

PIONEER HOUSE

YEARBOOK
2022/2023



Yearbook

[yeeuh·buk] noun
a book to record, highlight, and
commemorate the past year
of a community



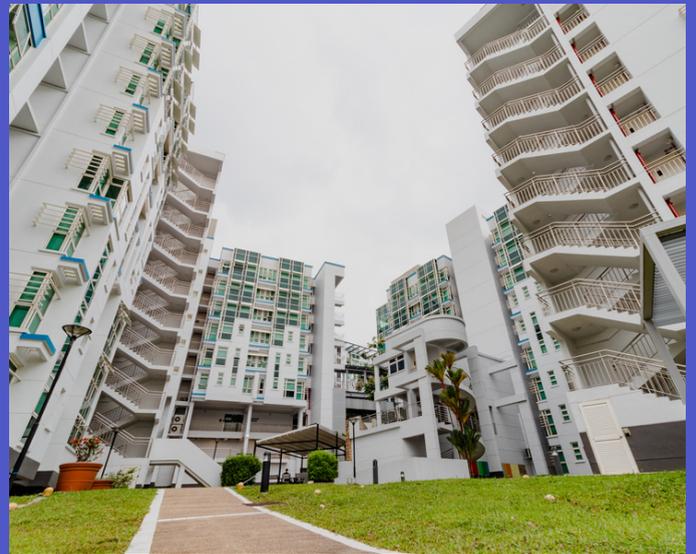




TABLE OF

Contents



01 Introduction
Master's Message

13 Project Bamboo

03 Management

14 Inter Block Games

05 Student Council

15 Cultural PHest

07 Resident Assistants

16 BPP x IG Carnival

09 Peer Mentorship
Programme

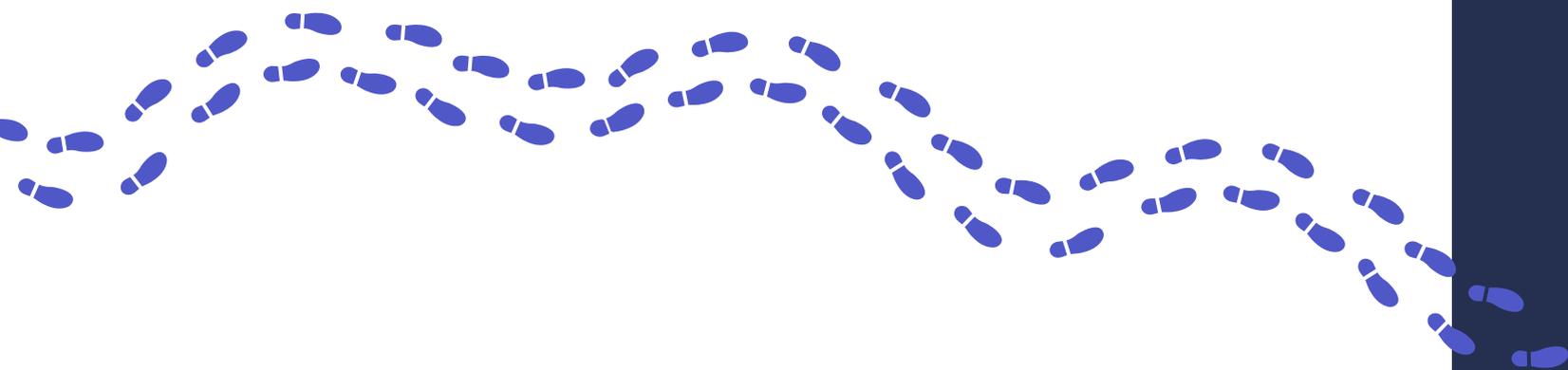
17 Frugality and
Sustainable Living

11 FOC '22
Open Day '23

21 Interest Groups

12 Rag '22
Flag '23

29 PHolunteers





PIONEER HOUSE

The first house of NUS

Pioneer House (PH), formerly known as “PGP House”, was established in **2017** as a pilot to develop a new type of housing model in NUS. Over the past few years, PH has implemented innovative programmes to provide **proactive pastoral care and mentoring** to the residents to develop a familial and inclusive residential community. Sense-of-belonging, micro-cultures, and significant networks are some of the approaches which the activities in PH were planned and executed to encourage a balanced and vibrant on-campus living and learning experience for the residents.

Our signature **Peer Mentorship Programme** offers freshmen an opportunity to receive academic guidance and student life-related care from a select group of accomplished seniors known as "Peer Mentors". **Resident Fellows** and **Resident Assistants** are also readily available to provide pastoral care and support to all residents.

At Pioneer House, every life matters and we welcome you to join our **PHamily!**



MASTER'S

Message

DR. PRAHLAD VADAKKEPAT

Associate Professor, CDE
Master of Pioneer House

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Dear PHam,

We started the new academic year with the **resumption** of in-person FOC in late July 2022, and I was very glad to see many freshmen being able to make new friends and enjoying themselves through the games and activities organized by the FOC Committee. With the relaxation of COVID-related safe management measures, I am also pleased to share that we were finally able to offer 100% of our rooms to students, which translated to **626 residents** staying in the House for the first time since the pandemic started.

