Ying Wa Primary School

P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018

(23-27 Feb 2018)



Post-trip Report by Dr H C Lee

Overview

Ying Wa Primary School organised its first English Department-based study tour this year (2017-2018). 30 Primary Six students were selected based on their personal statements and interview performances. With 6 English teachers leading 5 boys each, a total of 36 participants¹ (30 boys, 6 teachers) joined the tour, from 23rd to 27th of February, 2018. The tour's co-ordinator was Head of English Dr H C Lee, and the school appointed Wing On Travel as the co-organiser of the tour after formal tender invitation and examination procedures.

Highlights of the tour include visits to Anglo-Chinese School (Junior), Fairfield Methodist School (Primary), MS Works, Science Centre, National Museum, Lau Pa Sat, Marina Bay Sands Observation Deck, China Town and the Merlion².

The aims of the tour for our school were:

- 1. to further enhance students' ability of the English language,
- 2. to widen students and teachers' horizon, and
- 3. to make friendly connections with Singaporean schools.





¹ See Attachment 5 for full participants list

² See Attachment 4 for itinerary

School Visits

Both schools showed a great level of hospitality to our visits.

We paid a short visit to Anglo-Chinese School (Junior) from 2:30 to 4:00 pm (23 Feb) to join their co-curricular activities, such as sports and aesthetic classes, and students were being taken very good care of. Our 6 groups of boys were led to 6 different spots to join the assigned activities. Towards the end of the visit time, we were all brought to their canteen to enjoy a box of delicious snacks and a pack of drink gratis for us.

Their principal Mrs Chaillan Mui Tuan showed remarkable friendliness as she was around us all the time. She toured Dr Lee around their huge campus and mingled with our boys during snacks time and end-of-tour gathering in their meeting room. Our boys also showed great admiration of the visit.

Similarly, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) took excellent care of our visit and regarded us as VIPs. We visited their school for 2 days (26-27 Feb) with the first day from 7:15 am to 4:00 pm and the second from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Our boys got the chance to be at their morning assembly, had lessons with their children, interacted with their student ambassadors, visited the green environment of the campus, learnt ceramics and 3D drawing and enjoyed tasty food the school provided us complimentarily.

Their English teacher Mr Liu was with us all the time and their principal Mdm Law Li Mei and two vice-principals showed great friendliness and they were all very approachable and cheerful as well.

Although ideologically we expected even more interactions between the students of the two schools, the way we were treated was already beyond our anticipation and we were all tremendously grateful to Fairfield.













Drama Workshop

Our visit to MS Works was as fruitful as expected. Students were divided into 2 groups and Group A did drama for 1.5 hr while Group B was involved in creative writing. Then the 2 groups swapped.

The drama part conducted by Ms Mary Ann Tear, a renowned speech and drama performer and adjudicator, was brilliant. She previously adjudicated in YWPS's Speech Gala (2016) and our English teaching staff visited MS Works to receive her training in 2013. So, we knew she was skilful enough to benefit our boys and they did enjoy her training. From warm-up activities through a half-improvised short play, Ms Tear was able to interest the groups and give spot-on instructions. Teachers witnessing the training learnt something fruitful as well.

The creative writing part, however, according to our boys, was less inspiring. It duplicated what we teachers had been asking the participants to write at night in the hotel.

The final gathering where the 2 groups could demonstrate what they had learnt to one another created a great festive mood. But if we are to visit MS Works again in the future, we will probably ask for more drama contents.





Cultural Visits

The visit to the National Museum offered a great overview of the history of Singapore, though the contents of the museum might be a bit too complex and historic for our primary school children.

Science Centre, on the other hand, was an excellent choice as many of the activities were interactive. Our boys enjoyed the spacious centre and the many fun-filled games designed with science educational values.

The Marina Bay Sands Observation Deck, Merlion, Gardens by the Bay, Lau Pa Sat and China Town offered different perspectives for us to enjoy the city life of Singapore. All these spots stimulated the learning spirits of our children. Particularly, the green environment created and preserved by Gardens by the Bay was particularly moving to us. Students appreciated so much of the green concept and policy of Singapore.









