



VOICES

ISSUE
26
2014

An Institute of Distinction

A PUBLICATION OF TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB

A

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Do you know how much blood is needed for transfusions each year? Find out at BSc Club's Blood Donation Drive

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TLC hosts its annual Chinnanjiru Maedai, giving primary school students the platform to shine

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ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

The BA Club, ELL Club, NIE Green Club, FCS Club, and DanceFuzion come together to bring you their take on Valentines' Day in this year's FRIENDSHIP WEEK.

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EDITOR'S



COMMENTARY

Dear readers,

What an eventful year it's been. If you've been keeping a lookout, you would've noticed that campus saw a great number of changes within the past two semesters.

On top of the exciting wave of events that the various clubs had been diligently organizing, the past academic year was filled with club collaborations that executed activities on a much larger scale. Campus has never seen this kind of combined club efforts before, and it is an exciting hope for many more to come!

Campus was filled with good vibes in February as the BA Club, ELL Club, NIE Green Club, DanceFuzion, and FCS Club worked together to pull off the much-anticipated Friendship Week (pg 10-12).

Additionally, this year's Freshmen Orientation Camp also saw a joint effort between TTC, BA Club, BSc Club, and PESS. Themed FOZ, as inspired by the hit movie "World War Z", the camp was the biggest, most elaborate orientation camp to be held at NIE. Pictures, videos, and details of the camp can be found at <http://m.facebook.com/niefoc14>. Do look

DEAN'S MESSAGE



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIU WOON CHIA

Dear Student Teachers,

It is with great pleasure that I warmly welcome all of you back to NIE. For those who are commencing your first year of studies, welcome to the family. Akin to the start of a new year, I find a new academic year a great time to reflect and set goals for the year ahead. As an educator, it is always good to reflect on the reason(s) why you have chosen to teach and your aspirations as a teacher. First, I would like to share with you a quote penned by Haim G. Ginott that aptly encapsulates our role as educators.

“As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or heal.”

Many of us have blossomed under the guidance from teachers who inspire. Yet, some of us still bear the scars of humiliation. Therefore, given your power bestowed upon you as a teacher, I urge you to equip yourself well here at NIE with knowledge and skills, as well as discern values

and professional standards central to your teacher identity. Great teachers learn. Teachers master their content discipline not just to survive the lesson, but to ignite passion. They learn about their students deeply to reach them, just so that they could teach them. “The best learners often make the worst teachers. They are, in a very real sense, perceptually challenged. They cannot imagine what it must be like to struggle to learn something that comes so naturally to them.” Stephen Brookfield. Stephen Brookfield cautioned us against the negative outcome of our ignorance when we fail to empathize with our students. I sincerely hope we may never be found in the company of the ‘worst’ because we refuse to learn to teach for their sake. In addition, check your assumptions and challenge your biases because your beliefs form the foundation of your teaching philosophy and shape the kind of teacher you’d become. We must bear in mind that education in the 21st century involves the

“whole child” and the “whole person”. As teachers we need to instil into children a deep love for learning, a curious and inquisitive mind to ask questions and find connections, a healthy sense of self-efficacy, and a deep sense of responsibility to the community and the environment. Hence, teaching must be anchored in “who” we teach than merely “what” to teach whilst learning, in greater measure, must focus on “why” we learn than “what” to learn.

Carpe diem-seize the day! Take stock and seize every opportunity in NIE to learn and grow. There is nothing more rewarding than learning what you love and for those you care. Live your dream, get involved and make memories with your NIE fraternity! I wish you a fruitful time in the coming semester.

Warmest regards,
A/P Liu Woon Chia
Dean

Office of Teacher Education
National Institute of Education (NIE)

out for the next issue of VOICES for a detailed feature, you might even spot some familiar faces in there!

Besides these internal programmes, many clubs have been inspired to reach out to the community to lend a hand and touch lives. These include the Blood Donation Drive held by BSc Club (pg 6) and Food Donation Drive held by FSC Club (pg 9).

While we’ve had the chance to help others, we did not forget to have some fun ourselves. With the great efforts put up by the BSc Club, student teachers got

together over pizza and a starry canvas of a sky at this year’s Stargazing (pg 14-15). Needless to say, here at NIE, we work hard and we play hard. To the first-year students joining us, we hope you get to experience this spectrum of work and play too. Here’s to another great academic year ahead!

CARISSA ABIDIN
Editor-in-Chief
First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publications Officer
Trainee Teachers’ Club (23rd Exco)

TEACHERS' INVESTITURE CEREMONY 2014

NIE holds the much-anticipated Teachers' Investiture Ceremony (TIC) to celebrate the graduation of 329 student teachers on 14 Jan 2014.

Kong Yanli Karen
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Honorary Treasurer | TTC

Nanyang Auditorium was filled with the beaming faces and animated chatter of graduating students and their proud family and friends as they nervously awaited the start of the ceremony. Many were armed with their cameras and camera phones, ready to commemorate this special moment.

