

## Raffles Institution meets Hair for Hope in 2010!

The Hair for Hope Satellite Event 2010o-organised by 9 Student Leaders from Raffles Community Advocates in collaboration with Children’s Cancer Foundation saw students and teachers from Raffles Institution who shaved their heads in support of children with cancer.



The event was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at Lecture Theatre 2 of Raffles Institution (Year 5-6 Campus) from 2.15pm to 4.30pm. Guests-of-Honours who graced the event included Principal of Raffles Institution, Mrs Lim Lai Cheng as well as Executive Director of Children’s Cancer Foundation, Miss Chee Wai Yee.

The ceremonial shavee for the event was Miss Vivian Wong, a staff at Raffles Institution. Having a personal friend who had fought leukaemia from a young age and seeing how this friend overcame the odds to become a successful outdoor educator who leads a very purposeful life, Miss Wong empathises with victims of childhood cancer and feels strongly towards supporting children with cancer. She gave her fullest support to the event and she was the only female shavee at the event out of 56 shavees. Her bravery to shed her hair for a good cause is indeed commendable and her kind intentions are most definitely genuine. She shared, “Some female friends who were thinking about having their heads shaved were concerned about not having enough feminine characteristics and the risk of being mistaken for the opposite gender after shaving. Children with cancer, however, were never given the luxury of *choice* about becoming bald, a natural consequence of the treatments. This is merely a small gesture from me to show my support for these children who have to spend their childhood fighting cancer. And unlike them, I actually had the freedom to choose whether or not to shave.” Her words were definitely thought-provoking and emotional.

The audience were engaged through quizzes, memorable group photographs were taken, and certificates were presented to the shavees. Music was played to liven up the atmosphere during the shave. Friends and family came to support the shavees and the event was very similar to a vibrant carnival with lots of photo-taking and laughter in a vibrant carnival setting.

Raffles Institution initially targeted 45 shavees and \$5000. However, more than \$6000 for children with cancer was raised. The event was a resounding success. Raffles Institution aims to raise a higher amount next year with at least 100 shavees next year and a targeted amount of \$10,000 for CCF’s beneficiaries. Children Cancer Foundation looks forward to working with Raffles Institution and is optimistic that this goal is achievable.