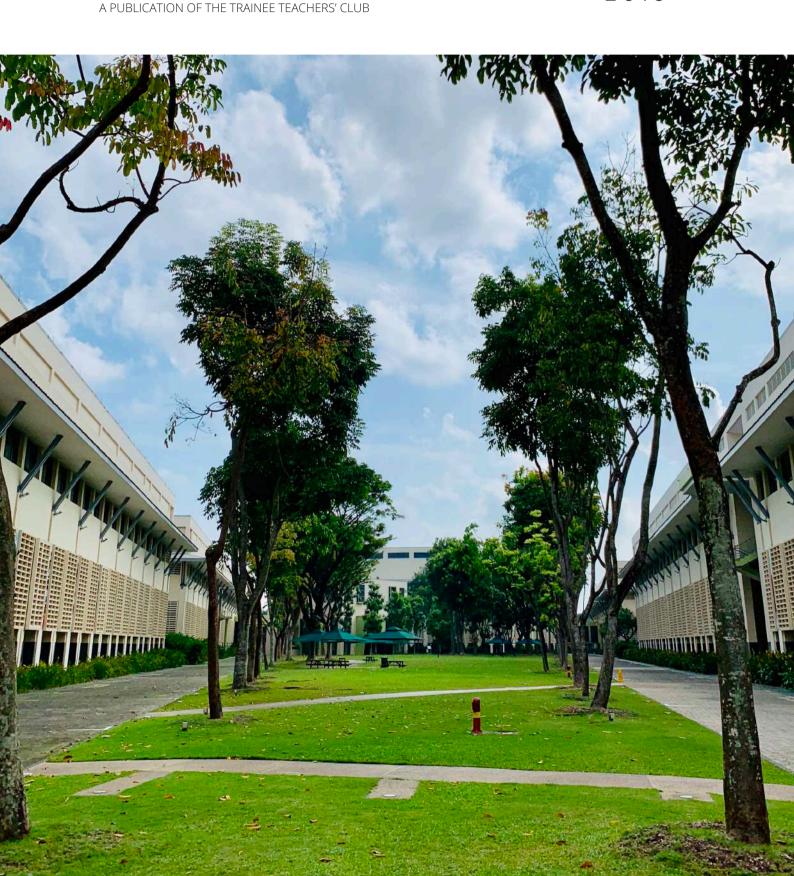




VOICES

36 2019



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A Note from the TTC President

When I first matriculated in NIE in 2017, I had no idea that I would live and breathe student life (or rather, make student life happen) for nearly two years. Though it was highly challenging, it was also extremely fulfilling and while you might not expect to find joy in extensive event planning, that was how I found friends and made my time worthwhile. Of course, there are the events themselves which are really excellent ways to disconnect from the tedium of school work and let your hair down for a bit.

The new Academic Year begins with a new issue of VOICES, which highlights our events and takes you for a brief but worthwhile journey to places abroad, introduces you to things old and new on campus, and provides insights on what it means to be a university student in NIE. I've always been proud of VOICES as an editorial highlight of our student body, and this time is no exception.

Welcome (back) to NIE!



Nicholas Teo President 28th Trainee Teachers' Club Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

From the Editor's Desk

"When I look up at the stars, I feel like I am looking at the universe.

But in fact, of course, I am the universe looking at itself."

– David Baker

A warm welcome to both our freshmen and our senior student teachers! A new semester is upon us — one I imagine is filled with a myriad of different emotions. We harken in the new academic year on this note of divine discontent — that threshold between gratitude for the events that have brought us thus far and a hunger to meet new challenges head on as we move from strength to strength.

This issue, we return with a cleaner, sleeker design. Issue 36 also features our evergreen favourites such as 'Travellers' and 'In the Spotlight', made possible through contributions from our student body. As always, VOICES also returns with student life coverage on the many happenings that contribute to the NIE experience.

As the new semester draws nearer, I am reminded that my term in this office is meeting its end. When I was elected as the Publications Officer of the 28th Teacher Trainee's Club, I had little experience with the nitty gritty of publishing. While I was the former Vice-Editor-in-Chief of my JC's journalism club, I did mostly writing and found refuge in the spaces between words, in the curl of a comma, and behind someone else's story.

