

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

A Cultural Arts Extravaganza for Families

Young children immerses in Chinese culture through traditional activities and performances

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 April 2017 - Julia Gabriel International, the private educational institution that houses Julia Gabriel Centre, Chiltern House Preschool and Chengzhu, recently hosted their annual Chinese Cultural Evening at their new centre in Gateway Kiaramas, Mont' Kiara. Attended by well over a hundred guests, the celebration was a hive of activity from as early as 4.00pm.



[Chiltern House Alumni performing their 24 Seasons drums opening piece.]

Kicking off the festivities, the Chiltern House Alumni comprising children from ages seven to their early teens took centre stage to perform their signature 24 Seasons drum piece. The Alumni is supported by

Chiltern House Preschool and is a platform for its former pre-schoolers and their parents to reconnect over educational activities and events organised by the committee.

Visitors could choose from a variety of traditional cultural activities ranging from putting up a mini lion dance performance, to sampling and making their own glutinous rice balls. At each booth, Mandarin teachers were on hand to introduce and demonstrate the activities they were hosting. The Chinese brush painting booth was most popular with the young children as they tried their hands at painting a calligraphy rooster using the calligraphy brush. They also tried out other traditional art and craft such as paper cutting, opera mask painting, and fan painting.



[Children had the opportunity to choreograph their own mini lion dance.]

Highlights of the evening include an awe-inspiring “bian lian” or face-changing performance art by a professional performer; and a line-up of self-choreographed dance and musical performances by Mandarin teachers. The cultural celebration ended with a riveting lion dance, with the Chiltern House Alumni children joining the troupe with their very own mini lions.



[Special guest of the evening, Huang Ying of Chengzhu Singapore greeting the visitors.]

The special guest of the evening was Huang Ying, Head of Chengzhu, Singapore who was present to officiate the opening of Chengzhu, Julia Gabriel International's latest line of Mandarin programmes and a Mandarin preschool, in Malaysia.

"The essence of the Chinese Cultural Evening is to introduce young children to the Chinese culture through a first-hand experience of traditional activities. When they use the drums, gongs and cymbals to creatively put up their own mini lion dance performance, it helps them in their appreciation of the culture and language. When you learn Mandarin, you are inadvertently learning about its rich culture that has helped shape the language over thousands of years. And through this event, families can experience a Chinese cultural immersion in a fun and engaging manner!" Wang Pau Lee, Centre Director of Julia Gabriel International, explained.

"I really enjoyed the evening as it allowed me to learn so much more about the Chinese culture. It was my first experience watching a traditional face-changing performance and coupled with its dramatic music, it was an eye opener for me. The performer changed its mask almost instantaneously with just a wave over his face!" said a young participant.



[Children painting their opera masks, while a Mandarin teacher looks on.]

The Chinese Cultural Evening is one of the institution's showcase events, with this celebration set to make a return next year. Those interested in similar art themes may attend their literary event, Picnic of Words, which is scheduled in mid-2017. For more information, visit www.juliagabriel.com.my.

###

For media enquiries, please contact:

Shirley Wong

Marketing & PR Manager

shirleywong@juliagabriel.com.my

Tel: 03-7832 1133 / 2233

Rachael Van Buerle

Marketing & PR Executive

rachael@juliagabriel.com.my

Tel: 03-7832 1133 / 2233