

# ROSYTH PSG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021



*Mrs Poh Hwee Thing, Vice Principal of Rosyth School (centre), with Rosythians*

## MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL

Warm greetings to all our parents! To our new Primary 1 Rosythians and their parents, welcome to Rosyth School. I have just joined the Rosyth family in mid-October 2020 as the second Vice-Principal. It is indeed a privilege to be serving in Rosyth School and working alongside with the school leadership team, staff, parents, Rosyth School Parent Support Group, the School Advisory Committee and Rosyth School Alumni Association to support the holistic development of our Rosythians.

My journey as an educator started in two primary schools before I joined Educational Technology Division, Ministry of Education where I was very much involved in co-designing work plans with schools for ICT integration into the curriculum and supporting teachers' professional development in designing ICT-enabled teaching and learning experiences for students. My professional learning was further enriched by the opportunity to pursue post-graduate study in the Master of Education at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore). Before joining Rosyth School, I served in Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Primary) as the Vice-Principal.

During my first week in the school, I have observed how well our Rosythians have adapted to the safe management measures in place in the midst of this unprecedented situation of the pandemic. This is indeed a testimony of how our Rosythians have overcome the odds and discomfort to become more resilient to stay safe and still able to learn together with their classmates, guided by their teachers. Thank you parents for working in close partnership with us to enable your child to continue to learn and develop safely in school.

In this season of the 'New Normal', we will continue to deepen our focus on the holistic development of every Rosythian. As we do so, not only will we pursue to strengthen our current 'High Joy, High Learning' approach in engaging our Rosythians meaningfully in their cognitive development, we will also heighten their critical development in the affective domain. The latter will guide our Rosythians in developing key dispositions to enable them to acquire life-long learning skills and attitudes; be always ready to serve others; adopt a positive outlook in life; and embrace a growth mindset to stay resilient. The holistic learning experience will be defined by deep learning and creation of learning experiences to nurture innovative thinking, self-directedness and collaborative spirit in our students.

The current E-platform that has been used to support Rosythians' learning and facilitate communication with our parents is also a shift that we have embarked on during this pandemic. Moving forward, this e-platform will continue to be leveraged to support teaching and learning as well as facilitate timely communication with our parents. We are also heartened to learn that many parents welcome the availability of this alternative platform to support Rosythians' learning and at the same time enable them to have timely interaction with our teachers.

As a school, we also strongly believe in anchoring our Rosythians in our school's core values, the 'I-CARE' values. This set of values will guide them as they develop and follow them through into adulthood so that they can stand strong under challenging circumstances, make wise and sound decisions, seek innovative solutions to resolve problems and always be ready to serve others. We seek your support in this journey of inculcating our 'I-CARE' values in our Rosythians so that they also live out the values at home as they interact with family members and friends beyond the confines of the school.

On behalf of the school, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Rosyth School Parent Support Group (PSG) led by Ms Eunice Tay (President), Ms Suzan Koa (Vice-President) and the supportive EXCO members. The dynamism, passion, expertise and resourcefulness of our PSG have enriched the learning experiences for our Rosythians and resulted in positive outcomes in their development. Indeed, our PSG has role-modelled our school's motto, 'Ready to Serve', through their dedication by serving in our school whenever possible. We look forward to continue with this strong and synergistic partnership that has been established to enhance the meaningfulness of learning and development of our Rosythians. To our new group of parents with your child in Primary 1, we would strongly encourage you to sign up as a member of Rosyth School PSG if you have not done so. This will enable you to participate actively in your child's developmental growth in Rosyth School through PSG's activities. It will be a valuable and meaningful experience for both your child and yourself as you witness the formative years of his/her development.

May I also take this opportunity to thank Mrs Stella Kwan, former Vice-Principal of Rosyth School, for her contributions in Rosyth School. We wish her all the best in her new assignment in the Ministry of Education. We look forward to working in close and synergistic partnership with you as we journey together as a Rosyth family to develop our Rosythians to learn with passion, serve with compassion and lead with vision.

Yours in Partnership,  
Ms Poh Hwee Thing  
Vice-Principal  
Rosyth School

# MESSAGE FROM THE PSG

Dear Parents,

The Rosyth School Parent Support Group (PSG) committee and I are delighted to start another year by welcoming Ms Poh, the newly appointed Vice Principal at Rosyth, our returning students, new students and their families.

Rosyth PSG is a non-profit voluntary organization. Our aim is to bridge the communication between the school and the parents, as well as organize exciting programs for the Rosythians. Our motto, Together We Foster, reiterates our belief that the school, parents and the PSG need to work together for the betterment of our children.

