

It was my first opportunity as Parent Volunteer at CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh). It was also my daughter's birthday. How coincidental. How wonderful!

The school had preponed the event to February 14, even though the actual date is February 15. We were expected to meet at 9am, but by 8.45am almost everyone had arrived. A total of 12 of us walked around the canteen throughout the 3 recess timeslots, meeting and encouraging students to participate in one of 2 quizzes— one, for the lower primary (P1-P3) and another, for the older students (P3-P6). The P3s were allowed to choose between the basic quiz (maximum 6pts) or the crossword puzzle (which garnered more points for their respective Houses).





It was interesting to see how some of the students were voluntarily asking to participate after seeing their peers doing so! While I was busy walking around giving and collecting quiz sheets, a few of the more experienced volunteers sat down to efficiently and effectively sort out the quiz answer sheets by level and house. By the time the third recess was over, our next task was laid out for us — marking! We shared a few light moments seeing some cute errors, especially by the little ones for the fill-in-the-blanks question (“how many arms does the Total Defence logo have? ___ ___ ___ ___”). It was easy to write “f-o-u-r” instead of the correct answer “five”— words of similar length. It was more amusing to see “f-i-l-l”, as an answer too. After all, the task did require them to “fill” in the blanks!





I could not help but observe how daughters ran to their volunteering moms and dads during the respective recess times. Some even quickly captured the "together" moment and returned swiftly to their responsibilities. My daughter decided to use her recess time assisting me, but not after she made sure I had met her classmates. It was nice to see her puzzled mates asking her about me ("Who is she?"). Being in Primary 1, they were probably also new to seeing parent volunteers at this school, just as I was new to the task.

I was impressed by the ease and good organisation of our duties and roles. It showed the experience and skill of the Central Parent Council. So it was a pleasant first-time experience for me and I am looking forward to more events and years ahead as a Parent Volunteer here...



Joyce Rajendran (mummy of Hazel Priya Daniel P1 Violet)

