



RAFFLES  
GIRLS' SCHOOL

# RGS Staff Awards 2020

FILIAE MELIORIS AEVI



# Mrs Leung Hui Leng



**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Mrs Leung Hui Leng has excelled as a Design and Technology (D&T) teacher. She is passionate about her subject matter, in promoting STEM education and in sharing her professional knowledge with colleagues and the teaching fraternity.

Mrs Leung teaches D&T to the Year 1s in RGS. She is committed to creating a well-designed curriculum to maximise the learning of the subject, both technical as well as conceptual. She invests time in crafting learning opportunities for her students and is constantly keeping up with the latest pedagogy and technology to support effective teaching.

She continually reflects and refines the D&T lessons with her colleagues, and also engages the support of the workshop assistant to create samples and materials to engage the students. She uses IT platforms to track the progress of learning by students and provides materials for their self-directed learning.

Mrs Leung is also a dedicated mentor to students whilst promoting innovation and use of technology. She has taken students to conferences and competitions where they present their works to the education fraternity.

She worked closely with her counterpart, Mr Yeo Puay Hong, in planning, engaging vendors and monitoring the enrichment courses for the Year 1 level-wide coding training.

As an ST, she actively seeks to support the learning of her colleagues across different departments and subject areas. She reads up and attends courses on the latest pedagogical approaches or technological platforms that can be tapped on to support quality lessons. She advocates bringing rigour to classrooms through research-supported lesson design and student assessment which will help the students learn content, think critically and work collaboratively. Her latest efforts include an exploration of AI with Apple Singapore (Reality Composer) and she shared the lesson with the teaching fraternity in Singapore.

Mrs Leung is deserving of the Excellence in Teaching Award for her professionalism in the classroom and her dedication to reflective practices and continuous improvement through innovation amongst teachers.

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# Mdm Tan Bee Lain



**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Mdm Tan Bee Lain is an experienced, dedicated, and engaging teacher as well as a curriculum leader who is respected by her colleagues. She entered the teaching service in 1989 and has taught in RGS for about 27 years. She is one of the longest serving Assistant Head in RGS.

Mdm Tan uses a wide repertoire of methodologies in her teaching. Her lessons are engaging and purposeful, customised to cater to different learning styles and needs. She is especially good at engaging with students who are weaker in the language. She breaks down difficult concepts to make them easier for students to comprehend and apply. By incorporating student-centered activities when teaching complex concepts, students learn and are motivated to improve.

She is extremely patient and caring towards her students. She spends many afternoons engaging in one-on-one consultation sessions with her students.

During the 'circuit breaker' period, she leveraged on technology and met her students online, up till the week before the 'O' Level Examinations. She is very forthcoming and motherly and her students open up to her very easily.

They are willing to share personal experiences in learning the mother tongue language as well as their personal struggles with stress and studies.

As an Assistant Head, Mdm Tan, has been exemplary in mentoring and guiding teachers and has played an instrumental role in designing engaging lessons with her team of teachers. She has exacting standards in teaching practice and expects the same of those she works with. It is clear to all that her intentions are always focused on how the students can benefit, learn and grow

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# Mr Benedict Chua



MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr Benedict Chua has guided students in many areas, from MEP to RS in Year 2 to SVIA and organising R-Factor this year. During MEP lessons, he engages his students with humorous and accessible lessons. He also takes the time to answer questions by students with patience, and even over weekends.

A student who benefitted from his close mentoring recounted that during RS in Year Two, he not only guided her in music research but also showed concern for her overall well-being, checking in with her regularly. He also pushed her to stretch her potential by giving her novel ideas to explore. This year, for SVIA, he gave her the opportunity to grow in terms of event organisation and leadership skills by guiding and teaching her to delegate the duties and not shoulder all the work herself. He also coached her team to reach greater heights by requiring very high-quality podcasts from them and constantly provided ideas to help the team stay current and make their project a success.

With R-Factor, he gave the core organising team ample room to grow and try out their ideas by providing a safe environment and helpful, timely feedback. He was also very patient with the team when they made mistakes or overlooked details.

As a CCA teacher-in-charge of Band Symphonic, he ensured that the ExCo kept to the vision of the CCA - to use music to inspire and connect people. During the 'circuit breaker' period when CCA was suspended, he encouraged the CCA members to step out of their comfort zones and produce online chamber videos (a rather challenging feat for an 80-strong, music CCA) - so as to use music to uplift people's spirits. As musicians, this helped to turn a rather bleak situation into one that stretched their talents. This large project allowed them to develop their leadership skills, while providing a platform for the CCA to continue making music.

