

NEWS

FOREWORD

By Mr Eugene Lin

Dear readers,

I am very excited to present to you our very first newsletter entirely written and organised by our Zhenghua students. This newsletter serves to not only provide our very own student journalists with a new platform to hone their writing skills, it also serves to give you, the reader, a good insight into the various events and programmes that took place over the past few months in Zhenghua as experienced by our students.



Since the start of the year, our budding writers and photographers have been hard at work documenting their thoughts, opinions and snapshots of events that took place at Zhenghua. These students had to also balance their typical school work and CCA demands hence it was no mean feat at all. I would like to congratulate all of them on a job well done.

I am also most appreciative of the teacher editorial team for guiding and inspiring the students to come up with this very first newsletter under such a short timeline. I hope that this would be the first of many more newsletters to come that will showcase the journalistic skills of our students and give you a whole new perspective into student life at Zhenghua.

As this is our very first issue, do feel free to give the editorial team your feedback so that we can further improve our future editions.

Happy reading!

SPECIAL FEATURE Mother Tongue Fortnight

What's up?

- Advice from the Alumni
- Sec 1 Orientation Camp
- Total Defence Commemoration
- Humanities-EL Week
- Sports Day 2016

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Yasmin, 5N1
Zilhanz, 2N1

ENDEAVOUR

By Anissa Idris Lim (3E4), Wong An Wen (3E2) and William Ting (3E3)

We asked the Student Councillors who led the Secondary One Orientation Camp to share their thoughts and experiences.

Two years ago, I participated in the Secondary One Orientation Camp as a junior. I recall feeling anxious and suffered from a lack of confidence as I had to adapt to my new environment. This year though, I was far from nervous as I led the juniors in their Secondary One orientation camp. Entitled 'Endeavour', the camp ran from 6th to 8th January.

Besides creating a sense of belonging and fostering teamwork through games, the juniors were also moved out of their comfort zones when they had to compete in inter-class competitions.

Looking back, the annual camp has allowed me to build and develop an unbreakable bond with my classmates, my seniors and my teachers. I look forward to what Zhenghua has in store for us in the years to come.

– An Wen

The Secondary One Orientation Camp 2016 was a great success! This year's theme was 'Endeavour'. Through the various planned activities, the secondary one students managed to learn more about themselves, their peers and the school. As the Chairperson of the camp, seeing the campers enjoy themselves and bond with their classmates was a great achievement for me. I could still recall the fun times we had and the loud laughter that filled the air! What was memorable too were the smiley faces I saw during the 3D2N camp. The event was wrapped up with the traditional campfire. We ended on a high note with enjoyable performances put up by the campers and the endless cheering that lasted through the night. For all the wonderful, countless memories we made, losing our voices for the night was well worth it! Camp Endeavour 2016 indeed marked a great start for the secondary one students as they embark on their journey in Zhenghua.



PHYSICAL TRAINING IN THE MORNING



MR LIN LIGHTING THE CAMPFIRE

The Secondary 1 orientation camp was held on the 6th to 8th of January 2016. As a Committee member, I thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Through this camp, the originally quiet classes became talkative and we forged close bonds with one another. Even though it was a tiring three days, I still had fun. I hope to plan another camp again.

– William

MOTHER TONGUE FORTNIGHT

正华好声音歌唱比赛

记者：任德贤 3E3

2016 年伊始，在母语双周期间，我校举办了一场“正华好声音”歌唱比赛。个人赛中，来自 4E2 的卓勇亨用一首《征服》“征服”了评委和观众的心，一举夺魁。小组赛中，获得冠军的是梁玮芳、蔡欣慧、叶璟萤、卓勇亨，他们演唱的是《童话》：“我愿变成童话里你爱的那个天使，张开双手变成翅膀守护你。你要相信，相信我们会像童话故事里，幸福和快乐是结局。”美好的祝愿引起大家的共鸣，台下同学们不禁齐声哼唱。

此次比赛为同学们提供了一个表演的舞台，让他们尽情欢唱，展现才华。



成语及华文常识比赛

母语双周期间，舞台上大家一番斗歌竞艺，舞台下各班也摩拳擦掌，一较高低。低年级组成语比赛、高年级组和高华组华文常识比赛更是将母语双周活动推向高潮。这个比赛考的是同学们对华族历史文化的了解，考的是参赛者对成语的把握。来，考考你吧：

- 端午节是为了纪念谁？
- 新加坡俗称的“鬼节”，正确的名称是什么？
- 歇后语：猪八戒照镜子，后面接什么？
- 成语脍炙人口的“炙”是什么意思？
- 高风亮节是贬义还是褒义？



