

MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

May is a special month full of celebrations, from Mother's Day, Teachers' Day and Hari Raya Puasa. While our movement is restricted and as we practise social distancing, we can use this time to reflect and count our blessings that we are safe and healthy. Let's reach out to others who are less fortunate or to those whom we may have taken for granted. This month we have ample opportunities to reach out and show our love and appreciation to those who have made our lives so much richer and more fulfilling.

First on the list of celebrations is Mother's Day, which falls on the second Sunday of May. This year, on 10 May, our whole MGS student community released their creative best to write poems, messages and stories, while others put together entertaining and innovative videos as their expressions of love and appreciation for their mothers who mean so much to them.

One week after Mother's Day, we celebrated Teachers' Day. For many of the students in MGS, especially the younger ones, it was truly an emotional day when they poured out their love for their teachers - people close to them whom they have not been physically together for more than two months.

The teachers in MGS, just like those in all other schools, are the frontliners of our education system, in this challenging period. Many teachers are locked down with families of their own, having to multitask to play the roles of spouse, parent, cook, nurse and teacher all rolled into one, with much of their time, from 9 am to 4 pm, dedicated to their job of providing distance learning for their students. We salute all of our teachers for their diligence, commitment and creativity in motivating and engaging our students in these challenging times, and we wish you all a Happy Teachers' Day!

Last but not least is our Hari Raya celebrations, which begin on Sunday, 24 May. This year Hari Raya coincides with our mid-term break. Locked down with strict social distancing to abide by, our Muslim community will have a celebration with a difference. Though many loved ones are unable to come back for the celebration with their families, we hope those who are in Seremban will still have their joyous celebration with great love and festive bonding with nearby family members. We take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim friends a very happy Hari Raya Aidilfitri!

To the rest of the school the last week of May also brings the start of our mid-term holiday. To our teachers and students, please use this week to rest and relax so that you will be refreshed and rejuvenated when you return to learning in June. Happy holidays and Selamat Hari Raya to all of you.



Thank you for all the support, contribution and feedback for the MGS Echo thus far. We hope you enjoy reading the going-ons in Matrix Global Schools as much as we love publishing them.

Kindly note that the newsletter is 'taking a break' for the coming week due to the school holidays.
Next issue will be out on 5 June 2020.

Teacher Appreciation Message

Eleanor Roosevelt once compared all females to a teabag, saying you can't tell how strong a woman is until you put her in hot water. In a similar fashion, I would like to compare our teaching staff to teabags. It might not sound like a graceful term of endearment, but it is the biggest compliment and form of respect that I can pay our teachers at the moment.

Amidst all the negativity around COVID-19, the subsequent MCO and its impact on education, our teachers have stepped up to the challenge in more ways than I can count, providing numerous silver linings that make me very excited for the future of education at MGS. Where we have always focused on our students' abilities to become innovators in their own right, the past two months have shown our extraordinary teachers' creativity and innovation as well. Overnight, staff became ambassadors for Google Education: They have gone to many lengths to improve their own knowledge, skills and practice relating to various online learning platforms, and have opened the door to an advanced technological approach to teaching that will guide our students into the future. Never before have I seen this surge in creativity, whether it's through the creation of pre-recorded lessons uploaded onto YouTube, or the re-designing of projects that allow students to submit work in a video format.

In contrast to popular belief, creativity is not always a brief lightbulb moment that comes to you at a moment's request, nor is it a solution to a problem that effortlessly falls in your lap - it takes time, preparation and deep consideration. Our teachers are now working longer hours than ever before, having to modify and redesign an entire curriculum to make it appropriate for online sharing. On top of that, they have also managed to implement various strategies to support our students well-being, be it through daily exercises, assembly presentations or year group meetings.

Words of appreciation simply fail me at the moment, as I look upon the men and women who are providing a service to our students in a manner unfamiliar to them, and yet they're going at it with as much heart and soul as they did in the physical classroom. To all our teachers: The words "thank you" might not lighten the workload, it might not provide you with more free time for yourself and your family, nor will it place you safely back in your comfort zone i.e. your classroom, but please know that you are an exceptional human being and that no society can truly thrive without the passion you have shown for educating young minds. I have the greatest admiration and respect for each and every teacher that works at MGS and I wish you all a restful Hari Raya break - you deserve it.

