SOAR TO GREATER HEIGHTS!

Ahmad Ibrahim Primary celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a Musical at The Republic Cultural Centre (TRCC) at Republic Polytechnic on 4 June. The event was celebrated by students, parents, teachers, school leaders and stakeholders, both past and present. We were indeed honoured to have representatives from the late Mr Ahmad Ibrahim’s family and our ex-Principals, Mrs Chan Kwai Foong, Ms Foong Yin Wei and Mdm Sim Siew Tin grace the event.

The musical, presented by our very own budding actors, was centred on the events and values that have embodied the school over these two decades. They were supported on stage by the various CCA groups such as our Indian and Chinese dance troupes, our Sports CCA, Harmonica, Gamelan, Angklung and Choir groups. Together, these talented groups of students put up a dynamic and colourful performance that enthralled the audience.

In conjunction with SG50, the event was also used as a platform to honour our pioneers for their contribution in the education service. We extend our deepest gratitude to:

1) Ms Lim Siew Gek
2) Mrs Wong Thiam Chwee
3) Mr Law Him Liang
4) Mr Saini bin Kadir
5) Mr Nadarajan s/o Rengasamy

The celebrations allowed for current members of the AIPS Family to appreciate the efforts of our pioneers, celebrate our present successes and most importantly, build on what has been given and together, soar to greater heights!
Our heartiest congratulations to all our winners!

To create a conducive environment to promote the learning and usage of Mother Tongue Languages (MTL), our school organizes the Mother Tongue Language Fortnight for our students. The MT Fortnight activities provide platforms for students to actively learn MTL and the associated cultures so as to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the languages. In order to arouse the interest of learning the Mother Tongue languages, the Mother Tongue Department plans and organises many programmes, activities and competitions for our students. We also collaborate with community partners and cluster schools to enrich the learning experience of our students.

MOTHER TONGUE (MT) FORTNIGHT

MALAY DEPARTMENT

The N2 Cluster Malay Language Festival was held on 23 May at Qihua Primary School. The objective of the festival was to enthuse students in their learning and cultivate an appreciation of the Malay Language and culture. The theme of the festival was My Singapore @ SG50 in conjunction with our nation’s golden jubilee.

Our students, shortlisted from similar in-house competitions held prior to the event, participated actively in the various competitions and we are proud to announce their achievements as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY 1 – SINGING COMPETITION – 4th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nia Qarimah Bte Md Hisyam</td>
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<td>Aniq Syahmi Bin Hadi Sumantri</td>
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<td>Adi Hfiy Bin Md Harman</td>
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<th>PRIMARY 2 – STORY TELLING COMPETITION – 4th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shazani Danish Bin Saiful Adli</td>
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<td>Netty Shazwanee</td>
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<td>Nadiah Nazihah Bin Mohammad Azhar</td>
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<th>PRIMARY 3 – SYAIR RECITATION – 2nd</th>
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<td>Halimatul Maisarah Binte Azman</td>
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<th>PRIMARY 4 – PANTUN RECITATION – 4th</th>
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<td>Ammar Bin Abdul Halim</td>
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<th>PRIMARY 5 – SAJAK RECITATION – 2nd</th>
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<td>Anisah Nasirah Bte Mohd Anas</td>
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<th>PRIMARY 6 – RAP SINGING – 2nd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad Hafis Bin Mohammad Hanafi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ain Nabilah Bte Mohd Nizamulmuluk</td>
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<th>ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION – CONSOlATION PRIZE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia Nabilah Bte Mohammad Azhar</td>
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<td>Syamsul Ariffin Bn Md Ridzuan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nur Insiyirah Izzati Bte Md Nazuwan</td>
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<td>Suhayl Azmin Bin Wahiduzzaman</td>
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I am happy to be posted to Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School as Vice-Principal 2. As a new Vice-Principal, I hope that I will be able to value-add to the school’s existing practices and take AIPS to the next level of excellence and beyond.

