



A Nanyang Venture

4°C Café at the Backyard Garden

by Teo Min Ru (414)

On the afternoon of 15 August, a usually quiet corner of the school was abuzz with activity—the Backyard Project was being launched on Founders' Day with great festivity as guests, teachers and students gathered to witness the occasion.

Our story began in 2012: The graduating class of 2012 made a monetary gift to the school, which was intended for landscaping purposes. The first jasmine seedling was planted in November last year. In July this year, under the guidance of the dedicated GUI (Ground-up Initiative) team, students from all levels and CCAs came together to continue the story. Two weeks of intensive labour saw students digging, brick-laying, transplanting and sowing to transform a patch of grass into the vibrant space we now call the Backyard Garden and 4°C Café. Students and teachers alike have also pitched in their artistic skills, green expertise and even logistical support (in the form of cups and utensils), making it truly a place to call our own.

The project is centred around sustainability education, providing an avenue for close contact with nature (have you seen our resident toads?) and adopting a responsible consumerist policy, with fair-trade coffee being the highlight of the café menu, and all wooden furniture being made from trees cut down on Sentosa Island. Some have already enjoyed a cup of coffee in the sunny comfort of the backyard, and some classes now head to the garden for out-of-the-classroom Geography and IH lessons. Without doubt, this community space will continue to grow with collective environmental responsibility.

Just an increase of four degrees Celsius is enough to turn our planet earth into barren wasteland. Yet with a passionate community, started with a dream and a jasmine planted in a backyard, we have the power to do so much more.

"This has been a very meaningful journey and there is still a long way to go. I certainly hope that the place will thrive and more people in the school will join us!"

~ Mr Lim Cheng Puay,
Experiential Learning department

"A fantastic place to chill out, relax and reflect."

~ Mr Sean Yeoh, PE department

"I think the backyard project is wonderful as it allows students to be responsible for a part of our school.

I first visited the café during the grand opening, and was heartened to see my schoolmates working together and trying their best even though running a café is, to many, a completely foreign experience.

All the best!"

~ Yap Yun Qi (414)

