

THE COTTAGE NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Dear Parents

Blessings to you!

Good to be back to school after the circuit breaker with the students.

We will be meeting you soon for Parent Teacher's Conference from 6 June to 15 June through staggered dates for different classes. The PTC will be conducted through Zoom.

I am pleased to inform that most of our students are managing well with wearing the face mask or face shield, except two or three students. We have introduced Captain A Hero to the students and the social story created for this. We also shared with the children on the story 'I wonder'.

On 9 June 2020, we are formally launching Start Small Dream Big project and the students who had created their costumes earlier will be having a Fashion Parade, followed by the making of hand sanitisers.

On 19 June 2020, we will hold a safety talk through Zoom with the community police where they will impart safety tips to our students.

Stay Safe & Healthy!

Editor
Jessica Wang
Managing Director



'Wisdom is the right use of knowledge

To know is not to be wise...But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom".

Charles Spurgeon

Reflection on zoom teaching

Teaching on Zoom was a nice and challenging experience. Initially it was scary for me, as I am not good at computers. But I was guided by Mr. Rudi, I cannot thank you enough for his patience in teaching me how to go into zoom. He was always there whenever I needed help on technical issues. Conducting online lessons through Zoom made me realise how children behave differently in a school and home environment. Parents were also involved in the process and very concerned about their children's participation during lesson. They watched how we executed the lesson and asked how they can help.



Sometimes, children were not able to concentrate fully in the home environment. Parent doubted the children's understanding on the subject, but in school they are able to understand and do their work properly. It was a great challenge for me, as some children could not pay attention, concentrate and do their work properly. They needed lots of encouragement in doing their work. I feel that online learning is more appropriate for the older children but not so for the very young ones.

Teacher Nelam



Reflection during the Circuit Breaker

As early as January 2020 when the COVID 19 situation emerged, the school had taken precautions on the hygiene and safety measures needed for the children.

During this period of Circuit Breaker, we have children from essential services attending the school and also children learning at home via online. Our students learnt self help skills such as learning to wipe the table, sweeping the floor, folding their own blankets, washing their own cups and folding their own clothes.

The challenges that I noted for the sessions carried out during this period is that the students given a long period of home based learning will not be effective in benefitting them. Most importantly, each child is different in their interest level as well as attention span, we have to cater to their individual needs whether in conducting the group sessions or the one to one home based sessions.

It worked best for me when I reward stickers to children according to their preferences such as Nemo the fish, Mickey Mouse, vehicles etc.

I and my team of teachers sincerely thank the parents and caregivers during this period for your patience and understanding to implement the activities for this period.



Thank you for your encouragement as well when we launched the MKC channel on youtube so that the self help skills activities, cookery and art & craft activities could be conducted home based.

I am happy to see all the children soon on 2 June 2020. Even when the school reopens, we will have to take full precaution to make sure that all SOPs are in place for the cleanliness and safe distancing measures to be effective.

Have a blessed day

Jessica Wang

Captain HERO

We will be using the image of Captain as the HERO to teach the students to fight off the virus.



1. Regular washing of hands to a count of 20 with soap
2. Looking for only own chair to sit on
3. Avoid seats with Captain Hero picture
4. Standing an arm's length from their friend
5. Standing within the floor markers while queuing up
6. Using hand sanitiser regularly
7. How to keep the face mask or face shield on
8. Staying in own class without inter class mix
9. Taking care of their own stationary set
10. Taking care of their own cutlery set

Note:

It's recommended for children to bring 2 face masks to school every day.

Together ...



... We Can

Teacher Fatin's Reflection on Covid-19

Before the circuit breaker began, my main concern was regarding the home-based learning model. E-learning was a new experience to me as a teacher and I was wondering just how effective this approach could be. This concern probably stemmed from the reason that the students that I worked with were those who needed closer supervision. Many needed hands on prompting, some with shorter attention span, and so I quickly realised that this would truly be a period where team effort would be crucial. I would have to work with parents to help conduct these online lessons. Fortunately, most parents were very cooperative and understanding. They were willing to play an active role, and this helped the online sessions go about smoothly.

What I did not expect to be a challenge was the fatigue that came along with conducting these lessons. I would say that it is quite a difficult feeling to describe, but I later found out that there were other teachers that felt the same way too. I was cooped up in my own room most of the time as I had other family members who also had to attend online meetings and classes. So, there was no clear distinction between my area of rest and work space. My sleeping schedule seemed to shift according to its own will. Most of all, I missed interacting with the lovely children, a big reason as to why I loved being a teacher. It was difficult to stay motivated. I do have to give kudos to the other teachers who had bigger responsibilities and workloads as compared to mine.

