

PRESS RELEASE



Ministry of Education

Embargoed till 08 July 2008, 1600 hrs

4 July 2008

NATIONAL HONOURS FOR INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG EDUCATORS

1. Three young teachers will receive the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) from Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education, at the National Institute of Education (NIE) Teachers' Investiture Ceremony on 08 July 2008. The award gives national recognition to the important role that young teachers play in nurturing the future of our nation. It seeks to recognise excellent young teachers for their enthusiasm, energy and active involvement in the development of youth beyond the formal curriculum.

2. This year's OYEA winners are:

- (a) Mr Quek Swee Nee from Bukit View Primary School (28 years old);
- (b) Mr Cher Teck Yiang, Luke Melvin from Mayflower Primary School (29 years old);
- (c) Ms Chua Hwee Pheng from Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School (28 years old).

3. These three exceptional teachers stood out from 12 outstanding finalists who were selected from a total of 301 nominated teachers. Strongly anchored in their belief that education is much more than teaching various subjects, they seek to nurture all-rounded individuals through the lessons they deliver. They have also distinguished themselves by their deep passion for the subjects they teach, which translated into a desire to inspire and develop their students in those areas. They adopted innovative approaches both in and beyond the classroom, and demonstrated dedication to maximising their students' potential. The achievements of these teachers are outlined in **Annex A**.

4. Besides receiving a trophy and citation certificate, the winners will also be fully sponsored to attend an overseas conference to further their professional development.

5. The OYEA is administered by the National Youth Council and supported by Teachers Network of the Ministry of Education. Besides honouring the achievements of young educators, the OYEA aims to inspire youths to take up a teaching career and be an excellent role model for the younger generation.

Details of the OYEA can be found in **Annex B**. The list of the finalists can be found at **Annex C**.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

4 July 2008

National Archives of Singapore

**Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) 2008
WINNERS**

Quek Swee Nee of Bukit View Primary School

Quek Swee Nee is Head of Department for PE/CCA and Aesthetics in Bukit View Primary School. He believes that sports build character and hence should be enjoyed by every student. Spurred by that belief, he adopted an innovative approach to teaching and promoting sports among his students. For example, he makes reference to current world sporting events such as the 2008 Beijing Olympics to increase his students' interest in sports. He also introduced a mass CCA programme in his school to instil confidence and resilience through exciting and challenging experiences. Through this programme, students got to enjoy non-traditional and creative sports such as Hip Hop dancing and Crazy Cup Stacking.

His passion in sports is also evident from his efforts to inspire and raise the professional development of his peers in physical education. He wrote 'Disc In', a book about sports for physical educators, for that purpose.

Swee Nee also sought out collaborative opportunities with other schools and organisations to expose students to diverse cultures and experiences. He formed the national Ultimate Frisbee team in 2007 for youths. Beyond sports, Swee Nee also serves in grassroots constituencies such as Taman Jurong.

A source of inspiration to many, his passion in sports has motivated and challenged his students. For his spirit of determination and dedication in bringing sports to every one, Quek Swee Nee is conferred the Outstanding Youth Education Award 2008.

Luke Melvin Cher Teck Yiang of Mayflower Primary School

Luke Melvin Cher Teck Yiang is Acting Subject Head/Art and Aesthetics in Mayflower Primary School. Having a deep concern for foundation students, Melvin goes the extra mile to build and develop their self esteem.

To engage students in their learning, Melvin conceptualised *Project Carlos Santana* where every student was given the opportunity to learn to play the guitar. He believes that every student is gifted with musical talent, and refused to give up on helping them realize that potential. When one of his students found it very difficult to pick up this skill and nearly gave up on music, Melvin presented the student an alternative – learning a percussion instrument. By allowing his students to work at their own pace and giving them ample opportunities to explore their hidden potential, the student who almost gave up on music soon found himself performing to parents and members of the public. Melvin's project did not merely develop his students' musical talents, but also raised their self esteem.

