



CHILDREN'S FEST 2013: Path of the Ninja

Resounding Rhythmic Taiko drumbeats, cultural Japanese dances, challenging game stalls, adrenaline-charged Flying Fox and obstacle course.

Children's Fest 2013 was undoubtedly an exhilarating ninja land invasion!

Path to Celebration

3422 children flocked to the ninja-themed carnival on a sunny morning of 6 October in Bukit Panjang and Woodlands.

Not only did they enjoy the appealing games, they also learnt to overcome the

challenges that tested their knowledge, skills, and character. "The theme this year is intentionally designed to develop certain values like teamwork, patience, perseverance and courage through the games," Albert Go, Children's Fest Chairman said.

Adrianie, 9, proudly shared her adrenalin-charged Flying Fox experience, "My knees were trembling while climbing up. I thought I couldn't make it because I'm afraid of heights. But after completing it, I felt relieved and happy!"

Other attractions that gave delight to the children were balloon sculpting, art stations and the obstacle course. Taiko drummers from Singapore Polytechnic and Singapore Japanese School (Clementi) performed a spectacular stage entertainment with every thunderous percussion beat.

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Chief Editor

Diana Ooi

Editorial Team

Albert Go

Jeannie Chiu

Lei Kabigting

The New Life News is published quarterly by New Life Community Services.



10 Jelapang Road,
Singapore 677740
Mainline: 6892 7191
Fax : 6892 7181
Website : www.newlife.org.sg
Email : email@newlife.org.sg

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New Life Community Services is affiliated to Covenant Evangelical Free Church and a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).



Who says Children's Fest is only for children?

449 energetic volunteers from Covenant Evangelical Free Church were mobilised to serve. Veronica, a second time volunteer said, "It's very meaningful to serve and be a blessing to the community. I don't feel tired at all just by seeing the families enjoying together."

Path to Connection

With the popularity of computer games, social media, and TV among children, Children's Fest brought the fun of real-life interaction of playing outdoors with other children and their parents.

Mr Liang Eng Hwa, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC and Adviser to Holland-Bukit Timah GROs said, "I am thankful to New Life for bringing joy to the residents through this event. We need to bring the children out of their homes and engage meaningfully to the community. I hope the collaboration between Zhenghua and New Life will continue in the coming years."

For the third consecutive year, Children's Fest in Woodlands was co-organised with Admiralty Zone 4 Residents Committee for the third year in a row. Mr Vikram Nair, MP for Sembawang GRC (Admiralty) and Adviser to Admiralty GROs said, "New Life has once again pulled off a creative children's day celebration. It has raised the bar in creativity which is seen with the level of interaction among children, families, and residents."

"What is more impressive is the set of values being imparted which I hope the children will apply to their daily lives," he added.



Ninja volunteers ready to serve you!

Path to Continuation

Mr John Lim, New Life Community Services Chairman said, "More than just a one day celebration, New Life aims to further link the children to its mentoring programmes such as Steady Readers and Kids Champ Club."



The Ninja Academy on 9 November in Woodlands Waterfront served as a follow-up event to engage children to activities aimed at building their courage, teamwork and determination.

As New Life continues to connect with the community, it also deepens its partnership with its stakeholders. The success wouldn't be made possible without its supporters such as Ministry of Social and Family Development, Dads for Life, National Family Council, ITE College West, MILO, SMRT Media and the neighbouring primary schools.



“ Thank you New Life for bringing joy to the community. Events like this build a good bond among the residents and create a fun and liveable environment with good memories for the children. ”

MP Mr Liang Eng Hwa

“ I hope the children here will be able to pick up the good values from the fun games in that way they can be good leaders in the future and contribute back to the society. ”

MP Mr Vikram Nair

New Life aims to continue to brave the path of not only bringing joy to the community but also leaving a meaningful impact to the lives of the next generation.

*For further enquiries about New Life Children, please call **6892 8020** or email children@newlife.org.sg*





C.A.R.E.D. AT NEW LIFE



Now approaching its third year, New Life Children & Student Care serves more than just another before-and-after-school care service provider.

