

In Focus

CONNECTING QIHUA WITH THE WORLD AND COMMUNITY

In Qihua, we recognise that learning happens anytime and anywhere, not only in school but also at home, in the community and the world.

Hence, beyond building strong partnerships with parents, the school has introduced initiatives and programmes to strengthen its partnership with the community, organisations and schools around the world. These varied and holistic learning experiences create new opportunities for teachers and students to collaborate, network and spread ideas, enabling Qihuaians to apply the school values of care, respect and responsibility.



**“It takes a village
to raise a child”**

Some of these partnerships include:

- Woodlands CC and Sembawang GRC: showcasing our students' talents to the community and serving the residents as part of the school's Values-in-Action (VIA) programme.

- National Library Board, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Centre for Chinese Language (SCCL) and SportsSG: improving teaching and learning through collaboration and resource support.
- NParks, National Environment Agency (NEA) and North West Community Development Council (NW CDC): instilling environmental conservation awareness.
- Self-help groups such as Mendaki, SINDA and CDAC: providing additional academic support to students and recognising academic achievements through awards and bursary.

To provide a global outlook and international perspective for staff and students, we have various overseas partnerships under the school globalisation programme. This offers exciting opportunities for our students and staff to make meaningful connections with students and educators beyond Singapore. Our annual overseas immersion trips to schools in Brunei and China, and hosting programme for our overseas counterparts equip Qihuaians with the knowledge and skills for socio-cultural sensitivity.

Leveraging on the inter-connectivity of technology, students also participate in video-conferencing activities with friends from Japan, preparing our active learners for the globalised economy.

Such opportunities are not limited to just our students. Our teachers and school leaders are also able to share and learn from our global fraternity as shared in the pages inside this issue of Qihua Connect.

Ultimately, the school hopes that these strong connections and partnerships with the community and the world would enrich our students' holistic education and engage them in ways beyond traditional classroom pedagogy. Through the empowering learning experiences, our students also gain valuable insights into real-life applications of skills and knowledge – all these augurs well for their future.

Mr Amran Tasrif
Vice-Principal (Academic)

Learning Beyond Our Shores

Our school leaders, Mrs Lee and Mr Amran had a fruitful learning trip to Taiwan, hosted by Associate Professor Chiu Fu-Yuan of National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan. A.P. Chiu and his team had visited our school in 2018 to observe our classroom teaching and learning. In return, he graciously invited our school leaders over for an equally enriching learning experience.

Mrs Lee and Mr Amran visited Liao Jia Primary School and The Affiliated Experimental Elementary School of National Tsing Hua University.

Mr Amran reminisced the enlightening moments and shared with the school the valuable takeaways from the trip.



Visit to Liao Jia Primary School

A Science lesson was conducted outdoors to enhance the teaching of core Science concepts and students were introduced to coding through a hands-on activity. It was amazing to witness how coding can be seamlessly integrated into a Science lesson.



Visit to the Affiliated Experimental Elementary School of National Tsing Hua University

One of the outstanding features of this school is the open concept. With glass walls and doors, the boundaries of the classrooms blend seamlessly with nature. It is fascinating how the environment, meaningfully harnessed, can enhance students' learning. The school also believes in cultivating the students' passion through experimentation and exploration. As such, carpentry lessons and the Young Farmers' Programme are introduced as part of the curriculum.

Mr Amran pointed out that while it is not possible to replicate the ideas in Qihua due to the differences between the Taiwanese and the local educational systems, some of the ideas, when re-engineered and adapted, will no doubt, create a more joyful learning experience for our Qihuaians.



Our Humble Contribution to ASEAN



Mr Mohammad Isham Bin Ibrahim was selected to be a referee during the ASEAN Schools Games 2019 held in Semarang Indonesia from 17 to 25 July.

As a qualified Asian Sepak Takraw referee, he was invited to officiate the games played during the championship. He was also given the honour to officiate the finals for the team and regu events in which Team Thailand and Team Indonesia won respectively. He made new friends and gained insights on how the Sepak Takraw game is being played at the international level.

With the help and guidance from the senior Sepak Takraw officials from Indonesia and Thailand, Mr Isham learnt much about the intricacies officiating a game. The seniors were generous in giving advice and sharing their past experiences. It was indeed a meaningful learning journey that allowed new friendships to be formed. The insights and experience gained will translate to more medals for our school in the future.



"Through these experiences, I have learnt the valuable lesson of building a strong relationship with our neighbours from the ASEAN countries. The interaction was very meaningful to me as we got together to share our views and ideas, in the hope of improving ourselves to be more efficient in carrying out our duties."

Mr Isham



Hosting

Qihuaians have gained valuable knowledge and social skills from their interactions with our overseas guests all these years. As we forge strong partnerships with schools from overseas, we actualise our school's vision of developing Learners, Leaders and Champions.