The year 2020 has been a tumultuous one, filled with challenges amidst lingering virulent threats. Being involved in the PSG has allowed me to meet and work closely with our school leaders, teachers and staff in school. I have seen first-hand the dedication, hard work and sacrifices they have made, especially during this pandemic, to keep our children safe thereby allowing meaningful learning to continue in school.

The pandemic cannot stop the learning. In March, we had to suspend our weekend programs so as to allow all our program providers to reorganize their modus operandi. We resumed the programs in July via online platforms and were able to complete all our exciting weekend enrichment programs such as Badminton, Ballet, Wushu, Math Olympiad and many more. Moving forward, as we adapt to the new normalcy, we shall work closely with the school to adhere to the government guidelines.

We invite you to be part of PSG community. You may volunteer for our Parent Involvement Program (PIP) where parents help in the school's Reading Program, Children Day's celebration and many other school activities. You may also sign up as a PSG member to take advantage of the various discounts offered on PSG holiday programs and enjoy discount with PSG partners namely, Dr Kong Shoes, Impact Bags and Fable Books.

Educating children is imperative to prepare our children to inherit the world. But it is not solely the responsibility of the school. The PSG partners closely with the school by supporting its educational goals. It also serves as an important platform to provide a two-way communication between the school and parents. The PSG will continue to improve its communication network, thus facilitating a better learning environment for our children.

I wish all parents and students a great 2021, blessed with great health, happiness and success.

Sincerely,  
Ms Eunice Tay  
President  
Rosyth School  
Parent Support Group

*"Our motto, Together We Foster, reiterates our belief that the school, parents and the PSG need to work together for the betterment of our children"....  
Eunice, PSG President*



# SPECIAL SHOW OF APPRECIATION

*The school management and PSG had teamed up to thank the staff for stepping up during the year to make the school a safer place for our students*

As all of us are more than aware, the year 2020 was unprecedented. The outbreak of COVID-19 disrupted everyone's lives in all aspects, and that included school life.

To help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in school, the school had implemented safe management measures which included more frequent cleaning and disinfection of the school compound, particularly the high touch areas.

Teachers had also had to deal with preparing and conducting lessons online, while looking after the health and hygiene of the students when school resumed after the circuit breaker period.

As a show of appreciation for taking on the additional workload and effort put in by everyone, the school management and PSG had come together during the year to present special care packs to the staff and organise an appreciation bento meal for the cleaning staff.



**Thank you lunch for staff who put in extra effort in cleaning during the pandemic**



# OUR HOME BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

2020 is a year full of surprises, shock and...loads of sanitizers. So first things first, give yourself a pat on the back for surviving 2020 and HBL

I am sure for most of us, the surprises and shock didn't come purely from COVID-19. After all, we are a generation who had survived SARS. When MOE announced in May that students will be staying at home for 7 weeks for home-based learning ("HBL"), most of us were too surprised (or shocked) to react, as we didn't know what to expect. For working parents, it meant having to juggle between work and their children's learning. For the stay home mums, there would be no respite from their kids, while at the same time coping with new life norms and ZOOM woes.

The surprises (both pleasant and unpleasant ones) came from the revealing moments when parents saw how their kids learn (or not) at home, through zoom or self-directed learning. When the time came for school to reopen, there were widespread sighs of relief across the island from both students and parents. My daughter declared that she could not wait to go back to school so that I would stop nagging her about her homework. That was definitely a speechless moment for me there. I am guessing that I am not the only parent who was relieved when school resumed on the 29th June. We decided to speak with six mums to get their first hand experience on how they managed HBL and what they have learnt, so that we can do better in future:

Meet the Rosythians Mums of PSG

1. Annu, a Teaching Assistant at Stamford American School, whose son is in P4 .
2. Yvonne, a stay home mum to Jeremy, who is in P3.
3. Winny Yap, a financial controller of an investment firm, has 2 children (P5 and P6) in Rosyth.
4. Yi Min, a stay home mum to 2 Rosythians, her children are in P6 and P3.
5. Selrol Ng, mum to Amelia who is in P4
6. Suzan, mum to 4 kids, the eldest has graduated Rosyth into NUS High School, and her twins and youngest child are still in Rosyth.



## 1. Two words to Describe your HBL Experience:

### **Annu:**

New experience

### **Yvonne:**

Start of HBL: Why? Why?!

Mid-way: End yet?

End of HBL: We survived!

### **Winny:**

Challenging and chaotic.

