

# iN Touch @Frontier



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September 2016



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Trekathon Fundraising

As part of our efforts to contribute to the community, pupils and staff of Frontier Primary School collaborated in the annual Trekathon donation drive. The staff spent half a day on 1 June 2016 trekking at Coney Island.

The school is happy to announce that a total of \$41,705.00 has been raised as a result of everyone's hard work. As communicated in the March issue of iN Touch, the funds raised will be distributed to the following beneficiaries:

- HCA Hospice Care
- VIVA Foundation for Children with Cancer
- Singapore Disability Sports Council

A very big 'Thank You' to all for the support given.



### At A Glance

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Do you have any feedback or ideas for iN Touch?

Do let us know on our website at <http://www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg/our-stakeholders/iN-Touch-feedback-form>

You can also view our past issues at <http://www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg/our-stakeholders/iN-Touchfrontier>

**Confident Thinkers • Adaptable Individuals • Passionate Leaders**

**Make A Difference • Be The Difference**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Safety and Security

#### (i) Reporting to Security Guard during Visitation

The school takes the safety of our pupils seriously. Hence, all visitors are required to sign in at the **security post located at the main gate** and proceed to the General Office. We seek your cooperation to refrain from sending your child's books, files, stationery, water-bottles or lunch-box etc to school as this will make it more difficult for the school to deter the entry of unauthorised persons. Please encourage your child to be responsible for his/her own belongings by packing the school bag daily.

#### (ii) Haze Response Measures

Singapore has been experiencing slightly hazy conditions for the past few weeks due to smoke haze from Sumatra. The 24-hr PSI has been toggling between low and moderate to mid-end of the unhealthy range, but may further deteriorate if the winds are unfavourable. The school is alert and monitoring the PSI levels constantly. We will step up our haze management readiness when the need arises.

As part of our haze management readiness process, we have deployed air purifiers to all classrooms ready to operate when necessary. We have also compiled a list of pupils with pre-existing conditions such as asthma and heart conditions in the beginning of the year. If there has since been any new development in your child's medical status, please update the form teacher immediately so that the list in the school is accurate. We would like to remind pupils with pre-existing conditions to have their medication with them daily (e.g. pupils with asthma to carry their inhalers etc). Parents will be provided with updates on our haze management measures should the situation deteriorate.

#### (iii) Zika & Dengue Virus

Zika is generally a mild disease and some people infected with the Zika virus do not even develop symptoms. Like dengue, it is not spread from person to person, but is transmitted by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. Given the mobility of Singaporeans, the source of the infection cannot be determined.

We understand that the National Environment Agency (NEA) has stepped up vector control operations in the area. As a preventive measure, we have been fumigating the school compound on a weekly basis and will continue to work with NEA on other vector control efforts to prevent mosquito breeding on the school grounds.

Pupils are reminded to monitor their health and protect themselves against mosquito bites by applying insect repellent regularly and should seek medical attention if they are unwell, especially if there are symptoms such as fever and rash. They should return to school only when they have fully recovered. We are also taking guidance from Ministry of Health (MOH) health advisories and working with relevant authorities to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for the protection of our pupils and staff.

As each of us plays an important role in preventing the spread of Zika, pupils and staff have been advised to do their part by participating in NEA's Mozzie Wipeout Campaign to prevent mosquito breeding in schools, at home and in the community. More information and the latest health advisory can be found on MOH's webpage on Zika ([www.moh.gov.sg/zika](http://www.moh.gov.sg/zika)).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PSLE Marking Exercise**

Pupils are reminded not to report to school **from 17 October to 20 October** due to the PSLE Marking Exercise. Pupils are to return to school on 21 October 2016.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Home-Based Learning (HBL)**

The school has planned for Home-Based Learning (HBL) during the PSLE Marking Exercise from 17 October to 20 October 2016. The is so that pupils will be meaningfully engaged while developing the value of self-directed learning through the work assigned.

Pupils are expected to complete all written tasks and online tasks assigned to them in the school Learning Management System (LMS) portal at [www.mconline.sg](http://www.mconline.sg). More details will be provided in a separate letter nearer the date.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Children's Day (CD) Fiesta

As communicated in an earlier letter, Frontier Primary is very excited to celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> Children's Day (CD) Fiesta which will be held on **Thursday, 6 October 2016**. Our theme for this year is "Fairytales and Fantasy".

