



VOICES

ISSUE
28
2015

An Institute of Distinction

A PUBLICATION OF TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB

WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?

New to university? Don't know what to bring and how to organise your stuff? Get some tips here!



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BIRTHDAY SURPRISE GUIDE

Celebrating birthdays is a huge part of school life. We all want to plan the perfect surprise - so here's a guide to help you get started!



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NIE CANTEEN TIPS

Ordering food in the NIE canteen can be stressful, especially if you're new. This article is a must-read before you head there!



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THE GREAT GRADSBY

Find out how our graduating seniors celebrated the end of their NIE journey in a night of glitz, glamour and great memories.

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SG50 Special: TEACHING *through the years*

Take a journey through the history of teaching in Singapore and see just how much we have progressed as a nation in the education sector.

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VOICES @ SEA GAMES



The previous issue of VOICES, Issue 27, was featured in the countdown video at the SEA Games Opening Ceremony 2015! What an honour and privilege for NIE and this publication to be included!



ISG 2014/5: TEAM NIE!

read more on pg. 15!

An Institute of



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**

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EDITOR'S



COMMENTARY

Dear Readers,

As you flip the pages of this issue of VOICES, you'll notice that there are two main types of articles - "events" articles and "lifestyle" articles. The former covers the exciting events organised by NIE's clubs in the past semester, and the latter gives you an insight into our culture. Through these articles, it is my wish that you can have a glimpse into the vibrancy of NIE student life.

I've experienced this vibrant school life to a really large extent in my past year at NIE. I first joined the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) and became the Publications Officer, also known as the Editor-in-Chief of this very magazine. It hasn't been easy but I would say that I've learnt so much about what goes into a publication. The satisfaction of seeing my first issue in print was unbelievable - and I'm looking forward to that satisfaction again once this issue hits the stands.

Some things I've gotten to do as part of TTC are Welfare Pack Giveaways (which you can read about on page 6), T-shirt Sales, Graduation Bash and NIE's Freshmen Orientation Camp.

Grad Bash was an amazing experience - you can catch the details on page 5. Besides getting to dress up in my 1920s attire to fit with the theme, "The Great Gradsby" (yes, our committee was very punny), seeing the joy on the seniors' faces was highly rewarding. It made me anticipate my graduation and reminded me to treasure the friendships I have right now.



Another awesome experience was getting to be part of the Freshmen Orientation Camp as an OGL. As I'm writing this, I greatly anticipate getting to meet my juniors at the camp in August! I'm glad to have the opportunity to pay forward the friendly welcome my seniors gave me last year. Also, can you tell how ridiculously competitive I am from this photo taken at Seniors Camp?

As part of the newly established Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP), I also had many opportunities in the past year. Getting to share my journey in TSP and NIE with juniors a couple of times at MOE or at Open House has been great - hopefully some



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TAN WENXIN, KATHERINE

Dear Student-Teachers,

Welcome back to school! I hope your semester break has been a blast and that you are as excited as I am to begin the new academic year! I would like to especially wish the freshmen a very warm welcome and I hope that your time here in NIE will be fulfilling, enriching and full of joy!

As the Club Leaders usher in the Academic Year 15/16, we do so very eagerly – not only to continue broadening our knowledge and honing our skills as student teachers,

but more so in anticipation of the series of heart-pumping events that we have lined up specially for you.

To those who have been around for the past year: Take a walk down memory lane with this issue of VOICES as we look back at some of these memorable events that took place in NIE over the past eight months.

To the freshmen: Find out what school life is all about in the pages ahead. Get tips on how to make the most of your years as an NIE student, read about events you can look forward to and get a sneak peak into the culture of our school!

If you're keen to join us in organising activities for your NIE peers, don't hesitate to contact any of the Club Leaders either via our respective Facebook pages or approach us during our events! We definitely look forward to you joining our big family!

Have a good semester ahead, and see you around campus!

Warmest regards,
Tan Wenxin, Katherine
*Bachelor of Arts (Education),
Fourth-Year*
President
*24th Trainee Teachers' Club
Executive Committee*

of you who are reading this had been convinced at one of these sessions. Furthermore, I had an enriching internship at the English Language Institute of Singapore (ELIS) over the summer break. It was indeed a huge learning experience for me and I was inspired by the dedicated staff there.



What has characterised my entire NIE experience, however, has not been these events, but the relationships formed from them. It's the little things like birthday surprises, having "matchy-clothes" days, conversations over lunch breaks and even the craziness of "chiong-ing" events together that remains the best takeaway.

To all freshmen, I would like to wish you a very warm welcome! Congratulations on making it here to NIE and may your time here be meaningful and enriching. I was in the same position as you

last year - apprehensive about school life, unsure about where to go, and curious about what was in store for me. One year on, I can say that NIE has really become a home for me, and I hope it will be the same for you.

To ease you into your journey here at NIE, this issue of VOICES contains many articles to help you along. Heard some strange words you don't understand? Head to page 10 for a dictionary of commonly used terms. Don't know how to order certain types of food? Check out page 17 for some canteen tips. For the old-timers, I hope these articles will serve as a good "throwback" moment! Who knows? You may even find out some useful things you never knew.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and that the semester ahead will be a blessed one - full of joy, laughter and good memories.



