



# PL PARCEL



Theme of the Month

**Home is where  
the Heart is!**

Issue #2

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# August's Theme:



## Home is where the Heart is

When it comes to the word 'Home', most of us visualise the place we grew up in, the familiar physical environment that brings a wave of nostalgia and memories. However, as we get older, the place we seek shelter in changes frequently, and the people we live with changes too! So, we may feel lost when deciding what 'Home' means to us personally.



With all these changes that we will face as we mature, perhaps the common factor of what is considered a home is - Comfort. Home can simply be a place one feels an emotional attachment to because of the memories created at a special place, or the place where our most loved ones are, a place where we can truly be authentic selves! The word home is subjective to everyone, but most importantly, it is a place where we can always go back to for comfort in the world.



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# REWRITING COSMIC HISTORY: THE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

By Chang Zi Qing (3.1) and Evelyn Naga (3.2)



*Illustration by Dustin Yellin, for Quanta Magazine*

Have you ever wondered how the universe was created? It all started with the Big Bang. While we may not be able to see the Big Bang, what we can see is heat that was present about 380,000 years after the beginning of the expansion of the universe that occurred roughly 13.8 billion years ago (this expansion is referred to as the Big Bang). Up till now, the universe is still filled with this heat. We are able to map it with the help of many satellites. At that point in time, there were only slight variations in temperature and the universe was incredibly smooth.

The name 'Big Bang' might mislead you to think that the universe was created in the same way as when a firecracker explodes – at a particular place and time. However, this is far from the truth.

The Big Bang happened everywhere and all at once. The Big Bang did not happen at a single point in time, rather, it was a process that occurred over space and time. In fact, the Big Bang is still happening now! Just as there is no smallest negative integer or largest positive integer, there is no beginning instant of time. The transformation of one condition to another can be described by equations in physics. However, the transformation of true nothingness into somethingness cannot be demonstrated by any formulae. This means that the universe has always existed, albeit possibly not in its current form. The universe's age is not infinite, merely very huge. However, we can still calculate the universe's age even though there is no first instant of time.

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was launched on 25 December 2021, with the goal to observe some of the most ancient celestial objects in the universe. Recently, on 11 July 2022, several stunning first images of the unseen universe taken by the JSWT, which could potentially "rewrite cosmic history", were revealed by the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden.





Several astronomers described the first full-colour image taken by JWST, as the deepest view of the universe ever taken. The following day, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released four additional photographs to demonstrate Webb's extraordinary capability. These images included close-ups of a faraway dying star, an extraterrestrial \*exoplanet, and a cluster of five galaxies that were chaotically colliding.



The JWST was built to observe a portion of the universe's history that has not yet been observed, particularly in the first celestial objects that emerged as the universe began to cool after the Big Bang, not built to observe the very first and initial origins of the universe. We do not know exactly when or how the universe created the first stars and galaxies, thus the JWST was built to assist us in answering this question. According to Eric Smith, Webb program scientist and NASA Astrophysics Division head scientist, the initial objective of the telescope was to observe the first stars and galaxies of the cosmos, or to watch "the universe turn the lights on for the first time."

This ties in with the notion of how the JWST can "rewrite cosmic history". By measuring the universe at unprecedented wavelengths, depths, sensitivities and resolutions, the JWST can uncover information about the parts of the universe, never seen before. The stunning capabilities of the JWST could drop a bombshell, revealing a universe we would never have imagined existed – one that contains everything from never-seen-before dust to stars to black holes and even potential \*biosignatures beyond earth.

Another space telescope highly renowned for its capability to capture many of the stars and galaxies most distant from us is the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). However, compared to the HST, "Webb can see backwards in time just after the Big Bang by looking for galaxies that are so far away, the light has taken many billions of years to get from those galaxies to ourselves," stated Jonathan Gardner, Webb deputy senior project scientist at NASA, during a recent press conference. "Webb is bigger than Hubble so that it can see fainter galaxies that are further away."