Professor Lee Sing Kong, former Director of NIE, gave a warm opening speech congratulating and welcoming the graduands as new members of the teaching fraternity, and reminded them of role as educators: To prepare future generations to become confident, independent learners that actively contribute to society. The Guest of Honour, Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower, added and emphasized



the importance of being dedicated and caring teachers who strive make a difference in the lives of their students. Ng Hong Kin and team, as well as Guo Hefang and team were singled out as outstanding role models who demonstrated excellence through the execution of their Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) projects. Mr Pua You Kai, valedictorian of the graduating cohort, delivered the valedictory speech, and highlighted the practicum as being “a sobering experience” that was a “painful but necessary reality check of sorts”, from which one can gain valuable insights and put into practice the knowledge gained in NIE.

The ceremony concluded with a resounding chorus of voices as the graduands recited the Teachers' Pledge with pride and joy. We would like to wish all graduates a valuable and enriching experience as they embark on their journeys as educators and role models.





Photo by Kwok Fang Jie & Cao Xue Ying

C.L.E.A.R Club celebrates fifteen days of the Lunar New Year with red packets, *lo hei*, and exciting performances.

Nikko Zhang

First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Editor | C.L.E.A.R Club

Earlier this year, the NIE Chinese Language Educational And Research Club (C.L.E.A.R Club) and Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching Programme students (PGDELT) collaborated to host the annual Chinese New Year Celebration.

The theme this year was “Flourishing Flower in the Year of the Horse” (百花齐放庆马年).

During the 15-day festival, self-crafted decoration and flowers were placed around the campus

with the motive of delivering “福” (blessing), “春” (spring) and “招财进宝” (fortune) to staff and students in NIE. A total of 500 red packets containing golden chocolate coins were given out to students on the eve and fifth day of Chinese New Year.

Additionally, the new year prediction of all 12 Chinese Zodiac signs were pasted on the decorated wishboards that were located in the Student Hub, where student teachers could share their new year’s wishes and read about upcoming 2014 prospects.

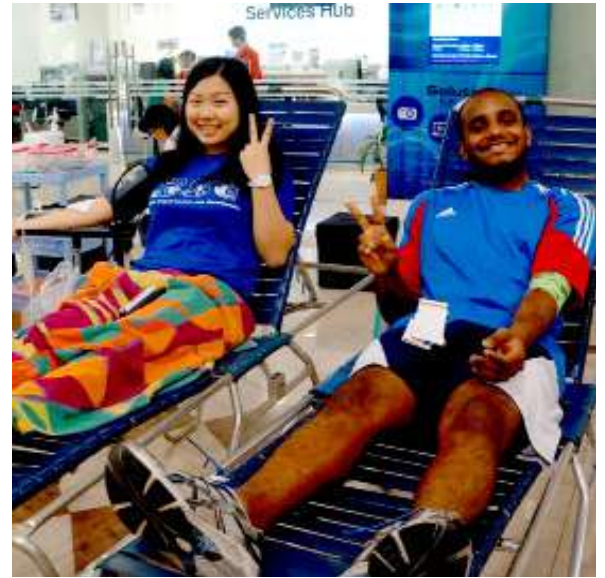
On the sixth day of the Chinese New Year (5 Feb 2014), more than 150 NIE student teachers and staff turned up at the Student Hub to revel in the hour-long celebration beginning at 10.30am, with the arrival of our Guest of Honour, Dr Lim Kam Ming.

He addressed all NIE staff and students and wished them prosperity and good health.

The audience was then entertained with a variety of performances prepared by DanceFuzion, NTU Harmonica Club, and the PGDELT programme students.

Towards the end of the event, all who were present were invited to join the Guest of Honour in a mass *Lo Hei* (Prosperity Toss) session. The god of fortune also made a surprise appearance and led the crowd out to enjoy a *Cai Qing* (Plucking of the Green) tradition performed by Long Kun Lion Dance Troupe.

More photos are available at <https://www.facebook.com/nieclearclub>



**FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS IN SINGAPORE,
EVERY 60 MINUTES CALLS FOR
15 UNITS OF BLOOD. THAT'S
350 UNITS A DAY,
100,000 UNITS A YEAR**

IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD TO SAVE LIVES

The BSc Club works together with Singapore Red Cross Society to host a blood donation drive in NIE, raising awareness & drawing blood.

Photos by BSc Club

Ler Kai Ming Gavin
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publications Officer | BSc Club

On 26 Feb 2014, the UiD opened its doors to potential blood donors to aid the cause. Blood donation drives may sound scary to first-time donors, but with an open mind you will find that it is really simple and requires only a few easy steps.

To find out if you may be a potential donor, all you have to do is to fill up a

form. After which, checks are made to ensure that you are in suitable health conditions to be donating blood.

Only when the criteria is fulfilled, then you would be brought to a bed where the transfusion begins. The whole process only takes about 30 minutes. This short 30 minutes could also mean a whole new chance at life for another person.

With the publicity drive in NIE and NTU, we are proud to announce that our one-day blood donation

drive managed to attract over 130 participants, collecting a generous 88 units of blood.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all donors and relevant parties who supported our blood donation drive in one way or another.

Do keep a lookout for our upcoming activities and continue to support our donation drive in the years to come. With your support, we will definitely be back to do our part to aid the blood donation need in Singapore.

GAMES CARNIVAL

PLAY.BUILD.LEARN

Club Jeux attracts over a hundred participants at this year's Games Carnival.

