



Choir (Silver)



Chinese Dance (Silver)



Drama (Bronze)



Malay Dance (Gold)

### It's Raining Medals!

Year 2009 has truly been a rich and bountiful year for East Spring Secondary School in terms of our musical and aesthetic achievements! This has largely been due to the hard work and effort of our CCA groups, namely the Military Band, Chinese Dance Club, Malay Dance Troupe and Drama Club, as evident from their performance at the Singapore Youth Festival Judging (SYF) this year. The SYF is an annual event in Singapore organised by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to celebrate the achievements of youths in their CCAs.

More than 30,000 students participated in the performances and activities in the SYF, which is why our performing arts groups really showed their mettle when they were pitched against schools from all over Singapore in a battle of talent and determination. After a week of intense nerves and anxiety on our performers' part, East Spring Secondary School is proud to announce that our talent and effort came through! These are the awards that our CCA groups achieved, as a testament of their proud achievements. The Malay Dance Troupe bagged a Gold Award, the Chinese Dance Club and the Military Band bagged the Silver Award, while the Drama Club received the Bronze Award. All groups battled the odds to bring back a mark of their achievements, and we hereby congratulate them with heartfelt sincerity! Our students are indeed all-rounded learners that East Spring can be proud of.

### Military Band (Silver)

"I am honestly proud to be part of the East Spring Military Band and honoured to be the Drum Major. With great perseverance and determination, the Band clinched the Silver Award in the Singapore Youth Festival 2009. It was a most memorable achievement for all Band members. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of all members from ESMB.

On behalf of the ESMB members, I thank the teachers in charge and conductor for their undying support and endless guidance throughout our journey to success. The school has given all ESMB members ample opportunities to improve ourselves and prove our worth."

Muhammad Firdaus B Ishak, 4E3



### Creative Tree Play on Cyber Health

Our Assembly programme has always been thoughtfully arranged so that all East Springians have the chance to develop a holistic experience in school. This year's programme was no exception. For one of the programmes arranged this semester, East Spring specially liaised with a local drama and theatre company, Creative Tree, to share and spread a very closely-resounding and relevant message: the harms of Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD). Targeted at the IT-savvy teenagers in the audience, the drama, titled "My Cyber World", speaks about a time where the computer has become an essential part of our lives, and how Nolly, a 15-year-old, is living in the cyber world of computer games, alienating herself from beloved friends and family. The play ends as Nolly realizes the error of her ways and takes charge of her addiction instead of letting it take charge of her. An excellent performance, and hopefully one that will remain in the minds of all the avid video-gamers amongst us for a long while!



### National Day Celebrations 2009

Instead of the usual celebrations and sit-down performances catered to the whole school, this year's celebrations were a little different due to the H1N1 pandemic that was very much prominent in schools this year. As part of demonstrating and exercising our social responsibility as a school, our Principal and Vice-Principal wisely made the decision to practise social distancing by breaking up the school into their individual levels and even further down into males and females, as inter-class competitions were carried out.

The inter-class competitions included games in soccer, floorball, basketball and Captain's ball. The winners received their prizes and medals at the end of the day as the entire school gathered in the hall for a speech given by our Principal, Mrs Sng. The school also watched on proudly as Mrs Sng presented two accomplished teachers with well-deserved awards that had been conferred upon them. Miss Sakinah was presented with the National Day Efficiency Award, while Miss Tay was presented with the Long Service Award after spending 25 years of dedication in the education service.

Even though the celebrations this year were not experienced together as a whole school, the students had a lot of fun participating in their inter-class events and it was truly an eventful National Day for all in East Spring.



