

Care, Community and Hope Festival 2025

CRITICAL CONNECTIONS

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



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COMMUNITY-AND-HOPE-FESTIVAL-2025/
CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND LEARNING](https://goldsmithsmdst.com/care-community-and-hope-festival-2025/)



Welcome to the 'Care, Community and Hope Festival 2025' which is hosted at Goldsmiths, University of London and brings together digital stories from around the globe. We are celebrating the thirteenth year of the Critical Connections project, and we are delighted that some countries have been with us from the start and others have joined our global community along the way.

The young filmmakers have explored the theme of 'Care, Community and Hope' in imaginative, critical, and radical ways. These films tell vibrant multilingual stories about actions that matter, and how children and young people are finding ways to resolve conflicts, form strong bonds and friendships, and find hope. The festival shares the stories these young filmmakers have told about their local and global communities and their futures.

There are 28 languages included across the 20 digital stories exhibited at the in-person festival and 3 digicomics. Lead educators have worked with young participants (6 - 18 years old) across 22 educational institutions (primary, secondary, community-based complementary, library) and 10 countries (Australia, Brazil, Cyprus, Germany, India, Italy, Taiwan, UK, USA, Zimbabwe). There will be short in-person presentations at the festival before each film.



In-person Film Programme

1. Taichung Municipal Fengyuan Senior High School Taiwan, *Two Cultures, One Table*, [Mandarin, Taiwanese, English]
2. Casa do Livro - Biblioteca Brasileira UK, *Brasil para o Mundo: Mais do que Palavras*, [Portuguese, Brazilian Sign Language, English]
3. K'sirs International School India, *Unseen*, [Tamil, English]
4. Al Khair Primary School UK, *The Children Who Wouldn't Touch Grass*, [Arabic, English]
5. Kenton Bar Primary School UK, *Recycle Woman*, [French, Dari, English]
6. Taichung Municipal Zhonggang Senior High School Taiwan, *Home is Where Care Begins*, [English]
7. Europa School UK, *A Community of Difference*, [Farsi, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Telugu, Turkish, Vietnamese, English]
8. Herz Jesu Institut Italy, *Care, Community and Hope and The Lonely Plate*, [Italian, Ladin, South Tyrolean Dialect, Spanish, Standard German, English]
9. Seaford Head School UK, *Seaford Head Stories*, [French, Spanish, English]
10. K'sirs International School India, *Above the Curve*, [Tamil, English]

In-person Film Programme

11. Midlands State University National Language Institute (MSUNLI) and Fletcher High School Zimbabwe, *Voicing Against Extinction*, [Shona, English]
12. Central Foundation Girls' School UK, *The Tale of Shundor Bon*, [Bangla, English]
13. Orange Coast Gakuen U.S.A., *Mottainai: Too Good to Waste*, [Japanese, English]
14. San Sin High School of Commerce and Home Economics, Kaohsiung City Taiwan, *Home Begins With You*, [Mandarin, Taiwanese, English]
15. Sydney Chinese School Australia, *A Warm Light in the Community*, [Mandarin, English]
16. Tainan Municipal Sixth Preschool Taiwan, *The Green Blind Snake Brought Us Together*, [Mandarin, English]
17. Kamares Primary School Cyprus, *A Crazy Day at a Football Match*, [Standard Modern Greek, English]
18. Kathari Primary School Cyprus, *The School Play and Absolute Chaos*, [Standard Modern Greek, English]
19. Evangelische Grundschule Halle Germany, *Hope is like a Small Seed*, [English]
20. Taoyuan Municipal Shou-Shan Senior High School, Taoyuan Municipal Guanyin Senior High School, Taichung Municipal Taichung Industrial Senior High School, Taiwan, *The Emotion of Rebuilding Home*, [Mandarin, Taiwanese, Hakka, Indigenous languages, European languages, English]

Two Cultures, One Table

– Taichung Municipal Fengyuan Senior High School Taiwan

Lead Teacher: Chialing Tsai

Students: 孔維僑, 何品葳, 杜怡錚, 林湘慈, 許媿盈, 熊晨捷

Languages: Mandarin, Taiwanese, English

This is a story about respect and becoming a family connected by a vibrant red rice dish that brings two cultures together. What seems like an ordinary New Year's meal holds a special memory about the meaning of home and togetherness. The Chinese title reflects not only the image of a round dinner table, but also the warmth and unity it symbolizes. Through one simple yet meaningful dish, young readers are invited to explore how love, food, and tradition come together to shape a family.



Brasil para o Mundo: mais do que palavras

Film 2

– Casa do Livro- Biblioteca Brasileira



Lead teacher(s): Jessika Rabello and Raphael Cunha
Year group and age of students: 7- 14 years old.
Languages : Portuguese, English and Brazilian Sign Language

A sandwich split in two, an unfair foul, a dance misunderstood, a bookshelf full of stories.

