

A student  
publication  
for Outramians,  
by Outramians

# THE OUTRAM TIMES

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Getting to know our Vice Principals
- Outram Swimming Carnival — The Secondary 2 Inter-Class Raft Race
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas — An Illustrated Guide to the Book
- Outram's 52nd National Day Celebrations

## ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Poems by Students 3
- Book Review on the "Midwich Cuckoos" 5
- Poem "Identity" 5
- Poem "Her" 8
- Meet the Team! 8



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## OUTRAM SECONDARY SCHOOL



### THE OUTRAM TIMES FOREWORD

By Ms Eunice Lee, Head of Department  
English Language & Literature

The Outram Times was conceptualised in 2015 to provide talented students with the platform to showcase their creativity and hone their literary talent.

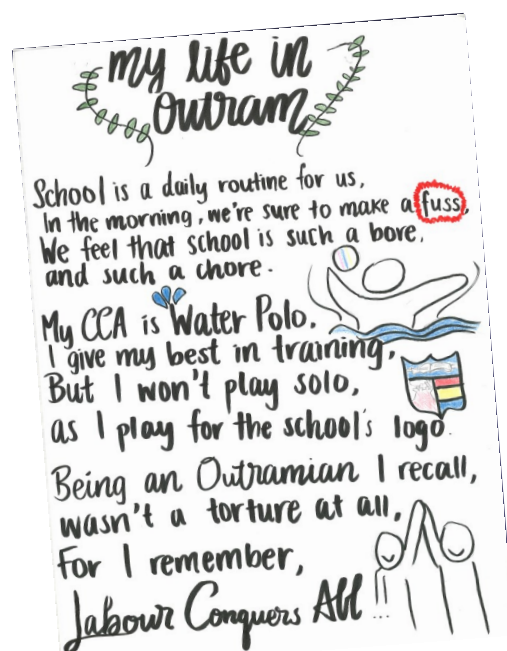
At Outram, apart from teaching writing for academic purposes, we also aim to instil the love of writing in our students, and allow our good writers to experience the process of publishing their work. It has been a challenging and tedious process, with the student' drafts being vetted and amended

multiple times, but with every revision, the students' writing skills have been refined, and the final product that has resulted is one that we are proud of.

The skill to write clearly and effectively is an essential one in this day and age. Besides 'reporting' on school events that matter to them, the students have also showcased their creativity through literary pieces in the form of poetry and illustrations.

We hope that this 3rd issue, which comprises the different facets of Outram and slices of school life, will enthuse and encourage like-minded Outramians to be part of the team for this newsletter.

May you have an enjoyable read and gain inspiration from the articles!



Poem by Afeeq Syariffudeen, Sec 2/4



Poem by Vonshae Koh, Sec 1/2

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR VICE PRINCIPALS

This issue of The Outram Times features the school's two Vice Principals (VPs), Ms Ellen Tan (who joined us in Dec 2016) and Mr Lim Pang Chuang (who joined us in May 2017). The Editorial Team posed them a few questions to find out how they have been adjusting to their new family. Here are their thoughts on being in the teaching service and joining the school.

### Why did you choose teaching?

Ms Tan:

I believe that education provides hope for people. This hope can make a difference and bring change to their lives. Teaching allows me to work and interact with youths. Through teaching, I have had many opportunities to learn and develop skills such as leadership and relating to others.

Mr Lim:

It provides me with the great opportunity to work with young people, and make a difference in their lives. I feel that the impact which I can create (though not visible in the short-term) can be lasting and meaningful.



Mr Lim posing with winners of the school's Character Awards.

***"I want to be able to leave behind a legacy where every student who passes through the gates of OSS will develop into a person of true character with integrity, good social and emotional skills."***

**Mr Lim Pang Chuang**

### After having been in Outram for a while, what do you like best about the school?

Ms Tan:

I like the fact that the Outram students participate in sports activities enthusiastically. Also, the school has lovely views from the canteen and some of the classrooms.

