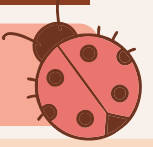


# THE ELIASIAN



## Content

## Message from our new Head Prefect



### PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Get to know the people in our Eliasian community and the roles they play.

### COMMUNITY SPACES

Have you seen the refreshed spaces in our school canteen? Let's learn more about what went behind the scenes when the canteen had a makeover.

### EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY

We had a chat with our Vice-Principal, Mrs Esther See, about the upcoming MOE Kindergarten.

## Events in Semester 2

8 August:  
School National Day celebration  
3 October:  
Children's Day celebration

My name is Calista Lua, and I am from Primary 5 Love. I would like to express my gratitude to the teachers, fellow Eliasians, and School Leaders for selecting me as your Head Prefect for the year 2024 to 2025.

As the Head Prefect of Elias Park Primary School and the voice of the student body, I look forward to working together with the teachers, fellow prefects, and Eliasians to make EPPS a better and more conducive environment for all students to learn. One of my foremost priorities is to ensure that the voices of all students are not only heard but their concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

On behalf of the 30th Prefect Council, I want to assure everyone that we are committed to assisting all teachers and pupils whenever they need help and to serve the school to the best of our abilities

Lastly, I extend heartfelt appreciation to all P6 Prefects for their invaluable contributions, and I wish them all the best. Let us work together wholeheartedly for the betterment of Elias Park Primary School.

Calista Lua  
Head Prefect (2024/2025)  
Primary 5 Love





# THE ELIASIAN

2024

## People In Our Community



While some Eliasians play outdoors during recess, others prefer to go to the library to borrow books and read. Have you ever wondered what is it like to be in our school librarian's shoes?

Our dedicated librarian, Mdm Aqilah, was inspired to pursue her job as she loves working with children. Therefore, being able to interact with Eliasians is one of the highlights of her role. In addition, she sees the library as a place for a respite. Thus, she loves it when Eliasians visit the library to borrow books.

Mdm Aqilah fondly recalls reading the Babysitters Club series during her primary school days. To this day, she finds those book captivating, filled with intriguing hooks.

If you feel bored, Mdm Aqilah highly recommends reading books by Roald Dahl, a world-renowned author. His books are not only interesting but they also carry meaningful messages that resonate with readers.

### Our school librarian, Mdm Aqilah



### Our school dental therapist, Ms. Zarifah



We also had the chance to interview our dental therapist, Ms Zarifah. She has been a dentist therapist for over twenty years, helping many children like us. Let us find out more about what she does.

#### **Q: What are your roles and responsibilities as a dental therapist?**

A: I am a dental therapist for students and my job is to take care of their teeth. I teach them how to brush properly and keep their smiles healthy.

#### **Q: What are the common procedures do you have to do?**

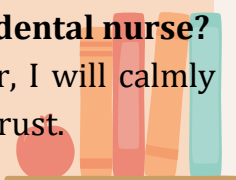
A: Some common procedures that I have to carry out are extractions of baby teeth and fixing teeth that have holes in them.

#### **Q: What do you like most about your job?**

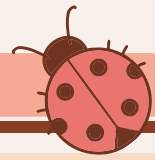
A: The best thing is meeting many students from across schools.

#### **Q: How do you manage a child who is afraid of visiting the dental nurse?**

A: If a child is afraid, I do not do anything right away. Rather, I will calmly explain what we are going to do to help him. This can gain his trust.



# People In Our Community



How do students with learning needs receive support in schools? Besides teachers, who else can they turn to for help? Well, in Singapore, every school has Special Educational Needs Officers (SENO). At Elias Park Primary School, we do have three of them! Curious about their roles, we decided to interview one of our SENOs, Mdm Hanis.

**Q: What are the roles and responsibilities of a Special Educational Needs Officer?**

A: As SEN Officers, we are like superheroes who swoop in to support students with special educational needs, giving them the boost they need to ace both schoolwork and social life. Some might even require extra help like study sessions or a sidekick in class to conquer their academic adventures! We also support the teachers of SEN students as they collaborate with parents, psychologists, and therapists.



Mdm Hanis  
Special Education  
Needs Officer



Care Room - a place for the SEN Officers to meet with students



# People In Our Community



## **Q: What is a typical day like as a SENO?**

A: My regular day in the life of SEN Officer begins with a quick chat and pep talk with students under my charge. After all, who doesn't need a high-five and some good vibes to kick start their day, right? It is also the perfect moment to hear all about the weekend shenanigans and sneak in a gentle reminder about taking their medications and breakfast.

I have a set schedule for withdrawal sessions and in-class support, and will use my free periods for planning and resource creation. I also have meetings with stakeholders to review support plans. Occasionally, some teachers need help with managing meltdowns and conflicts among students with SEN. I have used puppets during some of these occasions to help these students see things from a different perspective.