In this short film created by young Brazilians in London, small moments reveal powerful values: care, hope, and community. With a soundtrack that echoes across Brazil, the film invites us to see everyday life as a space for resistance, affection, and transformation. Inspired by real experiences, this is a visual manifesto against judgment — and for empathy and belonging. To celebrate multilingualism and enrich the festival, we also incorporate Brazilian Sign Language (Libras), highlighting the beauty and innovation of communication in all its forms.

Because together, we can make the world a better place.

Unseen

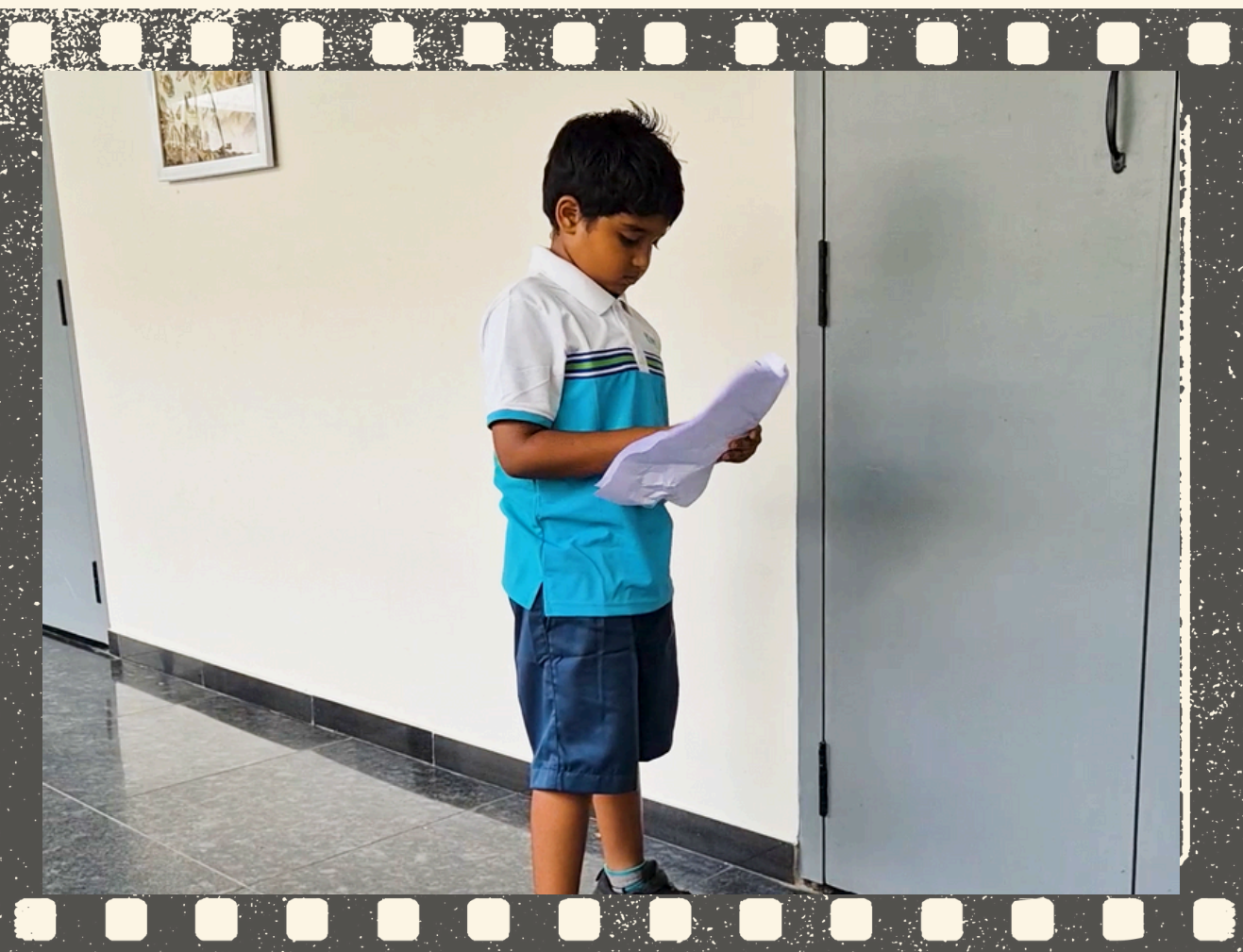
– K'sirs International School India

Film 3

Lead Teacher: School Head – Lalitha Prakesh
Project Head - Sabeetha Sakadevem

Students: Mahilan Manisundar - 16 years old, Grade 12
Sreecharan Kulothungan - 16 years old, Grade 12
Mithali K.S. - 16 years old, Grade 12
Diyaa Panneerselvam - 16 years old, Grade 12
Shruthi Nair - 14 years old, Grade 10
Sachin Vignesh Balaji - 14 years old, Grade 9
Gowtham Krishna L.N - 13 years old, Grade 9
S. Hafeez Ashaan - 6 years old, Grade 2

Languages: Tamil, English



This is the story of Nilan, a young boy who feels lonely and ignored because his parents are always busy with work. He watches other kids being loved and cared for, but he doesn't get the same. He tries to get their attention, but they keep pushing him away. Slowly, he becomes sad, angry, and stops caring about anything. He misbehaves at school and feels numb inside. The story shows how different his life could have been if his parents had shown him love. A little care could have changed everything for Nilan.

