meet the future

Britney Lin Higgins, lawyer 2025

Rachel Man, professional violinist 2025

Ali Mourtadha, surgeon 2030

Ashwini Poobalan, vet 2025

VIBES speaks to some of the bright young stars from our very own neighbourhood on their hopes and dreams for the future.
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
How quickly time flies! We kickstart this issue by bidding farewell to 2010 and welcoming 2011. To commemorate the New Year and New Beginnings, we speak to some of our bright young stars from our very own neighbourhoods and ask them about their ambitions for the future. Here’s to another fantastic year ahead!

Happy New Year Everyone and Gong Xi Fa Cai!

Best wishes,

K Gaanasagaran | Member, Publicity Committee

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MINISTERIAL VISIT
GRACIOUS LIVING BEGINS WITH ME!
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

SPIRIT OF GIVING

02 vibes
Goodbye 2010, Hello 2011!

It was a night of mystic and magic at the carnival-themed Punggol North Countdown Party. Fire-dancers wowed the crowd with their daring and dramatic performances while magicians kept the crowd captivated with card tricks and sleights of hand. For the first time ever, residents were able to greet the New Year with a spectacular display of fireworks!


Ushering in 2011!

The Punggol East Year End Countdown Party was a star-studded affair. Sleeq delighted the crowd with their smooth and soulful performance while the comedic duo Mark Lee and Henry Thia kept the audience in stitches all night. The New Year was ushered in with fireworks and the highlight of the evening was a performance by Singapore’s very own Usher, Taufik Batisah!

WHAT & WHERE: Punggol East Year End Countdown Party at Harmony Square WHO: MP - Mr Michael Palmer WHEN: 31 Dec 2010

For the first time ever, residents of Punggol North greeted the New Year with fireworks!

Kids, please don’t try this at home!

Time for some festive cheer!

Happy New Year!

A fist bump with Ms Low!

Party people living it up!

Sleeq impressed all with their smooth moves

Taufik’s charisma sure got the crowd on their feet!

Mark and Henry kept the crowd in stitches
Residents of Punggol South enthusiastically welcomed Minister of Manpower Mr Gan Kim Yong on his first visit to Punggol South. Minister Gan and MPs viewed exhibitions and visited the various stations for the Ministerial Community Visit such as the official opening of a PCF centre at Blk 270 Sengkang Central, the SilverCircle @ Punggol South as well as the Al-Mawaddah Mosque. His visit was concluded at Hougang Secondary School where a short dialogue session took place. He warmly connected with all residents, both young and old. Welcome to the town Mr Gan and we hope to see you again soon!

WHAT & WHERE: Ministerial Community Visit
WHO: Minister for Manpower Mr Gan Kim Yong, MPs – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Teo Chee Hean; Mayor of Northeast CDC, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports & Ministry of Transport, Mr Teo Ser Luck; Mr Charles Chong; Dr Ahmad Magad; Ms Penny Low; Mr Michael Palmer
WHEN: 7 Nov 2010
The Minister learns how to make eco-friendly soap from recycled materials.

Minister and MPs visit a religious discussion at the Al-Mawaddah Mosque.

Minister has a few tricks up his sleeve!

Mingling with patrons at a coffeeshop.

Hm... some men just don't get it...

The Minister and MPs release Koi fish into the pond at Hougang Secondary School.

The visit was concluded with a dialogue session at Hougang Secondary School.
MY TOWN MY HOME was the name of our Pasir Ris - Punggol GRC Town Day this year. Many residents turned up to celebrate and support our “Gracious Living” theme with performances, games and fun rides. Families and friends were kept entertained by MediaCorp acts such as Elvin Ng, Aunty Lucy, Dai Yang Tian and Singapore Idol runner-up Sylvia Ratonel. 32 local cleaners were rewarded with cash prizes for their exemplary hard work to upkeep our town. Let’s us all do our parts and be proud of our town!

WHAT & WHERE: Treeplanting in front of Blk 261A Sengkang East Road cum Pasir Ris - Punggol GRC Town Day at Hard Court behind Sengkang CC
WHO: MPs - DPM Teo, Mr Teo Ser Luck, Mr Charles Chong, Dr Ahmad Magad, Mr Michael Palmer
WHEN: 12 Dec 2010

GRACIOUS LIVING BEGINS WITH ME!

