



# Rhythm in the Woods

## Message from Principal

*Dear Woodlanders and Parents,*

As we wrap up another school year, I wish to share with you WDP's incredible journey this year. 2024 has indeed been a year filled with growth and achievements, showcasing the dedication and good work of our pupils, staff and community.

*Woodlanders and teachers proudly received the Overall Winners Award for YISS*



We are excited to celebrate our pupils' growth and talents across various domains. One example was how WDP came in as overall winner in the 2024 Youth Innovation & STEM Sprint (YISS). Not only did our pupils demonstrate enthusiasm for problem-solving, they also exemplified our core values such as Collaboration and Resilience. Our junior sports teams also achieved stellar results at the National School Games (NSG). This success is a testament to their commitment and excellent sportsmanship.



*Our resilient and tough Tchoukball team*

Many WDP colleagues have also been recognised for their outstanding contributions to the fraternity. Our teachers demonstrated their commitment to excellence, reflected in their innovative pedagogies. One example was how play-based learning (PBL) has become increasingly pervasive in WDP. Teachers embrace this dynamic pedagogy to create vibrant classrooms, making learning a joyful experience. In fact, we are proud to share that Prime Minister Lawrence Wong recently visited WDP just to sit in one of our PBL lessons! This recognition highlights the transformative power of PBL in shaping our pupils' educational journey. We could not be prouder of our dedicated staff!

*Prime Minister Lawrence Wong took part in a P4 Maths PBL lesson*



These would not have been possible without support from our WDP parents. Thank you for the trust, and for working alongside us to support Woodlanders to be best versions of themselves. A shout-out to our Parent Support Group (PSG) for your active involvement and invaluable contributions. We are so blessed to have you.

I look forward to an even greater 2025 with all of you!

*Mrs Lillian Chen*

# Into the woods with

## Mr Shawn Sng Bing Kai (PE teacher)

Reported by: Tan Yan Ning & Vanian Valappil Swathi Sasish (P5 Collaboration 1), Mahalik Aparajita Alama (P5 Collaboration 2) & Lim Si Qi (P5 Collaboration 4)

Whenever Mr Shawn's name is called out to be on stage, all the pupils will erupt in cheers. As one of the most popular teachers amongst the pupils, we decided to interview him to get to know him better.



### EL Excel Club: What got you into teaching?

**Mr Shawn (MS):** I used to work in outdoor activities so I really enjoyed having a job that allows me to move a lot. So being a PE teacher allows me to do it.

### What was your favourite subject when you were a kid and why?

**MS:** My favourite subject was Math. It is because solving Math questions is like solving puzzles or riddles.

### What did you want to be when you were young, other than a teacher? Are you happy that you've become a teacher instead?

**MS:** When I was in primary school, there were two jobs I wanted to have -- to be a chef or a zookeeper. However, I definitely love my job as a teacher now.

### What is your favourite place in WDP?

**MS:** I really love my desk in the staff room because it is really cosy, tidy and has a lot of photos of my pupils. It also has pictures of me with the other teachers in WDP.

### What's your favourite food in the school canteen ?

**MS:** I love eating the food from Stall 3. The uncle and aunty there are always so kind and friendly towards me. My favorite dish would have to be their curry vegetables, which is so flavourful with soft vegetables!



Mr Shawn with the Senior Volleyball Boys



Mr Shawn with his pupils during the Hari Raya celebration.

### How do you normally spend your holidays ?

**MS:** I enjoy travelling during the holidays, especially to Japan as I really enjoy how peaceful their country is and the food there is absolutely delicious. If I'm not travelling, I would spend time catching up with family and friends whom I have not met for a while.



Mr Shawn - always the crowd's favourite!



Mr Shawn with the Senior Volleyball boys.

**"To learn their stories and to teach their hearts."**

Mr Shawn, on what motivates him to teach his pupils

## Should recess duration be extended?

**recess:** a scheduled period of time (usually 30 minutes) in a school day where pupils take a break from lessons

### **Yes, recess duration should be longer!**

Written by: Isabelle Chan and Misaki Hiroshima (P6 Innovation 2)

Recess is an important part of our school day, and we believe it would be even better if it were a little longer!

With a longer recess, pupils would have more time to move around after sitting in class for a while. Running, playing, or even just resting and chatting with friends helps us feel comfortable and less tired. Moving our bodies after sitting for a long time can make a big difference, helping us to be ready for the next lesson.

