



Accessories Making



I look forward to that ONE day in the year where children yearn to go to school as a Carnival of activities awaits them. This year was no different.

My nine-year-old had been yackety-yaking about this day for the past few weeks. She did not mind that we had to leave home at 6.30am, half an hour earlier than usual, to drop her brother off as I had to report for duty at 7.30am! On the contrary, she was in high spirits! Before we left home, she grabbed a spare bag and said with a cheeky grin, "For the presents!".

I must admit, I was as excited as she was, for it's not often we can catch a glimpse of our children in their element in the school environment.

This year, my elder daughter had moved up to secondary school and hence graduated from the Children's Day celebrations. I was now without my usual kakis (parents of my elder daughter's friends who are now my good friends). For the past 5 years or so, we had grouped together to manage a game stall. Our games had evolved to suit our aging bodies. We started from being extremely hands-on to being very efficient game masters! We enjoyed every single year. However, this year I would be joining a brand-new group of parents (parents of my younger daughter, who are much younger - you know they are much younger when they tell you they were from IJ but have never stepped into IJ at Victoria Street).

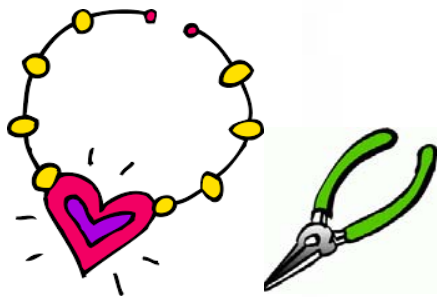
This year's Children Day's theme was 'A Beautiful Garden'. Besides the wide variety of food and games, there were booths for Photo-taking with Props, Glitter Tattoo and Accessories Making. There was also a Treasure Hunt, Bouncy Castle, Music with Live DJ and the newest addition was the Claw Machine - a huge hit! Oh yes, and the Redemption booth which is always the highlight!

This year I decided to have a go at Accessories Making. The Parent Volunteers (PVs) in-charge were really talented and organized and we even had a training session before the event!

I dare say, I have progressed from a novice to an expert 'bracelet maker' in just 5 short hours! I must apologize to the first couple of girls as some of the bracelets were a disaster but there was no complaint, no negative comment, no sarcastic remark. I recalled there was one bracelet which was obviously too small but the girl sportingly squeezed into it and said with a smile, 'It's fine, thank you'. Every girl didn't leave my station without saying a word of thanks! The IJ spirit lives on!



What I enjoy most every year is interacting with the children - from the P1s who occasionally slipped out a "Mummy, can you help me" to the P6s who shared with me that they will miss their friends if they go to different secondary schools. I also encountered many different personalities - there was this girl who I'm quite sure spent at least an hour or so painstakingly looking for the perfect shades of pink, purple and white to make the most beautiful bracelet; a pair of sisters, the elder one being so encouraging toward her younger sister! I could immediately spot the girls with artistic flair and those who work especially fast!



Through these games and activities, I always feel we, parents can double up as talent scouts for the school! Through our games, we could identify potential basket and netballers; girls with very good ball sense and hand-eye coordination; girls with perfect aim; a good eye for art and design and so on.

It is always so heart-warming to see so many mums and dads taking time off to spend time with their little ones and their friends! All in all, although exhausted at the end of the morning, I wouldn't have chosen to spend my morning anywhere else.

When I met my daughter in the canteen after the day of fun, she was smiling from ear to ear, animatedly recounting the events of the day and describing the presents and gifts she had received.

Well, it looks like my daughter and I would have to patiently wait 365 days to the next Children's Day Carnival in 2018! It is the one day where children can enjoy being children and parents can celebrate the child in us!

By Juliet Distant (Mother of Hannah Yeo, P3 Ixora)

