



An Institute of Distinction

VOICES

ISSUE
30
2016

A PUBLICATION OF TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB

NIE LINGO CROSSWORD

Put your NIE knowledge to the test by trying out this crossword!



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PRACTICUM DIARIES

What's practicum all about? Seniors tell us about their experiences.



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CAMPUS FACILITIES

With our handy campus guide, you'll be navigating the school compound like a pro!



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GLORY GLORY NIE

NIE topped the podium in the annual Inter-School Games after putting up a tough fight with the other schools!

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CULTURAL COVERAGE

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6 QUESTIONS WITH A/P LIM KAM MING

What's A/P Lim's favourite movie series? Find out this and more!

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INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

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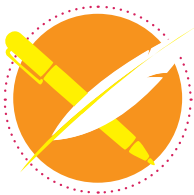


NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

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EDITOR'S



NOTE

Dear readers,

Welcome to the start of new semester! I hope you've had a good break and are raring to start school again.

To all the freshmen, a huge welcome to the teaching fraternity! This issue is all about easing you into school. When I entered NIE a year ago, I remember getting lost countless of times during my first week. That's why we've put together a campus guide (p. 4) so that you can find your way around school easily. Your seniors also dished out some advice for you—flip to page 7 to read all about it.

School's not all work and no play. Plug into our vibrant student life by being involved in school activities! You can be an NIE athlete at the Inter-School Games (p. 5), or a singing sensation in the SHINE Singing Competition (p. 12). I'm sure there's something that suits your interest! Stay tuned for the upcoming Club Fair where you can find out more.

Seniors, we did not forget about you! Wondering about what to expect for your practicum stints? Check out Practicum Diaries (p. 16), or read about our globetrotting students and their international

practicum experiences (p. 10). You can also try out the NIE Lingo Crossword (p. 13) to see how much you really know about school!

As VOICES celebrates our 30th issue, we would also like to remember Carissa Abidin (1992–2016), who served as the Publications Officer in the 23rd TTC. She spearheaded the revamp of this magazine, and it is only fitting that we honour her contributions. Carissa, this issue's for you.

May all you readers enjoy this issue as much as I did collating it. Work hard, but also remember to have fun and appreciate the people around you! Wishing everyone a great semester ahead!

Choo Mei Fang

*Editor-in-Chief
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
25th Trainee Teachers' Club*

6 QUESTIONS WITH A/P LIM KAM MING

Read on to find out more about A/P Lim's favourite movie series, ideal dinner partner, and most memorable career moments!



ABOUT

What is your favourite quote?

Being a Star Wars fan, it would be "May the Force be with you". I've been a fan since the very first movie in the 1970s. I also enjoy collecting figurines, especially those of R2-D2.

If you could dine with anyone in the world, who would it be?

President Barack Obama. I have great respect for his achievements. What I would want to learn from him is his post-presidency plans and how he would want to continue to help both the USA and the international community. I believe that I would be able to learn so much from his vision, leadership and humility.

If I could, I would also bring him to Lau Pa Sat to try some hawker delights like char kway teow. He is not someone with airs, so I'm sure he would enjoy that.

What is the best piece of advice you've received?

My former mentor back in the USA once told me something to this effect, "Never let poverty define the limit of your success. And whenever it is possible in the future, help others who are in the same situation." It helped me to realise that success is based on one's effort instead of the circumstances of their birth.

What is your favourite career moment thus far?

I have been in NIE for 19 years now. My favourite moments are when I meet former students who are doing well in their teaching careers. It is a bonus if they tell me that they still remember my classes or how I have helped them to be better teachers.

I recently met a former student at the NIE Postgraduate Fair and she shared that some of her former classmates and her still talk about how my courses, which they took back in 2004, have helped them in their teaching career.

Complete the sentence: Life is all about...

the balance of helping others and yourself. But then helping others is helping yourself and helping yourself is helping others. What a better world it would be if this helpful sphere of life is contagious with everyone.

Any final words for the students of NIE?

Stay true to your reasons for wanting to be teachers. Every child can learn and want to learn. Help them to the best of your abilities. Help them to help

ROLE:

Associate Dean,
Programme Planning &
Management, Office of
Teacher Education

PORTFOLIOS INCLUDE:

Plans and implements
teacher education
programmes

Reviews and enhances
teacher education
curriculum

Works with the Ministry of
Education on admission,
curriculum and policies
related to teacher
education

themselves to achieve to the fullest potential of their abilities. Remember to help each other as teachers. Help yourself too—teaching for all its good work can at times be exhausting. Teaching will indeed be a most rewarding and helpful profession.

And finally... May the Force be with you.

NAVIGATING NIE

Freshmen, are you worried you'll get lost within the NIE campus? Here's a visual map with all the important facilities in school, so that you can find your way around.

GRAPHICS: MARCUS CHAY

1 STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE

A one-stop service centre that caters to the administrative needs and general enquiries of students and alumni. Here, you can submit your Medical Certificates, book a student hub facility, and locate the Lost & Found counter.

