

WHAT'S UP

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Not as cute as a panda?
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← She helps farmers

PICTURES: PIXABAY; THEREALLOUISEMABULO.COM

COVID-19 pandemic means life has to change for a while

Many events have to be cancelled to control the spread.

On 11 March, the World Health Organization announced that COVID-19 could now be called a “pandemic”. A pandemic is a disease that is rapidly being passed from person to person in many different countries around the world.

In Singapore, Prime Minister

Lee Hsien Loong told the nation that COVID-19 may be around for some time — maybe a year or longer. Thankfully, most COVID-19 patients do not get very sick. We don't need to *panic* about the *pandemic*. The patients who are in most danger are the elderly and others who are already weak

because of existing health problems.

Mr Lee said that if the number of cases in Singapore **spikes**, hospital beds must be reserved for the COVID-19 patients who are seriously ill. Doctors will give the rest medicines and send them home to recover. If there is a spike, you may have to do your lessons at home instead of going to school, just like in some other countries.

Already, many groups have called off religious services and other big gatherings. They are using the internet to meet and learn. The Esplanade, for example, has several new online videos specially for the young (see below).

People around the world are realising that this is a time to support one another. Joseph Chong, a Northoaks Primary pupil, wrote to *What's Up* to express his sympathy for

everyone affected by the pandemic.

“Those quarantined under **lockdown** are trapped against their will,” he said. “The frontline workers are also doing their best to curb the spread of this virus.” (His letter is on page 5.)

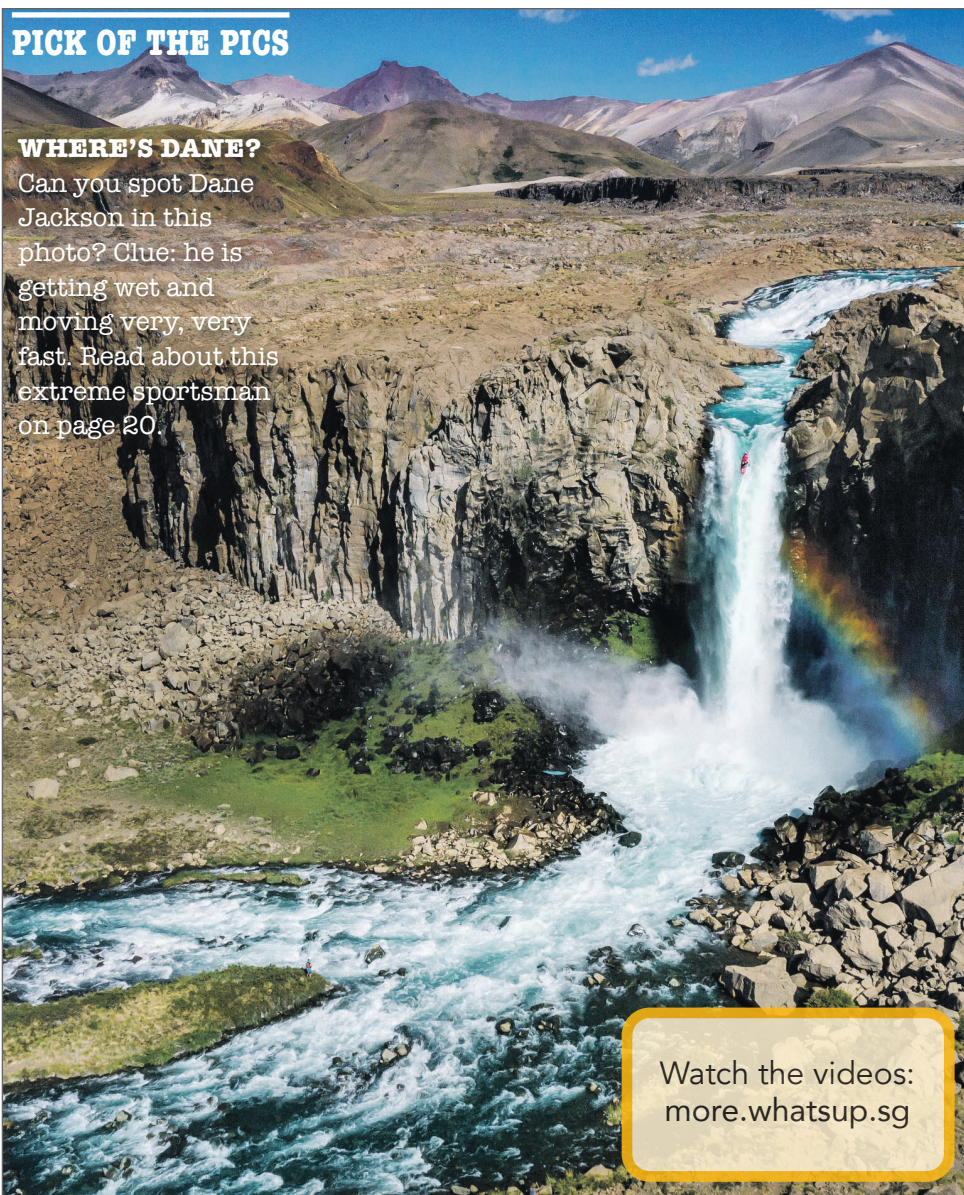
Governments have a big responsibility. They are trying to provide more hospital beds. They are also spending a lot of money to help businesses and workers. But, governments cannot do everything. Friends and neighbours can help one another through this tough time.

