

Let's Talk

Julia Gabriel
EDUCATION

TERM 4 2018



JULIA GABRIEL CENTRE

Nov/Dec 2018 Speech & Drama and
Readers & Writers Camp - Holiday
Programmes

CHILTERN HOUSE

Sports Day
Charity Bake Sale

EDITORIAL

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." - Anatole France

My parents taught me as a child, how to always look after animals. Now that I am older, I have grown to love them. There is just *something* about them - an inexplicable attachment and connection that I truly cherish.

Children can resonate with animals almost on an instinctive level so even if you may not have taught them, they just know how to care for animals. And such emotional attachment, or special friendship, is so important in the world today to educate children that animals need love too; that we co-exist in this world together.

This year in our Chiltern House Charity Bake Sale, thanks to you - your hard work, your enthusiasm and your participation - we managed to raise RM 9203 for SPCA Malaysia. All our expectations, surpassed! With your donation, we will make a difference to all the animals that need care, shelter food and medication. You and your child have made a significant difference, and we couldn't thank you more for supporting our cause.

We wish that your children can continue to grow in the presence of animals, zoo visits, bird parks and to be a caregiver to a pet - a merit that we gain for life.

Sharon Roshini Jacob
Principal of Schools



EVENTS | NEWS

NOV/DEC 2018 HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Our much loved **Speech & Drama and Readers & Writers Camp** is back for two weeks this year-end school holidays!

Tailored for children aged 3 to 9 years, they will be spending their holidays travelling through time in a brave rescue mission in search for a world famous scientist, or joining a band of pirates to stake their claims on a lost treasure, or becoming an Alphabet Agent to help Ms Lala Letter find her missing alphabets in time for the annual Alphabet Show!

For more information on our holiday programmes, visit www.juliagabriel.com.my or call 03-6211 4411.



ON THE COVER

RM 9203 for SPCA!

Chiltern House's Charity Bake Sale happened across all centres on 17th August where a wide array of home-baked delectable ranging from muffins, cakes, tarts, even pies went on sale to a highly supportive crowd.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all our parents who came on as volunteers, contributors and customers for the day, and not forgetting the organising committee and all staff who helped in any way they could.

(to be continued on the next page)



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Julia Gabriel Centre
www.juliagabriel.com.my

Chiltern House Preschool
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Bangsar | CITTA Mall | Mont' Kiara

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Tag us in your photos and stand to be featured!



CHARITY BAKE SALE

Our annual charity work continues in school when we played host to three bake sales to benefit SPCA.

(continued from the previous page)

We will be organising a trip to SPCA in this term to hand-over all the supplies that we will be purchasing for our animal friends – from kennels, medicines to food! Come join the entourage! More news about the visit will be released soon.



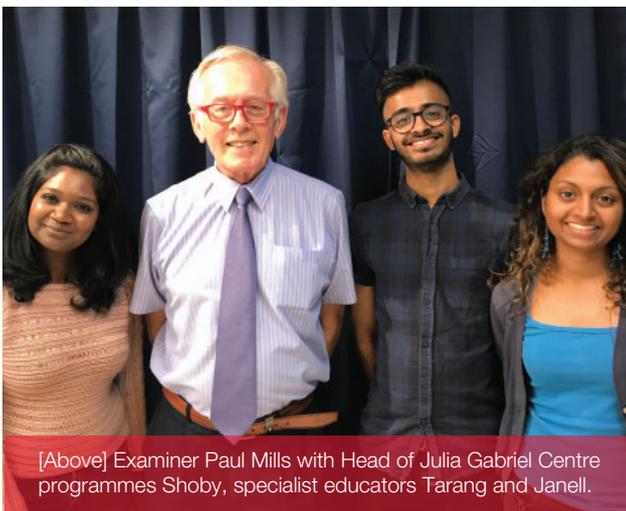
SPORTS DAY

In this year's event, we were joined by our new friends from Chiltern House Mont' Kiara!

Taking place at the sports field of Sri KDU International school, our pre-schoolers from Nursery 1 to Kindergarten 2 took part in a variety of sports activities such as marble and spoon race, relay runs, and zig-zag race, each with varying levels of difficulties. They had embraced the spirit of the sports by displaying such grit, camaraderie and support for their friends as they cheered each other on to complete each round. Even their siblings, parents and the teachers joined in the fun as they participated in separate events. Well done!



TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON'S YOUNG PERFORMERS CERTIFICATE



[Above] Examiner Paul Mills with Head of Julia Gabriel Centre programmes Shoby, specialist educators Tarang and Janell.

"Preparing for this assessment is an extension of the dramatic play led by the speech and drama teacher over the course of the year. The group experience here means that every child in the class can participate and experience success." - Fiona Walker, Group Managing Director of Julia Gabriel Education Singapore.

Every year, our Kindergarten 1 and 2 children will participate in the assessment by the international exam board, Trinity College London for their Young Performers Certificate – Silver and Gold Certificates – as guided by Julia Gabriel Centre's specialist Speech and Drama educators.

This time around, examiner Paul Mills for Trinity's Drama and Speech subject, visited Bangsar and CITTA Mall centre to assess our five and six year olds from Chiltern House in which the children had performed with such commendable teamwork and dramatic expressions that we could not have been prouder!



A DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT CONVERSATION

Image credit: <https://ideas.ted.com/inside-the-worlds-best-kindergarten>

Building Education for the Future

Does the type of architecture we live in affect the way we behave, learn and grow?

The Japanese architect Tekaharu Tezuka believes that small doses of danger are part and parcel of a young child's early education. Children "need to tumble sometimes" and they "need to get injuries", he says. A view shared by the Tachikawa Fuji Kindergarten, a no-walls preschool designed by Tezuka's company.

The most striking feature of this contemporary building is the circular roof cum floor, with its concentric open pathway that allows children to run and run and run! There are a number of large trees that grow through the runway, rising up from the ground below. These trees are fitted with safety nets in the event that a child falls - because unlike trees in Singapore - the children are positively encouraged to climb them!

Another notable design feature is the large rectangular skylights. These allow light into the spaces below but also encourage curious children to crouch down and peer through. The skylights have been designed with glass and angular corners. The onus, the school believes, is on the children to be responsible and take care. As one teacher explains to a batch of rather nervous visitors, "In spring we tell our children our rules. The children are not supposed to get up on the glass...if they run and fall and hit their head they learn from their experience. Children get hurt, they cut, they

fall..." One particularly concerned visitor observes that the children are running around all over the place, to which the teacher replies, "Yes, they need to move and be more skillful." [Murshid Mahmud, Fuji Kindergarten (HD), pub. May 13, 2013, YouTube.]

The open-plan interior of the construction is a series of spaces divided by thin partitions. These spaces include the classrooms, Principal's office and sick bay. In fact, the children help the teachers create the classroom partitions themselves. And more often than not, this ends up being a playful learning activity in its own right. There are no boundaries between the interior and exterior in this preschool and it is outside where the children spend most of their time. According to the architect, this design "helps them [children] live in this world." They learn to interact socially in a natural way; they demonstrate less fear to explore and experiment; and they run around wherever they choose making lots of noise, which helps them to focus during lesson-times and concentrate better when they have to.

A similar concept can be seen in the Ørestad Gymnasium in Denmark, a strikingly eco-organic high school constructed with classrooms and other spaces that are only loosely defined by permeable borders. Classes, especially IT teaching, take place in the open spaces which are also meeting points for the students, who can often be spotted hanging around the beautiful swirling staircase, the focal point of the school.

As you might expect from a country known for high quality yet simple contemporary design and somewhat quirky customs, no less of a radical approach is adopted when it comes to teaching. Lessons are largely organised around where the students are the most active so, in many ways, the students set the agenda! As the Principal comments, the building itself encourages teachers to teach differently. Often, they are forced to leave conventional methods of teaching behind.

Japan and Denmark are not alone in building education facilities in this way. Finland, Bali and the UK, among others, have also adopted this trend, in recent years.

What do you think? Would you send your preschooler to a school without walls? Do you believe that it is healthy to allow children to run and tumble over obstacles; to learn to fall and pick themselves up again? And what is your opinion about teachers adapting their teaching plans and methods, to suit the interests and activities of their students depending on where they are congregating at the time?

We'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email us at eelin@juliagabriel.com.my with your thoughts and any parenting questions you would like for our early years experts to help you out with, quoting 'Let's Talk' in the subject field.

Source: Julia Gabriel Education, Singapore.