



PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Education

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR TEACHERS 2007

Launch of MOE 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book

1. Four exemplary teachers, will receive the prestigious President's Award for Teachers from President S.R. Nathan at the Teachers' Day reception at the Istana on Thursday, 30 August 2007. They are:

Mdm Yip Jee Cheng, Mayflower Primary School,

Mdm Parameswary d/o Sundar Rajoo, Montfort Junior School,

Mr Yeo Leng Quee, Peirce Secondary School and

Mdm Norlita Bte Marsuki, Sembawang Secondary School.

Information on the award recipients is attached in [Annex A](#).

2. The annual President's Award for Teachers, the nation's highest accolade in the teaching fraternity, recognises the commitment of teachers to the total development of students and to nation-building. The award honours the recipients as outstanding teachers who have demonstrated the passion, courage and perseverance to inspire and nurture our young.

3. More than 4500 nominations for the Award were received this year from principals, teachers, students, parents and former students. A total of 1320 teachers from 194 schools were nominated. A Selection Panel, comprising prominent members of the community and senior officers from the Ministry of Education (see [Annex B](#)), selected the four recipients.

4. During the ceremony, President S.R. Nathan will also launch a book to commemorate 50 years of education in Singapore. Entitled '*Many Pathways, One Mission: Fifty Years Of Singapore Education*', the book tells many stories of the tenacity of our pioneers in education and their contribution towards nation building. The book also highlights the dedication of past and present leaders and principals, teachers, parents and alumni, as they unite in their efforts to provide

the best they can for our children's education. More information about the book can be found in Annex C.

Ministry of Education
30 August 2007

National Archives of Singapore

RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR TEACHERS 2007

Madam Yip Jee Cheng

Contact No : **64520849 (O)**
 65826733 (R)

Mdm Yip Jee Cheng is the Level Head for Primary 6 in Mayflower Primary School. Her colleagues and pupils admire and respect her for her firm belief in the holistic education of her pupils which is evident in the manner she nurtures the development of each pupil. Conducting in-class dialogue sessions was one of the strategies she used to develop her Primary 6 pupils. Her pupils expressed that their level of confidence and academic performance improved because of her advice during these engaging sessions. She has also provided opportunities for her pupils to be creative and entrepreneurial. Publications like the "6J Gazette" and a fund-raising activity "Funtasia", are platforms created by her for pupils to hone their leadership and innovation skills.

Mdm Yip is highly regarded by both her current pupils as well as those whom she taught in the past. They identify her as a teacher who teaches the lessons of life with strong emphasis on values. Pupils attribute their ability to rise up to challenges to the values they have learnt from Mdm Yip. Pupils' parents and her colleagues are equally impressed by her commitment and love for children and seek her advice and inputs for the development of their children.

Mdm Yip believes in continual learning. Other than attending professional development courses and sharing her learning with others, she led a team of teachers to do an Action Research Project on "*The use of problem posing strategy to enhance the application of mathematical concepts in problem solving*". This initiative significantly impacted pupils' understanding and application of mathematical concepts and resulted in marked improvement in their performance in Mathematics.

Mdm Yip's belief that teaching should not be confined to the classroom and textbooks has been the catalyst in moulding her into an extraordinary teacher, who truly makes every day a new day for her pupils.

Madam Parameswary D/O Sundar Rajoo
Contact No : **65101588 (O)**
 62864736 (H)

Mdm Parameswary is a Subject Head for Learning Development in Monfort Junior School. Her passion for teaching and her belief in making lessons come alive for her pupils have taken her classes beyond the walls of classrooms. She had, for example, organized Maths Trail at the Singapore Zoo for her pupils to consolidate the learning of Maths concepts. She had also provided opportunities for her pupils to interact with tourists at the Changi Airport to teach them the importance of effective communication and social skills. Taking advantage of her pupils' interest in "Harry Potter", she organized a Science camp for Primary 5 pupils where they explored and learnt Science concepts in an imaginative and "magical" way. Her experiential teaching approach has made her pupils enjoy learning.

As an advocate of TLLM, Mdm Parameswary has been instrumental in encouraging her colleagues to transform their teaching and make learning and assessment more purposeful for their pupils. For example, she facilitated a team of teachers in the design of a Maths game - "*X Challenge*" to teach pupils their multiplication tables in an effective yet enjoyable manner. The game was so well-received by pupils, teachers and parents that it was eventually marketed commercially.

Mdm Parameswary is a role model for continuous learning. She is currently studying part-time for a Masters in Curriculum and Teaching at NIE. She has also gone on the Teacher Work Attachment scheme to learn from external organisations. Her commitment to her role of promoting effective teaching and learning in her school is truly inspiring.