### ACES Day and Teachers' Day

The one event that all teachers look forward to every year – Teachers' day – finally approached East Spring Secondary School this year, and it was as smashing an event as ever! The day started with ACES Day activities, where students experienced team work and team bonding by participating in the ACES Day relay run. Classes were pit against each other in a competition to see which classes could run the most number of designated rounds in a given time frame. Half the class was supposed to run in this competition, while the other half would undertake a time challenge as well by creating and completing a banner that represented their class and suited the theme of sportsmanship. When the results came in, 1E3 emerged as the class which had run the most number of rounds, while 1E5 won the competition for the most uniquely designed banner. Congratulations to these two classes!

Next up was the Teachers' Day celebration in the hall. This year's theme was 'At the MTV Awards', and the teachers were really pampered by the lineup of performances put together by the students and the Teachers' Day Committee. Teachers were treated to a myriad of skills as our students sang, danced and laughed their ways deeper into all the teachers' hearts on that very special day. And of course, how could we have an MTV Awards ceremony without giving away any awards to our beloved teachers? Behold our hunk and babe of the year, Mr. Azuan Tan and Miss Cloven Ong! Students had been asked a few weeks before to start voting on the AskLearn portal for their favourite teachers to win each category, and they had done so with utmost excitement. Students were indeed very enthusiastic in seeing their teachers win each category and were readily cheering themselves hoarse. Teachers from the Teachers' Day Committee were also sporting enough to plan a surprise performance for the entertainment of all teachers and students present, much to the amusement of the students I'm sure!

The special day was not over for teachers as they made their way after school hours to Furama Riverfront Hotel where they were treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner, and where they enjoyed the company of Mrs Sng and Mrs Mohinder as well. The night was full of fun and laughter as teachers participated in a lineup of games prepared by the School Welfare Committee. After a night of fun and games, the teachers finally headed back to school, filled with memories that would last them till the next smashing celebration. Thank you everyone for being a part of this Happy Teachers' Day!



### East Spring Welcomes Our VP (Admin)!



Mr Tan Kay Chia, appointed as Vice Principal (Admin) on 7 Sep 09, has held management positions with local and multi-national corporations where he was responsible for business development, operations and general management of the companies. He had covered several markets in Asia including working in Malaysia for 4 years.

Born and raised in Singapore, Mr Tan obtained his MBA and MSc from the National University of Singapore. He was on the board of several local charitable and professional committees and, in 2004, was conferred the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Alumni Service Award in 2004 for his voluntary service with NTU.

Mr Tan is married with three children, 2 of whom are currently in secondary schools. He enjoys sports, particularly badminton and swimming and spends time with his family and friends in these activities. Mr Tan believes strongly that one has to lead a balanced life. As a father and husband, he spends time with his children and wife to develop a healthy family relationship and works with his wife to develop his children into well balanced individuals with good character and academic excellence.

Finding a great sense of gratification in community service, Mr Tan has decided to leave the corporate world after 25 years and join the education service as his first step towards putting social contributions above financial gains and monetary rewards.

His main intention in joining the Education Ministry is to use his vast experience in providing a holistically conducive learning environment for students. The realisation that students' character, and social and emotional developments are just as important as academic achievements comes from his close interaction with his 3 children.

Mr Tan looks forward to sharing his working experiences with his colleagues and students to achieve the school's mission, and contributing his experience to develop East Springians into confident, compassionate and responsible students. He intends to support his colleagues to achieve this mission more effectively and efficiently.

Mr Tan trusts that providing an environment where the students are excited to come to school to learn and develop themselves is very important. Similarly, he would also like to see the teachers being excited about coming to school to teach. He is determined to provide an environment for teachers and students to promote interaction and development of life skills.

To support a holistic education, Mr Tan aims to develop a "real world" learning environment that goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. He hopes to work with the teachers to provide East Spring Secondary with the infrastructure for learning beyond the classroom.

### Climate Change Game with TJC

The Environment Club assisted in the development of a Project Work done by a team from Temasek Junior College. Their project was aimed at developing an educational and engaging game which informs people about global warming and its adverse effects. Environment Club members took part in the pilot-testing of the game, and also gave suggestions as to how the game could be improved further. Students from both schools enjoyed the meaningful time together as we exchanged our knowledge and benefited greatly from the interactions.



