

FACETS

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A publication of DAS



Dyslexia Raise Awareness Week

DAS Graduation Ceremony

Life after DAS

Training in Brunei

Helping Dyslexic People Achieve



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Editor's Note

*Thank you again for your very positive feedback on the last issue.
This issue brings you more information on our 'Graduates' – students
who come to us and then leave us when they learn to cope on their own.
We feel proud of their achievement and celebrate this occasion.
As usual we have also covered stories on the activities DAS has actively
participated in, in the community to raise the awareness of dyslexia.
Again, join our hands and help us raise the awareness of dyslexia in
Singapore in any way you can.
Do send in your feedback to awareness@das.org.sg.*

Sakuntala G K

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2007 / 2008



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My Journey in the DAS

Our Director of Education Programmes, Mr Roslan Saad speaks to us.

When I first started teaching in 1986, I never expected it to be such an enriching journey which has literally shaped and defined my life till today. I always felt a sense of great enjoyment in working and interacting with students. During my teaching days in the mainstream school, I experienced a fair share of students going through difficult phases during their school years. Their problems often start off with their struggles to cope with the demand and pressure of the academics and would translate to issues of low self-esteem and poor behaviour.



I joined DAS in February 2001. I received very specific and specialised training in how to provide students with dyslexia with the most appropriate support needed in relation to their learning difficulties. I found a new dimension and meaning to my teaching. I witnessed our struggling students becoming motivated and encouraged by the ways they were taught and working hard to overcome their learning obstacles. I felt great satisfaction in seeing students making a step ahead, however small it be to move on in their lives. I knew DAS was the kind of organisation that I would like to devote my life to. The ability to put back confidence and self-belief back into dyslexic students and enabling them in many aspects of their lives is simply emotionally fulfilling and spiritually rewarding. Driven by this great intrinsic reward, I work tirelessly with many of my dedicated and inspiring colleagues.

My aim and hope as an Educational Therapist with DAS is to see more being done for dyslexic learners in Singapore and dyslexics being properly recognised for their strengths and talents. At DAS, I get the opportunity to teach dyslexic students from primary all the way to secondary level. This allows me to follow their progress and learning path, which is something I was not able to do when I was teaching in the mainstream.

Another aspect in which I derive great pleasure is from working closely with parents of our students. Helping dyslexics with their learning differences requires a total commitment from everyone. It certainly involves the mainstream school teachers, DAS educational therapists and parents. I've observed with great amazement the display of such a high level of commitment and strong belief in their children by some wonderful parents. This is indeed an important influencing factor for the child's success in life.

I am most privileged to be in a position where I can play my part in charting the course and paving the path for many more students with dyslexia to achieve the many things they are capable of and to succeed as individuals. To continue my journey towards achieving this noble dream, I earnestly invite teachers, parents, friends in the education fraternity, colleagues and anyone for that matter, who believes in our course to join me in this most satisfying and driven journey. I have not for one moment, felt bored or tired in living my life doing what I believe and enjoy very much - *helping dyslexic people achieve.*

Neil Mackay In Town

Neil Mackay was in town to conduct a workshop titled 'Supporting Your Child at Home' on 11th July. Presenting to a full-housed audience, his informational tips and strategies on how to help children with learning differences has benefitted the participants who attended. Many found that the approaches taught were very effective in helping their child in a home environment.

Neil Mackay is an international freelance consultant and a



reputed trainer who created the concept of Dyslexia-Friendly Schools. Having worked with children with specific learning differences for the past 26 years, Neil set up and managed the 1st specialist dyslexia facility, based in a secondary school in the UK, funded by the Local Education Authority; a resource described by the British Dyslexia Association as a “flagship provision”.

DAS exercises precautionary safety measures against H1N1

When schools re-opened on 29 June 2009, DAS followed MOE's guidelines and implemented a temperature check for all students and visitors at all the centres, to help slow down the spread of the H1N1. Staff and students who returned from affected countries were also issued a 7-day Leave of Absence. Parents were contacted to obtain the travel history of their child during the school holidays. We wish to thank all parents, students and visitors to DAS for their co-operation in assisting us with the precautionary measures that were taken.

DAS produces corporate video

DAS recently produced a corporate video to highlight the various services it provides to the community. Besides staff, parents and students were invited to participate in this production. Students at DAS may have dyslexia; but they also have other strengths - was highlighted in the video. Special thanks to our students Jai Singh Gurm, Rashid Le Xi, Low Yun Ying, Rini Tan, Ashton Tay and Mohd Nazrin for showcasing their special talents in the video. We wish to thank their parents and all staff who supported the production of the DAS Corporate Video.

Talk on Adult Dyslexia

For the first time, DAS conducted a talk on adult dyslexia on 15th July in conjunction with the Dyslexia Raise Awareness Week (DRAW) that was held last month. The talk was well-received by participants who agreed it was highly informative. Our speakers for the day were, Ms. Danielle Seah, DAS psychologist and Mr. Kevin Smith, DAS Director of Training who gave very engaging insights on topics such as 'Understanding dyslexia' and 'Supporting young adults with dyslexia'.



In the UK, Europe and the USA, educational institutions have developed series of tests to diagnose adults with dyslexia and also offer effective strategies to enable them to academically achieve. Enabling these adult dyslexics could be vital as research (Logan, 2008) has shown that a strong percentage of entrepreneurial people are

dyslexic. DAS hopes to develop similar assessment process and support systems as in the West and localise it so as to help create success for adults with dyslexia here in Singapore and the region.