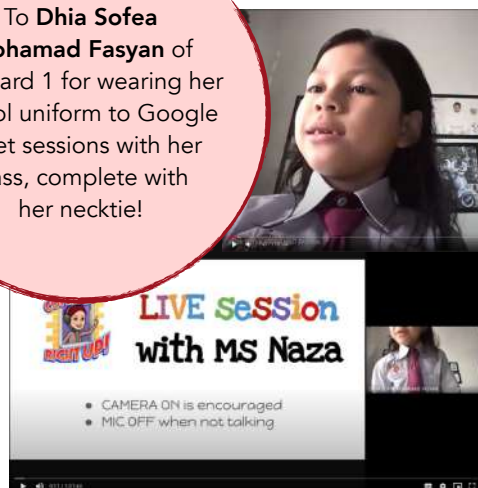


Ms Dornehl Kitching
Acting Head of School (MIS Secondary)

Shout out to students going the extra mile!



To **Dhia Sofea Mohamad Fasyan** of Standard 1 for wearing her school uniform to Google Meet sessions with her class, complete with her necktie!



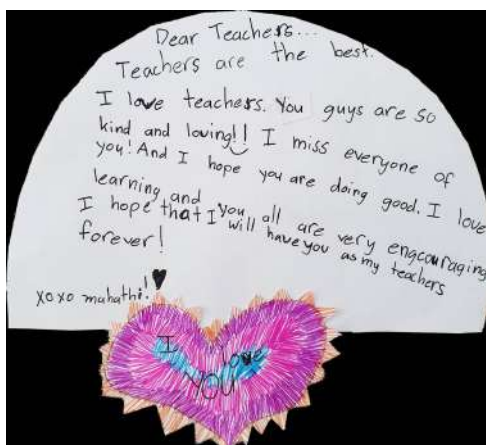
To **Ng Jen Shen** of Year 7 who sadly has contracted Dengue fever but still joined his Visual Art live lesson and submitted his assignment (sketches of thumbnails based on water reflection) from the hospital!

MIS Primary

As Henry Brooks Adams, the American historian and author said, "Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops". Last Saturday, Teachers' Day was celebrated in Malaysia. In honour of the teachers in their lives, the MISP students used various ways to show their appreciation for the teachers in their lives and how they inspire, motivate and encourage them in their learning.

We thank the teachers for all their efforts and hard work and hope you enjoy seeing some of our students' appreciation for their teachers.

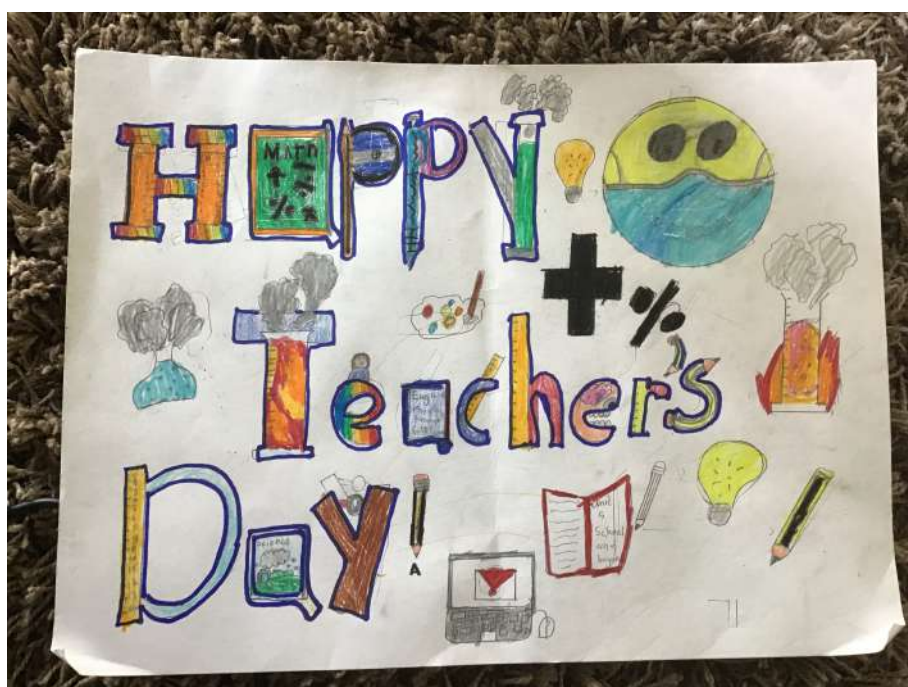
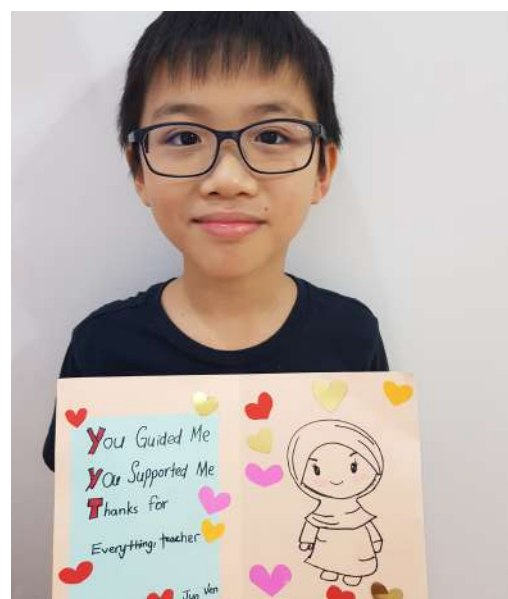
Happy
Teacher's Day



