



PARENTS POST

HELLO FROM PSG EXCO THANKS FOR A GREAT 2022 WELCOME 2023!

By Tina, PSG Chairperson

How time flies! We just sent off 2022, welcomed 2023, and now we are already at the end of January. As parents, we have a lot to think about and are always busy with a lot of things happening in our lives - family, work and more. My heart is full of appreciation and would like to thank the BRPS parent community for all your participation and support in 2022. At the same time, I would like to warmly welcome our new P1 parents to the school!

2022 Semester 2 was a whirlwind of activities. Of particular mention was the first in-person Children's Day celebration at West Coast Park. 20 parents from PSG turned up in strength (we filled up a whole bus!).

To make the event happen safely, we were road marshals and chaperones, so that the whole school's students can have a fun and safe morning outdoors. We also worked like a factory line packing about 300 goodie bags for our BRPS children. At the in-school event afterwards, our parents rocked the house at the school hall with a fun "Guess my Teacher, Guess my Hero!" game. For Teachers' Day, we spent much effort preparing gifts for the caring teachers of our children. All these were made possible by the kind donations from over 40 parents in PSG. Not forgetting volunteers for other activities and celebrations such as Deepavali, Blooming Garden, Career Guidance Day and Swimsafer program, all these could only happen with your support.

We also had fun together, de-stress and bonded with each other. Continuing on where we left off from Semester 1, we held 3 more bonding and craft sessions, making something together while chatting about our lives. PSG is about supporting parents as much as supporting the school, and we welcome more parents to join us. Let's share our talents and expertise with each other and bond over it.

After two years of only being able to meet online, in 2022 year we could finally have face-to-face activities. It was great to be able to bond with everyone from all the activities that we had. We would like to keep the momentum going, and hope that more and more parents join and build stronger bonds together throughout our kids' time in BRPS, and even after that.

With heartfelt thanks, I look forward to another great year in 2023 and see you all in school! To our new parents from Primary 1, please join us as the PSG and participate in all these actions!



PARENT SPOTLIGHT

THE LEE FAMILY

Supporting our children in their growth and facing failures is one of the biggest challenges in the parenting journey. For this edition, we spoke to our BRPS parent, May Yee, about her experience in this that many of us could learn from.



Q - Understand that your daughter faced academic challenges in school. How did you and your husband deal with the situation?

May Yee (MY) - Yes, that's right. Last year, Ning struggled with her academic studies and did not do well in most subjects, except English, since transferring back to the Singapore education system from a Philippines IB school. So we asked her, "Is the academic route the only way to attain your educational goals?" Both my husband and I encouraged Ning to follow her passion for dance and literary arts; to apply for Direct School Admission (DSA). There were attempts and rejections. Finally, Ning was elated when Queensway Secondary offered her DSA via modern dance.

The process was not fully smooth sailing. My husband and I believe setbacks are important and is a necessary path for future successes. It is to be accepted as a learning journey and not a judgement of her self-worth. We cannot shield Ning from the setbacks that will definitely come her way. What we can do is be there for her when she's down, share our own stories and allow her to find her own path. We guide her to be resilient, by not letting failures get to her.

Q - I'm sure there was some level of stress for you as well. How did you manage it?

Yes, I was. In the past, I tend to follow trends. Herd instinct. I used to pack her schedule with activities. And the outcome is not always great. While she continues to love gymnastics and movement, she has not touched the keyboard despite learning music for 4 years. I have since learned not to be gripped by the fear of missing out. Instead, we allow Ning to find her passion and self-motivation. Those are harder to teach than academics!

Q - You have chosen the option to let Ning try DSA. Why and what advice do you have for other parents if any?

MY - Don't think I am in a position to give advice to anyone. My husband and I feel it is important for parents to understand what their child is good at and love doing. Ning has clear and identifiable strength which is her love of dance. We also wanted Ning to know that there are many pathways to success and there are alternatives and choices. DSA allows us to send that message to her. Through this exercise, we empowered her to "go get it", within our family's finite resources.

Q - Last but not least, how would you hope your children would grow up to be?

MY - We hope that our children would grow up to be kind, to know who they are and what they are good at. To be happy with family and friends around them.