As exhilarating as the James Webb Space Telescope sounds, we should also focus on the importance of the telescope itself as it can reveal secrets of the universe previously untold. As if to open a Pandora's box, it is good to be aware that the JWST may lead to unforeseen problems, relating to facts which may contradict what is currently believed. In the event of us having more breakthroughs and gaining more insight, it is necessary to note that we may need to learn to let go of our present ideologies and make way for new concepts in order for our knowledge to keep growing.



\*exoplanet: a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system

\*biosignature: a substance (element, isotope, or molecule) that provides evidence of life, past or present, e.g. cellular morphologies, carbohydrates, proteins, etc.





# How to study

By Chang Zi Qing 3.1 & Heidi Foo 3.1

With the end-of-year examinations rapidly approaching, studying is no strange concept to most PL-lites. Most of us have had our fair share of worrying over examinations and we know that studying is not a breeze. To ease your stress and aid you in your studies, here are some study tips compiled by yours truly, the PL Parcel team! However, do remember to also take breaks, hydrate yourselves and maintain a healthy sleep schedule.

## QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY!

When we study, some of us subconsciously take the amount of hours spent on studying as an indicator of one's productivity. While we should commit our time to revising, this is only true to a small extent. When studying, we should prioritise completing various tasks rather than placing our focus on the duration of our revision. Refrain from overworking and pressuring yourself to meet a time-deadline. Instead, focus on accomplishing your daily study goals instead.

## PLAN... PLAN... PLAN...

By planning a study timetable, you can increase your productivity and efficiency by knowing what content needs to be covered. By laying out the timeframe until your examinations, you will be able to track your progress, making sure you are up to speed with your revision. Additionally, by creating to-do lists regularly, you can complete tasks accordingly, ensuring that the more major and urgent tasks are prioritised while secondary and trivial tasks take a backseat instead. This helps to ensure that important tasks are not left until the last minute so that your work will not be rushed instead.

## SHHHH!

Having a conducive environment is of utmost importance. If one does not have a conducive environment to study in, the quality of their work will decline. The first step to having a conducive environment is to remove all distractions and clutter from one's table such as tempting mobile phones or unnecessary scraps of paper. This will help to create a space whereby you can concentrate and focus better, improving your mood and thus optimising your productivity..

## TEACHER... PLEASE HELP US!

If you are facing difficulties understanding the content of lessons, you should not feel afraid or embarrassed to seek help and schedule consultations with teachers after school. At PL, the teachers value your education and are extremely willing to help you, even outside of school hours. With an extra helping hand, you will definitely be able to improve your work.

# Study app recommendations

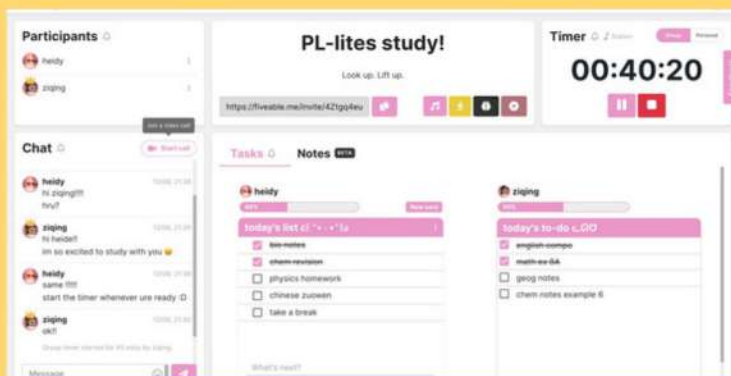
Part 2 of 'How to study'

On a related note, Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) have been largely integrated into both our school lives and study routines. In light of this, here are some PLD-friendly applications and websites that you can access on your devices to assist your revision!

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## FIVEABLE (WEBSITE)

Fiveable is a free website that allows you to host group study sessions online, anywhere, anytime. Simply create a session and invite your friends through an invitation link to study together. The website comes with a chat function, a timer, and an individual music player, equipping you with the tools for a productive study session. The website also offers a focus mode, minimising the distractions on screen. As illustrated in the picture, you can even create a personal to-do list alongside your friends, and customise your visual experience!