Over the course of the year, the vibrancy of residential life through face-to-face interactions had also returned, and I would like to commend **PH Student Council, Residents Assistants, Peer Mentors** and **IG Leaders** for having done such a wonderful job in planning and organizing a spectrum of activities to cater to different ones in the PH community. Most of you may not have noticed or know about it, but your fellow student leaders have really put in a lot of their time and effort in to come up with fun and meaningful activities to engage the residents in PH. In particular, the SC and RAs met with us (the management team) every month without fail to discuss on various issues such as residents' **welfare** and how to improve the **residential experience** in PH. From the bottom of my heart, a big thank-you to all the student leaders in PH for your contributions.

I would also like to appreciate each of you for staying and journeying with us in the past semester(s). I hope you have had a good time living in PH and have built fond memories staying here. For some of you, it is the first of many, and I hope you will return in the next semester and continue to contribute actively to our community.

For those who are graduating or no longer staying in PH after this semester, please continue to stay in touch with us as part of the **PHAlumni**.

Regardless of whether you are staying or not in the next semester, you will always be a part of our PHamily.

Finally, I wish everyone the best in all your endeavors and hope you will remember our House motto "**Be frugal and pay it forward**" wherever you go.

Thank you.



MANAGEMENT

Team



Standing L to R: Mr **Alan Soong** (RF), Dr **Park Mihi** (RF),
Mr **Ho Boon Yeow** (Senior Manager), Dr **Tan Hee Hon** (RF)
Sitting L to R: Dr **Vivien Wu** (RF), A/P Dr **Prahlad Vadakkepat** (House Master),
Ms **Jean Wang** (Asst Senior Manager), Dr **Andi Sudjana Putra** (RF)



MESSAGE



We very excitedly started the academic year 2022/2023 with the face-to-face Freshman Orientation Camp (FOC) after having two virtual ones in the prior years since the pandemic started. Since then, we could see the Peer Mentorship Programme (PMP) and Interest Group (IG) activities slowly coming back into place and that has really **helped our residents settle** in PH smoothly. We firmly believe this is all thanks to the dedication, efforts and collaboration of our student leaders consisting of Resident Assistants (RAs), Student Council (SC), Interest Group Leaders (IGLs) and Peer Mentors (PMs), who have supported PH's **vision and mission** and nurtured the PH culture throughout the year for our residents. In particular, SC has done very well to optimize the budget allocated to them and worked cohesively with the PH Management and residents to make PH a **very vibrant and fun** place to live in. On top of the existing events and activities, initiatives such as Inter-block Games (IBGs), were launched successfully in the past year. We are so grateful that every single member of PH also contributed to further enhance the PH culture in their own ways. We look forward to continuing the **closed-knitted collaboration** among the PH Management, student leaders and residents in the next AY, and to build deeper connections in the PHamily!



STUDENT COUNCIL



Dear Pioneers,

As the Chairman of the Student Council, I am humbled to have served the lovely residents of Pioneer House this year. It has been an extremely fulfilling experience to work with each and every one of you, and I hope that the **events we planned** and the **interactions we had** made you feel heard and instilled a **sense of belonging** amongst you.



Looking back, we have achieved so much together. From the very first inter-block games to the return of Best-Phriends-Phivever (BPP), it was an incredible year filled with many unforgettable moments. I mean, who can forget when block 22/23 won Mahjong despite having 2 players 'Zha Hu' and needing to pay a hefty penalty? One of them even being a veteran player! In all seriousness, I am proud to have been a part of it, and I am confident that these memories will stay with us for a long time. A special shoutout to the rest of the student council, you are all an absolute dream to work with, you all made my last semester truly the best semester! <3

As my four-year stay here at Pioneer House comes to an end, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for this **community**. I have seen this House grow from nothing to a place I truly call **home**. Thank you for being a part of my journey, and I wish you all the best!
W year W House!

Sincerely,
Your Chairman, *Jeff Lim*

SC EVENTS

Speed PHriending



Looking back on the year at Pioneer House, it's impossible not to reminisce on the incredible event that brought everyone closer together: Speed PHriending. This event was much more than a social gathering; it provided an **opportunity for residents to meet new people**, form lasting friendships, and create unforgettable memories.

For those who didn't attend, Speed PHriending was a fun and **fast-paced event** where residents had the chance to get to know each other better. Similar to speed dating, the goal was to **make new connections**, but without any pressure to find a romantic partner. The result was a **fantastic evening of laughter, storytelling, and bonding** that brought our community even closer together.



It was heartwarming to witness the formation of new friendships during the event. It's incredible how quickly strangers became friends, and how much fun everyone had in the process. Residents discovered common interests and learned new things about their fellow Pioneers, all while enjoying the lively atmosphere and energy of the event.



Escape Room

Pioneer House Escape Room 2023 is back by popular demand, building on the tremendous success of its inaugural event. This year, the **Egyptian-themed** escape room challenges your problem-solving abilities with an **immersive experience** that engages all of your senses. From water and sound elements to a live actor in the room, we hope that the puzzles designed created an unforgettable experience. Look forward to next year's addition as the Escape Room becomes a recurring activity within Pioneer House, ensuring that residents can continue to enjoy this **thrilling adventure** in the future.



