

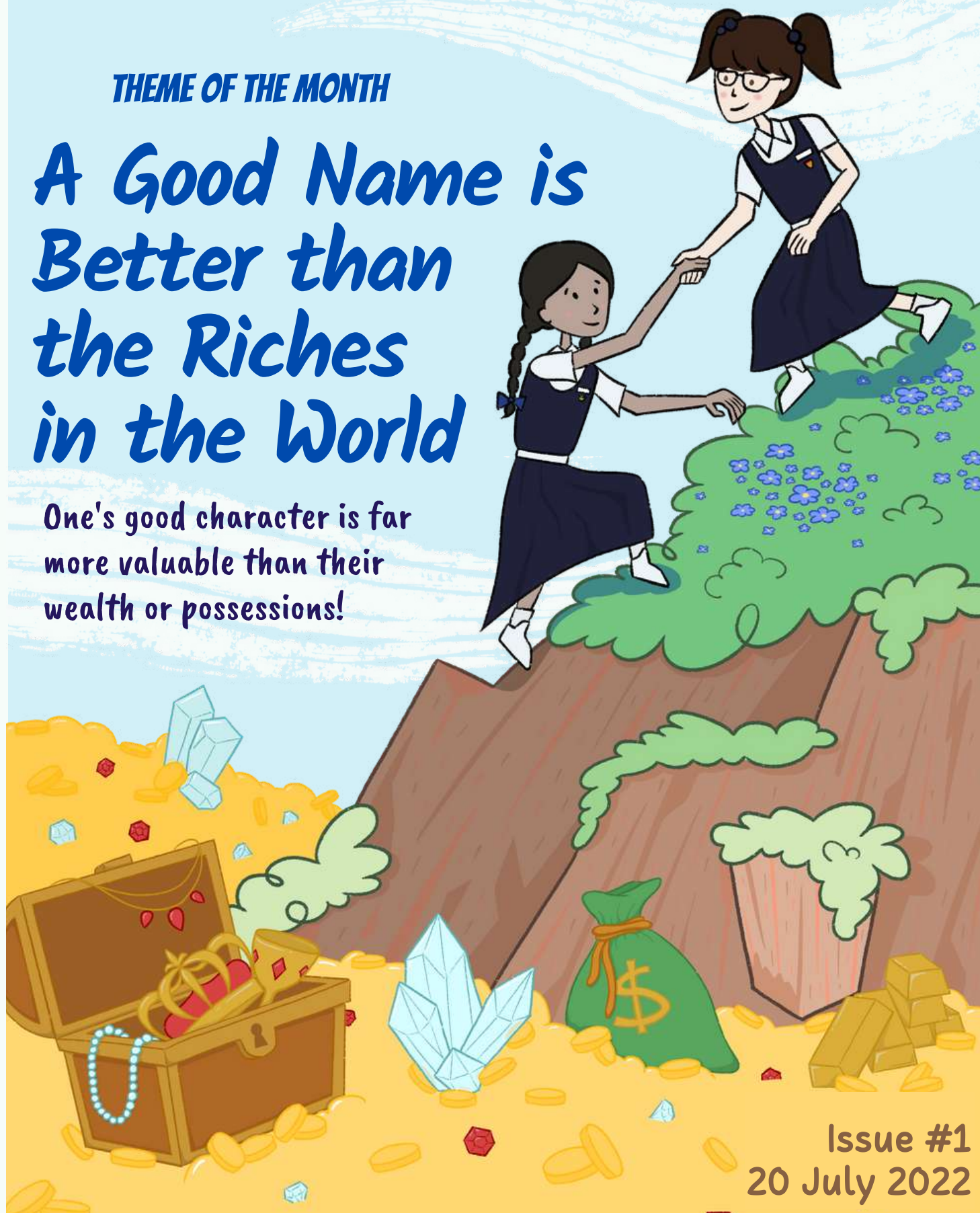


PL PARCEL

THEME OF THE MONTH

A Good Name is Better than the Riches in the World

One's good character is far
more valuable than their
wealth or possessions!



**Issue #1
20 July 2022**

July's Theme :

A Good name is Better than
the Riches in the World!

What do people think about when they hear your name?
Undoubtedly, various emotions will arise, such as adoration
or irritation.

Our daily actions and the way that we treat others is an
essential factor of one's character, qualities, and
reputation. Far more valuable than one's wealth or
possessions is their personal integrity and how loyal they
are to their friends and family!

Let every one of us focus actively on our
character and actions, rather than material
possessions!