Lin Siyue
Editor-in-Chief
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)
Publications Officer,
24th Trainee Teachers' Club



NIE

by the Numbers

Ever wondered what the most popular phone brand among NIE students is? Probably not, since we all know the answer is “iPhone”. But how about the average heights of girls and guys? Or the average time taken to travel to school? We’ve surveyed the NIE student body and found these interesting trends and statistics – take a look below!



53% iPhone
21% Samsung
16% Xiao Mi



average time taken to travel to school
1HR 12MINS



6hrs
average sleeping hours



top birthday months

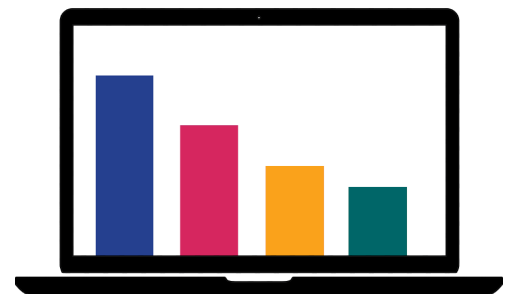
JUNE
AUGUST
JULY

average amount spent on lunch
\$4.90



2-4PM
sleepiest time of day in school

32% Mac
24% Asus
16% Acer
13% Lenovo



>50%



visit the library at least 3 times a week

average height

159cm



174cm



THE GREAT GRADSBY

Neo Hui Ning, Melissa
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Treasurer | Trainee Teachers' Club

In *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jordan Baker said, "And I like large parties. They are so intimate. At small parties, there isn't any privacy." On the contrary, *The Great Gradsby* was both a small and intimate affair. At NIE's very first Graduation Bash, organized by the Trainee Teachers' Club and held at Royal Plaza on Scotts, the graduating students celebrated a night of roller coaster fun, non-stop laughter and the creation of memories that would last a lifetime.

The theme of the event was *The Great Gradsby*, inspired by a literary text about the riches and glamour of America in the 1920s. What was most outstanding from that era was the flapper fashion style which was especially favoured by the rich and famous. This

fashion style was replicated by many of the ladies that night, who donned feather boas, sequins, shift dresses and glamorous headgear, while the gentlemen dressed up in their best suits, suspenders, bow ties and Gatsby famous Duck Caps. It was as if we were guests at one of Gatsby's infamous summer parties in the 1920s.

Various photobooths were decorated and assembled, providing our guests with the opportunity to capture different snapshots of the party in their amazing get-up. Without a doubt, the pictures will bring back fond memories of the night when they look at them again. Entertainment-wise, we were definitely on par with the parties of that era. We had games, performances and even a magic show! Our magician, Alexander Yuen, blew the crowd's mind with his illusions, and appeared to share a telepathic link with some of our participants. In concluding the magic show, he performed what was seemingly the most breathtaking act - creating snow out of thin air.



Due to sporting guests who looked absolutely amazing and participated enthusiastically in our games, this event was a tremendous success! We would like to congratulate all of our graduating students on completing their last lap of student life. The party was not just a celebration of them graduating but everything exciting that is to come!



GOT PASSION?

Lin Siyue
 Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
 Publications Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

The NIE Club Awards and Passion Awards were given out on 13 February 2015 at the U.iD by Guest-of-Honour, Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, Dean, Teacher Education. The Club Awards were given to outstanding clubs of NIE, and the Passion Awards were given to individuals who had recently graduated from NIE, in recognition of their dedication, commitment and invaluable service to the NIE community. It was indeed a day of celebration for those who had won the awards and those who had attended alike. From a performance by DanceFuzion to the NIE "Clubbing" Video and presentation of the awards, the U.iD amphitheatre was filled with smiles and cheer.

The Trainee Teachers' Club continues to wish all the NIE sub-clubs success in their events and programmes, and hopes that all students will participate actively in school life – make the most of your NIE experience!



NIE Passion Award 2014 WINNERS





Stephen Joseph DCruz
 Toh Ling Juan
 Jaslyn Shalini A R
 Leomund Teh Kai Sheng
 Bheem Michelle-Anne Gayle
 Gadis Mutiara Ashari

WE CARE FOR YOUR WELFARE

Denise Chng
 Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
 Welfare Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

The annual Student Welfare Pack Giveaway was a huge success as NIE students grabbed their goodie bags and treated themselves to free candy floss, ice cream and popcorn!


What was in this year's welfare pack?


-  **ALL-TIME FAVOURITES:**
Magazines, Facial products, Stationery
-  **VOUCHERS:**
Spa, Fitness, Salon & Dance Class vouchers
-  **YUMMY FOOD:**
Candy, Happy Cola gummies, Cup noodles
-  **WHAT'S NEW?:**
Perler beads, Post-its, Contact lens solution



Photos by Kwok Fang Jie

Here's what students had to say about the welfare pack:

 "I think the pens in the welfare pack are of really good quality. The vouchers were useful for post-examination de-stress."
- Jozyann, Year 1

 "I thought the welfare pack was brilliant! I particularly loved the cup noodles. I must add that the Escape Room voucher was a smart move. It was a great way to relax with friends during that period."
- Ram, Year 3

WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?

Denise Chng
 Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts
 (Education)

What do students bring to school these days? Here's what you can expect to find in the bags of students who take the following subjects!