Mac Breakfast



The McBreakfast Giveaway is a highly anticipated event that takes place **once per semester**, and this academic year was no exception. With an increased limit to **250 residents**, the event continues to attract a full house. A special shoutout to Coffee IG for their invaluable contribution, handing out **hundreds of cups of coffee** to make the experience even more enjoyable. We can't wait for next year's edition, as the Student Council is committed to enhancing your experience and making it even better than before. Stay tuned and get ready for an even more exciting McBreakfast Giveaway!

RESIDENT *Assistants*



NAMAN AGRAWAL
RA Lead

One of the pillars of strength behind the vibrant and supportive community at Pioneer House is the Resident Assistant (RA) team. The RA team consists of a group of **dedicated student leaders** who are responsible for creating a welcoming and safe environment for their fellow residents. Over the past academic year, the RA team has organized a range of events and programs, including multiple Dining with Master sessions, The Great Gatsby and Alice in Wonderland themed events, and Halloween, Valentine's and Chinese New Year celebrations. The team also conducts regular walkabouts, hardware inspections, and assists in fire drills to **ensure safety and wellbeing** of the residents. The tireless efforts have helped to foster a strong sense of community within the house and have contributed to the overall success of Pioneer House.

As the Resident Assistant Lead, I try to share my experience and guide the team in achieving its goals. I work closely with the management team to ensure that my fellow RAs have the support and resources they need to be effective leaders within the community. I also serve as a **member of the Student Council** to facilitate effective communication between the groups and identify potential areas for collaboration.



THE GREAT

GATSBY



Welcome Fest: The Great Gatsby took place in AY22/23 Semester 1 and was an outstanding success. It was the **first and largest physical event** held since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Great Gatsby-inspired theme created a warm and hospitable ambiance that allowed more than **400 residents** to connect with each other and make new friends.

What made this event particularly noteworthy was that it marked the first occasion for residents to come together physically **after an extended period of remote learning** and virtual events. The attendees fully embraced the semi-formal dress code, which contributed to the **festive and upbeat atmosphere**. The photo booths with polaroid cameras were a hit and provided a fun and nostalgic way for residents to capture memories of the event.

Overall, the Great Gatsby-inspired welcome festival was an incredible way to start the semester, leaving a lasting impression on residents. It marked a significant milestone in **bringing the community together physically** after a prolonged period of virtual interactions and set the stage for a multitude of exciting opportunities to come.

SPOOKTACULAR PHEST!

Trick or treat! Presenting Pioneer House's Spooktacular PHest, the third and final PH event of AY22/23 Semester 1. With more than 200 attendees, the Multi-Purpose Hall was positively packed, filled with **spooky** figures as residents arrived in droves to experience a most haunting and unforgettable night.

Dressed as **scary nuns, alien abductees, goblins, ghouls**, and more, our excited residents had an absolute blast hanging out and making new friends in our dark-lit, chilling atmosphere. Coupled with **stellar night-long performances** put up by the Dance, Singing, and Band Interest Groups on the stage, Spooktacular PHest also hosted a professional photo booth, an ice cream sandwich vendor, henna artists, game booths, and a tantalizing lucky draw event. The cauldron was simply brimming with fun and engaging activities!

This night was no doubt an **outstanding conclusion to the semester**, revitalizing our residents and giving them the much-needed motivation to tackle their finals anew. We couldn't have asked for a more memorable (and spooky) experience to wrap up this semester!



PHUAT AH!



Pioneer House welcomed its existing residents back in Semester 2 as well as new residents, including exchange students and returning seniors who came back from SEP, with our **CNY-Themed Welcome Fest Event, PHuat Ah!** The purpose of this event was to involve our residents in a **sit-down reunion buffet dinner**, coupled with other exciting segments to **introduce residents to the culture of Singaporean Chinese** way of celebrating Chinese New Year. These segments include Lion Dance, which is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries in which performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume to bring good luck and fortune, and to drive away evil spirits, and **Lo Hei**, which is one of the biggest highlights during Chinese New Year, where families and friends come together to **"toss up a good fortune"**. A photobooth was also present for residents to take cute commemorative photos to capture the memory. The event ended with a Lucky Draw where lucky participants of the event walked away with lucrative prizes!

PEER *Mentorship* PROGRAMME



Settling into varsity life takes time, and this **transition period can be a challenging** one especially when you have to balance academia, family, friends, and maybe even work at the same time - all while being away from home!

PH fully recognizes that a familial and **well-supported residential environment** is crucial to your success. As such, in this critical leg of your life journey, PH engages all freshmen in the Peer Mentorship Programme (PMP) where **students are assigned to Peer Mentors** (Year 2 – 4 senior undergraduates) who are also fellow PH residents.



PEER MENTOR LEAD

The Peer Mentorship Programme unique to Pioneer House is designed to help new residents adjust to university life, forge friendships, and navigate the challenges of living in a new environment. This academic year, **44 Peer Mentors** acted as **cluster leaders, mentors, and friends** to our fellow residents.

