

Servant Leaders

The Servant Leader is one who is a servant first. It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. This is the level of care taken by the servant – first to make sure that other people’s highest priority needs are being served. The best test is: do those served grow as persons; “do they while being served become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?”

We quote from Robert Greenleaf who discussed this Servant Leadership model that puts serving others as the number one priority. Servant Leadership emphasizes increased service to others, promoting a sense of community and the sharing of power in decision making.

It is relevant to discuss the link between Service and Leadership. As Term 3 beckons, we emphasise the Strength of Character that links us to develop our feelings and actions for our fellow citizens.

There are ten characteristics of servant leaders further identified by Larry Spears.

1. Listening
2. Empathy
3. Healing
4. Awareness
5. Persuasion
6. Conceptualisation
7. Foresight
8. Stewardship
9. Commitment to the growth of people
10. Building Community

In NUS High, we want to develop this sense of service to others and for many to contribute to society through our pioneering efforts. We also hope to develop our sense of connection to society by developing our empathy and sense of compassion for those who have less than us.

The NUS High service motto is, “As Leaders We Serve!”

1. Robert Greenleaf (2002), *Servant Leadership: A journey into the nature of legitimate power and greatness* (25th anniversary ed.). New York: Paulist Press.

2. Larry Spears (1998), *Insights on leadership: Service, stewardship, spirit, and servant-leadership*. New York: Wiley.

2 Simple Ways to Promote Character At Home

1. Encourage and expect students to admit to their mistakes and seek to correct them.
2. Collect interesting, thought provoking quotes that allow for reflection, discussion and writing.

STORY LINE

Contributing Community Member

Several kids in the neighbourhood were teaming up to help elderly people clean and fix their homes. John was not excited - extra work did not sound fun at all. But his mom really wanted him to help out. So for three weeks, he and the other kids did chores that were not hard for them but were tough for the older neighbours: lawn mowing, replacing ceiling light bulbs, hammering down a loose step, and painting a cupboard door. As John did more chores and got to know more of his neighbours, he began to enjoy the work. He loved doing the yard work best of all. As he looked at the neatly trimmed shrubs and smelled Mrs Chan’s freshly mowed lawn, he felt great about his contribution to the neighbourhood. He took a big bag of weeds to the garbage dumpster and met Mrs Chan on his way back to the house. “May I bring some flowers from home and plant them around your mailbox?” he asked her.

“Why of course, John,” she replied, smiling kindly. “They’ll be a nice treat every time I get the mail.”

John had a lot of fun hanging out with the other kids and helping people who needed it. Their work made a big difference in the neighbourhood and it felt good to see how grateful the elderly neighbours were.

Anne D Mather & Lousie B Weldon

ACE Lessons in Term 3

During the June Holidays, our student leaders attended various leadership seminars. The South West Student Leaders Conference, the Hwa Chong Institution Student Leaders Conference, the MGS Conference, Global Young Leaders Conference in US, were such seminars attended by our various student leaders.

For the third term ACE lessons, activities that are aligned to the Strength of Character **Contributing Community Member and Democratic Citizen** include Multi Racial Singapore, the study of Exemplary Citizens, Personal Leadership, student presentations on Leadership and Service and Social issues and the study of Global Issues like terrorism. There will also be enrichment programmes like visits to Parliament, Be in Control and DISC for the different levels.



Heart@ NUS High

Here in NUS High, we truly believe that active participation in community service will imbue our students with a deep sense of social responsibility, compassion and empathy. With that passion in mind, we work towards shaping our students into people of character, seeking always to be a blessing to others. We have initiated a wide range of activities as well as given students the freedom to explore and run their own service-learning projects under the supervision of various mentor teachers.