I started teaching in 2004 when I started off my teaching career as a teacher at Zhonghua Primary School and later at Woodgrove Primary School. My interaction with the students and the experiences I had acquired during my beginning years affirmed my belief in creating quality learning experience for the students. That motivated me to strengthen my pedagogical mastery and understand the children’s psyche better. As an educator with a strong passion for teaching, I decided to pursue my Masters of Arts (Applied Linguistics) in 2006 at the NTU-NIE and graduated in 2009.

Prior to my posting to AIPS, I was an English Language teacher at Ai Tong School for six years. As the English Language specialist and the HOD English Language, I was given the opportunity to examine the English Language curriculum and explore various avenues for curriculum customisation and differentiated instructions, in consideration of the radical and evolving educational landscape. However, through my experience as an educator, I have realised that strong home-school partnership is crucial in realising quality educational experience for the students.

Having progressed through my career in the respective primary schools, I hope that I will be able to tap on my prior teaching experiences and professional knowledge in the next lap of my leadership journey that I have just embarked on in AIPS to value add to the school’s existing beliefs and practices.

Madam Sulasni Binte Abdul Rahman
Vice-Principal 2
Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School
This year, besides the usual learning journeys, Conversational Chinese and Malay (CCM) programmes and competitions like “Creative Writing”, “Penmanship” and “Shizi Pinyin” that our students look forward to, we have also invited external trainers and performing groups to showcase various genres of the Chinese culture.

A “Hanyu Pinyin Camp” was organised for our Primary 1 and 2 students. During the one and a half hour lesson, they played interactive games to reinforce their knowledge in Chinese phonics and develop a greater understanding of Hanyu Pinyin.

Primary 2 and 3 students attended a drama showcase performed by drama troupe “Theatre Practice”, invited by the school and sponsored by the National Library Board. Students learnt various acting techniques, including miming and they had fun performing with the professional actors too!

Primary 4 students had a chance to learn Chinese Calligraphy; a visual art form prized above all others in traditional China. Through this activity, our students learnt how to write Chinese characters using ink and brushes while picking up values like patience and perseverance at the same time.

The programme set aside for Primary 5 students was slightly different from the other levels. They received tips on how to keep themselves healthy and fit through Chinese Wushu. All, especially the boys, were thrilled in learning the martial arts movements!

All Chinese students have enjoyed themselves thoroughly during this year’s MT Fortnight which was held in Term 3 and they look forward to more interesting programmes in the coming year!

In conjunction with the annual Mother Tongue Fortnight, the AIPS Tamil Department came up with a slew of activities for students to develop a deeper appreciation and knowledge of the Tamil Language and Culture.

The activities organised for them were as follow:

**Primary 1 & 2 – Learning Journey to the Singapore Zoological Gardens.**

During this trip, students learnt the names of certain animals in Tamil which are not commonly used nowadays. Students were given an activity booklet which was crafted by our teachers to complete as well.

**Primary 3 & 4 – Yoga Workshop**

Some simple techniques were taught in this workshop to teach students to relax the body and mind. Students felt refreshed and rejuvenated after the workshop.

“I learnt that Yoga must be done in the morning on an empty stomach. Yoga can also heal illnesses.” – R.SANJANA SRI (4 Diligence)

**Primary 5 & 6 – Workshop on the Significance & Etiquette of an Indian Traditional Banana Leaf Meal**

Students who attended this workshop learnt the sequence and order of different dishes that are served on a banana leaf. As a closure to the workshop, students had a chance to serve meals on a banana leaf to their fellow classmates and also to enjoy a good scrumptious banana leaf meal themselves.

**Primary 4 to 6 – Indian Puppet Show Workshop**

Our upper primary Tamil students were thrilled to be given a chance to watch a puppet show which originated from Kerala, India, and learn about traditional folk tales that are dramatized using puppets. They also had a hand in making their own puppets.

All AIPS Tamil students had a fun and fruitful learning experience participating in these various activities!
At AIPS, we believe that Character and Citizenship Education of our students plays an important role in their holistic education. They learn important life skills to help them become Learners for Life so that they can adapt in this fast-changing globalized world. Annual CCE Camps are organised for students to learn values through experiential learning.