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Mr Yeo Leng Quee

Contact No :

64576454 (O)

64580193 (H)

Mr Yeo Leng Quee is the Head of Department for English Language, Literature and Drama at Peirce Secondary. He believes that effective teaching involves providing his students with varied learning experiences. Shaped by this belief, Mr Yeo caters to the varied learning styles of his students through the use of different teaching techniques which include drama and story-telling. Through these interactive lessons, he makes a conscientious attempt to get his students to imbibe desirable social values. Mr Yeo also develops a “Character Development System” to assess the needs of the students in order to facilitate their growth and development. This programme has also helped underachieving students to recognise their self worth and maximise their potential

Mr Yeo lives by example his belief that learning continues beyond the formative years of schooling. He constantly learns on his job. Multi-talented and versatile, he readily takes on the challenge of learning new skills when called upon to take on new roles and responsibilities in his career. After leading the Design and Technology Department for five years, he took on the challenge of heading the English Language Department in 2003. His passion in the promotion and appreciation of arts and language led him to integrate drama production into the school’s English Curriculum and he started the Drama CCA in the school. His efforts resulted in students’ increased interest in drama and spoken English. This had paved the way for the implementation of Drama into the Lower Secondary Curriculum in the school since 2006 and the provision of Drama as an ‘O’ Level subject for its students from 2008.

Mr Yeo is also a fervent advocate of innovation. He has been instrumental in putting in place innovative processes in the school and making his school the Cluster Centre for Excellence for Innovation. Alongside many commendable achievements, he took time to share his experiences at public career seminars and also wrote four full length musicals and surrealistic dramas for the school’s SYF Drama team. Mr Yeo’s versatility and enthusiasm in teaching make him a truly remarkable teacher.

Madam Norlita Binte Marsuki

Contact No : **67566760 (O)**
 67539178 (H)

Mdm Norlita is the Subject Head for Visual Arts in Sembawang Secondary School. Her passion for the Visual Arts and her belief that Art is an interdisciplinary subject is reflected in the variety of programmes she has initiated in her school and the community. She works closely with her colleagues to design interdisciplinary project work tasks for the students. Through such projects, she challenges her students' thinking and provides them with different experiences such as meeting with renowned artists and participating in the "Artists-on-the-Move" programme, helping students develop abilities to look at things from different perspectives.

A strong advocate of using Art as a vehicle for character development, Mdm Norlita also uses Art to boost students' morale and inculcate moral values. She has successfully initiated a school-wide Visual Arts programme to promote values inculcation. The project was recognised and given support from MOE's School Innovation Fund. Mdm Norlita's expertise in Arts Education is recognised by fellow colleagues. She was invited to sit on the MOE's Art & Design Syllabus Review Committee and also to share her knowledge and skills with Art teachers at cluster, zone and national levels.

Mdm Norlita is a life-long learner. Other than attending and organising workshops and sharing sessions, she is currently doing a part-time Master of Education programme. Her commitment to learning is reflected in her support for her students to continue their education beyond secondary school and her dedication to their personal growth even after their graduation. Parents have expressed appreciation for her care and guidance to bring out the best in their children and many of her students have been inspired to pursue further studies in Art. Mdm Norlita's passion for Art education and commitment to her students' development, make her truly an extraordinary teacher.

Annex B

SELECTION PANEL 2007

1.	Dr Lily Neo (Chairperson)	Chairman, GPC (Education)
2.	Mrs Tan Ching Yee	Permanent Secretary (Education)
3.	Miss Seah Jiak Choo	Director-General of Education
4.	Mr Alan John	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Day Editor The Straits Times• Member of COMPASS (Community and Parents in Support of Schools)
5.	Mr Ong Peng Tsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairman Encentuate Private Limited• Member of COMPASS (Community and Parents in Support of Schools)

Annex C

The commemorative publication ***Many Pathways, One Mission: Fifty Years of Singapore Education*** is 200 pages long and comprises four chapters.

The first chapter, “One Mission”, traces the evolution of the school system in Singapore from 1957 when the Education Act was passed. It offers glimpses of school life since the 1960s through the eyes of educators and students of that era. This is followed by “One Heart”, which captures stories of the rich and multi-faceted work of our teachers, principals, support staff, parents and alumni in schools and within the education system. The next chapter touches on how the “One Space” created in our schools has helped pupils grow as individuals and interact with one another. In the process, pupils also find an identity for themselves and develop a strong sense of community and national pride. Finally, “One Aspiration” encapsulates some of our pupils’ dreams and expresses the hopes of parents and members of our community for our young.

All schools and public libraries will receive a complimentary copy of the commemorative book. The book is not available for sale.

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