CONTENTS PAGE

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Feeling warmer in Singapore? Here's why. — — — — 4 - 5

PL AFFAIRS



Get to know: The Unsung Heroes of PL! — — — — 6 - 7



PL's Creatures & Critters — — — — 8



Insights into what the O-level Art students do — — — 9 - 11



Opinion@PL : Movies... — — — — 12 - 13



Hotspots around PL! — — — — 14



Recap: PL's Semester 1 — — — — 15-17

We hope you enjoy this
1st issue of PL Parcel.
Stay tuned for more!

Feeling warmer in Singapore? Here's why.

By Amelia Chan (3.2) & Evelyn Naga (3.2)

Singapore — A small but mighty country located along the equator, experiences hot and humid weather throughout the entire year due to the Sun's rays being almost directly overhead the island, thus maintaining the temperature high all year long.

Even with its notorious reputation of being one of Asia's warmest countries, people in Singapore have been experiencing stronger effects of the heat. The average 34 degrees outside can sometimes feel like 40 degrees instead, and the reason is due to increased humidity.

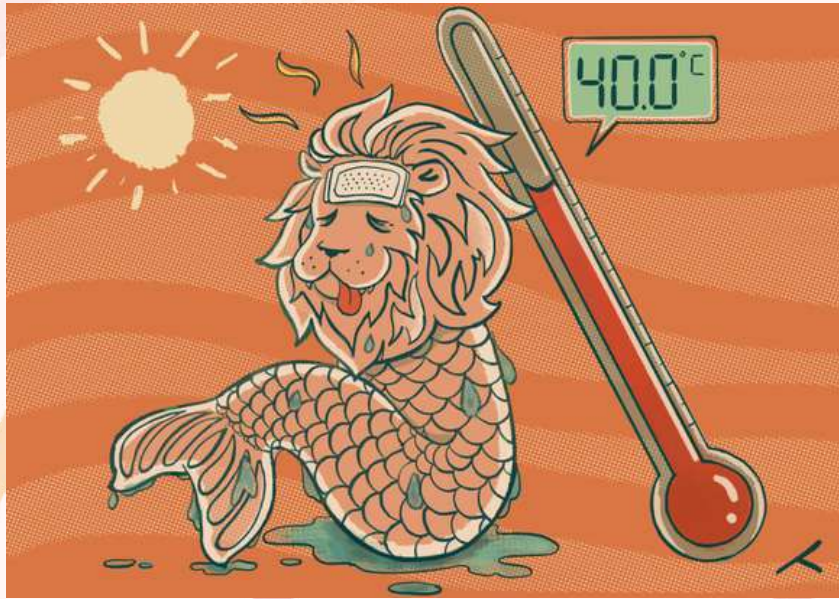


Illustration by Raymond Limantara

The distressing effects of increased humidity stem from many reasons, especially global warming and the 'Urban Heat Island' effect.

To introduce this unfamiliar and fleetingly mentioned term, the 'Urban Heat Island' effect refers to an occurrence in which urban areas face higher surface temperatures as compared to rural areas due to human adaptations such as having parking lots, buildings, and roads. This reduction in evaporation that occurs when plants are replaced by concrete, limits the absorption of energy that keeps the rural areas cooler. In fact, studies have shown temperature differences of 7 degrees celsius between the urban districts and suburban areas of Singapore.

With the presence of the 'Urban Heat Island' effect, the municipal areas of Singapore may experience a significant increase in temperature, leading to the country's citizens being faced with respiratory difficulties. These include citizens being vulnerable to shortness of breath, as well as general discomfort due to Singapore's hot climate. Certain developments can be implemented in our country to help alleviate the effects of 'Urban Heat Island'. This includes installing reflective surfaces on pavements to reduce heat absorption, along with controlling building heights to improve wind flow.

In addition, rising carbon footprint is another factor that contributes to global warming. Carbon footprint refers to the total amount of greenhouse gas emitted from an activity or organisation. By calculating one's carbon footprint, we could estimate the sustainability and environmental impacts one's lifestyle may bring forth. Greenhouse gasses are the gases that contribute to the 'greenhouse effect' by trapping heat in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide and methane which contribute significantly to global warming.



In Singapore, our urban city lifestyle gives rise to an increased carbon footprint in factories, the transportation industry, and also individuals. This causes the island to heat up at a rapid rate of 0.25 degrees Celsius per decade - according to the Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS). As individuals in Singapore, we control about 30% of the energy consumed and produced in the country.