Quek Yi Lin Alexia
First-Year, Diploma in Education
Vice-Chairperson | Club Jeux

Club Jeux organised a fun-filled event aptly dubbed "Games Carnival" in NIE from 15 Jan to 17 Jan 2014. Held near the DBS ATM at level 1 of the NIE Canteen, the three-day event attracted an overwhelming pool of over 100 participants during the lunch hour.

Our mission at Club Jeux is to empower student teachers to tap on the potential of board games for progressive learning in classrooms. This event builds on this mission, enabling the club to share with other student teachers the possibility of introducing board games into their pedagogy.

We introduced a number of games for this fun-filled affair. They include Ugly Dolls, For Sale, Cyrano, Halli Galli, Giza, 14 Days in Asia, Dixit, Once Upon A Time, Blokus, Categena, and 7Ate9. Believing in the philosophy of PLAY BUILD LEARN, this is an event where participants were invited and taught how to play before engaging in a sharing session on what they enjoyed about the game and how it could be used in the classroom setting. After playing through several different types of games,



Photos by Darren Foo Mow Chien

participants were asked to brainstorm on different ways they could use these games in teaching. Best of all, the best brains were rewarded!



Based on participation, 13 prizes were awarded. The top prize of \$80 CapitaLand vouchers were given to Lim Xin Yi, followed by Angela Ho who received \$50 CapitaLand vouchers and Halena Fonseka who received \$40 CapitaLand vouchers. Additionally, there were 10 consolation prizes of \$10 CapitaLand vouchers given out to our other lucky winners.

All in all, this was an event of fun (and prizes). Best of all? Participants brought back valuable knowledge

on how they could possibly incorporate board games in their future classrooms.

Everyone is welcome to our weekly board gaming sessions at UiD level 3, Student Services Centre. If you are interested to know more about the club or to learn more about board games and their potential in teaching, join us during our operating hours below.



Monday: 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Wednesday: 10.30am – 11.30am

Contact us at clubjeux@gmail.com, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/ClubJeux> if you have any enquiries or feedback.

GERAKKAN KAKI, GUNAKAN MINDA II

NTUMLCS organizes an amazing race for secondary school students to incorporate fun into the Malay language.

Siti Amirah Binte Zailaini
 First-Year, Diploma in Education
 Head of Language | NTUMLCS

On 22 Mar 2014, NTUMLCS (Perbayu) organized an event similar to The Amazing Race called “Gerakkan Kaki, Gunakan Minda II” for Secondary 1 to 3 students. This inaugural event is a collaboration between NTU PERBAYU and a sub-committee of Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Malay Language Society, Nurhayat. Our event aims to cultivate love and appreciation for the Malay language and culture. This was achieved by creating awareness of Malay literature & arts among the students through interactive activities. Through this event, students have developed positive self-esteem, and effective oratorical skills in the Malay language when presenting and performing at the station games. Furthermore, this event has helped to enhance attributes such as organization skills and adaptability as team players. Mr Mohamed Naim Daipi, former lecturer at the National Institute of Education (NIE) and writer at the Curriculum Development Institute (MOE), graced the event.



Photo by Nadzirah Binte Azaruddin

Participants were in for a treat as they caught a spectacular martial arts performance by the Singapore Polytechnic Silat team. There were four facilitators at each booth conducting educational games for the students. The event ended with a prize-giving ceremony where all the students were given a certificate of participation. Medals were also awarded to the three fastest groups and the best clan. G.K.G.M was a successful event and received much positive feedback from the students.

They shared that the event had deepened their interest in the Malay language. Furthermore, their teachers were satisfied that the race had benefited their students tremendously.

TEROKA SI CILIK

Syed Hanan Haney Al-Husaini
 First-Year, Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering)
 Head | Teroka Si Cilik

Teroka Si Cilik is held annually by NTUMLCS (NTU Perbayu) for primary school students. This event consists of an amazing race or round robin stations that test their Malay language and allows them to apply the skills and knowledge.



Teroka Si Cilik 2014 was held on 8 Mar and was themed “Expedition”. Our team of programmers brainstormed and came up with an interesting idea in which the participants had to

“travel back in time” to save the Malay language from extinction. Their trials and obstacles were in the form of the five games that were set up for them in different kampungs (Malay for “villages”).

Even though we faced certain road blocks on the event day, we managed to bounce back onto our feet to carry out the event as planned. It was a successful event to say the least, and my team and I agree that this was one experience we will never forget!

Photos by Dian Nadhirah Binte Sachiman



SCRAPBOOKING WORKSHOP III

The FCS Club attracts plenty of creative individuals at this year's scrapbooking workshop.

Julie Chua
Second-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)
Publicity Officer | FCS Club

This year's scrapbooking workshop hosted by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club (FCS Club) attracted plenty of creative individuals from NIE! The workshop provided participants with the basic skills required for scrapbooking; and at the same time, we provided new ways and ideas for artistic journaling. Scrapbooks are commonly thought to be diaries filled with photos and decorated pages but here at FCS Club, we take scrapbooking to a whole new scale – we do it on canvas.

These canvas scrapbooks may be hung on walls, and with each new addition to the display, a story begins to unfold. This is very much similar to a wall of memories! Or if you prefer, these scrapbooks can make for a perfect gift for any occasion.