Having a longer recess also allows us to have more time to make new friends and enjoy the company of our classmates. When we spend more time with friends, it gives us a sense of belonging, and that makes school a happier place. On top of this, we will go back to class feeling refreshed and we can focus better helping us with our learning.

Right now, with shorter recesses, pupils sometimes feel rushed. We do not always have enough time to enjoy our food, play, or relax. If recess is too short, some pupils may even feel discomfort from eating too quickly. Longer recesses give us the chance to eat peacefully, play without rushing, and take a mental break, which is really good for our health.

A longer recess could even give us time to review our work if we wanted to. If we have questions or do not understand something, we could ask a teacher during this time. This would help us keep up with what we are learning in class.

To sum up, we believe a longer recess would make school a better place for everyone. It would help us feel healthier, happier, and more ready to learn!

30 minutes of recess is just enough time to queue up, buy your food, find a seat, and eat. There is not enough time left to play and unwind before the next lesson.

Dmitri Cyrus Heng Yao Yu  
(P1 Respect 1)

Usually by the time my class is brought down for recess, the lines at the food stalls are already very long. There's not enough time to buy and eat food.

Wong De En, Jodie  
(P5 Collaboration 6)

Some pupils eat more slowly compared to others, so they need a longer recess. This gives them enough time to eat and rest a while before going for lessons.

Lee Jun Han  
(P2 Resilience 7)

Yes, because if we have a longer recess, we will have more time to eat and play with our friends.

Ting Zhi Xuan  
(P3 Passion 6)

I would like a longer recess so I have more time to eat and play soccer.

Md Sharukh  
(P4 Adaptability 6A)

When pupils are unable to finish their recess food in time, they have to throw them away, leading to food wastage. Also, if they don't have time for Play@Recess, they will be very upset when they gather at the basketball court, affecting their mood for the rest of the day.

Kyan Soh Yu Zhe  
(P5 Collaboration 1)

## Should recess durations be extended?

### **No, recess should remain at 30 minutes.**

Written by: Chew Zi Le Leah (P6 Innovation 1) & Parineeta Hariskrishnan (P6 Innovation 2)

We believe that keeping recess short -- no longer than 30 minutes -- is important, and here's why.

First of all, if recess is made longer, then the school day would also need to be longer. For example, if school starts at 7.45a.m., extending recess by even 10 minutes for each level would mean school might end at 2.30p.m. instead of the usual 1.30p.m. This would make our school day last 7 hours instead of the usual 6 hours.

Having a longer school day could also affect pupils who have after-school activities, like CCAs, or extra lessons. After a long day, we still need time at home for homework, studying, and a break. If we stay at school too long, we might end up doing homework late into the evening, which can affect our sleep. Getting enough sleep is very important, as pupils aged 6 to 12 need about 9 to 12 hours each night to feel ready for the next day. Lack of sleep can cause problems like ineffective learning and irritability. It may affect how our brains develop.

Some people may say that a longer recess gives us more time to play and talk with friends, which can be nice. But do we really need a much longer break to do these things? Many pupils already have time to catch up with friends or play after school, especially once homework and revision are done.

In conclusion, we feel that recess should stay short -- no longer than 30 minutes -- because making it longer would extend the school day and could have a negative impact on pupils' well-being.

30 minutes is more than enough time for me to relax before returning to class for the next lesson.

Sasitharan Jayaraman  
(P3 Passion 2)



I think the timing is just nice for pupils as recess times are separated by levels. We have enough time to queue for food and eat.

Aliyyah Zahra  
(P2 Resilience 5)



If recess is longer than 30 minutes, it will not be good for us because we might forget what we had learnt during lessons.



Alya Alisha Binte Muhammad Fadalli  
(P3 Passion 6)

I usually do not eat much during recess so I always have spare time to talk to my friends. I think that if recess were longer, the school day would definitely feel longer and would be more boring. There would be a higher tendency for me to fall asleep during lessons as the school day is longer.

Ayraa Adelia Binte Muhd Azfar  
(P6 Innovation 2)



Mars Lee Zheng Yuan  
(P5 Collaboration 4)



If the recess timings were longer than 30 minutes, we would have less time for lessons if school still ends at 1.30pm. I don't want school to end later than that.