OG course in Hong Kong

This year, I am grateful to be given the opportunity to travel with the training team to Hong Kong to train the teachers there. It was my first time training overseas and this experience had been enriching and fruitful for me. As I was not familiar with their culture and language, training the teachers in Hong Kong would not have been easy without the guidance and encouragement from the experienced DAS trainers and Tung Wah organisers. The OG course is an intensive two-week training programme which would have been very tough for the teachers in Hong Kong as English is not their first language. And after the first five days of training, as part of the practicum the teachers were expected to teach a child for the rest of the course. Just as the teachers were excited and apprehensive the first time they started teaching their practicum student, I was full of anticipation on the first day of training. As the days went by, seeing the teachers making progress and witnessing their enthusiasm in learning and perseverance in improving themselves touched me greatly. Similarly, the teachers were overjoyed and impressed when they witnessed their students starting to identify letters, read and spell. On the graduation day of the course, I celebrated the same happiness with them and shared my sentiments as well. The teachers in Tung Wah were hoping that through all these training, they could work towards creating awareness to the government and public so that these children could be given the necessary assistance in education. Their passion is praiseful and I wish them all the best.



DAS conducts dyslexia course in Brunei

The Certificate in Dyslexia Studies course was recently conducted for 25 participants from the Ministry of Education, Negara Brunei Darussalam. The participants consist of teachers from the local primary and secondary schools, officers from the Special Education Unit (SEU) of the Ministry, and tutors from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). The course was aimed at creating a heightened awareness of dyslexia among the participants and equipping them with the skills to support dyslexic students in the local Brunei schools.

Throughout the eight days of the course, the participants were very enthusiastic and responsive. They formed a deeper understanding of dyslexia and were relating their new knowledge to their own students' difficulties. The participants were also quick to grasp the phonics sounds, rules and generalisations taught to them during the course. They would only fully internalise their newly acquired phonics knowledge when they begin working with their dyslexic students.

WORKSHOP FOR DYSLEXIA EDUCATION ENDS ON HIGH NOTE

A workshop on "Meeting the Educational Needs of Learners with Dyslexia" in inclusive classrooms, was recently completed. The workshop was aimed at creating a heightened awareness of dyslexia among the participants and equipping them with the skills to support dyslexic students in the local Brunei schools.



A speech from the event's guest of honour



DAS representatives handing over a certificate to participants

Brunei needs plan to assist dyslexic students

Brunei needs a plan to assist dyslexic students, according to a workshop conducted by the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) in Brunei. The workshop was aimed at creating a heightened awareness of dyslexia among the participants and equipping them with the skills to support dyslexic students in the local Brunei schools.

Workshop on meeting educational needs for dyslexic students

AN EIGHT-DAY workshop highlighting the educational needs of learners with dyslexia in inclusive classrooms is being conducted at the Special Education Unit (SEU) of the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam. The participants of the workshop comprise primary and secondary school teachers, Special Education Unit (SEU) officers and officers from the Special Education Unit (SEU) of the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam. The workshop is aimed at creating a heightened awareness of dyslexia among the participants and equipping them with the skills to support dyslexic students in the local Brunei schools.



Some of the participants at the workshop

Brunei Needs Plan To Assist Dyslexic Students

A WORKSHOP to highlight the educational needs of learners with dyslexia in inclusive classrooms is being held at the Special Education Unit (SEU) of the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam. The workshop is aimed at creating a heightened awareness of dyslexia among the participants and equipping them with the skills to support dyslexic students in the local Brunei schools.

Workshop highlights skills to deal with disability

THE educational effort said that teacher upon completion of the workshop, would enable on the practical aspect of the workshop where they would work with dyslexic students and become a source and mentor for not only their own schools but also other schools around them. The educational effort said that teacher upon completion of the workshop, would enable on the practical aspect of the workshop where they would work with dyslexic students and become a source and mentor for not only their own schools but also other schools around them.

DRAW – Dyslexia Raise Awareness Week 2009

DRAW – Dyslexia Raise Awareness Week was organised by the DAS with activities packed during the week from 30 May to 6 June 2009. **DRAW** as we call it – was the first attempt by the DAS to organise a week long of activities on such a large scale to educate the public on dyslexia. DAS focused on activities in the heartlands to reach out to public in these areas.

Seminar at Woodlands Regional Library

The week started off with a seminar at the Woodlands Regional Library Auditorium. Two seminars were conducted – for teachers and professionals in the morning and for parents with school-going children in the afternoon. The response to the seminars was overwhelming with a total of 400 teachers, professionals and parents attending the day's event. Our guest speaker, Dr Lian Wee Bin, Senior Consultant at the Dept of Neonatal and Development Medicine, Singapore General Hospital did a wonderful presentation, giving the audience a different perspective on the effects of dyslexia from the paediatric point of view.



Woodlands Learning Centre - Official Opening

While teachers and professionals were being enlightened at our seminar, our new Learning Centre in Woodlands was being officially opened by Mr Hawazi Daipi, MP for Sembawang GRC. The Woodlands Learning Centre located at the void deck of Blk 165, Woodlands St 13, today provides educational therapy for over 100 dyslexic children. Mr Daipi was taken on a tour of the centre where he met some of the students who had come for their lessons.



Come to our Open House

As part of the activities of DRAW, the DAS organised Open Houses at all our centres around Singapore. Each centre welcomed teachers, trainee teachers and parents to a tour of the centre. Visitors were able to view the manipulatives DAS uses to teach dyslexic children. Our Educational Therapists also took the time to explain to our visitors the various approaches DAS uses to help dyslexic children learn. Parents had the opportunity to spend more time walking around the centre and speaking to our Educational Therapists to understand the benefits of dyslexic children attending lessons at DAS while going to school. We are pleased with the response to our Open Houses



Computerised Dyslexia Screening Test – Parents sign up children

As part of the activities of DRAW, the DAS conducted FREE Computerised dyslexia screening tests for children in Primary 1 to 6. The computerised dyslexia screening test provides immediate test results showing an indication of the probability of the child having dyslexia. This allows parents who are unsure if their child may have dyslexia, to make an informed decision to then sign up for a full assessment for a diagnosis to be made. The screening tests were conducted at our learning centres in Bishan, Jurong, Woodlands and Tampines. A total of 108 children completed the screening tests over 3 days. Of which 55 children were signed up for a full assessment. DAS is delighted that the Free Screening tests raised more awareness of dyslexia among parents and encouraged parents to take the first step to find out what their child may be struggling with.

