BEGINNINGS

We began school term for all children on 9 Jan '12. The earlier days of that week were devoted to the receiving of "new" enrolment. Against the background of a full orchestra (children's full throttled crying), it gradually reduced to half-orchestra, quarter and eventually no orchestra.

Thanks to the experienced staff of Tung Ling Kindergarten and co-operative parents, most children settled down to civilized decibel of noise by the end of the second week. With the children's emotional well-being on even keel, they were platforms of readiness to "start" learning in earnest, the fun way.

Beginning this year also, we incorporated the Gymnastics Programme for the Nursery level children. This implementation was in response to the parents' request and the programme was greatly enjoyed by the children.

As usual, when the children have a "life" with purposeful programmes, peers and nurturing care providers, the days just fly and all too soon, we have come to the end of Term One.

On behalf of my staff, I wish all of you a good holiday break from 10 Mar '12 to 18 Mar '12. See all of you again on 19 Mar '12!

God bless,

Mrs Yvonne Quan
Principal
Five Tips to Promote Reading in Children

Despite all the new-fangled commercial invasion of products to promote reading, my opinion as a long-time early childhood education practitioner (23 years) on literacy is “back to basics” - hit the books!

As there is a week-long break, do share quality time with your child through bonding with books. To help you along, I have included an extract article titled "Five Tips to Promote Reading in Children" (Early Childhood Digest, Issue 06/Jan - Mar 2012), Ministry of Community Development for information. (Please see Add-On page)

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

As you are aware, there is an epidemic of the above in Singapore. At Tung Ling Kindergarten, the existing temperature taking and health checks before admission to premises are still stringently observed.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs are also being practised and every effort is made to ensure that there is no outbreak in the kindergarten.

We are pleased to report that to-date, we are in the clear, and with your cooperation, we will work together to keep the school and your children HFMD - free.

EVENTS

School Camp
Date: 22.11.11 and 23.11.11 (Tue and Wed)
Attendance: 17 children
Reported by Mrs Gladys Chor (Senior Teacher)

Tung Ling Kindergarten embarked on the very first school camp, ‘Rainbow Promise’ to inculcate good bonding time as well as farewell to the K2 children. Besides facilitating the bible lessons through multi-media and visual aids, the children were also given space to express their creativity and emotions through their craft works. It was heartening for both teachers and parents to see the children blessed through the enjoyment of every bit of this meaningful camp.
Five Tips to Promote Reading in Children

Reading is an essential component in children's literacy development. Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between instilling the habit of reading in young children with better academic performance in school. According to the survey in the 2010 Kids & Family Reading Report, most children reveal that reading inspires and ignites their imagination while helping them acquire new knowledge.

Educators play an important role in ensuring access to books and cultivating children's interest in reading. Every child is unique and has a different attitude towards reading. A common challenge faced by many educators is helping children overcome their reluctance to read. A different approach is required to reach out to children, customised according to their interests and needs.

Here are 5 simple tips that educators can adopt when making reading choices for children:

1. Choose age appropriate books: A common mistake that many parents and educators make is the selection of books. A book that is too difficult to read can be very frustrating for a child. Public libraries shelve their books according to age groups. For example, “Books for Babies” are selected for toddlers from 6 months to 3 years old and “Books for Preschoolers” are for children aged 4 to 6 years old. Children experience a great sense of achievement when they finish reading a book. Thus, when selecting a book, take note of the words used in the book. If a sentence is peppered with too many difficult words, it is best to avoid the book altogether.

2. Empower the child to make choices: Letting children choose the books they want to read is key to raising a reader. In the 2010 Kids & Family Reading Report by Scholastic, nine out of ten children responded that they are more likely to finish reading a book they chose. Here is a simple way to encourage children to make book choices - Separate the books into three piles: “Books they like”, “Books they can try” and “Books they don’t like”. Choose books only from the piles they like and are willing to try and know what their interest and hobbies are. A book on a topic that the child is passionate about will have him or her glued to the book for hours.

3. Songs and Rhymes are fun: Songs and rhymes can bring reading to a whole new level of enjoyment. Playing with the sound of words and adding a tune to a story, accompanied with movements not only bring the story alive but also develop the auditory and kinaesthetic aspects of learning. For example, rhymes such as “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” can be accompanied with books on body parts. This helps to strengthen the bond between the child and the adult in the reading exercise.