From Screams to Smiles

Justin, 7, used to have tempers and often screamed to get his way when he lacked sleep. "My son would usually seek attention and wouldn't interact well with other children. But during his first few months in the centre, I noticed a big improvement in him," shared Mr Ho Ho Keey, Justin's father.

Through months of patience, firm supervision and continuous encouragement from programme coordinators, Justin's behaviour has shown progress.



Justin (right) is now more cheerful and sociable.

Mr Christopher Han, New Life Children & Student Care Supervisor also attested, "During the September holiday, I've observed Justin smiling more often and talking with other children. Whenever he's having tantrums, I would keep on calming him by stroking his hair, and asking, 'Are you okay?' It's important that we genuinely show him that we care for him."

His father added, "I'm happy that Justin trusts and cooperates well with Mr Han. He's now well-behaved, sociable and listens more. I'm thankful that New Life has shown care to my son and he has learnt a lot inside the centre."

Now, Justin's outburst significantly decreased and is now replaced by his cheerful smiles brightening up the centre.



"New Life has shown care to my son and he has learnt to be disciplined and respectful to the elderly." - Mr Ho, Justin's father

CHILDREN & STUDENT CARE



New Life staff patiently encouraging students to complete home work



"Every child is unique therefore we also have unique styles in approaching them. You can't be too strict nor tolerant at all times," said Mr Han on dealing with the children.

What Other Parents Say

Mdm Janet Teo, mother of Jensin, 6, said, "New Life has helped my child a lot in quickly adjusting since it's her first time in a student care centre. She used to reject proper meals but now she can finish the whole bowl of food and even enjoy eating vegetable and fruits. I'm thankful to the patience, kindness and love shown to my daughter."

"I am not only impressed by the top class facility and clean environment of the centre but also to its daily routine. Because of the mandatory nap time, I observed that my son Gerwyn was able to rest well thus he is less prone to throwing temper tantrum," shared Mdm Gillian Tan.

THE CENTRE'S C.A.R.E.D. PHILOSOPHY

CONNECT with others in a fun & nurturing way

ADOPT a disciplined routine & way of life

REST and **RECREATE** adequately

ENGAGE in meaningful, creative & healthy activities

DISCHARGE duties responsibly

Another parent, Mdm Hoo Lai Yee expressed her satisfaction, "My son, Sean used to require constant reminders to get his homework done. Mr Han took extra effort to ensure that he finishes his homework daily and even checks his diary. The programme coordinators are indeed passionate about caring and teaching the students, and imparting good moral values to them.

Aside from the normal routine of supervised homework, healthy meals, bath time, and the occasional outings and field trips, what sets New Life Children & Student Care apart is its mission of mentoring every child to become a disciplined and confident individual.



Mr Han mentoring the children on orderliness

For further enquiries, please contact us at **6892-8040** or email **studentcare@newlife.org.sg**

SMALL THINGS, BIG DIFFERENCE



Since its inception in 2006, New Life's Steady Readers Programme has reached more than 500 children in the community.

The success of this reading literacy programme wouldn't be achieved if not for the selfless volunteers of New Life. One such volunteer is Emily Ang, who shares her story on how volunteering has made a difference not only in the children she has mentored but also in her own life.

Treasuring Time

Emily, a mother of two children, took a two-year break from work and when she heard about the opportunity to serve in the Steady Readers Programme as volunteer-mentor, she thought it would be good to use her time in a productive and meaningful manner.

"For me, having spare time is like having a treasure. In our very busy culture, not everyone gets the privilege of free time, so I decided to use it wisely by signing up as a volunteer."

With a 20-year background in the hospitality industry, and no training in teaching phonics, Emily shared, "At first I honestly didn't know how I could contribute or make a difference for only an hour and half a week for five months. But after my first semester in Steady Readers, I was so amazed how greatly influenced the children were within a short period in the programme."



“ Every time a new group of children comes in, I ask myself, ‘How can I positively impact them and help contribute to their progress?’ ”

She recalled how encouraging it felt hearing the children read English more fluently, or when children learn new words and speak in complete sentences. Moreover, the children assigned to her took so much pride and felt a sense of achievement during the graduation ceremony when they presented their originally created books.

“They felt very happy presenting on stage. I noticed great improvement with their confidence compared to how shy they were on day one,” she said.