My sentimental proclivities infused an irrevocable sense of poeticism into the act. When I wrote, I lived and re-lived the lives of the people I interviewed and even of individuals long gone whose memory I helped etch down into something just that bit more tangible.

But not all things last. And soon I found my penchant for wonder dissipating with a world-weariness that only the stresses of burgeoning adulthood can bring - something I reckon all of us feel from time to time.

But this is a reminder for us to stop for a little while and look up at the gentle twinkling of the stars that still shine despite our lightpolluted cities. Remember, even when despondency is easier, that there is so much more out there.



Crescencia Chay

Crescencia Chay Editor-in-Chief, VOICES 28th Trainee Teachers' Club Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

Student Life at NIE

Whether you're a limber dancer, a shower-curtain rockstar or a board game junkie, you can be sure that we've got something for you. Amidst the flurry of assignments and exam jitters, let these clubs and societies ease your transition into student life at NIE.



Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC)

TTC is the main Academic Constituent Club of NIE (i.e. the main student-run club) with 28 years and counting of history! The Club aims to serve, to provide, and to unite, and we do this mainly through our events year-round. We count NIE FOP, our Merchandise Sale, and Welfare events as our signature events for the whole student community, so don't miss out! Our Club is always looking for ways to improve — always toward #oneNIEcommunity!



The NIE Service Learning Club (SLC) upholds service learning and its principles for all student teachers; with an emphasis on pedagogy and reflection. In order to equip student teachers with the skills to carry out service learning activities in the classroom and beyond, the club organises and participates in various local and global service learning expeditions.



Club Arnex

Club Arnex aims to bring together NIE students from different walks of life to make new friends, expand their social network and bond over exciting activities. Over the years, the club has organised many activities which include special Valentine's Day celebrations, Motivation Day, Arts appreciation workshops and many more!

Club Sci.Napse

Formerly a club targeting BSc student teachers, Club Sci.Napse has been rebranded and extended to the entire student body in the hopes of spreading the wonder of science and discovery. Over the years, Club Sci.Napse has organised many exciting and fun-filled activities from Stargazing to Amazing Race-themed events.





Club Jeux

Inspired by a shared love of board and card games and the potential of using such games as a tool in the classroom, a group of student teachers in NIE launched Club Jeux in 2008. Driven by the belief in this alternative mode of instruction, Club Jeux strives to help student teachers discover the learning potential of games. Ever since, they have been encouraging a culture of gaming and gamification in education.

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Club

The Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Club aims to provide a platform to involve, enthuse, and encourage student teachers, the NTU student body, and members of the public take a step out of their comfort zones to experiment with and explore the visual and performing arts. Club members will developed an increased appreciation and competency in the various artforms through various art, music, and drama workshops.



DanceFuzion

Established in 2006, a group of student teachers who shared a passion and love for dance founded DanceFuzion. The club strives to provide a platform that is open to all student teachers, to expose them to the art of dancing and allow them to showcase their talents through various performances. Beginners and seasoned dancers are all welcome!



Chinese Language Education and Research (CLEAR) Club

Established in 2002, the Chinese Language Education and Research (CLEAR) Club was formed to unite student teachers majoring in the Chinese Language. CLEAR Club is a platform for its members to interact, exchange ideas and be exposed to different dimensions of the Chinese culture, with the intention of sharing it with the NIE community



The NIE Tamil Language Club is a self-initiated club which aims to help student teachers gain a better understanding of the rich Indian traditions, heritage and culture, uniting student teachers from various walks of life in the process.





Malay Language and Cultural Society (MLCS)

Boasting a team of dedicated and exuberant members, the Malay Language and Cultural Society (MLCS) invites club members from both NIE and NTU to participate in activities and festivals that celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the local and regional Malay and Muslim community.

Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS) Club

The Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS) Club seeks to promote an active sporting culture within and beyond the NIE community through organising various workshops and NTU/NIE related sports



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Food and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Club

The Food and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Club aims to bring NIE student teachers from various programmes together through a variety of events that involve food, craft and well-being. Many of these events centre on experiential 'hands-on' learning. Participants get the opportunity to pick up life skills and become more aware of healthy living.

