

PRESS INVITATION

Kidz Meadow celebrates the learning journey of Kindergarten 2 Graduands

11 November 2011 marks a new beginning in the Kindergarten 2 graduands' pursuit of higher academic levels. Dr Lim Wee Kiak, MP for Nee Soon East GRC, will grace the event. Proud parents will witness the evident display of confidence as the talented students of Kidz Meadow relive their childhood memories through all-time favourite Disney numbers. 116 graduands from Kidz Meadow Kindergarten and Childcare Centres have their supportive parents and dedicated team of teachers to thank for their valuable learning journey.

The success of any education programme depends on an important group of people - the teachers. Teachers play an important role in designing suitable learning environments and appropriate teaching methods to maximise the learning opportunities for children. Pre-school Qualification Accreditation Committee (PQAC) was set up to oversee the standards and quality of pre-school teacher training for both kindergarten and child care sectors in Singapore. This is jointly steered by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

In adherence to PQAC, Kidz Meadow has laid out a professional development plan for our preschool teachers. By raising the minimum requirements of new preschool teachers, the current teachers are encouraged to attain higher qualifications. Various upgrading opportunities are also available such as scholarships and teaching awards offered by MCYS and MOE. Through workshops and seminars, teachers would gain new ideas in their efforts to bring out the best in their pupils.

65% of Kidz Meadow teachers have met MOE's qualification requirement while the other 35% are undergoing training. By January 2013, Kidz Meadow will be on target to meet MOE's requirement to have 75% of its teachers to be at least diploma trained. One such teacher is Ms Jumira Bte Mister who has had more than 14 years of Early Childhood experience. She is currently undertaking a Diploma in Early Childhood Care & Education. There have been challenges for Ms Jumira to balance work, studies and also family life. She added that she has gotten numerous support from her family who is constantly taking turns to care for her young children. Ms Marduwati Binte Ahmad encounters the same kind of challenges with regards to balancing working life and family life. Even though a Malay Language teacher, she is currently undertaking a Diploma course in Early Childhood Care & Education to further assist young children to achieve their optimum in early education. She has 14 years of experience in Early Childhood.

With strong support and encouragement from her family, it's no wonder that she is able to explore different techniques of teaching to reach out to children of all levels.

In the presence of Dr Lim Wee Kiak, a cheque of \$20,000 would be presented to Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) for the Ready for School Fund. This is an increase of \$4,000 in comparison to last year's collection. The fund is part of AMP's effort to provide assistance to children of the AFYS families by equipping them with school essentials such as stationery, bags, uniforms, books and shoes. The fund also helps to subsidise school and tuition fees, provide EZ Link cards and other financial assistance.

To instill the spirit of volunteerism and giving at a young age, students at Kidz Meadow are encouraged to collect donations for the fund. AMP has announced that the top collectors are from Kidz Meadow:

- Sophian Izhan Bin Osman (\$400) from Kidz Meadow Kindergarten
- Teo Jun Kei (\$320) from Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Buangkok
- Irsyad Bin Abdullah (\$310) from Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Yishun
- Teo Jun Xiang (\$310) from Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Buangkok
- Rahish Rauther (\$310) from Kidz Meadow Kindergarten

The Guest-of-Honour would be delivering a speech, highlighting on holistic learning and the importance of providing children with a headstart in life. A child's development during his early childhood years has a great influence on how he thinks and behaves, through his school years and as an adult. How he will be depends to a good degree on the stimulation, guidance and nurturing received early in life. Parents and preschool educators therefore play a critical role.

We cordially invite members of the press to cover the event. The details of the event are as follows:

Date: 11 November 2011

Time: 4.30pm – 8.00pm (Press to arrive by 4.00pm)

Venue: DBS Auditorium

(The programme schedule for the event can be found on the 3rd page)

Please RSVP via email by **10 November 2011** to rasidah@merculearning.com to confirm your attendance. We look forward to your presence at the event.

About MERCU Learning Point

MERCU Learning Point is an education and training provider that offers a comprehensive range of programmes and services to the general public, corporate, grassroots organisations and other Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs). Set up in 1999, MERCU comprises of Kidz Meadow - a kindergarten and three childcare centres, three student care centres, and four learning centres that offer tuition for students, two of which offers GCE 'O' and 'N' Level programmes.

We kindly request the media's support and assistance to inform members of the public of these programmes so that they may take advantage of its benefits.

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Programme

4.15pm	Arrival of Parents
4.30pm	Arrival of Guest of Honour Tour of exhibition on "Our Holistic & Colourful Curriculum"
4.45pm	GOH enters the auditorium
4.50pm	Graduands Grand Entrance
4.55pm	Opening Performance – medley of performances from all Kidz Meadow Centres
5.00 pm	Slideshow on our Learning Journey / Presentation on KM New Initiatives
5.10pm	Speech by GOH
5.15pm	Graduation Ceremony/Certificate Presentation - Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Buangkok - Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Yishun - Kidz Meadow Kindergarten @ Pasir Ris
6.00 pm	Presentation of Token to Parent Advisor, Mdm Aishah Isnain
6.05pm	Presentation of Cheque to AMP for Ready for School Fund Donation Project
6.10pm	Presentation of Voucher & Certificate to top 5 collectors Presentation of Token of Appreciation to GOH
6.15pm	Valedictorian Speech
6.20pm	GOH leaves the auditorium
6.25pm	Concert Starts
6.30pm	George of the Jungle (KMB) The Princess & The Frog (KMY) Enchanted (KMK) The Lion King (KMB) Snow White & The 7 Dwarves (KMK) The Little Mermaid (KMK) The Jungle Book (KMY)
7.30pm	Finale
7.40pm	Reception
8.00pm	End of Programme