The students from Guiyang Huanxi Primary and Purui Primary School visited our NE Museum. We were glad to share the history and culture of Singapore with them. Our students shared their co-curricular experiences with our guests too.

Students from Shangdong Primary School joined us at our annual InnoJOY Fest 2019 to learn more about Qihuaians' innovative ideas!



Overseas Learning Experience (OLE) to China and Brunei



With rapid globalisation and the spread of information technology, the school has leveraged on its OLE programme to provide students with a global outlook and to experience first-hand the richness of living and learning in a different context and environment.



International Collaborative Classrooms Project (ICCP) Video Conferencing

Globalisation and technological advancements are some of the key driving forces of the future. In Qihua, we are committed to helping our students develop the necessary competencies to thrive in a fast-changing world. We have been collaborating with Higashidai Elementary School to provide our students with a first-hand experience of communicating effectively and forging global friendships with peers through video conferencing.



Peranakan Festival @ Kampung Admiralty



In collaboration with the Grassroot Organisation, Choir and Chinese Dance members were invited to put up performances during the Peranakan Festival held at Kampung Admiralty on 24 August 2019. The students felt very excited to be given the opportunity to perform their practised pieces. Despite it being the first time participating in an external performance for some, all were confident and eager to show the audience their talent.

Singapore Bicentennial Project Exhibition @Sembawang GRC



The Indian Dance members performed their exquisite dance at Kampung Admiralty.

PAassionArts Festival 2019 – “Our Home, Our HeARTs”

This year, Qihua Primary School participated in the unique nationwide art initiative: 200 “Garden of HeARTs” neighbourhood art installations. Together with the teachers, some students created plank art pieces to be displayed around the neighbourhood.



Annual Singapore-Malaysia-Indonesia Multi-Racial Ancestral Remembrance Ceremony 2019

Students from Indian Dance, Malay Dance and Chinese Dance put up an impressive performance at the event. Our Primary 2 students also engaged the audience with a song on ‘Di Zi Gui’. This event, which was held at Marina Bay Sands on 4 May 2019, gave our students a wonderful learning opportunity and definitely deepened values and character development in our students.



Qihua Community Champions

Qihua Community Champions enables the school to collaborate with the community to provide opportunities for students to contribute in their own ways. This programme also helps students to see beyond what they can do to attain achievements in different areas. With guidance from adults, they learnt how to organise programmes and help out during events as volunteers. All these new experiences enable the students to gain new insights and see how they can contribute significantly to the community.



Reaching out to our Heartlanders



CCA Presenters at Work



Three representatives of the Art & Pottery Club had the opportunity to conduct a workshop for their peers from other primary schools at the National Museum of Singapore.

The Primary Four students spent a Saturday rallying the Woodlanders, door to door, to fight against dengue. They also distributed National Day Kit Packs to the residents. It was a time to bond with the residents and learn some social skills as well.

National Primary Games Creation Competition 2019

Four representatives from Innovation & Enterprise Club and Art & Pottery Club participated in the Coding (Scratch) Category and won a bronze award.



InnoJOY Collaboration with Secondary Schools

Several students from secondary schools set up booths during the InnoJOY Fest. Through the interaction with the secondary school students, Qihuaians were exposed to various fields of innovation taught in secondary schools.



The Next Phase of My Life

The staff and students of various secondary schools were invited to Qihua annually. They shared with us their school programmes and activities, and this gave our Primary 6 students an insight to the secondary school experiences.



Visits by Kindergartens: Little Tots in Our School



The little ones from My First Skool had the opportunity to tour Qihua. The young visitors made use of our facilities as well as learnt with our lower primary classes. Qihuaians acted as buddies to lead and guide them. This was a great opportunity for all to display responsibility, care and teamwork. Some of them also visited us during the InnoJOY Fest.

We Care and We Share Lesson Ideas

Our teachers strongly believe in the transfer of knowledge and are also actively involved in projects which give them the opportunities to work with the community and the knowledgeable others like the master teachers and education specialists. Through such projects, our teachers improve their pedagogical capability and their adeptness at harnessing ICT tools and platforms.

For example, after an enriching collaboration with the Curriculum Planning and Department Unit on the Chinese ABLE programme, Mdm Wu Xiuqing conducted a lesson demonstration for more than 480 fellow educators who saw how reluctant Chinese language learners can learn thematic vocabulary from a well-crafted lesson involving the use of ICT tools like Google Earth.

Mdm Zhao Ying also graciously opened her classroom to a group of school leaders and master teachers when she conducted a SLS lesson which was the fruit of the collaboration with the cluster schools.



“The most valuable resource that educators have is each other. Without collaboration, our growth will be limited to our own perspectives.”
— Robert John Meehan

Visits by Educators

This is what our school leaders and teachers have in mind when they actively contribute to the professional development of the fraternity through various platforms.

