

A PUBLICATION
FOR OUTRAMIANS,
BY OUTRAMIANS

OUTRAM TIMES

The Homecoming Issue

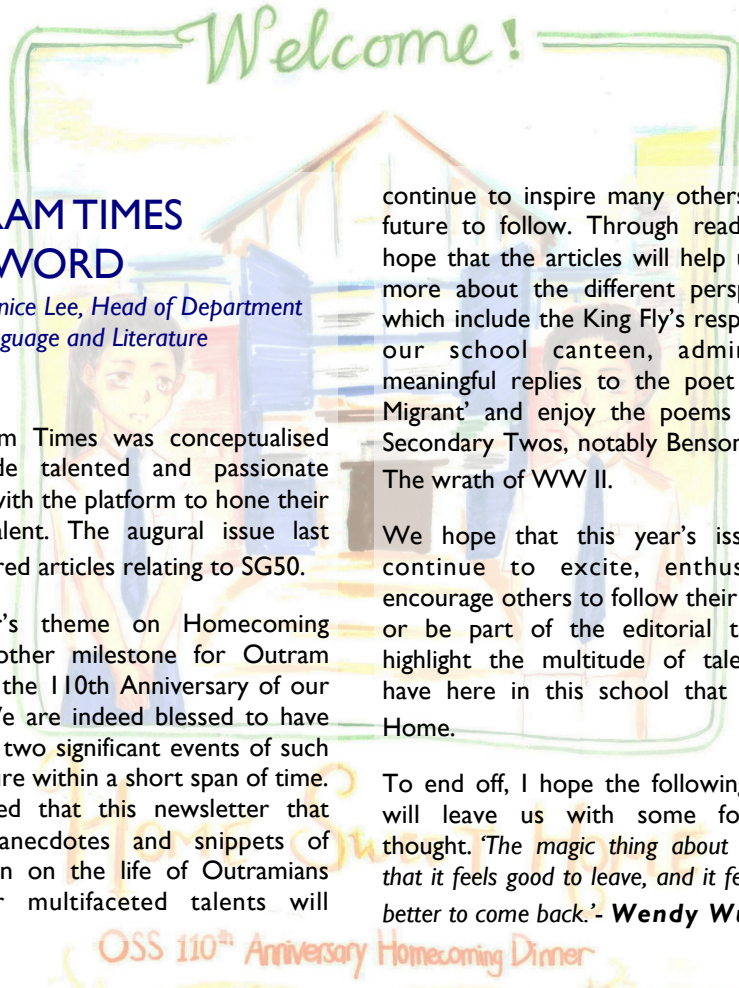
Fostering A Sense of Belonging

Highlights

- Interview with Mr Boo
- Fun Facts about Outram By Yee Pui Leng of Sec 2/6
- A Letter to The Principal: A King Fly's Perspective
- Homecoming Poems
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OUTRAM TIMES FOREWORD

By Miss Eunice Lee, Head of Department English Language and Literature

Outram Times was conceptualised to provide talented and passionate students with the platform to hone their literary talent. The augural issue last year featured articles relating to SG50.

This year's theme on Homecoming marks another milestone for Outram since it is the 110th Anniversary of our school. We are indeed blessed to have witnessed two significant events of such grand nature within a short span of time. It is hoped that this newsletter that features anecdotes and snippets of information on the life of Outramians and their multifaceted talents will

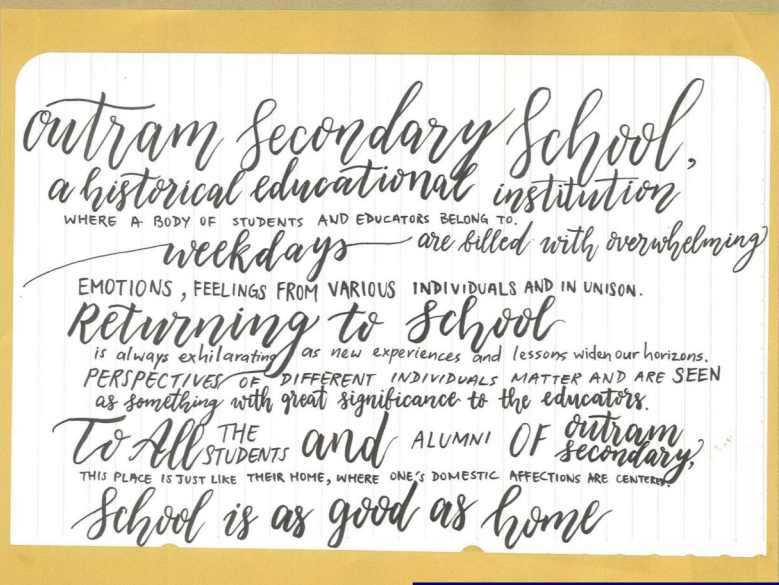
continue to inspire many others in the future to follow. Through reading, we hope that the articles will help us learn more about the different perspectives which include the King Fly's response to our school canteen, admire the meaningful replies to the poet of 'Me Migrant' and enjoy the poems by our Secondary Twos, notably Benson Kang's The wrath of WW II.

