

THE ASPIRANT

"THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENTS, BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS"



Y9 SAA BOOK DONATION DRIVE



Firstly, our group—consisting of me (Priya), Cayley, Maryam, YiTong, and Abigail—planned to hold a book donation drive at our school and donate the collected books to our community library, the TTDI Library. Fortunately, we successfully carried out our plan by organizing the book drive and delivering the books to the library.

The most rewarding aspect of this activity was seeing our school come together to donate books for underprivileged citizens and those who need better access to reading materials. One challenge we faced was that our group originally intended to donate the books on 8th December 2024, but due to a miscommunication, we were unable to enter the library that day. After discussing with the library team, we rescheduled and successfully delivered the books on 12th January 2025.

Through this experience, I learned to appreciate the resources I have—especially books—because not everyone has the same opportunities to learn and read. It felt meaningful to contribute books that can benefit others' education and growth.

This experience impacted my life by making me more aware of how valuable knowledge and access to learning materials are. I realized that I'm capable of organizing a meaningful community service activity with the support of my peers.



*Priya
year 9 Affection*

Y9 SAA BOOK DONATION DRIVE



The IB Learner Profile attributes I demonstrated during this activity were open-mindedness and caring. We showed caring by giving useful resources to the library, and we were open-minded in accepting all kinds of book donations, even those representing diverse cultures and languages.

There's also a strong connection between this service and my academic work. In Language & Literature, we often use global texts and materials, just like the books we donated. I believe I can encourage more people to donate resources to their local libraries.

I truly enjoyed this service activity and would love to do it again. It taught me to be grateful for what I have and helped me realize how small actions can make a big difference. I would highly recommend this kind of service to other students because it's simple, yet incredibly rewarding and enlightening. It also inspired me to try other acts of giving, like donating things to those who truly need them.



*Priya
year 9 Affection*

YEAR 9 KAYAKING



On week 8 and 10 of the term, the Year 9 students participated in a kayaking trip as part of their Physical Education curriculum. This exciting opportunity took place at a large lake in Shah Alam, where we spent one hour paddling across the water. It was an unforgettable experience that allowed us to challenge ourselves physically while learning valuable skills in a beautiful, natural setting.



The kayaking session was carefully planned to teach us not only the fundamentals of paddling but also to promote teamwork. Upon arrival, we were split into pairs and assigned instructors who provided essential safety instructions and guidance. Initially, it was a bit difficult to coordinate our paddling techniques and navigate the kayaks, but with some practice, most of us gained confidence and truly began to enjoy the activity.

Beyond the physical benefits, kayaking helped us develop important life skills such as balance, coordination, and communication. Working together in tandem kayaks, we quickly realized the importance of teamwork to stay on course. It also gave us the chance to appreciate the natural environment, as the lake was surrounded by lush greenery and peaceful scenery, making the experience even more memorable.



*Alyson
Year 9 Strength*



YEAR 9 KAYAKING



The weather was ideal for this outdoor activity, with clear skies and a gentle breeze, adding to the overall positive atmosphere. It was a refreshing break from our regular classroom lessons, allowing us to get outside and engage in an activity that promoted both mental and physical well-being. Additionally, the kayaking session was a perfect opportunity to bond with classmates, share laughter, and create lasting memories.

In conclusion, the kayaking experience in Shah Alam was a valuable part of our Physical Education lessons, offering a fun and challenging way to develop new skills while enjoying the great outdoors. Many of us left the session feeling more confident and eager to take part in similar activities in the future.



Alyson
Year 9 Strength

RAMADAN



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and one of the most sacred months for Muslims around the world. It is a month of fasting from dawn to dusk—a time of discipline, learned restraint, and appreciation.

To begin the day, Muslims eat Suhoor, a pre-dawn meal to help sustain them through the fast. After sunset, they break their fast with iftar, which usually begins with dates and water.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. However, Ramadan is not only about fasting—it also includes prayer, Qur'an recitation, and acts of charity. Muslims strive to treat one another with fairness, go out of their way to ensure others are cared for, and give both financial and physical support to those in need.

Many also participate in Taraweeh, an optional but encouraged night prayer performed after the sunset prayer.

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate a major holiday known as Eid al-Fitr. For Eid, many people purchase or wear new clothes, travel to visit family and friends, and enjoy festive meals. Donations of money or food are also given to the poor so that everyone can partake in the celebration.

Ramadan exists to bring one closer to God and to inspire personal growth through spiritual and outward efforts to become a better person.



Clodagh
Year 8 Affection



Y8 SAA PUSAT JAGAAN SAKINAH



On 8 March, the Year 8 Strength class conducted a Service as Action (SAA) activity to support children at an orphanage. Their aim was to help the orphans by cleaning the orphanage, donating snacks, drinks, and stationery, and giving out angpao (red envelopes). The orphanage they visited is called Pusat Jagaan Sakinah.