His endless efforts have seen students being more engaged, open and curious in their learning. This is testimony to Melvin's belief that the discipline, values and social dynamics instilled through music and the aesthetics cascade into and beyond the academic area.

Melvin's passion in bringing music and the aesthetics to the students was evident in his school musical he organised last year. This musical was even given special mention in Prime Minister's National Day 2007 Rally speech.

For his innovative and passionate drive in developing students through music and aesthetics education, Luke Melvin Cher is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2008.

Chua Hwee Pheng of Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School

Chua Hwee Pheng, Acting Subject Head for Social Studies in Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School is firmly rooted in her belief that every student should be given an opportunity to start afresh in her classes.

As a classroom teacher and a Girl Guides' officer, Hwee Pheng seizes every teachable moment to develop her students. She recognises her students' different learning needs and abilities and she tailors her lessons so as to engage them in the learning. To better support her under-performing students, she gives them supplementary lessons and individualised coaching to guide them to realise their fullest potential.

Hwee Pheng believes in the holistic development of her students and shares an appreciation of the environment with her students in and out of the classroom. She makes a conscious effort to connect concepts with real-life examples. Drawing from her voluntary work in ACRES (Animal Concern Research Education Society) and the Night Safari, Hwee Pheng brings real life examples into the classroom to instruct and inspire her students.

One who walks her talk in respecting self and her peers, Hwee Pheng creates ample opportunities for her students to develop and grow. She sets high but realistic expectations for her students and is an excellent role-model for learning. She firmly believes in character education, and works actively in planning activities for that purpose. For example, she led students to Cambodia to build playgrounds for less privileged children there. Students appreciate her care and concern and many still keep in touch with her long after they have graduated.

For her dedication in instilling a passion for learning and devotion in the development of her students, Hwee Pheng is conferred the Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2008.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD FACT SHEET

Introduced in 1999, the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) is administered by the National Youth Council (NYC) with support from the Teachers Network.

Objectives of the Award

- 2 (a) To give national recognition to the role young teachers play in moulding the future of our nation.
- (b) To recognise outstanding young teachers for their youthful idealism, enthusiasm, energy and active involvement in the development of youth beyond the formal education curriculum.

Nomination Criteria

- 3 Nominees for the Award should be teachers who:
 - (a) Are 30 years old and younger;
 - (b) Are presently in service in a primary or secondary school, a junior college or a centralised institute;
 - (c) Have shown utmost concern for the character and moral development of the students by word and by personal example;
 - (d) Motivate, challenge, inspire and help students to develop their potential to the fullest;
 - (e) Encourage enterprise, innovation, curiosity and creativity in students; and
 - (f) Are actively involved or are volunteers in youth development as part of their community service.

Nomination Period

- 4 Nominations are invited from members of the public in the last quarter of the year.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD 2008*List of Finalists*

No	Name	School
1	Ms Kiranjit Kaur	Bedok West Primary
2	Mr Quek Swee Nee	Bukit View Primary
3	Mdm Oh Yin Yee Carean	Kranji Primary
4	Mr Cher Teck Yiang Luke Melvin	Mayflower Primary
5	Ms Tan Hui Ling Valerie	Peiyong Primary
6	Ms Leong Qinghua	Radin Mas Primary
7	Ms Lim Hwee Hong Kayci	Woodlands Primary
8	Ms Fa'izah Bte Osman	Bedok North Secondary
9	Ms Chua Ee Ling	Broadrick Secondary
10	Ms Quek Ming Chwee Celine	CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent
11	Mdm Ng Ye Chin Sharon	Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary)
12	Ms Chua Hwee Pheng	Pasir Ris Crest Secondary

*** 2008 awardees are indicated in bold print.**

These finalists were selected from 301 nominated teachers – 93 from primary schools, 194 from secondary schools, 14 from the junior colleges and centralised institute.

National Archives of Singapore

END