

SINGAPORETODAY

SPOTLIGHT ON FUHUA PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Once a goat shed!

By TOH LI LIN

IMAGINE learning your alphabet on a "wayang stage". Or memorising your timetable in a goat shed.

Yes, that was what Fuhua Primary was like in the early days.

Now it has a concrete building in a quiet Jurong East residential area.

The school was started by a group of villagers who believed in the importance of education.

In the 1940s, they got together to found it with whatever they had.

Mr Goh Choon Leng, 85, a former member of the school board, remembers what it was like:

"A villager donated his piece of land with a goat shed. That was where the first classes started."

That, and empty wayang stages.

An ex-student, Mr How Tian Kwang, 67, remembers attending classes on the stages.

"When there were performances, we didn't have any classes."

Money to buy even simple things like brooms, and for teachers' salaries, was donated by the villagers.

"As long as it was for the school

people would give," said Mr Goh. It is not surprising then that the school is big on saving.

Be it time or money, this message is drummed into the minds of each and every Fuhua Primary pupil.

"We emphasise character building a lot here," said principal Lee Chin Fong. "We encourage students to save; by cutting down on wastage in all aspects. Time, energy, money."

Teachers sometimes conduct checks of the students' schoolbags.

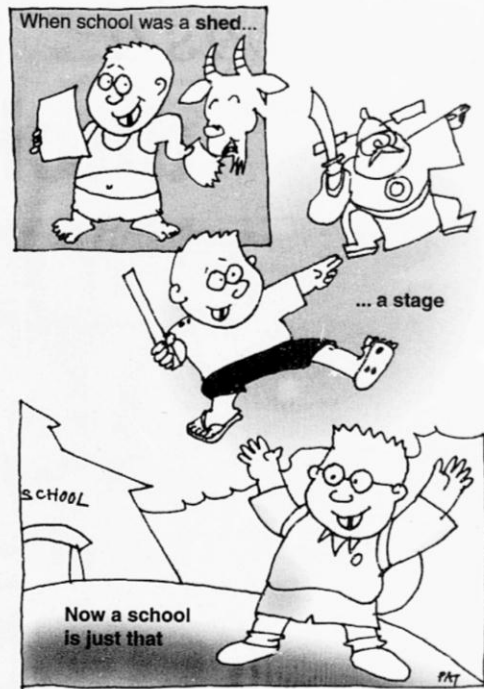
"We encourage them not to buy stationery that is expensive. For example, they can do with a smaller, compact pencil box. A bigger one will also mean their school bags are heavier," said Mr Lee.

They are also encouraged not to waste their time.

Students are asked to set performance targets for themselves.

"So that they know how to utilise their time properly," explained Mr Lee. This way, students also know how much time they need to achieve their targets.

"They do not have to score A* or Band 1. Even a one mark improvement means they have spent their time wisely," said Mr Lee.



Pick your child's school

Phase 1 of the Primary 1 registration exercise, which started yesterday, ends today. The New Paper Infoline will give you an update on the number of places available at the end of each phase. You can also find out more about some of the schools through Infoline (# means that the school's background is available). Calls cost 30 cents a minute.