Deixus

Established in 2018 by a group of student teachers on the Post-Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme, Deixus aims to bring together student teachers to address three main pillars: information management, differentiated learning, and external engagement. Through quarterly e-bulletins, the club exposes members to developments in educational technology and current affairs.

As a student-networking club, Deixus strives to inspire learning and strengthen the teaching community as a whole, even after students have graduated from the institution.



From hygge-inspired rest and relaxation to Gatsbyesque celebrations, the TTC aims to serve, to provide for, and to unite the NIE student body.

This semester's Welfare Pack Giveaway took on a slightly different turn, with comfort and community at the heart of the event. Inspired by the Danish concept of 'hygge' popularised in recent years, this semester's Welfare Pack Giveaway aims to promote both personal wellness and community spirit. Aside from the loots collected, we hope this event has provided everyone an opportunity to introspect inwardly and connect outwardly.



Follow us to recieve the latest updates!



@niettc



@niettcsg

Encouragingly, slightly more than 600 students attended this semester's event. This year's generous Marigold sponsored drinks were a major hit and queues were snaking its way through the U.iD Student Hub. Secondly, the tea reception buffet displayed at the entrance of the hub caught the attention (and fingers) of many, encouraging the students to consume some light snacks. Lastly, the encouragement board and the cosy corner were well-used by the students, providing a private respite from the occasional hubbub. Besides that, it is hoped that the laptop stickers are well-utilised and enjoyed as much as I did, designing them.

It brings great satisfaction and warmth to the committee in witnessing the joy on your faces during and after the event. From the bottom of our hearts, a big tak skal du have (thank you) to everyone who attended and helped out from the wee hours of the morning to make this event such a successful one!

Quek Yu Pin Welfare Officer, TTC 28th Management Committee



Organised by the 28th Trainee Teachers' Club, Reminiscing NIE: The Great Gatsby marked the first Graduation Night after a long hiatus. Held at Shangri-La Hotel, the graduating student teachers celebrated the end of their remarkable journey in NIE with a series of activities lined up for them and the creation of unforgettable memories.

This year's theme, "Reminiscing NIE: The Great Gatsby", wishes to take graduating student teachers down memory lane, reminiscing the days as student teachers in NIE and friendships forged over the years. "The Great Gatsby", associated with grandeur and opulence, marks the culmination of their NIE journey. The celebration of the end of one chapter as student teachers and the start of another, as teachers.

To replicate the fashion, one of the most notable sights during the 1920s era, the ladies donned sequins, sparkly dresses, and alluring headgears while the gentlemen were dressed to nines with their best suits, bow ties and suspenders.

Thank you to all sporting student teachers and guests. Without your support this event would not have been the success it was!

We would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate our graduating student teachers on their completion of their journey in NIE and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Kho Hui Han Vice-President, TTC 28th Management Committee



contributed by Charmaine Chan Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

Travellers

In this edition of Travellers, we sit down with Bachelor of Arts (Ed) student teacher, Charmaine Chan as she takes you on a contemplative reprieve to ephemeral, eternal Xi'an, China.



Not a fan of crowds and their hubbub, Charmaine prefers to spend her time amidst music, books, nature, and good company. This Year 3 History student teacher is an old soul at heart, having a keen eye for things of sentimental value, which probably explains why she's such a history buff. If she could have an animal as a companion, she would love to have a horse.

My first impression had to be the cold — the kind that creeps in and before you know it and mercilessly touches whatever skin that is exposed. Aside from the freezing temperature, winter brought about a time of reflection on the fleeting nature of beauty, forcing one to look beyond the bare branches.

I was on an eight-day tour to Xi'an, Shaanxi, China. As a history student who loves scenic nature, I can say that my experience in Xi'an encapsulated both.

One of our first stops was Mount Hua where we hiked a small portion to relive the inspiration behind the Chinese Martial Arts Novels by Jin Yong. The golden rays cladding the large boulders and outlining the vast mountain range was a sight to behold. For adventure seekers, there is an infamous Plank Trail along the steep walls of the mountain, of which we did not dare tread. Thereafter, we witnessed the Yellow River in its grandeur when we visited Qiankun Bay, the longest meandering river in China, and Hukou Waterfall, the second largest waterfall in the country. The sheer magnitude and sound of the waterfall was breathtaking enough to sweep me off my feet. The large landscapes were a testament to how small we are in the grand scheme of things.

