

REFLECTIONS

2013 STAR Senior Teacher (Art) Milestone Programme



As part of STAR's Senior Teacher (ST) Milestone Programme, a professional development trip took place in May this year to provide a changed context for teachers to reframe their assumptions and practices, providing opportunities for deep reflection. Seven Art STs came onboard the programme and visited Taipei Municipal Fuxing Senior High School and Taipei Municipal Minzu Elementary for lesson observations and dialogue sessions with experienced Taiwanese art teachers. Here are some of extractions of their reflections.



From Charlotte Tan, ST(Art), CHIJ Toa Payoh

“If the learner has not learnt, the teacher has not taught. We can make learning relevant and visible for the students by designing meaningful art projects. In Fuxing Senior High School, the safety helmet project where students designed a safety helmet to ride home communicates the safety message in a fun way.



Another empowering project involves improving the aesthetic environment by allowing the students to submit their design proposals for the conversion of communal areas in the school. The winning submission will see the work being materialised with school’s funding.



I am very impressed by the sense of professionalism and great passion for art and art education in the teachers we met on this trip. To value add to the learning platform, we could put in the ‘Art Education and Life’ aspect in our curriculum. This would give students a more complete art education, a deeper understanding into the processes of art making and how art can enhance our lives.”

From Eileen Ong, ST(Art), Northbrooks Secondary School

“This trip has been an eye-opener for me. It helps me to see many possibilities in the teaching of art and makes me rethink about my own teaching and learning. A common thing that I observed across the schools is that the teachers will usually show the students a lot of visual images and artists’ works to give students ideas and provoke

their thinking before the actual art making process. In the art making process, their students displayed very strong personal responses in their work. I am also greatly inspired and motivated by the people I met and with this new found knowledge and energy, I hope to work with our Senior Teachers to contribute to our Art fraternity in Singapore.”

From Chia Wei Hou, ST(Art), Raffles Institution (Yr 5-6)

“We often urge students to consider models to emulate and to learn from in order to improve ourselves; we encourage them to take the chance to shift their perspectives and paradigm so as to attain a breakthrough in thinking. Shifting our perspectives and learning from a good model is what we did during this study trip. We came back with many questions, answers, and most importantly, many invaluable insight into art education, into our own practice as a teacher, into our own identity as an art educator. There will not be any practice without reflection; there cannot be any reflexivity without a sense of application. We learned; and we learned a lot during the schools visits during this study trip.”

From Mrs Yee-Tan, ST(Art), Greenridge Primary School

“This is a very fruitful learning trip for me. Though there are some similarities in social and culture, the driving force behind the educational system is different from Singapore. I learn some teaching strategies used in their art classrooms. I also begin to appreciate our Professional Development opportunities made available for teachers in Singapore more.”

