

Establishing a Butterfly Garden: Grade 1 Action as Service project

26th February 2013

Dear Parents,

The PYP philosophy encourages all students to reflect on their learning and make contributions to their local and global communities on issues related to people and the environment. This approach to service can range from small everyday actions like picking up garbage to wider reaching projects like a whole school recycling system.



At ISS each grade level is responsible for developing an *Action as Service* project. These projects have learning components that are linked to developing skills, knowledge and awareness that characterize responsible citizens. Action as Service projects are directly linked to at least one unit of inquiry at the grade level. They are guided by teachers and involve active participation by students. This year our fourth unit of inquiry, 'How the World Works', focused on life cycles. We studied the life cycle of butterflies and compared this with the life cycles of other animals. We also considered how these life cycles can be interrupted or threatened.



Around the world there are many cities establishing butterfly trails, as butterfly numbers are an indication of air quality in an environment. The Nature Society of Singapore has the Orchard Butterfly Trail, which provides shrubs for caterpillars to feed on and nectar plants for butterflies. Discussions with the Nature Society of Singapore led us to looking at our school environment to develop our own garden. We can contribute to a national programme of conservation and protection of species of butterflies and the cycle of nature for the plants and animals involved. The advantages of having a garden at school are that the children see plants they have chosen (or helped to choose) growing around our playing areas. They can monitor the caterpillars and butterflies for science and maths investigations in a way that directly involves them with nature.

With funding from our Fun Fair stalls last year and generous support from the PTA we have purchased some plants and caterpillars to start off our project. We have 10 planter troughs situated outside Room 9, where there is easy access for the children to the plants and where there is sufficient sunshine for the butterflies. Grade 1 started planting this week.

This is an ongoing project and we have a responsibility to maintain the garden with weeding, mulching, watering, and replacing plants. Our annual PTA Fun Fair would also be a funding opportunity for the garden.

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Grade 1 Team