

MEDIA RELEASE

To News Editors

NURTURESTARS PRE-SCHOOLERS LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIONAL SERVICE

More than 110 pre-school children from NurtureStars child care centre had the opportunity to learn more about National Service (NS) and the rigorous training that Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) national servicemen undergo to protect our country during a special learning journey to Singapore Discovery Centre today.

Accompanied by their parents, the children visited the Army Museum and went on a bus tour of SAFTI Military Institute. They also had the opportunity to try out a miniature version of the SAF's Standard Obstacle Course and learn simple military drills such as falling in as a platoon.

Organised by NurtureStars child care centre, which is jointly managed by SAFRA and Kinderland Educare Services Pte Ltd, the visit was aimed at providing NSmen with an opportunity to share a part of their NS experience with their children.

Mr Donald Tan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Business Strategies) of SAFRA commented, "Most of the fathers of our NurtureStars students are SAF Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and we wanted to give them an opportunity to bond in a meaningful way as part of our SAF Day celebrations. When our NSmen leave their homes to go for their annual In-Camp Training, their children may not understand why their fathers are away. We hope that today's programme has given the children a better understanding that their fathers do so because they love them and to protect their families."

Imparting positive values was also a key part of the programme as 14 members of the SAF Veterans' League were present to share their NS experiences and lessons in life with participating families.

Vice President of the SAF Veterans' League Colonel (RET) Lau Kee Siong, who had served as a regular in the Army for 32 years before retiring, commented, "Through our time in the SAF, we have learnt many important values such as discipline, fighting spirit and ethics. These have served us well in life. It is never too early to start seeding these positive values in the children. Some of them may be too young to understand so we explain it in simple terms such as the importance of being obedient to their parents or being honest. It all starts with these basic principles."

About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social, educational and cultural programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of five clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs is a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 350,000 members and their families.

About NurtureStars

Established in January 2010, NurtureStars is a one-stop pre-school that provides holistic education for children. It is a joint collaboration between SAFRA and Kinderland Educare Services Pte Ltd, which leverages on SAFRA's suite of club facilities and Kinderland's expertise in the early childhood industry to ensure that children receive quality education under the guidance of dedicated teachers. NurtureStars child care centres are located at all five SAFRA clubs.

SAF Veterans League

The Singapore Armed Forces Veterans League (SAFVL) was started in 1990 to foster and maintain the spirit of camaraderie among ex-regulars. All ex-regulars who are 40 years of age and above and have served in the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) or SAF for at least 6 continuous years and are no longer in service are eligible for ordinary membership in SAFVL. Membership to the League is voluntary and regular get-together sessions and activities are organised for members. The SAFVL also plays an active role in National Education by sharing their experiences with the younger generation.

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