Mr Lim:

The care and concern demonstrated by the teachers and the supporting staff stand out. No efforts were spared to ensure the well-being of our students and to meet their needs as well as those of their family. The effort to help our students is most commendable.

### What would you like to achieve in your time in Outram?

Ms Tan:

I would like Outram to be a school of choice for the public and for all Outramians to be recognised as students who display positive values and exhibit good behaviour. I would also like our current and former students to retain this pride and love for the school.

Mr Lim:

I want to be able to leave behind a legacy where every student who passes through the gates of Outram Secondary School will develop into a person of true character with integrity, good social and emotional skills.



Ms Tan enjoying herself at the Indian New Year Celebration.


***I like the fact that the Outram students participate in sports activities enthusiastically."***

**Ms Ellen Tan**

**CCAs in Outram's past include Hockey, Sailing, Boxing, Gymnastics and Body-building!**









On a lighter note, we were also keen to find out their preferences, so we put them to the test in a series of multiple-choice questions. And the results were rather surprising! Our two VPs are more similar than we thought, differing from each other only in a few areas!





How different are our two VPs in terms of preferences?

Question	Ms Tan	Mr Lim
PE or Art?	Art	Art
Math or Science?	Science	Science
History or Geography?	Geography	Geography
Coffee or Tea?	Coffee	Coffee
Apple or Orange	Apple	Orange
Rain or Shine?	Rain	Shine
Cat or Dog?	Dog	Dog
Sweet or Savoury?	Sweet	Savoury
Chicken or Fish?	Fish	Fish



Poem by Sharon Yip of Sec 2/3

GRADES

☺ ☘ Food and School

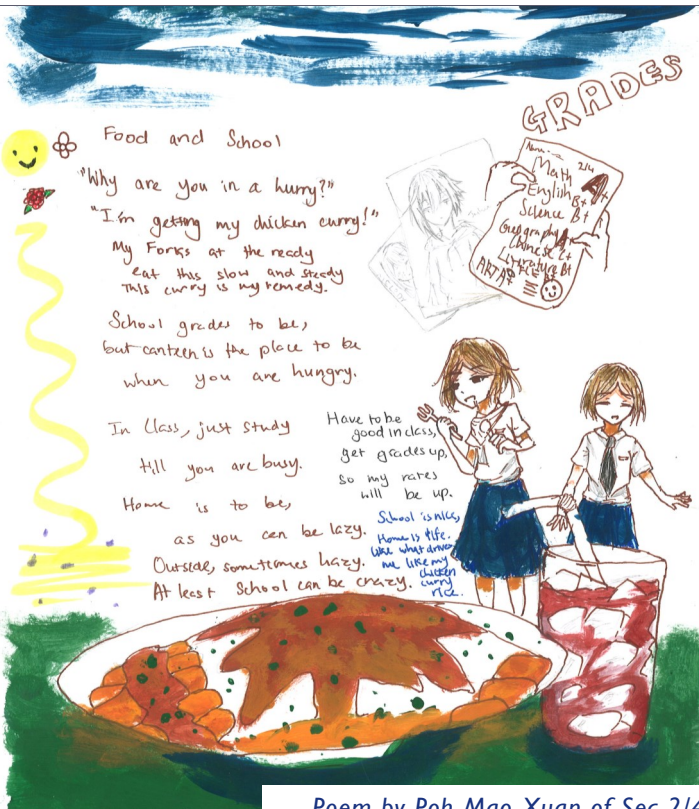
"Why are you in a hurry?"  
 "I'm getting my chicken curry!"  
 My Forks at the ready  
 Eat this slow and steady  
 This curry is my remedy.

School grades to be,  
 but canteen is the place to be  
 when you are hungry.

In class, just study  
 till you are busy.  
 Home is to be  
 as you can be lazy.