Example of a typical Fiveable session and its various features



Picture of the Forest app



Picture of the Foca app



## FOREST (APP)

Forest is a one-time payment app which allows the user to focus on the task at hand without any distractions from their mobile phone. When you need to put your phone away and maintain your focus to get things done, it plants a seed in the Forest. This seed will eventually develop into a tree if you maintain your focus. However, your tree will wither if you give in to the need to use your phone and leave the app. Forest has multiple focus modes, including a timer mode, a stopwatch mode, and a 'plant together' mode where you can stay focused together with your friends and family. However, if you are unwilling to spend money on Forest, there are other free alternatives, such as Plantie and Focus Plant.



## FOCA (APP)

Foca is a free minimalistic Pomodoro Timer app, which allows you to determine your study and rest duration. Once your study time is up, the app offers you one of three options, to rest, continue studying, or to stretch. The application is paired with stretching exercises to relieve physical stress and pains, with an audio and visual guide. Additionally, in order to achieve a conducive study environment, the app is well equipped with various ambient sounds, such as Dawn Forest, Seashore, and white noise.

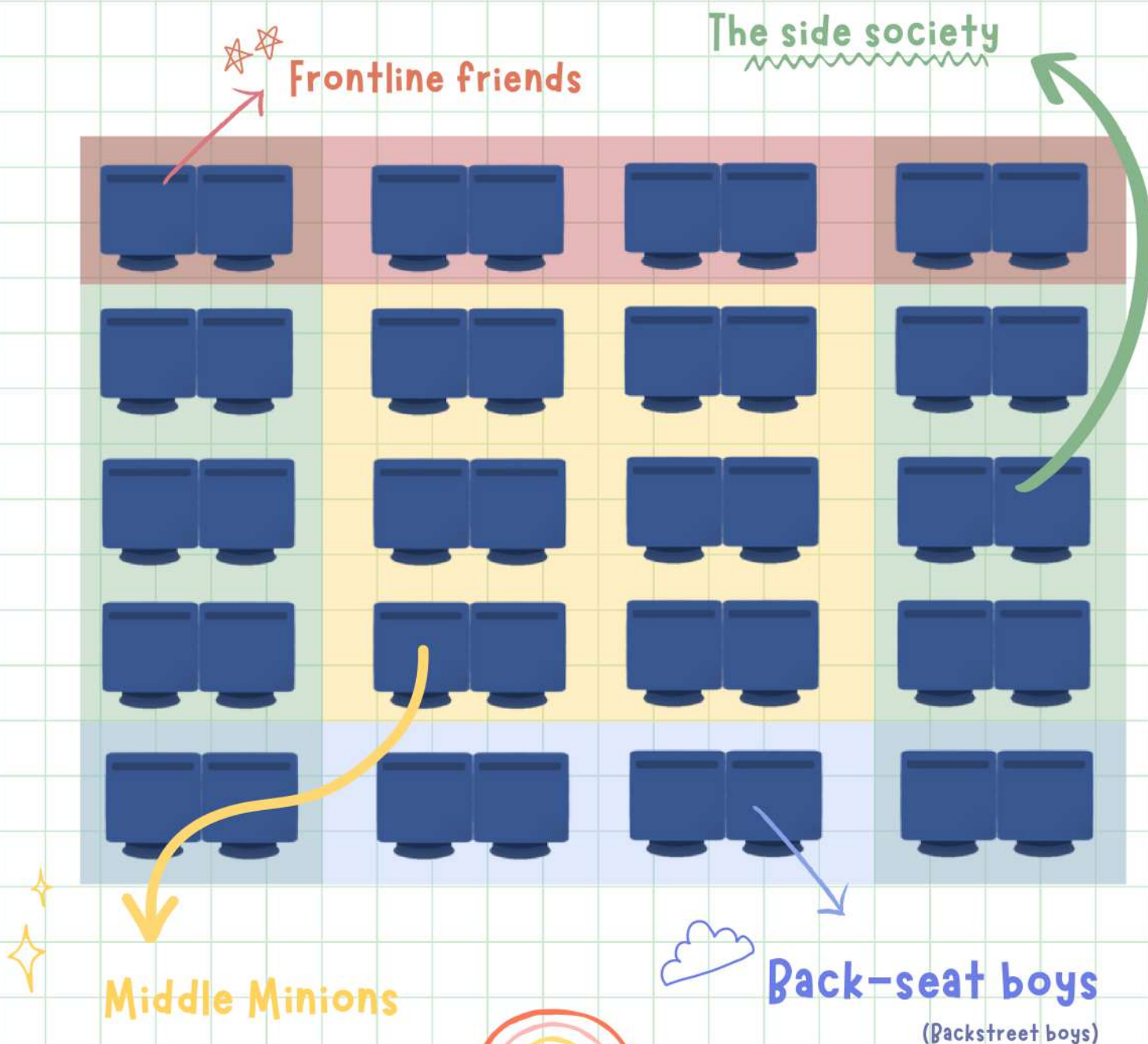


# WHERE SHOULD I SIT IN CLASS?

By Heidi Foo 3.1 & Amelia Chan 3.2

While recent advancements in technology have changed our learning experiences in class, we decided to delve deeper into the more traditional elements of learning, namely the seating arrangements of students in the classroom, leaving us to ponder – What are the various pros & cons of different seating positions in class?

## • Your typical classroom seating PL-an





## ● Frontline friends

At the front, you won't be able to enjoy the privileges of the new air cooler... But do not fret! You will be able to receive the most optimal hearing and viewing experience from your teachers, plus your inquiries would be easily satisfied should you need to consult your teacher. Technically speaking, those at the front are able to engage the best in class!



### ▼ Did you know?

Sitting at the front can be most productive for shy students unwilling to voice out their questions from a distance, as compared to when they are within close proximity of the teacher.