Recess time durations should remain at 30 minutes because why do you need so much time to play? When you play too much, you will get more thirsty and will want to drink more water. You'll have to refill your bottle and go to the toilet more often and the teacher might not allow it.



Chua Cheng Bok  
(P4 Adaptability 4)

## Should school start later in the day?

### Yes, it should!



Written by: Shazneen Binte Omar  
(P6 Innovation 2)

I believe that starting school later would help pupils do better in their studies and be more punctual. Here's why:

Firstly, if school starts later, pupils could wake up a bit later in the morning, allowing them to get more sleep. Research shows that children who get enough sleep feel more rested and ready for the school day. This helps them concentrate better, participate actively and understand lessons more easily. When pupils are well-rested, they are more likely to do well academically because they can pay closer attention and stay focused.

Secondly, starting school later can also improve pupils' health. Lack of sleep, or sleep deprivation, can lead to health problems, including issues like diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure. Not getting enough sleep can also affect pupils' moods, making them feel irritable, tired, or even stressed. Starting school later would help pupils feel healthier and happier.

Finally, starting school later could help pupils arrive on time. Morning traffic can be heavy because adults are also commuting to work, often at the same time that pupils are traveling to school. This can cause delays and sometimes cause pupils to be late for class, which means they might miss important parts of lessons. By starting school later, pupils would likely face less traffic, making it easier for them to arrive at school on time and avoid missing any lesson time.

Starting school later would allow students to feel better, stay healthier, and achieve their best in school.

School start time: the current school start time for most primary schools is 7.30 to 8am



### No, it should not!

Written by: Chen Jia Yi & Adam Zidan Bin Mohamad Afizukil (P6 Innovation 2)

We believe that school should start at its usual time rather than later in the day.

First of all, starting school later could create difficulties for parents who drop their children off before heading to work. Right now, many parents find it convenient to drop their children off at school and then go straight to work, which often begins around 9a.m. If school were to start later, such as 8.30a.m., parents might not have enough time to get to work on time, which could lead to issues at their jobs or even risk them getting in trouble with their employers.

Some might suggest that pupils could walk or take the bus instead. However, this is not practical for everyone, especially for younger pupils in Primary 1 or those who live far from school. Not all pupils can safely make their way to school alone, and many still rely on their parents for a safe journey.

Secondly, starting school later would mean that it would also end later. For example, instead of finishing around 1.30p.m., school might end at 2.30p.m. or 3.00p.m., which could be inconvenient for pupils with after-school activities or tuition. On CCA days, things could get even more challenging. Our CCA sessions are usually 2 hours and 30 minutes long, so a later end time would mean pupils may only finish CCA and get ready to leave school around 6 p.m. With additional homework waiting at home, this could lead to very long and tiring days.

Therefore, we believe school should continue to start at the usual time. Maintaining the current schedule ensures students get home at a reasonable hour, giving them ample time for after-school activities, homework, and adequate rest.

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## A Walk in the Woods

# Glee Fest Gala Concert: Where talents come to life

Reported by: Chen Jianing & Haifa Zahra Binte Mohamed Isnin  
(P4 Adaptability 1)

Woodlanders were all in awe of the fantastic performances all the performers gave during the Glee Fest Gala Concert. There were singing, dance and instrumental performances. A fantastic hip-hop dance was also performed by a dancing ensemble. Some performers also sang inspirational songs that lifted everyone's spirits; amongst them were the songs "Try Everything" and "This is Me" from the movie, The Greatest Showman. The vocal performances were our favourites.

We are excited to see what the Glee Fest has in store for Woodlanders next year, but for now, we cling to the wonderful memories from this year's festivities. Let's maintain the spirit and recall the amazing energy of Glee Fest till then!

I had always wanted to perform for Glee Fest after watching it every year since I was in P1. I was glad to have been chosen to perform in this year's Gala Concert. Weeks of practice and hard work led to my group and me improving our dance skills. I was even selected to perform a solo! In the end, when our dance was a success, I was filled with overflowing joy.

Haifa (P4 Adaptability 1)  
Glee Fest Concert Performer



## Glee Fest Recess Activities: Colourful art with fun and laughter

Reported by: Olivia Tang Yu En & Stella Teo Shi Ying (P4 Adaptability 3)

In the week leading up to the Glee Fest Gala Concert, there were enjoyable PE and Art activities for pupils to participate in during their respective recesses.

