

**PRESS RELEASE-IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



***EtonHouse families spread happiness through Boxes of Joy***

December 2016, EtonHouse schools in Singapore came together for an annual charity drive 'Box of Joy' to spread cheer during the festive season.

This initiative involved children and parents across the 15 EtonHouse centres in Singapore to put together 'boxes' with useful and meaningful educational materials and resources for young children. Keeping with the spirit of sustainability that is integral to all EtonHouse schools, the initiative encouraged families to use 'shoe boxes' and decorate them together to make it look beautiful and festive. The children with their parents then decided the sorts of things to put inside the boxes that will be meaningful to a child of a similar age. The initiative therefore is a journey involving children every step of the way and making them active participants in the process. The initiative generated lots of beautiful and touching stories and learning experiences while bringing together the entire EtonHouse community to collaborate for a common cause.

The boxes will be given to the Singapore Children's Society and the children in the ECDA KidSTART programme ranging from birth to 13 years of age. This initiative is also a testament of the strength of the wider community coming together for a meaningful cause.

Ms Seah Yang Hee, Director, Child Development Department, ECDA said "The children and families supported by KidSTART have benefited from strong partnerships with the community. This gesture by the children and parents of EtonHouse complements EtonHouse Community Fund's support for the KidSTART pilot. On behalf of the KidSTART families, we thank the children, parents and teachers for their warmth and generosity during this time of year"

"Through this initiative, EtonHouse Community Fund has demonstrated that age does not matter, and everyone can make a difference. We are very heartened to have the support of EtonHouse Community Fund. We look forward to working closely with EtonHouse Community Fund in bringing hope to the children in need" said Mr. Chia Boon Khiang, Senior Director at Singapore Children's Society.

EtonHouse students will also be visiting the children at a Singapore Children's Society centre to connect with their new friends, distribute the 'boxes of joy' and immerse in the spirit of camaraderie.

This initiative is spearheaded by the EtonHouse Community Fund, an independent charity focused on improving the lives of children in Singapore.

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## About EtonHouse

The EtonHouse International Education Group is headquartered in Singapore with more than 100 international schools spread across 12 countries.

Together these schools provide high quality education to over 15000 children globally. Over the last 21 years, EtonHouse has been at the forefront of international education offering innovative pre-schools and K-12 schools across Asia. In the early years, an inquiry based “Inquire-Think-Learn” curriculum, inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach is followed. EtonHouse International Schools offer the highly successful International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme and the IGCSE qualification in the secondary level. The EtonHouse Group has won several accolades for its exemplary practice such as the “Outstanding Leader” and “Outstanding Teacher” awards conferred by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) in Singapore in 2011 and 2012. In 2014, the MSF presented EtonHouse with the “Outstanding Centre for Teaching and Learning” Award and the Early Childhood Innovation Award in 2015. The international IB K-12 school in Suzhou was voted as one of China’s best international schools by a research based firm based out of Harvard.

The Group also works closely with the Government in Singapore and China. In early 2014, EtonHouse was selected by the MSF in Singapore to be part of the Anchor Operator (AOP) Scheme to launch E-Bridge Pre-School, providing high quality and affordable early childhood services for Singaporean families. EtonHouse schools in Suzhou, Wuxi and Nanjing were started at the invitation of the Jiangsu provincial government.

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, EtonHouse launched an independent charity EtonHouse Community Fund to focus on improving lives of underprivileged children through education under the umbrella ‘EtonHouse Gives Back’.

The Group is deeply committed to research and professional development and brought the first Reggio Children conference to Singapore. In 2013, EtonHouse became a member of the Reggio Children International Network and launched REACH (Reggio Emilia in Asia for children), the first organization to represent Reggio Children in Asia and continues to offer high quality professional development opportunities on a regular basis to further enhance its standards of practice.