1 UNITY IN DIVERSITY (U:D)

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 to collect your concession cards.

2 NIE WELLNESS CENTRE

Provides affordable psychological services and counselling for students and staff from NIE or NTU, and to the general public.

3 POPULAR BOOKSTORE

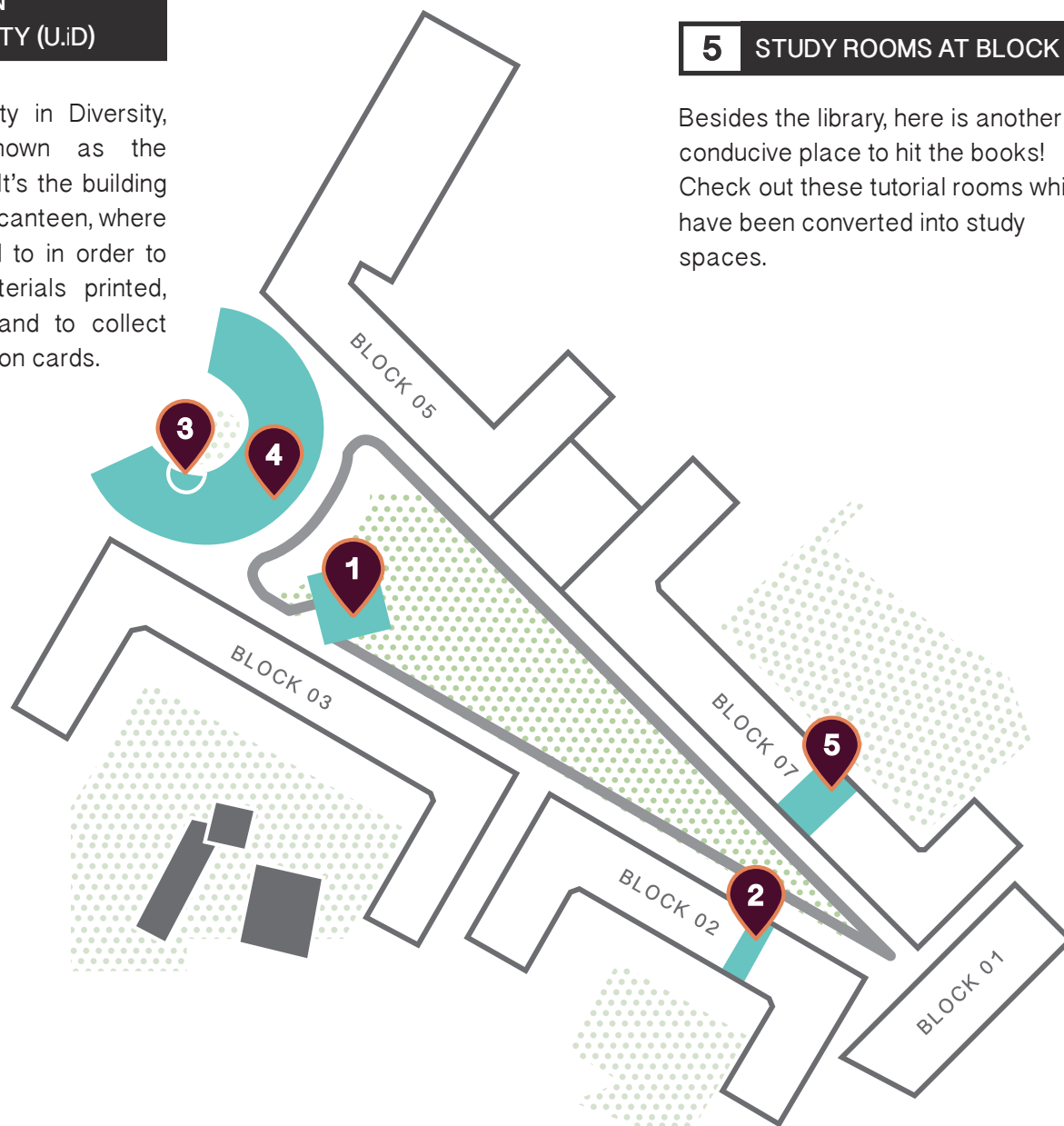
Sells textbooks, stationery and snacks for you to munch on during long lectures.

4 LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES CENTRE (LIBRIS)

Besides finding reference books, you can also print or photocopy your assignments and study materials here. You can book a discussion pod to have your group meetings, or chill with your friends at Cafe Hotshot on the left wing of level three, which serves beverages and desserts at affordable prices!

5 STUDY ROOMS AT BLOCK 7

Besides the library, here is another conducive place to hit the books! Check out these tutorial rooms which have been converted into study spaces.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

Syahiratul Wathiqah Binte Wathrus Shurul
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
25th TTC Special Projects Officer/
NIE ISG Organising Committee Overall In-Charge

The Inter-School Games (ISG) 15/16 was a university-wide sporting event held annually for all students during the semester 1 break. A special committee consisting of representatives from all constituent academic clubs in NTU and NIE were at the helm of the ISG 15/16.