We hope that this year's issue will continue to excite, enthuse and encourage others to follow their dreams or be part of the editorial team to highlight the multitude of talents we have here in this school that we call Home.

To end off, I hope the following quote will leave us with some food for thought. *The magic thing about home is that it feels good to leave, and it feels even better to come back.* - Wendy Wunder

OSS 110th Anniversary Homecoming Dinner

Poster by Lee Jia Xin Stephanie, Nhieu Ta Uyen Linh & Li Jinxia of Sec 2/5



Homecoming Poem by Vivian Ang of Sec 2/4



Mr Boo (second from right) with student interviewers

FEELING AT HOME AT OUTRAM

An Interview with Mr Boo, our Principal

By Elizabeth Cai, Kristabelle Lau and Rajvrat Thapliyal of Sec 2/4

“I want the students to become independent learners who are confident. When they take part in a sports CCA for example, they train really hard to push themselves to their limits.”

What type of school would you like to see Outram as in the future?

I want the students to become independent learners who are confident and are equipped with all kinds of skills that will help them to succeed in life. That's why we have all these programmes to train them in all aspects of their character, intellectual and social development. CCAs are good in training students how to take up leadership roles, make crucial decisions, do planning work, build team spirit, and make sure that they are able to gel with all the members of the CCA. When they take part in a

What is the trait that stands out most to you of Outramians?

The perseverance, especially those in sports CCA and Business and Enterprise students. Teamwork also comes into play, where the members share a common goal and display fighting spirit. I see how the sports CCAs train and I can say that they are very committed to their goals.

sports CCA for example, they train really hard to push themselves to their limits. These are the same kinds of values that we want them to be able to apply in the classroom.

What would you like to improve in Outram?

If I can, I wish to improve everything. From the infrastructure to the facilities to the connection to the MRT - these things would appeal to everybody. But the most important thing is the quality of the students. We are here to build characters of the students to prepare them for when they step into society and the students, if they are able to listen to the teachers who are guiding them and take heed of their intentions and

grow the way the teachers want them to grow that will make me a very very happy person.

When you first joined the school, what were your first impressions?

Firstly, I loved the building. I was like, “Wow this is nice.” It is much much better than my old school. Here, we have squash courts, three halls and two rock walls. Well, that alone was very impressive. But what's more impressive was that the smaller amount of pupils here are able to manage themselves quite well. The student leaders and the CCA leaders are all very competent students. They show leadership and confidence and they do a lot of things on their own. And what makes me happier is that there's a lot of room for us to grow.

“We are here to build character of the students to prepare them for when they step into society.”

“The perseverance, especially those in sports CCA and Business and Enterprise students.”

Remember the National Steps Challenge that we took part in? We achieved fifth position out of all the schools which participated! Looks like we are quite a physically active community!

A LETTER TO THE PRINCIPAL

A King Fly's Perspective

By William Wang of
Sec 2/6

King Fly

Garbage Bin

Canteen Basin

Singapore 168622

6 August 2016

Mr Boo Hian Kok

Principal

Outram Secondary
School

3 York Hill

Singapore 168622

Dear Mr Boo

I am writing to air my views about the increasingly disturbing behaviour that we have observed in Outramians during recent times - Outramians have been cleaning up after themselves and keeping tidy! For years, we, the fly population, have been living in harmony with the Outramians. However, with the arrival of you, the new Principal, my "flytizens" have been suffering ever since.

Thinking back, Outram Secondary School was a haven to live in: rubbish scattered in corners provided us with abundant breeding sites. I was born in a candy wrap located at the south-east corner of the canteen. Many thoughtful Outramians would leave their unfinished leftovers on the canteen tables so food supply was never a headache for us, unlike what my brethren from other colonies have to go through. Some even poured their sweet drinks on the floor for us to douse our thirst. We always felt a great sense of belonging to this school as we would never be able to

fend for ourselves, if not for your people. We even joined in to buzz the school song along with the pupils on Wednesday mornings as we deeply appreciate the great care that the students have shown us.

Lately, however, we have noticed a change. The school population is caring less about us! After every meal, they will return the utensils to the stalls where it is harder for us to reach. My spy from the main school hall whispered to me that you have been underscoring the significance of plate-returning during every single school assembly! You have not only made it necessary but compulsory! I would like to know why! Now, the canteen, which was once a mile of dining indulgence, has literally become the 'Sahara Desert' with no food, no water, and where the population of flies is diminishing.