The Children Who Wouldn't Touch Grass

Film 4

– Al Khair Primary School UK

Lead teacher: Seloua Nedjai

Students: Year 6 (ages 11-12 years old)

Languages: Arabic, English

This story is about four children who discover that there's more to life than just playing games. They were completely addicted to online gaming. Whether it was on their iPads, Nintendo Switches, phones, or VR headsets, they spent every free moment playing. One night, in their messy room, they were deeply focused on their games. Their parents called out, "Stop and pray! Stop and do your work!" But the children didn't listen. They continued playing, ignoring everything around them. That night, something strange happened. The children woke up on a flying carpet.



Recycle Woman

Film 5

– Kenton Bar Primary School

- Lead Teachers: Xinyue Hu,
Joel Fossard-Jones,
Orlaith Schofield,
Jessica Seddon
- Students:
Crystal Oladimeji – 7 years old (Yr 2)
Pearl Oladimeji - 8 years old (Yr 4)
Noyan Hamidipilehvar – 8 years old (Yr 3)
Emanullah “Eman” Nezzomi – 8 years old (Yr 3)
- Languages: English, French, Dari



Trash King is on the loose! He's littering across the globe and making the Earth cry. It's up to Recycle Woman; her sidekick, Rose, and their boss, the Superhero, to stop him and save the Earth. Their journey takes them all over the world, but will they reach Trash King in time to stop him and save the planet?!?!

Home is Where Care Begins

Film 6

– Taichung Municipal Zhonggang Senior High School Taiwan



Lead teacher: Kao Hsin-Yu

Students: CHO,HSIU-YUAN, LIN,ZI-XIANG,
LIN,YI-XIANG, LIN,CHIA-HO,
HOU,YUE-TING, GUO,EN-QI,
CHEN,BO-ZHE, TSAI,CHAO-LING,
TSAI,PING-HUNG,
ZHENG,YAO-CHANG, YAN,SHIH-HONG,
LO,YUNG-TING,WANG,PEI-YUN,
WANG,JIA-QI, WANG,SHU-NING,
WANG,WEN-TING, HE,YUN-QING,
LIN,LIANG YUN, LIN,LIANG-TSEN,
SHU,WEN-JIN, HSU,HAN-JHEN,
CHEN,YU-ZHEN, CHEN,ZI-YU,
CHEN,YU-YU, CHEN,GUO-XI,
YANG,I-CHEN

Languages: English

‘Home is Where Care Begins’ is a story exploring the meaning of ‘home’ across cultures. Through sewing reusable pads and sending messages of support to girls in Africa, students reflect on dignity, empathy, and global connection. This heartwarming film invites viewers to rethink what ‘home’ means—and how small acts of care can reach far beyond borders.



Community of Difference

Film 7

-Europa School UK

Our story is about a child who arrives at school and feels different. She thinks being different makes her weird and is not a good thing. The children in Class 4EE at Europa School love difference. Together we retell the story of Bob, a bird who is teased by all the other birds. It is Art which makes Bob realise that difference is beautiful. With puppetry, drama, painting and poetry, we welcome the new child and invite her to play our Circle of Difference game. We hope she can find something different so that we can celebrate with her!

- Lead teacher: Liz Cook
with support from Irene Carmona Velasco
- Year group: Year 4EE , aged 8 and 9 years
- Languages: Portuguese, Spanish, French, Polish, Italian, Russian, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Turkish, Vietnamese, Farsi, Telugu, English.



Film 1: Care, community and hope

Film 2: The lonely plate

-Herz Jesu Institut Italy

Film 8



- Lead teacher(s): Elfi Troi (coordinator), Judith Amort, Benedikt Baldauf, Elisabeth Rubner
- Year group: Class 2A and class 2B (12 to 13 years old)
Agnese Guerra, Anna Clara, Anna Rainer-Wieser, Jannik Rabensteiner
Johanna Pertinger, Julia Mair, Lara Hinteregger, Marco Cucchini
Nora Suriano, Sofie Gostner, Susan Tschaffert, Viktoria Maria Wild
- Languages: English, Italian, Ladin, South Tyrolean Dialect, Spanish
Standard German



The two films highlight three of the many social projects led by 12 to 14-year-old students at the "Herz Jesu Institut" secondary school in Rio di Pusteria/Mühlbach, Italy.

The students serve as buddies for newcomers, offering support in their school life. Some organize activities for elderly residents in the senior academy at our local care home, while others engage with young children, aged 3-5, at a nearby kindergarten. The first film offers a student's-eye view, guided by a pencil case. The second film is narrated from the perspective of a plate used in their various projects.