## ● Middle minions

As the name suggests, the middle seats get the best of both worlds. You can enjoy the some benefits of sitting at the front and the back, resulting in a PERFECT mixture of both. Compared to the extreme ends of the classroom, you would also be fully surrounded by all your best buddies in class, ensuring a good balance of attentive listening and peer communication!

## ● The side society

Students sitting at the side of classes are able to indulge in the world outside, as well as to enjoy better ventilation with the windows by their sides. However, through various.... personal experiences, we have discovered that students stationed here are more susceptible to their items flying out of the window when experiencing a particularly strong gust of wind and personal belongings may also get wet at times due to rainy weather.



(‘Backstreet boys’ famous boyband... and if you knew this, you have just revealed your age!)

## ● Backseat boys

When sitting at the back, your view of the board may prove disadvantageous. For instance, if your teacher writes in a light coloured marker, then you may face struggles trying to comprehend the lesson fully. On the other hand, you are able to get the FULL privileges of the air cooler (This may come at the cost of flying hair sometimes) and tons of space to stretch out between classes. Not to mention, the extensive view of everybody from the back!

### ▼ What do you think?

Now that we have given you enough food for thought on the seating arrangements in class, do you have a new personal rank between these 3 seating regions?



# O-level Music

By Chang Zi Qing 3.1, Amelia Chan 3.2, Evelyn Naga 3.2

O-level music is an additional subject and platform for students to explore depths into the world of music, express their creativity, and build confidence as they learn to become all-rounded musicians.

The O-level Music syllabus covers 3 main areas of musical activities:



- Listening - Being able to pick out what setting of music, what instrument, how the song is played, etc.
- Creating - Includes the choosing of electronic mediums, instruments & aural imagination when composing a musical piece.
- Performing - Solo and/or as an Ensemble



## PL's O-Level Music students



We spoke to a few of our current O-Level Music students and got to know more about them and their music!!