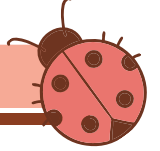
## **Q. What inspired you to become a Special Educational Needs Officer?**

A: I find it fulfilling to support students with special needs. I feel a sense of accomplishment when I can equip them with skills and ensure that their unique requirements are addressed for social and emotional development. The goal is for these skills to benefit them beyond their school years.

## **Q: Do you have any memorable moments which you are proud of in your career?**

A: It might sound like a cheesy movie line, but let me tell you - I am proud whenever my students achieve even a small milestone. Whether it is turning tears of frustration into smiles of determination or guiding anger towards understanding and resolution. I feel that it is our mission to ensure no student feels lost or alone in facing their challenges.





**School Counsellor,  
Mrs Amanda Ong**

Now, what if we find it challenging to control our emotions? Or if we are feeling troubled? Who can we approach? Well, apart from your teachers, you may also speak to the school counsellor. Here, we interviewed our school counsellor, Mrs Amanda Ong, to know more about her job.

**Q: What are your roles and responsibilities as a School Counsellor?**

A: My role is to ensure that students in Elias Park are happy and have an extra friend to talk to. I provide individual and group counselling, conduct school assembly talks and facilitate workshops for teachers to equip them with counselling skills.

**Q: What is your typical day like as a school counsellor?**

A: I begin my day by greeting students when they arrive in school. Afterwards, I finalise my sessions with students for the day. During breaks, I grab lunch and attend to administrative tasks. Lastly, I will attend meetings in the afternoons.

**Q: What had inspired you to become a school counsellor?**

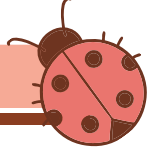
A: I was inspired to be a school counsellor due to my desire to reach out to individuals facing day-to-day problems and challenges. Providing a listening ear and guiding them through their difficulties become my mission and I find satisfaction in that.

**Q: Do you have any memorable moments which you are proud of in your career?**

A: Yes! One year, a group of students surprised me in my counselling room for my birthday! This unexpected surprise left a lasting impression on my heart and more importantly, affirmed my efforts.



# People In Our Community



**Q: What are some of the helpful strategies you use to help students when they need help or are feeling anxious?**

A: They can practise deep breathing as this helps to calm down nerves. Also, they can engage in enjoyable activities to distract them from their worries. Most importantly, talk to someone they trust!



Sunshine Room - a safe haven for students to share their woes

**Q: What is one advice you would give to someone who aspires to be a school counsellor?**

A: Always be open-minded. It is essential to maintain an open mind and continuously acquire new skills to help those facing diverse challenges.



A board of visual reminders for the students

# Our Community Spaces



The canteen is more than a place in school where we buy and enjoy food. It is a gathering spot where students can bond across different classes and levels, catching up with one another. Beyond the confines of classrooms, it becomes a space where we can converse and play to our hearts' content. Over the past few years, our school canteen has undergone several physical changes. In fact, there were some changes made recently. What were these changes and their rationale? Read on to find out!



We had the privilege to interview Mrs Irene Say (Year Head, Upper Primary), to address our queries. According to Mrs Say, these changes were aligned to both the Singapore's Green Plan 2030 and school's sustainability effort. The canteen design now falls into four distinct categories. The first category, "City in Nature" encompasses various learning spaces within our school, including hydroponics and aquaponics setups, the growth tower behind the canteen and even a fungi corner.



