

THE RAFFLES WAVE



RAFFLES
GIRLS' SCHOOL
*Nurturing Daughters
of a Better Age*



Green Black White Day: The RGS community, dressed in school colours, come together to form the school crest, marking the last day of a week-long stream of activities celebrating the annual Rafflesian Week 2015. Click on the following links to view more photos! [Day 1: Team Raffles Day](#) - [Day 2: Sisters In Learning Day](#) - [Day 3: House Day](#) - [Day 4: Sisters At Heart Day](#) - [Day 5: Green Black White Day](#)

RGs TEACHERS GET STEM OF APPROVAL



Teachers Mr Samuel Lee (left) and Mr Shaun De Souza, together with Principal Mrs Poh Mun See at the award ceremony, where both teachers received the Outstanding Science Educator (Research Mentor) Award.

In celebration of 15 years of the Singapore Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF), organisers sought to recognise teacher-mentors who have been making sustained impact in mentoring their students in their research projects over the past years. Our teachers, Assistant Head, Mathematics, Mr Samuel Lee and Assistant Head, Science Year 1-2, Mr Shaun De Souza, who are two of six teachers who received the Outstanding Science Educator (Research Mentor) Award, share with us some of the memorable moments in their mentorship journey, and their hopes for students embarking in STEM-related research projects.

Shaun: *“If I had to cite a team that will always have a place in my heart, that would be the first team I mentored of Germaine Yong and Joelle Mok for a project on Bacterial Resistance to Dettol. I mentored them when they were in Year 2 in 2006 until they were in Year 4. During this period, they achieved a Gold Award at SSEF 2008, which was the first for RGS in a very long time. I continued to mentor them while they were in RI, and they achieved another Gold Award at SSEF 2010.”*

Samuel: *“Some years back before joining RGS, I mentored a boy who was doing a project with two other classmates. He was very reserved, and generally did not like interacting with people. As he had a strong interest in buses, I proposed a bus-related project to him. Towards the end of the project, the team was required to present their findings to a panel of judges and to students from other schools. At the end of the presentation, the father of the boy came up to me and thanked me for mentoring his child, saying it was the first time that the boy talked and presented in front of a group of strangers. The journey of mentorship, though challenging, is very satisfying, because to me, the heart of the mentoring process is not in the subject, nor the research skills, but the cognitive and character development of the students.”*

Shaun: *“I hope the students I mentor continue to demonstrate the dedication, resilience and determination demonstrated by their seniors as they embark in STEM-related research projects.”*

Samuel: *“My hope is for every RGS girl to be a self-directed learner who pursues her interests with passion and to the best of her abilities. I would definitely like to see more students taking up STEM-related research projects (because it is my area of interest!). But also, at RGS, we have a group of talented and dedicated teachers mentoring students in this area.”*

LEARNING NEVER GETS OLD

In conjunction with the Infocomm Development Authority’s Silver Infocomm Initiative, students from the Infocomm Club held a one-day Intergenerational IT Bootcamp on 17 March 2015 to teach seniors (aged 50 and above), various computer skills. While promoting continual learning and infocomm usage among the elderly, the bootcamp was also an opportunity for our students to forge closer ties with and understand more about the elderly in our community.



Year 3 student Gob Yiyou Terre loved the time she spent with her senior partner as she taught him something that is useful in his daily life. She is hopeful that when he masters the basic uses of technology, he will be able to forge closer bonds with his family overseas.



Besides learning basic computer and Internet skills, seniors were also introduced to online health tools, various social networking sites as well as sites to watch videos and play games.



Chia Yi Min Laetitia (Year 2) explained that the bootcamp is a reminder for her to take a step back and consider the difficulties faced by the senior generation. She also learnt how to be patient, realising that something that might seem really simple could actually be a huge obstacle for someone else. The passion for learning in the elderly also struck her as something to learn from and an attribute to pass on to future generations.



Emma Gob En-Ya (Year 4), Chairperson of the Infocomm Club shared, “The experience taught me the importance of helping the elderly integrate into the 21st century. Many of them are left behind because they cannot adjust to the new technology... I hope that together with other Infocomm Club members, we can organise more of such bootcamps and help the elderly master the basics of technology. That way, they can keep up with the fast-paced society and in addition, also find another way to bond and grow closer to their younger family members.

RGS PARENTS - OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

All parents want the best for their children, and to be that guiding light and mentor for them, especially when it comes to making their life choices. On 21 March 2015, the Parents for RGS (PRGS) Association held its first career-related event, “Thinking Out of the Box When Choosing a Career”, where PRGS Association members got to hear from notable speakers how each of them came upon their pathways in life. Listening to the various accounts, these parents came to a better understanding of the significant support they can give their daughters to make meaning of their life and career choices.