### Who do you look up to for inspiration when it comes to music?

#### Jody Choo, 3.4

A person whom I respect greatly & take much of my inspiration from is none other than the Father of musical theatre, the late Stephen Sondheim. He is most famous for writing musicals such as West Side Story and Into The Woods. He was the modernist of musical theatre, turning a comfortably staid genre into a disaffected form of experimentation. He confronts each song as a conundrum of marrying emotional clarity with melodic emphasis and the structural limitations of rhyme. Most importantly, he made art for those who feel like outsiders, and the typically unseen, and that impacts and inspires me greatly.





### Caitlyn Ong, 3.3

I look up to my older friends in my youth ministry's music team as they are passionate in their craft, constantly seek ways to improve and patiently mentor the younger and more inexperienced ones. I've learnt a lot from them and hope to have the same passion and grow musically too!



### Caitlin Abigail, 3.3

I mostly take inspiration from music that I listen to regularly rather than from a single artist because it helps to give me more ideas and inspiration.

## Why did you join O-level Music?

### Jody Choo, 3.4

I joined O-level music because I needed an outlet for my creative expression and I wanted to learn more about musical genres that I am not so used to.

### Caitlin Abigail, 3.4

I was interested in taking music as I was excited to learn about the different elements of music and was finally persuaded to join by my friends.

### Caitlyn Ong, 3.3

After I finally completed both the theory and practical graded exams at Sec 2, I wanted to study music at a deeper level and expose myself to more genres of music. I enjoy learning about music and since PL offers O-Level music, it was a great opportunity to take up the subject.



## Music Recommendations!



### Caitlyn Ong 3.3

Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor (Pathétique). It's a piece with very contrasting movements; the first and last being intense and the second, lyrical.

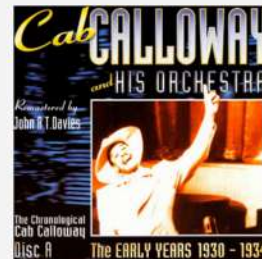
### Jody Choo, 3.4

'Like the Movies' by Laufey. The song mainly focuses on what having a life in a rom-com would be like and it's just swell to listen to and to let your imagination flow.



### Caitlin Abigail, 3.4

'What Once Was' by Her's and 'St. James Infirmary' by Cab Calloway



With this in mind, taking up an additional subject, such as O-Level Music may not come trouble-free to every student. Some may be better, more skillful at overcoming challenges, but some of the others can find the subject highly demanding and challenging. However, on a positive note, taking up O-Level Music can in fact be beneficial as it can help build one's creativity, as well as train a person's time management skills. At the end of the day, it depends on you to consider and think about some of the circumstances involved and whether or not you would still take the subject, considering such circumstances.



## 🔍 The History behind 'Memes' ✕

By Amelia Chan 3.2

You have probably sent an internet meme to your friends, your siblings, or perhaps even received one from your grandparents, and that's because memes have become a phenomenon so prominent in our society that almost everybody has interacted with one.



via Wikimedia Commons: WWII Memorial



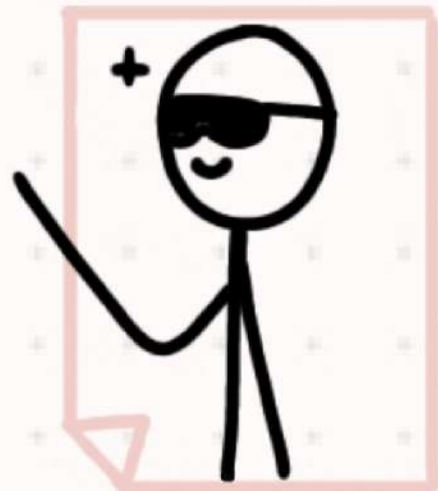
### The Beginnings

Contrary to popular belief, memes did not have their beginning through internet circulation of a certain image, video, or GIF. From the period of WWII, the idea of memes started off as forms of graffiti. An example would be that of Kilroy. 'Kilroy was here' became a popular meme that came in the form of wall graffiti, circulating all around the world with various replications of the original.