MATH

- Graphic Calculator
- Scientific Calculator
- Geometry Set
- Foolscap
- Ruler

SCIENCE

- Lab Coat
- Lab Manual
- Lab Goggles
- Calculator
- Ruler

LANGUAGE

- Dictionary app
- Foolscap
- Readings
- Grammar book

HUMANITIES

- Highlighter or Coloured Markers
- Foolscap
- Readings
- Library books

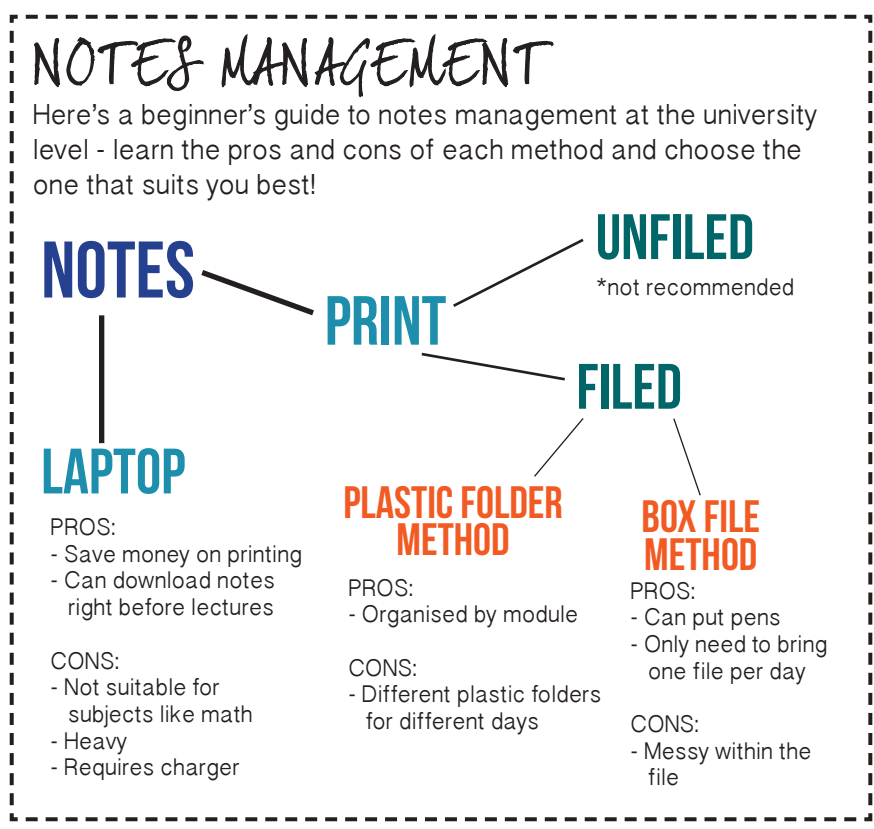
ART

- A range of pencils
- Sketchbook
- Paintbrushes
- Paper
- Paint

MUSIC

- Guitar tuning app
- Metronome app
- Ipod
- Earphones
- Guitar
- Piano app

- Other essentials include:
- Jacket/Cardigan
 - Phone charger or portable charger
 - Laptop and Laptop charger
 - Water bottle
 - Sweets



LOVE IN ALL SENSES

Amanda Huang XuanQi
Fourth-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publicity and Media Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club



Love-dovey gifts like flowers, chocolates and letters aren't merely for couples. This was especially evident throughout the campus in the romantic week of February, where student teachers and staff alike were seen spreading thoughtful tokens of love to their friends and colleagues. Also, the collaboration between many of the NIE clubs to organize Valentine's Day events allowed everyone to celebrate the week of romance.

The Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) sold gerberas, roses and sunflowers during the week at low prices, attracting students to buy them for their friends, boyfriends, or girlfriends, or even husbands or wives!

Love was communicated through an energetic and synchronized dance flash mob in the canteen by DanceFuzion. The dedicated dancers surprised the spectators by giving out stalks of sunflowers during their item. It was indeed a feast for the eyes! Undoubtedly, it was also refreshing to receive such a wonderful surprise from them as they displayed enthusiasm and passion in their choreography.



Photo by BA Club

The Tamil Language Club (TLC) also offered their services in the form of complimentary henna drawing for Valentine's Day. Their professionalism and happiness shone as they drew lovely patterns and motifs for students and staff, leaving a smile on everyone's face.

Finally, what better way to spread love than to dedicate a song to a loved one? The Bachelor of Arts (BA) Club set up a deejay booth, where students and staff could dedicate a song and message to anyone on the campus. It was certainly delightful to watch as listeners paid close attention to the messages, wondering if anyone would dedicate a song to them. Love songs were played throughout the end of the school week, and it was heartening to see many students dedicate songs to thank their lecturers for all of their hard work.

May the sentiments and acts of love continue to permeate the NIE atmosphere in the year ahead!

Did you know...?

Gerberas symbolise cheerfulness,
Roses symbolise passionate love, and
Sunflowers symbolise adoration!



GET CRAFTY

Elva Lo Zi Ping

Fourth-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)
Chairperson | NIE Green Club

Spring Surprise: Terrarium Workshop was a pilot venture organised by the Green Club in conjunction with the symbolic arrival of a new season. Colours and excitement were brought out through the vibrant atmosphere usually associated with this period of time. In alignment with our Green-oriented aims and objectives, participants got busy with creating their own terrariums. From detaching the soil from the pot, to making a hole in the soil for putting the stalks, and placing cute decoration pieces in the soil to create a pseudo-habitat, the formation process was fun and refreshing. At the end of the session, everyone was impressed by each other's terrariums, and the final products certainly renewed interest in the participants toward plants.