Catering and Accommodation

Foods offered by Wing On Travel and the two schools were rich enough. Students were impressed by the Kaya Toast right after arrival and had excellent comments on Bak Kut Teh, Butter Crab, the buffet breakfasts (hotel) and buffet meals (Fairfield Methodist School). Food allergy problems were avoided and our boys were adequately fed daily.

On Accommodation, Park Hotel Alexandra was a fine choice despite of the relatively small size of rooms. A small problem arose when the hotel failed to provide us with all twin-bed rooms. A number of the students' rooms were double-bed. Both Wing On and the hotel expressed apologies but our children were fine to adapt to what was offered. Beside this, the hotel offered just what we needed and the location was fine as well.









Students' Behaviours and Performances

On the whole, our participants behaved nicely and were disciplined well. At the start of the tour, some students talked loudly on the coach while the tour guide was speaking and some even spoke in Cantonese. But with stronger reminders, our boys understood the requirements and they could all communicate in English for the rest of the tour.

Students' active participations in our various activities, especially in the drama workshop and interacting with students of other schools, were obvious and impressive. Ms Tear, the drama trainer, appreciated the talents of our boys so much and both schools we visited showed amazements at our boys' English communicative abilities.

Students and their group teachers were engaged in a daily reflection³ session every evening in the hotel. From teachers and students' feedback, our boys were led to be reflective and analytical for what they experienced. Students' daily written reflections showed some good thinking and learning over the tour as well.

A special moment came when Timothy Lam (6B) fell ill on Day 2 and missed most of the tour. His fellow 6B boys who joined the tour bought him a present and gave it to him at the hotel lobby on Day 4 evening before he would take an early flight home with his parents. Their caring for one another and friendships were touchingly displayed.





³ See Attachment 3 for students' sample reflections

Concluding Remarks

Re-visiting the 3 goals of the tour mentioned earlier (to enhance further enhance students' ability of English language; to widen students and teachers' horizon; and to make friendly connections with Singaporean schools), the Singapore Study Tour for our P.6 boys this year was a triumph.

Students' aggressive and authentic use of English in and out of school context was impressive enough to show that YWPS was more than just a local CMI school of Hong Kong. Many of the participants even voiced out that Singapore suited them too! In terms of eye-widening, our boys had seen so many cultural sites and interacted with so many local people and tried so much local food. Their immersion in the five days four nights was quite comprehensive. Informed by students' verbal and written reflections, they had been inspired a lot as they had seen and experienced a lot. And finally on connection building, both Anglo-Chinese School (Junior) and Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) expressed sincere appreciation of our visit and they enjoyed our company a lot. Both school welcomed our visit again next year. Fairfield's students will even come in the coming May. We foresee a long-term collaboration between YWPS and ACS Junior and Fairfield.

In short, as the first study tour led and initiated by the English Department, it was a great success and students had learnt more than expected. We strongly recommend that the tour be repeated next year in a slightly larger scale.



Attachment 1 – Online Daily Reports

P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018: Day 1

C ● 安全 | https://www.englishywps.com/news/p6-singapore-study-tour-2018-day-1

2/23/2018 29 Comments Ying Wa Primary School P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018

At Anglo-Chinese School (Junior) with fun!

Having to wake up at 4 am (if not earlier) didn't seem to have bothered our 30 enthusiastic boys much for the start of their Singapore Study Tour (23-27 Feb).

The Kaya Toast and Bak Kut Teh didn't seem to get close to being the highlight of the day compared to our visit to Anglo-Chinese School (Junior). Their wonderful school simply redefined hospitality when they opened their sports, scout and art classes for our boys to join where we could interact with their children, followed by some wonderful snacks! We thanked their staff and school head Mrs Chaillan so dearly!

As our boys, I'm also looking forward to the excitement on Day 2!