Learning Wall on SG Green Plan 2030



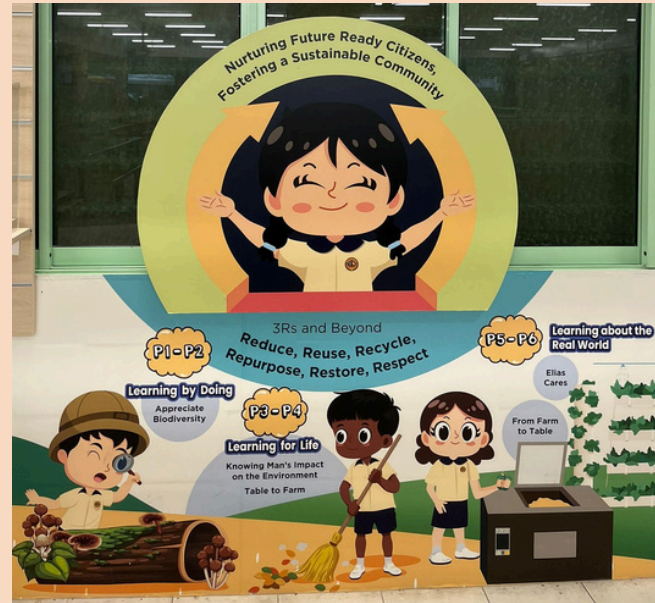
Recycling Area



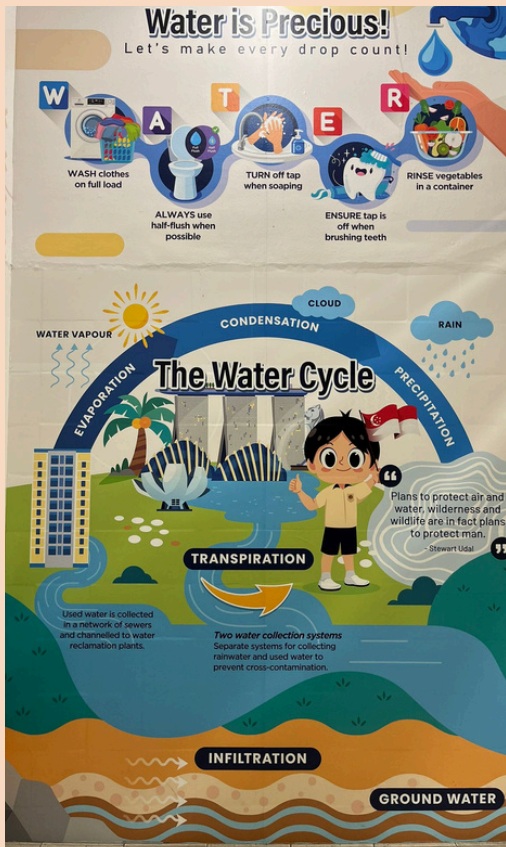
# Our Community Spaces



The second category is “Energy Reset”. It features posters on green and sustainable energy sources from around the world and in Singapore. The third category, “Sustainable Living” includes learning spaces such as the Plastic Recycling Corner and Food Waste Recycling Corner to educate us about sustainable living. The last is “Resilient Future”. In fact, this category drives the theme of the canteen - food security. It educates Eliasians on alternative food sources and choices as the basis for them to build a resilient future.



“The canteen is the most ideal place to educate Eliasians on food security since it is where they have their meals. By learning the importance of it, Eliasians will hopefully reduce their food wastage.”  
- Mrs Irene Say.”



Mrs. Say concluded by sharing that her team has invested significant effort in carefully considering the themes and ensuring alignment with Singapore’s whole-of-nation movement to advance sustainability. The information within each learning space was curated by the team and the designer to ensure it was age-appropriate and easy to understand.

In our opinion, the canteen design has definitely changed for the better and now serves as a learning space for all Eliasians to benefit from!

“I enjoy visiting the different learning walls during recess!”  
- Ilhan Danish, 4 Integrity



# Expanding Our Community



Some of us might still fondly remember our kindergarten days. We are excited to share that in 2025, the school will be welcoming MOE Kindergarten in our school. MOE Kindergarten (MK) provides quality and affordable preschool education to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents (PR) aged 5 to 6. Being a kindergarten that is set up by the Ministry of Education, one can look forward to a curriculum that has a distinctive Singaporean flavour. More importantly, MK will offer a distinctive “primary school experience” that prepares six-year-olds for primary school as they enter the last term of Kindergarten 2 (K2).



Our team interviewed Mrs Esther See, Vice-Principal, to know more about the progress of the new MOE Kindergarten.

**Q: Are you excited about the upcoming MOE kindergarten in EPPS?**

A: Yes I am. It is exciting to know that the little ones are joining EPPS.



# Expanding Our Community



**Q: What are the pros and cons of having the MOE kindergarten in our school?**

A: The benefits arise from our students' interactions with the little ones and their participation in school events. Some of these students may eventually choose to continue their primary education at EPPS. However, having the kindergarten in our school presents certain challenges. For instance, we need to renovate some of our classrooms to accommodate the little ones. Despite these challenges, I am confident that Team EPPS will overcome them!

**Q: Do you have any messages for Eliasians regarding the upcoming MOE kindergarten?**

A: We should wholeheartedly welcome the little ones. I also believe every Eliasian will embrace the role of a caring and loving older brother or sister as we extend our support to the kindergarteners, making them feel at home in EPPS. There are exciting plans for activities between Eliasians and the MOE Kindergarten but we will keep everyone in suspense for now.





**Brought to you by the Primary 5 Student Journalists:**

FRONT ROW: JIYA BALAJI, TYLER SEE, BRENNAN EDRIC TJONG, CYPRESS WIJAYA,  
SIM YI XIN REANNE

BACK ROW: BEH YU TING ISABEL, LYU ANQI, AAFREEN IBRAHIM, DEARN YEO LI ERN, ,  
ANDREA TEO TING YU, LEONG WEI XIN  
NOT IN PHOTOGRAPH: CHUA YI JIA ELENA

Teacher Advisors: MDM AFIQAH LIYANA, MS BHAIRAVI, MR LIU ZHIMING

Special thanks to:

MDM CHUA PEI PEI (Principal)

MRS ESTHER SEE (Vice-Principal)

MR MOHAMAD NOOR (Vice-Principal)

MDM PEH BEE KUAN (Vice-Principal)

MRS IRENE SAY (YH/ UPPER PRIMARY)

MRS AMANDA LIM (SCHOOL COUNSELLOR)

MDM HANIS (SENO)

MDM ZARIFAH (DENTAL THERAPIST)

MDM AQILAH (SCHOOL LIBRARIAN)