I'm excited that the day when we are allowed back into our school has finally come. I think that it will be an awkward sense of normalcy. Although we are able to meet with one another, we still have to maintain vigilance and keep social distancing. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the essential workers, doctors, nurses, other teachers, supermarket workers and everyone who did their part in social distancing. Let's continue working together to fight the virus.

Teacher Fatin



华文网课心得

受疫情影响，这突如其来的网课和网课“假期”生活，有一点措手不及。为了让学生们停课不停学，我们也开设网课，作为华文老师，是一次挑战和历练吧！这次教学，上网课，也是有一些感悟和心得。

上网课，和平时在教室里上课还是有很大的不同，为了能让学生们尽量能够听进去华文课，我通过“卡通 PPT、儿歌小故事、玩具等形式，让孩子们对华文产生兴趣。但是孩子们的年龄还不足以让他们自律的坐在课堂上，所以就会有父母的陪同下完成。

尽可能的在每堂课上的内容教授的不多，只希望他们能够记住教的每一个的细节，直播的时候孩子么也会给我一些反应，虽然有的时候反应的不明显，但是我觉得他们只要可以坐着可以听，就是对我最大的鼓励了。

下午的课堂都是上小学的孩子，年龄相对于上午偏大，可以坐住听，但是注意力的话我觉得相对于平日面对面授课，效果还是差很多，因为监督没有那么方便，需要我花很多时间去和学生沟通，偶尔也会和家长沟通，希望能知道他们的想法并且做到有效的网课“改制”。



时间过得很快，转眼两个月的网课生活已经结束，通过这次的网课，一些学生对于学习比平常主动了一些，而我更希望他（她）们在华文的学习环境中，可以做到更进一步的自觉的习惯，这样我们都可以事半功倍，同样也很感谢这两个月里家长与我的配合，监督并督促孩子。

下周孩子们就可以陆续回归学校。很期待与他们的见面，终于可能回到华文课堂嘞，加油！

2020年5月29日

刘老师



Home Based Learning

Experience



As a teacher, I must say that educating my students through home based learning proved to be a whole new for both myself as an educator and for my students as well.

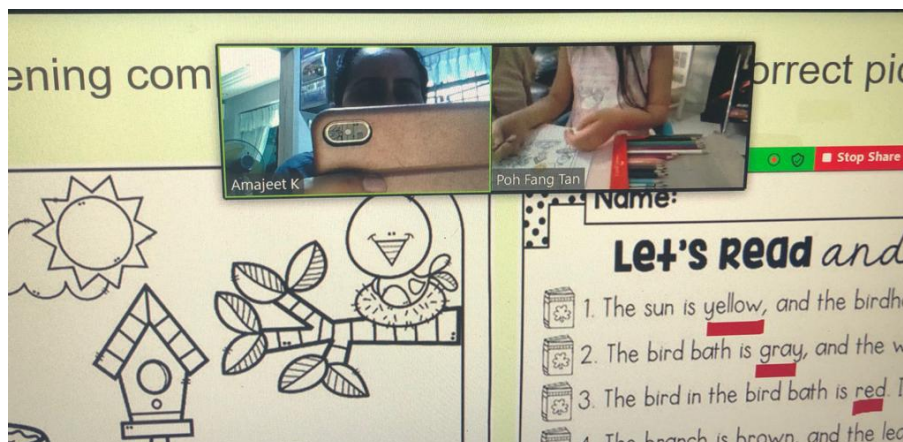
The usage of Zoom to conduct HBL, showed me how easily traditional teaching methods could be made redundant and be replaced digitally. In no time, I adapted to the new norm of teaching-online lessons in the form of videos and power point slides via an online classroom that had to be crafted strategically to be interactive, engaging yet educational.

During lessons, due to occasional connectivity issues getting students to engage with the given tasks proved challenging like getting them to focus.

I must say though that Zoom served as an effective partner all through the HBL process to make my lessons more interactive as it was able to support the various content formats that were being utilized. Parents noticed improvement in pupil's responses through the use of songs, video and also the use of pen/highlighter to write the correct answer. I must say it has been indeed an experience for me and the pupils.



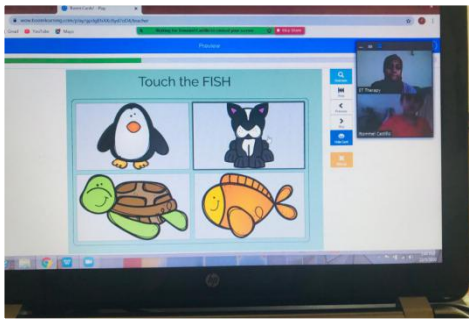
Teacher Amajeet



WHEN CIRCUIT BREAKER GIVE ME LEMONS, I ZOOMED WITH MY BOOM CARDS.