His recommendation to take on this project also allowed the students to see, first-hand, how music was able to encourage the hearts of their peers. In MEP, he would constantly remind his students that their talents in music must be used to serve the community and not be self-serving. For one student who was losing her way in her music journey in Year 2, Mr Chua noticed her and stepped in to understand her sentiments at the time and used his own personal experiences as a musician to help her re-evaluate the direction in her music journey and find fulfilment through intrinsic motivation rather than the pursuit of achievements and competitions.

**“From large-group coaching in CCA and MEP to mentoring individual students, Mr Chua has developed in his students a deep passion for music, and, more importantly, a deeper appreciation for what they can do with their talents.”**



# Mr Lim Shi Zhi



FRIEND OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Mr Lim Shi Zhi is a deserving candidate for this award as he has gone beyond his job scope not only to execute the work expected of him, but also led by example. Through these efforts, he advances RGS' Strategic Goal to serve as a Practitioner in service of nation and community (Strat Thrust 2 (I2.1)).

Besides overseeing the school's VIA programme in his capacity as Assistant Head, Service Learning, Mr Lim also leads by example by mentoring several Student-Initiated Values In Action (SVIA) Projects teams each year. This year, Mr Lim continues to mentor 3 SVIA teams in partnering Social Service Agencies (SSAs) to advocate for various causes such as integration of migrant workers and supporting underprivileged children.

Mr Lim is also one of the programme coordinators for RGS Triple C (Care, Collaboration, Community) Programme, a student mentorship and service learning programme where RGS students in the programme are each paired with a student from one of the 3 partner primary schools in the Braddell Toa Payoh area to mentor them in carrying out service learning projects together.

When one of the teacher mentors for the programme left the school, Mr Lim stepped up to be one of the Teacher-mentors, so that the programme could continue smoothly and the students would continue to have guidance from an adult authority.

**“Mr Lim Shi Zhi has helped substantially in placing the school's core values of having a “heart for service” into action, and making a difference in supporting the greater good as a socially responsible citizen and member of the RGS community.”**

Despite the challenges faced in carrying out student VIA activities due to the safe management measures meted out for schools, Mr Lim continued to facilitate collaboration and partnerships with new and existing partners through either the use of technology or alternative forms of engagement. To ensure the continuity of programmes for the students, he worked with one of our established partners, HCA Hospice, to continue to run the Young Caregivers Programme via an online platform this year.