Your policy has taken a significant toll on my "flytizens". Now, we are losing our sense of belonging in this school. We are considering moving out and we promise that if

compelled to, we will persuade all of our pest friends to ditch this school and leave you and your people forever. My spy told me that a few assemblies ago, you praised the students for coming together in making Outram a cleaner place and that you saw the sense of belonging being developed within them. I do agree that the students are doing a better job cleaning up after themselves as compared to before. They are more willing to return their trays and the spilling of drinks happens less often as well. Well, I am sure you are proud of a greater sense of belonging and responsibility being developed in them, but what about us? As King of the "flytizens", I too, hope to instill a sense of belonging in my flies. It is my duty to uphold the loyalty to a place we were born into and brought up in. I hope to see a change in policy that will allow harmonious living between us two species. I am looking forward to see your reply.

Yours sincerely

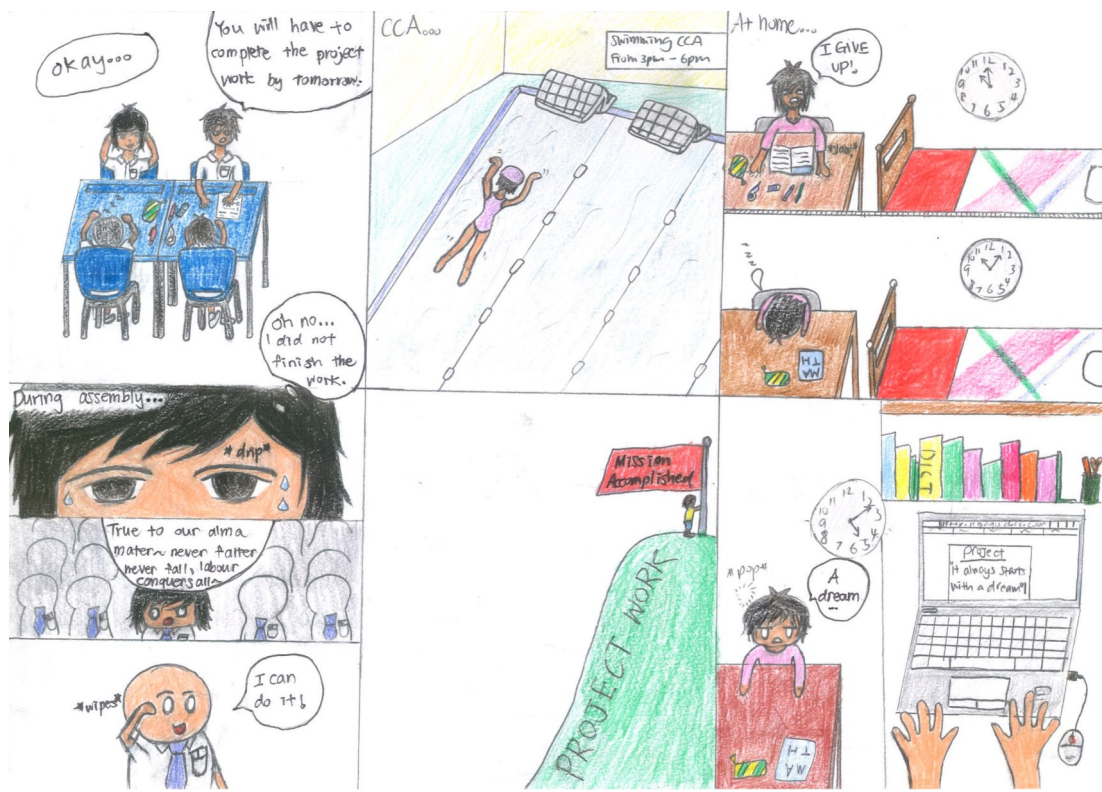
King Fly



Did you know from 1906, Outram was known as Outram School and functioned as a Primary School? It was the feeder school for Raffles Institution. This meant that students who attended Outram would have graduated and went on to Raffles Institution.

COMIC STRIP: IT ALL STARTS WITH A DREAM

By Tammy Ow-Yang Ying Xuan and Lai Hui En Janna of Sec 2/5



INTERVIEW WITH KOH SWEE SEN

Valedictorian of the class of 2015
By Clarisse Ong and Ayrand of Sec 2/6

the place where many memorable memories with my friends and school-mates were created. Outram is also a place where I have learnt many useful life skills and values, and I will always feel belonged to this school.

me not to give up even when I am faced with challenges that are seemingly impossible to overcome. The value of integrity has taught me to always be honest and truthful in all circumstances. Values like teamwork

have always served as a reminder for me to work well and collaborate with my team members to produce the best results. There are many values that I've learnt in Outram Secondary School and these are the most important ones.

Do you still feel a sense of belonging after you leave your school?

