



by HENRY TAN

The Six2one camp was organised for Primary 6 students from different schools during the PSLE marking week. A total of 26 students and 10 helpers came for the camp held at the NSRCC. The camp was to help them relax after their PSLE, and



NAVAL BASE PRIMARY SCHOOL

by PHILLIP QUEK

September was a very exciting month for CITY as we stepped foot in Yishun Town, to begin our partnership with Naval Base Primary school, our first school in the north. Twenty-four Primary 4 and 5 children attend the Befrienders' Club every Tuesday, from 2-4.30pm.

Even though we only had a few weeks with the students before the school closed, CITY staff and volunteers



to help prepare them for the next phase in life. We had a good time together, doing different things from bottle-painting, bowling, cycling to barbeque on the last day. The camp gave us a chance to get to know the students better. We also received positive comments like "the food was great" and "I learnt to work in a team".

have built a good rapport with the students. Mr Daniel Wong, teacher at the school remarked: 'The school is overwhelmed by the care and support CITY has given to the students and teachers in-charge.'

CITY looks forward to a fruitful year with the school in 2008.

AWARD

CITY Community Services was given the "Partners-in-Education Award 2007" by Gan Eng Seng Primary School, for its contributions to the school.

'HANDLING UNDERAGED GAMBLING' (HUG) PROGRAMME

by PHILLIP QUEK

Dr Jeffery L Derevensky, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, said: "The prevalence rate of problem gambling in Singapore, the last I heard, was 2.1 per cent, so I would estimate that there are anywhere between four and six per cent of youths who are experiencing some gambling and gambling-related problems as a result of that."

International studies show youths are two to four times more susceptible to problem gambling compared to adults. Since many tend to start at about nine or ten years old, experts say it is important to educate them about the dangers of excessive gambling, before it is too late.

At CITY, we feel that it is not too early to educate our children to understand and recognise signs of problem gambling.

'Handling Underaged Gambling' (HUG) Programme is a preventive classroom workshop implemented in school, to develop resilience and right values in youngsters to resist the temptations of gambling.

The workshop aims to help students understand:

- what is gambling;
- the warning signs of addiction;
- where to get help;
- making the right choice not to gamble.

If you are interested in implementing the HUG Programme in your school, please contact Mr Phillip Quek at phillipquek@citycomm.org.sg or telephone 6337 8651.



Welcome to another issue of Heartprints, the newsletter of CITY Community Services. We hope you find the articles informative and interesting, as we highlight some of the activities we conduct in primary schools.

At CITY, we are always aware of our mission - C.I.T.Y. stands for "Character In The Young". Our mission is to build good character in school children, and to show Christian love by providing practical assistance to those in need.

You will be able to find out more about CITY through our newly-launched website www.citycomm.org.sg. If you have any questions or feedback, or would like to contribute a relevant article for this newsletter, please email info@citycomm.org.sg.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Christmas and a fruitful new Year.

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The side of Singapore we don't see

by GLENICE TAY

If you ask people what they think of Singapore, many will say that it is a clean country, the Merlion, Sentosa, a modern society, and so on. One answer that struck me is that it is a country where people are becoming more and more materialistic. And this is very true.

Joining CITY Community Services as a volunteer, and dealing with primary school students, led me to better see the other side of Singapore, a side with serious problems that will greatly affect the future of our society if we neglect it. Here, I met students with various needs – some have attitude problems, some are weak in their studies, some are attention seeking, etc. But one thing that they have in common is that they come from a difficult home environment, and lack love.

Being a mentor as well as a friend to them is not a simple task. Just being with them for a short two hours sometimes really drains me. Despite all these, sharing and being part of their lives has helped me grow in my Christian walk.

There are many times I prayed and asked God to help me love the students. I am searching for a way to truly love them, a formula if there is, but there isn't. I have realized that I must love them, as God loves me.

CITY Community Services has given me the opportunity to show these students love, care and concern. Through the services that we provide, we are able to share God's love, so that they can experience love that is sometimes lacking in their lives.

Holiday Outings

CITY organized outings for its Befrienders' Club students during the June School holidays. Pictures speak louder than words, and you can see the children had a lot of fun, food and fellowship with the volunteers.



GAN ENG SENG PRIMARY

Twelve P6 students, together with our volunteers, went to Pasir Ris Park on 5 June. They had games at the park, followed by a sushi and cookie-baking session at a volunteer's home. Lunch was spaghetti, with chocolate fondue for dessert. For many of the students, it was the first time they had done such things.

MACPHERSON PRIMARY

Sixteen students and 10 volunteers went to Sentosa on 11 June. They spent the day there and had a mini Amazing Race.

RADIN MAS PRIMARY

CITY organized a movie outing to Vivo City for 8 students on 7 June. This outing was sponsored by the school.

'POWER UP YOUR ENGLISH' WORKSHOP



An English workshop was organized on 12-13 June at the CITY office for about 25 P6 students. This was to help them prepare for their PSLE exam. Lunch was provided for the students and volunteers.



VISIT TO ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

As a follow up to the Career Fair at Gan Eng Seng Primary, CITY organized a visit to St Andrew's Community Hospital on 22 May for the P6 students. About 30 students and 6 CITY volunteers were brought around by the staff of the hospital to visit the wards and the physiotherapy departments. The students had a lot of fun trying out the equipment. CITY would like to thank St Andrew's Community Hospital for their hospitality and support.