With such an impressionable impact collectively, one can make a conscious effort and cultivate better habits to combat climate change together. Start by reducing one's carbon footprint; taking public transport such as the MRT that runs on electricity instead of cars that run on combustion engines, slightly increasing one's air conditioning temperature, or carefully using the water heater can definitely aid in reducing unnecessary leaks of energy.

Singapore experiences rising temperatures and warmth due to factors such as the 'Urban Heat Island' effect and the excessive carbon footprint generated by the country. With this realisation of what the future may hold for us, individuals, along with the government and large-scale companies should take immediate action and collaborate to work out plans and efforts that can help combat and minimise the adverse and displeasing effects of global warming.

Sources
CNA, Desmond Ng, 13 January 2019: Why Singapore is heating up twice as fast as the rest of the world [https://www.channelnewsasia.com/cnainsider/singapore-hot-weather-urban-heat-effect-temperature-humidity-906231#:~:text=The%20island%20is%20heating%20up,Meteorological%20Service%20Singapore%20\(MSS\).](https://www.channelnewsasia.com/cnainsider/singapore-hot-weather-urban-heat-effect-temperature-humidity-906231#:~:text=The%20island%20is%20heating%20up,Meteorological%20Service%20Singapore%20(MSS).)
Global Footprint Network: Climate change & the Carbon Footprint <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/our-work/climate-change/>



GET TO KNOW: THE UNSUNG HEROES OF PL!

By Amelia Chan (3.2) and Zhang Pengsiqi (3.2)

PL-Lites, are you aware of the unsung heroes in our school who make our school experience a more pleasant one? Well, in this article, we will get to know two of them better!

Ms Shafiqah

Have you ever stopped to admire how beautifully decorated and well-maintained our library is? Well, we owe it to the laborious work of our beloved librarian, Ms Shafiqah!

Ms Shafiqah joined PL this year after the week-long school break in March. Since then, she has been taking on this temporary role as our librarian until a new librarian arrives. She has put in a lot of effort to make our PL-Booktique a conducive place for every PL-Lite to read and study in.

Ms Shafiqah's daily job consists of cataloging, which means to classify books alphabetically, preparing displays for PL-Lites as well as the usual loaning in and out of books. Apart from this, Ms Shafiqah advocates for PL-Lites to cooperate by keeping their volume down as the library is ultimately a place where one should be quiet and focus on their own work!



Mr Francis

Another person whom we got to speak to was our dearest Mr Francis! With the work that Mr Francis is responsible for, it is likely that many of us have noticed him around the school.



Mr Francis joined PL in 2007 for a year under information technology (IT) and soon returned in 2010 as an Audio-Visual (AV) technician to serve the school. On a daily basis, his job is to ensure that the teachers can deliver their content and to support them whenever they are using audio or visual tools.



As students, we can all take time to appreciate the area of AV, which encompasses all technical components relating to audio and visual operations. We should also acknowledge and understand how it benefits us daily, both in and outside of school, so that it would be easier for all of us to deliver digital content and knowledge.

Lastly, Mr Francis personally wishes every PL-Lite all the best in their studies!



I spy with my little eye, PL's creatures and critters!

Here are the current animals residing around, or in PL ~

CHICKEN

Keep a close eye on for these cute critters,
if you blink, you might miss them!



In PL, we have a chicken whom we brought up in school since it was a chick!

Did you know that you are able to purchase a bag of fish food from the General Office to feed these fishes?

OUR FISHES



(\$0.20 per bag)



Various types of fish in the pond!

CATS

Paws that have a quiet touch, what's that fur patch I spot?
Introducing: The cats residing around PL. These fluffy creatures are typically spotted at The Speakers' Corner and around the carparks!



Caramel

Latest edition to our cat family (2020)



Percy

Often spotted around school!



Cole

A familiar face to many!

Sticky
Won The Most Well-Loved Cool Cat Award in 2019



What is O-Level/Higher Art ?

An insight into O-Level Art ~



O-level art is a platform for students to receive opportunities to express their thoughts and communicate their feelings in different forms of visual art, wherein there are endless possibilities and limitless boundaries. The subject is heavily student-driven under the encouragement and guidance of the teachers, which allows students to pursue their ideas and exercise their critical and creative thinking.

The Art syllabus also develops visual literacy skills such as students' ability to interpret and perceive different visual pieces and information, as well as identifying problems. O-level art builds a sense of appreciation and sparks passion within individuals to manipulate their imagination onto a piece of blank canvas. "Instead of having a few hours broken up over the week, we have a student for 3 hours at one go so that it becomes a very student-driven and hands-on lesson where they have to go through idea generation, practising technical skills like drawing and painting." Ms Chong, an O-level art teacher, adds.