For a minimal fee, we provided the participants with a variety of high quality scrapbooking materials (designed papers, embellishments, canvas, paint etc.) to ensure that the art piece is everlasting. Despite having similar materials provided, an array of different creative products was produced by the participants. Overall, the participants were pleased with their end products and expressed their interest in this new field of knowledge.

The FCS Club would like to thank all participants for their support and we look forward to bringing more fun and exciting workshops to the NIE community. To stay connected with FCS Club, simply search FCSNIE on Facebook and add us for updates on our latest events.

DONATE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The FCS Club organizes their first ever food donation drive.

Tan Jing Jing Stephanie
Third-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)
Publicity Officer | FCS Club

NIE Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Club organized our first Food Donation Drive from 4 Feb to 7 Feb 2014. Non-perishable food items like biscuits, cereal, canned food, cooking oil, rice, powdered beverages, etc., were collected from staff and students

in NIE, who supported our cause with kindness and generosity. These collected food items were donated to the old folks at Lion Befrienders. As future teachers, we are very glad to be able to contribute back to our society by helping these old folks who spent their youth building our nation and nurturing generations to make us uniquely Singaporeans. It is our honour to make a difference in

their lives by bringing them love, joy, and warmth during Chinese New Year, and more importantly, to let them know that they are never forgotten by us! On behalf of FCS Club, I would like to show our gratitude and appreciation to the NIE community for your generous donations and kind support! See you again at our Food Donation Drive next year!

FRIENDSHIP WEEK

The BA Club discovers meaning of love!

Daphne Chua

Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publicity Officer | BA Club

The Bachelor of Arts Club (BA Club) has always believed that Valentine's Day should not be a day solely meant for couples to celebrate love. Rather, it should encompass the idea of 'love' as a theme that extends to the friendships we share. Thus, this year, the BA club, together with the collaboration of six other clubs, organised Valentine's Week with the intention to celebrate what we like to term: 'Friendship Week'.

From 10 Feb to 14 Feb 2014, a variety of events were planned and spearheaded by the BA club to serve as a reminder of the relationships we share with our friends, family, and loved ones. The NIE Travel Club, BA Club and the Tamil Language Club (TLC) kick started the week with a bazaar in NIE. The BA Club also set up a photo booth to capture the moments of friendship and love between individuals as well as a dedication booth, allowing the student body to express their innermost thoughts and feelings. Daily special events were also held amidst the bazaar, expressing love in a variety of ways. Additionally, the NIE Green Club prepared a picnic in the middle of the Green Triangle of NIE on 11 Feb, merging two essential elements of life together - nature and friendship. This proved



to be successful in strengthening old friendships and further forging new ones, thus remaining true to the theme of Friendship Week. 12 Feb saw the English Language and Literature Club (ELL Club) engage in romantic poetry with our very own Literature professor, Dr. Angus Whitehead. Titled 'How Does Love Speak?'.

Love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning

DanceFuzion also provided a pleasant surprise to the morning crowd as they burst out in a series of dance moves through a flash mob in the canteen, thus entertaining and increasing hype for the entire event. The Food and Consumer Sciences Club (FCS Club) carried out yet another successful cupcake decoration workshop on 13 Feb, teaching participants to decorate their cupcakes in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

Indeed, as the BA club believes, "love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning". We believe that this Valentine's Day, the meaning of love was found.



HOW DOES LOVE

The ELL Club engages in romantic poetry

Yeo Zhi Wen

Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Chairperson | ELL Club

On 12 Feb 2014, the English Language and Literature (ELL) Club organised NIE's inaugural poetry sharing and writing event, "How Does Love Speak?" in TR311. The theme of this event was on the various forms of love (friendship, kinship, romantic, platonic etc.); we hoped that through sharing and writing poetry, the event would remind us of and celebrate the different kinds of love which touch our lives. Through the event, we aimed to help attendees discover how easy it is to write a found poem and experience the use of language and poetry to express themselves. "How Does Love Speak?" began with a poetry sharing session.

DAY
SPECIAL

SHIP WEEK!

SPEAK?

with the quirky professor, Dr. Angus Whitehead.

After the opening address from our Guest-of-Honour, Dr. Angus Whitehead, he got the ball rolling by sharing some of his favourite poems about love. Following that, many attendees who brought along their favourite poems were also invited to read to the rest of the attendees. A few of them even brought their own original poem to share at the event. Often, those poems were written at points of inspiration in their lives and they chose poetry as a means of capturing and expressing their thoughts in words. After the sharing, the attendees tried their hand at writing their own found love poem. A found poem is a type of poetry created by taking words and phrases, from other sources and recasting them as poetry. We provided the participants with extracts from varying sources such as classical literature, contemporary literature, teen fiction, and even 8 Days magazine for use as material for their own found poems. The resulting love poems written by our attendees ranged from sweet to bitter, hilarious to heart wrenching.



Photos by Low Yu Ci

LOVE IN EVERY INSTANT

Pink balloons, family and friends. Beautiful weather and checkered picnic mats.