The activities that have/will be taking place in 2007 are:

1. **Project Joy** (picture 1)
 - students distribution of Oranges during the Lunar New Year to the neighbouring blocks
2. **Project Star** for beneficiaries of Southwest CDC (picture 2)
 - teachers and students folding of stars and the penning of inspirational messages to encourage the underprivileged
3. **Project Passion** for Bukit Batok Home (picture 3)
 - painting of art work for dormitory decoration at Bukit Batok Home for the Aged
4. **Project Hong Bao** for Touch Community Services (TCS)
5. **Project International Childhood Cancer Day** for Children Cancer Foundation
6. **Grow A Library Project** for Timor Leste and collection of 700 books.
7. **Project Sphere** and our continuing outreach to elderly residents in Clementi through a range of activities like popiah-making and kite-flying
8. **Project Youth for Causes**, a social entrepreneurship project (in aid of SPCA)
9. **Take the City Walk** (in support of TCS)
10. **Yellow Ribbon Project** (giving ex-offenders a new lease of life)
11. **The Singapore Duck Race** (in support of TCS)



Also, in the works are plans for a global outreach via a service-learning trip in December. The myriad of activities, coupled by initiatives by the student body (ranging from events like the selling of cookies to raise funds to raising awareness on children cancer through story-telling at local kindergartens) go hand in hand in fostering a lively environment of service in the school.

NE@NUS High School

Onwards, Upwards, Forwards

The NE Ambassadors play an instrumental role in promoting citizenship awareness and good citizenry among our students. In addition to organizing the four key National Education Initiatives, they also contribute to the social, economic and democratic awareness of our students by articulating national issues through the various NE initiatives and other platforms like the NE Board and the NE Seminar and Forums. In NUS High we strongly believe in the dictum that our students, besides excelling in the Math and Sciences should also become excellent citizens, and should have a global outlook yet stay rooted to Singapore. This year also saw the formation of the NE Ambassadors (NEA) team to spread the message of good citizenry.

The four major NE initiatives are Total Defence Day (Feb), International Friendship Day (Apr), Racial Harmony Day (Jul) and National Day (Aug). Besides these, there are also the bi-annual NE survey for the Yr2 and Yr4 students and the annual NE Quiz for all Yr 4 students. On top of this the NEA have also participated in the environmental awareness week to commemorate Earth Day. The objective is to promote the importance of saving the environment for us and the future generations.

The NEA will also be working with the councillors to promote the importance of social cohesion among the students by organizing ethnic games during the coming Cross Country event on 20 Jul (which falls during the Racial Harmony Week). They also act as guides for their peers for the viewing of the Internal Security Department (ISD) Racial Harmony Display in the school hall from 16 Jul to 19 Jul. In line with the school's aim to increase the students' current affairs awareness, the NEA will also be launching 'Flashback', an initiative to increase the general knowledge of the student population. Every Thursdays starting from Semester 2, the NEA will be announcing during morning assemblies what happened in Singapore and the world on that particular date.

Another important project the NEA will be undertaking will be the NE Seminar to be held in August in conjunction with the National Day month. The NE seminar is a joint effort with NUS' Political Science Department and Political Science Society.

Also in the pipeline are possible outreach programmes with schools in the cluster and Mindef and MCYS. In the long run the school's NE Planning Committee aims to propel NUS High into a centre of excellence in the area of National Education.

Quote

"Ask not what the nation has done for you, but you can do for the nation"
J F Kennedy (former US President)

STORY LINE

Democratic Citizen

In NUS High, we give emphasis on developing a responsible democratic citizen. We want our students to become individuals who are aware of their democratic rights, express their opinions responsibly and contribute to their community.

We provide platforms for our students to exercise these democratic rights. Students have regular **Dialogue Sessions** with the principals to discuss issues that they are concern with. The school has a **Student Suggestion Scheme** run by the Student Council. Students also **meet with Ministers** and Senior Civil Servants to discuss issues. Student Leaders also attend **Parliamentary sessions** to witness our political leaders in action.

Moreover, we have **Student Elections** for our Student Council. Nominees are given an opportunity to promote themselves through a week long nomination and publicity campaign. There is an **Elections Day** where students get to vote for their representatives in polling booths. The entire election process is independently witnessed by the **Student Elections Committee** represented by student leaders.

These processes are overseen by our NE Committee, the Humanities Department and Student Leadership Committee.