新年庆祝会

记者 云琪惠 2E3



今年的新年庆祝会，每班都安排了不同的活动。有些班级开食物派对，有些一起看电影，还有一些班举行了户外活动。看电影的班级黑漆漆一片；开食物派对的班级满桌都是食物，同学们大快朵颐；而在户外游玩的同学也都玩得不亦乐乎。同学们个个面带笑容，可能是要减轻即将来临的考试的压力吧！

新年庆祝会的第二部分就是新年文艺表演了。全校都集合在礼堂里，拭目以待将要开始的表演。

当天的表演非常精彩。一开始就是舞狮团进场，掀起新年的气氛。

接下来魔术师的换装表演简直是太奇妙了！当然印象最深刻的表演项目是老师的表演。当司仪宣布说 Miss Ang 会上台表演时，全校都大喊大叫，拍手叫好呢！她与其他老师一起合唱“我的少女时代”和“那些年，我们一起追的女孩”的主题歌曲。许多同学都随着音乐的节奏挥着手，有些也跟着唱。此外，校长和老师们的时装秀也让现场叫好连连。今年的新年庆祝会真特别！

难忘的初次体验

记者：周鼎耀 2E2 韦玄安 2E4

国画



福娃



记者来访

记者 任德贤 3E3

母语双周期间，《逗号》、《大拇指》编辑兼记者张立励分享了她从业的苦乐酸甜：有一次她采访了一位脾气暴躁的受访者，当受访者情绪激动的时候，她不得不中断采访，直到受访者冷静下来时，再继续进行。她认为作为一名记者就是要有不达目的不罢休的精神。



记者张立励正在跟同学们分享《逗号》的制作以及编辑流程。

向名家取经 ——作家讲座



记者 黄瑜雯 3E4

“每个人生都有它的起伏，每个起伏都有一个故事，每个故事都会散发出正确的价值观。”这是一位很著名的作家与前艺人王德远说的。他在人生的道路上遇到了许多苦难，但他都一一面对了。

他 15 岁时，因唱歌比赛得到冠军，但因此影响学业成绩，甚至很难升级。学校也劝他不要唱歌了，专心念书。他因为得不到学校的理解，人一度变得很消沉。接下来，王德远因为参加了一个励志课程，从中吸收了慢慢的正能量，学会用微笑迎接挫折，学业成绩也有了很大的进步。

这次，王德远带来了他的一本新书叫《阿婆的手》。这本书主要分享了亲情，尤其是与 108 岁，在 2014 年去世的婆婆的感情。

配合亲情这一主题，他也请出一些同学上前说说自己最想感谢的人。同学们分享了自己父母、老师的故事，才发现原来自己是那么幸福。

翻译讲座

记者：德凯 3E4, 志伟 3E3

Bigger than bigger, 这几句话什么意思？比大还要大，如果你这样翻译，就贻笑大方了。这句话得体的翻译是“岂止于大”。

让我们再试试一些句子吧！

——**Raining cats and dogs.**

答案是：倾盆大雨。

——**When there is a will, there is a way.**

答案是：有志者，事竟成。

——**Practice makes perfect.**

答案是：熟能生巧。

——**Love me, love my dog.**

答案是：爱屋及乌。



你知道吗？这些句子的翻译我们运用了很多方法，例如：音译法、直译法、意译法、半音半意、套用法等等。

在母语双周，中三高级华文和中四的学生聆听了一个非常有趣的华文翻译讲座，讲师是来自裕廊初级学院的关老师。她教了我们基本的翻译技巧，让我们获益不浅，也觉得翻译是一门很有趣的课程！

向名家取经

——歌词创作讲座

记者：黄慧恬 3E4

1月15日，知名女词人——小寒有幸与正华中学有约，同我们分享她的写作技巧。听了她的讲座，我们恍然大悟，原来歌词中也是要用到种种修辞手法的。

讲座中，小寒也让我们了解到汉字四声的抑扬顿挫，本身就具音乐美。最后，作为一个有责任感的词人，她不忘告诫我们歌词来源于现实生活，并且要涵盖一定的教育意义。



小寒歌词中修辞的运用：

“妈妈忙得像印度煎饼一样，团团转。”——比喻

“幸福与我擦肩而过。”——拟人

“我哭得越惨，他笑得越大声”——对比

学习成语并不难

记者 林津宁 洪欣璘 2E2



来自 1T, 2T 和 3T 的同学们在陈姚锦老师指导下学会了怎样画出各种成语的图案。在这一个半小时内，陈老师介绍了四个成语。它们分别是：画蛇添足，打草惊蛇，对牛弹琴，滥竽充数。