Tian Yuyuan

Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)

Vice Chairperson | NIE Green Club

InstaLove 2014 saw the first picnic ever to be held on campus. Held in conjunction with the inter-club Friendship Week, the picnic was NIE Green Club's way of showing their love. Participants relished the moment with their family and friends, savoring home cooked food and immersing in activities with their loved ones. Some of these activities are:

1. Draw Love

Our participants created beautiful handmade cards for their loved ones on the spot, with materials provided by NIE Green Club. Winners for this activity pirouetted away with VeganBurg cash vouchers! Do check out VeganBurg's tasty and organic burgers, one of the best in town we reckon. Find out more about them at veganburg.com. (We're drooling already)

2. Play Love

Our supporters shared a delightful time with their loved ones, away from their smartphones and instead, bonded over board games such as Saboteur, Marriage Material, and Taboo (courtesy of Club Jeux). With nature, good company, and good food, the picnic definitely encouraged us to look up from our phones and to shut down that display to live life the "real way". We encourage you to try it some day. Since we've got a finite existence, a set number of days, let's not get too caught up in the net. As the saying goes, "take time to stop and smell the roses".

3. Feel Love

Participants were also introduced "The 5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman, for them to find out more about themselves and their loved ones regarding the kind of love language they speak. By doing so, you are on your way to loving people more effectively and effortlessly. Don't take our word for it. Try it out yourself! Discover your very own love language at www.5lovelanguages.com/profile/

Finally, NIE Green Club would like to extend our heartiest gratitude to everyone who made InstaLove 2014 possible!

COME SHARE THE LOVE

It's all good smiles and good smells at FCS Club's Cupcake Decorating Workshop!

Uvanesram s/o Haridas

Second-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)

Secretary | FCS Club

On 13 Feb 2014, a day before Saint Valentine (Valentine's Day), student teachers from the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Club organized a cupcake and cookie-decorating workshop for students and lecturers to display their amour (love) for that special someone in their lives.

The workshop is a new concept adopted by the FCS Club to better develop skills that could serve useful in future endeavors. These include meticulous drawing skills, and the ability to maintain consistency in the production of food. Student teachers worked hard to bake the perfect cupcake, and beautified their creation with icing, also known as edible arts and craft! The enthusiasm and eagerness to decorate their cupcakes filled the whole event with excitement and fun! As they watched their delectable creations materialize, they achieved a great sense of pride and accomplishment.



Photo by FCS Club

With the gracious support by sponsors such as the Office of Teacher Education (OTE), the workshop was a great success. Every couple that attended the workshop received various ingredients and had decent wrappings, which allowed them to pass the baked goods to their special someone. By the end of the workshop, student teachers were happy with their cupcake and cookie creations. This showcased the spirit of student teachers as a community that is willing to learn, to work well with each other, and to engage in meaningful activities together. As future teachers, the workshop helped to remind student teachers that regardless of time, their little efforts of appreciation and acts of love could in fact raise confidence and creates joy in both parties. This way, every action is saturated with meaning and thought, making life simply blissful.

MOVE TO THE MOOD OF LOVE

DanceFuzion stirs up a storm with a Flash Mob!

Poh Yanghan

Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)

Vice Chairperson (Operations) | DanceFuzion

What's Valentine's Day without some public expressions of love to get everyone into the mood? On 12 Feb 2014, dancers from DanceFuzion, as well as members from other NIE clubs, assumed roles as cupids of the campus, spreading love to the NIE community through a flash mob.

Choreographed by student choreographer Syahirah Rahamat, the flash mob was set to tunes reminiscent of the yesteryears. Dancers showed

off the chemistry they had with their partners as they grooved to the evergreen "That Thing You Do" by The Wonders. Following that, more dancers joined the line-up and everyone danced together to the 80s-inspired "Treasure" by Bruno Mars, driving the atmosphere to another peak as they mingled with the crowd. It was all smiles for the audience, the lunch crowd and canteen vendors alike, as everyone in the canteen stopped their activities to enjoy the performance. As the last notes of "Treasure" faded, the dancers were greeted with rapturous applause and cheers before everything returned to normalcy.

DanceFuzion would like to take this opportunity to thank the dancers who allowed the flash mob to a success, as well all the NIE clubs for their unconditional support and valuable help provided.

On 31 May 2014,
NTUMLCS presented
a theatre musical
“TUAH” at the
Nanyang Auditorium



Photo by Hoong Wei Long

TUAH: THE MODERN DAY TWIST

•••••
Mohammad Zuhairi Bin Ramlan
Second-Year, Bachelor of Fine Arts
(Digital Animation)
•••••
Publicity Officer | Teroka Si Cilik

Everyone makes mistakes, but should everyone be given a second chance? What if one is trapped in a predicament because of the law? Is he undeserving of that second chance? *Tuah* entails the story of Ahmad, an ex-convict released from prison, and his struggles to integrate back into society.

Because of his time in prison and seclusion from society, he finds it difficult to lead a normal life. Known as the ‘modern day’ *Tuah* (Malay for “lucky”), Ahmad finally manages to rise above his poverty when his best friend, Badri, recommends him to his

boss, and eventually gets a job as an assistant designer. He hopes to be a reliable breadwinner for his sickly mother. However, in the midst of his fall and triumph, he falls in love with his boss’ daughter, the beautiful Tija.

