



Merging Visual Learning with the SMART Board®

A SMART Customer story with Melina Tan, The Schooling Society, Singapore



“Teacher! Teacher! Let me try!” squealed the Primary 1 student at The Schooling Society (TSS) in Singapore. The Chinese language teacher laughs and nods her head. In her career as a teacher, Miss Yin Yi has never seen her students as excited and happy as the ones at TSS. She is amazed that her once shy student has become so participative in class.

She’s delighted not only because her students are motivated to learn Chinese but also because the painstaking work has paid off. For years, she and the rest of the curriculum team laboured to craft unique learning materials. Conceptualised by the centre’s founder, Melina Tan, the proprietary comics were designed to engage and stimulate primary school students. In a highly westernised society such as Singapore, she feels that this is a unique and innovative way to get children to embrace Mandarin.

“Beautifully illustrated stories have the ability to transport a child into a world of fantasy and make-believe. When merged with the latest SMART Board model, learning comes alive!”

– Melina Tan

At TSS, the curriculum team was not willing to settle on using standard templates so they specially designed SMART Board games and puzzles to match the centre’s curriculum. Not only do students love writing on the digital whiteboard application on the display but they also enjoy playing interactive games.

School

Principal and Enrichment Centre
Melina Tan, Director
The Schooling Society Pte Ltd

SMART Solution

SMART Board® 7000 series
SMART Learning Suite





As a premium primary school enrichment centre in the heart of the prestigious Bukit Timah district of Singapore, Melina and her team knew that her centre had to provide the best learning experience in town. “Singapore is known for its high academic standard and stellar international rankings, but creativity and technology can bring it up to an even higher level where learning becomes an unforgettable experience,” Melina explains.

When one steps into TSS, immediately one notices the serene surroundings. The atmosphere is calm but also warm, trendy and fun. Each of its 10 classrooms is equipped with a SMART Board. Here, teachers merge three teaching methods – traditional pen and paper learning, tactile learning and visual learning. Students love it that the SMART built-in web browser enables them to search for information on the spot. This ability to explore challenges TSS students to think out of the box and to explore many other possibilities and solutions.

Each week, students between the ages of 7 and 12 years attend 2-hour lessons that are packed with content, strategic learning tools and fun. The students can choose to learn any of the four subjects – Chinese, Mathematics, English or Science, the four pillars of the rigorous national exam in Singapore. The PSLE (Primary School Leaving Examination) is known for its very high standards.

“What we want to do is to remove the fear and stress associated with PSLE. True learning comes from being genuinely keen to learn new things, so, we really focus on engaging the children. Once they learn happily and do well, they become self-motivated. Only then have we done our job.”

– Melina Tan

“What we love about the SMART experience is that we have the freedom to create content in a way that stimulates learning,” says Melina. She believes that while technology is a cool and dynamic tool, the passion and heart for teaching is the most critical component.

“When educators know their students well, that’s the only way they can harness the powers of technology to tap into their students’ interests.”

– Melina Tan

Indeed, it is The Schooling Society’s vision to merge education with art, moral values and technology that makes learning a unique experience.

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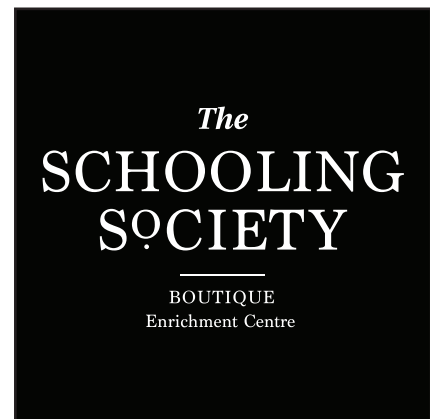
– Melina Tan

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