Local cleaners are recognized for their hard work

Watch us go round!

DPM Teo mingles with residents during Town Day

Are you dancing Mayor Teo?

Heart to Heart

06 vibes
The Korban rites began early in the morning after Aidil Adha prayers at the Al-Mawaddah Mosque. Mr Teo and residents were invited to observe the Korban rites and proceedings at the new mosque. He also distributed the korban meat to needy residents to commemorate the true spirit of giving.

WHAT & WHERE: PS Hari Raya Aidil Adha Celebration cum Korban Rites at Punggol South CCC & Al-Mawaddah Mosque  
WHO: MP - Mayor Teo Ser Luck  
WHEN: 17 Nov 2010

Residents of all races came together to celebrate the Festival of Light. The Deepavali Celebration held at Pasir Ris East CC was the perfect opportunity for residents to find out more about Deepavali while mingling with their Indian neighbours. Guests dined on a scrumptious dinner while being entertained by Indian classical and folk dance performances.

WHAT & WHERE: Pasir Ris East IAEC Deepavali Celebrations at Pasir Ris East CC  
WHEN: 4 Dec 2010

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Volunteers distribute the korban meat to the needy
Christmas was indeed the season to be jolly as children gathered at Pasir Ris Elias CC and kept riveted with an inexhaustible list of games and candy. While waiting for Santa Claus to make a special appearance, they sang songs with elves and some of them even walked away with prizes given away by DPM Teo.

WHAT & WHERE: PASIR RIS WEST
CHILDREN’S X’MAS PARTY 2010 at Pasir Ris Elias CC
WHEN: 11 Dec 2010

MAKE A WISH!

Everyone helped make the event a smashing success!

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

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The pride in every parent’s face was eminent at the annual Edusave Scholarship & Bursary Awards that took place across all divisions across the GRC. Beaming students came onstage to shake hands with the various MPs and accept their awards for excelling in the previous academic year. The bursary award serves as a token as well as a further motivation for students to continue striving for academic excellence in the year ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL EDUSAVE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

WHAT & WHERE: Edusave Scholarship & Bursary Awards Presentation at all divisions of GRC
WHO: MPs – DPM Teo Chee Hean; Mr Teo Ser Luck; Mr Charles Chong; Dr Ahmad Magad; Ms Penny Low and Mr Michael Palmer
WHEN: Jan 2011
To commemorate the New Year and New Beginnings, VIBES speaks to some bright and exhuberant stars from our very own neighbourhood and ask them about their hopes and dreams for the future.
“WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A... PROFESSIONAL VIOLINIST”

Rachel Man, 13,
Tanjong Katong Girls School

What made you decide that you wanted to be a professional violinist?
I’ve been inspired by the likes of Li Jun and Vanessa Mae who are professional violinists from Singapore and I have also been taking lessons since I was primary 4.

Describe your heroes/role models?
My role model would be Li Jun, the professional violinist from Singapore. I like her playing especially her expression of the pieces.

What do you like to do for fun and how do you balance work and play?
I play around with my father and two siblings, aged five and two. I also like to read a lot. It’s very important to manage your time. Learn how to draw out a plan and stick to it.

What are some of your wishes for this New Year?
I really hope to get into the string ensemble and come out in the top 10% of my cohort in TKGS!

“WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A... LAWYER”

Britney Lin Higgins, 10,
Parkview Primary School

What made you decide that you wanted to be a lawyer?
I want to be a lawyer because I want to bring justice to people.

What do you think you need to do to achieve your ambition?
I think I will have to study hard so that I can learn how to become a good lawyer. It is also very important to help people whenever I can.

Describe your heroes/role models?
My role model would be Li Jun, the professional violinist from Singapore. I like her playing especially her expression of the pieces.

What do you like to do for fun and how do you balance work and play?
I play around with my father and two siblings, aged five and two. I also like to read a lot. It’s very important to manage your time. Learn how to draw out a plan and stick to it.