ISG aims to celebrate sports excellence within NTU and NIE, and to unite the students in the spirit of friendship and sportsmanship. NIE has been known for our athletic skills and sportsmanship throughout the years that we have participated in the games, and behold, NIE emerged as overall champions for ISG 15/16!



PHOTOS: NTU ISG 2015/16 ORGANISING COMMITTEE



This achievement would not be possible without all 204 NIE athletes who participated in the respective 16 sports, which were led by proficient and conversant sports captains.

On behalf of NIE ISG Organising Committee, consisting of myself, Muhammad Sufri Bin Ramli (PESS Club Chairperson AY15/16), Victoria Woo (PESS Club Special Projects Officer AY 15/16), Joel

“ I enjoyed the entire ISG experience and it was a great platform for me to connect with my schoolmates. I strongly believe that sports is able to bring people together, and that was exactly what ISG achieved. I am honoured to be able to represent NIE!

Sarah Chu Mun
Year 2, Dip (Ed)
NIE's Most Valuable Player

“ ISG is a great platform not just to interact as a sporting team, but also to showcase our sporting spirit and endeavours. It's a great opportunity to hone one's competitive spirit!

Luke Yit Ming En, Year 3
BSc, Sports Science and Management

Wei Mao Jie (PESS Club Deputy Special Projects Officer AY 15/16) and Choo Siok Hui (SSM Society President AY 15/16), a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to this victory in one way or another and congratulations to Team NIE!

We hope to see you in ISG 16/17 and carry the Champion Shield together once again!



THE ART OF LOVE

Here's how two clubs in NIE celebrated the occasion of love!

Shafiq Rafi

Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)
Chairperson | BA Club

Love was definitely in the air this past Valentine's Day at NIE. The canteen was filled with saccharine songs of love, courtesy of the Song Dedication Booth set up by the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Club. Many came down and requested songs, expressing love and appreciation for friends or colleagues.

"I think it's a sweet idea especially when dedications to your friends are unexpected," gushed first-year student Lorraine Soon when asked about the sentiment behind the event.

Extending the theme of "Language of Love", BA Club also organised a tote bag design competition for student teachers. The top three winning designs were specially printed for sale.

Indeed, this was an unprecedented expression of love through contemporary art, music and fashion.



BA Club



PHOTOS: SHAFIQ RAFI

Dance Fuzion



Nur Khairunnisa Bte Jawahir

Second-Year, Bachelor of Science (Ed)
Publications Officer | DanceFuzion

DanceFuzion performed with friends from the Bachelor of Science Club in a Valentine's Day Flashmob to bring cheer and liven up the atmosphere of NIE. The aim was to celebrate Valentine's Day with both staff and students. To prepare for the event, the performers met twice a week to practise the dance in hopes of making the performance successful.

The dance was a surprise to those present in the NIE canteen. Performers danced along with bright red roses which were later given to the unsuspecting audience. This event ended with talented musicians who serenaded the crowd.

DanceFuzion is happy to bring joy and smiles to the student population!



PHOTOS: NUR KHAIRUNNISA BTE JAWAHIR

DEAR JUNIORS,

Starting school in a whole new environment can be daunting! Fret not – from academics to school life, here's some advice that seniors from the various majors have for you:



Low Si Hui
Year 4, BA (Ed)
AS: Music

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said, "A goal without a plan is just a wish." Always plan your time ahead to avoid cramming at the last minute!

Mitchell Low
Year 4, BSc (Ed)
AS 1: Bio | AS 2: Chem

The professors and lecturers are friendly, so seek help from them if you need to! Remember to study hard and play hard - you'll enjoy your university life!



Lin Jia Ning
Year 4, BA (Ed)
AS 1: Chi | AS 2: Chi Lit

Come in ready to learn and enjoy. Feel free to approach any seniors, we will be glad to help. Be mindful that it's not an easy journey but you will definitely gain friendship and skills along your way in NIE. All the best!



Filzah Hamzah
Year 2, BA (Ed)
AS 1: Malay | AS 2: Malay Lit

Life as a student can get quite stressful, so immerse yourself in student life by joining a CCA that interests you!

Not only will you get to meet a community of like-minded people, but it will also help to make your school experience more colourful and enjoyable.



Zoe Chan
Year 3, BA (Ed)
AS 1: History | AS 2: English

One of the best places to study or simply chill in NIE is the 3rd level of the library!

Aircon, sofa seats and food :)



Jermayne Wong
Year 2, Dip (Ed)
CS 1: PE | CS 2: Math

At the canteen, my personal favourite comfort food is the macaroni from the chicken rice stall! Add vegetables for the perfect combo!



Syafiqah Eddie
Year 2, BA (Ed)
AS: English

Make friends with your seniors so that you can get your textbooks at a cheaper price, or even for free! Also, create study groups so that you can motivate one another and clarify your doubts when studying.