As the bus drove further north, patches of ochrebrown fields lay in the foreground of sprawling hills. It was the countryside that revealed the grit of mankind posed against the solemn, eternal majesty of nature — as if seeing which will outlast which.

One interesting feature observed along our journey was that most rural homes built from the hillsides had representative arched doors and windows. This architectural structure was also evident in the Yan'an residence of the founding Communist Party leaders and the Zaoyuan Revolutionary Former Site was where Mao Zedong and his comrades lived during World War II. In addition to its significance in the history of the Communist Party, Xi'an also served as the capital city for a majority of the Chinese dynasties. It was notably beholden to Emperor Qin Shihuang, who ordered the building of the terracotta army. Although the entire mausoleum is much larger than what they have unearthed, archaeological digs have ceased as once the terracotta are exposed, they will lose their colour and fade into an earthly grey.

Xi'an is a living relic of history. It provided us with a glimpse of the past but also showed the limits to which we can reimagine it. As we entered into the city area, the contrast between the ancient city fortification walls and high-rise buildings was an evident reminder of change — of how though history remains, time beats on.





"... once terracota are exposed, they will lose their colour and fade into an earthly grey."



In the Spotlight

with Ryan Lim Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

In this edition of 'In the Spotlight', VOICES sits down with our very own Bachelor of Arts (Ed) student teacher, Ryan Lim, to shed some light on the joys and pains of living with dyslexia as well as valuable advice on supporting our differently abled students.

A lot of us know you as the Coporate Liaison Officer of the 27th TTC Management Committee, but who's the man behind the role?

I'm currently a Year 3 student teacher majoring in History and Social Studies. I chose these subjects because I believe that the skills that they inculcate, such as evaluating evidence and formulating logical arguments, are becoming increasingly and extremely valuable skills for students.

Other than teaching, I am very interested in learning about the aviation world, such as how planes are made to how airports operate safely. Although this area seems very geeky, I actually learnt a lot of things like cognitive psychology and communication skills that can be applied to teaching.

Why did you decide teaching was the right path for you?

I choose to join the teaching profession because watching people grow (be it skills, character or studies) brings incredible satisfaction to me. I think teaching is a very special profession, as teachers have the priceless opportunity to educate and inspire the young.

Could you shed some light on the realities of living with dyslexia?

I think probably the toughest part is meeting people who suggest that dyslexia is a result of laziness rather than a legitimate learning difficulty (one will be surprised how many people continue to hold onto this belief)!

Other than that, perhaps the biggest challenge I face would be to copy or process a chunk of text-based information quickly. This is because I will take longer to read, and my brain needs a longer time to process these information accurately than a typically-developing person.

But dyslexia isn't just about these challenges. For instance, it actually allows me to see an issue more holistically in that I'm better able to pick out and recognise patterns or trends, for example in mathematical number patterns.

"... one common misconception that people have is that dyslexia can be 'cured' or 'unlearnt'."

It's no secret that there are a lot of misconceptions surrounding learning and developmental difficulties. What's one common misconception that is particularly grating?

I feel that one common and counterproductive misconception that people have is that dyslexia can be 'cured' or 'unlearnt'. I had encounters with well-intentioned people telling me to go for psychological treatment or even phonetics classes when they learnt of my condition. I would always remind them that dyslexia is not a disease or psychological ailment that can be cured due to the slightly different way our brains are wired. Even though there are strategies to help a person with dyslexic cope better, this learning difficulty does not go away.

What advice would you give your fellow student teachers who are keen on providing support to students with learning needs like yours?

Although there are tons of materials out there about the various interventions to support students with learning needs, ultimately, every student is different, so all these lesson interventions do not work every single time. I would like to encourage my peers to experiment and not give up- eventually you will find a way that works very well for both you and your student.

Another thing I like to share with my friends is how lesson interventions to support students with special/learning needs are also beneficial for typically-developing students. For instance, students with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders) work better if a teacher gave simple and easy-to-follow instructions, something that I believe we all would appreciate as well! As such, I always believe that designing a lesson that caters to students with special/learning needs also benefits students in the entire class.