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| <p>■ ANG MO KIO Anderson [80001] Ang Mo Kio [80011] # CHU St Nicholas Girls' [8007] Chong Li [8005] Chong Shan [8006] Da Qiao [8008] # Jing Shan [8010] # Kebun Baru [8011] # Mayflower [8013] Teck Ghee [8014] # Townsville [8015] #</p> | <p>■ BUKIT PANJANG Bukit Panjang [8055] # CHU [8056] Greenridge [8057] # West View [80571] # Zhenghua [8058] #</p> | <p>■ BUKIT TIMAH Bukit Batok [8059] Henry Park [8060] Methodist Girls' [8061] Nanyang [8062] # Pei Hwa Presbyterian [8063] Raffles Girls' [8064] #</p> | <p>■ CENTRAL Anglo-Chinese Junior [8065] Nan Chiau High [8066] Pearl's Hill [8067] # River Valley [8068] St Margaret's [8069] Stamford [8070] #</p> | <p>■ CHOA CHU KANG Chua Chu Kang [8071] # Concord [80711] De La Salle [8072] Kranji [8073] # Regent [80821] South View [8074] # Teck Whye [8075] # Unity [8083]</p> | <p>■ CLEMENTI Clementi North [8076] Clementi Town [8077] Jin Tai [8079] Nan Hua [8080] Pei Tong [8081] Qifa [8082] #</p> | <p>■ GEYLANG Canossa Convent [8084] # Eunos [8085] # Geylang Methodist [8086] #</p> | <p>■ HAIQ BOYS' [8087] # Haig Girls' [8088] Kong Hwa [8089] # MacPherson [8090] # Maha Bodhi [8091] Mountbatten [8092] # Woodville [8093] #</p> | <p>■ HOUQUANG Charlton [8094] CHU [Ponggol] [8095] Holy Innocents' [8096] # Hougang [80961] Montfort Junior [8097] # Parry [8098] # Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' [8099] Punggol [8100] # Rosth [8101] # Xinghua [8103] # Xinmin [8104] Yio Chu Kang [8105] #</p> | <p>■ JURONG EAST Boon Lay [8106] # Fuhua [8107] # Jurong [8108] Pandan [8109] Yuhua [8110] # Yuqun [8111] #</p> | <p>■ JURONG WEST Boon Lay Garden [8112] Corporation [8113] # Jurong Town [8114] Jurong West [81141] Juying [8115] Merlimau [8116] # Pioneer [8117] # Ruhang [8118] Shuang [8119] # Xingnan [8120] # Yung An [8121] #</p> | <p>■ KALLANG Bendemeer [8122] # Beng Wan [8123] # Boon Keng [8124] Hong Wen [8126] # May [8127] Mee Toh [8128] #</p> | <p>■ MARINE PARADE Fowle [8129] # Ngwe Ann [8130] Tao Nan [8131]</p> | <p>■ NOVENA Anglo-Chinese (Primary) [8132] Moulmein [8133] St Michael's [8135] # Singapore Chinese Girls' [8134] Swiss Cottage [8136] #</p> | <p>■ PASIR RIS Coral [81361] # Elias Park [8137] Loyang [8138] Meridian [81381] Park View [8139] # Pasir Ris [8140] White Sands [81401]</p> | <p>■ QUEENSTOWN Fairfield Methodist [8141] Chin Moh [8142] Moi Chin [8143] # New Town [8144] Queenstown [8145] Tanglin [8146] #</p> | <p>■ SEMBAWANG Canberra [8216] Sembawang [8219]</p> | <p>■ SENG KANG Compassvale [8217] # North Spring [82171] Rivervale [8218] # Seng Kang [8220] #</p> | <p>■ YISHUN Ahmad Ibrahim [8183] # Chongfu [8184] Huamin [8185] # Jiamin [8186] Naval Base [8187] Northland [8188] # North View [8189] Paixin [8190] # Peiyang [8191] Xishan [8192] # Yishun [8193] #</p> | <p>■ TOA PAYOH Braddell [8164] # Cedar [8165] # CHU (Toa Payoh) [8166] First Toa Payoh [8167] Kheng Cheng [8168] # Maris Stella High [8169] Marymount Convent [8170] Pei Chun Public [8171] # San Shan [8173] # St Andrew's Junior [8175] Westlake [8176]</p> | <p>■ WOODLANDS Admiralty [8177] # Evergreen [81771] Fuchun [8178] Greenwood [81781] Marsiling [8179] Qihua [8180] # Si Ling [8181] Woodgrove [81811] Woodlands [8182] # Woodlands Ring [81821]</p> | <p>■ SERANGOON CHU (Our Lady of Good Counsel) [8147] Serangoon Garden South [8148] # St Gabriel's [8149] # Yangzheng [8150] Zhonghua [8151] #</p> | <p>■ TAMPINE Changkat [8152] # Chongzheng [8153] East Spring [81531] # East View [8154]</p> | <p>■ TANGLIN CHU (Keflock) [8163]</p> | <p>■ GONGSHANG [8155] # Griffiths [8156] # Junyuan [8157] # Poi Ching [8172] # Qaoan [8158] # St Hilda's [8159] # Tampines [8160] # Tampines North [8161] Yumin [8162] #</p> |
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