SLC MOVIE NIGHT

Jo-Anne Seet
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Chairperson | Service Learning Club

To mark the beginning of our meaningful and fun-filled events this year, SLC organised a Movie Night for friends to gather and be inspired by the life of renowned Butet Manurung. Lighted only with the dimness of fairy lights and glow-in-the-dark stars, the cool darkness of the lecture theatre transformed itself into an atmosphere of serenity- ideal for learning and reflection to take place.

Together, we were transported into the jungled world of a woman who knew only compassion and perseverance.



PHOTO: JO-ANNE SEET

THROUGH THEIR LENSES

Project Synthesis started off as a service learning project from the Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) module. Helmed by Year Two students Jo-Anne Seet and Amanda Chin, it has even been mentioned in *The Straits Times* and on the *Humans of Singapore* account! VOICES speaks to Jo-Anne, who shares more about the project.

ABOUT: Twenty students from the Degree programme partnered with Healthserve (a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping migrant workers), and raised funds to sponsor 50 migrant workers and provide them with a disposable camera.

After a photography course was conducted in their dormitory, the workers went around to take photos in their work and living spaces. The photos were eventually developed and collated into an exhibition.

VOICES: What is Project Synthesis?

We aim to create awareness of the individuality of the Indian and Bangladeshi workers in Singapore by allowing the public to view life through their lens.

What pushed both of you to carry on with this project after GESL?

Along the way we received much encouragement from people just as passionate about the migrant worker scene in Singapore. Our friendships with some of the migrants also compelled us further in wanting to share their stories with others.

What's the most rewarding aspect?

Definitely, our newfound friendships.

How have the reactions from the public been?

The public has been very supportive. Many have come forth to tell us that they have been touched by the migrant workers' stories. Others have volunteered to come on board to help us further the awareness we are creating.

How do both of you see this progressing in the future?

Ultimately, we hope to plant the seed of empathy for these workers in as many Singaporeans as possible. For now though, we intend to focus on having more exhibitions around Singapore and presenting our experiences with migrant workers in schools.

PHOTOS: JO-ANNE SEET



(ABOVE) GESL members with the migrant workers.

(RIGHT) Jo-Anne Seet and Amanda Chin at the photo exhibition.





TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB

Written by:
Choo Mei Fang
Second-Year,
BA (Ed)
Publications
Officer | Trainee
Teachers' Club

Clockwise (from above):
Freshmen Orientation Camp 2015, Club
Fair, Welfare Pack Giveaway, T-Shirt Sales

The Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) organises a range of social, sports, cultural and educational activities for NIE student teachers. We also strive to promote student vibrancy and serve as a platform for students to voice their concerns and feedback about the school. Some events we have organised include welfare pack giveaways, t-shirt sales and the freshmen orientation camp! The main role of TTC is to promote and safeguard the interests and welfare of student teachers in NIE.

Take a look at what we've done in the past academic year! To find out the latest happenings in school, 'like' us at [facebook.com/niettc](https://www.facebook.com/niettc) or follow us on Instagram (@niettcsg). We look forward to organising bigger and better events for you this year!

TAKE A TR-IP

What is it like to teach in a different country for five weeks? VOICES speaks to Noah Zhang and Lin Siyue, who share more about their International Practicum!

Den-mark's the Spot

By: Noah Zhang
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

FACT SHEET

WHERE: VIA University College,
Denmark

SCHOOL: Marslet School

TIMELINE: 7 weeks, inclusive of 2
weeks of winter break



“ I went for my international practicum with VIA University College (Denmark), and it was an incredibly meaningful experience during my attachment with Marslet School. Beyond just understanding and familiarizing myself with the nature and context of my learners, I emerged with a greater appreciation of the Danish education system, which focuses on learning and inclusiveness.

Differentiation Law

Unlike in Singapore where secondary school students are streamed according to their academic competencies, the Danish government has institutionalised a 'Differentiation Law'. This law forbids schools from grouping students by their grades. I thought managing a class of students with diverse abilities would be a daunting experience, but it turned out otherwise.

During my first history lesson with a Grade 8 (equivalent to Secondary 2) class, I conducted a class discussion about why it was a difficult decision for Singaporeans in the past to move out of their squatter settlements. However, one student – who had an apparent learning disability– cried abruptly and left the class. I presumed he was upset because I did not include him during class discussion. However, it was revealed through my coordinating teacher that he wept because he was afraid and unwilling to share his ideas. She eventually encouraged him to share because he had some good ideas.

Developing Values

For many complex social and psychological reasons, it would never be easy for such students to participate in class. But this does not mean that they are any less capable in delivering insightful ideas. And even if they do not have the best answers, I am sure every step still counts in helping them develop better confidence and resilience.



