

A bilingual international education for the first time in Singapore

April 2011, Singapore, the EtonHouse International Education Group is launching two innovative programmes in Mandarin in April 2011 in response to a strong demand for bilingual education in Singapore.

The EtonHouse International School located on the East Coast is an International Baccalaureate World School offering pre-school and primary level education. It will, for the first time in Singapore, offer a truly integrated bilingual programme for primary students and a Mandarin early childhood programme for pre-schoolers.

The first programme starting in August 2011 will be open to expatriate families in Singapore for children who are 7 or turning 7 years in 2011. It will be offered in a dual language environment and will include one expatriate and one Mandarin speaking teacher in the classroom. This will offer a truly bilingual environment where students will respond better to Mandarin as it is offered in a natural and contextual environment. The timetable is organised to include key language focus blocks. One language is used for communication at a time, supported by explanations of core concepts in the second language, as needed. The inquiry based curriculum will follow that of the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme (PYP) framework.

The school has already received expressions of interest and registrations from parents to enrol their children in this programme. The bilingual programme is being offered in response to parents who are keen that their children engage in Mandarin more meaningfully rather than just a second language as is offered in traditional international school settings. There has been increasing interest amongst parents from different nationalities and families who represent a mix of Asian and western cultures to offer their children an education that has a strong foundation in Mandarin.

The second programme will cater to pre-school children. The EtonHouse pre-school on Broadrick Road will also offer an EtonHouse Mandarin early childhood programme starting in May 2011 for parents of all nationalities including Singaporeans. This is in response to the strong demand amongst parents for their children to appreciate and love Mandarin at an early age and will cater to children from 1.5-6 years of age.

Research proves that the earlier children are exposed to a language, the better is the language acquisition process. The primary objective of this programme is to offer an early immersion programme in Mandarin that will engage young children and inculcate in them a love for the language. The programme will offer the EtonHouse inquiry based pre-school curriculum entirely in Mandarin for the Nursery levels. It will integrate highly acclaimed methodologies in Mandarin language learning having been developed by pedagogical experts who have several years of teaching and leadership experiences. In the Kindergarten levels, the curriculum will be offered in an integrated bilingual environment with both English and Mandarin being the medium of communication.

The EtonHouse Mandarin Pre-School will offer children a strong foundation in Mandarin in the early years that will enable children to be naturally responsive to the language and effectively read and write in Mandarin. The early years programme will be engaging and fun for the children in a high quality teaching and learning environment. The teaching staff will be native Chinese language teachers from China who have professional qualifications in early childhood.

EtonHouse offers an excellent second languages programme in Chinese, Japanese and Hindi. It also offers Pre-Sap, an innovative, in-depth and challenging programme for those proficient in the Mandarin language.

EtonHouse has over 16 years of experience in running pre-schools and international schools and has over 43 schools spread across Singapore, China, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, India, Malaysia and Vietnam. With over 3000 students from 54 different nationalities, the EtonHouse schools have a truly dynamic and multicultural environment with proven expertise in offering international educational environments of the highest standards.

Mrs. Ng Gim Choo, Group Managing Director, EtonHouse International Education Group added "We are very excited to launch the bilingual programme for the primary years and the Mandarin early childhood programme. Both programmes have been designed in response to the very strong demand from parents for their children to be effectively bilingual and also from the need to develop a highly effective and strong programme in Mandarin. We understand the need for children to appreciate and learn Chinese language skills. This can only happen when the programme is started at a young age and offered in a high quality learning environment".

The classes will start in June 2011 and parents have already started queuing up to register their children.

Contact:

Bipasha Chanda Minocha

Brand Director

EtonHouse International Holdings Pte. Ltd.

178 Clemenceau Avenue #06-00

Haw Par Glass Tower

Singapore 239926

Ph: +6567463333

Mobile: +6581571460

Fax: +6567460332

Website: www.etonhouse.com.sg

E-mail: bipasha@etonhouse.com.sg

About EtonHouse International Education Group

The EtonHouse International Education Group provides Educational Services through International Schools, Pre-Schools and Early Childhood Teacher Education Courses. Registered with the Ministry of Education in Singapore and China, EtonHouse is a member of the Council of International Schools.

Headquartered in Singapore, EtonHouse currently operates 43 schools across Singapore, China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. Together these schools provide quality international education to over 3000 children from fifty-four different nationalities.

EtonHouse's first school commenced operation in 1995 in Singapore. Spanning 16 years, the EtonHouse schools have set standards of excellence across Asia by providing high quality international education.

EtonHouse schools follow an international curriculum inspired by best practice. In the early years, a child-responsive Inquire-Think-Learn integrated curriculum approach is followed. This approach is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Project of Northern Italy. It is a play-based, inquiry model in which children co-construct their learning in close, respectful collaboration with their teachers and their immediate socio-cultural context.

EtonHouse also follows the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme (PYP) with its inquiry-centred, multi-disciplinary philosophy. EtonHouse schools in Singapore in Newton, Orchard and Broadrick and Suzhou in China have accredited International Baccalaureate *World School* status. EtonHouse Newton and Orchard are the first stand-alone pre-schools in Singapore to acquire the IB PYP World School status.

EtonHouse schools and pre-schools offer exceptional second language programmes viz. the Mandarin immersion programme and the Pre-SAP programme that equip children in strong second language skills.

EtonHouse also runs its in-house research and professional development centre - EtonHouse Education Centre (EEC). The EEC provides continuous training and pedagogical support. Recently the EEC brought the first Reggio Children conference to Singapore. It was well attended by educators from around the Asia region and demonstrated the EtonHouse commitment to best practice in the field of Early Childhood Education. One of the greatest strengths that EtonHouse has is the exceptional quality of its teaching staff. The international teachers are carefully selected, fully qualified, experienced and are subject to a thorough background check.