The bear brick fluid art activity came first. Each pupil received a simple bear keychain that we could paint in any colour we liked. After selecting the colours and pouring the different colours into a cup, we swirled the paint to create a marbling effect. We then poured the mixture on our bear keychains, transforming them from plain white to amazingly colourful. We were astounded and captivated by our final products. It was such a fun activity and we were thrilled to create our personalised keychains.

The obstacle course was another exciting activity we participated in during our recess. We had to navigate past various obstacles. We observed how our peers completed the course and cheered each other on. Even though it was challenging, it was a fun exercise that demonstrated our resilience.

All in all, we had an excellent time participating in the Glee Fest recess activities.



## P5 Overseas Learning Journey to Vietnam: An experience to remember

Reported by: Flores Samantha Clare Severino, Yu Molin Felix & Zayyan Danial Bin Hisham (P5 Collaboration I)

In June, selected P5 pupils from Woodlands Primary School embarked on a thrilling 3-day, 2-night cultural immersion trip to Da Nang, Vietnam. With spirits high and excitement in the air, they set off on what promised to be an unforgettable adventure filled with new experiences and cultural discoveries.

### DAY 1

Upon their arrival at Da Nang International Airport, the group continued their journey to FPT Primary School, a school in Da Nang. Upon arrival, they were warmly greeted by the teachers and pupils, who entertained the visitors with their performance of the Cup Song. Before some of the Woodlanders began their presentation, they enjoyed a variety of delicious Vietnamese snacks, which were among the most popular in the region.



### DAY 2

After a good night's sleep, with their energy replenished, the group boarded the bus for a trip to the farm. There, they learned how to loosen soil using a hoe. The tool, though heavy due to its metal component encased in bamboo, proved to be both fun and tiring. The farmers, skilled in their craft, made it look effortless. Next, they planted vegetables that had already germinated, making the task easier and more engaging. They moved on to harvesting matured vegetables, gathering them into baskets. It was a unique experience for all the pupil participants.

### DAY 3

The day began with the Marble Mountains, which is a cluster of five marble and limestone hills named after the five elements. The view on the top was amazing. The group admired the beautiful marble temple and were greeted by the statue of Buddha. They then navigated a narrow path leading to a secluded area, featuring two caves on the sides and a large temple in the middle. The groups took turns exploring the caves, keeping an eye out for bats. It was quite an adventure!

They finally returned to Da Nang International Airport and thanked their tour guides for their assistance throughout the trip. When they reached Singapore, they spotted their families in the arrival area. Overjoyed, they reunited with their loved ones before heading out of the airport.

This trip was an incredible adventure filled with fun and excitement. All the WDP pupils and teachers who participated would cherish this unforgettable experience. The memories of the sights seen, the lessons learned and the friendships formed will always hold a special place in their hearts.



# A Walk in the Woods

## STEM Challenge: Igniting our creativity

Reported by: Alisa Qian Chunyue (P4 Adaptability 1),  
Queenan Ng Suan Lu & Julius Goh Khai Ruei (P4 Adaptability 2)

The STEM Challenge (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) was organised to inspire pupils to enjoy and immerse themselves in Science inquiry, creativity and expression.

As part of the second STEM Challenge, pupils had to build a cardboard chair that could sustain three kilograms without breaking. In Term 3, pupils presented the cardboard chairs they had designed during their recesses. Some pupils took the chance to build their chairs then as cardboards were provided. During the construction process, participants were not allowed to use glue, tape, or staples to hold their creation together. The chair had to include a backrest, legs that were at least 15 cm long, and it had to be constructed entirely of cardboard.

Overall, more than five hundred Woodlanders participated in the first two STEM Challenges. We were thrilled to be able to participate in such a fun hands-on activity that tested our innovation and problem-solving skills. Pupils with the best constructions even brought home some prizes, which motivated them to continue participating in future STEM Challenges.



## Immersing ourselves in culture during Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight

Reported by: Vanian Valappil Swathi Sasish (P5 Collaboration 1)  
& Truth Jemimah (P5 Collaboration 2)

Over the course of two weeks, fun activities were carried out during the various Mother Tongue classes to celebrate the Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight.

