



Child's play

A children's annual charity event included special needs kids for the first time in nine years. **Chloe Ng** reports



Above, pupils from St Hilda's Primary School learning how to assist a dental surgeon at a mock dental clinic. Left, Fengshan Primary School pupils role-playing as firefighters cordoning off a fire zone.

ST PHOTOS:
MARK CHEONG

A day of fun for underprivileged pupils was underscored by a lesson in inclusiveness on Oct 5.

Some 700 pupils under the Financial Assistance Scheme were joined by 22 pupils from Association for Persons with Special Needs Katong School at KidZania Singapore during the ninth Children for Children (CFC) event.

It was the first time pupils from a special needs school took part. Assisted by 30 volunteers from CHIJ Kellock, they tried their hand at a variety of jobs, from putting out fires to making burgers. The helpers had learnt sign language and Braille before the event so they could communicate easily.

Said Mrs Joy Zhang-Low, CHIJ Kellock's head of department for character and citizenship education/partnerships: "Moving forward, inspired by our Prime Minister's speech on inclusive society, we thought that this year's CFC, it's time for us to take a more inclusive stand, to include students with special needs." The event's themes this year were empathy, love and acceptance.

To promote these values, another group of 10 CHIJ Kellock pupils performed a skit that

was created with the input of the school's Primary 4 cohort. Titled We Are Friends, they donned duck, cat and turtle costumes to tell a story of understanding and acceptance where they learnt that, despite their "special" friend's quirky behaviours, they should look past their differences and play together without prejudice.

Wafeeqa Sulaiman, 11, who acted as Tina the turtle, felt the hard work put into the play was worthwhile. She said: "We started rehearsals in August, and stayed back three times a week to rehearse... for two hours."

Every pupil at this year's CFC was given a goodie bag containing a copy of the book adaptation of We Are Friends. According to Mrs Zhang-Low, 800 copies were given out at the event. CHIJ Kellock plans to distribute three copies to every primary school here so other children can enjoy it.

The CFC is an annual charity event co-organised by The Business Times, CHIJ Kellock, and The Rice Company Limited. It treats pupils under the Financial Assistance Scheme to a day of fun at places such as the Singapore Flyer, Singapore Zoo, and Universal Studios Singapore.

Watch a show for a cause



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ChildAid 2017: An Amazing, Awesome Asian Adventure
Venue: Resorts World Theatre
Price: \$20, \$30 and \$40
When: Nov 24 and 25

Come to enjoy a great show, and leave knowing that you have helped local charities.

This year's ChildAid is helmed by creative director Dick Lee. Performers aged from five to 18 will perform song, dance, theatre, and even martial arts in a single intertwining narrative.

All proceeds will go towards The Straits Times' School Pocket Money Fund and The Business Times' Budding Artists Fund, two organisations that help disadvantaged children.

For details, visit www.facebook.com/ChildAid/