



Nurturing Character, Inspiring Minds

Welcome to the Repton Schoolhouse inaugural newsletter! Parents are by now familiar with the regular updates of happenings at school via the Repton Schoolhouse Communication App. You can look forward additionally to receiving a termly newsletter reporting on some highlights and keeping you in touch with what is coming up in the coming weeks.

It has been a fantastic start to the year and we are so grateful to our pioneer children and their families for the trust you have placed in the Repton Schoolhouse staff. We are looking forward to welcoming families commencing with us after Chinese New Year and at the beginning of next term and to building our community over the coming months.

Learning Partnership

One of the practices that sets Repton apart is our commitment to the 'learning partnership' ensuring quality communication and collaboration between home and school. On behalf of all the staff, thank you to all our parents for taking the time to complete the Early Years Questionnaire and for making the meetings with the teachers so worthwhile. Our aim is for school to be extension of home for the children and these meetings have really helped us to both bond with the children and establish routines which are comfortable and effective for them.

We hope you are all enjoying the regular updates on the Repton Schoolhouse Communication App. If you have not yet downloaded this, please pop by and Kristy will be more than happy to assist you. Please note, this is our main vehicle for communication with parents so please do monitor this closely so that you receive our alerts and announcements.

Parents are always welcome to be part of the learning at school and you are also welcome to meet with teachers if there is anything you would like to discuss at any time. In addition to this 'open door' approach, there are regular Parents and Teacher Conferences planned and the first of these is scheduled for the week beginning Monday 11th March.

School Bus Service

The Repton Schoolhouse bus service will commence in mid-February. This service will start with a bus from the West Coast and we plan to introduce a bus from the Tanglin area soon thereafter. Please do let us know if you are





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interested in exploring the bus service and we will work with the bus company to do our best to accommodate your needs.

Repton International Schools Visit

We were delighted to welcome Mr Mark Atkins (Operations) and Mr Ian Davenport (Curriculum) from Repton International (UK) to Singapore on 17th and 18th January. Having seen the Kindergarten site prior to renovation, they were absolutely delighted to have the chance to experience the school up and running and the beautiful environment the children and staff enjoy each day.

The RISL colleagues are very keen to meet you all and we hope they will be able to visit at the end of May when you will be invited for the end of term Celebration of Learning. More details to follow.

School Fee Payment Policy

Thank you, parents, for your patience and support as we establish processes for invoicing and payment of fees. We are pleased to report that there are now a number of payment methods including Pay Now, NETS and credit card payments. Please do contact Kristy if you have any questions or need assistance.

If you are withdrawing your child from Repton Schoolhouse, six (06) weeks' notice must be given before the commencement of the new term in writing and/or an official Student Withdrawal Form, which can be obtained from the Office. Verbal notification of withdrawal will not be accepted. The 6-week notification period excludes the school holidays, failing which, the security deposit will be forfeited. The notice of withdrawal date for this term is, Monday 4th February.

Chinese New Year

As you receive this newsletter, we are beginning to celebrate Chinese New Year at school. The school has been decorated beautifully with lanterns, traditional auspicious symbols and of course the children's stunning artwork. The children will be wearing traditional Chinese clothes on Monday and the color red will be in abundance as we celebrate this favourite festival.

Today we have been making dumplings, enjoying special craft activities, singing and dancing to Chinese New Year songs and will be having a lohei on Monday (捞鱼生 - yusheng salad toss)



Please take a look at the postings on Repton Schoolhouse Communication App or the school website for more information and photographs. Wishing our community:

新年快乐！(Xin Nian Kuai Le - Happy New Year!)

大吉大利！(Da Ji Da Li -Good Luck)





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Looking Ahead

Parents and Toddlers Playgroup

We will be commencing The Repton Schoolhouse Cheeky Monkeys Playgroup after Chinese New Year.

This group will be led by Yuan Armstrong, a highly motivated, professional who is passionate about Early Childhood Education and in particular Bilingual Education. Yuan has successfully led and established the Cheeky Monkey's Mandarin playgroups in Singapore and we are thrilled to welcome her to Repton Schoolhouse Singapore as the Parents and Toddlers Playgroup leader.

The groups will commence the week beginning 18th February and the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday — Parent & Toddler Group - 18 months - 3-year-old: 9.30am - 10.45am

Wednesday – Parent & Baby Group - 8 months – 18-month-old: 10.30am - 11.30am

Wednesday – Parent & Toddler Group - 2.5- 4-year-old: 3.30pm - 4.45pm

If you, friends or family members would like to enrol, please drop us an email to:

enquiry@repton.com.sg and we will send you the registration form. There is a weekly \$20.00 attendance fee.