More importantly, the workshop inculcated a commitment towards sustainability and conservation. Having created a piece of green-related work that has a long lifespan, the participants were able to witness that small steps taken to ensure our environment's survival can have lasting positive effects.



Photo by Sapphire Yong

SOME TIPS...

1 INITIAL WATERING: When a terrarium is created, approximately 1 – 2 teaspoons of water, depending on its size, is added every week for a month before the interior water drainage system finalizes. Moderate amounts are suggested to avoid excessive volume that triggers root rotting. Selected plants also thrive in low humidity.

2 INDIRECT SUNLIGHT: This prevents plants from overheating and altering the amount of water needed.

3 NO FERTILIZATION: As nutrients from soil gets used up, it slows and keeps the growth under control. Nutrients will be replenished with naturally decaying material.



OVERNIGHT GAMES & FUN!

Teo Jun Young Crosby

Second-Year, Diploma in Education
Chairperson | Club Jeux

Can't seem to find anything to do after 11pm? Try playing board games with friends!

From the 3rd to 4th of December 2014, Club Jeux held an overnight board gaming event known as "Boardover!", aiming to bring together NIE/NTU students or anyone who wanted to give board gaming a try.

At Boardover! 2014, participants played Board Games from 5pm till 1pm the very next day! Some of the



games that the participants played included Bang!, Saboteur, Small World, Game of Thrones, Uglydoll and Citadels. With such a large variety of games and a constant flow of snacks, they were kept entertained and nourished. Participants included members of Club Jeux, student teachers from NIE, members of the NTU Fast Forward Board Games Society and even Mr Tan Hsiao Yuz from the NIE Visual & Performing Arts department!

Interested to participate in the upcoming Boardover! events? Come join us during the following semester break!

Board games allow one to develop thinking skills, mental agility, teamwork and it helps new friends to bond. So wait no more! Join us for upcoming events or learn more about board games and their potential and relevance in teaching. If you are interested to know more about Club Jeux, please check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ClubJeux> or you can also leave us a message at clubjeux@gmail.com!

We will also have weekly board games sessions when the new semester starts, so keep a lookout for us!



Photos by Darren Foo

NIE LINGO

Ng Xing Hwee
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)



“Let’s meet at U.iD after the TA briefing ok? Do you want to have BCM for lunch? We can discuss GESL.”

If this sentence just made you really confused and you want to use the Urban Dictionary to find the meanings of all these acronyms, hold your horses - some of these terms are NIE-exclusive! Check out this guide below to understand and be understood in the NIE community!

PLACES AND RESOURCES

OTE

/oh-tee-ee/

Short for Office of Teacher Education, which handles all initial teacher preparation programmes

LIBRIS

/li-bris/

Short for Library and Information Services Centre. It is NIE’s very own library, located at Block 4 level 2-4. Find notes for your modules at the printing room at level 4, do research for your essays, or visit the cafe for a nice tea break!

BLACKBOARD

Not the literal blackboard, but an online portal used by student teachers to receive announcements, get access to learning materials and upload assignments

U.iD

/yoo-ai-dee/

Short for Unity in Diversity, otherwise known as the Student Hub. It’s the building in front of the canteen, where you can head to in order to get your materials printed, photocopied and collect your concession cards.

PRACTICUM

PRACTICUM

/prac-ti-kem/

Stints you’ll do in school to practice teaching. There are four types, one for each year of your studies respectively:

School Experience (SE)

Teaching Assistantship (TA)

Teaching Practice 1 (TP1)

Teaching Practice 2 (TP2)

SCHOOL LIFE

TTC

/tee-tee-see/

Short for Trainee Teachers’ Club, Together with its sub-clubs, TTC organises a range of social, sports, cultural and educational activities for NIE student teachers.

PESS

/pee-ee-ess-ess/

Short for Physical Education and Sports Science, PESS is one of the academic groups in NIE. You might have seen these words on your PE teachers’ tshirts!

BCM

/bee-see-em/

Short for bak chor mee, one of the most popular dish in the NIE canteen! The queues are long, but the wait is worth it!

ACADEMICS

AS, CS, SK

/ey-es, cee-es, es-kay/

These are some of the types of subjects you will encounter in NIE.

Academic Subject (AS):

These subjects cover content knowledge and fundamental concepts and principles.

Essentially, they are “university level” content subjects.

Curriculum Studies (CS):

Subjects designed to give student teachers the pedagogical skills in teaching specific subjects in Singapore schools.

Subject Knowledge (SK):

A type of subject which helps to reinforce subject content mastery for primary school teaching.

GESL

/guess-sel/

Short for Group Endeavours In Service Learning, a service-learning community outreach programme for all Year 1 students.

TurnItIn, SafeAssign

Plagiarism checker software hosted on Blackboard. You will upload your essays to this software before submission and the software will cross-reference your essay with essays on the internet, in databases, and by other students.



TEACHING THROUGH THE YEARS

2010

Implementation of the 21 Century Competencies, underpinning holistic education to prepare students to thrive in a fast-changing and highly connected world.