It has been my honour to oversee the programme, equipping the Peer Mentors with the knowledge and resources necessary to instill the values of Pioneer House within the community. Credit must go to all Peer Mentors who have been **inclusive, supportive, and helpful** towards the residents, motivated solely by their passion for the well-being and development of the Pioneer House residents.

The Peer Mentors have played a pivotal and irreplaceable role in **creating a positive and enriching living experience** for all residents. I am confident that the programme will continue to form the foundation of Pioneer House's culture.



Jian Hui



PM ACTIVITIES



Academic Sharing

During Semester 1, the **PCT 1 Loris** PMs organised an enlightening Academic Sharing Session where seniors provided **invaluable advice on managing academic** modules, tracks, and S/U options. This session was designed to help new students tackle the challenges of university life.

The mentees were encouraged to ask any questions they may have had about managing their studies, and the event provided an open forum to discuss school life, and how best to navigate the academic landscape.



BBQ & Pizza

On August 11th, 2022, **PCT4** (Osprey) held a warm and welcoming BBQ and Pizza Night. This event was a **perfect way to kickstart** the academic year, enabling residents to connect and form meaningful bonds. Since then, the Osprey community has continued to host successful events, attracting a great number of residents. This is a testament to the strong reputation established by that initial gathering, showcasing the **sense of camaraderie and fellowship** that make Pioneer House a welcoming and supportive home for all.



Baking Workshop

On February 16, 2023, **PCT 8 and 9** collaborated to organise a **delightful Valentine's Day baking** workshop. Participants were grouped with fellow residents from different clusters and PCTs within Pioneer House, allowing them to experience and learn how to bake a **mouth-watering Basque cheesecake**.

The event was truly wonderful, showcasing the mentoring culture and the **caring and collaborative nature** of the Pioneer House family.



Hiking Session

The residents of **PCT 3** indulged in a **brehtaking hike** from Kent Ridge Park to HarbourFront, relishing in the **picturesque views** despite the sweltering heat. With excellent company and serene surroundings, participants **forged stronger bonds** as they traversed the path. The joyous event culminated in beaming smiles on everyone's faces.

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

Camp 2022

One word that I would describe **Pyxis Nautica**, our first ever Freshmen Orientation Camp (FOC) of Pioneer House and first in-person camp since the start of COVID-19 pandemic, would be “heart-warming”. Seeing the incoming residents in real life attending the camp, forging friendship with one another, not only among their Pastoral Care Team (PCT), but also across PCT through PHriend PHorever PHiesta was something that I found very uplifting as the vice-project director.

Although the SMMs did compromise some of our activity plans, and split the PCTs into smaller groups, it did not stop everyone from bonding. The entire PCT still remains intact after the camp and extended the warm welcome to other **new residents** who could not make it for the camp.

Chaiyoswittayakul Intach

Vice Project Director



OPEN Day 2023

The Open Day's purpose was to **introduce PH** to current and **incoming NUS students** and to view it as a viable option to choose it as their preferred on-campus accommodation for the upcoming AY. Hence the aim was to **showcase our culture, student life and facilities** to them. This was successfully achieved during PH Open day 2023, whereby our interesting line of events like lucky draw, PH tours and IG **experiential booths** (including band performances) attracted large numbers of visitors despite the heavy rain on that day.

Mohamed Bilal

Project Director



KE X PH RAG 2022



KE x PH RAG is part of the **NUSSU RAG and Flag event**, dedicated to giving back to the community. RAG is the performance portion of it. From early march, the PH RAG committee has been planning for the performance together with KE, whom we have partnered with before. During the planning phase, we **design our floats and costumes**, while thinking and **formulating the dance** item. Our official crunch time begins in the summer holidays, where we put our plan into action. We make use of **recycled cardboard** amongst other items to create our floats, the props and background to go along with our dancers.

Coupled with the costumes we designed and made, we create a **thrilling and vibrant display** on RAG day, where NUS is open to the public and compete against other groups to be the better performance. Throughout the process, I personally have learnt many different skills from making clothes to building sofas and I can safely say the same for the rest of the participants. I look forward to seeing the next committee work their magic and improve upon their predecessors.



Chia Ci Xian

Project Director



FLAG 2023

In March, Flag hosted its first event, **Sweet Treats for a Cause**. With the goal of giving residents a chance to unwind and enjoy delicious desserts while **raising funds and awareness** for the Metta School, we were thrilled to see our community come together and support this important cause. This event was a wonderful opportunity for our residents to enjoy delicious treats, and give back to society. We were thrilled to have raised \$400 through this event alone, which will be donated to the **Metta School** to support their important work in the community.

An Yetong

Project Director



PROJECT BAMBOO

WHO ARE WE?

Project Bamboo is an **Overseas Community Involvement Project** (OCIP) started by a group of individuals in Pioneer House that are passionate in volunteering. As a student-initiated project, the team spent two-weeks in **Bamboo School Children's Refuge, Kanchanaburi, Thailand** after a semester-long planning process taken under Do Your Own Module (DYOM).

Through Project Bamboo, PH residents learnt more about the **sustainability practices** in Bamboo School and even embarked on our own **Eco Bricks Project** where we created bricks out of recycled plastic bottles to build tree structures to beautify the church in the orphanage. Residents also conducted **cultural exchange programmes** to introduce Singapore culture, food and landmarks to the children in Bamboo School, while simultaneously learning **Thai and Karen Hill tribe culture** from the children.