PHOTOS: NOAH ZHANG

Party & Practicum in the USA

By: Lin Siyue
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)



FACT SHEET

WHERE: University of California, Santa Barbara

SCHOOL: Dos Pueblos High School

TIMELINE: 3 weeks of school, 2 weeks of winter break, 2 weeks of school

PHOTOS: LIN SIYUE

“ Everything I knew about the US Education System was probably from my teenage obsession with High School Musical (come on, we’ve all been through that phase), until I had the chance to experience it for myself during International Practicum. Here are some of my key takeaways:



How the US Education System differs from Singapore

If you thought that schools in US were all about cheerleaders and jocks versus nerds, you’re certainly wrong. Here are some differences I observed:

Students have a greater autonomy in their choice of subjects each semester. They can take unique subjects like Self-Defense, Sign Language, and even classes in the Engineering Academy which allow them to construct their own light sculptures. There is less standardization in materials, pedagogy and grading across a level. Teachers of different classes choose the materials and pedagogy they use. They also choose which assignments count towards their students’ final grades. In fact, class work and participation make up a much larger percentage of a grade there than it does here.

Learn something from everybody you meet

When you go on practicum, it’s not just your cooperating teacher and only one class of students you’ll interact with. The education system is made up of so many more people than that! Some others I’ve met included university professors, school board members and principals.

Interacting with the different stakeholders in the education system gave me new perspectives. If you’re going on international practicum, I also encourage you to request to follow a student around for a day – you’ll definitely learn a lot!



Be a proud ambassador for Singapore and our education system!

Not many people know much about this tiny red dot, so it’s up to us to be an ambassador for our country! Whether it’s through formal presentations or daily conversations, don’t forget to weave in facts about Singapore and about the education system here. It’s not just about learning from them but also sharing about what we have experienced at home.



From 27 February to 4 March, 21 degree students went to Phong Thanh, Vietnam, for the inaugural Service and Leadership Training (SALT) Programme. Andre Ng shares his experience:

During this trip, each team member was actively involved in various aspects of planning of the trip, as well as the actual, practical teaching in schools during the trip.

We were divided into smaller groups and assigned to five different schools at a village about four hours outside Ho Chi Minh City. Within our smaller groups, we had the opportunity to plan our lessons before delivering them during the trip. As each team

had only four to five members, each of us had the chance to contribute our ideas during the planning stage, before teaching the lessons when we were there.

In addition to working with the children, we had a close partnership with several Vietnamese students from the university who were studying English and planned on being teachers after graduating.

They were more than just our translators or cultural guides,

but were also a group with whom we could interact and learn from throughout the trip.

One of my favourite moments was when we were playing with the students during their recess break in between class time. Although some of the students were quiet and shy at first, they genuinely welcomed us to join in the game with them, despite the language barrier. In that simple game of dodgeball, I was reminded to be grateful and not to overlook the simple things.

SING YOUR HEART OUT

- Zhao Na
- Diploma in Chinese Education
- Logistics Head | CLEAR Club

The annual SHINE Singing Competition returned with its 5th season in 2015! It is an annual Chinese singing competition for NIE students who have a passion for singing.

It aims to promote learning and understanding of Chinese culture through Chinese songs and music, and to build cohesion by bringing all students, NIE staff and alumni together. It is also a good platform for students of NIE to showcase their talents.

Do you have what it takes to be a singer? Do you live for the applause? Then stay tuned for the next SHINE Singing Competition, where you can unleash your vocals and find yourself on stage, right where you belong!



PHOTO: CLEAR CLUB

“ This competition provided me with the opportunity to pick up the microphone and perform on stage again. It was a great experience whereby I shared my love for music with my fellow course mates.

Teo Yao Lu
PGDE (Sec)