1990s

Teachers began their training in NIE when the Nanyang Technological University was set up. A new 4-year degree course which many of us are undertaking today was made available.

1970s

TTC started the Diploma in Education for graduate teachers after the closure of School of Education.

1950s

Singapore adapted a "survival-driven education" system to provide a skilled workforce for Singapore's industrialization programme as well to as to lower the unemployment rate.

1947

The Ten Years Programme for Education Policy in the Colony of Singapore was formulated. This called for a universal education system that would prepare for self-governance.

1827-1942

There were three main types of schools in Singapore:

- MALAY SCHOOLS** – provided free for all students by the British
- CHINESE AND TAMIL SCHOOLS** – taught respective mother tongues.
- ENGLISH SCHOOLS** – set up by missionaries, and students had to pay school fees

1997-2000s

The Singapore education system started to evolve into an ability-driven one after then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong outlined his "Thinking Schools, Learning Nations" vision. More emphasis was given to national education, creative thinking, collaborative learning as well as ICT literacy.

1980s

Singapore's economy started to prosper, and the focus of Singapore's education system shifted from quantity to quality. More differentiation for pupils with different academic abilities was implemented, such as provision of streams and gifted programmes.

1960

The bilingualism policy was officially introduced, making English the official language for both national integration and utilitarian purposes.

1950

The Teachers' Training College (TTC) was set up to train teachers. Non-graduates received a certificate while graduates who trained in the School of Education in the University of Malaya received a Diploma in Education.

1942-1945

During World War Two, many students in Singapore dropped out of school, causing a huge backlog of students after the war.

1823-1827

Sir Stamford Raffles founded the Singapore Institution (Raffles Institution) and the first teachers in 19th Century Singapore began teaching.

TEAM NIE - A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT!

Ricky Rueban S/o David John
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Special Projects Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

"Yellow Yellow Go!" What made Team NIE stand out in this year's NTU Inter School Games (ISG)? Why was Team NIE "A Formidable Opponent"? Read on to find out more about the yellow warriors of ISG 2014/5!



Congrats to TEAM NIE for achieving 2nd place out of the 14 schools in NTU!

TOUCH RUGBY & RACE RELAY

ISG 2014/5 saw the debut of these two new sports. Team NIE proved their fortitude by sweeping the gold medals for both. Interestingly, the team managed to secure their victories in the midst of a heavy downpour for the Touch Rugby finals and in the scorching sun for the Race Relay.



EXCEL SPREADSHEET

To form teams for the different sports, an excel spreadsheet link was made available to all NIE and SSM students a month before the commencement of the games. There was indeed an overwhelming response this season!

A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT

This was the first time Team NIE adopted a tag line to unite the players around a common goal. The players were truly formidable opponents, displaying great fortitude while not forgetting the basic values of sportsmanship and respect!

MEDALS GALORE

The members of Team NIE are not strangers to medals. In this edition of ISG, the team bagged a grand total of 10 medals out of 16 different sports.

-  Touch Rugby, Netball, Race Relay, Tennis, Volleyball
-  Captain's Ball, Futsal (Female)
-  Swimming, Floorball, Tchoukball

NADIA BINTE SHARIN

Team NIE's Most Valuable Player, Nadia, took part in Netball, Captain's Ball, Floorball and Futsal (Female). She was instrumental in clinching the victories for her team, and was also a role model for many of her peers through her constant motivation and the initiative to try new sports.



ISOTONIC DRINKS

This year, the sports secretaries of Team NIE implemented the idea of giving out isotonic drinks to the players after their games as a form of welfare, recovery and energy boost.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Every day without fail, members from the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) would come down to cheer for Team NIE. Sya Rostam, a player from Team NIE Futsal (Female) said, "The motivation provided by the supporters from TTC was unforgettable. Infinite thanks to them!"





TOILET PAPER? THINK TWICE!

Grace Wee

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

From 7-21 December 2014, 21 student teachers embarked on a journey to Yuksam Village in Sikkim (India)—a fast-growing tourist destination that is a gateway to major hiking routes in the region. This was part of Project Seva Mein Ekta, a two-week service-learning expedition.

Our team worked with the Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee to support their eco-tourism. This included website development, improvements to a visitor information centre and a programme to teach English to tourism operators and children.

Unlike most Singaporean urbanites, reusing, recycling, minimizing and sorting waste were a significant part of their daily life. It was a humbling experience for us as we learnt about the conservation practices in the community. We were inspired and became more

conscious about managing our waste. To minimize waste, we even had to think twice about how much toilet paper to use (if at all)!

One notable challenge was filling two bean bags donated by a Singapore enterprise, Doob Beanbags, for the village's information centre. Instead of using the conventional material, styrofoam beads, to fill the bean bags, our team took an eco-friendly alternative. Large quantities of used plastic, such as snack wrappers obtained from the village's recycling centre, were used to fill the bean bags. The plastic were laboriously shredded, washed and dried by the team and the villagers over a span of two weeks.

Our team is thankful for the experience we had in Sikkim and for all the people who made our experience there so incredibly enriching.



“The people in Sikkim have incorporated green efforts seamlessly into their everyday lives...I find it admirable for them to do it so easily...I used to be very laid-back and ignorant about being green but this trip has made me want to do more for Mother Earth.”

- *Calice Chan* (Dip, Special Ed.)