This year, the focus for AIPS CCE Camps is the ‘3R Leader’. The 3Rs refer to Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. Age-appropriate activities were planned for each level, with explicit learning points for students to embrace. The camps hope to raise students’ social emotional competencies like self-awareness, social awareness and relationship management. To promote a culture of collaboration and teamwork, a concerted effort was made to ensure group games and activities were conducted during the camps. Students’ reflections showed that they have enjoyed the camp and learnt important life skills such as teamwork, effective communication, respect and resilience. Students are grateful that such camps have been organised for them to learn values through play.

These camps have also brought out the leader in our students!
The National Stamp Collecting Competition 2015 is organised by Singapore Philatelic Museum and supported by the Ministry of Education. The competition seeks to promote the study of postage stamps and philatelic materials to learn about Singapore and the world.

Out of more than 300 entries submitted, we are pleased to announce that our Primary 4 and Primary 5 National Education (NE) Ambassadors who participated in this national competition clinched the Gold and Silver awards respectively.

**Title of Exhibit 1 – My Home, Singapore**
1) Charlize Ashwini D/O Yamalasamy (4 Resilience)
2) Dayang Nurbalqis Binte Shahrul Hakiem (4 Resilience)
3) Tan Yu Yan (4 Resilience)
4) Syed Azeem Arshad Riaz (4 Resilience)

**Title of Exhibit 2 – City in a Garden**
1) Baskaran Akshay Kumar (5 Care)
2) Dina Ardieana Putri Romzi (5 Care)
3) Elumalai Rithika (5 Care)

The students had put in a lot of hard work with months of preparation including a training workshop which they attended. In the course of preparing for the competition, they were exposed to many interesting philatelic materials such as first day covers, maxi cards, postcards and stamp booklets.

This year, the competition exhibits were displayed at the Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition and the students were honoured to receive their trophies at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre on Saturday, 15 August. Our Indian Dance Troupe was invited to perform at the award ceremony and they awed the audience with their amazing performance.

It was an enriching learning experience for the students.

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**Math Achievements**

Mathematical Kangaroo is an international Mathematics competition with active participation from more than 40 countries worldwide. The key competence tested in this competition is logical combination, not just the application of pure knowledge of formulas.

This year, 26 students from the Primary 3 to 6 levels participated in the Mathematical Kangaroo Competition and 16 have achieved commendable results. Their achievements are as follow:

**Primary 3**
- **Gold**: Chow Yee Heng
- **Silver**: Nur Insyirah, Liu Yi Xuan
- **Bronze**: Ho Yu Fei, Chin Zhen Zhou, Tan Ze Qi, K. Sahaanaa

**Primary 5**
- **Bronze**: Baskaran Akshay Kumar

**Primary 6**
- **Gold**: Liang Chongxi, Chin Xian Yi, Deon Poh Chang Sheng, Melvin Loong
- **Bronze**: Joshua Andrew, Sahoo Sidharth Sankar, Aung Oakgar, Luo Yu

Kudos to all our Mathematical Kangaroo winners!
PARTYING – THE COOL WAY

The AIPS Reading Party was held not once, but twice this year! The aim of the party was to celebrate the success of our avid readers on their reading journey.

The theme for this year was ‘Fractured Fairy Tales’ and they are spinoffs from the famous fairy tales we all know. Some notable titles include, ‘Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs’, ‘The True Story of the Three Little Pigs’ and ‘Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood story from China’.

Students were given a chance to explore these various fractured fairy tales in depth and see how they differed from the original fairy tales. It was heartening to see them deeply engaged and putting in their level best to complete the activities at the various stations that were set up for them.

Aptly put by famous children’s author, Roald Dahl, “Those who do not believe in magic will never find it.” Books are not just filled with words; they are filled with fascinating places to visit, facts to discover and interesting people to meet. In the spirit of the Reading Party, pick up a book today and party the cool way!

Stories Come Alive!

