



THE ELIASIAN

2026 STUDENT EDITION

Editorial note

This year, the theme “Growing Together” was chosen for the newsletter to reflect how we – students, staff, parents, and partners – grow as one Elias Park Primary School (EPPS) community, learning, adapting and thriving side by side.

This theme also showcases how the EPPS community comes together in meaningful ways: through to nurture students’ social-emotional growth, strengthen home-school partnerships, and build a caring and inclusive culture where everyone has a part to play.

We hope you take as much delight in reading these articles as the students did in putting them together.

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2026 Student Journalists

Teacher advisors: Mdm Afiqah Liyana and Mr Liu Zhiming

Growing Together from the Start

By: Charlotte Lim Yi Xuan, Hang Yu Ning, Lim Si En Emma, Xu Xinyue

From packing their own bags to buying food independently, the transition from preschool to Primary 1 is a major milestone in every child's life. While this new chapter brings excitement and opportunities for growth, it can also come with feelings of anxiety and uncertainty for both children and parents. Thus, at EPPS, we are cognisant of the importance of the "whole village" support system.

In this article, we explore how MK @ Elias Park educators, EPPS school teachers, parents, and peers work together to help the Primary 1 students navigate this transition with confidence. Through insights shared by the two groups of educators, as well as students' experiences, we gain a deeper understanding of how children are gradually prepared socially, emotionally and academically to feel safe, supported, and ready to thrive in their new environment.

Preparing Children for the Next Step

We spoke to two MOE Kindergarten educators, Ms Sherissa and Mrs Azar, who shared how they prepare Kindergarten 2 (K2) students for this transition. They explained that many of these students enter Primary 1 with strong foundations in language, numeracy, and communication. At the same time, they emphasised that social-emotional readiness, such as managing routines independently and expressing their needs confidently, is just as important for a child's overall development. Together, these skills help children succeed academically while navigating real-world challenges with confidence.



At MK @ Elias Park, the students are gradually prepared so that they feel less anxious and more excited about entering a new environment. Instead of seeing Primary 1 as something unfamiliar, they begin to view it as a bigger space to learn and grow. Mrs Azar shared that children are introduced progressively to Primary 1 routines and experiences. Children are even given opportunities to explore a primary school setting, helping the transition feel more familiar and less overwhelming.

She also shared that many parents worry about whether their child will be able to make friends, become independent, or keep up with others. Some are concerned that if their child falls behind, the gap will continue to widen. However, through early exposure and strong support from both school and home, both children and parents are reassured that they are not alone, and that everyone grows together at their own pace.

"I can pack my own bag now!"

"I'm not scared to ask for help anymore!"

Mrs Azar noted that these proud voices from the K2 students remind every educator at MK@Elias Park that every small step matters.

Growing Together through Encouragement and Support

Ms Sherissa shared that comparing children can make them feel insecure, and she reminded parents that every child grows differently. Reflecting on her experiences, she shared, “After two years with the children, I will miss their smiles, but I am confident they will do well. It is their time to shine. While I was teaching them, I was also learning from them. It was a journey of growing together.”

The K2 graduation year-end celebration also serves as a meaningful milestone, marking how children have grown in confidence, independence and responsibility as they prepare to take their next step.



Building confidence, friendships and joyful memories, one lesson at a time

A “Whole Village” Effort at EPPS

This journey of growing together continues at EPPS, where the transition from K2 to Primary 1 is seen as a shared community effort. From the moment students step into EPPS, teachers and the senior students work together to help them feel welcomed, safe, and confident in their new environment.

To support students during this transition, every Primary 1 student is paired with a Primary 4 buddy during recess. Through this buddy programme, the seniors guide and care for their younger peers, helping them settle into school routines, make new friends, and navigate the school with greater confidence.

We also had the opportunity to speak to two Primary 1 students about their first day of school.

For Isaiah from Primary 1 Service, his first day of school felt “new and scary”. He was worried that he would not be able to make friends, but his buddy quickly helped him settle in.

“He showed me around and helped me to buy food,” Isaiah shared.

Jemma, also from Primary 1 Service, described feeling both “nervous and excited”. With guidance and encouragement from her buddy, the school soon felt less overwhelming.