Competitions were held -- for instance, the P5 pupils had to take on the role of an advertiser by selecting an object and preparing a presentation for their class. Additionally, teachers and parent volunteers organised activities during the various recess periods. Through these activities, we had the opportunity to use our Mother Tongue Languages in fun ways to engage our friends and teachers.

The closing ceremony marked the end of two weeks filled with joy and laughter. The vibrant and cheerful performances during the closing ceremony brought the event to a memorable conclusion. The P1 Chinese pupils charmed the audience with a delightful Chinese song, while the P2 Malay pupils captivated everyone with their storytelling about a deer. The highlight of the event was the unforgettable performance by the P5 Tamil Language pupils, who sang and danced to a Tamil song shot right here in Singapore! The performances were a fitting end to the incredible Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight celebrated this year.





## P5 Camp: Adventure awaits in nature's playground

Reported by: Sun Shengwei (P5 Collaboration 2) & Luo Yuhong Ian (P5 Collaboration 3)

The P5s participated in an exhilarating Outdoor Adventure Camp that had them wishing they could stay at the campsite longer. Throughout the camp, they took part in a range of activities, tackling challenges big and small while learning values such as collaboration, resilience and adaptability.

Some highlights from the camp included the zip line and the night light session. On the zip line, campers experienced gliding from a higher point to a lower one. While most campers were excited, some initially struggled with the fear of heights but were supported by their peers to overcome it. The day ended with a night light activity - a reflective session where campers exchanged their experiences over a campfire.

Another highlight was the exhilarating rock climbing experience. Instructors taught them how to stay safe and gave some tips on climbing. While the climbs might have seemed tough and challenging at first, they still managed to succeed and overcome the challenge.

The outdoor adventure camp provided the P5s with unforgettable experiences and lasting memories.



## Racial Harmony Day: Together, we stand as a multicultural country

Reported by: Tan Yan Ning (P5 Collaboration 1) & Mahalik Aparajita Alama (P5 Collaboration 2)

Woodlanders came together, wearing their dazzling ethnic costumes to commemorate Racial Harmony Day. The day was made special by a Zoom assembly session featuring Mr Alan from the National Heritage Board, who shared insights about Singapore's diverse cultural heritage.

Mr. Alan's Zoom lesson focused on significant cultural landmarks in Singapore, such as the Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple and the Abdul Gafoor Mosque. During Social Studies lessons, particularly for the Primary 5 and 6 pupils, we delved into the history of racial riots, which provided a deeper understanding of why we commemorate Racial Harmony Day. This connection between the Social Studies curriculum and Mr. Alan's presentation enriched our learning experience.

Recess was lively with traditional games organised by the school and parent volunteers. Pupils enjoyed playing 'Five Stones', 'Chapteh' and 'Pick-Up Sticks', fostering interaction among peers from different cultural backgrounds.

Overall, Racial Harmony Day was a valuable experience, providing opportunities to bond with friends and gain a deeper appreciation for Singapore's rich cultural tapestry.



# A Walk in the Woods

## P5 NE Show: A day like no other

Reported by: Leonidas Lim Shao Zhe (P5 Collaboration 1) & Elvis Ang Zi Jie (P5 Collaboration 3)

The P5s attended the National Education Show, held at the Padang. The event was a hit with everyone, as it featured a variety of engaging performances.

The Kallang Wave proved to be a thrilling experience. Everyone in the audience stood up and raised their hands, creating a wave-like effect that swept through the crowd. The excitement was palpable, with enthusiastic shouts of "HAPPY BIRTHDAY SINGAPORE!" ringing out as people participated. The sight of each row rising and falling in unison was impressive and left everyone feeling proud to be Singaporeans.

Another highlight was the sing-along featuring popular NDP songs like "Home," "Shine Your Light," and "Not Alone". It was an incredibly enjoyable experience, especially since many of our friends had never participated in such a large-scale sing-along before. The atmosphere was electric, with nearly everyone joining in.

Many of us thoroughly enjoyed the Primary 5 NE Show, and it is an experience we will certainly remember fondly.



## National Day: WDP celebrates Singapore's 59th birthday

Reported by: Xie Kai En & Nur Shahana Binte Muhammad Sitik (P5 Collaboration 2)

On the 8th of August, Woodlanders donned red and white T-shirts to celebrate Singapore's 59th birthday in school. In the hall, we watched the scouts march in with the national flag while we sang the national anthem. It was a moment filled with pride and unity.

