



AUTISM LINKS

Newsletter of the Autism Association (Singapore)

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FOCUS

Eden School

Eden School (formerly named Singapore Autism School) was initially formed under Autism Association (Singapore) to provide students with moderate to severe autism with an education that focused primarily on life skills, functional literacy and numeracy.

The school commenced operations in September 2005 in a refurbished primary school building along Yuan Ching Road with an initial enrolment of 10 students. This grew to 60 students by the end of December 2007, supported by a staff strength of 20 teaching and 5 support staff.

Changes since 2008

In February 2008, Mrs Jenny Lai, a mainstream primary school vice principal, was seconded by the Ministry of Education to helm the school. She was joined by Ms Denise Phua who accepted the invitation by AAS President, Mr Ho Swee Huat, to take on the role of School Supervisor in the School Board. Ms Denise Phua, a Member of Parliament and a passionate advocate for special education, is also the President of the Autism Resource Centre (Singapore) and co-founder of Pathlight School; the first autism-focused school in Singapore that offers a unique blend of mainstream academics and life readiness skills.

This unique symbiotic relationship soon brought about a transformation to Eden School, as like-minded professionals with a common passion and vision, worked together tirelessly to provide a high quality education for all students; regardless of intellectual capability and severity of autism. The united team believed in delivering a dignified and quality education for all its students to maximize their given potential.

From May to November 2008, an internal systemic review was carried out. Supported by Pathlight's autism consultants, major changes with regards to class placement criteria, intake assessment processes, and change of school name, vision and mission were made. A new school website was launched in October 2008 to inform the public of the school's new directions and programmes. A new uniform was introduced in January 2009. Expectations were raised of both students and professionals and key performance standards developed.

The name 'Eden School' was aptly chosen to replace 'Singapore Autism School'. It embodies the aspiration of the school; to provide a quality education in a nurturing environment so as to bring out the best in every student who walks through its grounds.

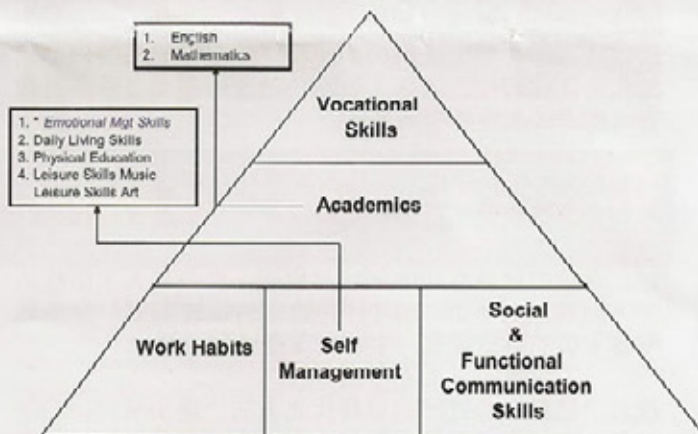
A comprehensive and stringent selection and recruitment process to ensure as many quality staff with the right attitude and aptitude join the team. New staff undergo an intensive Induction programme and are mentored by senior staff in the school. Both new and experienced staff receive regular coaching to hone their skills to deliver effective autism-friendly lessons.

Re-Launching and Re-Positioning

On 3 April 2009, the school was officially re-launched by Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State (Education and National Development) with 2 important key messages:

1. Eden School, together with its sister school, Pathlight School, now deliver a full spectrum of education offerings from mainstream education to vocational training.
2. Their parent charities, Autism Association (Singapore) and Autism Resource Centre (Singapore) have successfully joined forces to serve the autism community.

Eden School is now re-positioned to offer a quality education for students with autism who require more time in building foundational skills and/or are assessed to be more suitable for a vocational route. It now offers a unique blend of Functional Academics, Pre-Vocational and other important Life Skills.



Besides its key focus on the 6 key domains, the school also engages professional expertise to teach Art, Music, IT and PE lessons, and to run its CCA programme comprising sports (inline skating, athletics, swimming) and arts (drumming, art & crafts) activities.

The school has since increased its student enrolment to almost 100 students and a teaching staff strength of 45 teachers as at November 2009. With a waitlist building up, this will increase significantly in the coming years.