Big buddies, little buddies – growing and learning together from day one



Supporting Students Every Step of the Way

Teachers also play an important role in helping students adapt to their new environment. We interviewed two Primary 1 teachers to learn more about how they support students during this transition.

Ms Joyce Khong shared that she focuses on helping students feel safe and settled through clear routines and strong teacher-student relationships. Similarly, Mrs Natascha Rodrigues explained that she uses consistent signals and structures to help students feel secure and ready to learn. She added that for students who feel apprehensive, teachers need to take small and steady steps, while offering encouragement and reassurance to help build confidence over time.

Mrs Rodrigues concurred that parents are also an important part of this journey. Through regular updates and shared moments on Parents Gateway, teachers remain connected with families. This strong home-school partnership helps ensure that children feel supported both in and out of school.



Growing Confidently Together

The transition to Primary 1 is a significant milestone, but no student goes through it alone. When students, teachers and parents work together, students can grow in confidence, independence and resilience.

At EPPS, this journey is about more than preparing children for Primary 1; it is about growing, learning, and succeeding together as one caring community - together from the start.



Navigating a Digital World Together



By: Adnan Hamzah Bin Azrulnizam Shah Dylan Brent Ong,
Mikaal Waraqah Ibkaar Darke, Muhammad Bin Mirza Abdat

Technology will not replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.” – George Couros

At EPPS, this quote reminds us of something important: even as classrooms continue to evolve, the heart of learning remains the same. What has changed is the way we learn, teach, and grow together.

In this article, we explore how teaching and learning are progressively evolving in the digital age. Through our interview with Mr Liu Zhiming, English Language teacher, we also gain first-hand insights into how digital tools are being used in the classroom, how teachers design meaningful learning experiences, and how technology is supporting students' learning in more engaging and personalised ways.

Growing Together Through Change

Today, lessons are no longer limited to textbooks and worksheets. With digital tools, learning has become more interactive, engaging, and meaningful. Students are now able to explore ideas through videos, simulations, online platforms, and collaborative activities. These experiences help them understand concepts more deeply and express their thoughts in more creative ways.

Mr Liu shared that technology also provides teachers with better ways to support students. Through digital tools and learning data, teachers are able to better understand students' needs and adjust their teaching accordingly. This ensures that every student is supported in their learning journey and that no one is left behind.

Learning with Care and Responsibility

While technology provides many exciting opportunities, students also understand that it comes with responsibility. At EPPS, students are taught not only how to use technology, but also how to be responsible digital citizens. This includes learning about online safety, showing respect to others online, and using information responsibly. These are important life skills that will help students thrive in today's digital world and beyond.

At the same time, Mr Liu emphasised that technology is only a tool. While it supports learning, it cannot replace human connection. A caring teacher, a supportive classmate, and strong relationships will always remain at the heart of the learning journey.



Learning from one another

During the interview, Mr Liu shared that platforms such as the Student Learning Space (SLS) and tools like the Short Answer Feedback Assistant (SAFA) or Speech Evaluation allow students to receive timely feedback on their work. This enables them to revise their work and explore new ideas with greater confidence.

He also explained that when students, for example, listen to recorded responses and receive feedback from both their peers and the audio recording-feedback features, they gain a better understanding of different viewpoints while improving their fluency. Through such experiences, students and teachers are able to learn together in meaningful ways.



“What matters is that technology is used not to replace thinking, but to enhance learning.” – Mr Liu Zhiming

Facing challenges and growing stronger

Mr Liu also recalled that both students and teachers initially faced challenges as they adjusted to new digital tools. There were moments of technical difficulty, and patience was needed as everyone learnt to navigate the new systems. However, these challenges gradually became valuable learning experiences.

As students navigated new digital tools, they demonstrated resilience, adaptability and patience. Many also stepped forward to support their classmates, showing leadership and kindness. Through these experiences, the EPPS values of endeavour, love, and integrity were clearly displayed.