INTER BLOCK GAMES '23

The Pioneer House community came together for an **eventful week of fierce competition and camaraderie**, as over a hundred residents participated in the **first-ever** inter-block games event. From the strategic maneuvers in **captain's ball** to the adrenaline-fueled **dodgeball** matches, the residents put their skills to the test in a variety of exciting sporting events.

Throughout the week, the three groups of participants, block **20/21**, block **22/23**, and block **24/25**, battled it out on the **field, court, and table**. The intensity was palpable as they competed in **mahjong, poker, road relay**, and the highly-anticipated finale event, **dragon boating**. As the event came to a close, block **22/23 emerged victorious**, having showcased impressive teamwork and skill in every event. The entire Pioneer House community came together to celebrate their achievements, marking a momentous occasion as the first large-scale sporting event of its kind to be held within the house.

It's clear that the Pioneer House community values **both competition and connection**, and the IBC showcased both in abundance. We look forward to future events that bring the community closer together, building on the legacy of the pioneers who organized such an incredible event.





CULTURAL PHEST



On March 23, PH hosted its **annual talent show**, Cultural PHEST, and it was an event to remember! The Pioneers showcased their talents and skills, and it was exciting and a pleasure to see such a variety of **performing arts on display**.

One of the highlights of the talent show was the **coffee presentation**, similar to the World Barista Championships, where the performers brewed and served coffee alongside croissants. It was an innovative and refreshing addition to the event, and it was a hit among the audience. The residents had a chill and fun night, **enjoying the performances** and the delightful coffee. Many of the performers stepped out of their comfort zone and still put up a great show, which was a testament to their courage and determination. It was inspiring to see them showcase their talents and passion for the performing arts, and their passion really shown through!

BPP X IG CARNIVAL



Best Phriends PHivever x Interest Group Carnival was the **first Student Council event** of the AY, where residents rushed around trying to complete the challenges to win Pioneer House's greatest prize ever, a HINOMI CHAIR! Interest Group Leaders also promoted their IGs by leveraging on the BPP challenges to **introduce residents to their IGs**. This allowed residents a chance to try new IGs and for IGs to expand, teaching new residents and expanding their activities. SC even saw Interest Groups tripling their attendance, especially seen in Road Relay, where they had up to 40 runners at a time. We collected a lot of feedback from IGs and residents, on how they could improve and what were the good points of the IGs.



BPP 22/23 was the second edition of BPP, where participants are **paired up to complete challenges** and take pictures of themselves doing it. SC received a lot of cute and funny pictures of participants doing our challenges, which we shared on our Instagram Page **@nuspioneer**. The challenges SC set for our participants were split into several categories, like Sports & Exercise, Leisure, Explore and even Pokemon, where the participant had to hunt down key figures in Pioneer House and get a picture with them. Such key figures included RAs, PMs, SC members, RFs and even Master himself. The rarer "Pokemon" basically became celebrities, after all they were worth a lot of points. When the event was closing up, we were amazed to see that **7 groups completed all 86 challenges**, achieving 2103 points and that more than 55% participation rate, with 38750 total points collected by all the pairs. At the end, we were proud to give away a pair of HINOMI chairs, prism monitors and JBL speakers.



FRUGALITY &

SUSTAINABLE LIVING



Isabelle

Director
F&S, SC

Committee

In Pioneer House, we embrace the theme of Frugality and Sustainable Living (F&S). Under this theme of F&S, residents get to experience a wide variety of **fun yet meaningful activities** that teach us in small ways how to practice these values in our daily lives. The F&S committee in Pioneer House is formed from a team of dedicated individuals who aim to spread the vision of F&S throughout Pioneer House. Across the academic year, the team brings many F&S concepts to life, providing means for residents to **immerse** in activities such as **gardening, vertical farming, composting, upcycling** and many more.

In line with the principles of F&S, the PH community established Interest Groups (IGs) for Community Garden and Vertical Farming. These IGs aim to give residents the opportunity to cultivate their own **edible produce** and share the **bountiful harvest** with the entire PH community.

ISLAND HOPPING



The Pioneer House Island Hopping Adventure is an event hosted by Frugality & Sustainability to give residents the opportunity to **explore the southern islands of Singapore**. The event's aimed to cultivate a greater sense of environmental responsibility in the participants by fostering an appreciation of Singapore's natural landscapes. The event held during recess week saw a total of 20 residents embark on a cruise to the **St John, Lazarus** and **Kusu Islands**. There, they visited the **St John Marine Laboratory, Da Bagong temple**, fed tortoises at the tortoise sanctuary and more!

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP



PH Terrarium Making Workshop was a joint-initiative between the **Gardening and Vertical Farming** interest groups that aimed to bring the community together and inspire a passion for indoor gardening. Participants were provided with their very own terrarium kit and taught how to **care for their plants**. This event not only provided residents with a fun and engaging activity, but also promoted the benefits of **gardening as a hobby**. The PH Terrarium Making Workshop was a great success, and participants left with a newfound appreciation for the joys of gardening.

