

THE CEREMONY OF TWELVES

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"As the Chief Elders of the community, we have been invited to Bangkok Patana School to watch you carefully all year to decide your assignments. We closely observed all of your childhoods making sure you get the best assignments possible in the school. Our Chief Elders in 8L have done the same. They know Patana's values of well-being, learning and global citizenship and have carefully thought about your future in this community," said Usha and Leti (8L).

In English this term, Year 8 have been enjoying Lois Lowry's dystopian novel, 'The Giver', thoroughly engaging in analysing the novels' plot, themes and characters. Throughout, the students were encouraged to make links between the community in the novel and their own lives, particularly their roles as global citizens in Patana. The students began by writing a mission statement for their own ideal society/utopia; in doing so, they re-visited Patana's mission statement, discussing its purpose, audience and style - in particular, the values of well-being, learning and global citizenship and how this shapes their ability to be active contributors to the community and world at large.

"We thought very carefully about our decisions which could affect other people in our community, and made sure our citizens could still express themselves while sharing the same values," said Usha and Leti (8L).

As part of their recent 'Speaking and Listening' assessment, the students were given the task of writing a formal speech in the role of the 'Chief Elder' in the novel - an authoritative character who governs the community and assigns their citizens jobs based on the attributes they demonstrate in daily life. After discussing how the novel explores ideas of freedom, choice and individuality vs conformity, the students were well prepared to experience how they would feel being assigned a role in the Patana community by another member of the class. The catch? They'd have no say in the job that they'd be assigned to undertake! For many, their future role was a complete surprise - these ranged from teachers, Head of Faculties, ECA facilitators, photographers, set designers for theatre productions, curriculum designers to the more unusual jobs, such as a Bangkok Patana horticulturist! There were smiles all round as the students came up to receive their 'Assignment' from the 'Chief Elder'.

To prepare for their performance, the students began by formulating questions to ask their assigned partners about



their unique qualities and strengths in an interview - after which, they had to carefully select and adapt relevant information to compose a speech that will engage their intended audience. Part of the success criteria involved basing their speech carefully on the speeches by the Chief Elders in the novel and providing detailed justifications on reasons why they would assign their partner a particular role - many students even took on the extra challenge of writing a list of instructions on how to carry out the specific job role. Rehearsing was a key part in building confidence for public speaking - the students practiced both verbal and non-verbal communication skills and provided each other with constructive feedback to help redraft their speech before their performance at the Ceremony of Twelves.



"Although we didn't really know our partners well at first, we got to know them better and understand their qualities, strengths and weaknesses during our interview. We also used the IB learner profile attributes to help us decide for role would best fit them, such as - are they communicators, thinkers, principled, balanced, and risk-takers?" said Leti (8L).

As each student came up to receive their assignment, the class recited "thank you for your childhood" in unison - a recurring quotation in the novel that signifies the onset of adulthood and responsibility.

CLIVE LEACH



Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 8 students,

Clive Leach, a coaching consultant, who facilitates positive growth and change within individuals is returning to Bangkok Patana School on Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st October. On his previous visits, Clive has worked with students, teachers and parents delivering his workshop 'Discovering and Igniting your strengths'. During this forthcoming visit, Clive will spend time focusing on Year 8 which will then relate to their Residential experience.

Clive will be providing sessions for all Year 8 students, tutors and parents within his two-day visit focus on discovering and developing personal strengths. I would like to invite you to join Clive's session, designed specifically for parents on Tuesday 30th from 8:00 - 9:00am in the Conference Centre. All parents of our community will be invited however this session offers most relevance to you as your child will be working directly with Clive and their tutor throughout his visit. During this session, Clive will share details of the experiences your child will gain from this programme. More importantly, he will offer useful advice and guidance on how you can offer parental support to further unlock your child's personal strengths to help them grow personally and academically to reach their full potential. If you are planning to attend please sign up through the following link <https://goo.gl/96Za2U>

Kind regards,
Lena Perriam
Senior Teacher Key Stage 3 Student Welfare