Ahmad faces slander, insults, and backbites about him, despite his resolution to turn over a new leaf. A fellow colleague, Haizad, seeks to spread bad sentiments about Ahmad to his other colleagues. A major dispute breaks out when an unknown culprit hands over a company project to their rival company. Due to the bad reputation his colleagues have of him, Badri and Ahmad are naturally the first suspects in this case.

Badri tries to take matters into his own hands and sneaks to find confidential documents of the company. Unfortunately, he is caught by security and fired. The only upside is that he clears Ahmad’s name in the process. Ahmad is devastated by the news, and a major quarrel reveals Ahmad’s real objective. Tija’s feelings are cheated as Ahmad shows his intentions are not as pure as she thought. She finds out that she is a pawn in the game to keep his job safe. Ahmad later confesses to Badri that he is the one who reported him to the security.

In a desperate turn of events, Ahmad loses trust from all the people who mattered most to him.

STARGAZING 2014

Ler Kai Ming Gavin
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts
(Education)
Publications Officer | BSc Club



Photos by BSc Club

Singapore is a place that is undeniably well-lit, and with this level of light pollution, one rarely remembers to stop and look up at our night sky, simply because there usually isn't much to see. However, this year, with the help of the Singapore Science Centre, NIE BSc Club managed to pull off a night of stargazing, coupled with some food and fun!

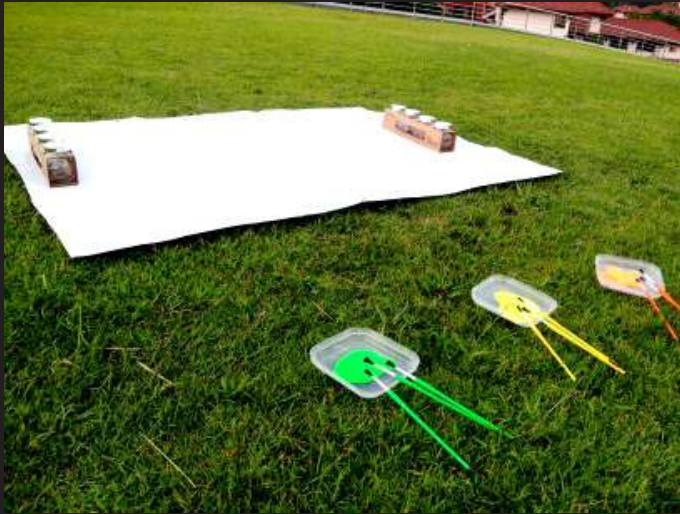


When it comes to food, the aim of this year was to deliver a vast array of choices, giving our participants delectable choices. Hence, what came to be was a spread of pizzas, with at least one of each of all the flavors available on the menu from Canadian 2 for 1 Pizza.

With bellies filled, the next item on the agenda was the main attraction, the stargazing! However, with only one person using the telescope at a time, we decided to inject a little art into this science event.

The participants tried their hand out at making fairy jars! From there onwards, laughter ensued as each and every one tried creating their fairy jars, and shared what each jar meant.

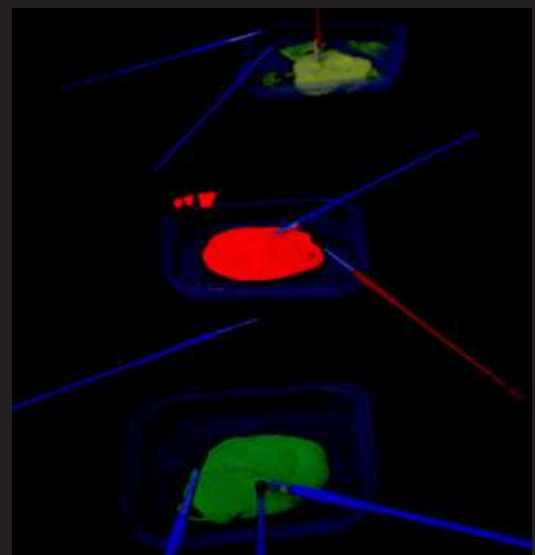
As for the stars and planets, they speak for themselves! Mars made for a long feature, alongside Jupiter. The event saw snaking



queues with participants eager to catch a glimpse of the magnificent sight through the high-powered telescope, brought by the representatives from the Science Centre.

The very kind staff from the centre also took time to elaborate and give more information on each planet and the different constellations. As the event drew to a close, we hope more than the fairy jars and goody bags, each and every participant took back pleasant memories of the event.

With this, the BSc Club would like to give a shout out to all the participants who took part in the event. A very big thank you, for making this event successful, and we hope to see you next year!



INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

A/P Ivy Tan
Sub-Dean
Practicum
National Institute of Education

A few student teachers share their reflections on having traveled to a different country for their international practicum.



Chloe Ong
University College
Capital, Denmark
May 2013

Attached to:
Randersgades Skole

Teaching English and Mathematics in a Danish context was a pleasurable experience, thanks to my three admirable teachers – Metha, Mette, and Rikke. Their unfailing support during the conduct of my lessons has shown me what mentorship means. Possibilities abound in their classrooms. Particularly, I am grateful for the trust, confidence and autonomy that they have conferred upon me. Mette, especially, has greatly emboldened me – no Singaporean teacher will tell me to waltz into class and deliver without a lesson plan!