Dr H C Lee



29 Comments

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P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018: Day 2

19 Comments



Actors and actresses at Ms Mary Ann Tear's workshop

Ms Mary Ann Tear's drama workshop is a great highlight of the day (and the tour) undoubtedly with a creative writing session to enrich our boys' experience. I remember YWPS's staff development at Singapore years ago with Mary Ann training our English team. Today's experience was just as thrilling, if not even more so. What's more delightful was that our boys' English and expressivity standards were highly praised.

And the surprise of the day comes from the National Museum of Singapore where a vending machine was found selling "Mystery Books", books that are wrapped to hide their name and content. Knowing that the publisher was a local independent press selling quality literary works, I bought one followed by Miss Candy Ho's purchase. The fun thing was, we were surrounded by a dozen boys taking pictures and videos of the process, making us look like some sort of celebrities from Hong Kong!

I do hope more people in Hong Kong value English reading and performing arts. Today's exposure and experience for us, boys and teachers, were more than amazing!

Dr H C Lee













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C a 安全 https://www.englishywps.com/news/p6-singapore-study-tour-2018-day-3

P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018: Day 3

17 Comments



Day 3 offered our boys meaningful learning experiences such as the practicality and entertainment of science from the Singapore Science Centre, green city design and earth protection from Gardens by the Bay, and the prosperity and excellence of Singapore from the observation deck of Marina Bay Sands.

But beyond all these, our boys got to learn self discipline, mutual respect, punctuality, carefulness, sympathy, and giving a helping hand. Learning takes place anywhere and anytime, be it just an ignorance to a peer who forgot to speak English in the tour, approaching a receptionist to help with a vender machine, requesting a swimming child to help with a sunken souvenir on behalf of a peer, buying gifts for a participant who was feeling unwell, or simply reminding one another of the impending meeting time. These authentic scenarios I observed today reinforce the significance of overseas exposure and getting out of one's safe zone.

Two more days to go with solid school experience. I hope there will be more unanticipated learning opportunities and memorable moments for us all. I'm sure there will be.

Dr H C Lee













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P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018: Day 4



At Fairfield Methodist Primary School with their wonderful student ambassadors

School experience is the main reason this trip was organised in the first place. The 9 rich hours we spent in Fairfield Methodist Primary School today has easily proven that this tour is extremely worthy.

The day was full of human touch...Principal Mdm Law gave us a warm welcome, Fairfield's student ambassadors were as helpful as could be, our boys played sports with their new foreign friends, the school treated us wonderful snacks and lunch, Fairfield's staff was friendly and willing to share, students greeted us nicely when we met them anywhere...every one of us felt this strong passion of hospitality in Fairfield.

Furthermore, the level of green in Fairfield was amazing. Their gardens and green houses were professionally organised and taken care of. The interaction and balance of human and nature was well maintained. While our boys were stunned by the opportunities to touch toads and caterpillars, I was in awe by the Singaporeans' green policy. They really put words into action.

The most touching moment of the day, however, came from the evening when Timothy, who had to leave our tour due to an illness, was invited down at the lobby to receive a gift from his peers. I'm not sure how much he had missed in this tour, I just know that he earns something very valuable which none of his peers was offered to this extent. Happy for you and get well soon Tim!

The last day of the tour, which is tomorrow, will continue to amaze us - I have this feeling.

Dr H C Lee



(middle in blue) Timothy received incredible friendship and love tonight







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P.6 Singapore Study Tour 2018: Day 5 (Closure)

13 Comments



At the icon of Singapore - The Merlion

Just returned to Hong Kong after the Singapore study tour, I'm still stunned by what I have experienced with our boys. Without interviewing every one of them, I'm still quite certain that, from the way they acted and reacted, most of them would choose the school experience in Fairfield Methodist School as their best experience in the whole tour.