Almost a century later, humans have evolved this idea of a meme, causing memes to take on a familiar definition of 'an idea, behaviour, or style that spreads by means of imitation from person to person within a culture online'.

### Relevance of Memes

Memes, being a form of free expression for people, have many uses. Not only do they instill social validation from society (People feel seen when they are able to see forms of themselves represented in a meme), and provide social commentary on various issues in the world (eg. satire used to express political views), but they can also provide awareness on issues or human emotions that we may find hard to express in words.



Many of the memes that we know of are replicas of the original image or video itself, some become popular because of their versatility, while others may have accidentally gone viral. So, let us delve deeper and explore some of the world's most familiar meme variations.





This is Fine.  
- 2016 Meme

The image of a humanoid dog assuring itself that everything is alright, despite being in a room engulfed in flames. This illustration was first seen in an issue of the Webcomic series: Gunshow, by K.C Green. Although there aren't many replications of this illustration, it is mainly used online as a self-denial reaction to a distressing circumstance.



Originally an iStock image picture titled 'Disloyal man with his girlfriend looking at another girl', this image has been replicated and modified tremendously on the internet, used in many political, social, and humorous contexts. This versatile image renamed 'Distracted Boyfriend' by the public even won the 'Meme of the Year' Shorty Awards back in 2018!



Distracted Boyfriend  
- 2017 Meme



Kermit  
- Character originated in around 1955

Last, but not least, Kermit the Frog is a frog puppet created by Jim Henson in 1955 and has appeared on popular television series such as The Muppets and Sesame Street. Kermit has become an icon of meme culture, featured in various types of meme templates. Most memes with Kermit the Frog are used to express sarcasm, awkwardness, and cheeky comments.

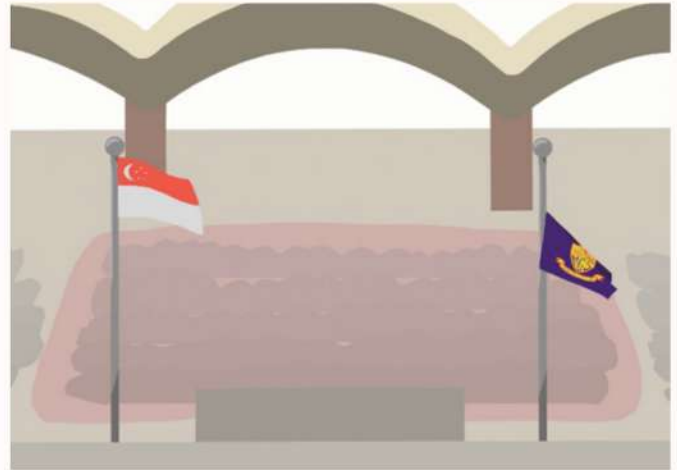
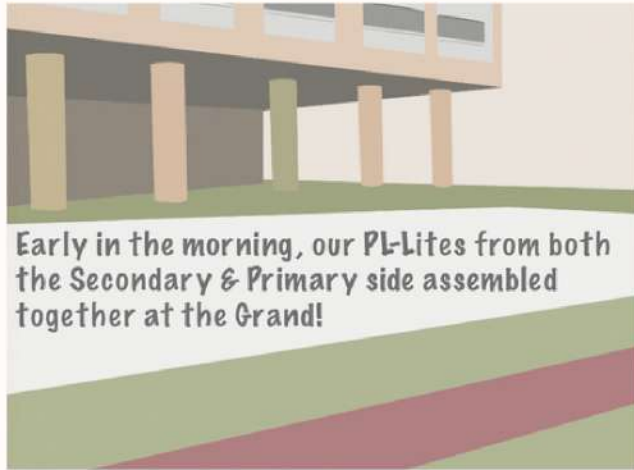
Sources:

