



'The LEAP Award, which stands for "Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress Award", was launched by the late former President S R Nathan in 2011 and awarded by Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan annually to recognise exceptional teachers who have made a positive impact in nurturing their students from the heart. The naming of the award signifies a leap of faith for a teacher to believe that students have the potential to excel beyond their capabilities.'

**What are your principles/philosophy with regards to education?**



I remember attending a talk by Deputy DGE Mrs. Chua, more affectionately known as the MOE magician. There was a phrase she used that struck a chord with me and that was "to love the unlovable". It set me thinking...

So, to me, loving my students means to really get to know my students well and the different challenges they face. I believe in lending a listening ear to know the difficulties they face, providing support and creating a safe environment for my students. Because to me, learning is the richest when we fall and attempt to get back on our feet. By having this safe environment, I enable my students to try, even if it means that they may not succeed and even stumble hard. But they would try as they know that there will be support for them to get back up.

I believe that every student has a talent somewhere within that they can excel in. The challenge is to find that innate talent and then to guide them to discover and develop it. For instance, in my CCA (NCC), I seek to provide opportunities for students to show their leadership skills, their talents in sports, shooting, organisation and many more.



**What is the most valuable takeaway from your teaching career?**

My most valuable takeaway comes from my school motto, 'Be our Best'. There are so many ways that I can be my best. But I find that to be my personal best, especially as an educator, is to bring out the best in my students, be it whatever the talent is.

**What does the LEAP Award mean to you?**



I would certainly be grateful if I were to receive the LEAP Award as it is an acknowledgement of the work I have done with my students. It encourages me in my teaching journey and helps me to build self-confidence. It also affirms the fact that it is within my reach to make a positive difference in the lives of my students.