In addition to doing coursework, O-level art students have to make artwork and 8 preparatory boards over the course of their secondary 4 year up to September, as well as the drawing and painting paper during the O-level examination. To explore the subject in further depth, apart from O-level art, Higher Art is also a subject offered in PL. The only thing that sets Higher Art apart from O-level art is an additional paper. A Higher Art student would have to take a paper called the 'Visual Arts Task' which takes place from January to March of one's secondary 4 year. The Visual Arts Task consists of 3 questions of which a student would have to choose one to answer. The questions are interesting as they evoke thought in Higher Art students and allows them to put themselves in the shoes of a professional curator, designer or artist during the examination.



Why should i take
Higher Art?

A question some of you might be pondering is "Why should I choose to pursue Higher Art if there is more work to be done?" The answer to this question is that Higher Art can be counted as a Humanities subject whereas O-level Art can only be counted as a relevant subject.

Higher Art also allows one to forge a greater sense of recognition and sensitivity to local pieces!

Featured Artworks

"How can I express happiness amidst pain using paint?" — A2 acrylic paint canvas piece

By Teo Yew Kee (3.2)



"My thought process was to show emotional pain with the visuals of physical pain or loss with the character in my painting being depicted with their torso being a skeleton to show they were suffering emotionally since they did not have a heart. Although contrasting this, they are in pretty clothes, covered in flowers, exploring vivid grassy fields as the sky is painted with a beautiful sunset.

The only thing besides the character that was negative was the buildings seen from the distance which are mainly all grey and dull. This was to represent our society with how the repetitive office or working life usually in cities tires and burns people out, showing the existing 'pain' co-existing with the "happiness" of the grass fields, clothes, and sunset which explains the 'happiness amidst pain'."

"How can I express life after death in paint?" — A3 Oil canvas piece

By Claire Chew (3.4)



"The piece features a woman with flowing hair holding a butterfly, and words off the pieces of paper around her float off the paper to weave into her hair.

The piece also shows the woman's rib cage. This piece was meant to convey how literature, pictures and writing can 'bring the deceased back to life', by remembering the memory of them."



pictures via Istock images

Movies – Art that offers more than just Entertainment.

By Amelia Chan (3.2)

Before watching a film on my laptop or booking tickets at the cinema, I spend time mentally bracing myself over the sense of guilt that is almost inevitable. That negative feeling of self-guilt is no stranger to most of us, especially when we compare the act of indulging in a film to reading or doing academic revisions. It feels like we are simply burning hours of our time with these digital pleasures of life that do us little benefit.

On the other hand, with movies being a major part of our society's culture, it's crucial to understand that the movies one chooses to watch holds a lot of power in affecting their perception towards the issues addressed in the film, and in the knowledge gained once the movie credits start to roll.

One

Steven Spielberg – a notable film director, the man behind many films that have remained classics over decades, such as *Saving Private Ryan*, *Jurassic Park*, and *West Side Story*, mainly due to the dynamic and attractive storylines that these films hold. Let us take a look at one of Spielbergs' most remarkable films: *Schindler's List*.

The chilling historical drama is considered a landmark in the history of Holocaust storytelling, a figure of communication that touched the world with the real, tragic and sentimental story it carries.

It also inspired survivors of the War to share their own stories with the world.



The emotionally challenging film ultimately explores the human capacity for monumental evil as well as for extraordinary compassion and sacrifice. Films like the Schindlers' List, that beautifully captures people's experiences also has an intangible way of educating and communicating with society on timeless, meaningful and cultural lessons.

Two

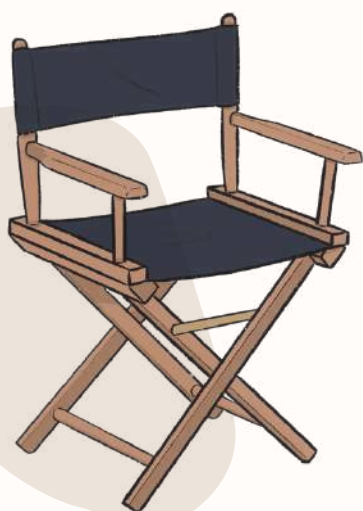
On the other end of the genre spectrum, we have light and funny comedies. In the popular movie series 'Legally Blonde', common comments on the film from critiques were that it was 'self-empowering to many', 'charming', and 'very funny and relaxing'.