KAYAK AND *CLEAN*



A new initiative brought into Pioneer House this academic year is Kayak & Clean, where residents travel out of PH to take part in a unique coastal clean-up experience while fostering a sense of community. Participants kayaked along the **Sembawang Coast**, picking up trash along the way and immersing themselves in the natural environment. Residents also got to experience the tranquil waters while kayaking through the **mangroves of Sungei Simpang**. This event provided an opportunity for residents to appreciate the beauty of the marine ecosystem and understand the impact of marine waste on our environment. It also highlighted the important work being done by national authorities to prevent and recover marine waste. With a grand total of **38kg of trash collected** from the sea, residents were left fulfilled from participating in this meaningful activity.



JEWELLERY UPCYCLING

WORKSHOP



As part of the efforts to promote sustainability, the PH F&S committee organized a Jewellery Upcycling Workshop to teach residents how to transform **second-hand jewellery** into new and fashionable pieces. This brand-new initiative in PH encouraged residents to think creatively and learn how to give new life to items that might otherwise be discarded. By **upcycling and reusing** materials, we can reduce waste and lower our carbon footprint. This workshop provided residents with the tools and knowledge needed to incorporate upcycling into their daily lives, promoting a more sustainable and **eco-friendly lifestyle**. The PH F&S committee hopes to continue hosting similar events in the future, inspiring more individuals to take action towards a greener future.





BOTANICAL SKINCARE WORKSHOP



The PH F&S committee organized an exciting event for residents to learn about the benefits of **natural skincare ingredients**. During the F&S x Gardening DIY Botanical Skincare Workshop, residents were able to personally harvest mint leaves from the PH garden to make a **refreshing mint and cucumber** facial scrub. This event aimed to promote the use of natural ingredients in skincare products, and highlight the benefits of hydrating and anti-aging properties found in mint and cucumbers. The workshop was a great success, and residents left feeling **empowered** to create their own homemade skincare products using ingredients sourced from the PH garden.

UGLY FOOD RESCUE



The PH F&S committee organized a unique event aimed at reducing food waste in Singapore. During the Ugly Food Rescue Workshop, residents were taught how to make sustainable choices in the supermarket by selecting **"ugly" produce** that would otherwise be discarded. Participants worked together to turn this rescued food into a delicious meal, including **butter chicken and banana and apple smoothies**. This event not only highlighted the issue of food waste, but also empowered residents to make a difference by taking practical steps towards sustainability. The Ugly Food Rescue Workshop was a great success, and participants left with a newfound appreciation for the power of **conscious food choices**.



INTEREST *Groups*

ROAD RELAY



Road Relay has come a long way since its inception in 2019, from being a competitive IG participating in IHG to its recent status as a **recreation-based IG** for all to join.

AY22/23 had been both a memorable and remarkable affair for RR, where many new & current residents got the opportunity to try out different routes that the IG has to offer while making **new friends** and creating **new experiences** along the way.

Besides providing refreshments to runners, RR also introduced supper runs to WCP's McDonalds - where runners got to interact with each other more extensively and satisfy their cravings for fast food. In the future, RR will continue to provide an avenue for residents to **run together** and ultimately, **foster a running community** in PH.



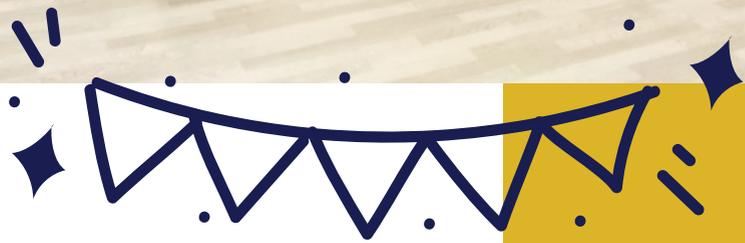
TEA

This year, Tea IG organised a variety of events, such as **brewing sessions, welfare pack distributions, bubble-tea making**, and distribution of tea-themed Valentine's Day **goodie bags**. Our face-to-face sessions allowed members to chill and chat with fellow PH residents while enjoying a cup of tea as a way to **destress**. We hope that our welfare packs were able to encourage PH members to push through the exam season! PH residents were also able to share tea-themed goodie bags with their loved ones, which included snacks, tea and a surprise punny card! In future sessions, we hope to maintain and grow Tea IG as a platform for members to meet new people and destress while discovering new teas.

TABLE TENNIS



We are a casual table tennis interest group, and we welcome all residents to come together and have some fun while staying active. Everyone is **welcome regardless of skill level**, so feel free to come socialize and play table tennis together. Playing table tennis can help improve hand-eye coordination, reflexes, and concentration, while also providing a fun and **low-impact form** of exercise. Plus, it's a great way to relieve stress and have some fun with friends. So, hope to see more new faces around.



COMMUNITY GARDEN



Pioneer House Community Garden was set up for residents to learn how to cultivate crops and start their own sustainable vegetable garden. During the year, under the guidance of Prof Andi, we have successfully cultivated **Kang Kong, Chillies,** and **Okras** in the Community Garden which we have harvested and used in Gardening BBQ. We also utilised **Blue Peas** and **mint** plant from the garden in our Tang Yuan making event. In the future, we are looking to open up a root vegetable garden growing **Sweet Potatoes, Yam** and **Ginger**. We will continue to cultivate more crops such as **Cherry Tomatoes, Edamame** and **cucumber**. Lastly, we will also embark on **Vermicomposting** for our garden to produce compost for our soil from food scraps and coffee grounds from Coffee IG. This will hence inspire residents to start their own sustainable farming journey in their backyard and spark joy when harvesting the fruits of their labour.