Photos by Nurul Afina Eddy

TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB (once/week)

TTC is like a council or executive committee for NIE. It organises a range of social, sports, cultural and educational activities for NIE student teachers to promote vibrant student life.

Events/Activities:

Welfare Pack Giveaway, Valentine's Day, T-shirt Sales, Graduation Bash, Freshmen Orientation Camp, VOICES



BACHELOR OF ARTS CLUB (adhoc)

BA Club is a club in NIE that reaches out to the community through the various activities. Our events expose and let NIE student teachers experience Arts-related activities which can be adapted for usage in their future schools.

Events/Activities:

Valentine's Day, Learning Festival, Freshmen Orientation Camp.



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE CLUB (once/week)

BSc Club organizes a huge range of fun and enjoyable events for all students which usually have a Science-related slant.

Events/Activities:

Night Cycling, Singing Competition, Stargazing, Community Projects with children, Blood Donation Drive, Food Trails



CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CLUB (adhoc)

CLEAR Club represents Chinese specialization student-teachers and promotes the appreciation of the Chinese language and culture both within and outside of NIE.

Events/Activities:

Chinese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, Singing Competition



CLUB JEUX (once/week)

'Jeux' is a French word for 'Game'. This club enhances the vibrancy of the NIE campus, by providing an avenue for student teachers to de-stress, have fun and network with other teachers through board games.

Events/Activities:

Overnight Board Games Sessions, Game of the Week, Amazing Race, Competitions



CLUBBING IN NIE!

School isn't just about studying. It's so much more! In this special feature, find out more about the various clubs in NIE - the commitment level, what the club does, and the events that they run. Join in the vibrancy of the clubs here at NIE and make the most of your school life!

DANCEFUZION (once/week)

DanceFuzion provides a platform for student teachers to learn dancing and expose them to the dance scene. Those with no dance background are welcome to join!

Events/Activities:

Annual Dance Showcases, Flash mobs



FOOD AND CONSUMER SCIENCES CLUB (adhoc)

FCS is family oriented. We believe in giving back to society with compassion, and providing fun learning workshop as our service for our NIE community. Get priority in our workshops when you join as a member!

Events/Activities:

Baking, Cupcake Decoration, Scrapbooking and Sushi Making workshops, Food Donation Drive



MALAY LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY (adhoc)

MLCS works towards the preservation of the Malay language and culture, thus promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of this culture. It is a club under NTU, thus including students from schools in NTU other than NIE.

Events/Activities:

Hari Raya celebrations, Community Projects with students, Cultural Festivals



SERVICE LEARNING CLUB (once/week)

SLC carries local and overseas learning projects in order to help NIE students develop the spirit of volunteerism, sharing and civic responsibility.

Events/Activities:

Community projects and Youth Expedition Projects

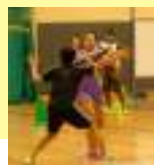


PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS SCIENCE CLUB (once/month)

PESS Club promotes sports and sporting culture within and also beyond the NIE community. This includes organizing sports events, workshops and carnivals, and partnering external organisations to leverage on their expertise in sports.

Events/Activities:

Netball Carnival, NIE Sports Competitions, Family Day, PESS T-shirt Sale



TAMIL LANGUAGE CLUB (once/fortnight)

TLC promotes knowledge, appreciation, awareness and understanding of the Tamil Language and Indian Culture through organizing events both within and outside of NIE. It is an avenue for students to exhibit their leadership skills in the planning and execution of events.

Events/Activities:

Deepavali, Pongal, Indian Cultural Day, Valentine's Day, Chinnanajiru Maedai



BIRTHDAY SURPRISE GUIDE

• Zoe Chan
• Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts
• (Education)

Birthdays are special occasions, and we want to make each one memorable and fun-filled! The obvious way is, of course, a birthday surprise! However, these may sometimes be nightmares to plan. Too much work and too little time? Always having the same routine for every birthday? Indeed, celebrating birthdays in school can be repetitive and mundane. Fortunately, we have some tips to help you to create the perfect birthday surprise!

2. COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Miscommunication ruined the plan? To avoid that, create a group chat, be it on Facebook Messenger, Whatsapp or Telegram to keep everyone up to date. It also becomes more convenient to distribute roles and find common time slot in your timetables. To prevent the surprise from being ruined by peeping side-glances, don't name your group "So-and-so's Birthday Surprise" – pick an inconspicuous emoji instead!

1. THE FACEBOOK REMINDER

As cliché as it sounds, the first step to a successful birthday surprise is to remember the date. Admit it, there are times where we rely on Facebook to remind us of our friend's birthday. How to overcome forgetfulness? Mark the date on the calendar in your phone and set an alarm as a reminder. You can choose to configure the alarm to ring from one day to a week prior to the actual date. Say goodbye to last minute panic attacks!

3. ALL ABOUT THAT CAKE

Everyone cheers, the party poppers go off and... there's no birthday cake. What's a birthday celebration without cake? Understandably, many of us do not have time to travel out of school. Not to worry, here are some places within the NTU Campus that you may buy cakes from:

1. Starbucks Coffee, Northspine
2. The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf
3. Art Pastry @ ADM

With cake comes great responsibility. Always remember lighters and candles! (Candle apps just won't do!)

