Dear Eco-Schools Champions,

Welcome back to the start of another school term and a brand new year of Eco-Schools! Lined up for you are the exciting array of activities that we have planned for 2015, check it out on the Eco-Schools Calendar on page 6. Start the new year right by electing the right people in your eco-committee. Page 7 gives you an idea of what to look out for to form your A-team!

During the last September holidays, some students spent a day at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, closer to nature, learning about nature photography. The inaugural Eco-Schools Conference from 4-5 November 2014 gave Eco-Schools the opportunity to exchange and share ideas with each other, as well as with our special guests all the way from Sabah, Malaysia. Read all about it on from page 2 to page 4.

Page 5 nicely wraps up 2014 with a nutshell of the milestones that we have achieved together in Eco-Schools. As we work towards new achievements in 2015, give yourself a pat on the back for the job well done in your Eco-Schools work!

Best regards,

Ms. Valerie

Education Unit
WWF-Singapore
WHAT’S BUZZING?

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

The students from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, Kranji Secondary School, Commonwealth Secondary School and ITE College West had a blast learning about nature photography at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve during their school holidays last September. Read on to find out what they learnt at the workshop!

“With nature photography, we can better appreciate nature and help others cultivate a love for nature,” said Dr. Fong Chee Wai, President of the Nature Photographic Society Singapore (NPSS) as he kickstarted the session. His introduction sought to explain the importance of nature photography for environmental conservation, and provide a context for the workshop. He also covered some basic techniques on how to operate a digital camera.

Thus equipped with the basics of nature photography, it was time for the participants to put it into practice! Home to about 500 species of tropical flora and fauna, Sungei Buloh’s natural mangrove ecosystem and the diverse biodiversity that it houses meant the students were spoilt for choice on subjects to photograph. Participants were split into groups, each accompanied by a photographer from NPSS to provide guidance. Among some interesting creatures they snapped were large monitor lizards basking in the sun, water hens hopping on water lily pads and a large wriggley mass of caterpillars clinging to a tree trunk.

Back in the classroom, the students came together to brainstorm ideas on how they could help their classmates better appreciate nature on their school grounds, with nature photography considered as one of the tools to use. They came up with many ideas, including organising nature photography competitions in school and sharing photos of the school’s flora and fauna on Instagram.

All in all, it was a morning well spent. If you are interested to get involved in nature photography, look out for our next workshop!
ECO-SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

The first ever Eco-Schools Conference brought together Eco-Schools to showcase the good work they have done so far and provided a platform for schools to exchange ideas and learn from each other. This was also the first time that WWF-Singapore collaborated with the National Environment Agency to hold the event in conjunction with the Clean and Green Singapore Schools’ Carnival.

Group photo of award recipients with Ms. Brid Conneely, Ms. Elaine Tan, and our programme sponsors from IKEA Singapore and The Silent Foundation

Shuqun Primary performing a song with recyclable instruments, titled ‘Pompeii’

Students from Muhibbah National Secondary School performing their self composed eco-song

We were privileged to have Ms. Brid Conneely, the International Eco-Schools Director from the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE) to be our Guest-of-Honour for our first conference. In her speech, Brid expressed her high hopes for the programme in Singapore and shared inspirational stories from Eco-Schools in other countries.

The event was also an occasion to celebrate the achievements of four schools that received their bronze awards: Admiralty Primary School, Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, Chong Boon Secondary School and Kranji Secondary School. A big congratulations to them!

Students from Shuqun Primary School opened the ceremony with an upbeat number, a song titled ‘Pompeii’, using recyclables as music instruments.

All the way from Sabah, Malaysia was Muhibbah National Secondary School, who brought us the school’s environmental song in their traditional costumes.

There is no wealth like knowledge, and what better way to share that wealth by displaying their Eco-Schools work. 11 out of the 13 Eco-Schools in Singapore grabbed the chance to set up exhibition booths and showcased their great work they had done all year round to teachers and students who visited the event. As part of the event, a series of interesting hands-on workshops were also offered. Participants got the chance to try their hands at making their own terrariums and learn about upcycling by transforming their old t-shirts into a t-shirt slippers keychain.
The t-shirt upcycling and terrarium making workshops were conducted by Green Issues by Agy and EcoPonics, respectively. Visit their websites to find out more about what they do:

**Green Issues by Agy:**
http://greenissuesingapore.blogspot.sg/

**EcoPonics:**
http://www.ecoponics.com.sg/

In addition to these hands-on workshops, some special sharing sessions were held, of which one was by the group of students who had gone on the overseas learning trip to England in June 2014. They shared about their most memorable moments from the visit, the best ideas they had picked up from the schools there, as well as the projects they have subsequently applied back in school. Nazirulmubin from Kranji Secondary School even led a hands-on segment on composting.

![Participants learning the science behind a terrarium](image1)

![All workshop participants got to bring home their own mini garden](image2)

![Nazirul from Kranji Secondary School sharing on how to make a compost](image3)

![Ms. Bred Conneely visiting the Anchor Green Primary School booth](image4)

Students from Muhibbah National Secondary School also shared about their Eco-Schools journey to a classroom full of students and teachers. Being one of the first few schools in Malaysia to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag award, their sharing was very impactful and definitely left the audience feeling inspired.

It was certainly a good time of learning from each other. We hope that this valuable experience will empower and inspire our Eco-Schools to continue on their journey towards environmental sustainability with renewed vigour!
ECO-SCHOOLS SINGAPORE: 2014 IN A NUTSHELL

Let us celebrate the many milestones that we have achieved together in 2014!

1st Eco-Schools Conference
Graced by Ms. Brid Connedy, International Eco-Schools Director

1st EcoCampus in Singapore
Institute of Technical Education (ITE) joined the programme in July 2014

3 Silver Award Winners
Woodgrove Secondary School
Commonwealth Secondary School
Nan Hua High School

4 students went on an Overseas Learning Trip
Tze Siang (Commonwealth Secondary School), Lat Han (Nan Hua High School), Nazirul (Kranji Secondary School) and Jia Poh (Yuhua Secondary School) had the experience of a life-time when they were chosen by their schools to go on the trip. Read about their experiences in the September 2014 issue.

13 Eco-Schools enrolled
To date, we have 4 primary schools, 8 secondary schools and 1 post-secondary institution

7 Bronze Award Winners
Admiralty Primary School
Anchor Green Primary School
Shuang Primary School
Ang Mo Kio Secondary School
Chong Boon Secondary School
Kranji Secondary School
Yuhua Secondary School