Know your memes - [https://www.google.com/search?q=kermit+the+frog+meme+history&ei=ZEICY4XoEsk980QA-rmoCw&ved=0ahUKEwiFqrzMK9j5AhXCXnwKHQB9DrUQ4dUDCA4&uact=5&oeq=kermit+the+frog+meme+history&es\\_lq=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAMyBgeAEB4QFjIGCAAQHhAWMeUIABCGAzIFCAAQhgMyBQeAEIYDOeclABBHELAD0eclABCwAxBD0eolABDkAhCwAxgBOe8lLhDUAhDIAxCwAxBDGA16DAguEMeDELADEEMYAjoFCAAQeARKBAhBGABKBAhGGAFQpeJY2wtgyw9oAXABeACAAb0CIAH9CpIBBzluMy4yLjGYAQcGAQHARLAAQHaAQYIARABGAnaAQYIAhABGA&scient=gws-wiz](https://www.google.com/search?q=kermit+the+frog+meme+history&ei=ZEICY4XoEsk980QA-rmoCw&ved=0ahUKEwiFqrzMK9j5AhXCXnwKHQB9DrUQ4dUDCA4&uact=5&oeq=kermit+the+frog+meme+history&es_lq=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAMyBgeAEB4QFjIGCAAQHhAWMeUIABCGAzIFCAAQhgMyBQeAEIYDOeclABBHELAD0eclABCwAxBD0eolABDkAhCwAxgBOe8lLhDUAhDIAxCwAxBDGA16DAguEMeDELADEEMYAjoFCAAQeARKBAhBGABKBAhGGAFQpeJY2wtgyw9oAXABeACAAb0CIAH9CpIBBzluMy4yLjGYAQcGAQHARLAAQHaAQYIARABGAnaAQYIAhABGA&scient=gws-wiz)  
<https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/distracted-boyfriend>  
 Kilroy - <https://www.thoughtco.com/killroy-was-here-4152093>  
 What's the history of memes - video by Concerning Reality

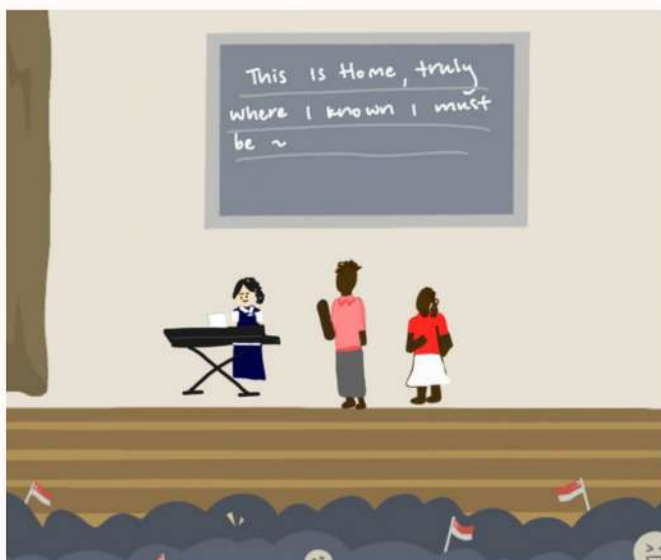


# NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT PL!

In week 7 this term, our school finally resumed a full school NDP celebration. Let's take a look at this comic illustration on what went down that day!



We had an exciting assembly time with our Primary School sisters, with a ceremonial assembly carried out by our Girls' Brigade, St. Johns, Band and National Police Cadet Corps



Our NDP celebration included performances by our Gu Zheng CCA, Handbells CCA, Guitar CCA, MIT, and more!




# PL PARCEL COMPETITION!

°ϑ+°° Woohoo! The PL Parcel will now be having regular contests on various topics for you to share your creativity!

## PROMPT FOR AUGUST:



**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU  
HAD A MILLION DOLLARS?**



Individually, you can express your own interpretation of the prompt in a creative design manner (Eg. a comic, illustration, cartoon, etc.) and share it with us.

We can't wait to see it!



**Here's the link to upload your submissions:**

<https://forms.gle/meLYxbNPsMRUoXX96>