In these two days in Fairfield, our boys could really "live" with the local students and have a lot of chances to mingle with them. Studying in their regular classes and playing sports with Fairfield's children had been what our boys were looking forward to! Fairfield's hospitality would definitely needs to be returned...in May the soonest, when they would bring a batch of 30 students to YWPS to experience our way of education. And I'm glad that Mdm Law, Principal of Fairfield Methodist School, officially invited YWPS's students to visit Fairfield next year! I am too looking forward to bringing our boys to learn in Singapore again!

With surprises and amazement, the P.6 Singapore Study Tour has come to a close. On the whole, I'm very happy with and moved by our participants' engagement in the 5 days 4 nights with almost purely English dialogues all the way, be it with their peers, teachers or local people. And also, the concrete learning experiences, including but not limited to, the exchanges in Anglo-Chinese School (Junior), Ms Mary Ann's Workshop, and Fairfield Methodist School, were made use of fully and being highly praised.

Now, I'm looking forward to reading in detail our boys' daily reflections in their tour journal. I'm sure they are having many other unique feelings and observations in this tour. And more and more sharing of this tour, in different ways, will be conducted in school soon so that our learning will become the entire school's

Thank you Singapore for showing us what a beautiful country you are! And thanks to YWPS for offering this unique journey for our boys and us teachers.

Dr H C Lee







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Attachment 2 – Other Teachers' Reflections

From Ms Louisa Ming:

It was truly a fruitful trip for both teachers and students. Our boys were well-behaved. They were required to use English the whole day long, most of them could fulfil it and embrace themselves fully in an English environment. Besides, they had high initiatives in participating in the tour visits and the school activities. All of them showed their eagerness to learn and take any new challenges. The boys also showed their love and care to one another. They simultaneously helped those whoever in need. This is really what I appreciate much.

Moreover, I was deeply impressed by the hospitality of the schools we visited. The warm welcoming of the school principals, the professional sharing among the teachers and the friendly talks with the students are all very impressive.

However, I do hope our students can mingle more with the students in Singapore in order to have a real school day together. This may help both parties to have more communications and understandings on each other.

From Mr Richard Woods:

From the first moment to the last, both boys and teachers thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful (and unique) experience. Collectively, the museums tours, the visiting of historical buildings, the visiting of old "Singapore Chinatown", the sampling of traditional Singaporean cuisines and the wonderful hospitality of the Singaporean school visits all made for a truly unforgettable and excellent experience for our P6 boys.

It was also an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate the independence and maturity of the students, who looked after and cared for each other in remarkable ways. Their bonds of friendship were certainly strengthened over the five days!

It was also impressing to see the students embrace the English-speaking environments that they found themselves in, both with each other, with teachers and students at the schools we visited and the Singaporean public in general. They certainly consolidated much of their six years of English language learning at YWPS.

Truly, learning and having fun can be achieved simultaneously and this study tour confirmed that!

From Mrs Rebecca Ho:

The boys had an exploration of Singapore in different aspects such as the school culture and the environment and of course the hotel they stayed.

They explored the official language of Singapore-Melayu. The interesting sound of this language made them remember it well and use it. During the trip, we named one another in Melayu. I called them "kacak" which means handsome, and they called me "cantik" which means beautiful.

An unexpected exploration during this trip is relationship. A deeper layer of relationship between students and teachers was developed. I did not expect that there were jokes told by the boys and they created the fun-filled atmosphere throughout the trip. It seems that I was not the leading teacher but a companion of them. I could not help laughing when we were sitting around for meals. A study found that laughing is a great stress reliever, and getting rid of all that excessive tension can help prevent premature aging! Don't I look younger after this trip?

From Miss Candy Ho:

Be it the discussion of new discoveries in the museums, the lively drama performances in the workshop or the sharing of jokes and friendly conversations during mealtimes, our boys did make their best effort to use English in every possible way. I was happy to see how our boys spontaneously and proactively opening themselves up to authentic conversations with people they met there. For some students, their fear of speaking in English with new friends was overcome naturally.

Besides being inspired to be more confident and passionate English learners, our boys also learned a lot about teamwork. It was heartwarming for me to witness how their friendship is strengthened through helping each other generously and working together effectively. These are rare and precious experiences. I believe they will be part of the best memories in our hearts.