Yes. Outram Secondary School is the place where I have developed both physically and emotionally as a person. It is also

Do you think Outram Secondary School has taught you some important values in life?

I think the SPIRIT values are very useful and relevant to my life as I always try to make decisions based on these values. For example, perseverance has taught



Swee Sen (first from the left) with his friends from the class of 2015

In 1958, Outram was relocated to York Hill and the whole student population travelled to the new compound by taking the MRT together. The public must have been extremely surprised to see the whole population of Outram taking the MRT!

INTERVIEW WITH RUZAINI

Of class 4/2

By Clarisse Ong and Ayrand
of Sec 2/6

How do you feel about graduating from Outram?

I feel very sad but excited at the same time to graduate. I feel sad as I will miss the many things that I do during my CCA, rock climbing, and for the Student Council. I will also miss the times spent with my class. This year we really bonded through the setting up and

manning of the haunted house for the school's carnival. I have realised my passions through the many opportunities the school has given me and I am grateful for that. So, now I am ready for new adventures.

What are the values that you have learnt throughout your four years in outram?

I have been instilled with many values such as perseverance through my CCA. This value has enabled me to strive and excel in competitions. I have also learnt to be patient while I work hard to fulfil my goals.

How do you think Outram has made you a better person?

Outram Secondary has given me many opportunities. For instance, since I am the Vice Captain of the CCA, I have the opportunity to hone my leadership skills by ensuring that the members of my CCA display the value of teamwork. I have also learnt that in life one will always face difficulties; however we must overcome them no matter what it takes in order to move on with life.

Why did you choose Outram Secondary School?

My primary school teacher told me that this school has supportive teachers who take care of hearing impaired students so I thought that it would be much easier for me if I were to enrol in Outram Secondary.



Ruzaini receiving his award for Outstanding Deaf Sportsman of the Year 2016

NEW FACILITY, NEW FRIENDSHIPS!

By Tobey Chua of Sec 2/5

To celebrate the much anticipated official opening of the brand new Indoor Sports Hall (ISH) at Outram Secondary School, students of the sports Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) came together to put up a wonderful performance in the presence of our Guest of Honour, Dr Lily Neo and other distinguished Very Important Persons (VIPs).

A well-formed guard of honour stood to welcome all the guests. Cheers were loud and spontaneous as the band burst into music and the guests made their way to the celebrated venue. After a short speech from the emcees, Dr Lily Neo officially put up the plaque that signalled the official opening of the ISH, with everyone witnessing the momentous moment.

Afterwards, all the sports CCAs rushed to the back of the newly opened facility to prepare for the performance which they had spent many weeks practising for. The CCAs were then introduced one by one, with each of them cheering each other on as they rushed into their respective courts to prepare for a friendly game of Captain's Ball against each other. The CCAs showed

fierce competitive spirit but also great amount of sportsmanship as they fought to win the game. The rest of the CCA members cheered their teammates on as they put in their all. After the final whistle blew, the players all tipped their hats to one another in a nod to sportsmanship before they assembled into their final formation in a flash. It was time for the Mass Dance.

After the emcees gave an inspiring speech on sportsmanship and core values that the CCAs showed in their Captain's Ball game, they all gathered to put together a flawless performance which they had spent weeks refining; each move was executed in unison, impressing all the VIPs in the area. The most beautiful part of the occasion was that the journey helped bring all the students closer as one Outram.

However, this is only the beginning of a new landmark in Outram, which will oversee the creation of new friendships. Let friendships blossom at our very own sports hall!

Outram had groomed notable leaders - Mr Wee Kim Wee, the fourth President of Singapore, Mr Wong Kan Seng, the Former Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Gan Thiam Poh, another member of the Parliament were all alumnus of this school.

Although Outram is a co-ed school currently, only boys were admitted before 1958.

Poster By Taing Ingly, Tan Wen Zhuang Jeremy & Javan Low of Sec 2/5

REVISITING OLD MEMORIES OF OUTRAM

By Thiyambarawatta Chanuli T of Sec 2/6

“Wow! This looks really different from what I expected!” I gasped, looking around the building in awe.

“Everything has changed!” Looking around, I was thinking back about how it looked like 20 years ago. Taking a long walk down memory lane around the school compound indeed brought back a myriad of emotions and many memories - that of happiness, sadness, anger...

Just then, I heard a voice from afar. “Mrs Lim, is that you?” A figure came running to me, and I squinted my eyes, trying to make out that person.

“Mrs Lim! Great to see you again after a really long time!”

“Tiffany? Is that you! Oh my goodness you look so grown up!”

“Well, thank you. After the O levels, I decided to pursue my dreams so I became an accountant. After I graduated, I thought my future would not be bright, considering how I behaved in school. However,

because of your encouragement all those years, I have now become who I am supposed to be now.”

