

Let's Talk

Julia Gabriel
EDUCATION

TERM 3 2019



**JULIA GABRIEL CENTRE /
CHILTERN HOUSE**
Vision Day

JULIA GABRIEL CENTRE
William Royston's Visit

CHILTERN HOUSE
Book Week

EDITORIAL

Dear Parents,

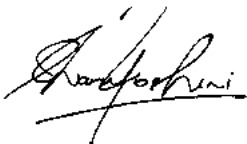
"Read. Read anything. Read the things they say are good for you, and the things they claim are junk. You'll find what you need to find. Just read." - Neil Gaiman

In Term 2, we rejoiced in the magic of books in Chiltern House's Book Week celebration. I remember being taught as a child, and now as a teacher from Julia Gabriel how books can change your life. As we move into the digital age where technological devices are at the forefront, remember to always read to your child. The language that you share with them is something crucial; the times spent together, we can never replace as parents.

Also, we were fortunate to have William Royston from Julia Gabriel Education Singapore perform a series of storytelling sessions with our children. He brought words alive with such magic, enthusiasm and charm! Children were just excited to hear him tell a story.

And once a year we take a day to celebrate our team's achievements in our annual Vision Day - a day where all of us come together to recognise the contribution of our staff. In one of our most memorable team building activity, we drummed in such unity, with such vigour, the energy in the room was simply electrifying. What a stress reliever it was!

I believe the best is yet to come, so together let's make Term 3, a most fun and formative one!



Sharon Roshini Jacob
Principal of Schools



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EVENTS | NEWS

Farewell to Mont' Kiara Centre

We would like to announce that Julia Gabriel Centre and Chiltern House, Mont' Kiara has closed its doors at the end of Term 2. The centre has served our community of parents faithfully over the past three years, during which we have been immensely proud of the school's many accomplishments. We have fond memories of many parents and children who have walked through our doors and experienced Julia Gabriel's dramatically different way of educating young minds.

We would like to thank everyone for their love and kind support. For families who have chosen to continue with us at our Bangsar and CITTA Mall centre, thank you for entrusting us with your child's early childhood education once again.



ON THE COVER

Vision Day 2019

During this year's Vision Day held back in late March for all staff, we celebrated the company's vision of what's to come, and welcomed new members into our coveted '5 and 10 Year Club'.

Congratulations to Suzilla Markus, our Bahasa Malaysia teacher; Farah Zaman, Head of Admissions; Dheepa Christine Steven, Senior Teacher; and Shirley Wong, Head of Marketing for five excellent years of service (and counting) to the company!

This year also saw our first dabble in the 'Drum Circle', facilitated by the fabulous team at The Colour of Sounds. We played to our hearts' content and drummed for a full 20-minutes straight! Amazing energy and vibe from the team. Well done, everyone!



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHILTERN HOUSE BOOK WEEK

Celebrating the world of books has never been this fun! Our children fashioned themselves after their favourite book characters during Book Week Parade and even parents participated in class as storytellers.



WILLIAM ROYSTON'S VISIT

Julia Gabriel Centre Singapore's maestro storyteller, William Royston with more than 20 years of experience under his belt, performed a series of exciting storytelling sessions to our parents and children, supported by the Kuala Lumpur team in his recent visit. He was also present to lead our teachers on a host of training sessions as part of the focus on their professional development.



MORE FROM VISION DAY

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DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT CONVERSATION

5 Steps to Raise a Bilingual Child *by Sharon Roshini Jacob, Principal of Schools*

(First published in www.happygokl.com)

There was a time when educators believed that a second language should be introduced in secondary school and a second language was considered a thing for grown-ups. That time is long gone! Global communication now requires us to be educated in more than one language and it's no coincidence that children raised in a bilingual home usually have better cognitive abilities - they are flexible thinkers and excel at critical thinking and problem solving, and usually perform better at school.

So, what do I do as an educator to help children and parents on their path to learning a second language and in becoming equally comfortable in two languages? Let me share with you some easy steps.

1. Start early

Infants learn language with remarkable speed. The key language learning years for children are from birth to age 6. After the age of 6 and as we get older, learning a language becomes progressively harder as our ability to learn language decreases. Try learning a language as an adult and you will understand the woes.

So as parents, take advantage of your children's early years and expose them to other languages. Because by doing so, you are giving them the opportunity to tap into their natural ability and capacity in acquiring new languages.

2. Right environment

Most infants show an interest in music from their early days and believe it or not, they pay more attention to the singing than the speaking of their mothers. And because they absorb the sounds of the language around them long before they are able to speak, as parents and teachers, we can build on this awareness by sharing and

enjoying songs and rhymes with our children. Sing nursery rhymes, read verse, clap to the rhythm and let the tune help your child in learning a first or a second language.

Consider joining a playgroup. Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl, a leading researcher on early language and brain development, has stressed that it is important for infants to be emotionally and socially in contact with their mother for them to optimally acquire language and we all know this is something achievable through playgroups. During playgroups, you are able to support your child as they learn. And when the learning process itself is a joy, they will learn most easily. So it follows that a relaxed, fun-filled environment is key.

An added bonus is that through playgroups, you will be connected to other parents of bilingual children and you can use that as an opportunity to support each other.

3. Consistency

Children need exposure and opportunity to practice for them to become effective in a language. The key to making it consistent is easy - one person, one language. For example, Mummy speaks only English, Daddy only Mandarin; Grandma and Grandpa also only uses one language; each Teacher only speaks one code at school.

Don't worry about language confusion as long as you maintain a consistency with the use of language between the people whom your child is surrounded with. Remember not to mix languages within the same sentence, and daily exposure to both languages is important.

4. Books

"Start reading at birth and never stop". Parents have come to me on many occasions, confiding that they struggle to

find time to read to their children. And my answer to them is simple.

It doesn't need to be a book with words. A wordless book is really great to begin with. You can create dialogues, talk about what the characters are like and what they might be doing next. Make up your own stories along the way. Wordless books are open-ended treasures and not only does it encourages creativity, it also helps build your child's imagination!

And you can also search for books that come with audio. Some books these days are sold with an accompanying CD containing a voice narration of the book. This is particularly useful for parents who have limited grasp of the new language. This way, you can even learn together with your child!

5. Visits

The ultimate language boost is to visit the country where the language is natively spoken. Total immersion for even a couple of weeks has an amazing effect because children can learn so much even in a short span of time. Fact of life: you will actually learn much faster once you're in the country, surrounded by locals.

So the next time you're travelling to a country that speaks a language foreign to you, throw shyness out of the window and try speaking the local language to the best of your ability. Show that you are open to understanding the culture of others. Be a role model to your children.

There are many ways to ensure that foreign language time is 'quality time' but like any other aspect of parenting - trust your judgment, and employ your imagination. Is too late to start learning a second language, a third? Never.

"By having another language, you have an alternative vision of the world."
-Panos Athanasopoulos