From Ms Karen Li:

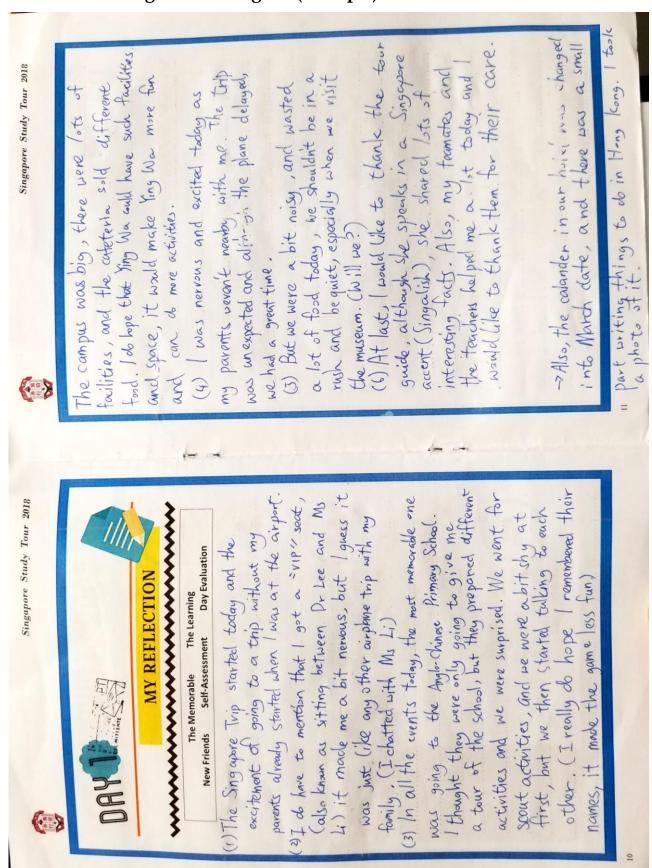
Out of all the study tours that I have been to so far, this five-day Singapore study tour is definitely a very fruitful and memorable one. Although this is an English learning study tour, I believe what students have learnt is far more than the language. I was touched by many scenes. They were small acts like offering warm water to the boy who was sick; helping teachers and group

mates carry heavy luggage; refilling tea for others during meals; tying shoelaces for the boy who has hurt his arm. These are small acts which carry huge meaning. I didn't mention it in the trip, but I would like to say it now: Well Done!

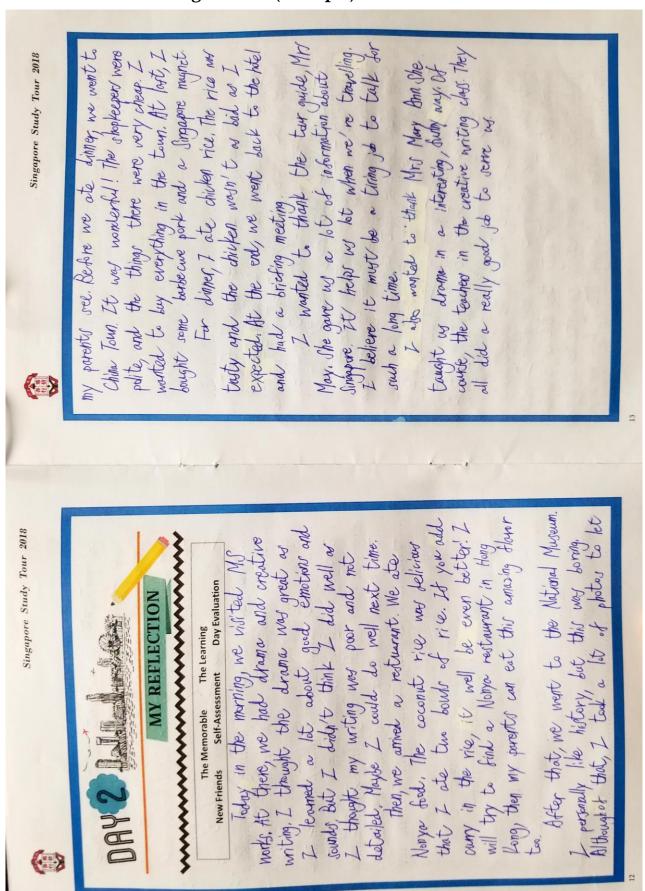
Young gentlemen, I hope that you can continue with all your good deeds and sprinkle them onto people around you. Always remember, you can make the world a better place by making yourself a better person.