Students from Primary 1 and 2 put up a spectacular performance on 5 August to culminate their learning experiences from a series of Speech and Drama lessons conducted in school since Term 1. It was their annual Speech and Drama Extravaganza that was themed ‘Stories Come Alive’!

Through a series of Speech and Drama sessions, students acquired communication skills and self-confidence. They also honed their social and emotional competencies by learning how to establish positive relationships with their peers through team work. Techniques such as poetry recital, role play and even phonics were infused in the lessons so that students learnt how to communicate and express themselves in creative yet enjoyable ways.

450 supportive parents turned up for the concert despite their busy schedules. They were thrilled and delighted to see their children all dressed up in colourful and vibrant costumes take to the stage confidently to enthrall their family and friends! Our overseas visitors from Baoci and Yizhuang Elementary Schools, China, who were in our school for a school visit that day, also joined us in the extravaganza and enjoyed the performance thoroughly!
**Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Art Exhibition**

The Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Art Exhibition is an annual national school event that recognises and celebrates the talents of our students in the visual arts. It aims to showcase the artistic efforts and achievements of students as well as promote art appreciation amongst them. With the theme of “artist: Past. Present. Future”, the Art Exhibition celebrates the artist in every student.

A group of young, talented artists of AIPS participated in this year’s event. In groups, they created masterpieces using recycled materials and creatively blending colours based on this year’s theme. We submitted two artworks entitled ‘Garden of Harmony’ and ‘Keep Me Alive!’. The latter was awarded Certificate of Recognition and was selected to be exhibited at Raffles City Shopping Centre from 10 to 19 July!

**Our young budding artists are –**

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<td>Mash ‘Ameera Binte Salim</td>
<td>3 Care</td>
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<td>Zhao Fangzhou</td>
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<td>Tan Xuan En</td>
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<td>Umairah Nadya Binte Mohamad Faizal</td>
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<td>Rabiha Binte Saifulbahri</td>
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<td>Ang Rui Kang</td>
<td>5 Care</td>
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<td>Dina Ardieanna Putri Romzi</td>
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<td>Dhabitah Binte Peeros</td>
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Our students have enjoyed the journey of art making and they are very proud of their artwork. They look forward to creating even more interesting artworks for the next SYF Art Exhibition!

**Buckets-Filling @ AIPS**

AIPS presented the “Happy School Project” and “Gratitude Project” at the MOE ExCEL Fest 2014. Our school shared how we seek to nurture every student to be a happy, positive and grateful individual who is passionate about life and an active contributor to society in the future globalized world.

Our school has since developed the programme further into the “Happy School Campaign – Bucket Filling” this year. The objective of the campaign is to encourage positive behaviour as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love to others. Our students learn about the positive feedback that connects kindness and happiness: ‘Be kind and you will be happy. Be happy and you will be kind.’

In Term 2 this year, the AIPS family was busy ‘filling buckets’ – buckets of love and kindness. This idea was adopted from the multi-award winning book, ‘Have You Filled a Bucket Today?’ written by Carol McCloud. The key message from the book is that everyone carries an invisible bucket and we should strive to fill the buckets of others with kind words and acts.

Inspired by the ideas from the book, students and staff of AIPS embarked on our “Happy School Campaign – Bucket Filling”. Bucket-Filler cards were specially designed by teachers-in-charge of this campaign and printed for students. Students were then invited to pen down their words of thanks for their friends, teachers and family members. Once they had written their words of appreciation on the cards, they passed their cards to the recipients and in turn, they received some cards too. The scene was delightful and the atmosphere was warm.

Moving forward, this campaign hopes to continue to cultivate the value of kindness and inspire all to do good to others and thereby develop a more gracious society in Singapore.
In celebration of SG50, Youth Celebrate! was held at the Singapore Sports Hub on 26 July. It is a showcase of the vitality of our youth and their achievements in sports, arts and uniformed groups. It also marks the official opening of the Singapore Sports Hub by the Guest-of-Honour, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

About 70 students, parents and teachers from AIPS had the privilege of attending the event. It was their first visit to the newly revamped National Stadium and all were excited. The highlight during the pre-show was the novelty soccer match ‘Goal for a Cause’ where 50 primary school students pit their skills against eleven former national football players for a charitable cause. The audience was also involved in the Kallang Roar and card display to show a formation of the SG50 logo amongst the audience. In the show segment, our students were awed by the various performances. They were thankful to be able to be a part of this dazzling display of exuberance and achievements of youth!