It is challenging because the children has to learn to manage their time for lessons from home.

We are used to a routine before COVID-19, however with the immediate effect of the circuit breaker, there was a need to adjust our time for work and studies, which was quite chaotic for the first 2 weeks. E.g. in the past, I was able to work during office hours; and attend to my children when I get home. But during circuit breaker, I needed to guide my children through the HBL while attending to my work. It was chaotic at first but I am glad we found a good balance in our new norms.

### **Yi Min:**

New and Enriching

### **Selrol:**

Convenience , Love it!

### **Suzan:**

Stressed and heartened.



From top to bottom:  
Annu and her family, Selrol and her family followed  
by Winny and her family. Winny also serves as a PSG  
committee member.

## 2. Which parts did you feel could have been done better to make e-learning better for your child?

### Winny:

I hope a more structured online assistance could be given to the children. For example, dedicate a period for a specific subject, and during this period, the teacher will provide the necessary guidance to the students online. This will be extremely helpful to the upper primary students, assuming if they could post questions online for discussions, which the teacher can guide them to the answers.

### Annu:

I felt that we were missing interactive sessions with the teachers and classmates, and the HBL could have more of that.

### Yi Min:

I feel that for the lower primary, the contents should be more interactive. To get them more interested. For upper primary, answers to the work done on SLS should be given to them so as to allow them to revise their mistakes.

### Yvonne:

While online games, quizzes and videos do help to provide a variety of learning tools, nothing beats a face-to-face learning experience. Perhaps a few sessions of real time teaching could be carried out through Google Meet/Zoom for subjects like Music, Art or PE.

### Selrol:

Accuracy in the answers. There were a few occasions where the answers were obvious, and the child got it wrong due to the computer pre-input answers.

### Suzan:

I felt the online google meet sessions could be longer in most cases (esp for the P5s), as by the time everybody login, resolved technical issues (if any), very little time is left for real work and discussion.



PSG committee member,  
Yi Min and her Rosythians

## 3. What have you learnt about your child/ren during the circuit breaker or what was your main take away from this experience?



### Winny:

I have learnt my children's learning behaviour while attending google meet lessons, I can imagine they probably behave the same way in physical classroom. It helps me understand their learning needs and find a solution to it.

### Selrol:

Routines, timetables and clear dissemination of instructions and expectations made everyone sane. My child is much happier knowing what is in it for her in a day and it helps her to manage her time too.

In the absence of enrichment classes that were halted during the circuit breaker, my child was given a lot more 'space' to daydream, to conjure fun games and simply became creative with their existing toys. Children could function better, breathe and become creative when we trust them and give them the space.

### Annu:

I learnt that my son is able to adapt quickly to changes and the new way of learning.

### Yvonne:

I have learnt that children are a lot more resilient than we give them credit for. I was initially concerned that my children may not fully understand the repercussions of COVID-19 and why they could not go out and had to have their routines changed. But, I soon realised that they were quite receptive to the changes as long as they were briefed in a proper and timely manner.

### Yi Min:

I feel that HBL will become an integral part of learning moving forward. Parents should learn to harness the resources from HBL and make the best out of the child's learning. It helps to inculcate a sense of responsibility and empowers the children towards self-directed learning.

### Suzan:

While the experience may be stressful (for parents and kids), having to cope with new technologies initially, new ways of submitting assignment, new way of learning (more self-directed), it forced the parents to be more involved in their kids' learning, (e.g. I sat in on Maths and Chinese google meet sessions to learn how to guide my kids).



From top to bottom:  
PSG Vice President, Suzan and her family  
PSG member Yvonne and her family

# BEHIND THE SCENES

PSG members work behind the scenes to help with some of the school events like Children's Day and the Jumble Sale

Despite the constraints on holding celebrations this year due to the COVID-19 measures, the school managed to continue with a number of celebrations, including Children's Day Celebration, Teachers' Day Celebration and the Jumble Sale.

The PSG had prepared a goodie bag containing a variety of presents for the students this year. We hope that this goodie bag goes some way to making up for the scaled down celebrations this year!

Teachers' Day was also celebrated in a different fashion this year due to the need for social distancing. All participants joined the Teachers' Day Celebration via zoom from their own venue. Performances, games and speeches were all done via zoom - but everyone still had a great time!

We are also elated that annual Jumble Sale to raise funds for the needy was able to continue this year. While there was no onsite sale, students were able to select and send in their orders. The response was overwhelming, and the PSG gladly volunteered to help the school in the collation of the orders.



Preparing Children's Day Goodie Bags!