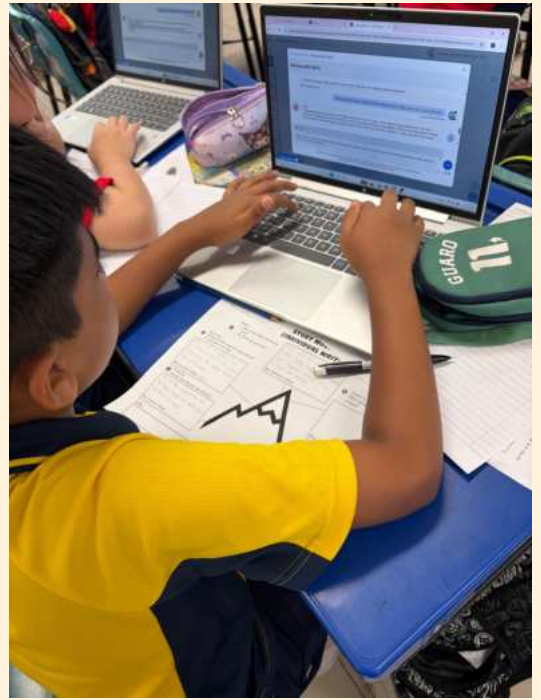
Students using ICT tools for collaborative learning and formative assessment



A wider world of learning

Beyond the classroom, Mr Liu highlighted that tools such as Kahoot, Padlet and Google Docs have made learning more enjoyable, interactive and engaging. These platforms encourage collaboration, teamwork and friendly competition while still allowing students to learn at their own pace.

Continuous updates to platforms like SLS also show how technology is evolving to better meet students' needs, making learning more accessible and meaningful for everyone.



Using AI Learning Assistant on Student Learning Space for idea generation.

Growing stronger as one EPPS community

As the school continues to move forward in this digital world, teachers continue to refine their teaching practices while students discover new ways to learn. Students are also given opportunities to share their digital skills and support their teachers. Mr Liu shared that this shared learning strengthens relationships and builds confidence among both teachers and students.

Most importantly, students are reminded that learning is not a journey they go through alone. It is also a partnership between school and home. With the support of parents, teachers, and friends, students are able to grow and learn each day. When everyone works together, students feel more confident, supported and ready to do their be



Making learning fun and engaging through digital learning experiences.

Leading the Way as One

By: Emeline Hana Tjan Emma Michelle Tamara, Glenda Tan Yi Le Serafina Olivia Gan

We are a firm believer that all stakeholders play a part in creating a positive learning environment. While students learn and grow in school, teachers and parent volunteers work hard to guide and support them. Together, they form a caring community that continues to learn and improve as one.

This year, EPPS is beginning an exciting new chapter, and our school community is growing stronger together, with the addition of two new stakeholders. In this article, we interviewed these two newest stakeholders, our Principal, Mdm Nurazian Bajuri, and Parent Support Group (PSG) Chairperson, Mdm Jeslyn Tan, to gain their valuable insight into how the school and families can work hand in hand to help every Eliasian grow and succeed.

Building a caring school community

During the interview, Mdm Azian shared that she feels happiest when she sees students coming to school cheerful and ready to learn each day. She also expressed her appreciation for the teachers, whom she described as dedicated and committed to always doing their best for their students.

Mdm Azian believes that learning is not only about performing well in examinations, but also about giving one's best effort, reflecting on ways to improve, and learning from mistakes. She hopes that all Eliasians will grow into independent learners who enjoy learning and find meaning in what they do.



Photos of our student reporters with Mdm Azian



Strengthening the kampong spirit

Mdm Azian also expressed her hope of continuing to strengthen the school's "kampong spirit", where everyone feels cared for, respected, and valued. She explained that when students feel safe and supported, they are more likely to enjoy coming to school and they also learn better.

She shared this message with all Eliasians: "As we begin this new chapter in Elias Park Primary School, remember to be caring, compassionate and courageous."

In addition, Mdm Azian highlighted the important role that parents play in every child's learning journey. She hopes to build strong relationships with parents based on trust and mutual respect so that both the school and families can continue growing together.

Parents and School, Working hand in hand

We also spoke to Mdm Jeslyn Tan, our newly-appointed PSG Chairperson, who has been a parent volunteer in EPPS for the past few years. During the interview, Mdm Tan shared how parents can actively support both the school and their children.

