

News

Be Yourself Day



GLOBAL LINE-UP: San Yu Adventist School students celebrate Be Yourself Day. Janelle Chan (second from left) wore her Pocahontas-inspired costume. Tracey Girl Borcelas (fourth from left) wore a specially-tailored Philippine dress.

PICTURES: SAN YU ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Going native for a good cause

San Yu Adventist students dress up and school raises \$1,555 for charity

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ASCHOOL uniform is meant to give students a common identity. But for thousands of students across the island, The New Paper's Be Yourself Day is a welcome break from uniformity. It was a chance for them to be themselves or someone else for a day.

Janelle Chan wanted to be Pocahontas.

Her school, San Yu Adventist School, held the event on Aug 6 with the theme of "International Culture".

Janelle, inspired by her favourite cartoon, decided to go in a native American costume.

The 10-year-old said a family friend sewed the costume by hand.

"My mother and I helped to glue the beads on," she added proudly.

Janelle won the third prize, a \$50 Times bookstore voucher, in the Best Costume category.

The first prize went to Naruemon Suwanpratheep, who wore a Thai costume, and the second prize was given to two students who donned Thai and Philippine costumes. All three winners received a \$50 Times voucher.

San Yu Adventist principal Tang Swee Keng, 66, said: "Be Yourself Day is one way of fostering community spirit.

"Over 80 per cent of our students are foreign students from 25 countries. So we decided that the theme this year should reflect the colourful nature of our school. There's also a focus on racial harmony."

He added that the school, in the Novena area, raised \$1,555 for the Be Yourself Day President's Challenge. Students made a minimum donation of \$2 to attend school in their own outfits.

The highest amount raised by one class was \$400.

Reflecting her culture

Unlike Janelle, one of the second-prize winners, Tracey Girl Borcelas, wanted to reflect her own Philippine culture.

"I chose to wear the Philippine costume because I just wanted to represent the Philippines," the 10-year-old said.

"I like it because it's so beautiful and so bright. And I'm the only one wearing the costume in the school."

Tracey said that her costume, a traditional one called the Maria Clara, was specially tailored in the Philippines.

Naruemon also decided on a costume representing her culture.

The 16-year-old said her classmates had suggested it. She borrowed the costume from a Thai friend.

Be Yourself Day is on Aug 31, but schools can decide to celebrate it on another day.

The President's Challenge, mooted by President S R Nathan in 2000, is a series of events benefiting more than 30 charities.

This is the 11th year The New Paper is involved in the President's Challenge and the ninth year it is organising Be Yourself Day.

THAI PRIDE: Naruemon Suwanpratheep won first prize for best costume.



CapitaLand
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The philanthropic arm of CapitaLand

Be creative, support charity

THE New Paper's Be Yourself Day offers students a chance to hang up their uniforms for a day and stand out as unique personalities while in school.

Students can channel their creative juices into outfits that define their individuality.

Participating students can also donate to more than 30 charities under the President's Challenge.

This year, CapitaLand Hope Foundation is supporting The New Paper's Be Yourself Day for the first time.

It is the philanthropic arm of property developer CapitaLand and was established in 2005.

The foundation has pledged to match students' donations dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000.

Interested schools can download the registration form at www.beyourselfday.com.sg

For details, call Ms Chok Huey Juan at 6319 1518.