Seaford Head Stories 2025

-Seaford Head School

Film 9



- Lead teacher: Michaël Vidon
- Students: Year 9 (EPAS group) 13-14 years old: Aphaia, Bethan, Emily, Daisy, Jasmine, David, Max, Sully, Harrison, Toby, Ethan and Ryan.
- Languages: French, Spanish and English

We are a group of European Parliament Ambassadors. We have led projects in our school to raise awareness of democratic values, to share the love of languages and to discover other cultures (e.g. Information posters about European Countries, Fundraisers for the RNLI, Languages Career Fair, took part in a Multilingual Storytelling project, weekly Debate Club, etc.). In those films, we interpret the themes of community, care and hope: how language learning helps building communities; how to be respectful even when you disagree (inspired by the European Parliament proceedings and its Interpreters); how to share resources.



Above the Curve

Aarav was always the unnoticed middle bencher - never great at studies or sports. After moving to India from New Zealand at 17, life grew tougher. Bullied for his accent and poor performance, he felt he didn't belong anywhere. One quiet evening, he spotted an owl under a tree. Its quiet presence, staying still in the chaos, clicked with him. Seeing himself in that lonely creature, he felt a deep connection to nature. He picked up a camera and began capturing wildlife, finding beauty and purpose through the lens. Today, Aarav is a world-renowned wildlife photographer, finally seen for who he is.



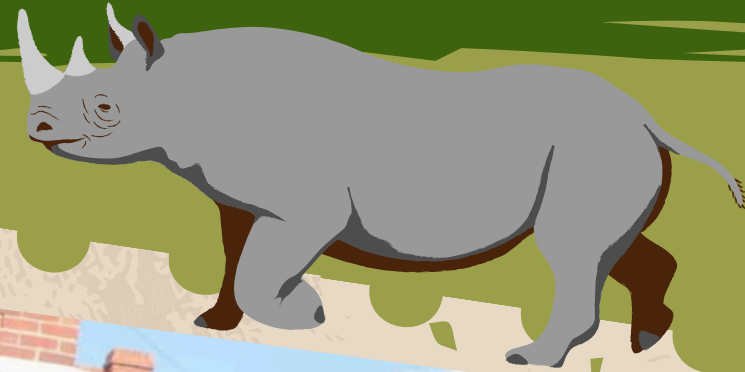
-K'sirs International School **Film 10**

- Lead teachers: School Head – Lalitha Prakesh
Project Head – Sabeetha Sakadevem
- Students:
 - Grade 12- Mahilan Manisundar, Sreecharan Kulothungan, Diya Panneerselvam, Mithali K.S
 - Grade 11- Yuga Rajesh
 - Grade 10- Aaditya Aaruran, Shruthi Nair
 - Grade 9- Sachin Vignesh Balaji, Gowtham Krishna L.N, Varsha Prakash
- Languages: Tamil and English



Voicing Against Extinction

- Midlands State University National Language Institute & Fletcher High School



- Lead teacher(s): Dr. ALLAN TAPIWA MAGANGA, Dr. APHIOS NENDUVA
Ms. KERINA CHIHAMBA
- Students: 2024-2025 (14 years old):
TATENDASHE MADEKERE, PRIDE KUDAKWASHE GANYAWU
INNOCENT TUMBWI, ANESU MACHABVUNGA
KUPAKWASHE VICTOR VHIRIRI, TINOTENDA VHIRIRI
CUTHBERT MUTOKOYI, BONGANI NDHLOVU
TINOMUTENDA KAMASHU
- Languages: SHONA & ENGLISH



The film is a story picture narrative of the poaching challenges as encountered by the selected three animals of “The big 5” wildlife animals all found in Zimbabwe. It highlights the key drivers of poaching and its far-reaching implications since the endangered animals – elephant, rhino, lion – apart from being natural heritage, are also markers of identity to the indigenes due to their cultural significance, precisely totemic value. It exposes in vivid images how the human community must offer hope to these species under threat through care.

The Tale of Shundor Bon

Film 12

-Central Foundation Girls' School

Lead teacher: Shabita Shamsad

Students:

Year 7: Eva Ahmed, Afsara Rahma Bahar, Sirazun Munira Hossain
Amina Hossain, Fariha Chowdhury

Year 8: Daalya Choudhury, Sarika Rahman, Mohona Mohsin,
Raidah Kamal, Zunainah Alam, Faiza Rahman

Languages: Bangla and English



While rushing through London for a job interview, Joya—a young environmentalist - falls into a puddle and is magically transported to Shundor Bon, the world's largest mangrove forest. There, she meets Raja, a Royal Bengal Tiger, who shares how his home is vanishing due to the displaced Rohingya people cutting down the forest for shelter. As Joya listens, she's drawn into a journey that blurs the lines between fantasy and reality. Her experience challenges her beliefs and awakens a deep understanding: the survival of wildlife, ecosystems, and displaced people are all connected - and protecting one means protecting them all.





Mottainai: Too good to waste

Film 13

– Orange Coast Gakuen U.S.A.

This video shows how students at Orange Coast Gakuen promote and spread awareness of 'mottainai'. We hope this video explains the global issue of wastefulness and helps people understand the true meaning of 'mottainai' and why it is so important. Understanding the influence of waste on communities will bring awareness to the large issue and urge our audience to practice 'mottainai', or activities to reduce waste.