Pupils are encouraged to come dressed along the theme of "Fairytales and Fantasy" with school shoes. They should be comfortably dressed as they will be moving around from stall to stall for the day, taking part in the various games. We are also most delighted to have the MOE Kindergarten@Frontier children with us to celebrate this special day together.

All pupils are to report to school at the usual time but will be dismissed earlier at 12 noon on that day via the usual dismissal points. Do make the necessary transport arrangements for your child/ward that day. The school bus vendor has been notified of this earlier dismissal time.



## LOOKING BACK

### ViSTA Camp & Teachers' Day Celebration

In August, our P3 Frontierers had a splendid time learning more about values through many fun and engaging activities at their **ViSTA ( Values Inspired Through Actions) Camp** held on their Experiential Learning Day.

The camp gave the opportunity for our pupils to interact in a fun way with their peers using their Mother Tongue Language. In addition, the pupils explored and reinforced the beliefs that values are important for their character development. For this month's blog post, we will be highlighting this exceptional camp and you will get to see how the ViSTA camp has impacted our young P3 pupils!

Another special blog post will illustrate how the school, parents, and MOE Kindergarten@Frontier worked hand-in-hand to show their heartfelt gratitude towards our teaching staff at the recent exciting **Teachers' Day celebration** held earlier this month.

Do look out for these blog posts! View them at <http://blog.frontierpri.net/>



## ICT MATTERS

### Learning with Technology at Home

Two-year-olds using iPads, pre-schoolers hooked on video games, the challenge of prying your middle-schooler away from the computer long enough to eat a meal... technology is everywhere and its draw to children is obvious. But can children learn using technology?

Technology, says Larry Berger, executive director of Wireless Generation, is becoming more social, adaptive, and customized, and as a result it can be an amazing teaching tool. So, before you press the off button, consider these eight ways that you can maximize your child's technology time at home.

1	<p><b><u>Focus on Active Engagement</u></b> Anytime your child is engaged with a screen, says Shelley Pasnik, director of the Center for Children and Technology, ask questions. Stop a program, or mute the commercials, and ask engaging questions.</p>
2	<p><b><u>Allow for Repetition</u></b> DVDs and YouTube videos add an essential ingredient for young minds: repetition. Allow your young child to watch the same video over and over, and ask him what he noticed after each viewing.</p>
3	<p><b><u>Make it Tactile</u></b> Unlike computers that require a mouse to manipulate objects on the screen, new tablet computers allow children to manipulate 'physical' objects with their fingers. Hands-on apps are good for young, tactile learners.</p>
4	<p><b><u>Practice Problem Solving</u></b> An emerging category of games will force your child to solve problems as he plays, building concentration and analytical skills in the process. If your child is stuck, encourage him to find new ways to approach the problem.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Encourage Creation</u></b> Use technology for creation, not just entertainment. <i>"Children have so few opportunities to express their will or make choices,"</i> says Pasnik. Let your child record a story on your iPod, or sing a song into your video game system.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Show Him How to Use It</u></b> Many computer games have different levels and young children may not know how to move up or change levels. If your child is stuck on one level that's become too easy, ask if he knows how to move up and help him if he wants more of a challenge.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Ask Why</u></b> If your child is using an app or game the 'wrong' way, always pressing the incorrect button, for example, ask her why. Create conversations with her.</p>
8	<p><b><u>Focus on Play</u></b> Young children should be exploring and playing with technology. <i>"Bring a spirit of play,"</i> says Pasnik, <i>"rather than a focus on drilling skills."</i></p>



## Tell Me Another Story, Please?

13 SEP 2016

Does your child ask this of you often? Whether or not storytelling is already a favourite activity in your home, here are some ideas on how you can inject fun in reading at home by harnessing the power of storytelling.

So, what is storytelling? Quite simply, it is the art of telling stories in an expressive manner, often with the use of physical movement, props or music.

### What makes a good story?

A book which you enjoy reading would make a great story to tell.

You are likely to already know the story well and will not have to spend additional effort memorizing it.

The story should have an engaging storyline that includes a beginning, feature conflict and resolution. Stories which incorporate repetitive words or phrases, gestures or songs often go down well with children, as they provide children with the opportunity to participate by reading, gesturing or singing along.