Back in our classrooms, we played an exciting Kahoot quiz, which tested what we knew about Singapore. We had a blast answering questions and cheering each other on.

After the quiz, we attended the concert which featured vibrant performances by the Malay, Chinese, and Indian dance group, showcasing Singapore's rich cultural diversity. A lively sing-along followed, filled with cheers and dancing, reflecting Singapore's celebratory mood.

As the day wrapped up, we felt a deep sense of pride and joy. National Day was more than just a celebration; it was a reminder of how our diverse cultures come together to make our nation strong and united.



## Children's Day: Exploring the magic of youth

Reported by: Enya Ee Xin Ya & Lee Jaylene (P4 Adaptability 3)

This year Children's Day's theme is "Colours". Pupils and teachers alike wore their favorite colours, creating vibrancy across the school. From bright yellow to deep blue, each pupil's outfit set the stage for an unforgettable day.

One of the highlights was the exciting lucky draw during recess. Teachers prepared two special prizes for each class, and winners were selected in a thrilling spin-the-wheel event!

The celebrations continued with a lively concert where each level's teachers put on a special performance for their pupils. The P4 teachers, in particular, stole the show by dancing to TikTok hit "Watashi wa Star", prompting pupils to sing and dance along. The teachers demonstrated their playful side, sparking endless laughter and joy among the pupils.

Children's Day was indeed a magical, colourful celebration of youth!



## Celebrating Deepavali with joy and culture

Reported by: Annette Ng Ke An (P6 Innovation 1) & Parineeta Harikrishnan & Shazneen Binte Omar (P6 Innovation 2)

Our recent Deepavali celebration was a vibrant and joyous event, bringing pupils and teachers together to honour the Festival of Lights. The school was buzzing with energy as Woodlanders participated in a range of activities to celebrate the festival.

During recess, Woodlanders enjoyed creating colorful rangoli stamp art that symbolises hope and positivity. A matching card game added to the fun, giving everyone a chance to learn more about the traditional symbols and significance of Deepavali. In addition, the pupils also got to dance and learn some bhangra steps.

Dressed in beautiful ethnic attire, pupils and teachers gathered for a special assembly. The celebration kicked off with an enchanting dance performance by the Indian dance group, capturing the spirit of the festival. The excitement continued with a unique fashion parade by our teachers, who donned a variety of traditional outfits, adding elegance and cultural pride to the event.

Our Deepavali celebration was a truly amazing experience, filled with learning, engagement, and joy.



## Teachers' Day Celebration: Teachers can finally take a break!

Reported by: Valerie Yap (P4 Adaptability 2) & Lim Si Qi (P5 Collaboration 4)



It was finally the day our teachers had been looking forward to -- Teachers' Day. It was the final week of Term 3 when WDP celebrated this special occasion. This year was especially unique as WDP's student leaders, with the support of the Student Leadership Committee and PSG, organised the whole event. As an expression of their love and gratitude to the amazing WDP teachers, the student leaders put together a song dedication livestream and a fantastic concert.

The Song Dedication Livestream was broadcast to the whole school on the Tuesday of Week 9. Selected songs chosen by Woodlanders were played during the livestream. Some of the songs selected were *You Raise Me Up*, *Flashlight*, *Ode to You* and many others. Before playing the selected songs, the P4 Prefects who hosted the livestream interviewed the pupils whose songs had been chosen, to get them to share their reasons for dedicating their songs to their teachers. It was a memorable livestream that touched the teachers and showed them how much their pupils cared for them.

The Teachers' Day Concert was the second main event of the celebrations. The performances put up were completely self-directed, with no help from the teachers. They included a trio consisting a vocalist, pianist and guitarist, a beautiful piano-violin duet, a ballet dance, a K-Pop dance involving P3 and P5 pupils and a skit by the Speech and Drama Club.

The highlight of the concert was undoubtedly the Grand Finale. In the weeks leading up to Teachers' Day, Student Leaders had been reminding their fellow Woodlanders to construct a shaker so that every single one of them would be able to take part in the grand finale performance. On the day of the concert, the prefects took on the role of instructors as they went to all the different classrooms to teach all Woodlanders how to perform the stomp finale performance with their shaker bottles. When it was time for the Grand Finale stomp performance, Woodlanders rose to the occasion as they took out their shakers and performed in unison. The school hall was filled with the mesmerising sounds of the shakers, mixed in with a beautiful rendition of "You are my Sunshine", led by Head Prefect Parineeta.