To raise funds for the donations, Year 8 Strength organized a fundraiser. They sold a variety of popsicles and stickers over the course of four days. The fundraiser exceeded their expectations, raising more than their original goal, making it a very successful effort.

Here are some reflections from the students who participated in the SAA:

“It was fun to conduct a nice and caring act.” – **Jya Ning, 8S**

“For me, it was fun, and it's good to help people out, and I like cleaning.” – **Elena, 8S**

“It was not bad. It was difficult to plan sometimes, but it was fun and educational.” – **Averie, 8S**

“The orphanage was very fun and full of new opportunities to learn and see exciting things.”
– **Amirth, 8S**

“To be honest, it was quite heartwarming to see the orphans happy and laughing with us while we helped clean their house.” – **Hari, 8S**

Overall, I personally enjoyed this SAA. I'm really happy I got to experience helping people in need with my friends. I would most definitely do this activity again because I love helping others. I recommend this activity to other students because you get to learn how people in need live their daily lives.



Josephine
Year 8 Affection

WOMEN'S DAY



Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March and was initiated by German theorist, communist activist, and women's rights advocate Clara Zetkin. She proposed the idea of International Women's Day on August 26, 1910, in Copenhagen, Denmark, during the Second International Conference of Working Women. This day is observed to recognize the social, economic, political, and cultural achievements of women and to raise awareness about gender equality.

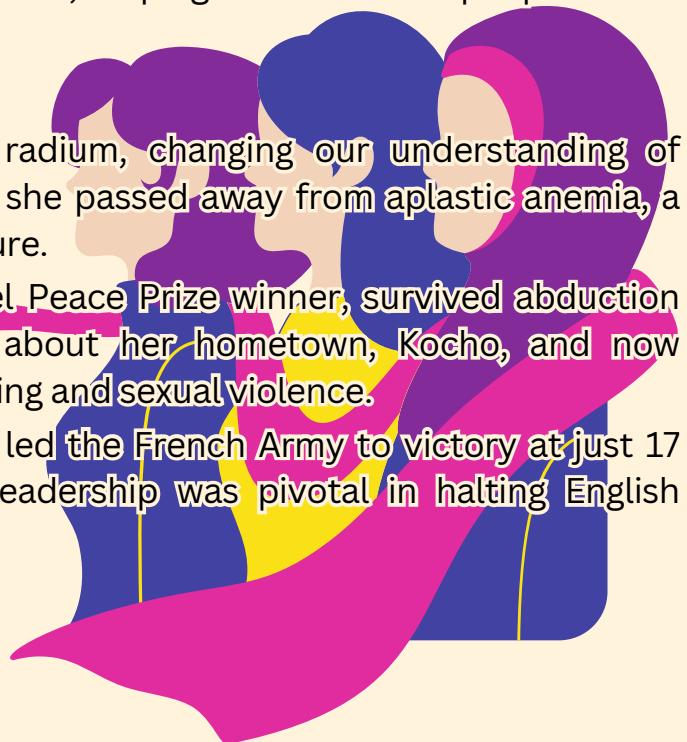
Before Clara Zetkin, another iconic figure you may or may not have heard of was Estelle Sylvia Pankhurst, also known as Sylvia Pankhurst. A fierce suffragette, she was arrested approximately 15 times for her activism. Her first arrest was in 1906 at the age of 24, followed by multiple arrests between 1913 and 1914. She also worked to improve women's healthcare rights in Ethiopia and campaigned against World War I, helping to unite more people in the movement to end the war.

Other remarkable women include:

- Marie Curie, who discovered polonium and radium, changing our understanding of radioactivity and saving countless lives. Sadly, she passed away from aplastic anemia, a condition caused by prolonged radiation exposure.
- Nadia Murad, a modern-day activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, survived abduction and abuse by ISIS. She wrote a biography about her hometown, Kocho, and now advocates globally for victims of human trafficking and sexual violence.
- Joan of Arc, a legendary figure from long ago, led the French Army to victory at just 17 years old during the Siege of Orléans. Her leadership was pivotal in halting English attempts to conquer France.



Sienna
Year 7 Strength



DOWN SYNDROME DAY



World Down Syndrome Day, held on March 21, was chosen because the date symbolizes the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which causes Down syndrome. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about people with Down syndrome. Its purpose is to promote understanding and representation of individuals with the condition.

World Down Syndrome Day is important because it helps us better understand people with Down syndrome and encourages kindness and fairness. One way we celebrate is by wearing colorful or mismatched socks to show support and celebrate uniqueness.

