

**Taking a leaf from principal's green book**  
by Grace Chua



**Ms Fuziah Taha, principal of Fuhua Primary School, tending to a garden plot with pupils (from left) Ong Jie Hui, Sabrina Chua and Ivan Seng from the school's Green Club. ST PHOTO: SEAH KWANG PENG**

FOR two weeks out of the school year, Fuhua Primary School pupils pick up brooms and mops to clean their classrooms and common areas.

Ms Fuziah Taha, principal of the school in Jurong East since 2007, said it holds "no-cleaners week" twice a year to help pupils appreciate the job that cleaners do.

Pupils also get hands-on with nature. Each Primary One class tends to its own garden plot while older pupils take care of the constructed wetland and aeroponics garden as part of their lessons.

Ms Fuziah's interest in environment education began in 2000, when she was the principal of North View Primary School in Yishun.

At the time, the school was in the midst of a dengue cluster, and she started looking for ways to teach the children about dengue prevention measures.

For her work, Ms Fuziah received one of the National Environment Agency's 12 EcoFriend Awards this year for individuals who contribute to Singapore's environment. The awards were handed out at a ceremony at the Istana last night.

Ms Fuziah "has transformed Fuhua Primary School into an education institution that focuses strongly on inculcating environmental values", the agency's citation said.

Last year, the school clinched a Watermark Award from water agency PUB, which recognises those who champion water conservation.

"It's not about awards," Ms Fuziah said. "It's not just about tending plots." Instead, it is about sustainable programmes which teach values, she added.