



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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10 TEACHERS AWARDED THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD

Ten English teachers from the Primary, Secondary and Junior College levels, were awarded the Inspiring Teacher of English Award this year. The winners received a trophy, certificate and cash award from the Guest-of-Honour, Mr S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, and Education at the award ceremony today.

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award, now in its third year, is jointly presented by The Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, and supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE). The Award honours exceptional teachers of English Language, English Literature and General Paper.

Since the Award started in 2008, a total of 29 teachers from the Primary, Secondary and Junior College levels have been recognised for their passion in making English interesting and their unique ability to kindle in each student a love for the language. This year, 66 teachers were nominated by their students, parents, or their peers, and endorsed by their principals. All nominated teachers will receive certificates of commendation.

Speaking on the far-reaching impact that English teachers have on their students, Mr Iswaran said, “English teachers create an impact on the lives of our young in a profound way by equipping them with indispensable tools for effective communication and social interaction. These are tools that are necessary not just to do well in school, but to go far in their careers, build meaningful relationships and to be relevant in the global economy.”

On the awardees, Mr Goh Eck Kheng, Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement, said, “The focus of the Speak Good English Movement 2010 is to create an environment where good English is widely spoken and heard. For this to happen, we need role models – people who can speak and write English well – so that people around them can learn from and be inspired by them. The winning teachers exemplify what it means to be a role model and an inspiration to their students and peers.”

Mr William Anthony Grosse, who is one of the winning English teachers, frequently goes beyond his classroom duties as a teacher in his 25 years in Rosyth School. He makes his personal trove of young adult novels available for his students to borrow to encourage them to cultivate a love of reading. His ultimate goal is to motivate his students to think, reflect and be creative, and not be merely consumers of content. He uses technology such as RSS (Really Simple Syndication) to monitor and provide feedback on his students’ work online on the online platform Wikispaces, which creates an easily accessible archive of work that his students can refer to and improve upon. Mr Grosse is active in sharing his knowledge and experiences with his fellow teachers in local and international workshops, as he believes pedagogy is organic and changing and can be used for the benefit of students. For Mr Grosse, his students clearly come first as he hopes that his students leave his lessons “happier, more enlightened and glad to have come to school”.

Another winner, Ms Rachel Poh of Ngee Ann Secondary School, was lauded for her innovative use of technology in her classes. For example, she uses Windows Live Messenger to teach her students about the works of William Shakespeare by posing questions to an automated Shakespeare Bot. Students are then given worksheets that simulate a Facebook profile page and are required to tease answers out of the Shakespeare Bot “in order to create their version of how William Shakespeare’s Facebook profile page might look like”. Through her innovative methods, Ms Poh has inspired the love for

Shakespeare among her students that is humorously evident in a cheeky student's quip "Something wicked this way comes!", whenever she approaches the classroom.

(Please refer to Annex for a complete list of winners.)

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About the Inspiring Teacher of English Award

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award acknowledges teachers who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write better. These teachers are passionate about making English interesting and relevant to their students, and are innovative in engaging their students to help them learn English better. The Award salutes these teachers for their continual learning and constant efforts to upgrade themselves to benefit their students and schools. For more information, please visit <http://inspiringenglishteacher.sg/>.

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Winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2010

PRIMARY	
NAME	SCHOOL
Sky Frank	CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity
William Anthony Grosse	Rosyth School
Esther Lye Swee Lin	CHIJ (Kellock)
Lajwanti Thakurdas Melwani	White Sands Primary School
Lynette Shanti Vincent	North View Primary School
SECONDARY	
NAME	SCHOOL
Karen Kang Hong Lin	Kent Ridge Secondary School
Rachel Poh Yi Jeng	Ngee Ann Secondary School
Kamisah Bte Yusof	Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School
JUNIOR COLLEGE / INSTITUTE	
NAME	SCHOOL
Angela Quek Guat choo	Tampines Junior College
Sng Mee Lian	Catholic Junior College