NIE LINGO

CROSSWORD

GRAPHICS: MARCUS CHAY

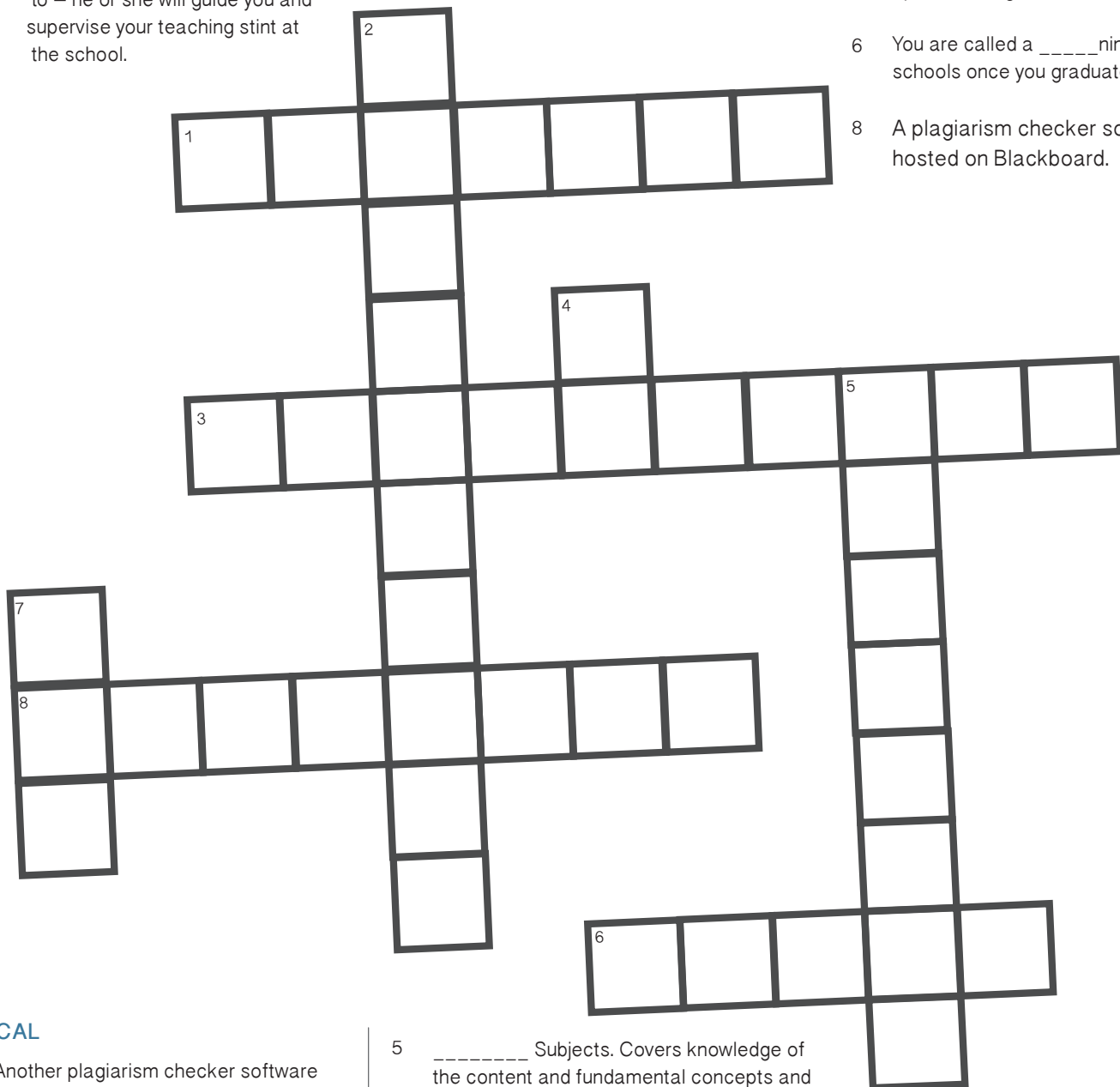
Ng Xing Hwee
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Every student teacher on practicum will have a Cooperating _____ to report to – he or she will guide you and supervise your teaching stint at the school.

HORIZONTAL

- 3 A portal for student teachers to access learning materials, and upload assignments
- 6 You are called a _____ning Teacher in schools once you graduate from NIE.
- 8 A plagiarism checker software hosted on Blackboard.



VERTICAL

- 2 Another plagiarism checker software hosted on Blackboard.
- 4 Initials for a type of subject which helps to reinforce subject content mastery for teaching
- 5 _____ Subjects. Covers knowledge of the content and fundamental concepts and principles.
- 7 Initials for Office of Teacher Education, which handles all Initial Teacher Preparation programmes.

CULTURAL COVERAGE



MONKEY BUSINESS

Ho Shengquan
PDGE (Sec)
Assistant Secretary | CLEAR Club

It was no doubt a joyous occasion on 17 February as staff and student teachers of NIE celebrated the Lunar New Year. Preparations started way back in January. The launch of the 'Count The Monkey Game', with posters in various locations within NIE, along with the appearance of the God of Fortune during lunch breaks, roused the NIE population's anticipation for the festive season and its celebration.



PHOTOS: CLEAR CLUB

The much-anticipated day came, and our emcees, Darren Yeo and Wang Mian took the stage and roused the audience with stage games. It has always been a tradition for an emcee from CLEAR Club to co-host the event with a counterpart from the Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching (PGDELT) programme. This year, both emcees proved to be a dynamic duo!

Guest-of-Honour A/P Liu Woon Chia, Dean of Teacher Education, graced the event together with other esteemed guests, staff and student teachers of NIE. It was a full house! The lion dance troupe also made a spectacular appearance at the event and dazzled the audience, followed by performances staged by Dancefuzion and PGDELT cohort. A framed Chinese calligraphy artwork was also presented to A/P Liu after the performances as a token of appreciation on behalf of the organizers of the event.

The highlight of the event was the lou hei segment, where all staff and student teachers dug into the sumptuous lunch spread. It was truly a day of feasting and bonding. For this, we have the NIE CLEAR Club, PGDELT, Office of Teacher Education and all who celebrated with us to thank!



ASAL

Nadzirah Binte Amir Hamzah
Third-Year, Linguistic and
Multilingual Studies
President | Malay Language
and Cultural Society



PHOTOS: SHAFIQAH WALID

ASAL 2016 is a biannual dance production organised by NTU Malay Language and Cultural Society's own dance group, BEZTARI. The team of 17 dancers put up a great show, which was 90 minutes long. This year, dancers performed with live music, which was unlike the previous productions. We collaborated with Orkestra Seni Temasek, led by Mr Megat Firdaus.