Matrix Private School

We are most honoured and humbled by the amount of love pouring in from our students and parents for Teachers' Day! Apart from the many pieces of artwork made and submitted by the students - an attempt to get the children to do a creative activity away from their screen - teachers have also been receiving personal messages and emails of well wishes and thanks in appreciation their hard work, commitment and sacrifice towards nurturing the students academically and supporting them emotionally.

We are certain that our teachers will continue to be the candle 'to light the way for others'. However in doing so, we hope the profession would not 'consume them' as teachers are still individuals who need the time to care for themselves and tend to responsibilities outside of work. May this Teachers' Day celebration be a time for all to find a happy balance between the wellbeing of the teachers as well as that of the students so that both can emerge from this pandemic, strong and resilient to continue resolutely together on the shared path of learning





Teacher's Insight on Learning to Read

by Ms Denise Tan, MIS Early Years Teacher

*Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)
Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.*

Learning to read is like learning to ride a bicycle although the process is not as painful as the latter. We will stumble and fall before becoming competent readers or riders. I remember my 8-year-old son riding his bicycle every day, determined to prove that he could do it despite being unstable on the bicycle. Determination and love for the object are keys to learning to read. It is important for children to see reading as something fun to do instead of a chore.

I asked my grown daughter what her earliest recollections of learning to read was. My daughter recalled that one day when she was 5 years old, she saw me reading. She brought one of her storybooks and pretended to read beside me even though she could not read yet. She was amazed that some of the words she learned at her preschool were in her storybooks

too! Whether we realise or not, children are keen observers and are likely to look up to their parents as role models even in learning to read. I must confess that I had only helped her with certain words that she could not read but the actual process of learning to read was the efforts of my daughter and her preschool teachers. Preschool teachers have a role in introducing alphabets, phonics and words to children.

As a parent, I may not have played the major role in teaching my children to read in their early years. However, I played the supporting role as a parent. I read with my children at home, during bedtime and I read to them whenever I had their attention. Parental involvement in literacy in their children's early years contributes to significant reading achievement in preschool children. Most children will eventually learn to read at their own pace unless they have a learning disability. Teachers and parents have to work hand in hand to help their children to learn to read.

During this MCO period, I discovered that the children who were unable to read have shown improvement in their ability to recognise words and to read. Obviously, their parents have done a wonderful job in guiding their children to read! Videos showing the children's reading skill are proof of a job well done. Let us encourage our children to want to learn to read.

As the unforgettable Dr. Seuss, the famous author said:

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"

MGS COMMUNITY Sharing the joy of giving for Aidilfitri

It has been a tradition for the MGS staff to be given a token of dates during Ramadhan by Matrix Concepts. However, due to the school closure, most cannot make it back to school to collect their dates this year. The MGS HR, Admin & Compliance Department sees this as an opportunity to invite the staff to give back and donate their share of dates to the needy. The team took a step further by generously donating their personal gifts of rice, sugar, sweets, biscuits, chocolates, drinks and not forgetting some duit Raya for the little ones.

It gave us immense pleasure to be able to share this joy with the children of the ASNAF MURNI orphanage (also for the poor and disable) in Sendayan. We look forward to more opportunities to organise such activities with the MGS Community.



Seeking Knowledge ; Opening Minds