"... WHAT WE CAN DO IS BE THERE FOR HER, SHARE OUR OWN STORIES AND ALLOW HER TO FIND HER OWN PATH"

PSG PARENTS

@ CAREER GUIDANCE FAIR

By Hoi Leong, PSG Vice Chairperson

What is a good career? What is success? And what is our message to the children as parents? These are the questions that a few of us asked ourselves when we were invited by the school to support the career guidance fair held in August 2022.

Something that we realised that we have in common is that our "career paths" have changed, and in a way that we did not expect. Tina was trained to be an accountant, but switched to the IT industry. Siti longed to work in the media industry and got her dream job, but found out that it was not suitable for her, and eventually found her calling in the financial industry. I dreamt to be a computer game developer, but started my working life as a civil servant. As Anju puts it, "The nature of work is evolving. People are no longer tied to one career from the start to the end of their working lives. People step in and out of careers, switch fields, and ultimately we are all driven to find something meaningful in which we can contribute with passion."



Fang Fang sharing her work as a dry flower artist

In that case, what is important for our children at this age?

All of us agreed that we want our children to know that there are many pathways to living life. What is important is to start being aware of their own strengths and passions, and being exposed to different experiences and perspectives. This will help them to find what they love or what they are good at. At the same time, they learn to be self-directed and have the spirit to pursue. This would serve them well to chart their own life journey.

With these in mind, our PSG parents Daphne and Fang Fang attended the career fair to share the love of their profession with our BRPS children, and let them experience a part of what they do. I invited my friend who is an entrepreneur in an agritech startup to share her passion with the students. May Yee, Tina, Siti and Beh prepared and set up a beautiful corner stimulating the students to wonder what they would like to do.

We hope that we have contributed to the holistic development of the children at BRPS. Looking to have more parents who would like to contribute to giving such exposure to our children!



Above - Daphne shares her work passion with the students
Below - Students wrote down what they enjoy and what they want to do in the future

PSG Blooming Garden

A WELCOMING OASIS WITHIN OUR SCHOOL

By Joy and Je, PSG Blooming Garden Leaders

Blooms and greens abound in different colours, shapes, textures and scents. A haven indeed! Lots of happy and fun memories were treasured in 2022 and will be continued beyond by our families.

Oh, what a wonder it is to experience the garden teeming with life, poetry and hidden art!

...We were delighted by the colourful and uniquely-shaped blooms and leaves of orchids, roses, balsam, rosella, cotton and more.

...We witnessed vegetable and fruit flowers evolve into guava, mango, bitter gourd, pumpkin, chilli, mung bean, etc.

...We admired the poetry and artwork posters lovingly crafted by parents, as well as cute figurines hidden among the plants.

...We were amazed by adorable hatchlings in a simple yet sturdy nest barely the size of two fists.

Our most precious moments were times forging friendships as parents (often with kids and teachers).

...Parents and kids had fun-filled garden activities for bonding and learning - helping Mother Earth to grow and regenerate.

...Parents and kids enjoyed crafts together like building a nest, a slingshot and a ribbon wand using sticks from the garden.

Many thanks to Mdm Kimberly Koh, our garden adviser, as well as Principal Francis Foo, Mrs. Jenny Quek and Ms. Esther Goh for allowing us to foster a love for Mother Nature through the garden.

Instilling environmental responsibility awareness among the students.

Nurturing a garden plot provides the students with outdoor experiential learning in action.

Giving back to the nearby community is another noble mission of the school.

Great and humble aspirations we do have for our PSG Blooming Garden!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to parents, students, teachers and staff who have tended to our garden.

Rest assured, our garden has brought happiness to many of us in meaningful ways.

Despite the pandemic and amidst our busy schedules, we are able to care for our garden.

End of school year 2022 is another chapter in our garden's chronicles, and a new chapter begins soon.

Next year, we invite more parents to join our gardening journey in the PSG Blooming Garden.



Blangah Rise Primary School PSG Parents Post - January 2023

Brought to you by PSG Parents Post Contributors - Joy Malata, Je Malata, Lee Hoi Leong, Lee May Yee, Tina Garde-Lawenko and Sarah Lien

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