4. HAND ME THE CARD AND NO ONE GETS HURT

That's right, handmade cards! No more Facebook notifications and text messages. Head down to the Popular Bookstore at Block 4-B1-10 to buy card materials. Popular Bookstore offers pretty card papers and stickers at an affordable price and range. Try to get everyone to write on the card early – surprises are often ruined by last-minute writing in front of the birthday boy/girl!

5. PICTURE PERFECT MEMORIES

What else could we possibly be missing? The camera of course! Be it your Smartphone camera, Digital camera, Fish eye lens, Polaroid or DSLR, you will need at least one of them for sure. Nothing beats capturing the perfect memory of a birthday surprise! And what's the point of the photo if you don't Instagram it? - Use apps like Photogrid, VSCOcam and Line Camera to filter and make your photos insta-worthy!

STARRY STARRY NIGHT

Chua Jia Xun
 Second-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)
 Logistics Head | Bachelor of Science Club

Have you gazed up at the night sky recently? Every night, stars and planets appear in the skies above us, dotting the celestial landscape like tiny sparkles. It is truly a beautiful sight. This year, the Bachelor of Science Club (BSc Club) partnered with Science Centre Observatory (SCOB) and NTU Astronomy Club (NTUASTRO) to bring this beautiful experience to NIE once again!

Despite overcast skies, participants could still admire the bright shine of Venus, as well as seeing beautiful Jupiter up close through telescopes set up by SCOB and NTUASTRO. One of the participants remarked that "It is so amazing to see Jupiters and its moons beside it! I've never seen a planet so clearly before and I was really really happy to be able to do so today!"

BSc Club also prepared a fun mini-activity for the participants - making their very own glow-in-the-dark rice coaster. They really enjoyed themselves while they designed their coaster with constellation-styled art.

Many participants enjoyed this year's stargazing event. Although it was disappointing to have overcast skies, taking time to relax with friends under the night sky was a rare and interesting opportunity for all.

Are you stargazing tonight?

Before you do so, take a look at some of these out-of-this-world astronomy facts!



Jupiter is the largest of the planets in the solar system. It has a volume that can engulf 1,321 Earths! Now that's big.



A day on Venus lasts longer than a year: Venus takes 243 Earth days to rotate once on its axis, but only 225 Earth days to orbit around the Sun.



Since the star Deneb is 1800 light years away, we see it as it was when the emperor Septimus Severus was ruling the Rome (AD 200)



Photo by Tan Jia Ying

A MEHH-RY NEW YEAR!

Desiree Ang Ee Chin
 Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
 Publicity Officer | Chinese Language
 Education And Research Club

Welcome to the Year of the Goat! This year, the Chinese Language Education And Research Club (CLEAR Club) and Students from Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching Programme (PGDELT) collaborated for the annual Chinese New Year celebration in NIE.

To liven the mood of the festive season, the God of Fortune made a surprise appearance in the canteen during lunch hours to give away 350

red packets, each filled with golden chocolate coins.

On the 7th day of Chinese New Year, also known as Common Men's birthday (人日), more than 150 NIE students and staff turned up for a celebration event held in the Student Hub. The event started off with a Lion Dance "Cai Qing" performance to welcome the arrival of our Guest of Honour, Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia. With dance performances, interactive games and a mass Lo Hei session, the concert was an unforgettable and joyous occasion, thus ushering in the year of the goat!



Goat Puns for Ewe?

Goat Xi Fa Cai,
 Oh My Goat,
 Stay Yang and Beautiful,
 Goat Year Goat Luck!,
 Have a Baaa-ountiful Year!,
 Kambing Home for CNY.



Photos by Kwok Fang Jie & Toh Wei Ting

NIE CANTEEN TIPS

Seetaram Panday S/o Ramanand Panday
Fourth-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)

“Behind every excellent institution is an excellent canteen,” a wise – and probably hungry – man once said. So why do you need to know more about NIE’s canteen? I’m sure you can tell your Nasi Lemak from your Nasi Padang. Being NIE’s only canteen, this canteen has its own culture, quirks and works. Read on!

CANTEEN LEFT

If you find yourself in a sea of bulging biceps and unavoidable neon-coloured wear – you better put that nugget down, because you have stumbled into the “PE area”. Don’t worry, we’re just kidding – this isn’t Mean Girls. Relatively empty and quiet, this is the best place to wolf down your lunch or study.



NOODLES STALL

The queue for this well-known stall sometimes resembles the noodles they serve: long, delicious, flavoured, smooth... maybe just “long” will do.

Auntie and Uncle’s FOUR COMMANDMENTS:

1. Know thy order (*bak chor mee, lor mee, prawn mee, fishball noodle*)
2. Know thy noodle (*mee pok, mee kia, chu mi fen, kway teow, lao shu fen*)
3. Know thy soup/sauces (*soup or dry – dry includes preferences for vinegar, ketchup and chilli*)
4. Know thy price



Photos from Memoirs of Food Blog

CANTEEN RIGHT

Here is the popular side of the canteen. No, it is not where the popular student teachers sit. It’s near Popular, the bookstore. You can eat your nugget here in peace. This place can be sunny in the day but cooling in the morning and evening.



MUSLIM STALL

Sedap! Great food served by charismatic and talented ladies!

Take note that Nasi Lemak, Mee Rebus, Mee Soto, noodle dishes and finger food can be ordered in a separate, shorter queue.

