

Media Release
Embargoed until 6.30pm 8 October 2019

NINE TEACHERS AWARDED THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD 2019

8 October 2019 – Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Ms Low Yen Ling, presented the Inspiring Teacher of English Award (ITEA) to nine award recipients today.

2. Out of 122 nominations received this year, 5 recipients were awarded the Teaching Award for excellence in the teaching of English, while 4 recipients received the Leadership Award for leading the development and implementation of an effective English programme. Each recipient received a trophy, certificate and cash award of \$2,000. Among the recipients are:

- Mrs Joy Drysdale, a recipient of the Teaching Award, has been teaching in CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh) for the last 30 years. There is never a dull moment in Mrs Drysdale's class as she engages students in learning through activities, such as song and drama. She endeavours to make the learning of the English Language come alive for her students, and help them to develop and realise their fullest potential.
- Mdm Marianne Cheong, a recipient of the Teaching Award, is a teacher in National Junior College (Secondary Section). She creates opportunities for her students to think critically about situations, concepts, relationships and ideas. She hopes that her students will be able to use the English language to express themselves and make connections with the real world.
- Mdm Shanthi Deenathayalan, a recipient of the Leadership Award, is Head of Department for English Language at Guangyang Primary School. She is a strong advocate of teacher professional learning, who involves teachers in collaborative learning and actively discusses pedagogical practices with them.
- Mr Gabriel Chin, a recipient of the Leadership Award, is Head of the English Department in St Andrew's Junior College. He has introduced a weekly professional learning plan in his department to boost teacher ownership and leadership in implementing the General Paper curriculum. A firm believer in looking beyond examination skills, he also encourages his teachers to cultivate life skills in their students.

3. For the full list of winners and award categories under ITEA, please refer to **Annexes A and B** respectively.

About the Inspiring Teacher of English Award

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award acknowledges educators who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write better. These teachers are passionate about making English interesting and relevant, and are innovative in engaging their students in the language learning process. The Award salutes these teachers for their constant efforts to improve themselves in order that their students and schools can benefit.

Presented by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times, with support from the Ministry of Education, the award has recognised a total of 104 Inspiring Teacher of English awardees to date.

About the Speak Good English Movement

Launched in 2000, the Speak Good English Movement encourages Singaporeans to speak grammatically correct English that is universally understood, with the help of partners who run interesting programmes and develop learning content for the Movement. For more information, visit www.goodenglish.org.sg.

About the Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education (MOE) formulates and implements education policies on education structure, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. It oversees the management and development of Government-funded schools, and the Institute of Technical Education, polytechnics and universities. More information on the MOE can be found at www.moe.gov.sg.

About The Straits Times

The Straits Times, the English-language flagship daily of Singapore Press Holdings, is the most-read newspaper in Singapore and is followed widely in the region for its comprehensive multimedia coverage of local, regional and world news, provided by its correspondents in 12 bureaus in major cities worldwide.

Launched on July 15, 1845, The Straits Times has been moving with the times in its efforts to engage and grow its audience and exploring innovative ways of storytelling, as well as continuously refreshing its products to maintain quality and stay relevant to the changing needs of its readers. Its integrated newsroom operates round-the-clock, providing content as it happens on all platforms, from its website at www.straitstimes.com, Apple and Android apps to social media.

The Straits Times is a member of two media networks - the Asia News Network and the Impact Journalism Day alliance of newspapers - and it has won multiple international media awards, including from the Society of Publishers in Asia, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association

(Panpa), Society of News Design and WAN-IFRA. Its multimedia newsroom and innovative projects were recognised at the annual regional WAN-IFRA event in Hong Kong in November 2018 when it emerged the biggest winner, sweeping nine Asian Digital Media awards, including two golds for best innovation to engage youth audience, and best lifestyle, sports, entertainment website.

Annex A

WINNERS OF THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD

TEACHING AWARD 2019

PRIMARY	
NAME	SCHOOL
Mrs Joy Drysdale	CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh)
SECONDARY	
Mr Jeffrey Ong	Hua Yi Secondary School
Mdm Marianne Cheong	National Junior College (Secondary Section)
JUNIOR COLLEGE	
Ms Kok Li-en	Eunoia Junior College
Mr Nicholas Perry	Hwa Chong Institution (College Section)

LEADERSHIP AWARD 2019

PRIMARY	
NAME	SCHOOL
Mdm Shanthi Deenathayalan	Guangyang Primary School
Mdm Uma Perumal	Montfort Junior School
SECONDARY	
Mrs Goh Kaixin	Presbyterian High School
JUNIOR COLLEGE	
Mr Gabriel Chin	St Andrew's Junior College

Annex B

AWARD CATEGORIES UNDER THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD

1. Teaching Award

Started in 2008, this award category recognises English teachers in Singapore schools who have:

- exemplified the use of good spoken and written English;
- promoted learning-focused interaction during English lessons; and
- chosen pedagogies appropriate to learners' needs, abilities and interests.

2. Leadership Award

Introduced in 2014, this award category recognises Heads of Department (HODs) / Subject Heads (SHs) / Level Heads (LHs) / Level Coordinators (LCs) who have:

- led their school in the development and implementation of an effective English programme.
- communicated a shared vision for quality teaching and learning that reflects a strong understanding of the organisational culture and the learning needs of staff and students;
- planned an English Language/English Literature/General Paper programme based on the requirements of the relevant national syllabuses to meet the needs of students of the school;
- effectively implemented the English Language programme in a sustained manner; and
- developed the professional expertise of teachers of English so that they are better able to deliver the programme(s).