Despite the light atmosphere of the film, many young audiences who enjoyed the movie can feel inspired through the simple lessons mirrored by the protagonist, such as – to believe in your abilities and the age-old mantra of never judging a book by its cover! More often than not, the exaggerated characters in movies pose positive and attractive attitudes that the audience may feel inspired to positively adopt in their own lives.

Some may argue that one may learn absolutely nothing from movies that have unrealistic or fictional elements in the story, such as the fantasy series Star Wars or other comedies like Clueless and Legally Blonde since those few hours on screen simply amuses the audience and do not call for any form of critical thinking. However, I personally think that with every movie we watch, it becomes unavoidable that we will learn a thing or two, perhaps from the characters, the underlying issue the film addresses, the music used, the general aesthetics of the film, and more. The distinction would simply lie in how meaningful these takeaways will be.

Movies are not just one of my favourite forms of entertainment, but they are also a living reflection of our society and an artifact of history and culture. Fundamentally, the concern of what we gain from films depends on the type of content that the audience chooses.



By reflecting on all the movies that we, individually, have watched, it is important to question ourselves – 'How many of those movies were actually relevant?'. Whether we like it or not, we will have takeaways from the content we indulge in. So it is up to us to be wise and selective in our picks for movies that can successfully fuse relaxation with education, to benefit ourselves.



Are YOU aware of these HOTSPOTS around PL?

LICKERS

"At Lickers, we want to give you that feeling, where you always left feeling happy". That is Lickers' goal as an ice cream shop — to bring happiness and joy to its customers.

PL-Lites, are you aware of the ice cream shop Lickers near PL? This shop is located at 124 Hougang Avenue 1, which is just a few minutes' walk from PL.



Lickers is definitely one of the places you can hang out at with friends, enjoying the mouth-watering ice cream along with a time of relaxation after an exhausting day of school. Lickers serves a variety of ice cream flavours such as Earl Grey, Salty Lemon, Yakult Oreo and Oolong Lavender to cater to the different tastes of customers. If you do not eat ice cream, fret not! Lickers has a side menu from which you can order savoury foods as well.

Studies have shown that sweetness is able to make oneself feel happier than before as sugar releases dopamine into our brains. PL-Lites, what are you waiting for? Go to Lickers and try their wonderfully made ice cream!

<https://lickers.com.sg/about-us/>
<https://greatist.com/happiness/can-sugar-make-us-happy#1>



The 'Mama' shop

As we spoke to the owners of the store, we found out that the name 'Mama' shop actually stemmed from the Tamil word 'Mamak' which translates to 'Uncle / Elder'. Back in the day, most sundry shops like these were owned by Indian businessmen, but now it has become synonymous with these types of convenience shops typically found under HDB blocks. The Mama shop that is located across school at Block 138 is a beloved spot for many PL-Lites.

It has a substantial assortment of food items for sale, including light snacks, ice cream, cup noodles, and drinks. As the icing on the cake, the mama shop sells their food items at affordable prices, which can come as a relief for students with a limited allowance.

The next time you are craving a snack after school, consider heading down to this Mama shop and supporting the wonderful stall owners. Who knows, you might find your new favourite snack here!



RECAP: PL'S SEMESTER ONE!

Spot yourselves in a picture of two!

Term 1, Week 1



WOO! 2022 iDiscover camp for the Secondary Ones

Term 1, Week 10



Sports' Day @ PL -- Lee House won the trophy once again!



Throughout Term 2



Team PL at the National School Games (NSG) ~



Term 1, Week 4

Prefects' Installation ceremony,
'Serving with Wisdom & Love'



Term 2, Week 9



A beautiful night for PL-Lites and
their families as they watched the
film, Luca, under the stars

Term 2, Week 10

CCA Leaders' Installation
during Morning Assembly :)



Term 2, Week 10



Arts Assembly Programme:
Annette Lee, Singer-Songwriter,
and Youtube Personality, came
to share with us on her musical
& artistic journey!

Term 2, Week 10

PL conducted a successful
in-person Open House, Yay!



Cheers to more
lovely memories in
Semester 2!



About Us

PL Parcel is a student-initiated project — Our school's very own magazine!

Through this magazine, we aim to cover a wide range of content and share timely topics with our readers. We hope these publishes can spark PL-lites to discover the joy of reading, as well as to keep up-to-date with social issues and school matters.

We thank all those featured in this magazine for their valuable insight and time, and we thank you for reading this issue of PL Parcel!