VERTICAL FARMING

The Vertical Farm is born out of a DYOM project in early 2022. Initially, many aspects were uncertain, but small steps were taken over time to make it a success.

Our 1st project involved growing & harvesting vegetables using the **Nutrient Film Technique System** taught by an external vendor. After that, the start date was set, and the team drew up a schedule and roster for the students. As all of us are new to the process, **trainings** were also conducted by the vendor on - site. Tips on running the set - up, and what to look out for were disseminated to participants too. Seeds were placed into foam, and into trays, for the initial maturing stage. Once the seedlings are matured, they will be transferred into the system, where **daily maintenance and upkeep** is conducted to ensure the smooth running of the process.



Our second project concerns **herbs**, and it was quite a different experience as regular trimmings and harvest is needed instead of a summary one at the end for vegetables. In addition, we conducted cuttings from mature plants also, and did not depend solely on the seeds. Therefore, we are required to be detailed, such as ensuring that the cut is 2 to 3 centimetres above the division for example. But this method ensures that the turnover rate is high! We also experimented with a **combined soil composition**, instead of just garden soil. The combined soil contained slow - release media, pit moss, and porous rock, and even nitrogen if necessary so that the mint, basil and rosemary can produce more leaves. And pruning is conducted regularly too to let it grow taller. Lastly, they need full sun and have no end stage.



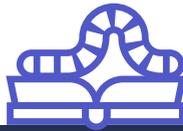
VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball IG was established in 2021, aiming to bond residents through volleyball. A **recreational** interest group that promotes fun and games on the court. A sport that integrates everyone to join and learn something new. We participated in IHG in 2022, marking Pioneer House's first year in participating in a competitive Volleyball competition. It was a meaningful experience for all, especially so for players new to volleyball, squaring up against other halls and understanding first-hand the **complexity and teamwork** needed for the sport. I hope Pioneer House volleyball will have a chance again to compete competitively, to grow a community with **passionate** players, who genuinely love the sport. At the same time, we appreciate all members, **beginners** or **experienced**, to immerse themselves and find joy in playing the amazing sport.



READING

By inculcating and promoting a sense of academia into Pioneer House, Reading IG provide residents living bustling and vibrant lives with essential **quiet time and space** dedicated to reading and studying. Be it for leisure or for academic pursuits, we plan to build an inclusive community of residents who enjoy reading books of **different genres** and studying together. We also hope to develop deeper **understanding and appreciation** towards literature and encourage residents to read widely in pursuit of life long learning!



CROCHET

Last semester, some friends and I were hanging out and talking, and the topic turned to crochet because one of my friends found an **amigurumi** I made. They cooed over how cute it was and someone suggested that I could start an interest group to teach them. Initially it was just a thought, but after some consideration I found the idea quite appealing, as I knew that there were quite a few other crocheters in the same block and I wanted to be able to find others who I could crochet with. Over the December break the group of us compiled a proposal and planned the sessions, and here we are! I'm glad we were able to introduce others to crocheting :)

Every week Crochet IG helps students complete a crochet project. So far we've made **CNY oranges**, **Valentine's roses** and other student suggestions! We provide yarn and hooks so students interested in crochet can try out the **hobby without buying** the items themselves. Our IG also focuses on **creating friendships**. As we spend time crocheting, there are many opportunities to converse and we're happy to see an increasing number of recurring faces.



CLIMBING

With the rise of bouldering gyms and competitions in Singapore, climbing is a sport that is quickly gaining traction. However, the high gym prices may serve as a barrier to entry to some. Through an interest group, we hope to **lower this barrier** to reach more people. Furthermore, many beginners often find the road to improvement an uncertain one due to the **lack of proper coaching and guidance**. By establishing a community, we aim to support and challenge each other through our journeys. Beyond spreading the **joy of climbing** to other housemates, we hope to help them meaningfully improve and continue to pursue the sport in their own time.

We are a warm, welcoming community for all members to grow in, meet new friends and destress. Through the sessions we teach members **fundamental climbing techniques and movements**, develop their spatial awareness and improve their overall climbing ability. After our climbs we usually go for **supper together** as a way to replenish our energy and to close the distance between our regulars and any newcomers.

Outside of formal climbing sessions, we also do **open-jio** sessions, where everyone is welcome to join. Such sessions are usually much more flexible and we even travel way out of campus to gyms that we rarely visit for something new.



COOKING

Challenging new recipes, introducing new and delicious food to the residents. PH Cooking IG 2022/2023 introduced a new wave of delights this year including **Italian** Food, **American** Food, **Indian** Cuisine, and of course, **Chinese** Food. From **Baked Mac&Cheese** to **Mua Chi**, residents in 2022/2023 are those lucky ones as they get to bond physically and cohesively under the same ceiling!