My Dream - Art Competition

Welcome to the world where our students dare to dream. With thanks to Jurong Point Shopping Centre, our event venue and prize sponsor, it was another showcase of the creative streak in our students – where they shared their dreams through art. The Guest-of-Honour was Mr William Seet, Centre Director of Jurong Point. No competition would be complete without attractive prizes. Apart from sponsored prizes from Jurong Point, Mr Francis Kok from Decibel and Lux gladly sponsored shopping vouchers from Popular and Robinsons. No participant went home empty handed.



2009 GRADUATION



Cheng Youbin



Chew Zi Kai

The DAS Graduation and Special Achievement Award 2009 on 6 June 2009 marked the success of yet another group of dyslexic students who managed to overcome their struggles to cope on their own. Held at SPRING Auditorium once again, more than 300 guests attended in support of the graduates who received their certificates from Guest of Honour, Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Education. Priceless instants of proud parents were observed as they fixed their gaze upon their child walking up the stage, not letting any second of that moment of pride slip away from sight. It's these moments that motivates everyone in DAS to strive on further in helping dyslexic students achieve!



Lee Meng Lin
Samuel



Hannah Faruk



Jamie Marda Chen



Joshua St Clair
Mackenzie



Eng Rui Lin Jermaine



Lim Josiah



Ong Zhi Jie



Michelle Loke
Zhen Yuan



Muhammad Nazrin
Bin Kamal



Ong Ying Hui David



Scully Bradley
Gearard



Tan Chin Yeow
Benjamin



Thai Shi Ying Valerie



Yap Weiyao Gabriel



Yeo Li Zhen Willyn

Activities @ DAS



Kok Jian Min Jamie



Zubir Aissa
Azreguerras



Ang Wei Jie Isaiah



Cheong Yin Lum
Esther



De Almeida Bradley
Russell



Lim Wei Leong



Lee Bryan Joseph



Lee Jie Han Justin



Leong Shi Si
Charlotte Marie



Lim Juan Ping



Pang Jaired



Quek Xin Zhong
Joshua



Tan Zhao Tong



Thum Qi Ying Isabel



Tong Jia Ren Lorren



Ong Junwen Elvin



Chan Qing Hong



Chandhiru
Balasubramaniam



Chew Jun Kong



Lim Zhe Yee Aaron



Vaenu Satish



Raymond
Sandramurthi



Seah Zi Ching
Amanda



Tan Zheng Hao Kevin



Troy Heppollette



Yong Li Ann
Francis



Bryan Lim Xing Yan



Alex Chua Jun Kiat



Gabriel Jiaren
Broughton



Kashken Ray Hodge



Rini Tan



Benjamin Quek Zhan
Wei



Ashwin Tay Yu Yuan



Ang Wei Kang
Clifford



Chua Hui En
Samantha



Chong Tze Kai Evan



Early Intervention Brings Back Joy In Learning

Azindawati Mohd Isa shares with us how early intervention has benefitted her son Muhammad Nazrin.



When Muhammad Nazrin was four years old, he was able to draw logos just by memory. He could even draw cars 3-dimensionally as he saw it. However, I observed his writing were mirror images. When he entered Primary One, his teacher noticed he had difficulty in reading and writing. As a task became more demanding, he would give up. Nazrin was far behind in his studies.

I was worried about my son's progress as he entered the second term of Primary 1. "Maybe it's just a phase," I told myself. "He will grow out of it." By the end of term two, he was miserable and barely passed his exam. He found solace in drawing. At home, he would spend hours drawing cars, buses and trains. His hands would hurt from all the practice but he would keep going it till he got it right.

I started to read a lot of articles on dyslexia

on the internet and realised the symptoms matched those of my son's. Nazrin underwent a formal assessment at DAS and was diagnosed with dyslexia. His IQ score placed him in the slightly above average range of intelligence and his visual spatial ability was in the superior range of intelligence. However, he was performing far below the age appropriate level in reading, listening and writing.

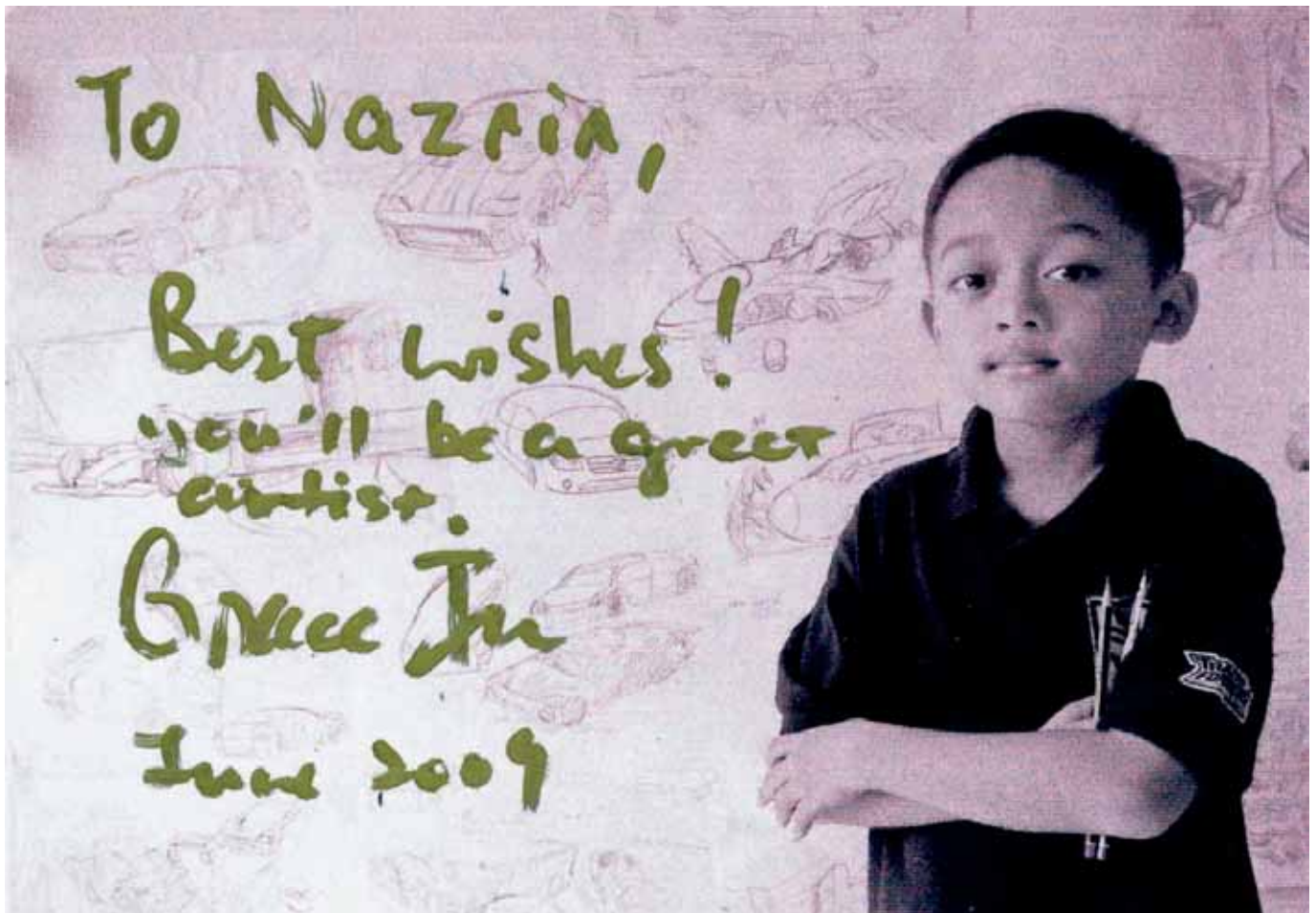
Early intervention for Nazrin's condition was crucial because he needed motivation to learn. And the classes at DAS provided this. Being able to read has opened another dimension in Nazrin's world. Words are not images but readable text. He began to read signages, bus advertisements and cars models. At home we started reading preschool materials. Aesop's fables became his favourite because of the simple storyline and the beautiful illustrations. As he built his vocabulary list, we progressed to informational books.