- Lead teachers: Anna Sera, Noriho Uriu and Miyoko Foutch
- Students:
Students aged 10 to 18.
- Languages: Japanese and English

going→
ZERO
WASTE



Home Begins With You

Film 14

– San Sin High School of Commerce and Home Economics, Kaohsiung City Taiwan

Lead Teacher: Jessica Su

Students: Rouchen Liu, Juliane Huang, Binrui Huang

Languages: Mandarin, Taiwanese, English

In this story, we follow the journey of a girl in search of that very feeling, weaving together themes of local culture, friendship, and cross-cultural understanding. We believe that home is not confined to bloodlines or walls. It is found in the kindness of a friend, the comfort of shared stories, and the quiet strength of human connection. Through this film, we hope to share the idea that home can take many forms. This is not just a story of searching, but of building, understanding, and growing empathy across cultures. We invite viewers to reflect: What does “home” mean to you?



the less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.] ~~ Robert Frost, 1966

A Warm Light in the Community

-Sydney Chinese School Australia

Film 15

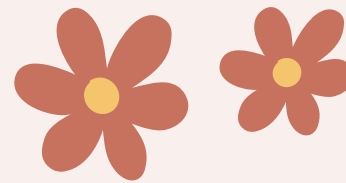
Lead teacher: Hoi Ying Cho

Students: Year 5

Alexandrea Koit, Briella Koit, Dora Hu, Jorence Jo, Kuiper Gray, Lanata Hongsuphan, Sam See Yong, William Yuchen Jin, Zoe Esplin

Languages: Mandarin and English

One quiet night, a small town was suddenly plunged into darkness. The power outage brought momentary unease - but also sparked a sense of hope in the hearts of children. With handmade lanterns in hand, they stepped into the community, bringing light to the night and warmth to others. This is a story about how care and kindness, shared even in small ways, can spread warmth and hope, and bring a community together.



The Green Blind Snake Brought Us Together

Film 16

-Tainan Municipal Sixth Preschool

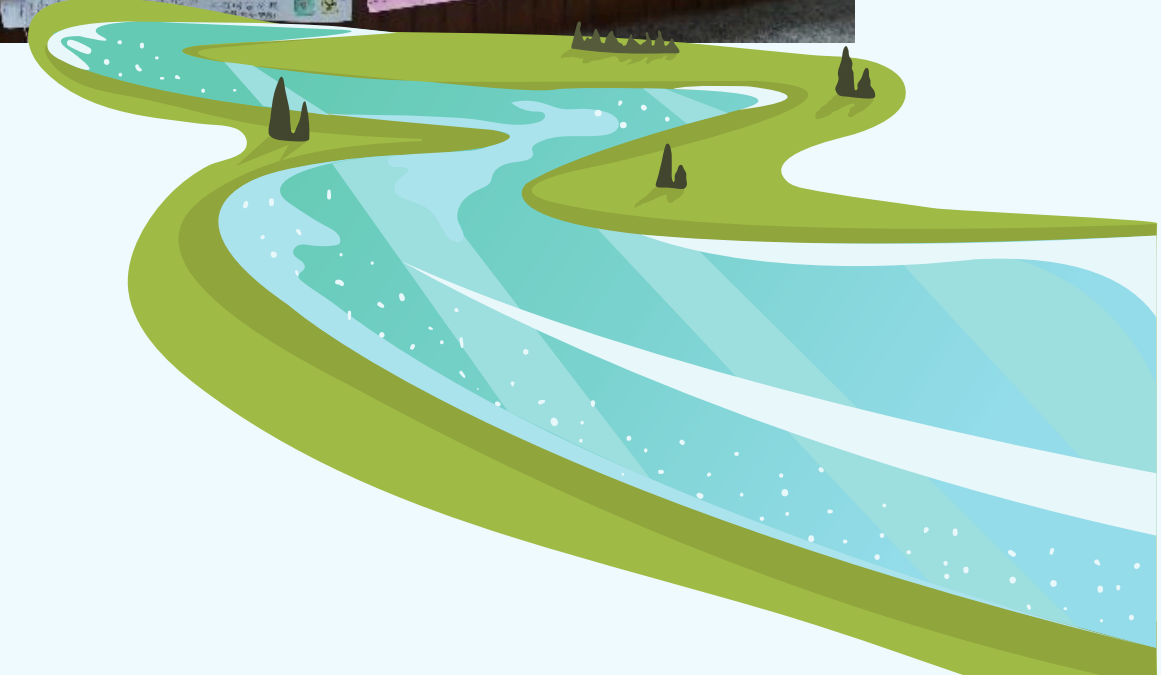
- Lead teacher(s)

Chen Shu Ching, Liu Xin Ru, Kuo Tzu Ying

Hsu Shu Ching, Tseng I Wen, Tong Qi Min

- Students: Pre-school children (3-5 years old)
- Languages: Chinese and English

Tainan Municipal Sixth Kindergarten, consisting of a main campus and three branches (Chengnan, Shalun, and Xian Gong), is located in a flood-prone area frequently impacted by typhoons and heavy rain. Children, who once looked forward to typhoon holidays, now feel anxious about disasters. In response, the school adopted the RAIN teaching strategy, which focuses on raising awareness, incorporating children's rights, promoting local action, and connecting global perspectives. Through the course "Rushing in the Flood," teachers guided students to engage with the local community, learning about the history and impact of flooding.