The concept for ASAL revolved around knowing our cultural roots and questioning how Malay customs are rarely practiced today due to modernization. Issues such as the applicability of the Malay Martial Art form Silat, the idea of gotong-royong (community spirit), the use of the Malay language and courtesy is questioned and portrayed in the six dance segments.

One segment required dancers to read Classical Malay poems, sing, rap, dance, and perform a monologue at the same time. According to feedback from the audience, they enjoyed that segment as they found it unique. In years to come, BEZTARI hopes to expand the scale of our production.

“ I am so proud of the dancers. Despite some starting off with zero dance experience, I saw how they (...) gave their best.

Md Firdaus
BEZTARI Captain

PONGAL PARTY

A Halima Begum
Second-Year, Post-Graduate Diploma in Education
Publicity and Publications Officer | Tamil Language Club

The annual celebration of Pongal, the Harvest Festival, was organised by the Tamil Language Club (TLC) on 27 January. The event took place at the linkway between NIE Block 3 and 4. Rangoli, a traditional pattern made of coloured rice and flour, was created on the floor to welcome guests.

Pongal (sweetened rice) was made on the spot at the event. Using earthen pots, Pongal was cooked in the traditional way using rice, sugar cane, jaggery, ghee, milk and cashew nuts. Both sweet and savory pongal was made. At the event, there were booths showcasing the ingredients used for making pongal as well as products related to the festival. Informative posters with interesting facts about the festival were also displayed in English and Tamil.

Visitors at the booths learnt valuable and interesting information about the festival, and brought home a small container of sumptuous pongal ordered specially from Ananda Bhavan restaurant to enjoy. It was indeed another joyous occasion following our Deepavali celebration last year.



PHOTOS: A HALIMA BEGUM

FOUR DAYS OF PONGAL

- 1 Bhogi:** the day used for cleaning and preparing the house for the festival
- 2 Thai Pongal:** the day most people celebrate Pongal
- 3 Maatu Pongal:** the day dedicated to cows
- 4 Kaanum Ponga:** the day dedicated to visiting family and friends

practicum diaries

Here's what to expect during your practicum stints!

Y1: School Experience

Name: Seah Jin Yang
Duration of Practicum: 13 - 24 July 2015
School: Yumin Primary & Junyuan Secondary
Subjects taught: English, Math, Social Studies

What // A two-week school experience, which focused on lesson observations and self-reflection in a primary school and a secondary school.

Best memory // Out-of-class activities such as painting SG50 murals in a HDB void deck for a community project, and performing with other teachers for a school concert. It showed me that the life of a teacher is not mundane and can be fun.

Advice? // Bring a notebook along as you might find it handy when you wish to jot down your observations and reflections in the school!

Y2: Teaching Assistantship

Name: Melissa Neo
Duration of Practicum: 29 June - 3 July 2015
School: ACS (Barker Road)
Subjects taught: Drama & Literature

What // A five-week stint to observe senior teachers conducting classes before doing assisted teaching.

Best memory // When students looked forward to my lessons. I created a series of lessons which incorporated drama techniques to help them better understand their literature text, Lord of the Flies. Students took control of their own learning and how they wanted to portray the different scenes.

Advice? // Remember your students' names to form a connection, as this would help greatly when you are looking to engage them.

Name: Teo Jun Young Crosby
Duration of Practicum: 29 June - 31 July 2015
School: Henry Park Primary School
Subjects taught: Physical Education & Math

What // Practicum is an opportunity for us to put our knowledge acquired in NIE into play. For me, it is also a time to put my passion into action.

Best memory // When students from my P3 PE class told me that they enjoyed the modified basketball game I planned for them, and hoped to play it again.

Greatest challenge // To engage students who are unwilling to learn.

Advice? // Practicum is a time for us to explore and be creative in our teaching. Take up the courage to step out of your comfort zone and try new things!

Name: Hilda Yeoh
Duration of Practicum: 22 Feb - 6 May 2016
School: Gan Eng Seng Primary School
Subjects taught: English, Math, Art

What // I had to develop about 8 to 10 lesson plans per week in addition to preparing resources, marking, attending pre- and post-lesson conferences with my CTs and doing relief classes.

Best memory // A P3 boy who had difficulty reading and writing got a classmate to write a note to me. In it, he thanked me for teaching him Math. This made all the hard work worthwhile!

Advice? // Find yourself a support group to talk, laugh and de-stress! Mine was made up of 3 other trainees—we had lunch together, spurred each other on and left encouragement post-it notes on each other's desks!

Y3: Teaching Practice 1

Y4: Teaching Practice 2

WHEEL-Y FUN NIGHT

Lee Aik Hao
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)
Chairperson | BSc Club



Weather too warm to cycle in the afternoon? No time to exercise due to a hectic academic schedule? BSc Club understands, and that's why we came up with Insomniac, NIE's very own night cycling event! What better way to exercise than to cycle alongside the scenic view in Singapore while breathing in the cool night air?