### How can I prepare to tell a good story?

Practise, practise, practise. Yes, this is needed as not all of us are naturally talented in storytelling!

Read the story aloud at least three times to familiarise yourself with it. You do not need to memorise the story as you will not need to read aloud the text on each page when you story-tell. Do not worry if you cannot fully remember the story - you can always refer to the words and pictures in the book to guide you along.

Identify appropriate junctures in the story to vary your facial expression, tone, volume and gestures.

- Facial expressions allow you to portray the character's emotions.
- Varying tones and volume add personality to your characters.

Gestures allow your child to see the story unfolding in action.

### What other materials will I need?

You can use any material available at home to make the storytelling experience even more exciting for your child. Storytelling with props or hand puppets, which represent the characters, draws the attention away from you, so you need not feel self-conscious. It also encourages your child to interact with the characters directly.

### How else can I make storytelling interesting?

You may explore *draw-and-tell* if you are inclined to draw. As you tell the story, begin to draw pictures that depict parts of the story. By the end of the story, the individual images come together to form a larger picture that tells the whole story.

If you are good at making crafts, try *Storigami*, the art of conducting storytelling through the use of paper origami. Your child will be mesmerized as he gets to see different shapes emerging from a piece of plain paper. The act of folding is critical in *Storigami* as each shape that is folded illustrates a point of development in the story.

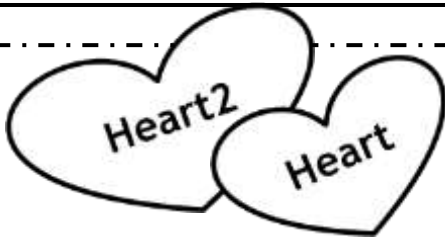
There is no 'right' way to story-tell; simply do it your way and be bold to dramatize. Enjoy bonding with your child through storytelling!

For recommended books and stories to start you off on this journey of storytelling, do visit <https://www.schoolbag.sg/story/tell-me-another-story-please>



*Whether or not storytelling is already a favourite activity in your home, here are some ideas on how you can inject fun in reading at home by harnessing the power of storytelling.*





## Build Compassion: Encourage Your Child to Volunteer

Continued from  
the August issue of iN-Touch, here are more  
ways for families to volunteer together.

**"Volunteerism is the voice of the people  
put into action. These actions shape and  
mold the present into a future of which  
we can all be proud."**

Helen Dyer



### 3. Beach cleaning

One of the NVPC recommended family activities include freeing our precious shores from rubbish. You can join the Toddycats! who are the volunteers with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore. They also coordinate their activities with the International Coastal Cleanup Singapore.

### 4. Helping Animals

Young children usually love interacting with animals, so the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is an ideal place to start, especially if your children are fans of furry creatures. The SPCA encourages parents to bring their children down to its kennels to visit the dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs there. It also organises ad-hoc activities that children aged seven years old and above can participate in. In fact, kids themselves can initiate activities to help the SPCA. See how some school children have done so here.



### 5. Foodbank Juniors Club

The Foodbank fights hunger, reduces food wastage and takes donations of unwanted food for voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs), charities and soup kitchens. They've just launched the Food Bank Juniors Club, aimed at five to 12-year-old volunteers, where kids can help out at the warehouse and be educated about hunger and food wastage issues in Singapore.

### 6. Green Volunteers Network

Get your little environmentalist to be a green ambassador with the Green Volunteers Network. They can get involved with grass roots projects such as reforestation through family tree-planting sessions, and clean-up activities at mangrove swamps. There's also plenty of need for helpers to raise funds to support ongoing costs.

### 7. SG Cares

SG Cares aims to be a one-stop-shop for volunteers in Singapore. The opportunities are many and varied, including volunteering with the disabled, elderly, environment and the arts. All ages are welcome, with some parental supervision and consent required for the youngest philanthropists.

Articles adapted from: <http://singaporemotherhood.com/articles/2012/10/building-compassion-encourage-your-child-to-volunteer/>

<http://www.honeykidsasia.com/singapore/play/volunteering-for-kids-in-singapore-non-profit-organisations-charities-and-donations-your-children-can-support/#Zk6irmWRpVfCroKw.97>