Tiffany and I were so engrossed in our conversation that I did not even realise that we had made our way to the main hall, where the dinner was held.

“Excuse me ma’am, may I know your table number?” I told the kind student usher my table number and said thank you.

“This way, please,” the student said, pointing towards the direction to my table. After reaching the table, I gently nodded my thanks at him. As soon as I reached my table, many people came rushing to me.

“Mrs Lim, long time no see!”

“You look beautiful!” I was drowned out by a multitude of voices.

“What did you do after you left school?” After catching up with a few other people, I decided to wait for the dinner to start. There were appetisers, main course and desserts. Throughout the dinner, we had many performances by the students

from dance, band and even Chinese orchestra.

The dinner was amazing and something made it better, a live auction! It was definitely the first time I had ever participated in one.

“And sold to the lady in table number 5!” I cheered as the emcee called out my table number.

“Thank you all for coming to our school’s 110th Anniversary Celebration. Now I would like to invite our former principal, Mrs Angela Lim, to say a few words.” I was extremely surprised at this sudden request but I walked up the stage, confident about what I was going to say.

Smiling from ear to ear, I addressed the guests at the dinner. “Firstly, I would like to thank all those who attended today’s dinner. From the food to the performances, the live auction to the meeting of my former colleagues, this is definitely a memorable experience for me and also for everyone. One thing I would like to say is ‘Once an Outramian, always an Outramian!’”

JOURNEY

Guest of hono

Did you know that Outram used to have Synchronized Swimming and Lion Dance as CCAs?

IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR TEACHERS

By Elizabeth Cai, Kristabelle Lau and Rajvrat Thapliyal of Sec 2/4



MR HAZLAN

How long have you been part of the Outram family and how would you describe your experience here?

I first stepped into Outram in 1996. I was warmly welcomed by all the senior teachers, and the acceptance of me into their big family was a feeling I've never had before. As time passed, I grew fond of the school. As long as I can teach, I would love to remain in Outram Secondary School. I do hope that more students out there would learn and appreciate the history of our school to join us.

“...the acceptance of me into their big family was a feeling I've never had before.”

In 2013, Water Polo members won the National Inter-School Water Polo Championships for the first time in history! This is a huge step for the Water Polo team in their journey to success.



MR CHELIYAN

What has made you stay as part of the Outram family for so long?

The staff and students, as well as the satisfaction you get from playing a small part in moulding the future of the students that come and go in Outram Secondary School - These have been the reasons why I have chosen to stay in Outram. Over the years, I have seen very good Outram students who go on to be successful people in their chosen field and I feel good that I had been part of their journey in a small way. Secondly, my colleagues (both teachers & School Leaders) in Outram over the years have been fantastic. There is a culture of care amongst the staff and students in Outram and that is what that matters the most, to me.

“There is a culture of care amongst the staff and students in Outram and that is what that matters the most, to me.”

What are your hopes and aspirations for Outram?

Outram has produced outstanding individuals who have made a name for themselves in society over the years, and it will continue to do so in the coming years as well. I hope that more Primary 6 students will choose Outram as their choice secondary school and benefit from it. That comes down to the present set of students who must be exemplary in behaviour and studies so that these Primary 6 students and the public in general will have a good impression of Outram and that they will want to

Maria Hertogh stayed at the Girls' Handicraft Centre during her trial period in the 1950s.

send their children to Outram because they know that Outram Secondary School is a good school.

“I hope that more Primary 6 students will choose Outram as their choice secondary school and benefit from it.”



MRS HODGE

What are your hopes and aspirations for Outram Secondary School?

I believe our students can do very well. They must know their potential and work hard to achieve their goals and when they do that, they will succeed. Through my time in Outram, there were many significant changes in Outram. Naming a few, the rock walls, the squash court and the newly opened Indoor Sports Hall. There are now many facilities to accommodate the needs of the students. They have more CCAs now than before which will maximize their potential.

“They must know their potential and work hard to achieve their goals and when they do that, they will succeed.”

REWIND

By Elizabeth Cai, Kristabelle Lau and Rajvrat Thapliyal of Sec 2/4

It was Outram Secondary School's 110th Anniversary. I bought tickets to the dinner that was only available for sale to ex-Outramians. It has been a good three years since I graduated from the school and was looking forward to my return visit. As I walked through the corridors, I could picture my teacher as she told us how proud she was when we were graduating.

My juniors from the Band told me that they were going to be perform the classic hit, "Smoke on the Water" for the Guests-of-Honour gracing the opening ceremony of the Indoor Sports Hall (ISH). As I made my way towards the ISH, I remembered that back in my secondary school days, we used to play 'Smoke on the Water' too. It was the first song every junior would learn to play and the beginning of a myriad of other songs played by our band. I noticed my juniors quaking in their shoes trying to remember every lesson they have learnt in order to not mess up. I knew it was completely normal to be nervous as I recalled my first performance. I couldn't stop worrying, yet, at the end of the performance, the applause of a gratuitous audience made our hard work all worth it.