Apart from being a full-time student teacher, Ryan is an avid devourer of knowledge, reading up on a plethora of different topics. He reckons this is why his friends think he's a walking encyclopedia (disclaimer: he disputes this). If given the choice, this mild-mannered knowledge junkie would love to spend his days in the airport viewing room. Since that's not a viable option (and might also give airport security a fair bit of anxiety), he's content spending time with the people he loves.

Club Highlights

From exuberant festivals and adrenaline-fueled races to intricate floral arrangement workshops and board game bonanzas, student life in NIE is yours to make. Check out these cool happenings brought to you exclusively by our clubs.



The Chinese Language and Education Research (CLEAR) Club is back with the annual Chinese New Year Celebration! Prior to the start of the event, a mini booth for calligraphy was set up at the entrance of the U.iD Student Hub, where student teachers and staff showcased their exceptional prowess and talent in Chinese calligraphy.

The participants were also treated to a lion dance and a skit put up by the memebrs of CLEAR club. After the conclusion of the lucky draw, everyone participated in a prosperity toss to usher in the

> Gavin Goh Cheng En Vice-Chairperson, CLEAR Club Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)



The **Tamil Language Club** organised the annual celebration of Pongal, the Harvest Festival, on 20 February 2019 at the function space between blocks 3 & 4.

Student teachers and staff donned the saree and other ethnic attires to commemorate the joyous occasion. Both Sweet Pongal and Ven Pongal (which is the savoury variety of Pongal) were made on the spot under the supervision of TLC club advisor, Dr. A Ra Sivakumaran. Games like Uri adithal, a traditional game played with a sand pot and a stick, were also played.

Syed Jarina Tamil Language Club Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)





In honour of the International Day of Happiness.

Club Arnex presents "Momentum. Encouragement.

Motivation".

The activity for this event was a fresh floral arrangement workshop which was opened to all students in NIE. We also collaborated with the Office of Teacher Education and hosted them as part of their welfare activity. Through this event, the participants not only sharpened and honed their skills in floral arrangement but could also network with faculty and staff across NIE.

Heng Wen Xiu Rebecca Chairperson, Club Arnex Year 4, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

Club Sci.Napse presents a thrilling take on the classic Amazing Race!

An invitation to a detectives' initiation turns bloody when a famous actor's body was found. Presenting three accused suspects, participants were shown a different side of the sciences.

Through the theme of forensic science, they were challenged to think creatively and critically through a string of engaging tasks catered for all programmes. The contestants had a lot of fun learning about the different sciences through this activity.

"A great way to start the semester! I loved the theme and it was a great team-bonding activity."

— Marcus Lau Shao Yu,

Year 2, Bachelor of Science (Ed)

Tan Rou Jing Geraldine Chairperson, Club Sci.Napse Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)







In March 2019, the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Club successfully conducted its first ever GarageBand Workshop, conducted by a teaching fellow, Mr Tok Kiat Siong. The workshop received full attendance where the participants had the opportunity to produce some music. This GarageBand Workshop was a one-time lesson where participants learned the fundamentals of the digital workstation that allows users to create music.



Students get to see how different instruments play a role in a piece of music. After discovering the different rhythms the instruments play, participants put together the different sounds to reproduce the ever-famous pop song, Stand By Me. It was definitely a fun experience learning how to reproduce a pop

Nur Amira Binte Rahim Vice-Chairperson, VPA Club Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)



In February 2019, the VPA Club held a paper marbling workshop for all student teachers! Paper marbling is one of the traditional art forms called "Ebru" originating from Turkish. "Ebru", which means "cloud art", uses water, ox bile and paint to make a unique traditional pattern that is transferred to a paper. However, the workshop teaches participants to create their own marbled paper using materials such as food colouring and shaving foam that can be found easily in their homes.

It was a great time for the participants who experimented with colours and patterns during the workshop. At the end of it, participants also left the workshop with a set of marbled papers that contain the unique designs that they have created!

Chou Qi Ling Felicia Chairperson, VPA Club Year 3 Bachelor of Arts (Ed) On 25th February 2019, Club Jeux celebrated its 11th birthday. To hype things up, games were played competitively in teams made up of student teachers from the different programmes.