每一个成语的意思陈老师都有详细的解释，同时他也和同学们讲解关于这些成语的故事。故事不但生动又有趣。



Kritik Filem

Oleh Sarah Khairunnisa (3E2)



Sempana kegiatan dwiminggu Bahasa Melayu, kami telah diberi peluang untuk menonton sebuah filem Melayu lama bertajuk 'Singapura Dilanggar Todak'. Sesudah itu, kami dibimbing untuk mengkritik filem melalui soalan-soalan yang diberikan oleh guru kami yang berkaitan dengan isu-isu dalam filem tersebut. Kami turut berbincang tentang pandangan kami dalam pelbagai aspek perfileman, seperti mutu sebuah filem yang baik dan sebagainya.



Kami rasa seronok menonton filem lama tersebut kerana ramai di antara kami belum pernah menonton filem sebegitu. Kami juga dapat mengaitkan filem tersebut dengan sejarah negara kami.

Bengkel Skrip & Drama

Oleh Nur Liyana Afiqah Binte Mohamed (3E1)



Para pelajar menengah dua menyertai sebuah bengkel menulis skrip dan drama anjuran pelakon dan pengarah terkenal, Encik Izzat Mohd Yusoff.

Dalam keempat-empat sesi bengkel itu, para pelajar telah ditunjuk ajar teknik-teknik berlakon yang baik dan bagaimana untuk mengubah-suai skrip mengikut keperluan persembahan drama mereka sendiri.

Para pelajar menengah dua kelihatan begitu khusyuk dan ghairah mengikuti bengkel tersebut kerana selain daripada mempelajari daripada pelatih-pelatih yang juga merupakan pelakon-pelakon yang mereka tonton di kaca televisyen, mereka juga dapat merasakan pengalaman unik belajar berlakon dan menghasilkan sebuah persembahan drama bersama-sama!

Malay Language Fortnight

By Nur Emilia (3E1)



In January, the Malay Language students had the opportunity to experience various activities organised during the Mother Tongue Fortnight. There was a singing competition for students which they enjoyed thoroughly.

The Malay Department also held a Scrabble Competition where the selected students competed for the top prize. The competition allowed students to showcase their vast knowledge of the Malay Language vocabulary.

Zikry Khairulnizar from 2E1 won the first place, Nur Emilia Norasidi from 3E1 came in second place and Elfa Nabilah Ellyasa from 2N2 came in third place.

All in all, the Mother Tongue Fortnight was a very fruitful event for all levels as students gained more knowledge, skills and experience from the activities that were organised.

SPORTS DAY

By Chua Bao Wen (3E2)

Zhenghua Secondary School Sports Day was held on Friday 1st April at Bukit Gombak Stadium. The stadium came alive and was bustling with cheers from the crowd; namely students belonging to different houses to spur the competitors on.

Students supported their own houses by participating in various events such as the 100m or 200m race. There was even a Teachers' Relay where the teachers representing Heron house won. The highlight was the cheerleading competition which was a showcase of all the cheers the houses had prepared for the judges. The Eagle house cheerleading team did a very cute choreographed dance while the Hawk team did a dance to Twice's song 'Ooh-Ahh' which had a creative twist to it. Not any less enthusiastic was the Falcon team whose cheer consisted of lyrics that rhymed very well! The Heron team chose to dance to the song 'Bang Bang Bang' by Jessie J featuring Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj. These were just parts of the cheer that stood out. Despite the stiff competition, the Hawk team eventually won the cheerleading competition with Falcon coming in second position and Eagle in third position.



Humanities Week

By Low Wei Yang (3E3)



The Humanities-English week was a showcase of various activities revolving around humanities subjects like History, Literature, and Geography and English. One such activity was the annual Humanities-EL quiz where students competed against each other to answer questions related to current affairs, Singapore, History, Literature, English and Geography. To emerge the champion, they had to accumulate as many points as possible. The responses were overwhelming as we had students from the secondary 3 classes participating actively during the quiz segment. Another activity was the visit to the Old Ford Factory by the secondary two students. They had the opportunity to learn more about the fascinating history of Singapore when the British surrendered to the Japanese.

ADVICE FROM THE BEST

We invited our alumni members who had done well in their GCE O-Levels examinations to share tips and advice on how to achieve good results.

I believe in the desire to learn and overcome challenges. My success is the result of having persevered through tough times and learning from harsh criticism.

