



Pupils turn film-makers

Primary school pupils took home top prizes at this year's Schools Digital Media Awards. **Ng Jing Xian** reports

When a group of Park View Primary School pupils wanted to shoot a video encouraging gracious behaviour on trains, they knew it would be more realistic if they shot the footage in an actual train.

Once they contacted officers from the Land Transport Authority, their problem was solved: They were given permission to use a life-sized dummy train.

The one-minute video titled *Make It Right For A Better Ride* – which featured parents and the school security guard as extras – won the team gold at the Ministry of Education's (MOE) Schools Digital Media Awards.

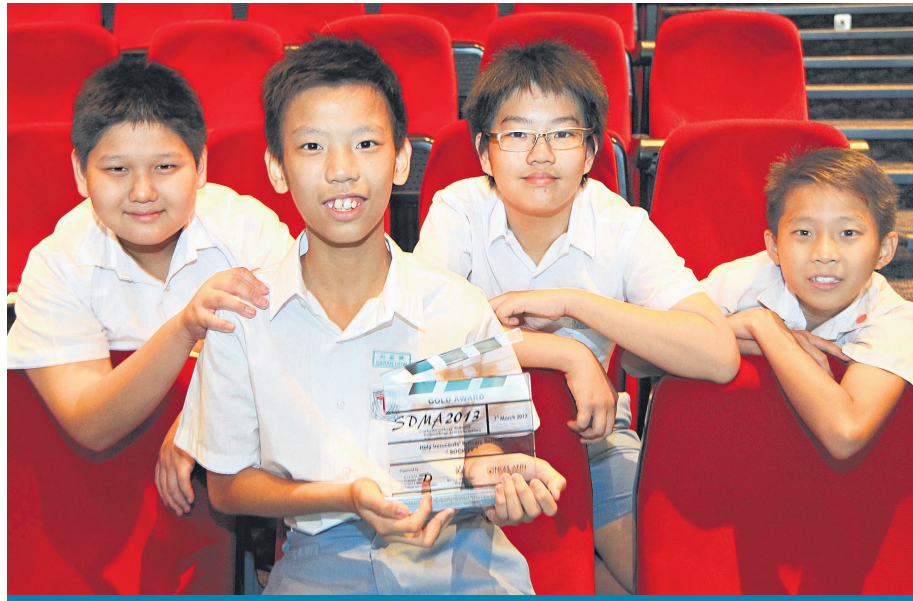
A total of 78 awards were given out to more than 300 primary school pupils and secondary school students on March 7.

This year's competition attracted 537 live-action video and animation entries from 208 participating schools.

Guest of honour, Mr Kenneth Tan, assistant chief executive officer (Assessment) of the Media Development Authority, was impressed with the high quality of the field, describing the entries as "near-professional standard".

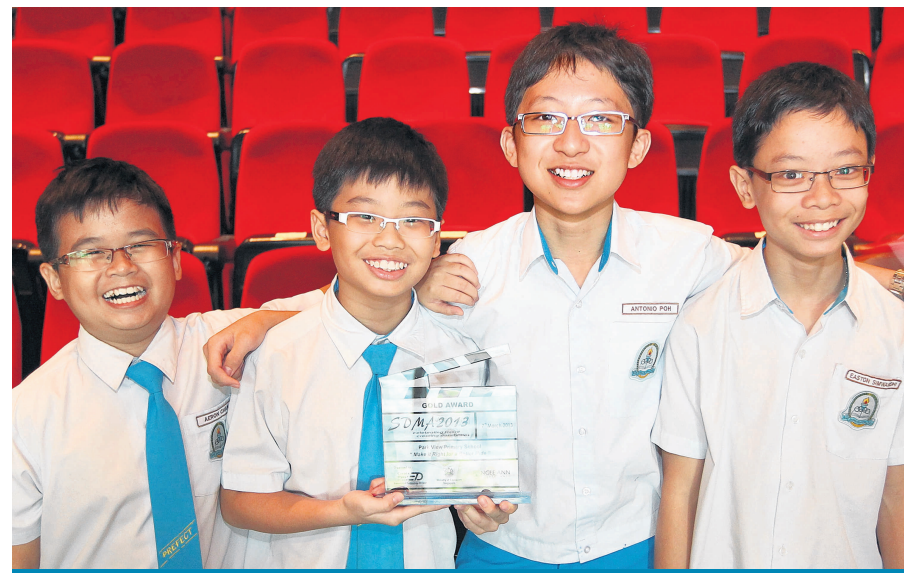
Mr Tan also praised the hard work and talent of entrants as "working in short format requires more skill than making longer films".

Armed with past experience and improved skills, the team from Holy Innocents' Primary School returned, determined to better last year's result.



ST PHOTOS
CHEW SENG KIM

The team from Holy Innocents' Primary School: (from left) Kieran Liow, Chiang Yun Chen, Jerald Ng and Elton Teng.



Members of the team from Park View Primary School: (from left) Aeron Chan, Josiah Tan, Antonio Poh and Ello Simwandhi.

Three out of five members of the team participated in last year's competition.

Team member Kieran Liow, 12, said: "Last year, we got a merit award. This year, we wanted to strive for a better award."

The team achieved its goal when its animation entry, *Society*, which promotes socially responsible behaviour, won the gold award.

Organised by MOE and Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Film and Media Studies, the annual competition aims to provide a platform for students to tell their stories creatively through visual media. This year's 78 awards was a record, with three platinum, 13 gold, 21 silver and 41 merit awards given out.

Miss Chan Lai Peng, MOE's deputy director of the Media Design and Technologies for Learning Department, was impressed by the diversity and quality of entries.

She said this year's themes gave participants more freedom for interpretation.

"The students are really taking charge and shaping their own stories – the stories they want to tell."

The winning entries can be viewed at sdma.moe.edu.sg.

Tips for aspiring movie makers:

- The most important thing is not technology or fancy tricks, but telling a good story.
- Always be ready to learn.
- Do what you know: Make movies about what you know, or have interest and/or experience in.
- Let your creativity run wild. There are no fixed rules when it comes to art.
- Respect intellectual property rights. Do not illegally copy someone else's work, and get permission if you want to reuse parts or all of it. When you respect other people's property, they will do the same to yours.
- Watch more films.

What ideas or stories do you have to tell others? What media can you use?