### Green is the Colour to Go!

Recently, our very own Environmental Club initiated the "Go Green Project", an ongoing recycling project for the collection of used correction tape cartridges, carried out in partnership with an external agency, Fullmark Private Limited.

The primary objective of this project is to heighten the awareness of the school population with regards to recycling. The project also aims to widen people's perception of recycling – that recycling is not confined to just paper and drink containers – so that we are more sensitive and consciously-aware to see the many possibilities in the "recyclability" of everyday items around us.

In the "Go Green Project", for every ten empty cartridges that a student contributes, he or she will receive one brand-new Fullmark correction tape. The Environmental Ambassador (EA) in each class then keeps a record of who contributed how many cartridges, and he will pass the contribution from the class to a teacher-in-charge on every first Wednesday of the month. This recycle-and-get-rewarded system is kindly sponsored by Fullmark Pte Ltd, which will recycle the empty cartridges collected by converting them into other useful products. In addition, the Top Class of each month is featured on the Environment Club noticeboard to recognize their recycling efforts and to promote some form of competition and encourage more active participation.

So far, the response has been really encouraging. The first collection took place on 5 August 2009, and we collected over two hundred cartridges within minutes. Such collections have been successfully carried out for three rounds, and many classes have come onboard to take part in this project with much excitement. Hopefully even more classes will join the Environmental Club in their efforts next year, so that we can all do our little part towards conserving our precious Earth!

a touche design production @ 6743 5450



**Charity Food Bazaar: Food, Food, Galore!**

A big highlight for the students of East Spring Secondary School this year was the charity food bazaar co-organized by the Food & Nutrition Department and the Pastoral Care and Career Guidance Department. This activity was part of our students' Community Involvement Programme (CIP), and would essentially be benefiting selected charities, among which were children's homes. Participants in this charity food bazaar included Secondary Two and Three Home Economics students who were tasked with selling food items to raise money for charity. Most classes utilized the practical skills they had attained in Home Economics, and had no problem whipping up a storm with their treasure trove of recipes.

Their challenge did not stop there. In a bid to give our students full ownership over this charity event, and also to hone their entrepreneurial skills, students were to take charge of their own publicity as well. It was thus a common sight for those few weeks to see students pacing the corridors and walkways armed with hand-drawn flyers and their powers of persuasion, as they smoothly talked teachers into purchasing their delicatessens or at least into placing an advance order for their homemade muffins and cupcakes. The event was truly a success, in all senses of the word, as students had fun while the bazaar benefited charities. Teachers were also impressed by the extent to which students went to make the affair a success.

As Mr Jonathan Lau comments upon watching his students handle the food bazaar, "One thing that really struck me was their ability to market their products. They showed initiative and displayed true entrepreneurial skills. Customer service was excellent too! Students were so organized in planning the event, and some even asked teachers to help them advertise by putting their advertisements in the staffroom. Most importantly, the food tasted great."

Wow! After that glowing praise given by one of our very own teachers, how about another round next year, East Springians?



**Staff CIP: METTA Charity Walk cum Carnival**

This year, as part of our Community Involvement Programme for the staff of East Spring, a number of our very own teachers took part in a charity walk on the 7th of June that was organized by METTA, to support selected beneficiaries. This programme, held from 9am – 6pm, was voluntary and the turn-out at the event was extremely heartening as our teachers worked hard to cover the distance as they exercised side by side, with a common goal in mind – helping those less fortunate than them.

Mr Teo Joong Jiat shares his afterthoughts on being part of the event:

The 7th of June this year was a bright Sunday morning, a morning perfectly ideal for reading the papers while having a fresh cup of coffee. However, this Sunday was very different and special for me – I arrived at the METTA Welfare Association at 9am and found it busy with people in sports attire, donning caps and shades, warming up for a big event. Close to 400 grassroots members, corporate associates and beneficiaries were there.

