



Racial Harmony Day

@ CHIJ PRIMARY

“How do I play this game, Auntie?” was the question most frequently heard during **Racial Harmony Day** held at the school on 21 July. The girls, who were decked out in their traditional costumes, visited the four different game stations manned by our Parent Volunteers (PVs) during their recess times. For many of them, it was their first time discovering the local games featured. PVs were on hand to explain the rules of the games, demonstrate, guide them along and even play some of the games together with them!



Our Principal,
Teachers &
Parents
demonstrating
how the
games are
played!

The theme for this year's Racial Harmony Day commemoration was "Celebrating our Cultural Heritage". Games that used to be a common sight during the recess times in the 80s, such as Congkak, Five Stones, Zeropoint

(also known as “Ye-ye”) and Chaptah are hardly seen played by children today. Through these games which were specially selected and presented to the students, the girls learnt about local games that are played amongst the different ethnic groups, and how these games used to be played by all races alongside each other.

Our girls,
eagerly
trying the
games out
themselves!



It was fun to watch many of them gamely attempting the more physically challenging activities like Zeropoint even though they were restricted by their traditional costumes! With some of the games such as Congkak, requiring a bit more time and patience just waiting for your turn, the short recess time made it insufficient to play a full game. Unfortunately, most of the games had to end just as they were beginning to get the hang of it, much to the disappointment of the children. However, many had left with an eagerness to continue learning more about the games.

Parents, you might want to relive your childhood by teaching and playing the full versions of these games with your children! Spend time to reminisce with your child, by introducing the various traditional games of the different races in Singapore! Talk to them about the importance of racial harmony in our multi-racial society and most of all, enjoy and have fun!