The teachers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were deeply moved by the efforts of the student leaders and all Woodlanders in making their special day memorable. It was evident that they were already looking forward to the next Teachers' Day celebrations and the surprises the prefects would have in store for them.



## Prefects take over Teachers' Day

Reported by: Lee Zi Rui (P4 Adaptability I) & Alicia Soh Jia Xian (P5 Collaboration I)

Hey, Woodlanders and wonderful teachers! Did you know that this year's Teachers' Day celebrations were completely organised by Student Leaders, with minimal supervision from the teachers in the Student Leadership Committee?

The Prefects decided on two key activities: a Teachers' Day Song Dedication Livestream and a Teachers' Day concert, culminating in a grand finale with a surprise stomp performance by all pupils. They divided themselves into three core groups, each taking responsibility for a different aspect. Read on to get a "behind the scenes" peek at how the Prefects made their vision a reality!

### **P4 Prefects: SONG DEDICATION LIVESTREAM**



The P4 Core Team

The P4 Core Prefects team was tasked with managing the song dedication livestream. They first invited all Woodlanders to submit songs they wanted to dedicate to their teachers, along with their reasons. The response was overwhelming, and the Prefects faced the challenge of narrowing down the choices. After careful consideration, they selected the songs that would be featured during the livestream, and arranged for the pupils who nominated the songs to be interviewed during the broadcast. On the day of the event, the livestream was carried out without a hitch. The teachers were deeply moved by the thoughtful song choices and the heartfelt dedications from their pupils.

### **P5 Prefects: CONCERT BEHIND THE SCENES**

Meanwhile, the P5 Prefects were hard at work holding auditions for the concert. With so many talented pupils eager to perform, the prefects made the bold decision to encourage collaboration, suggesting that performers combine their talents for group performances. This was no easy feat, as different pupils had different strengths and styles, but after several weeks of rehearsals and coordination, the Prefects were able to help the performers bring out their best in unified, standout acts. The concert, held on Teachers' Day, was a lively showcase of talent, with every performance leaving an impression on the audience.



The P5 Core Team

### **P6 Prefects: THE GRAND FINALE**



The P6 Core Team

The P6 Prefects, in charge of the grand finale, devised an idea that would involve the entire school: a stomp performance using handmade shaker instruments. To make this vision come to life, they guided pupils in creating shakers from empty bottles filled with beans or rice. On the day of the concert, the prefects visited classrooms to teach their peers the rhythm and choreography for the stomp.

Their efforts paid off when, during the concert, pupils surprised the teachers with a well-rehearsed stomp performance. The sight of hundreds of pupils shaking their handmade instruments in unison was nothing short of being spectacular, leaving teachers amazed and touched by the unanimous gesture.

In the end, the prefects not only pulled off a successful Teachers' Day celebration, but they also walked away with valuable life lessons that will serve them well beyond their time at Woodlands Primary.

## Play-based learning with the Prime Minister

On Tuesday, 17th September 2024, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong made a special visit to Woodlands Primary School. PM Wong joined a Mathematics lesson with P4 Adaptability 1 pupils to experience play-based learning in action. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as pupils engaged in hands-on activities that made the learning of Maths fun and interactive.

When I found out that I'd be working in the same group as PM Wong, I was nervous. But he was kind and followed the teacher's instructions, just like any other pupil in class. It was fun!

Krishalini  
(P4 Adaptability 1)



I thought PM Wong had a lot of fun playing the Pizza fractions game. I was happy that he could experience the fun games we often play during our lessons.

Chia Kim Hee  
(P4 Adaptability 1)



During the lesson, PM Wong was personable and approachable. He participated actively in the activities. The pupils were thrilled to have the Prime Minister in their classroom and many expressed their joy at being able to show him their learning process.

The school was delighted to host PM Wong and appreciated his genuine interest in our educational strategies. The visit highlighted the importance of innovative teaching approaches, such as Play-based Learning, which fosters creativity and critical thinking among young learners.



### Our Newsletter Editorial Committee

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**Mr Razali Bin Senin**  
Vice-Principal (Advisor)

Special thanks to the Junior Reporters from English Excel Club.



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