Treasured Lessons to Share

“Aside from teaching them how to read, I realised there’s also great value in listening to them share their life stories. At first they may be a bit shy but they eventually opened up. One of the girls told me how much she appreciated and trusted me as I listened to her share about her family and gave her the occasional advice,” Emily recalled.

“Never take anyone for granted, especially children, because they can be very happy and pleased with small positive gestures on our part. My reflection on that as an adult is that we should also be child-like in appreciating and cherishing things around us no matter how simple it may seem,” she added.

Volunteering for three consecutive runs, Emily imparts some lessons she learnt as a volunteer, “Do not doubt yourself whether you can serve or not. Volunteering may be about contributing



Emily coaching children to confidently present on stage during Steady Readers graduation

one’s time, effort or talent, but in reality, the favour is returned to the volunteer.”

“Serving brings amazing joy. You’ll definitely feel the fulfillment. Seeing the positive impact on the children is priceless,” added this passionate volunteer.

Aside from Steady Readers, she also selflessly donated some stuff toys for Children’s Fest and helped in goodie bag packing.

Emily is just one of the hundreds of New Life volunteers who are making a difference to the community. You can be one of them too!

*To find out more how to be a New Life volunteer, please call **6892 4366** or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg*

For Your Interest.

Youth Hub Blitz

Bukit Panjang and Woodlands Youth Hub opened its doors to the non-members of the community on 16-17 July. Youths mingled with youth mentors and explored the hub's facilities such as gaming area, music room and study room.



Puppet-Making Class

It's not just about improving children's reading literacy but also awakening their creativity! With the help of their volunteer mentors, 47 children from Steady Readers Programme learnt to create their own puppets during their enrichment class on 9 and 11 September in Bukit Panjang and 10 September in Woodlands.

Youths Bake Mooncakes

Youths from Bukit Panjang celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival on 12 September by baking yummy mooncakes. Not only did they learnt how to bake, they also enjoyed the spirit of giving by sharing them to their families and friends.



It's All About Children!

Dressed in their animal costumes, children from New Life Childcare feasted on a circus-themed celebration of Children's Day with parades, fun games and magic shows on 5 October.

UPCOMING EVENTS

20-22 November

Ex³ Youth Camp

20 youths from Bukit Panjang are all set for the most awaited year-end three-day camp with the theme Running Man to be held at the PA campsite and Forest Adventure.

25 November & 13 December

Educational Excursions

New Life Children & Student Care is treating their children to back to back exciting outings at Bollywood Veggies on 25 November for a plant-potting session and a pottery-making workshop at Thow Kwang Industry on 13 December.

December

Parent-Child Bonding Day

New Life Youth highly values strengthening the bond between parents and their children by organising a Parent-Child bonding day to be held at West Coast park.

OUR SERVICES

New Life Childcare (Bukit Panjang)

*Nurturing Wholesome Children
in Partnership with Parents*

New Life Children

(Bukit Panjang & Woodlands)

*Love Children by Mentoring them
to become Character Champions*

New Life Children & Student Care

(Bukit Panjang)

*Mentor Children to become Disciplined
and Confident Individuals*

New Life Youth

(Bukit Panjang & Woodlands)

Building Character & Developing Resilience

Support New Life!

Your support allows young lives to be transformed, dreams to be realised and destinies to be changed!

New Life Community Services is a not-for-profit voluntary welfare organisation committed to Mentor the Young and Meet the Needs. Join us to Make the Difference!

Donations received by 31 December will be 2.5 times tax deductible the following year. Kindly provide your NRIC, FIN or CRN to enjoy tax benefits.

For more information, call **6892 8100** or email **donate@newlife.org.sg**

By Cheque: Payable to

New Life Community Services.

Please furnish your name, NRIC/FIN no., address and contact no. on the back of the cheque.

By Credit Card: Please go to

<http://www.newlife.org.sg/donate.htm>

By Interbank Transfer: Kindly contact us at

6892 4366 or email donate@newlife.org.sg

By Interbank GIRO: Please download a GIRO

form from our website or call 6892 8100.

Please furnish your full name and NRIC/FIN number in order to enjoy tax deduction.