Attachment 3 – Students' Reflections (Samples)

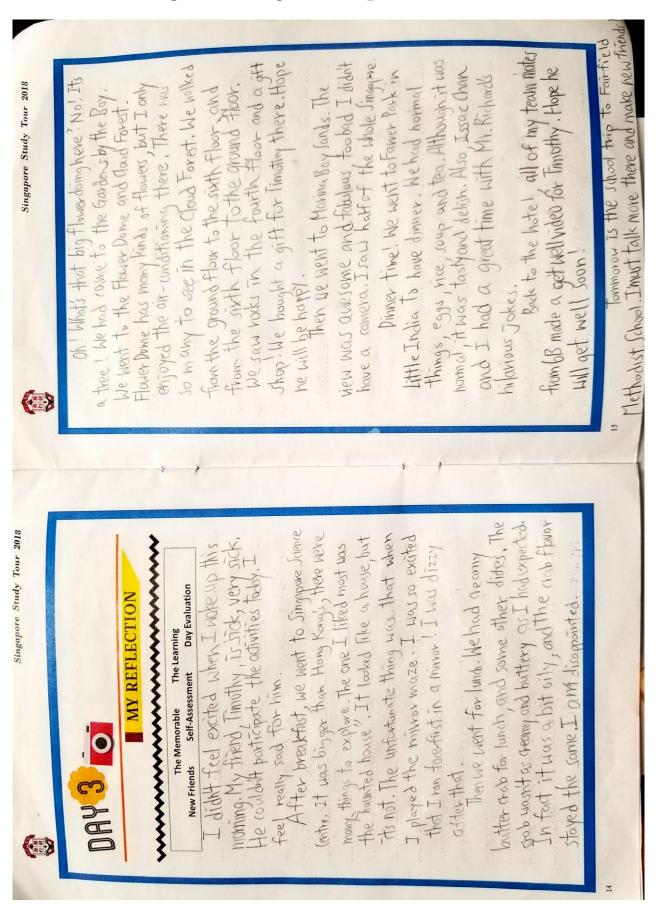
From Leung Cheuk Ting 6D (Group 5)



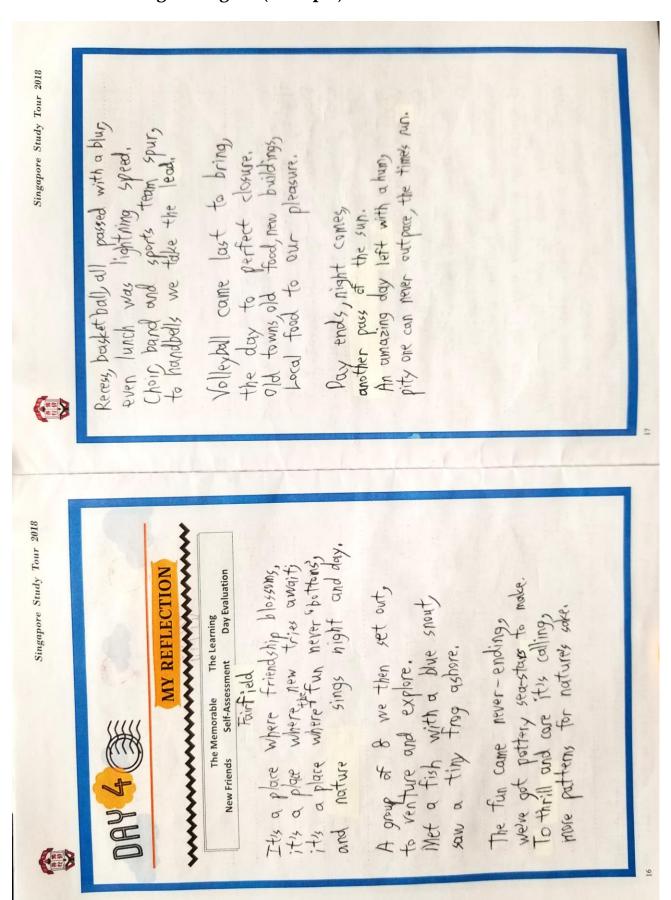
From Kam Ching Lam 6E (Group 2)