Familiar faces started to appear among the crowd. My excitement grew as I chatted with my East Spring colleagues. Before we knew it, the 3.2 km walk was flagged off by the Guest-of-Honour, Ms Jessica Tan, MP of East Coast GRC and adviser to Changi Simei GRO.

The exercise was relaxing and enjoyable. It was a refreshing change to see our colleagues in different outfits and not in their usual working attire. Furthermore, it felt good because we were doing it for a worthy cause. We felt nothing but exhilaration and excitement throughout the walk that circled the Simei neighbourhood, even though we felt quite embarrassed when some volunteers pushing the wheelchair-bound overtook us.

With big strides, we completed the walk and gave ourselves pats on our backs before proceeding to the charity carnival where we did our part for the charity by shopping for fabulous bargains from more than 80 retail and food stalls. As we parted with one another, hands filled with goodie bags and shopping bags, we knew deep in our hearts that it was a morning well spent.



**Differentiated Instruction Workshop**

On 29 May 2009, at 9.30am, the teaching staff, including our beginning teachers, gathered at the AVA Room for our annual Staff Professional Sharing Day, eager to learn how they could help students develop higher order thinking skills that are essential in today's world, foster curiosity, desire to learn and the joy of learning.

Mdm Noreha Nordin (HOD/EL), Ms Tay Mui Hoang (LH/EL) and Ms Clara Sng, who attended the Differentiated Instruction (DI) Workshop organized by the E3 Cluster, shared with the staff the DI principles and tools that do not only help students to learn more effectively but will help them enjoy the process and be interested in continuing to learn throughout life.

It was indeed a fruitful morning, as teachers from the various departments collaborated to design creative lessons with the DI approach that they could use in class to engage students and address their individual needs.



**Tenth Anniversary Celebration @ East Spring Secondary**

8<sup>th</sup> May 2009 was a red letter day for East Spring Secondary School when we celebrated our tenth anniversary. Our Guest Of Honour was Minister Mah Bow Tan who was the very person who officiated the opening of East Spring Secondary in 2001. It was deja vu for some of the staff as they watched the minister step out of his car and walk into the foyer.

The theme for the celebration was 'East Spring Shining Stars'. It illustrates the school's commitment in helping East Springians radiate their diverse talents. It encapsulates the school's strong belief that students achieve their aspirations when they have higher level of self-esteem, take pride in accomplishing their goals, learn to be confident out of their comfort zone and work to the best of their ability.

The highlight for the day was the official opening of the Indoor Sports Hall. The minister was entertained by the sports leaders who put up static displays to showcase their sports. It was an exciting day for the teachers and students as they busied themselves with the preparations.

Besides the concert items, our guests were also treated to an enjoyable and light-hearted performance by the school Military Band. The uniformed groups joined forces and came up with an innovative display at the parade square. It was an interesting and engaging display of skill and determination.



**AYG @ East Spring Sec**

In light of the first ever Asian Youth Games held in Singapore, the opening ceremony of this huge event was marked by a torch relay which lasted over 2 days, 28 and 29 June 2009.

The first light was ignited by Singapore Education Minister Ng Eng Hen on the first day of the torch relay. The second day was the school leg, where 135 torchbearers were involved in a relay bearing the flame to 45 schools along three routes, namely Friendship, Respect and Excellence.

East Spring Secondary School was proud to be one of the chosen schools, and we were chosen to represent Excellence, one of the Olympic values. The hours preceding the event were eventful indeed for teachers and students alike as they participated in teacher-student friendly matches, and decorated their classes with individually-designed banners filled with encouraging words for our Singapore athletes this year.

Finally, at about 1:30 pm, the torch was received by our very own principal, Mrs Sng-Ong Teck Hui, who ran with the torch around the school in a symbolic segment witnessed by all teachers and students of East Spring Secondary School. It was an honour for us indeed.

