

MMI Student Tops School for PSLE



“Before you begin your parenting journey, aspire to go somewhere.”

Many Singaporean parents would scoff at such a statement. In a results driven country like ours, aspiration often takes a back seat in one’s learning journey while getting into the education rat race – the new norm.

When Alif Danial topped his school for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) this year, he had his parents to thank for teaching him to aspire high and dream big.

The Modern Montessori International (MMI) alumni burst into tears after receiving news that he had topped his school. The shy and affable young boy did not expect this as he was aware of the competitive environment he was in.

Being placed in the top class, naturally there was unspoken competition among his peers. And with that, higher expectations to be met.

“The moment my principal announced that I had topped the school, it felt like something had been lifted off my shoulders. I was so happy!”

Danial’s mother, Ms Farhain Bustami-Aidil was one who believed strongly in teaching her son the value of aspiring towards a goal and studying smart.

A teacher herself, Ms Farhain was well aware of the pressures of national examinations and had together with her husband ensured that constant encouragement and love would be their parenting goal for Danial’s journey.

“Love and lots of hugs are how we run this family.”

They also decided against tuition for Danial throughout his primary school years as they were strong believers in Singapore's education system. This made Danial's victory a little sweeter as he knew he had worked hard by his own efforts.

"Every school is a good school," said Ms Farhain about the primary and secondary schools in Singapore.

"It's the early years that are important and that's why we invested a lot in his pre-schooling years".



Besides making sure he ate well and enjoyed the wonder of being a child, Ms Farhain paid special attention towards choosing a preschool for her son.



"The quality of the program and teachers were important to me."

A clean and safe environment for her child to be in was also one of the deciding factors that led her to place her kid at MMI West Coast. Pleased with the Montessori curriculum and joy Danial expressed in school, Ms Farhain also placed her younger son at MMI.

Some of the best memories that Danial had in his preschool days were at MMI's regular annual concert.

Looking back fondly, Danial still remembers the day he performed at the concert when he was still in Nursery. He saw how his K2 schoolmate hosted the concert and thought to himself how he could one day be that person.

Ms Farhain was surprised that her son could fathom the idea of aspiring and is today grateful for the teachers who nurtured Danial's confidence in his early years.

2 years later, Danial fulfilled his dream and emceed at the MMI graduation concert.

It was moments like these that affirmed Ms Farhain that her son would be more than ready for primary 1 the following year.

"MMI prides themselves in readying children for Primary 1. Anything academic can be taught. But confidence has to be nurtured and I'm glad he got that in his MMI days," said Ms Farhain.

Even at times when Danial faced disappointment in his life, nothing could get him down. For a sense of confidence had been ingrained in him from a young age.

"I still remember my teachers from MMI and am thankful that they been a part of my growing up years."

Danial who recently celebrated his birthday recently is looking forward to start the next phase of his education at a school he has always dreamt of attending – Raffles Institution.