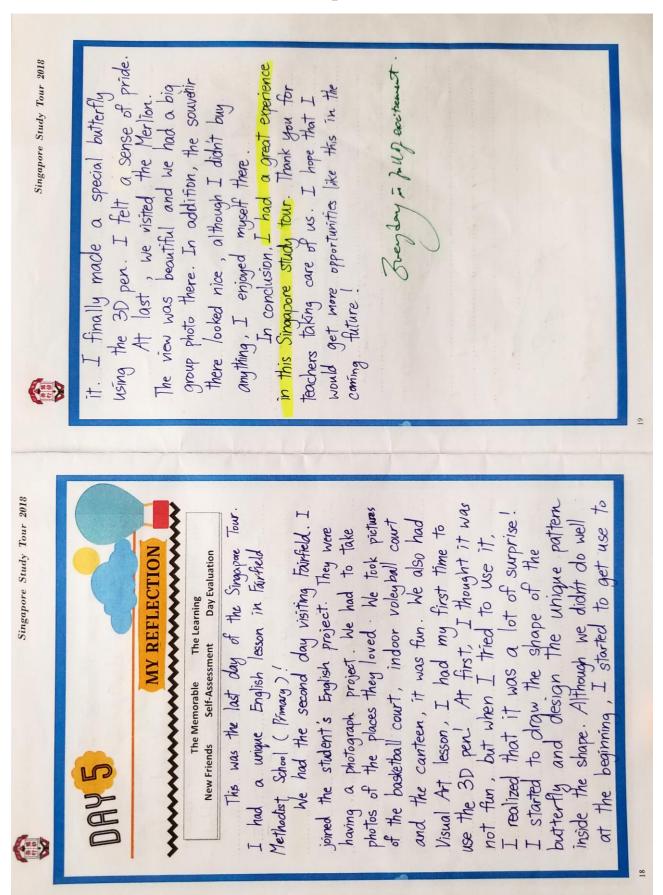
From Cheung Chun Hung 6B (Group 3)



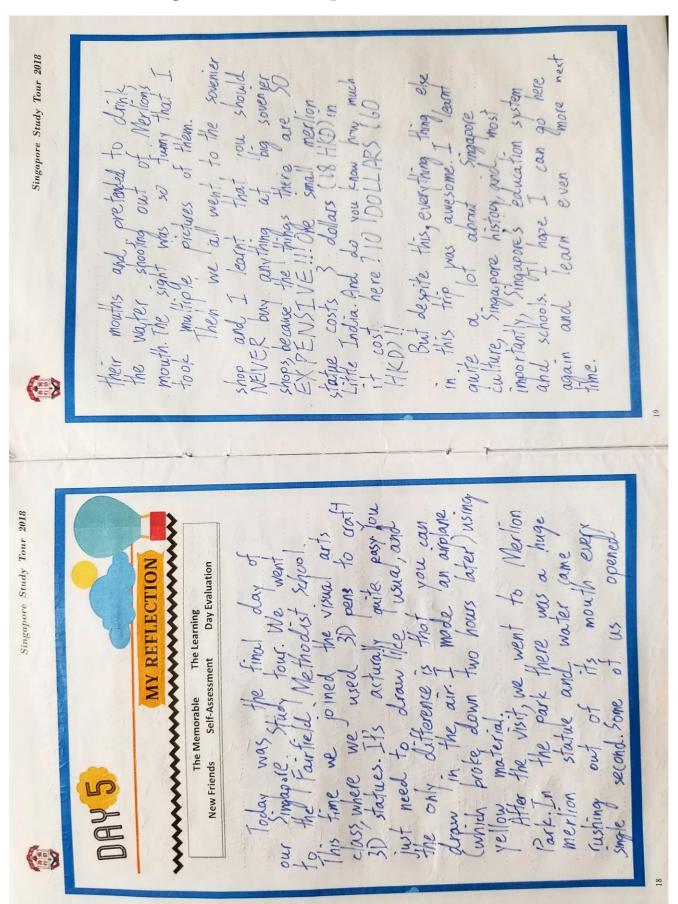
From Song Yiding 6C (Group 4)