Eunice, President of the PSG, expressing appreciation to the teachers during Teachers' Day Celebration

# PSG WEEKEND ACTIVITIES 2021

Is your child spending too much time on their devices on weekends, or has too much excess energy? One of the best way to find an outlet for your children's energy or take them away from their screens would be partaking in some form of sports or activities which they enjoy doing, outside of the academic space.

The Rosyth PSG has curated a variety of enrichment classes which are held over the weekends, for our Rosythians to pick up new skills in a safe and creative space. In the recent years, some of the interesting new programmes which we have added include the Chinese Orchestra, Jazz and a new season of the Taekwondo class.

When I first started my very active son on taekwondo, my objective was to help him discipline his body and energy. Instead of moving around restlessly, he can learn to control his movements and spend his energy on the craft of self-defence. If you notice that your child is constantly fidgeting and finding it difficult to focus on his or her tasks, it may be time to get him or her on his feet, whether be it Taekwondo, badminton or some other sports.

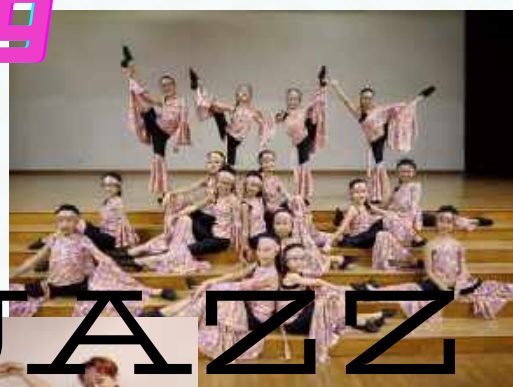
If sports is not up your child's alley, there is also jazz classes for the closet Fred Astaire in your child. The class is taught by 2 talented coaches, Oksana and Adeline. Oksana is qualified from the State Academy of Choreography, Samar, Russia, and has the experience of producing many international stage competitions back home. Adeline is a La-Salle qualified teacher who had been awarded several scholarships and honed her skills overseas. Together, these 2 talented ladies lead the class in working on projects such as the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) and other local productions.

**To get the full list of enrichment classes that the PSG holds over the weekend, please visit: <http://rosythpsg.com/weekend-enrichment-courses-prospectus-2021/> or place a call to Mr Nick at 90189413 for any enquiries.**

*coding*



Violin



JAZZ



CHINESE ORCHESTRA



BADMINTON



Taekwondo





# THE PSG TEAM AT ROSYTH



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Ms Eunice Tay
Vice President	Ms Suzan Koa
Secretary	Ms Lavina Peswani Ms
Asst Secretary	Ms Kelly Ho
Treasurer	Ms Esther Chong
Asst Treasurer	Ms Tan Kar Lin
Editor	Ms Tan Suan Hui
Asst Editor	Ms Phebe Poon
Membership	Ms Caitlin Oh
PIP Head	Ms Ang Yi-mn
PIP	Ms Siti Aisyah

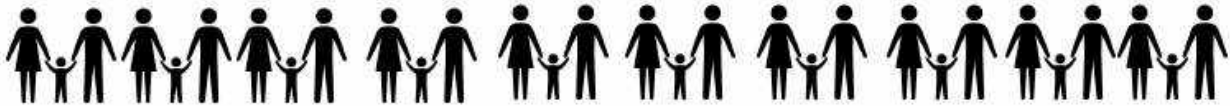
Programme Team:	<u>Website / IT</u>
Ms Winny Yap, Head	Ms Rukmani Devi Sayanthan
Ms Carine Lee	Mr Montri Maokullavanich
Ms Renuga Johan	
Ms Fiona Chiu	
Mr Bryant Ee	

Weekend Enrichment  
Ms Jean Cheong  
Ms Lillian Tan

## Advisors to the PSG Committee

Mdm Elis Tan, Principal  
Ms Poh Hwee Thing, Vice Principal  
Mrs Lui May Ling, Representative from School

## COME AND JOIN US!



### Membership Benefits

- ✓ Copy of PSG newsletter
- ✓ Members' get together
- ✓ Preferential rates for seminars and holiday programs
- ✓ Special buys (such as branded school bags and shoes)
- ✓ Involvement in school's activities through Parent Involvement Program (PIP)
- ✓ Voting rights at AGM
- ✓ Bonding and networking within the school

Sign up now for **\$48 for 6 years** at  
[www.rosythpsg.com](http://www.rosythpsg.com)



SCAN ME TO SIGNUP

Contact Us at



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