Joshua Andrew (6 Care)

“AIPS has also contributed to this e-book. Our project was on the ‘Speak Mandarin Campaign in 1979’. The project was started last year by our seniors, led by Mdm See Soo Peng. It was so well-written that it was selected as one of the ten projects to be presented to all at the e-book launch.

The Speak Mandarin Campaign (SMC) was started in 1979 by the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. One of its objectives was to improve communication and understanding among Chinese Singaporeans.

In the initial years of the SMC, the focus was to get more Chinese Singaporeans to drop dialects and speak more Mandarin. In later years, it expanded to include an appreciation of the Chinese heritage, culture, history and language as well.”

Lydia Nabilah (5 Care)

“This is how the SMC has impacted me. I am the product of the bilingual education policy and I can speak and write both English and Mandarin well.

SMC is very meaningful as it encourages bilingualism. Every Singaporean student nowadays can speak and write both English and their Mother Tongue. However, this campaign is so successful that many Singaporeans do not know how to speak their own dialects. Thus, I hope that when we become more conversant in Mandarin, we must not forget how to speak our dialects or the identity of each dialect group will be lost.”

Nathanael Chan (6 Care)

Youth Celebrate!

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29 July this year was a memorable day for Nathanael, Lydia and me. We were student presenters at the SG50 HOME e-book Launch at Presbyterian High School. We met our school’s Superintendent, Mrs Ong-Ooi Giok Tin, AIPS’ ex-Principals, Mrs Chan, Ms Foong and Mdm Sim at the event. We presented AIPS’ project to many important MOE officials like the Permanent Secretary (Education), Superintendents, Principals and Vice-Principals. We even caught a glimpse and had a photograph taken with our President, Dr Tony Tan!

SG50 Home e-book is a SG50 birthday gift to Singapore from students. All primary, secondary, junior college, special education school students have contributed their reflections to this e-book entitled HOME. It contains many stories which are relevant to Social Studies and CCE lessons. We can learn some very interesting stories and facts about Singapore.

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Nathanael Chan (6 Care)
2015 marks Singapore’s 50th year of independence. It is a year of rejoicing and celebration. Leading up to the National Day celebratory weekend, students and teachers at AIPS participated in a string of activities as ONE AI Family.

The first of these activities was the building of Singapore’s three icons from a special, 244-piece set of “Building My SG: Reflect, Celebrate, Inspire” Lego bricks which was distributed to all students and teachers in Singapore to commemorate Singapore’s Golden Jubilee. Teachers conducted lessons in class on three national icons - the Cavenagh Bridge, Changi Airport and Gardens By the Bay before joining their students in building them from the Lego bricks given.

The next activity was the much awaited National Education (NE) Golden Jubilee Show held at the Padang. Our current Primary 5 students were privileged to attend this spectacular show. Themed “Majulah Singapura”, meaning Onward Singapore, it encouraged all students to work together towards building a better, brighter future for Singapore. Our students were captivated by the integrated show entitled “Our Singapore Story” which narrated our nation’s journey since independence. Another highlight was the vintage parade that showcased images of Singapore in her early days of independence, with parade participants that included pioneers who had marched in national parades from the 1960s to 1970s.

The series of activities culminated in a National Day school celebration on 6 August with our invaluable stakeholders, Parents Support Group and School Advisory Committee members. This year, we also had special guests joining us -- the residents from All Saints Home. Led by our teacher motivators, we sang all the familiar community songs to our hearts’ content. The celebratory concert ended on a high note as we sang ‘Our Singapore’ proudly as One Singapore!