For starters, the teams played "Spyfall" as an icebreaker, seeking to tease out the spy within the group. More guessing ensued with "Charades" which kick-started the intergroup competitions. Following which, "Wits and Wagers" was played, a game where groups had to select and bet on the most appropriate answer to trivia questions. To end, our grand finale peaked with games based on lightning-fast reflexes and reaction - "Jungle Speed" and "Ugly Dolls".

Tay Niam Chin Treasurer, Club Jeux Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

In March this year, **DanceFuzion** held our first independent concert since 2016 to kick start the second half of the semester. The members of DanceFuzion trained very hard for 3 months and managed to put up a concert consisting of 5 dance items that followed an aspiring dancer on her journey to finding her confidence in dance. This is also a story that many of our own dancers could relate to because DanceFuzion is a club that welcomes anyone and everyone who is interested in dance with no prior experience needed! For this concert, many of our dancers took the lead in choreographing an item for the very first time.

It was very heartwarming to see over 200 people attending the concert and to receive so much support from the NIE community, as well as from friends and family members of our dancers. We also had a group of students from PESS join us as guest performers for this special night! Indeed, it was a very meaningful experience for our dancers!

Karina Lalchand Sheri Chairperson, DanceFuzion Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)













Across Borders:

Perspectives on Service and Education in the Global Arena

contributed by YEP Team Nalanda and YEP Project Love Sikkim, members of the Service Learning Club (SLC)

Each year, our student teachers embark on service learning expeditions planned together with our overseas partners. These are their perspectives on service and education.

YEP Team Nalanda

Travelling back to the same place after a year filled my heart with anticipation. Questions filled my mind as I was planning for the trip. Will the children remember me? Will the locals appreciate our presence? Will this trip impact my team members positively? More importantly, will I be able to impact the students equally, if not more than I did the previous year? With these question swimming in my mind, there was added pressure on me to plan a trip that will be meaningful to both the team members and the children in Namdapha Nalanda Nature School (NNNS) in Mpen, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Upon reaching the school, however, I realised that my worries were unfounded. As my students last year glanced through the team and finally rested their eyes on me, they broke out in a shy smile that caused warmth to spread through me. A year really passes by very quickly and it was amazing how fast they grew up.

The days in the village flew past and the last day came in a blink of an eye. Wanting to leave this place with a happier atmosphere than last year, I found the strength in me to refrain from crying as I hugged the students and told them not to cry. Soon, choruses of "No Hani (No Crying)" filled the air as the students held on to an umbrella and walked us to the jeeps. How apt was it that the sky was filled with the tears that we could not let fall down our faces. It is with irony and poeticism that the trip was filled with sunny days save for our final one there.

The village feels the same as last year. The same place with a different team. The same community and the same capacity for love and hospitality. The same sky at a different time.

Tan Hwee Ling Sharon Secretary, SLC Co-Leader, YEP Team Nalanda, Year 3, Bachelor of Science (Ed)



Project Love Sikkim

Project Love Sikkim 2018 was an eye-opening and fruitful experience for its 18 members, who went on the trip last year, from 7 to 21 December 2018. Our interactions and partnerships with the locals over in Sikkim allowed our members to gain new insights on many matters pertaining to education and conservation.

One particularly meaningful insight that the team took away from the trip would be from our interaction with Ms. Keepu, who founded Lepcha cottage, a home for Sikkimese children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Having been an educator herself, she emphasized the importance of always being sincere in our interactions with others, mentioning that while some children came to school to gain knowledge, others came to school to be loved and cared for.

In Sikkim, there is a 'bottom-up' approach to conservation. The locals acknowledge their personal stake in caring for and protecting their environment, seeing themselves as part of the environment rather than a separate entity. As Singapore moves towards being a greener city, these perspectives and insights on environmental conservation would be good to have and inculcate in our students in the future, so that our green efforts can be more sustainable and effective.

Tang Zhi Feng Ophelia Kee Hannah Yeoh Co-Leaders, YEP Project Love Sikkim Year 3, Bachelor of Science (Ed)



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NEED A LISTENING EAR?

The NIE Wellness Centre provides psychological and counselling services in a safe environment to all student and staff from NTU/NIE and to members of the public.

For enquiries and appointments, please contact the centre at 6790 3318 or email at nie.wellness@nie.edu.sg.

For more information, you may refer to our website: https://www.nie.edu.sg/about-us/campus-facilities/nie-wellness-centre.