There are also events, fundraisers, and social media campaigns to spread awareness around the world. The United Nations officially recognized World Down Syndrome Day in 2012, making it an important global day to promote respect, inclusion, and equal opportunities for everyone.

By participating in World Down Syndrome Day, we are reminded that our differences are what make us special. Whether it's through a simple pair of bright socks or learning more about the condition, each small act helps build a more inclusive and compassionate community. Let's continue to stand together in support, acceptance, and celebration of every individual's uniqueness — not just on March 21, but every day.



Eleanor
Year 7 strength



EPILEPSY PURPLE DAY



Epilepsy Purple Day is a day to spread awareness on how real epilepsy is and to tell those who have epilepsy that they are not alone. Epilepsy purple day was started in 2008 by eight year old Cassidy Megan. At the time she was so afraid of her epilepsy and thought that no one else in the world had her condition. After a while she realized that she was not alone and there were others like her, so she created Purple Day.



Epilepsy itself is a chronic brain disorder that causes seizures in specific conditions. These seizures can be triggered by flashing lights, stress/anxiety or hormonal changes. Some people are born with epilepsy but it could also be caused by strokes, brain injuries, infections and other unknown causes.

Epilepsy is a very real thing around the world, 50 million people globally have epilepsy and even here in Malaysia for every 1000 people, 4 have epilepsy. I hope that you have understood more about epilepsy, and for people who have epilepsy to know that they are not alone.

On 26 March 2025, members of the Newsletter Society set up a station near the phone drop-off area in the morning. As part of the activity, students were invited to complete a short survey to test and expand their knowledge about this often-misunderstood condition.



Rayden
Year 8 Affection

EPILEPSY PURPLE DAY



As students arrived at school, they scanned a QR code linked to the survey before handing in their phones. Those who completed the survey received a purple sticker, a symbol of support for those living with epilepsy.

The responses revealed a mix of curiosity, genuine effort, and gaps in knowledge — highlighting exactly why this activity was so important. Here are just a few of the student answers:

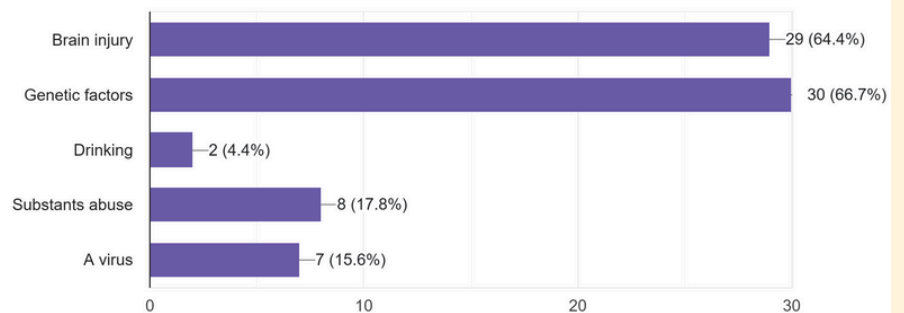
What do you think epilepsy is?

45 responses

"I think it's a thing that causes random seizures"
 "A condition that affects the neuron."
 "I have no idea."
 "It's a reaction to flashing lights."
 "A condition that somebody suffer sometimes"
 "Seizures"

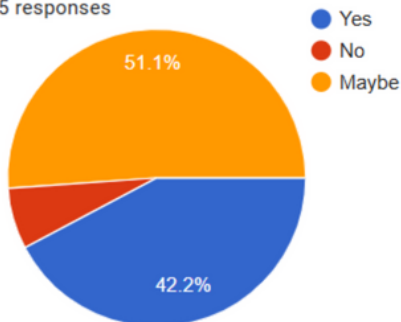
What causes epilepsy? (Select all that apply)

45 responses



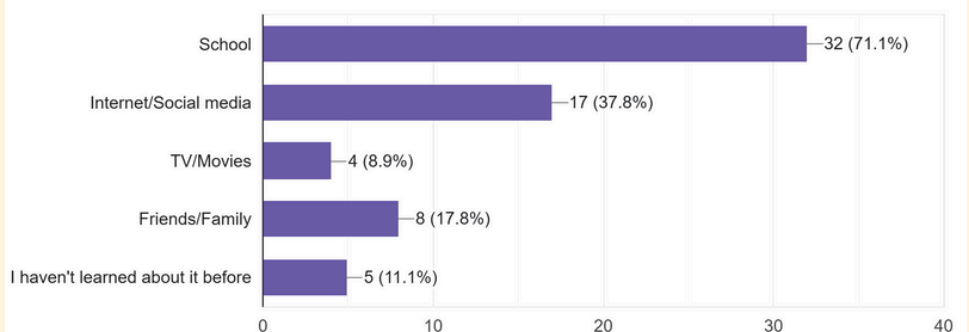
Can epilepsy be treated or managed?