More on pages 6–7.

PICK OF THE PICS

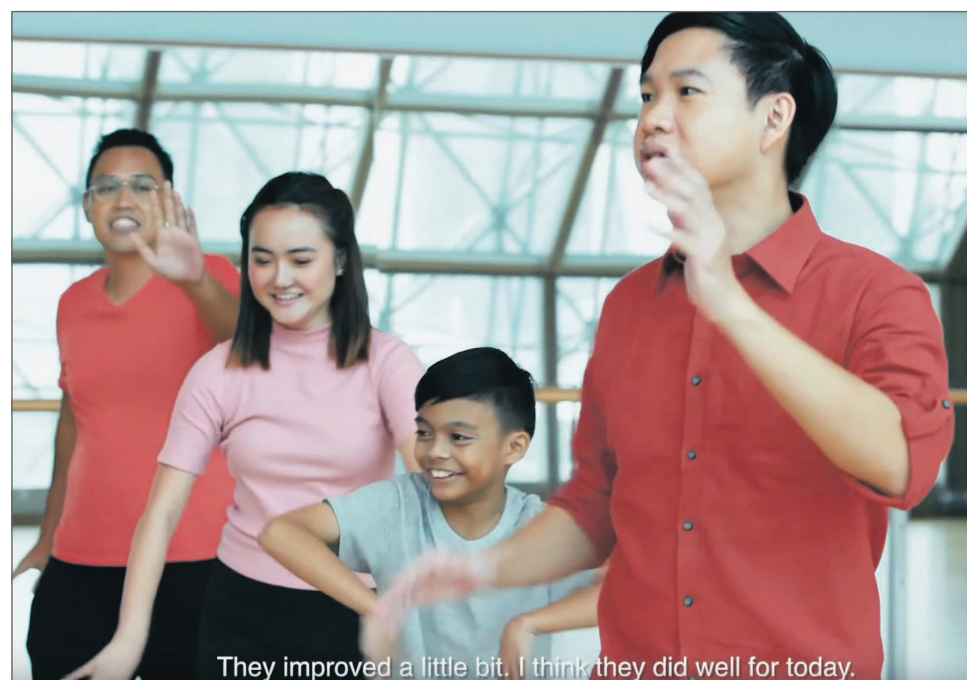
WHERE'S DANE?

Can you spot Dane Jackson in this photo? Clue: he is getting wet and moving very, very fast. Read about this extreme sportsman on page 20.



Watch the videos:
more.whatsup.sg

COREY RICH / RED BULL



They improved a little bit. I think they did well for today.

DANCE CLASS: But, guess who is teaching whom? Nine-year-old Ilhan tried showing three grown-ups the basics of inang, a traditional Malay dance. This is one of a series of Esplanade videos about children who are experts in different art forms. You can watch them at our website, more.whatsup.sg.

ESPLANADE.SG

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