag and make sure you have everything you need. We suggest creating a checklist of everything you need to bring to school.

★ Just do your homework, kids

Subsequently, doing your assignments on time is important if you want to survive school. It can feel very unmotivating as the amount of homework piles up. However, this stress and procrastination is understandable and normal sometimes. Whenever you feel stressed out, it would be good to use healthy coping strategies such as talking it out, going for a walk or writing how you feel. One of my favourite coping strategies is to take a break and crochet! Keep in mind that everyone copes differently and it would take some time to explore and discover which strategy you like best. You can even come up with your own strategy!



★ Sleep!!



Lastly, sleep early! I understand if sleeping early is difficult for students, but it is still crucial for both your physical and mental health. Sleeping late could make you sleepy during class, which can make you lose focus. However, as students, I think some of you would probably not mind sleeping in class (something you should NOT do by the way). If so, then think of it this way, once you go back home, you would probably still be sleepy, making you unable to do the things you wanted to do in the first place. In addition, sleeping late can make you more prone to snapping at friends or family members as lack of sleep can make you feel more irritated or frustrated than usual. This is why I suggest creating an alarm clock, not only for waking up but also to remind you when to go to bed. I also recommend not to look at your phone before sleeping and also not to consume caffeine.

In a nutshell, we hope that these tips and tricks will help you as you start your journey in EVG! Remember, success can't be achieved without enthusiasm and determination. All the best for any upcoming tests!

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM E-CCA OPEN HOUSE

by Not Jarren (not from 4RSP)

A few weeks ago, every CCA participated in a huge yearly event called CCA open house, where all the CCAs of the school battled it out to enroll as many new sec 1s into their CCA. With the sec 1s settling down in their new CCAs and the Sec 2 and 3s welcoming them to their community, one might wonder: what did the sec 4s do to pull in so many new sec 1s? If you are thinking about that, congratulations! For you have managed to find an article to answer that question! So sit back, relax, and maybe you can learn something from this that can help you in the future!



Some CCA seniors hard at work



The first step that the CCA student leaders need to do is to start planning and writing the script and prepare the slides to be used on the day itself. I, being one of the script writers for the CCA, can remember that discussions actually started as early as 5th January. The to-do-list for publicity campaigns was pretty long, and in the end a couple of other writers and I were frantically typing out the script for the CCA open house that weekend. Why is a script that important? Well it will not be a really good first impression of the CCA should you accidentally state false information or forget what you wanted to say because you did not write the script. Other CCAs also do the same thing, and collectively agree that a script is extremely important.

Other CCAs also do the same, like NPCC (although the sec 2s do that job) and volleyball. A couple of CCA seniors also agree that a script is good. For instance, Kayden, from 4 RSP, stated that, "It provides a clear path and helps to improve clarity of objectives. It is easily accessible to make changes, and helps for guidance in future endeavors." Cristal, from 4 RSP as well, agrees that a script helps prevent her from missing out points to say during the presentation, and helps her become a better speaker. So all in all, no matter if it's for an Open House presentation or a small class presentation, remember to do your scripts folks!

Next up on the list, we have rehearsal of the script and what to say on the day itself. We have all heard of the phrase, “practice makes perfect,” and it truly does apply in this case. Rehearsing before the event itself can allow any errors made to be corrected. Things like how to not sound dead and reading the script perfectly all come from this stage itself. I do recall once accidentally overhearing a practice session of the NCC open house presentation. There, any and all errors made were immediately rectified on the spot, and in the end, the presenters could read through the entire script with impeccable accuracy and did not have a dead tone when reading it. So remember, before an important presentation, or any for that matter, remember to at least go through your script a few times in your head. It will improve your presentation and make you feel more confident of yourself.



Finally, the part where you present to your juniors and persuade them to join your CCA. Whether you are trembling from head to toe or loving the opportunity to be a voice of the CCA, this is the part where your presentation will entice the Sec1s to join. I personally would be literally shivering, and lose so much feeling in my legs to the point I feel like collapsing on the ground at any point. However, you also have people on the opposite spectrum, like Sofia (from 4 RSP again) felt more excited than anxious. She felt that it was fun to recruit new, eager-to-learn members to the CCA and to have supportive teachers by her side.