A Crazy Day at a Football Match

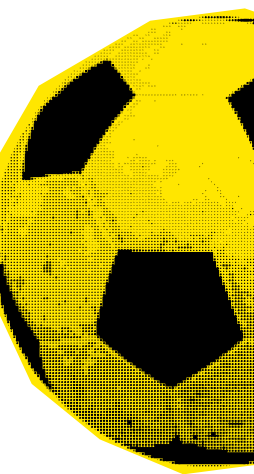
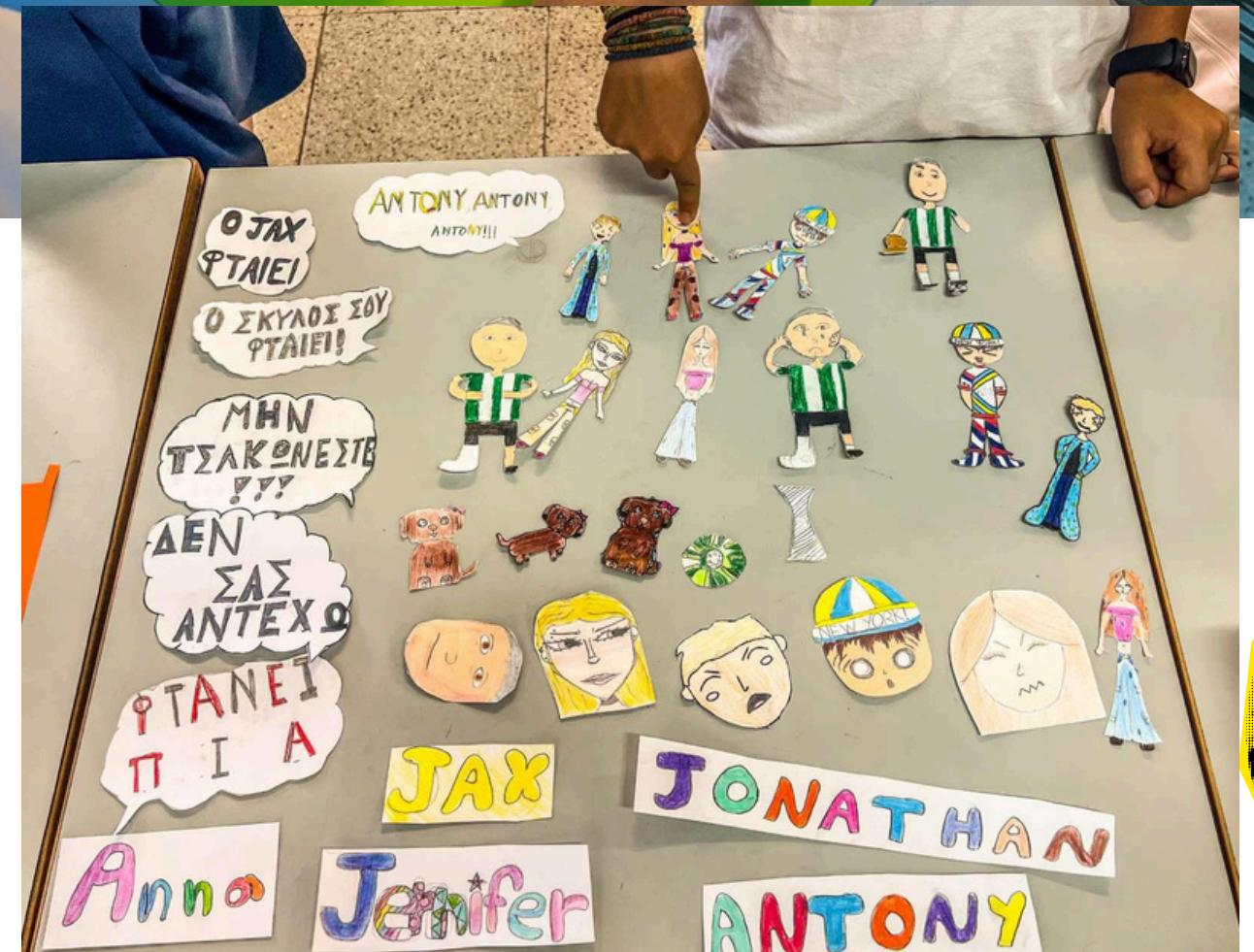