Funds Needed for New School Site

The school looks forward to moving into its new building situated at Bukit Batok West Avenue 3 in June 2010. Students will learn at better facilities such as an industrial baking kitchen, 2 computer labs, a studio apartment, home economics room and a rooftop training facility. The school is currently on a donation drive to raise \$3 million to fund this project and need as much help as it can get. Individuals or corporations who are interested to support this worthy cause are welcome to contact Mr Krish Phua at email

krish.phua@autism-association.org.sg and telephone 6774 6649. Help us make a difference to the lives of the people Eden serves!

焦点

忆恩学校

忆恩学校（前名为：新加坡自闭症学校）最初成立之际是新加坡自闭症协会，为患有中等至严重自闭症的学生提供基本生活技能，功能性识字及数字能力的教育。

学校于2005年9月开学，校舍位于园景路一间复修后的小学，学生共有10名。在2007年12月，学生增加到60名，学校教学老师20名，校务职员5名。

2008年以来的改变

2008年2月，吴珍妮女士，一间主流学校的副校长被教育部推荐掌管学校。随后，潘丽萍女士接受新加坡自闭症协会主席何瑞发先生的邀请，出任学校董事会的校监职位。潘丽萍女士是一名国会议员，同时是一名充满干劲的特殊教育提倡者，也是新加坡自闭症资源中心主席，以及新光学校的创办人之一，这是新加坡第一间提供融合特别主流教学及学习生命技能的自闭症专门学校。

这项独特的双门教学方式不久促使忆恩学校的形成，就如拥有共同热诚和远见的志同道合的专业人士，大家一起孜孜不倦为学生提供高素质教育，不论学生的识字能力和自闭症程度。团队人员相信通过严谨和有素质的教育，能全面激发学生的潜能。

自2008年5月至11月，一项内部系统化审视开始执行。获得新光学校自闭症顾问的职员，有关班级排列标准，收生测试程序，以及完成更改校名，愿景和宗旨的制定。学校的网站在2008年10月启动，以公告天下学校的新方向和项目。2009年1月开始新的学校制服，学生和专业人员的期望提高，主要表现指标也展开。

校名‘忆恩’经过严选以替代先前的“新加坡自闭症学校”，它体现了学校的期望，在一个完善的环境提供有素质的教育，以引导每一名学生能展现出最佳潜能。一项广泛及严格的挑选和聘请程序，以确保每一名有正确

态度和意向的合格职员加入队伍。新职员须经过加强导入课程，并由学校的资深职员从旁协助。新旧职员都长期接受教导以加强他们的技能，以便能更有效的提供自闭症课程。

再度开展与重新定位

2009年4月3日，学校由教育兼国家发展政务部长傅海燕主持再度开幕典礼，并定下2项重要讯息：

忆恩学校，连同其姐妹学校，新光学校，现在将全方位提供从主流教育至职能训练的教育。

学校的慈善总部，新加坡自闭症协会与新加坡自闭症资源中心成功的联手为自闭症社群提供服务。

目前忆恩学校已重新定位，为需要更多时间建立基本技能或被评定更适合职业专门的自闭症学生提供有素质的教育。学校现在提供独特的混合功能性学术，职业前沿和其他重要的生活技能。

除了6大领域的费项，学校也聘请专业人士教导艺术，音乐，资讯科技以及体能课程，并举办包括运动（滑轮，田径，游泳）和艺术（打鼓，画艺和手工）的课外活动。

学校至2009年11月，学生已增加至大约100名，教职人员45名。等候名单正累计中，学生人数将在来年大幅度增加。

新校址需要经费

学校期待在2010年6月搬迁到位于武吉巴督西3道的新建筑。学生在更好的设施，例如工业烘焙厨房，2个电脑室，小型公寓，家政室以及天台培训所中学习。学校目前正展开300万元的筹款活动，为上述项目竭力寻求经费和今后所需。有意支持这项有意义活动的个人或企业，敬请与潘先生联络，电邮

krish.phua@autism-association.org.sg, 或电话 6774 6649。请帮助我们为忆恩学校的学生创造更美好的明天！



PROPOSED EDEN SCHOOL @ BUKIT BATOK WEST AVENUE 3





Jogging as part of the PE lesson



Social skills in play



Nurturing creativity through drawing



A lesson in maths



Art lesson conducted in class