By his third year, Nazrin could read independently. When he graduated from DAS, I felt overwhelmed as I realised Nazrin depended on me constantly to cope with his studies. Fortunately, the workshops I attended at DAS kept me in-touch with the Educational Therapists and new ideas.

Nazrin developed an inquisitive mind. His love for cars has driven him to own countless miniature cars and he sketches them in great detail. He can recognise these cars on the road. Once, his teacher let him check out his car. *"'Kia Cerato'. Good car. 'Michelin'. Great tyres!"* he exclaimed. *"Do you know what my father drives?"* he asked. *"He drives me crazy!"* I couldn't believe he said that!

Before being diagnosed, my son struggled; he struggled to the point of sheer frustration. He would rather not waste his time on studying, because he would probably fail it anyway; he was only 7 years old.

Today, Nazrin is a chirpy little boy - more confident and resilient. Being dyslexic is no longer a life sentence. My hope is that he will overcome his shortcomings and find joy in learning.



I made it, despite dyslexia

My teacher at DAS, Mdm Aisyah always said to me, "Eddie, never give up. Have faith in yourself." I was enrolled in DAS when I was in Primary 3 and graduated when I was in Secondary 2, back in Year 2006.

When I was in primary school, it was difficult for me as I was often made fun of, for being slow and unable to understand simple instructions. It was hard to cope, even in Primary one, as I had already started failing my exams. Failing didn't really seem important back then, until my classmates started making fun of me. But neither did my teachers seem to care, until I met Mrs. Lim Chua Siow Ling. She was my Primary 6 teacher. She was there to help my classmates and me. She showed me that no one could achieve anything if they did not put in hard work. So I did my best, and managed to top my class that year.

Life in secondary school was much better. I found friends who were willing to help me in my work and my teachers answered all my questions. But I still had many other struggles. It took me a lot of time to revise for the exams. Thus I was usually very ill prepared for the exams. And I couldn't understand or remember what I was learning. This pretty much carried on throughout my secondary school life. Last year, when the 'O' level exams were around the corner, I started to panic. At one point, I even felt like giving up. I was just not ready to take the 'O' level exams, but my family and friends were there to support me, so I persevered on. I started to study day and night to make sure that I made it through the 'O' level exams. Once the exams were



over, I was delighted as I knew I had done my very best.

I received my results earlier this year and was surprised that I was able to make it to the Polytechnic despite having dyslexia. I am now with Temasek Polytechnic Business School doing retail management. To tell you the truth, without DAS, I believe I wouldn't have made it this far. I enjoyed attending DAS classes, as I don't feel like the odd one out. I learnt to cope with dyslexia and to learn new strategies. I felt good as I was allowed to make mistakes and to learn from it, and was never made fun of as my classmates in the DAS were all just like me. It boosted my self-esteem and confidence.

I hope my experience will inspire you to never back down and never give up. I am very sure that anyone who has dyslexia can be successful as long as they strive on.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my family, friends and teachers for being there for me when I needed them.

I'M GOING TO MISS DAS CLASSES

Jaired Pang and Hannah Farook, two of the 2009 DAS graduates, tell us about what DAS has taught them.

Jaired says:

I have learnt a lot from the teachers at DAS. Attending DAS classes, not only improved my literacy skills, but also my social and life-skills. In fact, I can't believe I accepted to give the speech at the Graduation ceremony before such a big audience. It was because of all the encouragement and confidence that I have gained from my teachers at DAS classes.



I enjoyed the interaction with the teachers. The teachers at DAS understand the difficulties we often face in our learning. I also like the DAS materials used – all the hands-on exercises. I felt motivated, when given the opportunity to understand and learn from my mistakes. It was heartening when I don't get scolded or made fun of, or I just needed more time to do or understand something.

We have a phonics card drill session at the beginning of almost every DAS lesson. I think this certainly helped improve my reading and spelling. Guess what, I think I'm actually going to miss doing all those phonics card drill, now that I've graduated from DAS.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both my mum and dad. They have been so supportive of me. My parents have always encouraged me to continue to do my best, and most importantly, believe in myself.