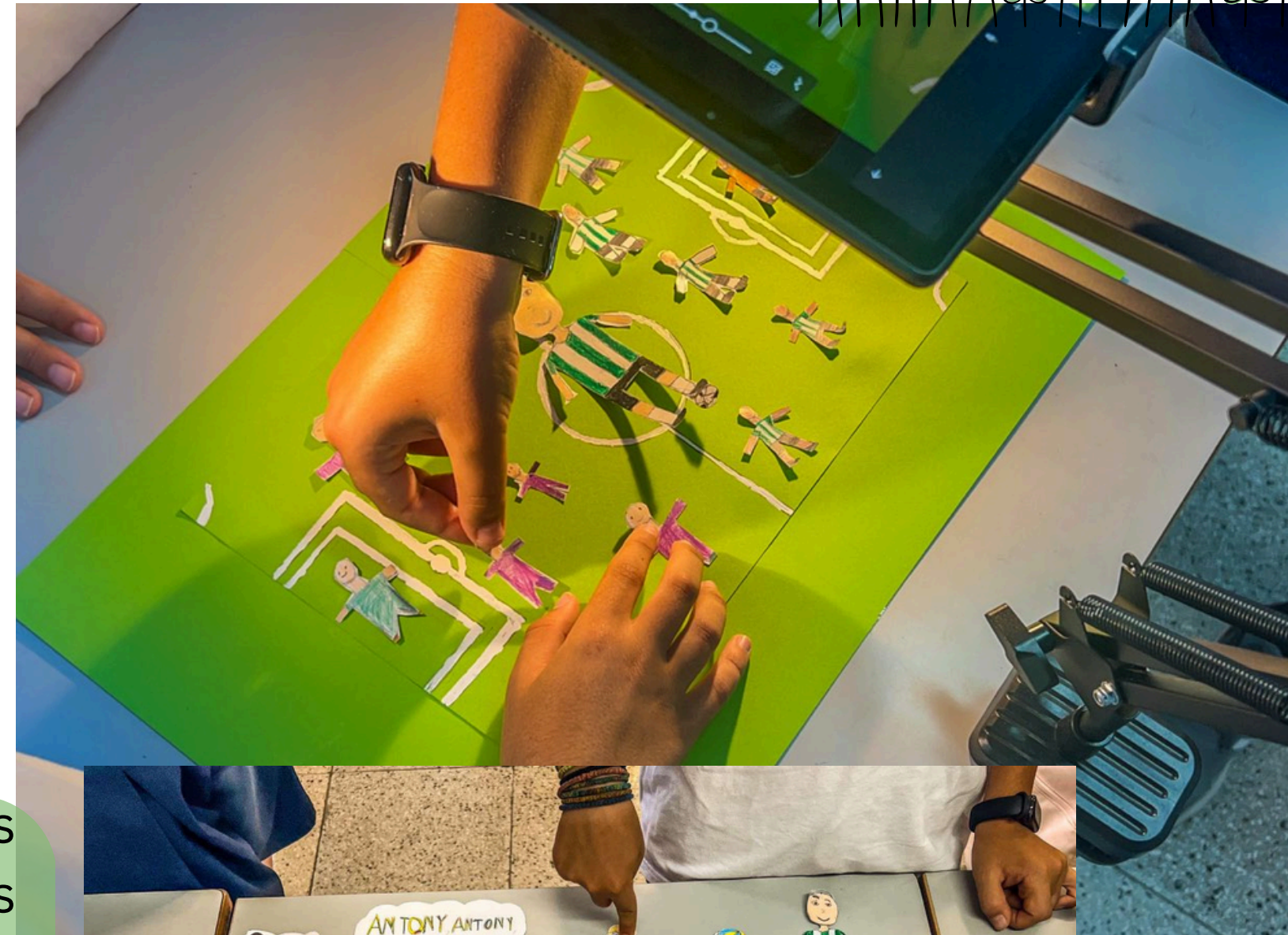
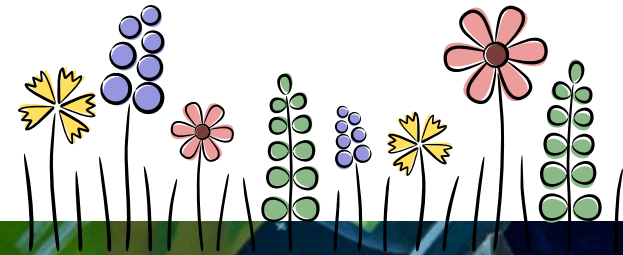
-Kamares Primary School Cyprus

