Chai Chee Community Life through the eyes of Ping Yians

Students from Ping Yi Secondary School would never have imagined that their photography work and reflections can go beyond their school’s boundaries to be read by so many people in the community.

To commemorate the school’s 88 years of history from the days of the old Peng Ghee Public School back in 1930, Ping Yi Secondary School, in partnership with the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Council, embarked on a community project for the students to explore the Chai Chee Community from March to June 2018.

A group of 31 Normal Technical students embarked on a journey of discovery to interview, document and capture life within the Chai Chee estate – the institutions, landmarks, festive celebrations, flora and fauna and the day-to-day life of the Chai Chee residents.

Some of these students involved in the project could not afford a camera and they had cameras loaned to them from the school and their NYAA YPN mentors.

**Empowering Individuals**

Mr Jervis Lim used to be a problematic student in school who ran foul of teachers and the law with numerous police records. Through the project, he managed to develop an interest in photography and discover his hidden talents. Jervis did very well in the project and his photo was selected as one of the top three images by the NYAA YPN mentors. His attitude towards school and learning also changed for the better after the project and his principal and teachers were very pleased with his positive transformation, which was a miracle.

More than 11,000 images captured by the students encapsulated what it means to live in a vibrant community through the eyes of the students.

The images vividly captured the social harmony, physical space, people and at times, the values of respect, care and inclusiveness which created the interesting landscapes of a HDB housing estate brought forth into the open.
Education is both an uplifting and integrating force. It uplifts, as people acquire the skills and knowledge to lead dignified lives, fulfil their aspirations and contribute to society. If we harness its passion, creativity and dynamism, we can make bold and meaningful changes to prepare our students well for the future. This is our collective moral imperative.

Mr Ong Ye Kung
Minister for Education

“Do something that you love and is meaningful to you. Always be truthful to yourself and use your talents, whatever it may be, to serve society. Don’t let other people’s perceptions of you define who you are.”

Mr James Soh BBM, PBM
Executive Director
National Youth Achievement Award Council

The scale that our students from a heartland school will probably not have imagined - that their photography work and reflection go beyond the school boundaries to be read and enjoyed by so many people in the Chai Chee community. The value-add that NYAA has created for our students far exceeds their secondary school days. This belief that NYAA has in them will follow them all their lives, helping them to believe in themselves and in people around them, motivating them to keep learning and growing.”

Mr Ang Chee Seng
Principal
Ping Yi Secondary School

Slice of Chai Chee’s community life captured in photos by students

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Hj Ariffin bin Suleiman, Chairman of the Al-Ansar Mosque which was featured in the book praised the young photographers who had captured the magnificence of the mosque in a very unique way whereby the mosque was complemented by the lush greenery and the vibrancy of its activities in Chai Chee estate.

The NYAA YPN mentors and teachers worked very closely with the students to go through their images and selected over 250 images that reflect life in the Chai Chee community.

The selected images were published into a book, titled Chai Chee, Our Home and was launched by the Speaker of Parliament and Member of Parliament for Kembangan-Chai Chee, Marine Parade GRC, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, on 29 June 2018 at the school’s Speech Day.

The Book was launched by Speaker of Parliament Mr Tan Chuan-Jin and Member of Parliament for Kembangan-Chai Chee, Marine Parade GRC.

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An article from The New Paper.

Speaker Tan Chuan-Jin autographing at the book launch.

Student photographer Alvin Ng receiving a book from the Speaker of Parliament.

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