Upon arriving at the ISH, I was greeted by many sports leaders standing straight and proud outside the ISH, ready to receive the guests. I spotted my band juniors that were setting up their equipment for the performance. Their shiny instruments glistened under the

bright glare of the late sun, especially the cymbals on the brand new drumset. The chairs were arranged in neat crescents. Every little detail was taken into account in order to put on a good show. I would have tried talking to them but I knew they were probably trying to meet the standard 8 minute time limit set by the teachers. Everyone was busy and there was much to be done. "Hurry! The Guest of Honour is coming!" The teachers and students were working their hardest to ensure everything was going smoothly. "Nothing has changed has it?" I thought to myself. Everything was how I remembered it to be. Everyone was working hard to ensure the best results.

Soon, the rest of my friends arrived and I went to join them in the hall. They were as excited as I, to return to the place where everything started. We stood outside the hall observing other guests from all walks of life passing through the doors. The councillors wore their most welcoming smile as they greeted everyone who went by them. I saw ex-Outramians hugging each other after all these years. It was a surprise as I even saw a few proud senior alumni chatting happily about Outram celebrating its 110th year. "Oh how exciting! Look how much the school has changed!" exclaimed a guest. Thinking about it, it was no surprise that everyone took the time to grace the occasion. Outram Secondary is a home that we would always love to come back to.

My thoughts were interrupted by a councillor who held up a book in her hand, "Good evening Sir, may I interest you in buying the 110th Anniversary book that features pictures of Outram all the way back to 1906?" We smiled and kindly

bought a book as a souvenir to take home with. She grinned from ear to ear as she handed us the book and thanked us. We made our way to the booths that were lined up neatly against the wall. All sorts of souvenirs were arranged neatly on the tables that were draped with velvet satin. We purchased some other memorabilia and soon were on our way into the hall. We were guided through rows of tables neatly lined in the hall by a councillor who had asked for our table number. Countless multicolored balloons were hung from every window grill, while streamers were scalloped along the railings. Patiently waiting for the programme to begin, people of different backgrounds sat together as a sense of reminiscence washed over them and they began catching up with each other on where life has taken them since they left Outram. Despite the various backgrounds and professions of everyone present in the hall, we all had one similarity that could be described with one word - Homecoming.



Poster by Yee Jin Wen Aricia & Kok Zhi Xing of Sec 2/5

Prior to 1998, the current back gate of the school used to be the front gate where everyone entered the school by.

BANGLADESH TO SINGAPORE: FINDING A SENSE OF HOME

Letters to Migrant Workers

OVERVIEW: In May 2016, an article published in the newspapers, titled “Foreign worker who published book started by scribbling poetry on bags of cement”, caught my attention and I took a read.

I learnt that Ethos Books, a local publisher, had launched a poetry collection written by a foreign worker. This is the first time in Singapore that a foreign worker has his work published and it took a lot of pain, resolute and belief for it to happen. After reading about

the hardships that Mr Mukul had to endure, I was compelled to buy Mr Mukul’s collection of poems, “Me Migrant”. The collection consists of two parts – poetry that reflect his first experiences as a foreign worker with no experience in Singapore, and the latter, more uplifting poetry that reflect his thoughts and feelings after some years of toiling in Singapore. The upper secondary Literature Elective students each bought a copy of his book and they were assigned a task – They were to read the compilation of poems and write a letter to Mr Mukul in which they could express any thoughts or feelings they wanted to. The letters were hand delivered to Mr Mukul through Ethos Books.

Mr Mukul’s story teaches us to never give up on our dreams, no matter how bleak it may seem. Through his work, I also hope to

teach my students the quiet sufferings of the labourers who do back-breaking work to build our nation, while missing their own. Everyone has a place that is special to them, somewhere they feel like they belong – A sense of belonging should never be overlooked as it can bring one comfort and solace in times of need. I hope you enjoy some of the letters written to Mr Mukul.

- Miss Melissa,
Literature Teacher

*A sense of belonging
should never be
overlooked as it can bring
one comfort and solace in
times of need.*

Dear MD Mukul

I am a Secondary Four Literature student who is just about to take her ‘O’ levels and a reader of “Me Migrant”. With this identity of a young literature enthusiast, I would like to convey my appreciation to you as well as a story of my own family.

I may not know how it would have felt to go through an experience like yours, and I probably never will, I will never fully understand nor comprehend the whirlpool of emotions and thoughts to live such a life. However, through your work I was given more of an insight into those such feelings. Although, Me Migrant is a translated version and does not have the authenticity it would have had in your native tongue, it still very easily moved mountains in my heart.