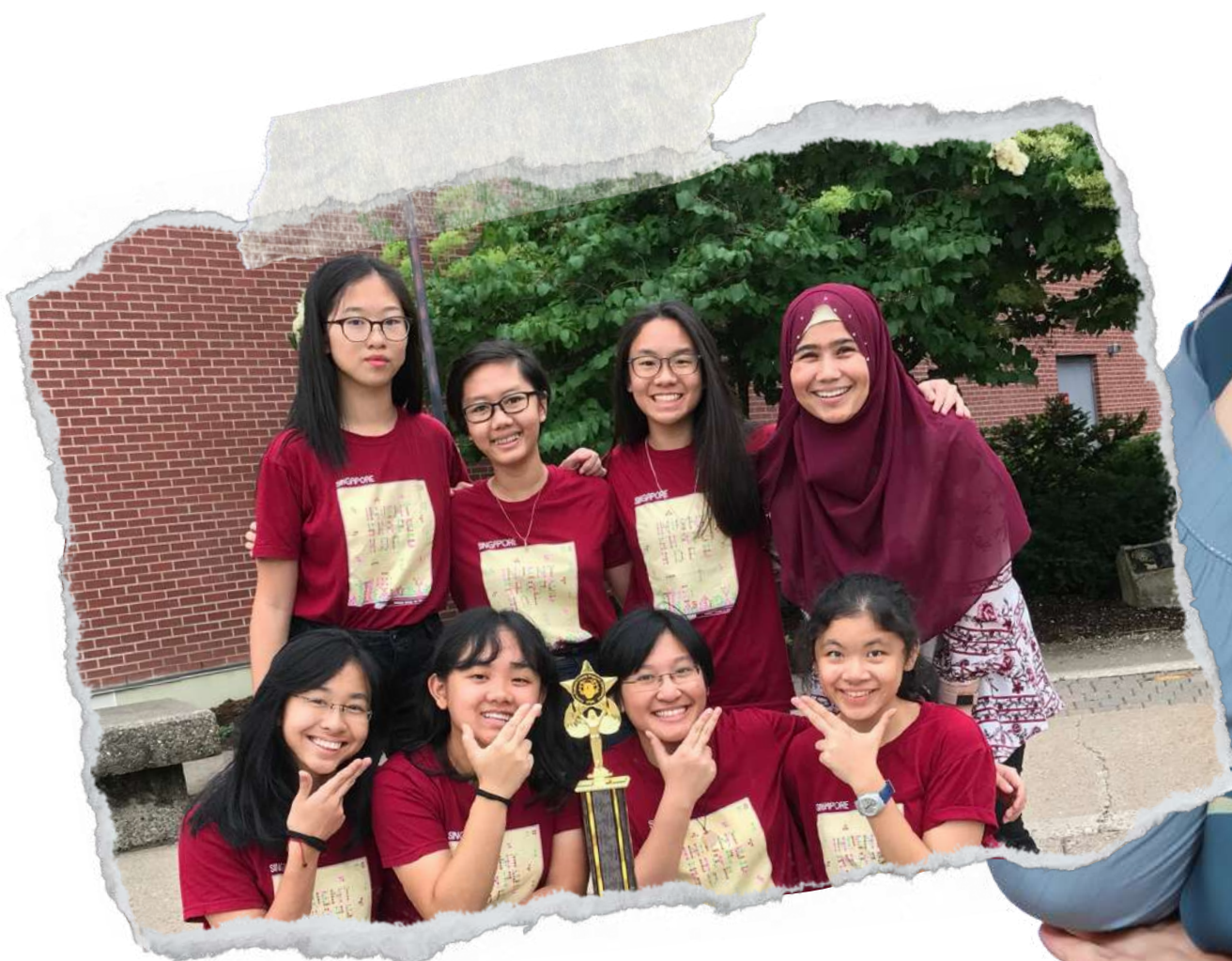
Mr Lim also actively looks out for volunteering opportunities and engages students to participate in these programmes. One of the new initiatives this year that he has facilitated is the participation of our students in a project by Lions Befrienders (in collaboration with National Library Board) to interview and document the stories of seniors.

When approached with ideas for collaboration and partnership opportunities, Mr Lim will try to involve student volunteers and project teams to bring these ideas to fruition. One of the partners in the Braddell Toa-Payoh area, Good Shepherd Student Care (GSSC), approached Mr Lim with a collaboration idea to run a shoe donation drive for a non-profit organisation, Soles4Souls, during the September school holidays. Despite the short timeline, Mr Lim took up the opportunity and engaged students from the Triple C Programme to successfully partner and run the campaign together with GSSC and partner school First Toa Payoh Primary School.

Since moving to our new campus in Oct 2019, Mr Lim has been deepening the engagement with organisations in the Braddell Toa Payoh area, so as to build a positive image and enhance the presence of the school in the area. The vibrancy of the student VIA programme and 5 ongoing partnerships with various organisations are testaments to his commitment to promote a culture of service to the community in the school.



# Ms Norhuda Binte Mohamed Sadekan



CARING TEACHER AWARD

A dedicated teacher who believes in balancing positive discipline with kindness and understanding, Ms Norhuda is earnest in helping her students grow. As a Form and Subject teacher, she sets clear expectations for all her classes and holds every student accountable for her actions. She expects every student to put her best foot forward and shows understanding when they fall short. When the class is tired, she energises them; when they struggle, she writes them notes of encouragement; when students are quiet, she encourages them to speak up.

This is a teacher who believes in knowing her students individually. She monitors their work closely and finds the time to speak with them one-on-one. Using their reflections and other feedback, especially during the Circuit Breaker and when we returned to school, she used her skills as a Math teacher to analyse

the information and use them to help her better understand the needs of her Form class.

Because she knows her students well, she is sharp and quick to notice when they are not themselves or are going through some struggles. She would check in with them immediately to find out if they are ok and would not hesitate to provide the support needed, involving parents and other teachers and staff to ensure full support is given.

Her students value her quick responses to their needs, both academic and socio-emotional, and deeply appreciate her love and attention. For her commitment and dedication in caring for and developing each student under her charge holistically, Ms Norhuda is a deserving recipient of the RGS Caring Teacher Award.