According to Mdm Tan, parents can support their children by maintaining close communication with teachers, encouraging good learning habits at home, and showing interest in their child's progress. When parents and teachers work together, students feel more confident, encouraged and supported.

She also explained that the PSG helps to strengthen the partnership between parents and the school. By organising events, supporting school programmes and creating opportunities for parents to get involved, the PSG helps to build trust and foster a stronger school community.



Photo of our student reporters with Mdm Jeslyn Tan



Celebrating Success Together

One meaningful example of this strong partnership was EPPS's 30th Anniversary celebration. Mdm Tan shared that parents and teachers had worked closely together to plan activities and make the event memorable for everyone. The celebration reflected the strong bonds within the EPPS community and showed what can be achieved when everyone works together.



Mdm Tan also shared her hope of seeing a caring and supportive school where students grow not only in their studies, but also in their character and friendships. She reminded students that learning is not just about achieving good results, but also about trying their best, helping others, and learning from mistakes without fear.

As she shared: "Growing together means learning alongside the children and the school, understanding their needs, and supporting one another as a community."

Ultimately, both Mdm Azian and Mdm Tan believe that EPPS will continue to thrive when students, teachers and parents work hand in hand. Through mutual care, support and shared commitment, the school community can grow and flourish together.





Growing through teamwork

By: Lai You Ting Axel, Lin Shiya, Peh Yuheng Caius



The spirit of teamwork continues to shine through as Eliasians take part in this year's Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) and National School Games (NSG). Whether it is performing on stage or competing on the field, our fellow Eliasians demonstrate that success is not only about individual talent, but also about supporting one another, persevering through challenges, and growing together as a team. This value of resilience and teamwork is what the school has always sought to nurture in students – past, present, and future.

Therefore, the focus is not on medals or performances, but rather the journey behind them. Every rehearsal, training session, and setback becomes an opportunity for students to learn, improve and strengthen their bonds with their teammates. As Eliasians, they continue to lift one another up and harness one another's strengths.

Learning through practice and perseverance

We spoke to students from different CCAs to learn more about their experiences.

Students from the Chinese Orchestra shared that one of the biggest challenges during SYF preparation was ensuring that everything came together smoothly on stage. Chen Zhengxuan from Primary 4 Integrity explained that with limited time to prepare, the team had to practise more intentionally and work closely together. Through this process, they learnt to rely on one another and improve as a collective.

Alfred Ang from Primary 6 Integrity, a double bass player, shared that long practice sessions were challenging at times. However, he stayed motivated by reminding himself to persevere and give his best effort. His experience reflects how growth often comes through determination, even when the journey feels tiring.



ECHO at 2026 Singapore Youth Festival Presentation

Building Resilience as a Team

From the Volleyball CCA, Ng Xuan Han from Primary 5 Integrity shared that one of the greatest challenges during NSG was maintaining teamwork, especially when the team felt nervous or disappointed after a loss. Despite this, the members continued to encourage one another and focused on giving their best in every game. Through consistent practice and mutual support, they continue to grow stronger and more resilient as a team.



Gaining Confidence Through Support

Saralyn Quek from Primary 5 Integrity, a member of the Choir CCA, also shared her experience. Initially, she felt nervous performing on stage, but with encouragement from her teammates, she gradually became more confident. She reflected that she had demonstrated the value of endeavour by persevering and not giving up despite her initial fears.



For Glenda Tan from Primary 5 Endeavour, a member of Modern Dance CCA, she recounted that, at times, she found it challenging to remember her positions during performances. However, her seniors and teammates supported one another by offering reminders and practising together. Although additional training sessions could be tiring, she remained motivated and continued to persevere with her team.



Growing Stronger Together

Our students' experiences show that growing together is not always easy, but definitely meaningful. Whether through long hours of practice, competitive matches or moments of nervousness on stage, students learn to support one another, overcome challenges and improve together.

As the SYF and NSG seasons comes to a close, we are reminded that every effort counts. Beyond the stage and the field, our students are building friendships, developing resilience and learning the true meaning of teamwork.

We are proud to see Eliasians rise together, encouraging one another, pushing through challenges and growing as one united community. The effort, teamwork and spirit demonstrated are worth celebrating, regardless of the final results.