My mother when she was still a young girl, was put in the position of having to leave behind her country, her home, and pretty much all she knew about and surrounded herself with, to travel to a foreign and distant land with her then very young four brothers and poor parents. She and her family did not speak any English in an English speaking country. She said, “A few years after we arrived consisted of a lot of wild hand gestures

and a lot more frustration from not being able to convey yourself properly.” She went to high school faced with strangers and a name that was very difficult to pronounce. She said that she never had a moment when she did not miss her friends back home. However, at the current moment, that then foreign land has now become ‘home’ to my family. It is now the country that is my birthplace and where I know is love, where I know is home.

My mum doesn’t talk much about her experience then so I’m grateful to you, a stranger, for sharing yours in the form of writing that I enjoy most. I may not know the exact struggle and battles you had to go through but I wish you the best of both the possible and impossible. I hope and I’m sure you will continue to write and express yourself, not just the sadness of your heart but the joy and happiness that of your old memories and of your new experience.

Thank you for sharing a piece of your heart even if it’s only paper and ink.

Yours sincerely,
Katia

(A Very Stressed Out Student That Found Serenity In Your Words)

Dear Mr Hossine,

Firstly, I would like to start off by saying that I really enjoyed the book, "Me Migrant". In a sense, it made me feel connected to you as a person, as if your art was an extension of your thoughts and feelings. I definitely felt touched and astounded by your writing and the few poems contributed by the Healthserve team.

Your poems made me realize that anyone and everyone should not discriminate against migrant workers or foreigners and base their attitudes towards them on ideologies or stereotypes. You make me feel, think, love and work here just like everyone else in Singapore. Don't let ignorant pride and prejudice of the few

ever bring you down. Whether it is toiling in construction work or working in the food and beverage industry, I appreciate everyone's work, including yours, as together everyone makes Singapore a better place.

The poems related to your mother and lover also made me realize how grateful I am for the two most important people in my life. The poem "Eid Abroad" made me realize how precious my family members are. I plan to migrate to another country, but I never actually thought about how I will miss all my family when I leave. It totally changed my perspective on leaving my parents just for my own selfish reasons. The poems "Golden Mother" and "Old Age Home" reminded me of

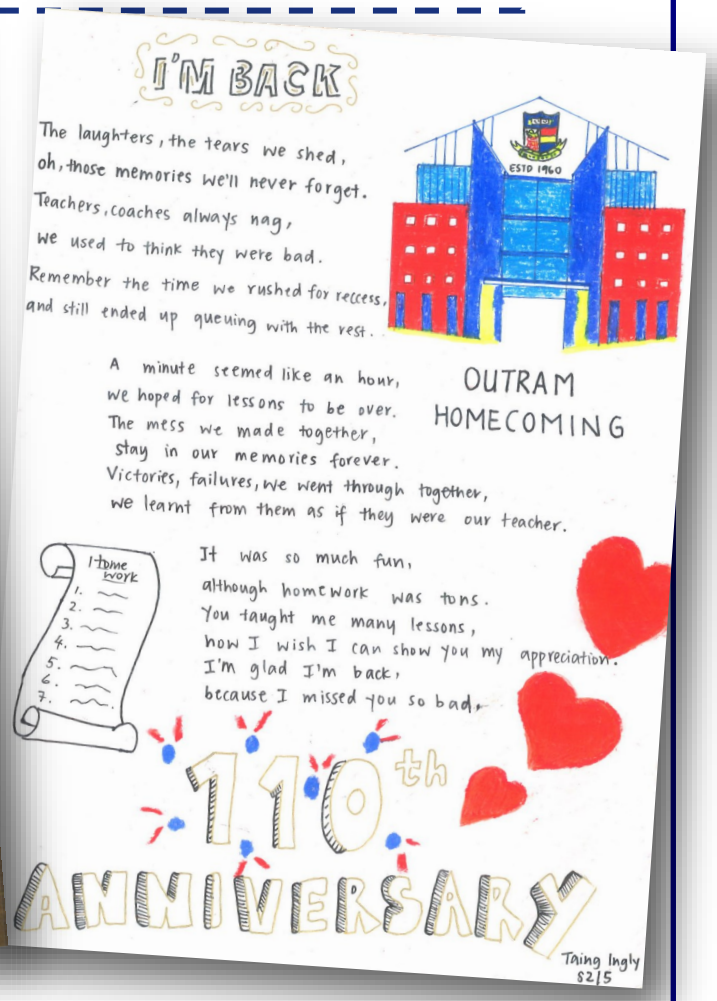
all the sacrifices my mother made to raise us single-handedly and how we sometimes mistreat her and take her for granted. These poems definitely touched my heart and helped me acknowledge the bitter truth of living overseas.