WESTERN STALL

An exceedingly popular stall with loads of variety, and it’s also hala! It’s the food stall that stays open the latest so it’s great if you have classes that end late.

Uncle’s TOP TIPS:

- Know which queue you are in. There are four different types of queues at this stall:
 1. Finger Food Queue
 2. Payment Queue
 3. Food Collection Queue
 4. Sandwich and Salad Queue
 5. Autograph Signing Queue. (OK, scratch this one out.)
- Know your order and prepare your cash.
- Decide whether you’re taking away or having here!

TEROKA SI CILIK

Mohamed Durrani Bin Bidin

Third-Year, Sport Science & Management
NTU Malay Language and Cultural Society

Many children today have unknowingly substituted their Mother Tongue with English, making it the common medium of speech. Malay children can be frequently seen conversing among themselves in English, and this can be extended to the times where they are at home with their family. Thus, the event of 'Teroka Si Cilik' was organised with the aim to cultivate the love for Malay Language among the primary school students involved.



Photos by Nadzirah Azauddin & Muhammad Shybre

The event managed to capture the students' interest as they played the various educational games that embedded elements of the Malay Language with sheer enthusiasm. Great effort and time was dedicated to promoting the event through colourful online posters and a fascinating trailer that was created in hopes of grabbing the attention of the teachers and students prior to the event. The outcome was an overwhelming response where schools decided to send in two teams instead of one.

RENTAK BUDAYA

Muhammad Hairulnizam Bin Samsudin

Third-Year, Linguistics & Multilingual Studies
NTU Malay Language and Cultural Society



Rentak Budaya is the first cultural festival organised by the NTU Malay Language & Cultural Society, in an effort to combine Malay arts, culture and heritage targeted for the public. Held at Malay Heritage Centre on 31st January 2015, the festival consisted of different cultural booths, vendors and performing arts that were enjoyed by the massive crowd of public audience and participants.

The cultural booths were planned by the different student organisations from the local universities, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU) and National University of Singapore (NUS). The cultural booths had interactive activities that showcased the film history, crafts and traditional games of the Malay community. These booths managed to gather different people of the public, including foreigners

who wanted to learn more about the Malay culture.

Performances consisting of Malay Dance, Silat, Gamelan, Dikir Barat and Drama were ongoing throughout the event. Additionally, the whole atmosphere was livened up further by external vendors who sold food and items that were in line with the cultural theme. The whole event was then wrapped up with the painting of the communal batik piece by the public, performers and participants who shared a chance to paint a small section each.

Overall, the event was a huge success, beaming in an abundance of participants and audience. It was an event organized and headlined by youths for the public, giving them a platform to learn more about the Malay culture and express their love for the Malay arts.



Photos by Siti Shafiqah Walid

TLC'S CULTURAL SPREE!

- Buvaneshwary Ilangovan
- Second-Year, Diploma in Education
- Editor and Publications Officer |
- Tamil Language Club

Chinnanjiru Maedai

Held among the primary school students since 2003, Chinnanjiru Maedai is an annual talent competition organized by the NIE Tamil Language Club (TLC). Since its debut, the competition has gained plenty of support from primary schools and is regarded as a pillar in providing young students with the opportunity to showcase their talents on stage. Our event was first spearheaded during the month of the Tamil Language Festival. The event was successfully hosted by TLC for the 12th consecutive year on 4 April 2015, graced by Mr Vikram Nair, Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC (Admiralty).

In line with the idea of promoting spoken Tamil among primary school students through innovative means, we incorporated and emphasized on spoken Tamil through the means of theatre. NIE TLC also attempted to expose the 5 finalist groups to the essence of drama by conducting a drama workshop for them. Chinnanjiru Maedai was so successful that it was published on Tamil Murasu, a local Tamil language newspaper.



Indian Cultural Day

The Indian culture is a unique one indeed. Specifically, the South has its own distinct culture. Through Indian Cultural Day, TLC sought to share the exquisiteness of the oldest Indian culture within the NIE community.

On 18 March 2015, several booths were set up in NIE to showcase the different significance of the Indian tradition. There were booths to display the Indian traditional Wear, traditional Jewellery, henna and kolam. At these booths, NIE staff and students had the opportunity to explore several Indian traditions. They also tried to doodle the Kolams and put on the traditional costumes themselves.

Pongal Celebration

TLC had our very own mini Pongal Celebration at the linkway between Blk 2 and Blk 3 on 28 January 2015. Pongal is a Tamil harvest festival that is celebrated over four days. We took this opportunity to showcase the different events celebrated during the Pongal festival. TLC distributed the Indian savoury 'Pongal' to the students and staff who visited our booth on the festival. A photobooth was also set-up to treasure the fun memories we had.





UPCOMING

CLUB
EVENTS

NIE T-SHIRT SALES
WELFARE PACK
SHINE GIVEAWAY
SINGING TEACHERS'
COMPETITION DAY
MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
INSOMNIAC FOOD
SCIENKIDZ DRIVE
COOKING & BAKING
WORKSHOPS LEARNING
SERVICE FEST
LEARNING PROJECTS



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NIE Wellness Centre

The NIE Wellness Centre provides psychological and counselling services to National Institute of Education student teachers, Nanyang Technological University students and to the general public offering affordable psychological services and counselling 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.pis.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 21 at the National Institute of Education.