Have to be good in class,  
 get grades up  
 so my rates will be up.  
 School is nice,  
 Home is life.  
 Like what dinner  
 me like my chicken  
 curry nice.

Outside, sometimes lazy.  
 At least School can be crazy.



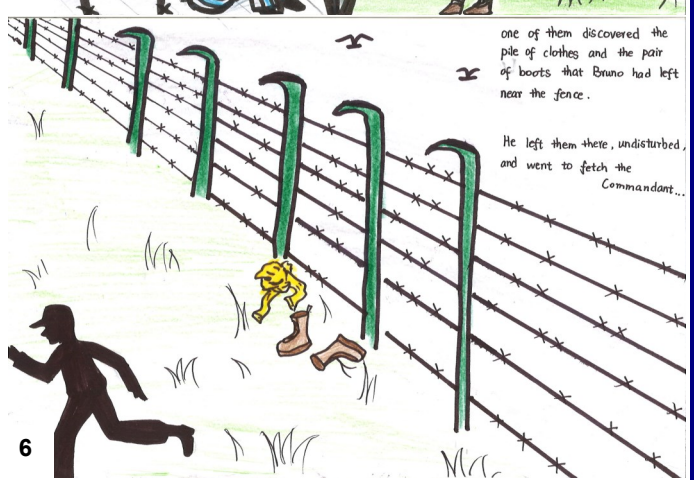
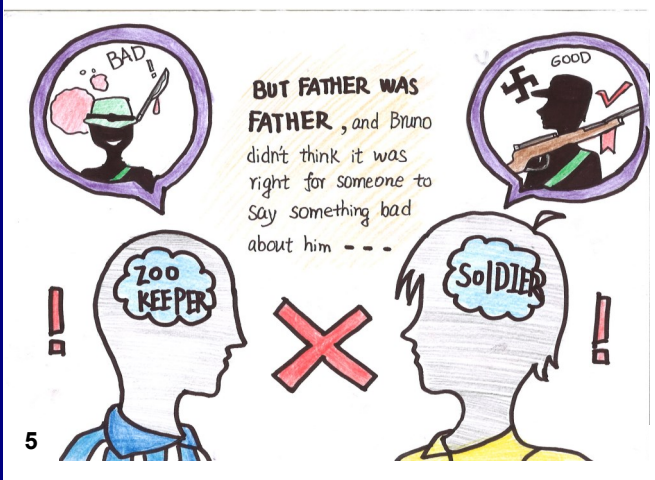
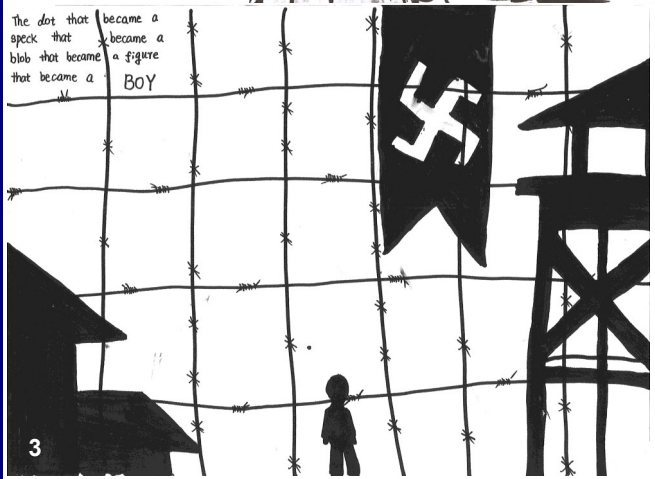
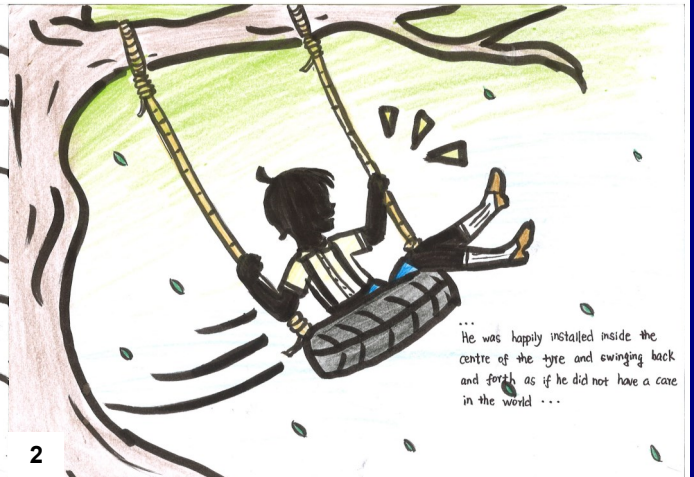
Poem by Poh Mao Xuan of Sec 2/4