—ST NADEEM BANU

Being a school based speech language pathologist, I have never in my dream thought that there will be a time where I will be seeing my kids remotely. But things started changing, by the unexpected entry of the microbe “COVID-19 “ into our world. World termed it as pandemic where the virus started working on every sectors of the life. And Singapore declared “CIRCUIT BREAKER” .



So how about our kids ? How they receive their intervention services? Will this deteriorate or regress those learned skills? So many things were running through the head .I am glad that our school introduced “Home based learning “ or “ Teletherapy ” for our kids.

I was unsure of the platforms and the teletherapy teaching. I was worried of teaching the ST goals with my kids as this virtual learning has the limitation of using the therapy toys and materials in online. I joined a few teletherapy groups on facebook . Finally, the BOOM CARDS came to rescue. I collected all the free cards available in the online and started my Teletherapy in ZOOM.

I told myself that “ I don't have to be a teletherapy super hero on my first day ”. But I still made it to work, mostly using skills and materials I have. I then realized that parents are not aware of this BOOM to use it with their child.

Eventually, I started creating cards. Things were smooth

I learned how to get my of interests. I also tried to chose ZOOM. Parents and new normal. I got instances their favourite BOOM cards,

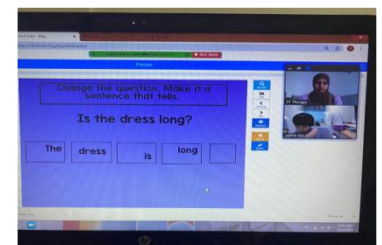
clicking or dragging the items. Sigh! Yeah. I realized that my online teaching is getting to results by the final session of the month where I practise only the past session's goal on my last session. The parents started to pick up my phonetic placement techniques and asked the child to imitate. Parents prompted them to frame their utterances, to form a word, to point to the right picture. In short, parents played a role of a mini-therapist . Thanks to all the “WORK FROM HOME” mummies and Daddies to not to give up on HBL and to strongly holding on.

Whatever, the next weeks and months may hold, I am grateful to be continuing learning new skills. Making sense of a new form of therapy is only one piece of puzzle.



my own digital BOOM and easy, after a week or two.

child's attention using his/her area experiment other platforms and my kids started to adjust with the where my children asked me for just to play with the mouse by



Self Help Skills



Self Help Skills



Cookery



Art & Craft Activity



Video lesson during Circuit breaker

Many feelings came across while I was conducting video lesson with my students during circuit breaker. First, I was so excited to conduct a lesson online but I realised that there was insufficient picture aids to sustain a 40-minutes lesson. This experience motivated me to reflect for alternative teaching and learning practices.

Furthermore, I felt so embarrassed to request parents for preparing some concrete objects (e.g., paper clips, Lego blocks) for their children to practice. The reason was that it is easier for children to understand the concept of more or less from concrete object than learning from pictures. I felt quite helpless when I was in the front of the child but I could not help much to sustain children's attention span on the task. From this experience, I had learnt more about the interest of the children from the parents as to keep their attention span longer. It also builds up the relationship and bonding between me and the parents.

In addition, I was so surprised to see some of the children have shown better performance online than in class. Perhaps, there was lesser distraction at home as compared in class. For example, other children and play activities in the class. This inspires me to reflect on my classroom arrangement/ management. I will zoom in on this experience to enhance children's behaviour in class when school re-opens.



As conclusion, it was an exciting, embarrassing, good and surprising experience.

Regards,

Jeff

Reflections - Online Teaching

“Covid – 19” virus caused many countries to implement “Lockdown” which affected offices, schools, public areas etc.

With regards to online teaching, it's a new experience where I have learnt a lot of things on how to conduct classes remotely. I find it quite challenging where I have to work with the students and parents during online teaching sessions. There are certain learning goals which are attainable with online teaching such as learning colours, matching shapes, identifying the body parts, recognising the occupations, transports and categorising items in a group. However, there are also some learning goals that are difficult to be conducted through online platform such as drawing body parts, connecting dot to dot, learning quantity counting have to be verbally and physically prompted.

For me, I will teach my students with verbal and some physical promptings for the first time and will let them practice until they achieve it independently. I was unable to prompt them physically when they were engaged with online teaching classes. I also had to work with them to sustain their attention for 40 minutes.

In addition, I faced wifi connection issues for the first week of my online classes, however I managed to settle it. My confidence had improved after being guided by my principal on how to conduct by catering to the individual needs of the students. I was able to learn better ways to improve my online teaching classes and preparing online materials that can be shared with parents too. I challenged myself to try different materials with children so that I can observe and evaluate what goes well and what does not. I believe that by reflecting upon my teaching strategies, I can plan and conduct my lessons more effectively.