The DAS programme, has taught me to be prepared and to accept the many challenges and obstacles that I may meet in the future. I am sure, I will continue to work hard and persevere in spite of the difficulties that I may face from time to time.



i'm GOING TO MISS DAS CLASSES



Hannah says:

I've been in DAS for 6 years now. Though I'm proud I leave DAS this year as a graduate, I do feel a little sad at the thought of leaving my fellow friends at DAS and the teachers who have helped and supported me all this while.

Lessons at DAS classes were never boring. It was always fun and exciting, with the teachers so very encouraging and spontaneous in coming up with great and exciting teaching ideas. I like learning spelling by listening to the sounds of the phonograms that we have learnt. It makes learning more fun and easier. I also like breaking words into syllables. It makes reading words a lot easier. Thanks to the help I received from attending the DAS classes. It has certainly boosted my self-esteem. I now know that we can perform just as good if given the appropriate help and support we need. I am now able to read many more words, and in fact passed my English subject in the last school exam. I have also picked up interest in reading. I have never realised how much knowledge one can gain from reading.

The teachers at DAS made us feel safe and comfortable when learning with them. They also encouraged us to

speak up in class and share our views and thoughts during lessons.

My mum and dad too have always been there for me. My first two years in primary school had been difficult for me. But my parents helped me a lot with my school work. There were times when I felt like giving up but they always smiled and gave me my confidence once again.

I am grateful to my parents, my teacher at Queenstown Primary School, Ms De Cruz as well as my Principal Mrs Kumar who have ever been so encouraging and supportive.

I would like to say my thanks to all teachers at DAS, especially to Ms Hwee Lin, Ms Elizabeth, Mrs Mala and Ms Atika for their dedication and strong support for dyslexic students like us. Without your help, support and encouragement, we will not go this far.



Special Achievement



Tan Chu Hui

Tan Chu Hui is a Secondary 2 student of Northlight Secondary School. She has been with the DAS since September 2006 attending lessons at the Bishan Learning Centre. Although still low in literary skills, I feel she has made commendable progress during her course of remediation.

Chu Hui constantly perseveres and motivates herself to discover and nurture her special talents and strengths. She is a self made artist. She is a member of her school's Art club. She does Batik drawing & painting and ceramic painting. She won an arts award for being best in Art last year. She also won 2 trophies-- **Best in Northlight Programme** and **Best in Taster** last year. This year, Chu Hui topped her class in Maths obtaining 100% at CA1. She is a hardworking girl constantly persevering to improve herself within her means and abilities and is maturing to become a very pleasant and sweet young lady. She greatly enjoys her cookery classes and wishes to set up her own bakery one day. She certainly deserves every praise and applause for accomplishing these achievements and for her future plans and endeavours.

Written by Educational Therapist Ms Aisha Albel



Ignatius Lee

Today, Ignatius is a confident and assured student who is fiercely independent. His self-esteem improved with every bit of progression made in literacy and academic. Not only has Ignatius been doing well academically in school, he has also been made a School Prefect in St. Patrick's Secondary School. A conscientious student who does not give up when the going gets tough. Ignatius has proven that with hard work and tenacity, you can succeed like others. I am proud of the person that he is today.

Written by Educational Therapist Ms Hani

Special Achievement



Brendan Chan

Brendan Chan has been attending lessons at the DAS Bedok Learning Centre since July 2006. Over these years, I've noticed Brendan's self-esteem improve tremendously. Today Brendan is confident in class and is able to do his work independently. He no longer needs much coaxing to get work done and is in fact rather self-motivated. He gets along very well with his two other classmates and laughs often in class. Recently, he scored above 90 for Maths and above 60 for English in school. It is great to see Brendan doing well in school and more importantly, believing that he can learn. I certainly believe his new found positive spirit will bring him lots of successes.

Written by Educational Therapist Ms Monica Chua

Jai Ramanathan

I am proud of the milestone that Jai has achieved. The change in his behaviour and attitude towards learning is truly impressive and it really warmed my heart to have witnessed his positive transformation. Jai ceased being the challenging student whom I used to work with as he continued to develop his literacy skills. Today, Jai still inspires me to do my very best to help other students.

Written by Educational Therapist Ms Hani



Help More Dyslexic Children Achieve

Make a donation today! You can do so by an optional regular donation of \$5, \$10 or more through a monthly Giro donation. With your wholehearted support and contribution, we will be able to reach out to many more unidentified dyslexic students and provide subsidies to those from needy families.

Complete the form below and fax it to us at 6444 7900 or email us info@das.org.sg and we will send you the Giro Donation Form.

Name : _____

Address: _____ S(_____)

Tel: Home: _____ HP: _____ Email: _____

Do you have a child studying at DAS? ☐ No ☐ Yes (if you tick 'Yes', pl complete detail below)

Name of Child: _____ Centre: AMK /BDK /BJ8 /JPT /QTN /TPN /WDL

LET'S CELEBRATE National Day

As we celebrate the 44th birthday of our nation, our students here give us a memoir of their National Day celebration last year.

Yesterday, my parents brought me to Marina Bay. I questioned my Father, "Why are we here?" My Father replied, "We are watching the National Day celebrations at Marina Bay." I felt as happy as a lark. My Father and I wore red T-shirts and white pants. We saw five Black Knight jets flying across the dark sky. We joined the sing along sessions and sang many National Day songs. We saw many parachutes with the Singapore flag dropping down to the ground from helicopters. We saw boats racing and letting out a spray of fireworks. At night, many fireworks were shot into the sky making pleasant loud noises. The sky was simply spectacular.

- Tan JhnDa

I did not go to the National Day celebrations at Marina Bay because I did not have a ticket. I watched the celebrations on television. I saw 5 jet planes flying across the sky with the Singapore flag. The spectators wore red T-shirts with white pants. The Cabinet Ministers wore all white but they waved big red plastic hands while singing many National Day songs. The President inspected the soldiers.

