1. How do you feel when you have been in this college for so many years?

I am very fortunate to have found in education my calling in life. NJC is not just a school but a place I call home that has given me many opportunities to be part of educational change and more importantly, it has given me the opportunity to serve many people of all ages, from my students in NJC, the staff, parents to the numerous people I have worked with during my time as the Secretariat Convenor in Canoeing, NIE, Youth Olympic Games and the Asean School Games.

2. Can you share with us what motivates you to keep going in this teaching journey?

People are the heart of our Education Service, and they have given me the strength and courage to give off my best each day as we work together to serve the children in our care. We have been through many changes in NJC with the transition of 4 year IP to 6 year IP and the Boarding Programme .Together, we have been able to forge a stronger emphasis on holistic education and character development not just through sports but also through sustained VIA programmes and recognising that our children need opportunities to develop in aspects beyond the academics.

3. What do you want your students to achieve?



The world is no longer what it is and you will be living and leading in a world, rich in uncertainty where the old ways of doing things no longer work. You have to really stop just thinking about yourselves but about each other. There is a difference between pleasure (playing video games, handphone usage etc) and joy (finding pursuits where you add value to others' lives). Over time, I hope that you will reduce activities that give you pleasure. I hope you will embark on this relentless search for skills and passions – skills and passions that meet the world's greatest needs. The most important thing is to do so with integrity and trust being the heart of what you do.



4. What advice would you want to give to the younger teachers on how to keep their flame burning bright?

I have been nothing but very fortunate to be in this College and working alongside and <u>learning from</u> so many dedicated colleagues. Along the way, I've made some very good friends too. Being a Yearhead, I've met many teachers (old and youthful in experience) who are highly driven and passionate in their work coaching and mentoring students. As a Yearhead, I've heard and experienced many stories of NJ teachers who go beyond their duty to find out and see their students as persons/ individuals and not just results. This is what keeps me going as an educator and why we join education in the first place as the memories are everlasting.

Do not be afraid to ask for help. When you ask for help, you build even more credibility, because the person or group helping you *sees* you learning and understanding. They then know for sure that you know your stuff, because you learned it in front of them! I have had the honour of working and learning with/from the PE department, Yearhead team, JH PMs and CMC team. Like any other groups, we have had our differences and challenges but we always had a shared vision when it came to putting the NJC students in the forefront of what we did. We always tried our best to make the environment safe and motivating for students to ask for help.

It is with deepest appreciation and gratitude that I want to say "thank you" to my past and present colleagues, ROs and SLs who have made a difference in my life and my vocation as an educator.

Shanmugadas S/O Kumaresadas