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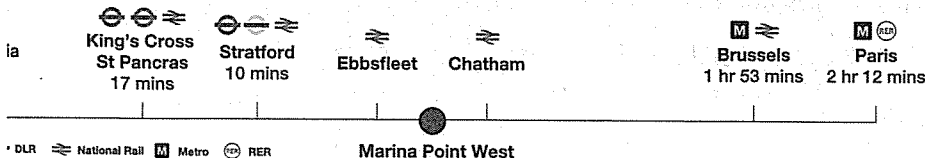
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ontact:

3186 grant.reynolds@ipglobal-ltd.com AMOUS LEE +65 9188 3093 amous.lee@ipglobal-ltd.com

818 alex.bellingham@ipglobal-ltd.com ANGELINE LU +65 9091 9311 angeline.lu@ipglobal-ltd.com

Investments Pte Ltd  
20 International Plaza

Fax: (65) 6224 2010  
L30100231

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# ST's book on values a hit with teachers

Book with activities linked  
to news articles, visuals  
given out at teacher forum

By TAN XING QI

PRIMARY and secondary school teachers at The Straits Times' annual Teachers Forum yesterday received copies of a newly launched book that can help them inculcate values in their students.

The book, 48 Values From The News: The Straits Times Guide To Building Character, has activities pegged to the newspaper's articles, infographics, photographs and editorial cartoons.

Teachers can use these real-life stories to impart values like resilience and respect.

Teachers who attended the annual forum at the SPH News Centre in Toa Payoh were eager to use it. So impressed was English teacher Tan Yew Hock, 31, from Crescent Girls' School, he bought three additional copies for the school library to share with other teachers. "I will definitely use it in the classroom," he said.

"I see a lot of possibilities in using newspapers to teach values and also get responses from students on how to better the lives of others."

Ms Serene Goh, editor of The Straits Times' young reader titles IN and Little Red Dot, said the newspaper is full of stories about how people behave.

"It's easy for teachers to point out examples - bad and good - and get students to discuss them," she said.

The book's real-life stories can be used by teachers to impart values to students.

In October last year, the Ministry of Education launched its latest Character and Citizenship Education programme, updating its values education methods for a changing profile of students.

The 200 teachers who attended the annual event - into its seventh year - also tried the newspaper's new e-learning worksheet.

Called mobile STep, or mSTep, it contains interactive spelling and comprehension activities for basic-level English learners.

It was produced by The Straits Times and its e-learning partner, iQ-Hub, and designed to improve English language skills.

Speakers at the forum also dispensed advice on how teachers could encourage healthy attitudes in the young.

Mrs Carmee Lim, 72, vice-chair of the Media Literacy Council, taught teachers a breathing exercise to get their students to calm down before posting angry messages online.

Positive psychology coach Sha-En Yeo showed how getting children to develop healthy perceptions about others would improve their outlook on life.

For the very young, the British Council's teacher trainer Edward Russell showed how even fairy tales could be used to teach values.

The Straits Times also gave awards to a number of schools. Yu Neng Primary, for example, received a trophy and banner for winning the Top Dot Award for its innovative use of the newspaper in class.

Inspired by The RHB-The Straits Times National Spelling Championship, the school in Bedok North held its own spelling competition and adapted Little Red Dot's articles into exam questions.

xqtan@sph.com.sg

To buy a copy of 48 Values (\$15), or subscribe to The Straits Times' school magazines, IN and Little Red Dot, call 6319-1005 or send an e-mail to cirschool@sph.com.sg