- Soh Kian Ho

National Day is a beautiful celebration. Every Singaporean loves Singapore's National Day. People all over Singapore come to Marina Bay just to see the fireworks. Me too, I love the songs every year and sing along. Last year, Singapore and Asian idol Hady Mirza led in the singing. When it was time to sing 'Majallah Singapura', a helicopters with a Singapore flag flew by the Marina Bay. A lot of dancing was done there. I wish I could be dancing too.

Nasrin

Happy Birthday Singapore

Lee Wen Jie



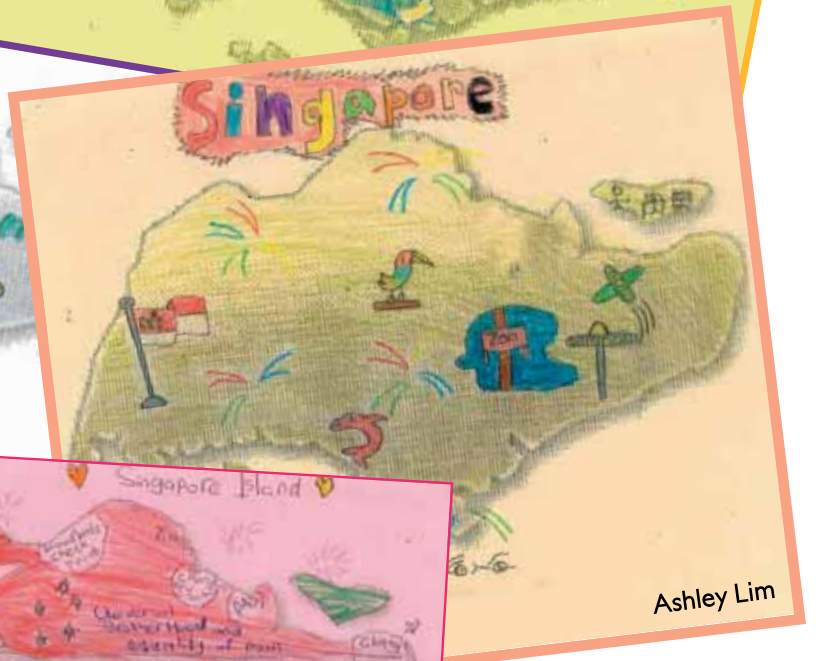
Elijah



Raner Pang



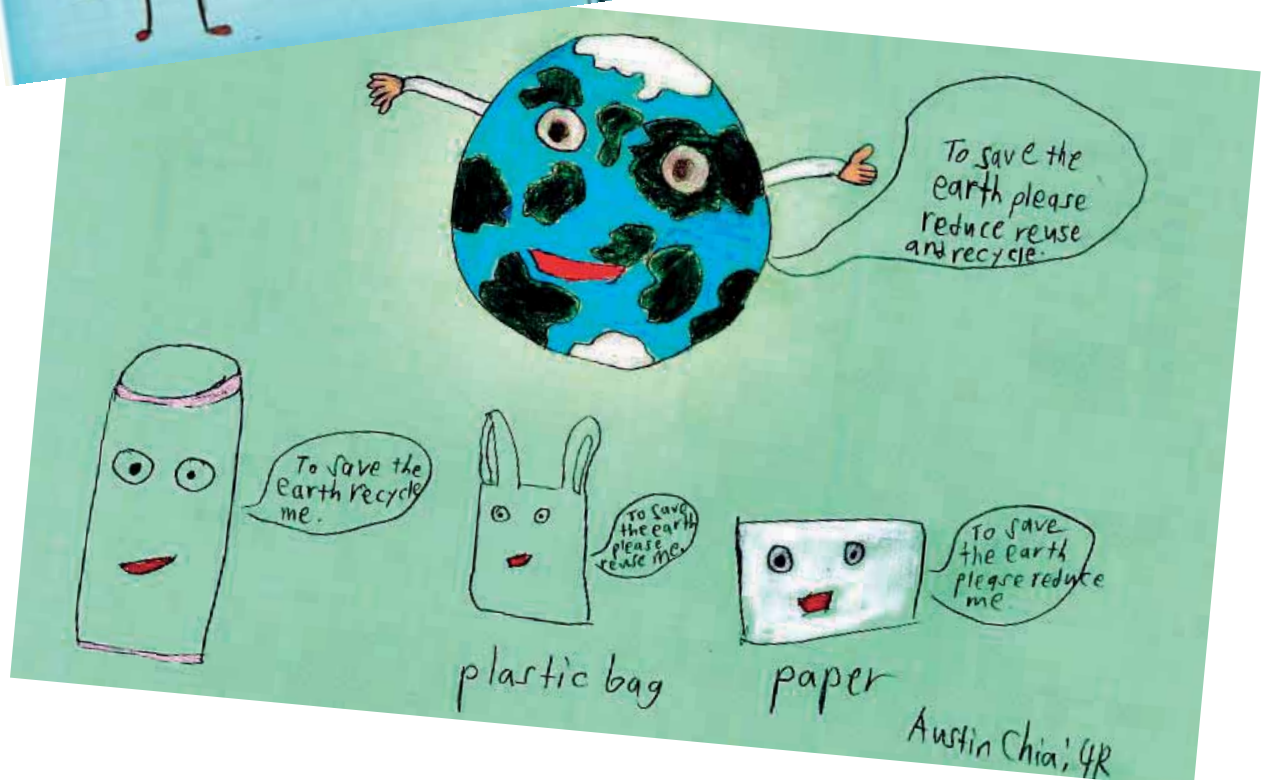
Ashley Lim



Giri



Recycle Singapore



Training Calendar 2009

| Month | Type of Training | Name of Training Programme | Date |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| July | Course | Certificate Course in Dyslexia Studies | 4 Jul |
| | Workshop for Parents | Supporting Your Child at Home | 11 Jul |
| | Workshop for Parents | Coping With Mathematics for Upper Primary *ENHANCED* | 11 Jul |
| | Course | Foundation Course in Dyslexia Studies | 18 Jul |
| | Workshop for Parents | Developing Self-Esteem in Your Child *NEW* | 25 Jul |
| | Workshop for Teachers | Divide & Conquer: Breaking Down Skills for the Dyslexic Students | 29 Jul |
| | Course | Foundation Course in Supporting Learners with Numeracy Difficulties *NEW* | 29 Jul |
| August | Workshop for Parents | Understanding Phonics Instructions | 1 Aug |
| | Workshop for Parents | Learning Made Fun for Left-Handed Children | 1 Aug |
| | Workshop for Teachers | Developing Writing Skills | 12 Aug |
| | Workshop for Parents | Developing Writing Skills | 15 Aug |
| | Workshop for Parents | Comprehension Skills | 15 Aug |
| | Workshop for Parents | Developing Verbal Language in Young Children *NEW* | 15 Aug |
| | Workshop for Parents | Toe-By-Toe: Approach To Learning *NEW* | 22 Aug |
| | Workshop for Parents | Coping With Grammar | 29 Aug |
| September | Course | Foundation Course in Dyslexia Studies | 5 Sep |
| | Workshop for Parents | Computer-Assisted Learning | 5 Sep |
| | Workshop for Parents | Exploring Literacy Through Drama | 7 Sep |
| | Course | Creating An Inclusive Environment in the Classroom | 7 Sep |
| | Workshop for Parents | Visual Strategies *NEW* | 12 Sep |
| | Workshop for Parents | Coping with Spelling | 26 Sep & 3 Oct |
| October | Workshop for Parents | Unlocking Power of Print *NEW* | 3 Oct |
| | Workshop for Parents | How Words Work: Morphological Strategies *NEW* | 24 Oct |
| | Course | Certificate in Identification of Pre-School Children with Literacy Delay | 3,10 & 24 Oct |

For more information or to sign up for these courses/workshops, please visit our website at www.das.org.sg

The main goal of the DAS Training Services is to help improve the lives of children with dyslexia. We aim to achieve this through passing on our specialist knowledge to educators, professionals and parents who work and interact with children with dyslexia. The skills we impart through our workshops can be applied effectively on children with or without dyslexia.

COURSES

FOUNDATION COURSE IN DYSLEXIA STUDIES – 18 JUL to 22 AUG

Understand the nature of dyslexia and the specific needs of dyslexic learners in this comprehensive introductory course on dyslexia. Find out more on the spectrum of specific learning difficulties, understand the assessment and diagnosis of dyslexia and gain tips on how to support your child. This course is recommended for both parents and educators to gain a basic understanding of dyslexia.

FOUNDATION COURSE IN SUPPORTING LEARNERS WITH NUMERACY DIFFICULTIES – 29 JUL to 26 AUG



DAS presents a brand new course to help you support your child who have difficulties in learning Mathematics. Learn the 'language of Maths' and gain tips on using manipulative materials and games to help your child overcome his or her difficulties. Strategies gained in this course can be applied to children with or without dyslexia. Recommended for both parents and educators.