Book Week

Book Week at school is from the 4th to the 8th of March. Lots of great literacy activities will be arranged for the children all week but we would also like to invite parents along to be a "Mystery Reader". This involves keeping your appearance to read a story to the children a secret and therefore a surprise. Children enjoy the suspense of who the Mystery Readers will be. As we are small, on occasion you might read to both classes especially if there are siblings involved.

If you are interested in participating, please contact your child's teacher. Please watch for an announcement next week with the teacher's email addresses. Together you can work out a time that is convenient to you and for the child. For example, the younger children might feel rather unsettled having said goodbye then you appear again and another goodbye has to be said and not as is the routine at the school entrance but in the classroom. We want our



children to remain happy so we would suggest being a mystery reader if this is the case at the end of the school day at (2.30-2.45pm) so a goodbye is not necessary and you can leave happily together.

Please make a note in your diaries and join us for this special literacy surprise. More details of Book Week will follow in our regular postings.

Repton Founders day Monday 11th March

The children will be learning more about our heritage on this day. We will be looking closely at our school crest and learning about the history of Repton.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are held at the end of term 1. Please keep a look out for the App notification with a selection of dates and times in the week commencing 11th March for you to make an appointment with your child's teacher



In Conclusion

Each term, we will be including a feature article highlighting an aspect of the Repton experience whether it be related to a particular curriculum area or an aspect of our approach or the wider Repton family. For this first edition of our newsletter, Kerry has prepared an article outlining the Repton Schoolhouse Garden School Project which sees the children enjoying weekly outdoor experiential learning. We hope you enjoy this window in to the children's learning.

We are sure parents will join us in giving our sincere thanks to the teaching team at Repton Schoolhouse for all the dedication, hard work and good will that





REPTON SCHOOLHOUSE

Singapore

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they have shown in establishing the school. They live the virtues each and every day and their commitment to excellence is such a gift to our school.

Finally, from everyone here at Repton Schoolhouse, wishing all our families a happy and prosperous Year of the Pig! Wishing you safe travels and peace and joy to you and your families!

The Repton Schoolhouse Team



Repton Schoolhouse's Garden School Project



Repton Schoolhouse's Garden School Project is a long-term commitment of regular sessions rather than one off infrequent visit. It takes place in a park, a garden, a woodland, a reserve or a natural setting. It helps develop resilient and confident learners. It gives our children a greater sense of well-being. We believe that this type of learning fosters a holistic development. Activities are designed and arranged, but rather than always being adult-led, the children are involved in the creation of the ideas and help in the planning. This way learning becomes more child initiated and led.

The Garden School Project can take place at a manicured city park, a nature reserve or even a beach. Children learn to care for the natural environment through their activities.





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The youngest children in our school, in Nursery may be involved in a scaled down version of the Garden School Project. Whereas our oldest children will be fully immersed in the design and are true orchestrators of their own learning.

The Garden School Project school helps children develop many skills that are hard to teach in the classroom. No matter how much we try to bring the outside in, it doesn't replace self-discovery, the smells and noises of nature. It is a physical experience, encouraging children to be more active. Children learn to assess, appreciate and take risks, making sensible, informed decisions about how to tackle activities and experiences they encounter. They are learning to design their own learning, to take care of themselves and each other, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem. Working as a team in a natural setting bonds children as a group. It also makes them aware of the need to care not only for each other but for the environment.

Our Garden School Project ties in with many areas of the curriculum. For example, being outdoors year-round helps children learn about weather and the seasons, we can study mini beasts and plant life and working on tasks like observational drawing develops our observational skills and creativity.

Children also benefit from the simple act of being outdoors. Being outside and amongst nature is calming. Research has shown that it improves mental and spiritual health, communication skills and social relationships, among other things.

Connecting children with nature also enhances their feeling of connectivity and belonging in the world. Because Repton Schoolhouse Garden Project learning is child-centered, the scope of the activities that can take place are enormous. Typical activities include:

- Sensory walks
- Foraging
- Building
- Mini beast hunts
- Tree climbing
- Nature art
- Games
- Sustainability projects



Learning opportunities are everywhere, but the trick is to empower children to discover these opportunities for themselves. By encouraging them to listen, question and investigate for themselves, learning and play inevitably start to work alongside each other.

Safety is paramount during The Garden School Project sessions. The children are encouraged to talk about safety, to assess risk for themselves, and come up with the rules, this is always with close adult guidance. We always take our water bottles and school hats. Thank you to parents for providing sunscreen and mosquito spray or patches. We take along first aid kits fully stocked for those scratches and scrapes because occasionally we are over enthusiastic!

Lots of schools arrange occasional outdoor excursions for children or have outside play but our Garden School Project is a regular, long-term process. Rather than playing “outside” or a field trip once a term the Garden School Project is a purposeful, fun, outdoor, nature-based learning that progressively involves the children in decision making and in turn further enhances their learning and holistic development.