The AIPS Choir was privileged to have been invited to perform on that national platform on 7 August, together with many other choral groups from other schools. A massive crowd of about 41 300 concert goers attended the Sing50 Concert. They were captivated by the rich diversity of the nation’s music heritage, performed by more than 250 artists who sang more than 70 iconic Singapore songs in the four official languages.

When asked by a reporter of The Straits Times of his experience at the concert, Shawn Ng of 4 Resilience aptly described it in three words - PRACTISE, PRACTISE, PRACTISE. Indeed, their hard work had paid off when they stood on that big stage and sang their hearts out proudly and confidently!

It was a night of sweet reminiscence of days gone by, a joyful celebration of achievements and a firm resolve to bring Singapore to greater heights in the coming years!

Majulah Singapura!
During the June holidays, teaching and non-teaching staff of AIPS gathered at Yishun SAFRA for a day of bonding over exciting games and fun activities! They were grouped into various teams and displayed friendly competitive spirit as they worked together cooperatively to complete tasks that were given to them.

Teams got innovative during “Spaghetti Towers” as they used marshmallows, tapes and spaghetti to build a tower that was the height of the shortest person in the team. Our staff also put their creativity into practice in “The Great Egg Catch” as they used bubble wraps and newspaper to protect an egg before dropping it from a height into a pail held by the other team members.

In the activity, “Team Link”, our staff exhibited teamwork and continuous learning as they collectively thought of innovative solutions to get all team members across a series of sponge mats while adhering to certain rules! Equipped with only a pair of scissors and glue sticks, their art and craft skills were also put to the test as they cut out newspaper cuttings to form ten sets of “I LOVE AIPS” on mahjong paper.

Our staff also showcased their acting skills in “Charades” as they acted out the given words while their team members guessed what they were. The day ended with everyone showing their gratitude with a ‘thank you’ card for those who had helped them in any way over the past year.

Our staff at AIPS had a day full of laughter and smiles as they bonded as ONE AIPS family!
On 3 September, AIPS celebrated Teacher’s Day with a bang! It began with a fantastic student-led concert and culminated in a scrumptious Teacher’s Day Hi-Tea at Serangoon Country Club.

The concert, which was put up by our talented students, came complete with songs and dances. Guided by our wonderful team of Allied Educators (AEDs), the students shared their appreciation of their teachers through their performances. The show closed in an amazing fashion, with a flashlight display to the tune of a song by Jessie J - ‘Flashlight’. All teachers were touched and moved by the students’ dedicated, sincere and heart-warming performances.

In alignment with the new school value of gratitude, this year’s Teacher’s Day celebration included a gift exchange segment for all staff. All staff participated in buying a gift for a colleague whose name they picked at random from a bag. Gifts were exchanged during the celebrations at Serangoon Country Club.

The theme for this year’s Teacher’s Day celebration was ‘Eyes On Me’. Teachers and non-teaching staff graced the event with fanciful, outrageous and decorative eye accessories! Mdm Deepa and Mr Steven Lim were rewarded for their effort and creativity!

The event ended with a closing address by our Vice-Principal, Mrs Han. It definitely was another delightful Teacher’s Day for all at AIPS!
**Visitors from China**

On 5 August, we welcomed two groups of visitors from China who came for a cultural exchange with our students and teachers. They were from Baochi Elementary School and Yizhuang Elementary School, China.

The overseas students from the two schools were paired up with our AIPS Primary 5 students who played the role of a buddy and guide. Our visitors first had a taste of a typical one-hour lesson with their buddies. After experiencing learning in a classroom setting, they were led on a tour around the school and brought to the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) room, where four student TCM ambassadors introduced informative facts on Chinese medicine, which included the various genres of Chinese herbs and famous Chinese physicians in the history of China.

At around 12 noon, they were ushered into the hall to watch our annual Speech and Drama Extravaganza proudly performed by our Primary 1 and 2 students. In the afternoon, our visitors were given an opportunity to learn more about a Malay traditional art form, Batik painting, through an introductory workshop where they created a simple piece of artwork for themselves.

Overall, our visitors had a good time mingling and interacting with our students and teachers and the feeling was mutual. We look forward to hosting more overseas visitors in the future.