CERTIFICATE IN HELPING LEARNERS WITH DIFFICULTIES IN MATHEMATICS – 23 to 25 NOV

Dr. Steve Chinn is back by popular demand to deliver his much anticipated course to aid teachers and parents help learners who have difficulties in Maths. Learn how Maths can be taught in a more suitable way for learners with a learning difficulty such as dyslexia and dyscalculia.

WORKSHOPS

LEARNING MADE FUN FOR LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN – 1 AUG

Have you thought of the difficulties your left-handed child could be facing in a pre-dominantly right-handed world? Join this workshop to learn how you can help learning easier and more fun for your left-handed child. Find out about specially designed left-handed tools that are available for main tasks such as; writing and cutting.

DEVELOPING VERBAL LANGUAGE SKILLS IN YOUNG CHILDREN – 15 AUG



Learn how to build your child's confidence in speaking and gain tips on how to expand his or her oral vocabulary through rhymes, songs, stories, games and manipulative play in this engaging three-hour workshop. This workshop is recommended for both parents and educators of pre-school children.

TOE BY TOE : APPROACH TO LEARNING – 22 AUG



Since its publication in 1994, the Toe-by-Toe reading manual has taught over 100,000 children and adults on how to overcome their reading difficulties.

Learn techniques to improve your child's reading, spelling and comprehension skills using the Toe-by-Toe approach to learning.

COMPUTER -ASSISTED LEARNING – 5 SEP



Computer-assisted learning has been shown to motivate a student with dyslexia to succeed in tasks where they previously failed. Become versed in learning strategies to help your child learn much better by using IT to motivate him or her.

For more information or to sign up for these courses/workshops, please visit our website at www.das.org.sg

1ST DYSLEXIA CONFERENCE IN ASIA

21-22 November 2009

SPRING Singapore

2 Bukit Merah Central

The DAS is organising the 1st Dyslexia Conference in Asia from 21 – 22 Nov 2009. This Conference will bring together concerned teachers, professionals and parents of children with specific learning differences in Singapore and the Asia Pacific to share their experiences and discuss important issues. Attend the conference and be enlightened by our line-up of guest speakers who will be speaking on various topics related to dyslexia. Here's a brief write-up on each speaker. For registration and more details visit our website at www.dasconference.com



Speaker Name: Professor Angela Fawcett

Topic: A Summary of Research into Dyslexia and Specific Learning Differences

A world reputed, expert researcher in the fields of preschool studies and dyslexia. A mother of a dyslexic child, Prof Fawcett is presently Director of the Centre for Child Research at Swansea University, UK. She is also the vice-president of the British Dyslexia Association and editor of the journal *Dyslexia*. She has made recommendations to the international dyslexia community on the screening of pre-school children “at risk” of dyslexia, and published 8 tests for dyslexia for ages 3-75.



Speaker Name: Sandra Hargreaves

Topic: Best Practices When Working with Students with Dyslexia

The Course Leader in Teaching Adult Dyslexic Learners in Higher and Further Education and in Assessment for SpLD (Dyslexia) at London Metropolitan University, and also a Teaching Fellow. Ms Hargreaves provides consultancy which includes diagnosing dyslexia and supporting dyslexic adults both in higher education and the workplace. She is author to some excellent publications including “Study Skills for Dyslexic Students”.



