

# Read till you drop

The library is stepping up its efforts to promote reading in school with book sharing, review writing and other contests

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A potent potion is brewing in the library – and it's to make avid readers of all students.

Judging by the number of activities in the past months, the Lien Ying Chow Library in NP is all set to make the brew work wonders.

"Reading Spree", a reading contest held late last year, helped encourage students to read as many books as they could. The top 30 students who borrowed and read the most books won prizes such as shopping vouchers and thumbdrives.

Students selected were asked to write book reviews based on the titles they loaned.

The library's motto, "developing the youth of tomorrow by helping to create a nation of readers", is the reason behind increasing efforts to cultivate a love of reading amongst students.

"Youths of today will be leaders of tomorrow. Hence, the joy of reading should be nurtured, especially when they are young and have convenient access to library resources," says Mrs Lim Bee Ang, the Resources and Information manager at the library.

Besides monthly talks and book displays, with themes such as Travel & Culture and Social Etiquette, held to inspire students to expand their reading

horizons, the library has even taken to promoting reading outside its premises.

The BookSharing activity at OurSpace@72 scheme, set up in early 2009 is a fuss-free alternative to visiting the library.

With this, the library aims to promote a self-sustaining learning community and spread the love of reading. Titles donated and books taken from the library itself are placed in the BookSharing corner.

Mrs Lim says, "We hope this will reach-out to non-borrowers by bringing the resources straight to OurSpace@72, a facility where students like to hang out."

Although not every student is grabbing a book, the library's efforts have paid off. Students, such as Natalie Loh, 19, a final-year Early Childhood Education

student, have benefited from it.

"It's a good idea and really convenient because I don't have to go all the way to the library to get a book," she says.

The library organises a book fair every semester for vendors to display books and magazines not available in the library, but are within their scope of purchase. Students can buy or borrow these on the spot, chosen titles will also be added to the library.

On top of that, there are online

quizzes to broaden students' knowledge and book exhibitions in line with campus events.

Students with ideas to promote reading are encouraged to work with the library. Mrs Lim says, "By working together, we can boost readership among students."

"It remains the students' choice to make use of these reading materials to develop themselves and widen their horizons."



**SHARE THE LOVE:** Many take advantage of the books available at the book shelves at OurSpace @72.