Popular dishes from our canteen include a piping hot plate of char kway teow, nasi goreng and freshly-made crispy roti prata!

# THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS

An illustrated guide to the book by Shoon Lei Wai, Yu Yaoxuan and Wu Sihan, Sec 2/5

This is the story of two boys, Bruno and Shmuel, and their encounter at Out-With during World War II...  
Read the book to find out what happens to them at the end of the story.



Did you know that the author, John Boyne, wrote the first draft of the entire story in two and a half days, barely sleeping until it was completed?



## BOOK REVIEW ON “THE MIDWICH CUCKOOS”

By Taing Ingly, Sec 3/6

The first chapter already got me hooked when the book started off with the narrator, Richard Gayford, and his partner getting disrupted by the police on their way back to Midwich. *The Midwich Cuckoos* is an interesting book written about a strange and mysterious incident that happened to the village of Midwich where everyone passed out one day.

No one in the village knew exactly why or how the incident happened. Later on, they found out that all the babies had some sort of power that could harm them. That discovery spurred the villagers to hold a discussion on how they could get rid of the creepy children.

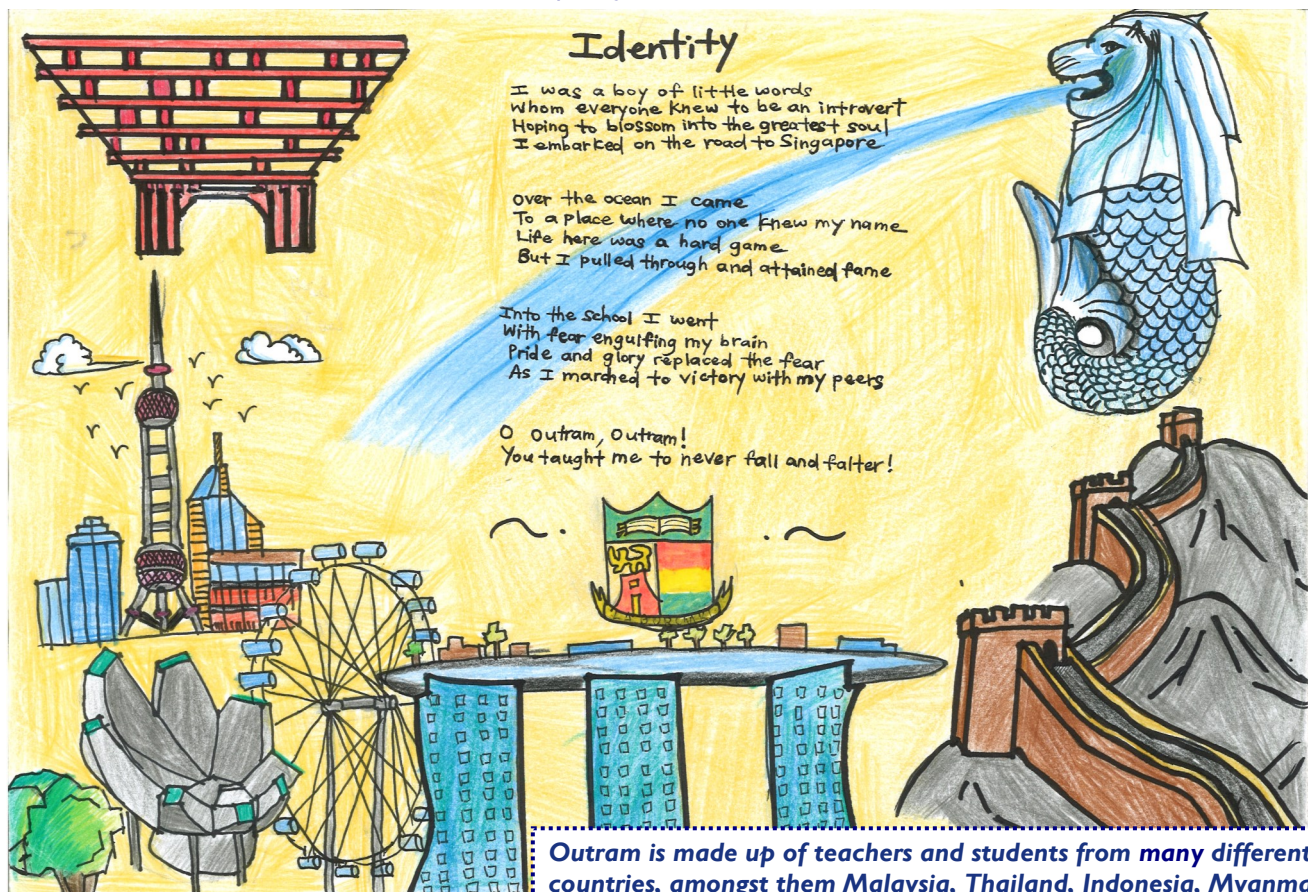
I like how the people of Midwich stuck together as they tried to understand their enemies. This book is a reminder of how it can be really terrifying to have the ‘devil’ among us because ‘it’ can look so similar to human beings. If you like mystery, unexpected twists and a little of horror, this book is one you should not miss out on.

**“Studying Literature is like going through a journey where I am always exploring and discovering things endlessly through reading.”**

**Taing Ingly, on why she loves the subject**

## IDENTITY

By Luo Jiahao, Sec 2/4