I would like to once again thank you for writing "Me Migrant". I truly enjoyed every poem and I love the sense of pride you have towards your country. I really admire that in your work as I feel your sense of belonging to your nation. The book was thought-provoking and I cannot wait to read more of your work!

Yours sincerely,
Linkesh Jayaram.



Poem by Rachel Ng of Sec 2/4



Poem by Taing Ingly of Sec 2/5

Dear Mr Hossine,

My name is Reina and I am a student. "Me Migrant" is such a terrific book and I adore your work. I love how you showcase your endearment to your loved ones back home through poetry. Your poems about how you love your mother such as "Golden Mother" and "Eid Abroad" made me reflect on how much I should show appreciation to my own mother. The time I get to spend with her and the celebrations and festivities spent together are now something I value. All around, your poems made me realize how I should not take the people I love for granted and to always be grateful. The fragility of others' emotions and how life can cause loved ones to separate is something I've realized through your sadness spilled through your words and how sensitive you are about your mother's feelings as you are not physically there to protect her. I admire how strongly you stand alone and how you tackle the hardships of living abroad. I long for the day that migrants like yourself no longer have to carry the burden of discrimination and that you will find more happiness working in Singapore. I would like to thank you for sharing your poems as nobody other than a

migrant himself is able to comprehend the sadness and hesitation to leave their country to another for labour. You have shed some light on the misunderstood workers, like yourself, and I hope more people will read your inspiring poems. When society finally values and recognizes the sacrifices you have made to make this country evolve, I hope you will write poems of joy and reap the benefits you deserve.

Best regards,
Reinarethna

Dear Mr Hossine

Firstly, I just want to say thank you for allowing me the honour of reading "Me Migrant". Your amazing poems have truly inspired me in a way that nothing else had, changing my mindset of, not only migrant workers, but complete strangers I pass by on the street. I now wonder about their life stories, backstories, future hopes and aspirations, and I am finally able to grasp the knowledge that none of us are that different from one another, and it is a fact I will not easily forget for the rest of my life. Those beautiful poems you wrote made me feel a million things at once. Through those printed words I share your joys and sorrows, hopelessness and illumination; the raw essence of life. Reading your past and present life story reminds me of my own, and allowed me to fully reflect on my past experiences in response to yours. I understand that the difference between the sections "Me Migrant" and "Songs of Praise, Songs of Life" is your mindset. Your situation may not have been any different, but your response to them in the latter section was what mattered most. Before, your words hinted at hopelessness and depression. Now, they inspire spirit and defiance. It is (this is the best analogy I can use) the difference between being thrown into battle and being forced to fight and entering with your head held high. I may not have understood the meaning or significance of it before, but now, thanks to your wonderful collection of poems, I can. And for that, I am eternally grateful to you.

Your devoted reader,
Felynna Bte Hazlan



Before the current Indoor Sports Hall was built, the Legacy Court, which was a futsal court cum basketball court, was in its place.

On 1 January 1954, Outram School ceased to be a purely Primary School and was converted to a four-year Secondary Commercial School with a four-year secondary school course. The school motto was changed from "On to Success" to "Labor Omnia Vincit" – Labour Conquers All. The school's crest was also changed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The English Language and Literature Department is extremely grateful to their Head of Department, Ms Eunice Lee for mooted the idea of a publication by Outramians for Outramians. With her constant advice and encouragement, the publication has seen its second issue – The Homecoming Issue – to fruition.

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Principal and teachers whose valuable insights have made us feel truly at home at Outram.

A big thank you also goes out to the students who have contributed their homecoming poems which have imbibed in us a greater sense of belonging to our school.

Credit for the photographs of Mr Boo and the teachers featured goes to Mr Wen Zhiguang for capturing the portraits of the people who have made Outram a home for Outramians.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Ms. Erra for putting together our students' work into this beautiful and cohesive newsletter.

Finally, we would like to thank the writers of the Homecoming issue who have given us the chance to appreciate our home, Outram Secondary - a home like no other.

The wrath of WWII

I am coming home at last,
Breaking free from the shadows the Nazis had cast.
With guns and courage the Allies had fought,
Brought the liberation of this fort.

I can finally see my family,
And live ever so happily.
I can finally leave the pain behind,
After all those years of being confined.

I now have an identity,
And am finally a living entity.
Now my life is away from the mud,
That came with our soldiers' blood.

All the sacrifices our soldiers made,
Acted as if they were my maids.
Some of our soldiers may not have gone home,
But they made sure I came home.

Everything the S.S. guards told me,
About how labour can make you free.
With my heart and soul some things I really dread,
Like what happened to my friend Fred.

The things I had seen,
All the places I had been.
That is all in the past,
I am coming home at last.

Name: Kang Benson
Class: S2/14

Poem by Benson Kang
of Class 2/4