Mdm Kiran Kashyap, parent of a Year 2 RGS student who attended the talk shared that “the speakers gave very interesting insights into different pathways available to our daughters, who are growing up in a world quite unlike what we parents have experienced. These careers are usually not

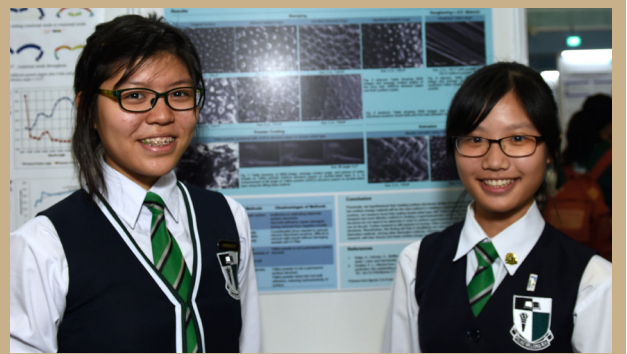
pre-planned, and it is the ability to adapt to a changing world and understand one’s own passion and abilities that will ultimately lead to success.”



(Extreme left) Dr Leo Seo Wei, Chairman, PRGS Association and Ms Ong Tong (third from right), Treasurer, PRGS Association and moderator for the event, together with speakers RGS Alumna Ms Carrie Tan, Founder of “Daughters of Tomorrow”, Ms Christel Quek, Content Lead (APAC, MENA, Greater China, Russia) at Twitter, Ms Kim Underhill, Regional Head at Electrolux SEA Pte Ltd, and Ms Denise Yap, Career Guidance Counsellor at RGS.

GO TEAM RAFFLES!

The Singapore Science & Engineering Fair (SSEF) is a national competition organised by the Ministry of Education, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and the Science Centre Singapore. This year, a total of 320 projects were shortlisted for the fair, which included 14 from RGS. Two teams received the Bronze awards while another received the Merit award for their projects. One of our alumnae, Ms Lee Shi Ya Claudia (Class of 2013), received the Gold award for her project and was also selected to represent Singapore at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair from 10-15 May 2015 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. Click [here](#) to find out more information about the competition, as well as other alumnae's various achievements in the SSEF.



(From left) Year 4 students Grace Shen Shen and Ho Chih Ying received the Bronze award for their project "Investigation and fabrication of superhydrophobic surfaces".



(From left) Teacher-Advisor Ms Carmen Hoo, Year 4 students Tan Jing-Wen Claire and Sob Qian Ying. They received the Merit award for their project on the fabrication of hierarchical porous scaffold for tissue engineering.

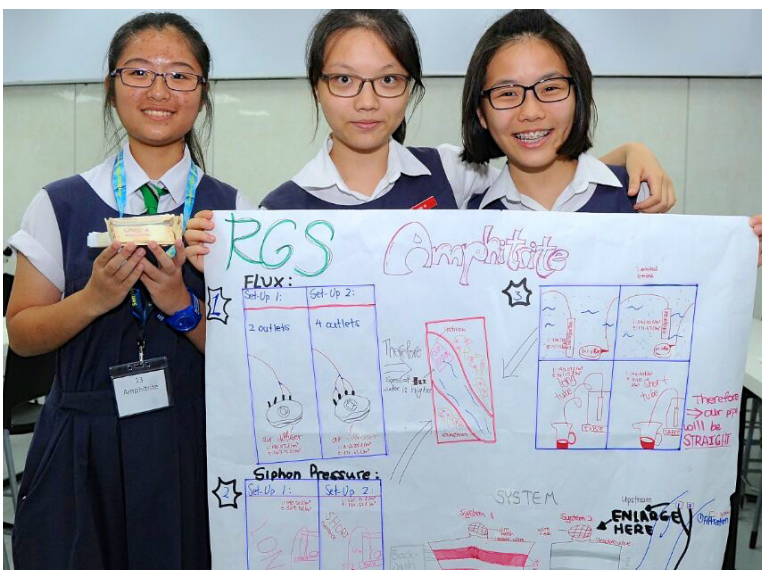


(From left) Teacher-Advisor Mr Shaun De Souza, Year 4 students Bek Schin and Vanessa Chuang Zhen Xuan, and Mr Teob Chin Chye Alex (mentor from CRADLE). Their project sought to examine the effects of various external factors on the efficacy and effectiveness of SODIS water treatment (alternative methods were also studied), and was awarded Bronze.