Outram is made up of teachers and students from many different countries, amongst them Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, India, Mongolia, Australia and Serbia! ☺



## OUTRAM SWIMMING CARNIVAL — THE SECONDARY 2 INTER-CLASS RAFT RACE

By Ryan Tan, Sec 2/4

The Swimming Carnival 2017 was an event to remember, but what got everyone talking wasn't the swimming races, but rather the activity that was scheduled to take place after the regular swimming events. The events went by in a flash, with the competitors plunging into the water, swimming their hearts out in an attempt to win glory for themselves and the houses they represented.

To me, the highlight of the Swimming Carnival came at the very end, in the form of the Secondary 2 Inter-class Raft Race organised by the Science Department. The race featured rafts of varying shapes and sizes which had been formed by empty plastic mineral water bottles and secured by pink raffia string, and which the Secondary 2 students had painstakingly assembled during their free afternoons after school. Although this was supposed to be a competition where we learnt more about the scientific concepts in creating the raft, this raft race, to the Secondary 2 classes, was more than an activity. There was more at stake – class pride was what fuelled each class to win the fun race.

**BEEP!** The Inter-Cass Raft Race had begun, with the teacher representatives for the different classes paddling with all their might, in an attempt to move their rafts forward. Each class was allowed to have two students in the pool, to offer help in the event that the raft might capsize.

Mr Zainuddin, our History teacher and the Secondary 2/4 teacher representative, got off to a good start,

overtaking the other rafts, and leaving them in his wake. As the distance between his raft and the others widened, it became apparent that our only threat would be from Secondary 2/2, which was represented by their Science teacher, Miss Patricia Ho.