Here comes the end of this article on how your seniors (or juniors for some CCAs) handled an extremely important event. Hopefully this article was a nice little tidbit of information for you.

Who knows, maybe you can use some of the things said in this article for your next presentation...

SEC 4 ORIENTATION

by Nabila (2ITG)

Annually, Evergreen celebrates Chinese New Year with our very own concert which showcases many mesmerizing performances performed by our very own students. Many students also anticipate the Decorating Competition which they put their utmost effort in. However, what makes Evergreen's Chinese New Year more meaningful? It is, of course, our very own hamper wrapping!

On Chinese New Year every year, we wrap hampers for the less fortunate in the Woodlands neighborhood. Why exactly do we do this? It is to give back to the community. Furthermore, by doing this, we are able to build a closer relationship with the community. We are also able to do a kind act as a class and would also instill good moral values such as gratitude in each and every student.

Students were tasked to bring many items such as rice and hand sanitizer for the hamper. Many students had volunteered in doing so, making the hamper basket filled. Many had also helped their classmates in wrapping the basket effectively. Although it was difficult to wrap the basket, it was wrapped neatly and nicely because students had persevered and worked together with their classmates in doing so.

Some had also volunteered to bring art materials for the greetings. As Singapore is a multiracial country, students worked together to learn the different greetings in different languages so all receivers would be able to understand the greeting. The designs of the greetings were also very creative and colorful! It was very beautifully designed by our classmates.

Although hamper wrapping is an annual event, it is still very meaningful as it definitely had lifted the receivers' spirit with the pandemic still lingering around. Not only that, everyone definitely became closer as a class. To conclude, hamper wrapping is an event that has many benefits and would hopefully still be continued so every EVGian would be able to do a good deed and the Woodlands community would continue to benefit from it.



CNY E-CONCERT CELEBRATIONS!

by Lynn (2ETP)

The New Year has finally arrived! These few years have surely been very different with the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing. Let's hope that 2022 will get better! With the new normality of doing celebrations online, this year was no exception. The EVG Chinese New Year concert 2022 was held online, 'live' on YouTube.

The beginning of the livestream started with the hamper wrapping collection. It has been a tradition of Evergreen to give back to our surrounding community. The livestream started with a ROAR, representing one of the 12 Chinese zodiacs, the tiger. The year of the tiger, which the tiger is known as the king of all beasts in Chinese culture, is a symbol of strength and courage - qualities that will help us get through this uncertain year together as one.



As a symbol of good fortune, the class chairpersons were invited to give their form teachers two mandarin oranges. Normally, this act is performed by the Chinese when visiting loved-ones' households. It is a way to wish someone happiness and prosperity. I think this is a very sweet gesture to indirectly give your blessings to someone you cherish.

Moving on, our school leaders together with Mr Imran and Mr Zul had a sophisticated calligraphy session, writing on red- diamond shaped paper with ink; a common form of decoration in Chinese households during the Lunar New Year. The well wishes written were 福, 禄, 壽 and 祥. They are respectively blessings and good fortune, a promising career, good health and longevity and good luck. It is amazing how a single character can express so many meanings.



During Mr Toh's speech he wanted us to think about the less privileged people when receiving our hampers and specially wrote another calligraphy character '盼' which means hope. He wanted us to look at the people around us and extend a helping hand for them if needed; a hope that everything will turn out well.

Never seen before, we had a level calligraphy competition! We tasked to write the Chinese character '福', in our iPads and to choose the best one from our own class to submit for the competition. I saw many out of the box designs that were not just limited to the character itself. The winners of the level competition won a box of Ferrero Rocher!



Stuff to be buried

BURYING THE TIME CAPSULE!

by Yeng Weng (4THK)

Have you ever wondered about the history of our school, or even further before? We will not leave future generations wondering with such questions, for our school will be hosting a Time Capsule Event soon! What is a time capsule? Well, it is a box filled with items people contribute and it will be sealed up, so people in the future can open it and learn more about what life was like back then.

The whole event will be broadcasted for all of us to see. On the 1st of March, the artifacts collected over the course of EVG's history will be placed in a metal cylinder and in a bit white container at the car porch. It will only be opened up in 2030, 8 years from now on the school's 30th anniversary.