45 responses



Where have you learned about epilepsy? (Select all that apply)

45 responses



Rayden
 Year 8 Affection



Y10 SAA - GAME FOR A CAUSE



My teammates—Leanne, Roanne, and I—along with our supervisor, Ms. Suveera, launched our Service as Action project by blending the thrill of Squid Game with traditional Malaysian games. Participants played “Red Light, Green Light” using the Rasa Sayang song, along with games like *Pick-up Sticks*, *Satu Seremban*, and *JianZi*, all while competing for fun prizes like sausages and keychains.

All funds raised were directed toward purchasing supplies, games, and rations for an old folks’ home at Jasper Lodge, ensuring that the project not only brought joy to students but also meaningful support to the elderly.



At the beginning, we had to plan weekly meetings to organize everything. These meetings were essential for envisioning how the event would unfold. With the guidance and support of our supervisor, Ms. Suveera, who helped us shape the timeline and logistics, we were able to successfully host a large-scale event.



Eiji
Year 10
Strength



Leanne
Year 10
Strength



Roanne
Year 10
Strength

Y10 SAA - GAME FOR A CAUSE



It wasn't always easy—big dreams required big plans. But through all the planning, preparing, and problem-solving, we learned valuable lessons about camaraderie and teamwork.



We discovered how to coordinate effectively, keeping each other accountable so that we met important deadlines—like the day we had to buy the sausages or when our slides needed to be ready for our presentation. Practicing together helped us learn how to communicate the message clearly and confidently to the students.



Eiji
Year 10
Strength



Leanne
Year 10
Strength



Roanne
Year 10
Strength

Y10 SAA VISITING MY AGED CARE



On the 24 February, my partner Nicole and I visited My Aged Care Old Folks Home as part of our Service as Action (SAA) project. Our aim was to create a simple, yet meaningful and impactful experience, and we decided that visiting an elderly home would be the perfect way to do that.

Why an elderly home?

Many elderly residents often face loneliness and isolation, so spending time with them—through conversations and activities—can truly brighten their day and make them feel seen and remembered. On our part, it was also a chance to practice compassion, companionship, and caregiving.

During our visit, we were rewarded with valuable life lessons and heartwarming stories shared by the residents. Listening to them was not only enriching but eye-opening.

Personally, one important lesson I learned is that visiting an elderly home isn't just about making others happy—it's also a wake-up call. Seeing how much the elderly miss their families reminded me of how important it is to spend time with my own loved ones while I still can. It made me appreciate my family more deeply and recognize the importance of supporting the elderly in our community.



*Carmen
Year 10
Affection*



*Nicole
Year 10
Affection*

OPINION PIECE: WHY EVERY STUDENT SHOULD OWN AN IPAD



Amid rapid technological advancements, modern schooling has undergone a gradual transformation, integrating digital tools to enhance students' learning. Not only that, but the pandemic had also made a significant impact on schooling, and online learning has now become a lasting practice.

Personally, owning an iPad and stylus has greatly enhanced my learning experience. An iPad offers unmatched flexibility. This means having all essential resources stored in one device, eliminating the need to carry stacks of paper and heavy textbooks.

Furthermore, iPads are life-changing when it comes to note-taking. Unlike traditional paper notes, where space is limited, students often have to squeeze additional material into cramped margins or rewrite their notes entirely, making it difficult to read and locate. With an iPad, students can move, edit and organize their notes freely. They can seamlessly insert, rearrange, and organize content without disrupting the flow of a topic. This makes studying far more efficient and eliminates the hassle of flipping through scattered pages to find information.



Elwyna
Year 11 Affection

OPINION PIECE: WHY EVERY STUDENT SHOULD OWN AN IPAD



To extend on the note-taking experience, using a stylus mimics traditional handwriting while offering the flexibility of digital tools. Unlike typing on a laptop, which is less effective for retaining information, handwriting notes helps to reinforce learning. Since most exams are written, using a stylus provides a more natural writing experience, making it a better alternative to laptops for studying.

As a student preparing for board exams, I constantly practice past papers, and having an iPad allows me to download and annotate them directly. However, students without an iPad have to print everything out, resulting in stacks of paper that are difficult to manage and organize. Additionally, some students who find printing a hassle end up writing their answers on separate sheets, making it difficult to match them with the corresponding past papers when reviewing. This process is not only time-consuming but also demotivating. That concludes my perspective on owning an iPad, and I firmly believe that every student should have one.



*Elwyna
Year 11 Affection*

