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Media Release



13 March 2019

News Editor

PRESCHOOLERS STRUT THEIR STUFF FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- **It takes a village – preschools join forces with parents towards zero waste and environmental education for 1,000 preschoolers**
- **1st mini green fashion runway show by preschoolers using recyclables for apparels and accessories**

Tomorrow at NTUC First Campus' My First Skool at Blk 688 Jurong West Central 1, preschoolers will attempt their maiden catwalk. What seems like an unusual choice of venue for a fashion runway show is in fact a community initiative for young children to learn about environmental concerns in a fun manner, where the models are preschoolers and the outfits they will be decked out in are upcycled from recyclables and other reusable materials. This is part of the Launch and Appointment Ceremony of **My Preschool Shines @ South West**, an annual programme for preschools in the South West District to educate and instil green habits in children from young, organised by the South West Community Development Council and the National Environment Agency.

2 The green fashion showcase will involve preschoolers from Nursery to Kindergarten Two from My First Skool Blk 688 Jurong West, and their parents who create the outfits from scratch. Unlike many activities where the preschool takes the lead, the parents are heavily involved in the fashion runway show, where they are given free rein to brainstorm with their children on what to

create and work on the design and making process together. Apart from making a (fashion) statement that the environment matters, it is also an opportunity for parents to converse with their children on why it is important to reduce, reuse and recycle, and how they too can play their part.

3 4-year-old Leanne Li will be walking down the runway in her haute couture of recycled material. Her mother Mdm Woon Hui Ping shares, “It is an interesting topic for kids to learn – that they can contribute to a better environment. I showed her some videos on the concept of recycling and how this would protect the earth. For her outfit, I created a skirt that shows a clean and green environment. On the black top, the coloured rectangles symbolise the four seasons where everyone can enjoy the beauty if they do their part to save the earth. We have been using an environment bag and thought it can be re-used as part of her costume. She is going to wear it as her black top. As for the bottom, we happened to have a paper bag with leaves printed that is related to the theme.”

4 Leanne adds, “I am excited for the show and a little nervous too. I listened to instructions to stand still while my parents took my measurements, and I helped to stick the Velcro on the costume. I learned to re-use items and not be wasteful.”

5 The green fashion runway show is a culmination of efforts for the programme, which saw 27 preschools taking part in 2018 and 1781 preschoolers participating in activities such as conducting sustainable activities, putting up environmental-themed skits for the preschoolers, and creating and putting up exhibits to spread environmental messages.

First-Year Win for Preschool

6 The Ceremony tomorrow will also recognise the efforts of participating preschools in the programme for 2018, where the top three prize winners will receive their prizes. One of the winning preschools is a first-time participant of the programme, My First Skool at Block 688 Jurong West, which only joined the

programme in 2018 and bagged the second prize. The school conducted monthly litter-picking exercises over six months, where the children went around common areas near the preschool and made a “Keeping Singapore Clean” banner to remind residents to do so. The pre-schoolers also set up a recycling corner which housed self-designed recycling bins, where parents were also encouraged to partake in by bringing recyclables. Parents were kept involved where they also upcycled recyclables with their children into pencil holders, car toys, binoculars and so on.

7 Teacher Ms Manisah Bte Ghani, who was one of the lead teachers for environmental education in the preschool, says, “We are humbled to receive the second prize. It was the effort from our supportive My First Skool mentors, colleagues, parents and children who have contributed in making the project a success. I have learnt a lot through this experience and the children now understand the importance of saving the earth! For 2019, we will include the playgroup children to take part in the programme, and we hope to enrich their learning with more interesting, meaningful and purposeful activities.”

8 Mayor of South West District Ms Low Yen Ling says, “Through this programme, we want the children to know that recycling can be fun and fashionable. As they grow up with the right mindset and attitude towards saving the environment, they will form green habits that make sustainability a way of life.”

9 For the 2019 programme, more than 1,000 preschoolers in the South West District will learn about Zero Waste and do their part for the movement. My Preschool Shines @ South West 2019 will focus on Climate Action and Waste Minimisation in line with the Year of Zero Waste. 23 preschools in the district will be on board.

10 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : My Preschool Shines @ South West 2019 Launch and Award Ceremony

Date : Thursday, 14 March 2019

Time : 10.00 am – 11.30 am (**Media is invited at 9.45 am**)
Venue : My First Skool
Blk 688 Jurong West Central 1
#01-237 Singapore 640688
Guest of : Ms Low Yen Ling
Honour Mayor of South West District

11 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to the **My Preschool Shines @ South West 2019 Launch and Award Ceremony**. Interviews can be arranged upon request. Please contact our media liaison officer for queries. We look forward to receiving you and your crew/photographer.

Media Liaison Officers

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About the South West Community Development Council (CDC)

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

Winners for My Preschool Shines @ South West 2018

1st place:

My First Skool @ 180B Boon Lay Drive

2nd place:

My First Skool @ Blk 698C Jurong West

3rd place:

PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Chua Chu Kang Blk 10

Programme

Time	Programme
10.00 am	Arrival of GOH Ms Low Yen Ling Mayor of South West District
10.05 am	Fashion Runway Show with Recyclables and Opening Performance by Preschoolers of My First Skool @ Blk 688 Jurong West Central 1
10.20 am	My Preschool Shines @ South West 2018 Awards Presentation by GOH
10.30 am	My Preschool Shines @ South West 2019 Appointment Ceremony by GOH
10.40 – 11.30 am	Tour of Activity and Exhibition Booths K1 Classroom: Station 1: Memory Game on Good Habits made from cardboards/cards and pictures Station 2: Puzzles on Personal Hygiene made from cardboards/cards and pictures. K2 Classroom: Station 1: Making of a door curtain by tying scraps of cloth onto a piece of yarn string

Time	Programme
	<p>Station 2: Up-sized Snake and Ladders Game on Good Eco Acts made from boxes</p> <p>Nursery Classroom:</p> <p>Station 1: Sorting of recyclables – Papers, Plastics, and Cans into recycling bins</p> <p>Station 2: Litter-picking around maze set up with blocks; Children dressed in vests and equipped with tongs & recycling bags</p> <p><i>Media interview can be arranged, subject to media request.</i></p>
11.00 – 11.20 am	Environmental Skit
11.30 am	Departure of GOH
11.35 am	Reception