Speaker Name: Dr Steve Chinn

Topic: What Dyslexic Students need in terms of Remedial Support and in a School Environment

The founder and Principal of Mark College, a specialist school for dyslexic learners, which is recognised as a Beacon school. Dr Chinn has served on the councils of BDA and the Dyslexia Institute and has more than 35 years of teaching experience. He is a reputed expert trainer and lecturer in the area of Dyslexia, Mathematics and Dyscalculia and is the author of several publications, including the highly acclaimed *The Trouble with Mathematics*. Dr Chinn has conducted two runs of the DAS Certificate Course in Helping Learners who have Difficulties in Maths in the last two years.



Speaker Name: Professor Robert Burden

Topic: The Self Esteem Issue for Dyslexic Students

Presently Emeritus Professor of Applied Educational Psychology at the University of Exeter, Prof Burden has followed a wide range of research interests within the general field of applied educational psychology. The underlying theme of his research has been the application of psychology to educational issues in real-life settings, specifically schools and families. Professor Burden is also a world renowned author with many articles published in academic, professional journals and chapters of edited books. His most recent book is “Dyslexia and Self Concept” (2005).



Speaker Name: Professor John Everatt

Topic: Multilingualism and Learning Differences

Presently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Canterbury, Prof Everatt focuses on literacy acquisition and developmental learning difficulties, such as dyslexia. His current research investigates the relationship between literacy and language, both in terms of the development of different aspects of language processing and in terms of characteristics of different languages and scripts. Being an author of several books, Professor Everatt has also been involved in the presentation of a large number of research papers at conferences worldwide.



Topic: Applying the Response to Intervention (RtI) Approach in Early Literacy Intervention and Dyslexia Identification in Singapore

Speakers Names: Dr Mariam Aljunied & Mdm Thoo Mei Lan

Dr Mariam Aljunied a Chartered Educational Psychologist, is currently a Lead Specialist with the Ministry of Education (MOE). She has made significant contribution to raising the quality of education for children with special needs in Singapore. With over 15 years of experience as an educational psychologist working with mainstream schools in Singapore, she has a wide experience providing diagnosis and advice for pupils with disabilities, and implementing professional development for professionals and teachers in the area of special needs. Dr Mariam has contributed to several local and internal publications on the subject of learning disabilities and autism.



Mdm Thoo Mei Lan, a Reading Specialist, is currently Senior Specialist with the Ministry of Education (MOE). . An experienced practitioner with 25 years in the Education Service, Mdm Thoo has made significant contributions to national literacy intervention. She led a 2-year research study that piloted an enhanced Learning Support Programme for pupils 'at-risk' of literacy difficulties, which is implemented in all primary schools in Singapore. As Senior Specialist in MOE, Mdm Thoo plays a leading role in steering and implementing the professional development of reading specialist in MOE, as well as literacy support teachers in schools.

And speakers from DAS ...



Mr Kevin Smith



Ms Dawn Young



Ms Yau Shu Hui



Ms Maheswari
Shankar Balan



Ms Anaberta
Oehlers Jaen



Mr Lee Albert



Ms Chen
Wei Teng



Ms Ng
Siew Kueen

Visit our website at www.dasconference.com

1ST DYSLEXIA CONFERENCE IN ASIA

21 - 22 November 2009 SPRING Singapore

BOOK NOW!

Early Bird Rates
Have Been Extended Till
30th Sept '09

Early Bird- S\$195.00
Standard- S\$ 250.00

**Visit our website for Group Discounts*

DYSLEXIA AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Guest-of-Honour

Dr Ng Eng Hen

**Minister for Education
Republic of Singapore**

Invited Speakers



Prof. Robert Burden
Emeritus Professor of Applied
Educational Psychology
University of Exeter
Devon, UK



Dr Steve Chinn
Founder and Principal
Mark College
Somerset, UK



Prof. Angela Fawcett
Co-Director
Centre for Child Research
Swansea University
Swansea, Wales, UK



Prof. John Everatt
Senior Lecturer
University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand



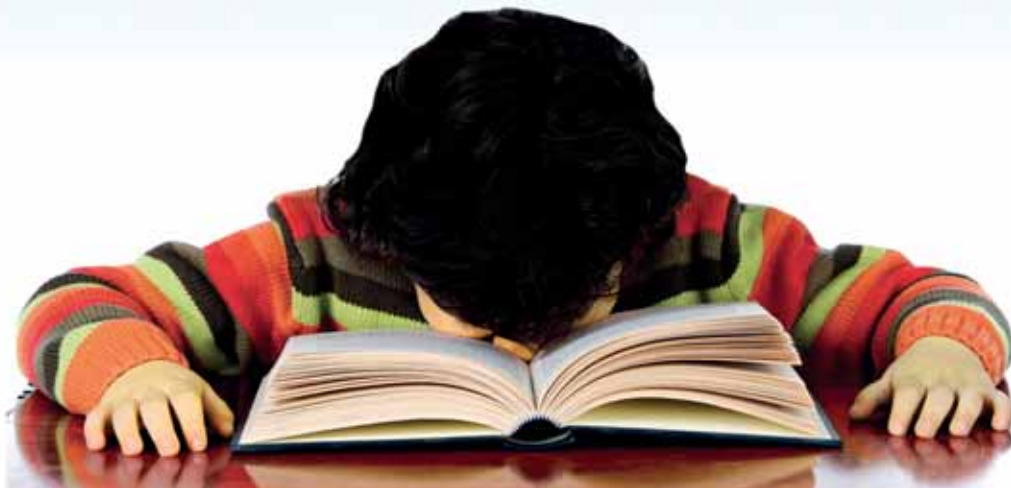
Ms Sandra Hargreaves
Course Leader for Teaching Adult
Dyslexic Learners
London Metropolitan University
London, UK



Dr Mariam Aljunied
Chartered Educational Psychologist
Ministry of Education
Singapore



Mdm Thoo Mei Lan
Senior Reading Specialist
Ministry of Education
Singapore



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