From Ho Chun Foon 6A (Group 1)



From Cheung Ka Yui 6D (Group 6)



Attachment 4 – Itinerary

| Date | Tentative Itinerary | Meals |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Day 1 23/2/18 (Fri) | Meet at the Hong Kong International Airport and take flight to Singapore Arrive Singapore Changi Airport Refreshment – Ya Kun Toast School Visit: Anglo Chinese School | B: On Flight L: Kaya Toast D: Included |
| Day 2 24/2/18 (Sat) | Visit MS WorksVisit Singapore National Museum | B: In Hotel L: Kampong Chicken Rice D: Chinese Food |
| Day 3 25/2/18 (Sun) | Visit Singapore Science Centre Visit Gardens by the Bay (Incl. Flower Dome and Cloud Forest) Visit Marina Bay Sands (Incl. Observation Deck) | B: In Hotel L: Creamy Butter Crab D: Bak Kut Teh |
| Day 4 26/2/18 (Mon) | School Visit: Fairfield Methodist School Visit Lau Pa Sat and China Town | B: In Hotel L: At School D: Nonya Meal |
| Day 5 27/2/18 (Tue) | School Visit: Fairfield Methodist School City Tour: Merlion Park, Parliament, Raffles Landing Site Depart to the Airport and take flight to Hong Kong Dismiss at the Hong Kong International Airport | B: In Hotel L: At School D: On Flight |

Attachment 5 – Participants List

| | 6A Au Pak Hei | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Group 1 | 6A Lin Chun Wing | | |
| Leader: Dr Peter Lee | 6A Ho Chun Foon | | |
| Leader. Di l'éter Lee | 6A Okumura Hiroaki | | |
| | 6A Joseph Lu | | |
| | 6E Matthew Yu | | |
| Group 2 | 6E Poon Tsz Ming | | |
| Leader: Mr Richard Woods | 6E Marco Lam | | |
| Leader. Wil Meliara Woods | 6E Bosco Wong | | |
| | 6E Kam Ching Lam | | |
| | 6B Chan Lok Shun | | |
| Group 3 | 6B Hayden Ip | | |
| Leader: Miss Candy Ho | 6B Chu Tin Hang | | |
| Leader. Miss carray no | 6B Cheung Chun Hung | | |
| | 6B Wong Sze Chit | | |
| | 6B Jayden Lai | | |
| Group 4 | 6B Timothy Lam | | |
| Leader: Ms Karen Li | 6B Ho Tsz Ching | | |
| | 6B Ambrose Young | | |
| | 6C Song Yiding | | |
| | 6C Tsai Lon Hei | | |
| Group 5 | 6C Ng Pui Nok | | |
| Leader: Ms Louisa Ming | 6C Wong Cheuk Yin | | |
| | 6D Leung Cheuk Ting | | |
| | 6D Alejandro Yiu | | |
| | 6A Ma Jun Hou | | |
| Group 6 | 6A Ng Ka Hei | | |
| Leader: Mrs Rebecca Ho | 6A Yeung Sze Chai | | |
| | 6D Chau Yat | | |
| | 6D Cheung Ka Yui | | |