Two RGS teams participated in the Sembcorp Water Technology Prize 2015. Held at the Science Centre from 19-20 March, the teams were taught how membrane bioreactors are increasingly used for wastewater treatment and how such membranes are used in making NEWater. Subsequently, students were allowed to build their own ceramic membrane filtration system and design a system for use in Cambodia.



Team Water Plant (awarded Certificate of Participation): (left to right) Year 3 students Somakala Subbaraman, Su Hing Yun, Yap Yingtong and Zhang Tianyu.



Team Amphitrite (awarded 1st Prize): (left to right) Year 3 students Tan Tze Ern Shannon, Ding Ning Ke and Lim Yong Qi Jamie. Besides receiving a champions trophy, the team was also awarded with S\$1,500 and given a two-week internship at Sembcorp.



Jamie (left) and Ning Ke, together with Guest-of-Honour Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Environment and Water Resources (extreme left) and teacher Mr Shaun De Souza at the awards ceremony.

PORTRAIT OF A RAFFLESIAN

Remembering Mr Lee Kuan Yew 1923 - 2015

Visionary Thinker. Respected Leader. Rafflesian.

In honouring and appreciating Mr Lee Kuan Yew's life's work, students were given a glimpse into his ideas, beliefs and contributions as the founding father of Singapore during a lesson on Character & Leadership Education. That day, they also took the chance to reflect on his legacy and pen their thoughts. Here, we share some of their tributes:

"Thank you Mr Lee Kuan Yew for helping to develop Singapore from third world to a first-class country. You gave hope to the citizens of Singapore when she was at her lowest point. You were Singapore. You took advantage of Singapore's strengths and utilised them to their fullest potential. You had a clear vision for the future of Singapore, and strove to achieve it despite the many challenges that you had to overcome. You did not give up on our country despite all the challenges and difficulties you faced.

-Year 4 student Park Ji Won

"Thank you Mr Lee for everything that you have done for Singapore. Without you, we would not be leading the stable life that we sometimes take for granted. Even after you are gone, your legacy will still live on in our hearts. We will see you in every aspect of Singapore's success, be it the trees outside the airport, the Singapore flag every morning at assembly or in the history books that you helped to write. You have always been the heart and soul of the nation, and no one can replace you in our hearts. We shall aspire to follow in your footsteps and continue to lead our country down the path to success... Once again, thank you Mr Lee! You will be forever remembered by the people of Singapore."

-Year 2 student
Koh Jin Ann, Arielle

*"Please rest in peace, and do not worry
Firmly your foundation stands
You will be forever remembered by our
country*

*The future will never be easy
We will not fall into strands
Please rest in peace, and do not worry*

*Under your leadership, we have flourished
brilliantly
We stand as one on our homeland
You will be forever remembered by our
country*

*Even if you cannot be with us in body
Your spirit and legacy will be with us in
these lands
Please rest in peace, and do not worry*

*You built us a garden city
Built it from a piece of small land
You will be forever remembered by our
country*

*We will trudge towards the future
confidently
Be assured, we are in safe hands
Please rest in peace, and do not worry
You will be forever remembered by our
country"*

-by a Year 2 student

"I was born in 2001, and have been ignorant to all your contributions Mr Lee. As a mere 14-year-old, I have never really cared about the world around me and had not learnt to appreciate your dedication to Singapore, until now... You are the one who distinguished Singapore on the world map. Previously a mudflat, you have guided Singapore to become a metropolis. Perhaps, even my existence is thanks to you. My mother came to Singapore in 1990 to attain a higher-level education. She then met my father and decided to settle down in Singapore. My mother decided to do so due to the safety and education provided in Singapore. For my mother who had lived in Shanghai her entire life to have done so was a hard decision, but she chose Singapore. Thank you Mr Lee Kuan Yew... May you rest in peace."

-Year 2 student Ng An Tong

"I find great honour in having lived in the same age as Mr Lee Kuan Yew, to be able to breathe the same air as him. I look up to Mr Lee in all possible ways, be it for his iron resolve or capability to lead a country to great heights. He has lived a well-deserved life and his death is a dignified one. I am very grateful to him for the legacy he has left behind."

-Year 4 student Sumana Sumathi
Prasad

"Graduating from a top school... does not mean that one will necessarily succeed in life. Academic ability must be matched by people skills, the capacity to adapt and change with changing circumstances, and to keep on learning. Rafflesians must understand their own limitations, in order to continue to improve themselves. They need to collaborate with people from different backgrounds to work together and to get tasks done."

-Mr Lee Kuan Yew, on 13 January 2011, at the Raffles Institution
Gryphon Award Gala Dinner