By playing hosts to educators from overseas and Singapore, our school leaders have the honour of sharing their beliefs regarding school leadership and education with them. Mrs Lee believes that these are platforms through which fellow educators can grow together as they learn from stories of successes and failures. Most importantly, this is when the convictions of the school leaders become clearer. Through the process of communicating our plans and processes to others, our leaders are also reflecting and making plans for improvements. These are touchpoints which give rise to better network between the school and the fraternity, bringing us better resources and more opportunities for future collaboration, which in turn, enhances the learning of our students.

Concerned Citizens, Active Contributors

Qihuaians have their eyes on Singapore and the world! Through a monthly subscription to the What's Up newspaper, our Primary 3 to Primary 6 students read about world affairs, business, the arts, sports and other kinds of news. Thinking critically about the content, our students form views which they in turn, communicate to other readers by writing letters to the What's Up editor. Another way our students learn about the world is through the world map and Singapore map at the Character Education Corridor. Global and local events are highlighted for our self-directed learners to find out more about current affairs. Our students are not only learners, they are active contributors too. They are given opportunities to present their knowledge and views about local and global issues during the morning assembly, effectively bringing awareness to all their schoolmates.



Current Affairs at Qihua – School Leaders taking the lead



Learning is not confined to the class periods and teaching is not only done by teachers. Our School Leaders ensure Qihuaians are regularly kept abreast of current affairs and environmental issues. During morning assembly, our Principal and Vice-Principals present information in compelling ways to pique our students' interest in learning more about what is happening in the world around them. Formula 1 Night Race, haze and dengue are just some of the topics that have been brought to the students' attention. The sharing is a catalyst to promote discourse about issues, discuss solutions and highlight values which contribute towards fostering character and citizenship too.



TOUCH Programme



TOUCH (*Time-out under caring hands*) is an after-school engagement programme which focuses on building socio-emotional competencies in students. TOUCH also aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to be meaningfully engaged after school hours through consistent and regular interest-based activities, in and out of school, as well as through chat sessions with school teachers and members of the community. Through the engagement, we hope to build students' self-esteem and develop their talents.



Supervised Self-Study Scheme (S4)

Started in 2017, S4 is an extension of our school's PSLE Experience Programme which also serves to support our Primary 6 students as they prepare and sit for their PSLE at the end of September.

The objective of S4 is to provide a conducive environment for Qihuaians to study or do their homework on three weekday afternoons a week after school. An adjunct and experienced teacher, Mdm Mas, is present during the

duration of the programme to monitor students' discipline and well-being during the programme.

Heartware Programme is also part of S4 whereby volunteers from tertiary institutions like Raffles Junior College and National University of Singapore tutor our students Math once a week. These tutors modelled positive learning behaviours which enriched our students.



At a glance: Events in Semester 2

June

Homecoming

A time when the alumni and former staff gathered to reminisce the fond memories of the school.



July

InnoJOY Fest

InnoJOY Fest was a showcase of the school projects aimed at benefiting the community. With exhibits that allowed guests to discover the heritage of Woodlands, the event took us on a journey of recollecting the past and embracing the future.



Racial Harmony Day

We commemorated the communal riots of 1964 and celebrated Singapore's success as a racially harmonious country. Activities were conducted to encourage Qihuaians to appreciate the different cultures that make up Singapore. The vanishing trades came alive at our foyer.



August

National Day

With pride, we stood tall at the parade square singing songs of Singapore. Solemnly, we recollect the sacrifices of our pioneers. We moved forward with the Singapore Workout.



September Teachers' Day



Qihuaians and alumni came together to show their appreciation to the teachers. Everyone was overwhelmed by the performances put up by the students. Students also showed their gratitude by offering tea to their teachers.



Mid-Autumn Festival



With their mouths filled with mooncakes, our students played various Chinese traditional games as well as tried their hands at calligraphy and paper-cutting.

Recycling Campaign

All staff and students took part in the campaign to promote recycling.



At a glance: Events in Semester 2 continued

October

Children's Day

The students laughed and clapped as their teachers put up acts on stage. Every little gift from the teachers was received with excitement.



Games Day

Every child is a sportsman and Qihua believes in it. The Games Day in Semester 2 is organised for the Primary 1, 2, 3 and 5 students. The students took part in various sports competitions. Such participation promotes teamwork and respect for others. Parents were also invited to join in the healthy regime.



Financial Literacy Programme

As part of their BizKid\$ programme, the Primary 6 students attended a financial literacy programme to teach them more about managing finances in a realistic manner and how various choices will lead to different outcomes in life. Students enjoyed themselves tremendously while learning through a fun and interactive board game.



Deepavali



The festival of lights took centre stage with the lighting of the lamps by our school leaders. The aura of celebration filled the hall as we watched performances by the Indian dancers. Students also enjoyed Indian delicacies like Murruku and experienced the traditional art form of Kolam.