Not forgetting the University Collage Capital (UCC) International Practicum students Astrid and Nan, whom I have forged close bonds with. Their hospitality has enriched my perspective of the Danish culture; they have demonstrated the Danish art of 'hygge'. Additionally, interacting with student teachers from Austria, Spain and Holland has allowed me a much broader world perspective.

NIE has put in place opportunities for selected Bachelor of Arts (Education)/ Bachelor of Science (Education) students to do a 5-week Teaching Assistantship in schools in countries like Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Switzerland, Taiwan ROC and the United States of America. Through the International Practicum, the student teachers will have the opportunities to:

1. Develop practical awareness and appreciation of the role of a teacher;
2. Gain practical experience in helping their CTs plan lessons, prepare resources, manage students, facilitate group work and/or conduct part of the lessons;
3. Broaden their understanding of the realities of teaching and learning from an international perspective;
4. Gain an understanding of classroom environment of a different educational system;
5. Learn more about pupils in a different culture and develop skills to respond appropriately.
6. Develop skills and capacities for observation and reflective learning;
7. Develop an awareness of service expectations and professional norms

This was definitely one of my most memorable experiences in NIE. Teaching at Malling Skole was an experience that allowed me to learn in many aspects. The thought of having to teach Danish students was intimidating, especially with my lack of teaching experience. However, my Coordinating Teacher, Tina, and the teaching staff were very encouraging all the way, and proved to be of invaluable assistance in my learning. Although the initial lessons I taught were not the best, I found myself improving with their help. At the end of the five weeks, I found myself wishing that I could stay on for a longer period of time to be a teacher there.



Brandon Boh
VIA College,
Denmark
May 2013

Attached to:
Malling Skole



Beatrice Tan
University of
Santa Barbara,
California
Nov-Jan 2014

Attached to: Dos Pueblos High School

The international practicum was my first experience abroad on my own with another friend. It was an eye-opening experience that definitely allowed me to grow professionally and personally.

In the States, I managed to converse with people from all walks of life like Professors, Deans, mentors, teachers, students, student-teachers, etc.. Each of them introduced new perspectives and knowledge to me. On top of that, the trip has expedited my personal growth. With the many observations that I have made, I came home with new perspectives and insights, which made me behave and conduct myself slightly different than before. Not forgetting the friendships forged.

TAKDIR

Ashraff Nasli Bin Achnas
 Final-Year, Bachelor of Engineering
 (Mechanical Engineering)
 Treasurer | Beztari, NTUMLCS

On 22 Feb 2014, NTU Beztari hit another milestone with another dance production titled, Takdir: Fate Rewritten. Beztari was formed in 2008 and has been actively involved in Singapore's Malay dance scene over the recent years. It falls under the cultural wing of the Malay Language and Cultural Society (NTU/NIE Perbayu). Following recent successes staging Naung in 2012 and Kanvas in 2013, the organizing committee was inspired to showcase a dance production closer to their hearts. Aptly titled Takdir, which translates to Fate, the production simulated the audience perception on life through the different segments portrayed.



logistical issues, the production committee, headed by Beztari captain and final-year NIE student teacher, Mohd Redzuan Jaafar, worked hard and raised the bar for future productions with their efficiency and dedication. Lessons learned from previous productions proved useful during the planning process and administrative problems were quickly resolved. Although there were many new faces in the production, new dancers with no contemporary Malay dance experience, the bonds created from the returning Beztari alumni and present dancers helped to ease nerves. This translated to a confident and spectacular performance during opening day.



Takdir: Fate Rewritten received compliments from parents and students alike for their storyline that resonates easily with people from different walks of life. The producers would like to thank the organizing committee, dancers, alumni, as well the 21st Perbayu Executive Committee for their support which allowed Takdir to be a roaring success!

The elements and themes explored in Takdir included faith, choice, birth, and self-realization. Moving away from popular themes such as love and education, the producers, Ashraff Nasli and Afiq Samat, both final-year students at NTU, as well as the artistic director, Mr Azmi Juhari, courted controversy with daring dance pieces, which fused religion and contemporary Malay dance.

Backed by the creativity from the music director Mr Azrin Abdullah, Takdir was both a dazzling display of dance as well as a narrative that tugged at the heartstrings of the sell-out crowd. Despite facing niggling problems such as financial and



Photos by Syazwan Bin Zainudin

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Arts House opened its doors to this year's Starlite, the annual singing competition organized by the BSc Club.

Chew Ching Wen

First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Vice Chairperson | BSc Club

Starlite has been one of the signature events for the Bachelor of Science Club (BSc Club) and this year, we came back with a bang or better put – burst of colours. On 8 Feb 2014, the dark starry night saw Starlite: Colours of the Wind open at The Chambers, The Arts House. The audience was whirled away into a world of colours by five soloists and three group performances. Facing a panel of four experienced and seasoned judges, all competitors certainly did an amazing job in charming the audience and the judges with their stellar performances and melodious voices.