4. Picture Books are a good start: Picture books are the first steps to get a child reading. A simple book with bright, colourful illustrations never fails to capture the attention of any child. Children are transformed into inquisitive storytellers, describing every detail in the illustrations as they piece the story together through the use of their vivid imagination while enhancing their narrative skills. In the public libraries, readers are spoilt for choice on the varieties of picture books ranging from wordless books, lift-the-flap books, pop-up books to touch-and-feel books. When selecting books, remember to introduce variety to spark off children’s interest in reading.

5. Ask the Experts: Public libraries are a treasure trove for readers. In the vast sea of books, one might be clueless when it comes to making selections. Thankfully, there are children’s librarians ever ready to provide advice. You can make your enquiries via email at ask@nlb.gov.sg or over the phone at 6332 3255 from 9am to 9pm daily, except on public holidays. You can also visit any of the 3 regional libraries and enquire over the Children’s Advisory Counter from 1pm to 9pm daily, except on public holidays. For more information, please visit www.pl.sg for useful book recommendations and reading guides under the “Just Browse” section of the website.

This article was contributed by Mr Zulkilli Amin, Librarian, Children’s Services, National Library Board.
Orientation
Date: 4.1.12 (Wednesday)
Reported by Mrs Gladys Chor (Senior Teacher)

The above event was held at Cana Hall, COS from 9am to 12pm. About 100 attendees were briefed on the kindergarten's programme with staff being introduced to them. In his address, Mr Foong Daw Ching (Supervisor, School Management Committee) shared on the importance of pre-school years as they are crucial to good character building, especially for developing positive ways to deal with problems, empathy and sharing. He advocated the key values of the kindergarten - character building from young. Mr Foong also welcomed parents' feedback and ideas to help children's thinking by enhancing the learning experience. The vendors introduced their programme presentations, viz English Phonics Reading; Computer Lessons and the Gymnastics School. All were then invited for light refreshments before following up on administrative tie-ups. This informal meet-up was a success in touching base with both existing and new parents.

Chinese New Year Celebration
Date: 20.1.12 (Friday)
Reported by Miss Chow and Miss Loh

The children had a great time during the CNY celebration on 20.1.12. They were taught catchy CNY songs which they then proudly sang to their friends and teachers. The children were also introduced to some CNY festive goodies and traditions of having reunion dinner. During games time, the children also learned and practised the auspicious words and phrases that are used to greet their parents and guests. Children wore their CNY clothes when they returned to school after the CNY holidays. Each child also received a red packet of sweets to wish them much sweetness in the new year.
K1/K2 Field Trip to ExplorerKid
Date: 2.3.12 (Friday)
Reported by Miss Gillian Ther

In the early morning on 2nd March 2012, the K1 and K2 children set off to ExplorerKid at Pasir Ris Downtown East. It is the largest indoor playground in Singapore which is filled with different play areas. When we reached the place, the children took off their shoes and were brought into a room. They displayed their creativity by painting on a framed clay model.

The children were then led to the "Mega Play" area which is a three level obstacle play system. They had a whale of a time crawling, climbing, jumping and sliding. The excitement level went up further when they entered the "Lit Ball Pit". It is filled with transparent balls and different coloured lights are lit from the bottom of the pool. After two hours of fun, the children went back to school and brought home their clay model and a sculpted balloon.

St Luke's Hospital Donations

On behalf of St Luke's Hospital (SLH), Tung Ling Kindergarten thank you for your support in Love & Share Hongbao Donation Drive '12. The total amount raised by the school is $2,640.40.

IN THE PIPELINE ..........

- COS Vocational Bible Camp (VBC)
  Date: 13.3.12 and 14.3.12 (Tuesday and Wednesday)
  Theme: Connecting With God

- Term 2 '12
  Theme - Fruits and Vegetables
  Learning Center - Sweet Recipe

- Parents and Teachers Conferencing (PTC)
  Dates: 12.5.12 (Sat) - PreN/K2
  19.5.12 (Sat) - N/K1