What are some of your wishes for this New Year?
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“WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A... VET”

Ashwini Poobalan, 14,
Punggol Secondary School

What made you decide that you wanted to be a vet?
I love animals and so many of them are becoming endangered nowadays. It’s important for someone to save them.

What do you think you need to do to achieve your ambition?
I will have to study hard especially in my science subjects. Hopefully in future, I can go overseas to get my certificates before I can start my own practice.

Describe your heroes/role models?
My role model is my mom. I know it is difficult for her because she is raising me up as a single parent and I want her to be proud of me.

What do you like to do for fun and how do you balance work and play?
I like to go out with my friends. When I stay home, I’m usually on the computer. When I’m in class, I usually concentrate and try to absorb all the info so that it saves time for me later.

What are some of your wishes for this New Year?
I really want to grow taller! I think I’m very short for my age! I also want to improve my netball skills for the upcoming zonals.

“WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A... SURGEON”

Ali Mourtadha, 11,
Meridien Primary School

What made you decide that you wanted to be a surgeon?
I like to be able to help people and maybe in future help my family if they ever need help.

Describe your heroes/role models?
I like Batman! He saves people and helps the city by fighting the bad guys. He also fights Catwoman, Penguin, Killer Croc and Riddler!

What do you like to do for fun and how do you balance work and play?
I like to play games like Bioshock on my Xbox 360. When I go home, my parents allow me to play my games and do whatever I want. But after dinner, the TV is switched off and I study all the way. I also sleep early.

What are some of your wishes for this New Year?
I hope that I will do well in all my subjects and get higher than my brother for my PSLE this year!
Parenting Tips

*What tip would you give to other parents so as to understand their kids better?*

“Always keep the communication channels open. If I see her looking troubled, I’ll prompt her for her problems. It’s also important to spend a lot of time together.”

*Mr Daniel Man, 52, Rachel’s Father*

“It takes a combination of monitoring them as well as letting them be free. Don’t be too rigid and make sure that you distinguish clearly the time to play and the time to study. My family uses dinner time and prayer time to bond.”

*Mr Razman Abdullah, 46, Ali’s Father*

“As a single parent, share problems with your child. It has taught her independence and exposes them to the real world.”

*Ms Malathi D/O Periyasamy, 42, Ashwini’s Mother*

“She knows that she can come to us if she has any problems that need to be solved. We make it a point to spend a lot of time together. Weekends are usually spent going for breakfast together or going to the beach.”

*Mr Higgins Michael Francis, 57, Britney’s Father*

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**DELIGHTFULLY DIWALI**

Mr Michael Palmer commemorated the festival of lights with residents at the Punggol East Deepavali Celebrations 2010. During dinner, residents were treated to various Tamil song performances, a hip-hop dance performance by Mega Geniz and even got to enjoy a King of Pop impersonation!

**WHAT & WHERE:** Punggol East Deepavali Celebrations 2010 at Blk 135, Rivervale Street, Multi-Purpose Hall  
**WHO:** MP - Mr Michael Palmer  
**WHEN:** 21 Nov 2010

**SAMBUTAN DEEPAVALI**

Perayaan Deepavali disambut mesra oleh Encik Michael Palmer dan para penduduk di sebuah majlis khas yang diadakan di dewan serbaguna di Punggol East. Sambutan yang istimewa ini di meriahkan lagi dengan persembahan dan dendangan lagu dan tarian traditional Tamil yang sungguh menarik.
HEART TO HEART

Response was overwhelming during the recent Public Consultation of Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) & Lift Upgrading Programme (LUP). Residents were invited to view the proposed plan and contribute their views on how to better improve their neighbourhood. Soon residents in the selected area can look forward to exciting amenities including an integrated linear park with fitness equipment, an upgraded playground, covered linkways and lifts to every floor. Do look out for the upcoming NRP polling date!