Each contestant that performed on stage undoubtedly gave their best and delivered their colourful emotions and covers of their song number. Clinching the top prize for the solo category was Valerie Low with her soulful rendition of "Part Of Your World" as heard in the classic Disney film, The Little Mermaid. Coming up on top of the



Photo by BSc Club

group performances was Gadogado (Amadea & Aleeza) with a fantastic medley of "Pink" by Aerosmith and "Colourblind" by Darius Campbell. One of the judges and last year's winner for the solo category, Rozaimi Abdul Rahim, guest performed "Say Something" by A Great Big World to a roaring crowd. Shortly after the performance, we welcomed our next guest performer, The Lost Cucumbers. Everyone was willing to be led into their wonderful delivery of their own rendition of "Counting Stars" by One Republic and "Let Her Go" by Passenger.

With these outstanding performances, the night came to a beautiful close. Congratulations to all contestants, you are all winners, of courage and bravery!

TABOO COMPETITION

Club Jeux organised a fun-filled Taboo Competition in NIE from 18 to 20 Mar 2014, attracting over 50 participants.

Darren Foo Mow Chien

First-Year, Diploma in Education
Photographer | Club Jeux

The club aimed to foster partnership, teamwork, and creativity in the individual through the popular party game, "Taboo!" By taking part in the competition, student teachers not only learned more about their friends but also enjoyed a much needed break from their examination preparations. Taboo is a word guessing party game where two players take turns to describe a word or phrase on the taboo cards to their partners without using the five associated words or phrases that are displayed on the cards. While one player acts as the describer, his partner acts

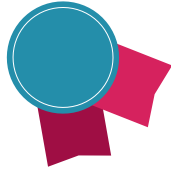
as the guesser and will attempt to guess as many words as possible within the allocated time of two minutes. After which, the players would then switch roles.

Participants were awarded Kit Kat bars based on the number of words which they managed to guess correctly. The more words they managed to guess correctly, the more Kit Kat bars they received. The top three pairs with the highest scores were awarded additional prizes for their accomplishments. Fairul and Sindhya were the top pair of the competition with a total score 27 (which broke the

record of the previous year which was 26). Jeremy Khoo and Andne Yeo came in at second place with a total score of 26. The pair with the third highest score of 23 consisted of Chung Hui Yee and Fiona Nah.

Overall, this was a successful event as the participants not only had fun but they also enjoyed learning more about their partners through this competition.

CHINNANJIRU MAEDAI 2014



The Tamil Language Club (TLC) pulls off yet another successful event at this year's annual talent competition made for primary school students.

Ellene Prashanti d/o T Yogarajah
First-Year, Diploma in Education
Secretary | TLC



This is the 11th consecutive year that the Tamil Language Club (TLC) has successfully organized Chinnanjiru Maedai, an annual talent competition for primary school students.

This year, we hosted this event in collaboration with the Tamil Language Council, Cheng San Community Club, and the Tamil Language and Learning Promotion Committee. The event was graciously witnessed by our guest of honour, Mr R Narayana Mohan, President, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

We are glad to announce that TLC has created a magazine that speaks about Chinnanjiru Maedai and has used it as a means to thank our generous sponsors.

This annual event has been a pillar in providing young students the opportunity to showcase their talents on stage. It consists of a workshop held by professionals pertaining to theatre and a grand finale.

Chinnanjiru Maedai is made up of three competitions - Fancy Dress (Pri 1 and 2), Story-telling (Pri 3 and 4), and Drama (Pri 5 and 6). Auditions were held for the drama participants on 15 Mar 2014. They received valuable feedback from our judges and worked on improving their drama for the Grand Finale.

The students came back with a bang for the Grand Finale! Following the finale, a prize presentation ceremony was held for winners of all three competitions. Yishun Primary School clinched the Challenge Trophy, and Certificate of Participation was awarded to all participants in recognition of their efforts.

It was a good platform for TLC members, as future teachers, to work together and learn to manage duties as both students and committee members. We were able to obtain the support of members within NIE TLC as well as external supporters who stepped up to give their encouragement during this event.

Special thanks to Muhammad Irfan (BSc Secondary) and Sugashini (BSc Primary) for rendering their support for hosting the event. We would also like to sincerely thank our club advisor Dr A Ra Sivakumaran for his constant guidance and encouragement, which has helped this event become a success.



Photos by TLC



UPCOMING

CLUB EVENTS/ CONTESTS

**YOUTH EXPEDITION
PROJECTS TO
SIKKIM (INDIA) &
UBON RATCHATHANI
(THAILAND)**

AMAZING RACE

**FOOD DONATION
SERVICE- DRIVE**

**LEARNING
WORKSHOPS**

INSOMNIAC XIV



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NIE Wellness Centre

The NIE Wellness Centre provides psychological and counseling services to National Institute of Education student teachers, Nanyang Technological University students and to the general public offering affordable psychological services and counseling to a high standard.

A medical referral is not required.

Appointments can be arranged by phoning the centre at this number 6790 3318.

<http://www.ps.nie.edu.sg/WELLNESS.htm>

The NIE Wellness Centre operating hours :
9am to 5pm (Mon - Fri)
5pm to 9pm (Mon - Thurs upon request)

The NIE Wellness Centre is located in
the basement of the Education Building
(Block 2) at the National Institute of Education.