**“A dedicated teacher who believes in balancing positive discipline with kindness and understanding, Ms Norhuda is earnest in helping her students grow holistically.”**



# Ms Goh Li Meng



CARING TEACHER AWARD

“Extremely patient”, “inspiring” and “affirming” - these are some of the words students often use to describe Ms Goh.

As a Subject teacher, she is attentive and caring, ensuring that the classroom is a safe and conducive place for learning. By leaving motivating remarks on worksheets and assignments and tirelessly coaching those in need, by noticing when students are down and helping them to not fall behind, and by providing additional resources to those who are ready for stretch, her faith in the ability of her students has deepened their confidence in and broadened their worldview of the subject.

Aside from being an inspiring subject teacher, she has also taken on the role of

Co-Form Teacher with pride and passion, going into class even when she is not ‘on duty’, walking around and connecting with the students with encouraging words and reassurances. Always looking out for their emotional well-being and providing a listening ear to their concerns, she helps her students look beyond the curriculum and themselves, and in doing so has helped them grow in confidence.

For her commitment and dedication in caring for and developing each student under her charge holistically, Ms Goh Li Meng is a deserving recipient of the RGS Caring Teacher Award.



**“Always looking out for their emotional well-being and providing a listening ear to their concerns, Ms Goh helps her students look beyond the curriculum and themselves, and in doing so has helped them grow in confidence.”**





# Ms Michelle Liu

CARING TEACHER AWARD

This caring teacher places top priority on the well-being of her students. She takes a keen interest in them and spends time getting to know them and in building their trust in her. She checks in on the class consistently and reaches out to those who are down by offering a listening ear and cheering them up with inspiring words. She also works closely in partnership with the parents in support and care for their daughters.

During the Circuit Breaker period, Ms Liu constantly encouraged her students to stay positive and optimistic by sharing meaningful quotes from different people. She even set up a mailbox system for students to ask for advice anonymously when they are stressed, and her class has come to trust her and shares with her their worries.

Her willingness to let her hair down in participating actively in the EXCO initiated activities has encouraged her students to take part in class initiatives enthusiastically, forging strong bonds within the class.

The same willingness sees her putting aside many hours after class to answer her students' questions patiently and her students appreciate the great empathy she shows in helping close the gaps in learning.

For her consistent demonstration of care and concern for her students, and her commitment to developing every girl under her care, Ms Michelle Liu, is a deserving recipient of the RGS Caring Teacher Award.



**“This caring teacher places top priority on the well-being of her students. Ms Liu even set up a mailbox system for students to ask for advice anonymously when they are stressed, and her class has come to trust her and shares with her their worries.”**



# Ms Regina Lee



CARING TEACHER AWARD

This recipient of the Caring Teacher award this year epitomizes the very name of this award. She carries the enormous responsibility and critical mission of seeing that every student in this school is well cared for by every member of staff and the student body. However, what distinguishes her this year is her close attention to individual students or groups of students who have benefitted from her selfless efforts to ensure their total well-being, be it in the teaching and learning environment or when a student is faced with a particularly challenging circumstance.

She ensures that the instruction to her students in RA2.0 is always well balanced in a way that it provides just enough scaffold and that they are guided throughout the entire process, but yet challenging enough so that they continue to learn and develop the skills necessary for the programme. During these sessions, she will talk them through the problem solving process with ease and a consciousness of the need to balance 'the stretch or challenge' with the sensitivity towards the students' self-belief and self-esteem. She listens to their ideas and pays close attention to their feelings as every fragile idea, however simple or complex, silly or clever, can be a student's best efforts.

At the individual level, she showed great patience and compassion in guiding a student who was facing a very difficult time in her family life. She offered help and guidance so that the student could learn from her mistakes and navigate through her confusing situation, with continued support even during HBL. She helped the student make sense of her 'immature thoughts' and always seemed to notice everything about the student even when she didn't see these things about herself. She always made the student feel safe and made time to listen to her and work on her decision-making skills, turning mistakes into potential for growth. Her efforts have been cherished by the students because she goes the extra mile for them, especially those in particular need.

For her selfless demonstration of sincere concern for her students, and her unwavering belief that every student has the potential to grow with constant care from her peers as well as the adults in her life, Ms Regina Lee, is a deserving recipient of the RGS Caring Teacher Award.

**“Ms Lee epitomizes the very name of this award. Her students have benefitted from her selfless efforts to ensure their total well-being, be it in the teaching and learning environment or when a student is faced with a particularly challenging circumstance.”**