Combating food waste is an integral part of ensuring food sustainability. In our efforts to spread awareness on the difference between **expiration dates** and **best-before dates**, as well as the types of products which can still be consumed after the specified dates, we conducted a cooking session to make **butter chicken** and a **smoothie** using such products. Through this, participants have witnessed examples of what products they can use even after they might have seemingly expired (eg. Dried goods and sauce). Moreover, they will see that “ugly” fruits and vegetables can also give rise to delicious outcomes.





Badminton



Art & Craft



Board Games



Basketball



Band



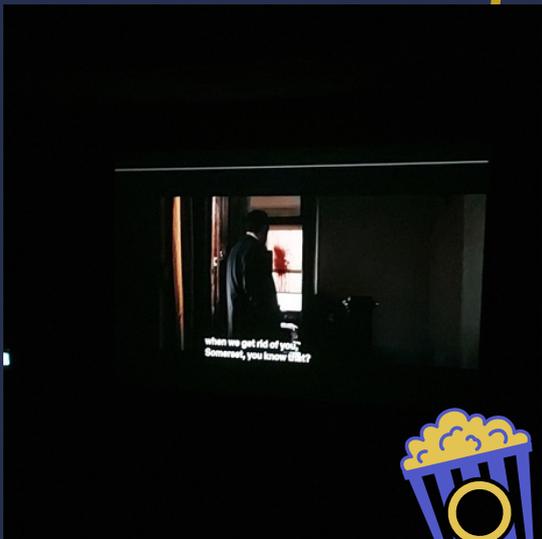
Coffee 



Chinese Calligraphy



Football



Movie 



Dance 



Guitar



Frisbee



Pool



Singing



PHOLUNTEERS



PHolunteers is a **student-led volunteering group** in NUS Pioneer House (PH). PHolunteers was started in 2020 with the aim of engaging PH residents in community service to encourage them to give back, as well as establishing meaningful, long-term relationships with the beneficiaries.

This academic year, PHolunteers has worked with 8 different organisations, such as **Singapore Children's Society, Touch Community Services, and Bukit Batok Care Home**. Our volunteers have stepped up to help various groups in society, including children, migrant workers, and elderly.



PROJECT MATUTO

PHolunteers has also reached out overseas and onboarded Project Matuto, our very first Overseas Community Involvement Project (OCIP). **Matuto** means to *learn* in Tagalog and the trip in December 2022 has supported schools and children's education in **Bago City, Philippines**. Consisting of 15 members, the team successfully fundraised a total of **\$3000**, which was used to purchase and donate learning materials to **6 different schools** and conduct activities for the children.

"Watching how warmly the children and teachers welcomed us into their spaces and the generous hospitality they showed us was really touching. The language barrier was initially intimidating but didn't turn out to be a huge problem because everyone welcomed us so well and tried their best to help us understand them and even taught us their own language."

- Rachel, Y3, Project Matuto Volunteer

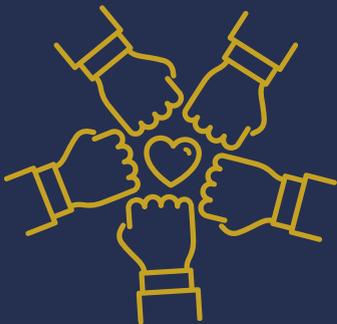
PROJECT HOMEWORKS



"Volunteering in Krsna's and Project HomeWorks has been a deeply fulfilling and eye-opening experience. It gave me the opportunity to bless the community and hopefully make a small but meaningful difference in the lives of others. A few hours of our time can truly go a long way!"

Zhixin, Y1, Krsna's Free Meals & Project HomeWorks Volunteer

KRSNA'S FREE MEALS



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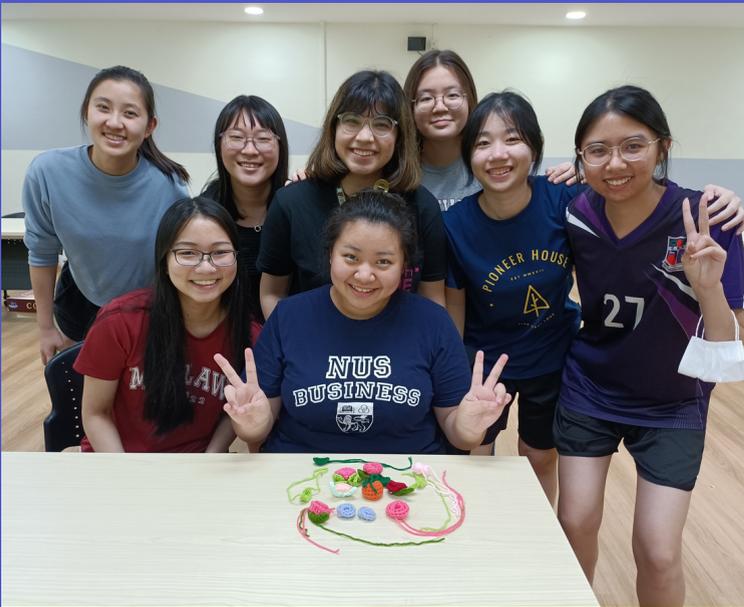


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