The point of the Time Capsule is to commemorate important moments in EVG history. We will pass this knowledge onto the next generation to give them insight into what the school was like in the past. The artifacts are displayed near the mobile library before they will be buried in time. It is recommended that you go there and check out what sorts of items will be passed on to the next generation.

Items inside include a mask, the 2021 and 2022 editions of the school handbook, the school shoelaces, two teddy bears that represent the school, and many other items, including cards written by alumnis saying hello to the future occupants of Evergreen Secondary School wishing them well.

Be sure to watch the reopening of the capsule in 2030, and maybe you will be flooded with nostalgic memories.



Here are a few fun facts for you. Time capsules have been used in a variety of situations where people want to preserve their history and send them on a trip through time. For example, in 2016, a time capsule was discovered right here in Singapore! During the restoration of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, the capsule was discovered under the cathedral's foundation stone. According to an article written by Roots, the capsule was buried on April 1st in 1937. That was really a long time ago! It gives us a glimpse into World War 2.

BOOKS TO READ!

by Errifah (2ETP), Julia (3DYN), Erfha(2CHR)

“I have lived a thousand lives and I’ve loved a thousand loves. I’ve walked on distant worlds and seen the end of time. Because I read.” A quote from the author of the popular fantasy novels ‘A Song of Ice and Fire’. Literacy grants us the freedom to imagine another world and brings us beyond the bounds of reality. In addition, it also adds on to our vocabulary and improves our language skills. So, what are you waiting for? Start your reading journey with the books below!

Sweet Bean Paste by Durian Sukegawa, Alison Watts (Translator)

Heartwarming as dorayaki and just as sweet as bean paste. ‘Sweet Bean Paste’ is a poignant exploration of friendship and redemption in an unforgiving society. The story begins with Sentaro, an ex-convict who sells Dorayaki to pay off his debt. He merely goes through the motions of life and leads a monotonous existence, so when he meets Tokue, an elderly woman who asks him for a job, he is unsure what to do. He dismisses her, but her persistence paid off when he sampled some of her bean paste and was immediately won over. However, he is still reluctant on hiring Tokue considering her age and disfigured hands. After which unfolds an unconventional but beautiful friendship. Both Sentaro and Tokue would rather forget their harsh pasts, but Sentaro finds that he has so much to learn from Tokue. ‘Sweet Bean Paste’ is charming in its simplicity and subtleness but is full of hope, and wisdom that teaches you to live authentically.



Enola Holmes Series by Nancy Springer

A spin-off of Sherlock Holmes, ‘Enola Holmes’ is a series of books told from the perspective of his rebellious little sister, Enola Holmes. The book follows Enola on her journey to uncover the mystery behind the disappearance of her mother while establishing her sense of independence. During her journey, she is tangled up in all kinds of adventures. Using her wits and a sharp mind, she becomes a clever and charismatic detective. While the story still focuses on mystery and investigations, it takes a fresh approach by emphasizing social activism and feminine intelligence, which was frowned upon during the Victorian era. ‘Enola Holmes’ is a breath of fresh air for female protagonist stories as it focuses on a strong-minded heroine, with a quirky and mischievous attitude.

Before The Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi, Geoffrey Trousselot(Translator)



Would you take a chance to go back in time? Who would you meet? 'Before The Coffee Gets Cold' is a story confined in a cafe which allows you to travel to the past. However, there are many rules set, such as the time limit is when the coffee given to you goes cold, and nothing you say or do will alter the present. The story only revolves around a small cast but each chapter explores the lives of different characters. The topics addressed in the book, such as loss are written softly and quietly, almost like a whisper. The conversation shared between the characters when they travel back in time is heart-aching, intimate, and full of things that were left unsaid. Despite the characters knowing they are not able to change the outcome, they are still able to find closure and finally let go of the regrets that have been restraining them. 'Before The Coffee Gets Cold' is an emotional book about the process of going through the pain of grieving and moving on. It feels like a nice, warm cup of coffee during a rainy day in a cozy cafe.

“Hopefully these books suffice in providing you with something enjoyable to read during your free time! Happy reading!

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-Everyone in the pictures!

-Everyone involved in the making of the articles!

- And you, reader! For sticking till the end!

Special thanks!