T. Raji

Home Based Learning (Occupational Therapy)

When MOE announced about home based learning(HBL),it was challenging especially for me because I worked mainly on the gross motor, fine motor and sensory activities withmy students. I have no idea about HBL especially conducting OT through Zoom. Fortunately, my colleague,Ms Nadeem, encouraged me and gave some practical ideas.

When the Ministry announced the closure of schools in Singapore during the Circuit Breaker, we were given 2 days to prepare the materials. So I started to gather and research on resources and ideas about OT teletherapy from Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. I also did some visual perceptual worksheets for childrens. I brought my books, materials and laptop home for accessible during the online lessons. It was also the last chance we had to meet up (with other teachers) face to face to discuss.

During my HBL, parents supported me by conducting activities with their children. Some even sent videos to show how their child follow up at home to do the recommended activities. For example animal walk, wheelbarrow walk, ball activities, and some fine motor activities. My biggest challenge is using a webcam to communicate with children.However,I tried my best to communicate with them and did the various activities and worksheets with them. I just want to thank the parents who are very supportive of me during the circuit breaker.



Stay safe everyone. Thank You.

Regards,
Kharushni Piretti



Teach with Tech



2020 started with a bang is an understatement. It gave us a challenge that we have never foreseen, not only here in Singapore but all over the world. It is especially challenging in our sector as our aim is to give care and give children an experience and opportunity for them to discover and learn.

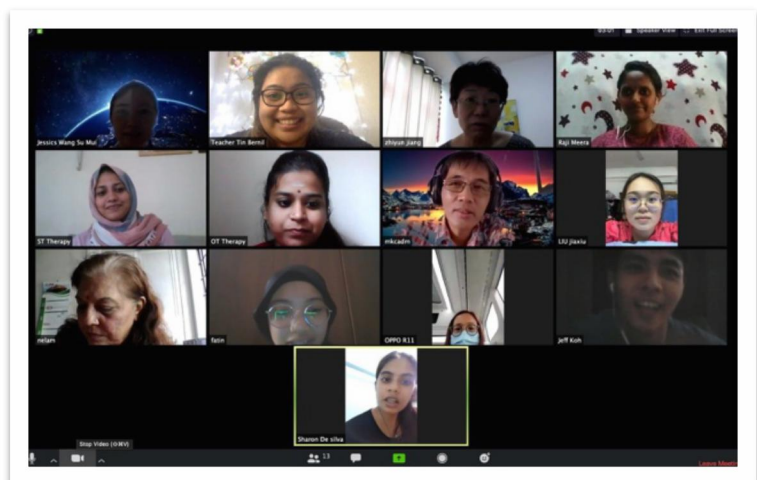
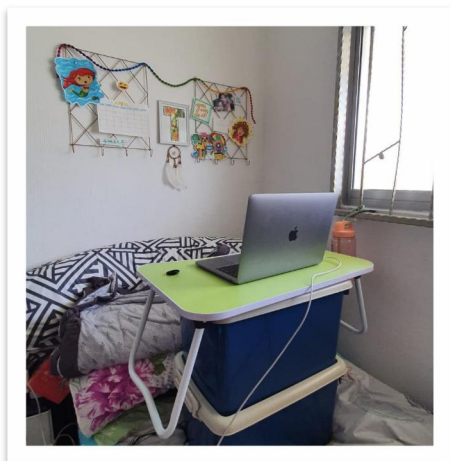
I am a firm believer of technology and I have been fascinated with different gadgets that pop up in the trend. What a great way to test this out than now. Nonetheless, it still gave me some doubts of its effectivity considering that I am dealing with children and some that might need more encouragements.

At first, everyone was excited and their attention was fully on me, it gave me a lot of confidence that this can work, but after 2 weeks I can see some of my students slowly losing interest of what we were doing even with the sticker rewards that I give at the end of every session. These made me appreciate more how important it is to be able to have an authentic experience inside our classroom. Still, I was given a challenge of redeeming myself.

I was able to find a lot of online resources in exchange of our fun games in class. I made a colorful and fun themed PPTs with animations and sounds and made sure to change the theme every 2 weeks to make up for the visual aid that I usually use when I have my discussions. I have downloaded tons of GIFs and made it into rewards stickers and even made them their digital sticker books to motivate that just like how I give stickers and chops before. I made use of my I pad as my whiteboard and decked out my room to have an appealing ambience just like how it was in my class.

For the past 2 months, I have learnt a lot of new things. It made me more resourceful. I have also created a great bond with the parents and my colleagues as we support each other through this tough time.

Teacher Tin



Our Vision

To build a world of hope, respecting one's differences in unity.

Our Mission

To nurture a future generation of positive and diverse learners, providing life skills and education from professionals with a heart to teach.

Our Values

We value each child's potential.

Respect, Integrity, Goodness, Humility, Tenacity



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