WHAT & WHERE: Public Consultation of Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) & Lift Upgrading Programme (LUP) at Blk 109, Pasir Ris St 12
WHO: MP – Dr Ahmad Magad
WHEN: 14 Nov 2010

SPRUCING IT UP

On 8 January 2011, Punggol North residents bonded over issues close to their hearts and homes. Issues like dog poo, high rise littering – they put their minds together to brainstorm possible solutions. In the words of Ms Penny Low, “This workshop, the 2nd series after the 1st dialogue series, is aimed to be more solutions-focused, right from the ground. It serves both issues and aspirations of our residents.” Residents, hear that? Your voice matters.

WHAT & WHERE: Punggol North Town Hall Forum & Punggol North Town Hall Workshop at various locations in Punggol North division
WHO: MP – Ms Penny Low
WHEN: 10 Oct 2010

TALK OF THE TOWN

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WHO: MP – Ms Penny Low
WHEN: 10 Oct 2010

Announcement

Spectator’s Gallery cum Multi-Purpose Hardcourt, located at the Open Field along Punggol East Road, beside Riveria LRT Station will be ready soon.
Heart to Heart

As part of an initiative introduced by the People’s Association, elderly residents took part in an Active Ager competition aimed at engaging seniors and keeping them mentally sharp with games such as mahjong, Sudoku, Chinese chess and contract bridge. Lucky winners got to walk away with attractive prizes that night!

**WHAT & WHERE:** Active Mind Games Competition cum Active Ageing Dinner Celebrations at Sengkang CC
**WHO:** MP – Charles Chong
**WHEN:** 28 Nov 2010

**Age Knows No Barriers**

Age is no barrier when it comes to helping others as was apparent during the dinner held by Pasir Ris East CC as a tribute to senior residents who continue to volunteer while remaining young-at-heart. Guests were able to dine on scrumptious food while enjoying the karaoke sessions, video screenings and awards of appreciation plaques and awards were even given to active participants who continue to serve and enrich the lives of others.

**WHAT & WHERE:** Active Ageing Dinner at Pasir Ris Elias CC
**WHEN:** 21 Nov 2010
Grandparents, parents and children had a field day at the recent 3-generation cooking competition and were able to play to their hearts content at the booth games. On the side, those who turned up were also entertained by DJs from SG Reporter Pte Ltd. As expected, there was a large turnout from the residents in the area.

**WHAT & WHERE:** Punggol Grove Residents Day at Punggol Field  **WHO:** MP – Mr Charles Chong  **WHEN:** 11 Dec 2010

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The Veolia Recycling Program is held every month in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint. Residents who come to exchange their recyclable items are given groceries in exchange. Several groups are holding similar programmes across the town. So if you are interested to contribute your part to the environment, do check with your CC for more details!

**WHAT & WHERE:** Veolia Recycling Program at Blk 146, Pasir Ris St 11  **WHEN:** 2 Jan 2011

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Mr Chong observing a game

Children overcome their shyness to sing onstage...

...while the audience cheered them on

Whipping up something special!

Weighing in...

The team who made the Recycling Program possible
A new ice-cream parlour has just opened up in Hougang Mall guaranteed to satisfy all your sweet tooth cravings! The owners of Enjoy Soft! have opened up the chain with the sweetest of intentions: To put a fun and fresh new spin on an age-old concoction while bringing affordable Japanese ice-cream to consumers. 

What sets Enjoy Soft! apart from other ice-cream parlours is their usage of soft-serve ice-cream, served at 2 to 5 deg Celsius which doesn’t numb your tongue and lets you taste the ice-cream. The accompanying toppings also do help to give a variety of textures that ensure you don’t get an overdose of sweetness.

The Maldon’s Organic Seasoat Butterscotch seems to be their newest bestseller. The sea salt is specially imported from UK and patrons have been known to come back for more. Some of our other favourites were also the Fizzy Cherry Float which is the perfect refreshing treat to ward off a hot day and the Straits Chendol which uses red bean paste with gula Melaka and really captures the nostalgic essence of the dessert.

Health-conscious patrons needn’t fret because Enjoy SOFT! uses only low-fat cream and there’re also a myriad of healthy flavours for you to choose from such as Sunny Ensemble and Fruitfull Ensemble which uses only premium, organic ingredients.

Prices are extremely affordable and range from $2 to $5. Don’t miss out on the scoop, come down and indulge your inner child today!