- Lead teacher: Christina Shamaela
- Supervision: Sotiroula Stavrou
- Students: 5th Grade, 10–11-year-olds
Lia, Marios, Andreas. Michalis, Demetris, Alex, Andrew, Nikolas K., Vasilias, Christos, Vanna, Vagia, Eliana, Nestor, Nikiforos, Elena, Nicholas P., Lefteris, Theo, Vasiliki, Nicholas T., Albert, Zoe, Emily, Athinais
- Languages: Standard Modern Greek - English



Four friends — Jennifer, Jax, Anna, and Jonathan — attend the Cyprus Cup final to cheer on their friend Antony. During the game, Anna's dog runs onto the field, accidentally injuring Antony and forcing him to leave. In the changing room, frustration leads to a heated argument. But when the water sprinklers unexpectedly go on, the tension dissolves into laughter as they splash and play together. Moments later, Antony's team announces their victory. Despite the earlier conflict, the friends come together in celebration, realising that their bond is stronger than any setback — proving that, in the end, friendship wins.

Film 17



The School Play and Absolute Chaos

Film 18

-Kathari Primary School Cyprus

Lead teacher(s) –Lia Georgiou

Supervision: Sotiroula Stavrou

Students -5th Grade Class 1

Fanourios, Paris, Raman, Lucy, Loukas, Arjin

Sara, Demetris, Kyriaki Z., Demetra, Spyros

Victoria, Moussa, Markella, Theocharis,

Theodoros, Kyriaki T., Maria

Languages - Standard Modern Greek- English



The story of our digital story is about a School play and the Absolute Chaos. The school was preparing a play of Romeo and Juliet, but chaos erupted from the start. Students fought over roles, especially Felicia, who was upset she wasn't Juliet. Rehearsals were filled with arguments and disasters. On the big night, the stage wasn't ready, costumes were ruined, and scenes turned into comedy. Felicia caused mayhem out of jealousy, while others added to the confusion. Yet the audience thought it was all part of the act and applauded. Despite the chaos, the play ended with laughter, forgiveness, and hugs. It was a total disaster - but everyone had an unforgettable time and lots of fun.



Hope is Like a Small Seed

-Evangelische Grundschule Halle Germany

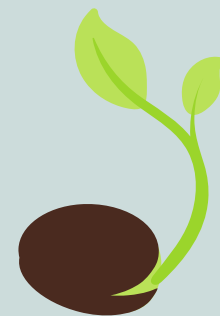
Lead teacher(s)

Renata Dimowa, Luca Jäckel, Elaine Hager

Students: Year 3 students

Languages:

English (project lessons were partly held in German)



In our short film with year 3 students, we explored the story 'The Last Wolf' by Mini Grey. The children retold the tale using body percussion, bringing the narrative to life through rhythm and movement. We then discussed the themes of care, community, and help, collecting key words and turning them into colorful drawings. To conclude, each child planted seeds in a flowerpot, symbolising hope and growth. The film captures creativity, reflection, and the spirit of togetherness.



The Emotion of Rebuilding Home

Film 20

- Taoyuan Municipal Shou-Shan Senior High School
- Taoyuan Municipal Guanyin Senior High School
- Taichung Municipal Taichung Industrial Senior High School, Taiwan

- Lead teachers

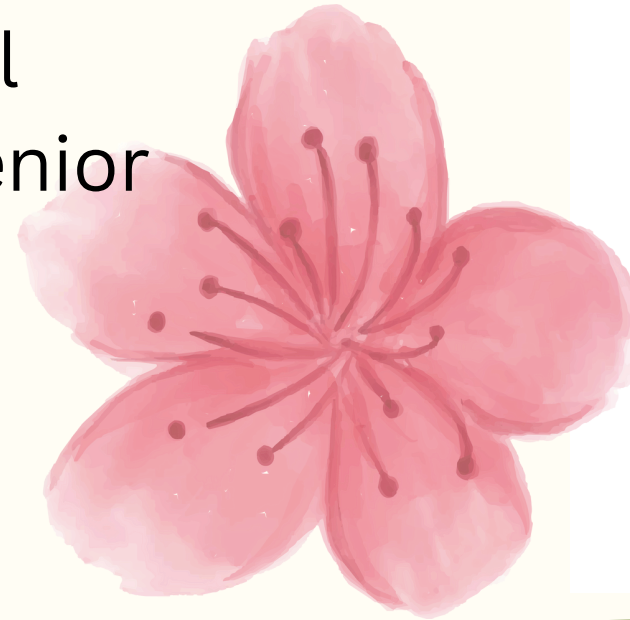
Chiang Yu Li, Chao Sheng Yang, Su Chien Lun

Tan Yu Feng, Chen Yen He, Liu Yuxin,

Liang Chih Chieh, Chang Jia Fang, Yeh Yun Hsuan

- Students: 108 students from three schools

Languages- Mandarin, Taiwanese,
Hakka, Indigenous languages,
European languages, English



重建家園
的感動

The Emotion of
Rebuilding Home

‘Home’ may represent a place, a memory, or an emotion for everyone. The concept transcends time, culture and geography, and the definition of "home" may vary from group to group. This programme encourages students to think about and express their ideal home, and guides them to understand the needs and expectations of ‘home’ in different cultural contexts. Home is more than just a physical space, it can be a place of warm memories, a sense of belonging, or a community that fosters connection and support. Through digital storytelling, participants explore and express the importance of "home" to individuals and the world, promoting cultural understanding and emotional resonance.

**Critical Connections
Care, Community and Hope
Digital Storytelling Festival 2025**

Project Directors

Yu-chiao Chung

Dr Yu-Chiao Chung

V. P. Macleroy

Professor Vicky Macleroy

JR

Dr Judith Rifesser



CRITICAL CONNECTIONS
MULTILINGUAL DIGITAL STORYTELLING

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**Dr Yu-chiao Chung, Ssu-Hua Fang
film booklet design**

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