Working hard is important but **working hard and smart is more efficient**. Do plan your time wisely and keep a schedule.

Vernon Tay, 5N2 (2015)



"Big thinking precedes great achievement" - Wilfred A. Peterson. I once told my classmates that I was going to score 7 points for my O-levels. Naturally, they all laughed at me, but I feel that it's good to have a big goal in mind.

Justin Lim, 5N2 (2015)

Consistency is the key! Never leave your homework to the eleventh hour. Homework serves as a good gauge on how well you've mastered a certain topic.

Lim Main Ray, 4E4 (2015)



When the going gets tough, the tough gets going. **DON'T GIVE UP! Set a goal for yourself, and then remind yourself of your goal each time you feel like giving up.** One thing I regretted was not starting my revision early in the year so I had to cram everything in just a few weeks before O-levels. So plan your study schedule well and start early.

Valerie Chua, 5N1 (2015)

Learn to enjoy what you are studying. This is something that no textbook can teach you but something you can learn to do. Appreciating and enjoying what you're learning is the very first step in acing the subject. Once you start to appreciate the content you are learning the more enjoyable studying becomes, and the better you will get at it.

Chua Yuen Zheng, 4E4 (2015)



One of my habits is to **ensure I have enough sleep**. I made it a point to never study beyond 11pm as I feel that sleep is very important. Studying late into the night would be ineffective as my brain would not be able to absorb information effectively the next day. Thus, I would rather rest and refuel for the next day.

Joshua Ang, 4E4 (2015)

I watched and read the news on television - it helped me for mother tongue. I improved from B4 to A1. For maths, follow the practice-makes-perfect rule. Find a good environment to study to help you concentrate better.

Siti Nurhannani, 5N1 (2015)



2015 'O' LEVEL RESULTS

Zhenghua Secondary School has performed well in the 2015 GCE 'O' Levels.

13 out of 17 subjects attained pass rates that were above the national mean. Out of these, 7 subjects achieved distinction rates above the national mean.

98.1% of the Sec 4 Express and 71.4% of the Sec 5 Normal (Academic) cohort are eligible for polytechnic admission.

78.5% of 4E and 20% of 5N(A) are similarly eligible for junior colleges.

Total Defence Day Assembly

By Gracia Oh (3E4) and Chan Ying Shan (3E3)

Total Defence Day falls on February 15. This day is observed every year to mark the anniversary of the surrender of the British soldiers to the Japanese in 1942.

Zhenghua Secondary School had our annual Total Defence Day celebration on 12 February 2016. This year, the school watched a play on the theme, "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". There were three different segments – a play put up by the performers, a quiz and a short skit put together by the performers with the help of a student.

The play was interesting and all the students watched attentively. The five main aspects of Total Defence are Civil, Economic, Military, Psychological and Social Defence were mentioned in the performance. Right after that, the performers conducted a quiz. This segment was the most engaging one because roaring screams were heard whenever a question was posed. Six students from different classes participated and they could rely on their friends' prompting whenever they needed help.



Last but not least, the performers, together with a student named Ethan from secondary four, put up a short skit. The skit was about a student standing up for his friend when he was threatened for not helping his classmates write their notes.

The message of the skit that the performers want to emphasise was that every small act makes a difference. All in all, Zhenghua Secondary School's Total Defence Day commemoration reminded students that only Singaporeans would have the will to defend Singapore.



Total Defence Day

By Jolynn Lee (3E3) and Nurliyana (3E4)

On 12th February this year, our school commemorated Total Defence Day. This serves as a reminder of how brave our forefathers were, to have put up a strong fight and to show the sacrifices they made during those dark times.

During Total Defence Day in Zhenghua this year, a group of skilful and talented actors blew us away with a performance of 3 short skits, which represented the 5 aspects of Total Defence Day – Military Defence, Economic Defence, Psychological Defence, Social Defence and Civil Defence.

The meaningful performance was not the end of Total Defence Day though, as our school's own Red Cross girls had another performance for us up their sleeves. Instead of a theatrical performance, they performed CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) on mannequins to show us how to perform CPR in case of an emergency. Who said heroes needed capes? The details and procedures were explained fully in detail and the performances had definitely left us with some useful information!



We interviewed our history teacher, Ms Tan Pei Wen, and here was what she had to say.

Q: What does Total Defence Day mean to you?

It is the day when the British surrendered to the Japanese... which they shouldn't have.

Q: What does Total Defence Day mean to you?

It is an important day that all Singaporeans should remember!

Q: How should you play a part in Total Defence Day?

I will teach and remind my students not to take Total Defence Day for granted.



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