And then the unthinkable happened. Right before our very eyes and seemingly in slow motion, part of the 2/4 raft came apart, with the raffia strings coming loose and some bottles floating away. In milliseconds, the raft flipped and Mr Zainuddin was unceremoniously dumped into the water. Caught off-guard, the students in the pool were also too stunned to react.



Mr Zainuddin (on the right in orange vest) in action for Secondary 2/4

That was when Miss Ho, who was representing Secondary 2/2, seized the opportunity and took the lead. She looked at the thoroughly-soaked Mr Zainuddin with a big smile, and inched her raft past the 2/4 raft. As precious seconds ticked by, Mr Zainuddin heroically made the jump from the water back onto the raft which was slowly disintegrating. The determination to finish the race shone in his eyes and was reflected in the actions of the two boys supporting him. It moved forward gingerly with a pull from the front and a push from behind. During the time that all this was happening, my classmates and I were yelling at the top of our lungs, willing the raft to hold together, and for it to move forward on the strength of our voices.

Mr Zainuddin did not let us down. We lost to the eventual champion, Secondary 2/2, but we finished a credible second, as the lead that we had in the beginning was quite unassailable until our 'misfortune' in the pool.

*Since 2014, teachers have been participating in the raft race, representing the classes they teach!*



## OUTRAM'S 52ND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

By Yeo Yi En & Robbin Koh, Sec 2/5  
and Rasvinder Singh, Sec 2/2

The school population roared in excitement as the emcees came on stage to begin the programme. The students were a boisterous bunch that day and it took a while to settle all down. After some time, the noise eventually died down, and the National Day Observance Ceremony began. The hall was unusually quiet, with a silence so still that you could probably hear a pin drop. It was not the usual flag-raising routine that we were accustomed to, as today we would be commemorating National Day.

The school watched in silence as the flag contingent (made up of the school's National Cadet Corps and National Police Cadet Corps), under the direction of their commander, marched in smartly to the beat of the drum. It was a grand entrance as the crowd viewed the cadets in their smart uniforms coming in with pride holding the national and school flags. We were reminded by the emcees that the Singapore flag was a symbol of how far we had come as a nation – braving the challenges that stood in our way, and overcoming multiple obstacles that had seen us progress to the cosmopolitan city that we are today.

With the arrival of the national flag and the school flag in the hall, they were then folded up and carried over to the two flag poles at the side of the school hall to be readied for the flag-raising ceremony. The ceremony began as the flag-bearers took the

neatly pressed flags to the poles, waiting for the cues from the parade commanders to signal the start of the ceremony. We all looked on in silence as the two flags were attached to the flag poles. With a loud command “sedia!” in Malay, the school was brought to attention. The music of the national anthem reverberated throughout the hall. It seemed to me that on this day, the students sang the anthem louder than before, and despite it being my second time witnessing the ceremony, I was stilled awed by the grandeur of the event. After the anthem, we proceeded to recite the pledge, which also seemed more significant to me than on other days. The short Observance Ceremony came to an end with the marching off of the cadets. We spent the next half an hour listening to the National Day message for the schools and watching a short animated clip on how Singapore has progressed from an obscure fishing village to become a vibrant city-state.

The concert segment comprised a few memorable performances, one of which was a song item by Secondary 2/3 and Secondary 2/5 where the students performed “Because It’s Singapore!”, the NDP theme song for 2017. The school’s Gu Zheng Ensemble presented a medley of Singapore songs, giving it a different feel by playing these tunes on traditional stringed instruments. This was followed by the Dance Club which performed “Happy Birth-

day”, an energetic number.

Our overseas visitors from China added flavour to the concert by putting up a Chinese dance and reciting a poem in Chinese, whereas our Indonesian friends performed a dance. This was followed by a short skit which featured a grandfather sharing his life story with his grandson, with the major developments in Singapore’s history playing a part in shaping the elderly gentleman’s life. With the galore of performances, it was no wonder that many in the audience were enraptured.