PHOTOS: VANESSA CHIN, YEO QUAN KAI

This year's Insomniac XV: Chilling in the City features a scenic route that allowed our participants to view Singapore in a different light. Participants started off by cycling along Marina Bay, before enjoying a cool midnight breeze at the top of Marina Barrage, and ending the event at Telok Ayer Market where they filled up their tummies with delicious food.

Of course, it's not all about cycling and eating. Participants were kept on their toes with a series of fun-filled activities planned by BSc Club. Through these games, new friendship bonds were forged as laughter and shouts filled the air.

As the night came to an end, participants were treated to a wonderful sunrise at East Coast Park. May the friendship forged through the night continue to shine as bright as the sun for years to come!

Psst, here's a heads-up for you readers- BSc Club will be organizing another run of Insomniac really soon. Do keep a look out for registration to open and prepare to join us on this great night of adventure!

FAULT IN OUR STARS

Tan Jia Ying
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)
Co-Welfare | BSc Club

Despite the heavy rain on the day of the BSc Stargazing event, it definitely did not dampen the mood of the participants!

The heavy rain was a blessing in disguise as the skies became much clearer, which enhanced the overall stargazing experience for the participants.

Telescopes provided by Science Centre Observatory (SCOB) were set up along the NIE Green Triangle as participants took turns to observe the different stars and constellation patterns. Friendly SCOB staff also

patiently answered the queries of our curious participants who were in awe of the majesty of the night sky. Participants even managed to catch a glimpse of Jupiter, which left many amazed.

They also had the chance to customize their own constellation jars with the help of our very own BSc Club members. Each jar was personally customized and the final product allowed everyone to bring a piece of the night sky back with them. The beginning of the event was no doubt a challenging one, but the magical surprises in the sky closed the event on a sweet note for everyone.



PHOTO: VANESSA CHIN

“I never knew we could see so many stars locally. It was really an enjoyable and engaging night!

Peh Shu Yu
Year 3, BA (Ed)



PHOTOS: WONG JINFA, TAN LAY ENG, GOH PHOEBE

SAVING TIGERS

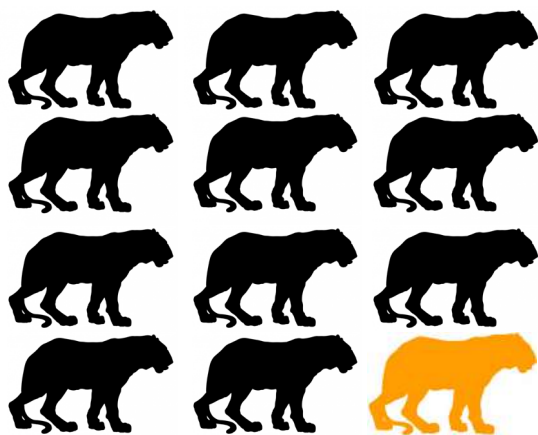
Wong Jinfa
 PDGE (Secondary)
 Leader

As a result of human activities, the earth today is facing an unprecedented degree of biodiversity loss. Threatened by shrinking habitats, forest fragmentation, poaching and illegal trade, only about 250 Malayan tigers are believed to remain. One poaching hotspot is the Sungai Yu Corridor in Pahang, Malaysia.

Fortunately, research has shown that ecotourism and recreational activities in wildlife areas are effective in deterring poaching activities. As part of the efforts in conserving the wildlife in Pahang, Malaysia, the NIE Service Learning Club (SLC) participated in the Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) Walks on 1 to 4 Dec 2015 and 7 to 10 Dec 2015. The walk is a trek in the

forest where we reported signs of illegal poaching to the authorities, helped in maintaining the camera traps and documented animal paw prints to monitor the presence and state of Malayan tigers and other wildlife in the area.

For the deterrence to be effective, the CAT walks have to be regularly conducted. If you are interested in doing your part, please contact SLC or A/P Vilma D’Rozario (NIE, Psychological Studies, vilma.drozario@nie.edu.sg), or visit www.citizenactionfortigers.my for more information. A team of eight only has to pay RM720/person for a 4D3N trip and RM562.50/person for a 3D2N trip. Go for a trek and join us in saving the tigers and our biodiversity!



LESS THAN **250** MALAYAN TIGERS
 REMAIN, DOWN FROM 3000 IN 1950S

“The time away from civilization allowed us to fully appreciate and soak in the wonders of the nature and the jungle. It was truly humbling and awe-inspiring.

Goh Phoebe
 Year 2, PGDE (PE)





NIE INSTALIFE

Check out all these activities happening around campus! From jump shots to sports lessons, looks like the Instagram community here had a great time in school. Follow us (@niettcsg) and hashtag #myNIElife on your photos and they might be featured in our next issue!





UPCOMING

CLUB
EVENTS

NIE T-SHIRT SALES
 SPORTS CARNIVAL
 REPARIO PASSION
 SERVICE AWARDS
 LEARNING PROJECTS
 DANCEFUZION PRODUCTION
 INDIAN WELFARE
 CULTURAL PACK
 DAY GIVEAWAY
 HARI RAYA CLUB
 SCIENKIDZ BAZAAR



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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.