The last segment of the concert was the mass sing-along session, which is always a favourite with everyone. The final song for the segment was “Home”, one of the most-loved NDP theme songs of all time. The teaching staff went on stage to lend vocal support for this item. As we looked



around, and saw school mates dressed in a sea of red and white, with students doing the Kallang Wave and waving their miniature Singapore flags, we know that this year’s National Day celebrations will be something etched in our memories. for a long time to come.



**Most of the mass assemblies in Outram are held in the main school hall. The hall, which comes with an upper gallery, was one of the exciting new features introduced when the school was rebuilt in 1998.**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The English Language and Literature Department is grateful to its Head of Department, Ms Eunice Lee for her advice and encouragement, and her effort (both editorial as well as Commander-in-Chief) in ensuring that the newsletter sees light of day.

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our two Vice Principals for being willing to share a little of themselves with the school and being honest in their responses for the interview segment.

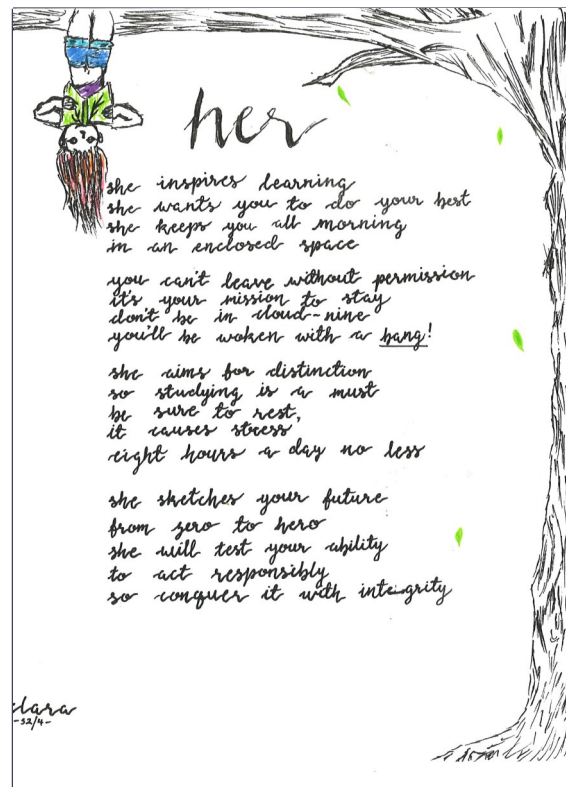
A big 'thank you' goes out to the students who have contributed their poems and illustrations and added flavour to the newsletter.

Credit for the photographs featured goes to Mr Wen Zhiguang and members of the Visual Arts Club for capturing the different events mentioned in this newsletter.

Finally, we would like to thank the writers of this issue who have contributed a piece of themselves in their writing. Thank you for being brave and honest, in showcasing your work to others.

## HER

By Clara How, Sec 2/4



She inspires learning  
She wants you to do your best  
She keeps you all morning  
In an enclosed space

You can't leave without permission  
It's your mission to say  
Don't be on cloud nine  
You'll be woken with a bang!

She aims for distinction  
So studying is a must  
Be sure to rest  
It causes stress  
Eight hours a day no less

She sketches your future  
From zero to her  
She will test your ability  
To act responsibly  
So conquer it with integrity

## MEET THE TEAM!

We are a bunch of fun-loving and wise-cracking Secondary 2 students from the Normal (Academic) and Express streams. Having been told by our teachers-in-charge that we are 'talkative' with a 'short attention span', most of the time 'irreverent', and some times, 'irrelevant', we aim to present to you a slice of what life in Outram Secondary School is like, through the eyes of a Secondary 2 student. We hope you have enjoyed reading this!

