
LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

27 March 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students

An eventful Term 1

We have concluded the first term of 2014 having completed a wide variety of activities for the children. The year started splendidly with the Chinese New Year celebrations and we had the traditional lion dance from the Singapore Polytechnic perform in our school once again. Total Defence Day proved to be a treat for the children as our teachers produced and acted in their very own video clip to highlight the 5 forms of defence. Other than these events, our P3 students have begun their Swimsafer programme and our Ukulele programme has also started for the P3 and P4 levels. Many students have also started going for their Theatre experience programme.

School achievements

We are very happy to share that our students and staff have done us proud in several areas.

In the Sports scene, our West Zone Sepak Takraw Junior boys came home with the Silver medal and have now qualified for the National competitions. In the Uniformed Groups area, our Scouts have achieved the Frank Sands Cooper Silver Award for their efforts. In the National Story Challenge Competition, which saw participation by 42 teams across Singapore, our Speech and Drama Club had sent in two teams. One of our teams was amongst the 18 that eventually qualified for the semi-finals. However, due to unforeseen circumstances that affected the students, the team was unable to compete in the semis. Nevertheless, we are proud that our fledgling club which started in 2013 is making good progress.

Through the efforts of staff, students and parent volunteers, as part of the Green Schools @ South West 2013, the school has won the Sustained Achievement Award for Green Schools 2013. This was the result of the school winning the Gold Award for the past few years. The sustained achievement award is a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing students who understand and contribute to taking care of our environment. This is part of our aim of nurturing Model Citizens who encourage (others) through compassion.

While the awards and recognition are an icing on the cake for the students' efforts, the school is more concerned and proud of the students' character development as they engage in these wide array of activities. More teams will be participating in other zonal and national events and competitions in Term 2. We hope they will do their very best, and show good sportsmanship, resilience, commitment and strong teamwork as they participate in these different events. Let's wish them all the very best!

Update on PERI upgrading

We have been informed that there is a delay in the start of the construction works. Once we have more information, we will keep all key stakeholder informed.

Parents our supportive partners

Research studies, including one recently published by academics from the University of Maryland, have consistently shown that parents who are involved in the school understand their children better and are able to better support their learning and development. The school wants to engage parents as partners in a much stronger way. We are currently in the process of developing plans for this including exploring the possibility of using social media as a platform to share and affirm the learning of the children. More details will be announced in due course.

We have continued to create opportunities for (i) parents to be involved in school activities, (ii) parent-child bonding, and (iii) the sharing of parental tips. As part of the Family Matters @ School programme, we recently concluded the following talks:

- How to help your child to be successful in school (P1 parents)

- Parents on board (POB) (P1 and P2 parents)
- Helping your child set goals and succeed (P5 & P6 parents)
- Building self-esteem and confidence in your child (P3 & P4 parents)

We also organised an Amazing Race - Parent Child Bonding Workshop during the March holidays. All these talks and sessions are organised for you and your learning will eventually benefit the children. I hope you will strongly support the activities so that we can strengthen our partnership even further.

The second edition of our Parents' Seminar, with the theme "Empowering Parents Our Supportive Partners, will be organised on 5 April 2014 from 7.45am – 1pm. Last year's seminar received very positive responses from the parents. This year, we have planned for even more interactive and hands-on experiences. The school staff has put in much effort to organise this event and we look forward to your strong support.

This year the annual MOE Excel Fest will be open to the public on 12 April 2014 at Suntec Singapore Hall 401-402. This event celebrates the exciting and innovative practices in our Singapore schools. You can visit www.excelfest.com for more details.

Developing our children - encouraging play and emphasising focus

I am certain that we would not want the term "gao fen di neng" which essentially means "good at tests but bad at everything else" to apply to our children. It is essential that we focus on developing students holistically so that we nurture their character, and increase the possibility of finding and nurturing their talents and passions. Education is not just about what takes place inside the classrooms in schools or what appears in the textbooks but it also includes a wide range of experiences including participation in CCAs and parents' interactions and involvement at home. Abilities such as thinking creatively, getting along with others and cooperating effectively, and managing one's emotions and impulses are sometimes not so easily and effectively taught in traditional classrooms but they can be developed when children are placed in contexts where they 'play'. This is not 'play' on the mobile devices or computers but 'play that involves face-to-face social interactions. Such play can be between children or even between adults and children. Thus instead of seeing play as a distraction, we could perhaps ask ourselves if we are using it effectively to nurture and develop the character, values and emotional strength of our children. It would be foolhardy of us to dismiss its value as play is something that children are inherently attracted to. One of the key things we could do for a start is to encourage our children to participate actively in their CCAs. CCAs provide many opportunities for the children to engage in play.

Another point that I would like to highlight is that it is important for us to help our children to focus on one thing at a time. Just because they can multi-task does not mean that they should. Multi-tasking can be distracting and could actually result in children doing many things but not doing any of them well. At home, if your child is revising or doing his/her homework, they should do so without simultaneously watching TV, playing computer games or messaging their friends. They should focus and concentrate on the task at hand. That is why a timetable is so important for children; it helps to structure time for their concentration. For those interested, you may wish to read Dr. JoAnn Deak's book on "The Owner's Manual for Driving your Adolescent Brain" to find out more.

Administrative matters

Please retain the coloured section of this letter for future reference as it contains useful and important information. Read through the section carefully especially on school closure, curtailment of school hours and dates for meeting teachers. We also seek your understanding and cooperation on the matters raised.

Like I mentioned in my letter at the start of this year, let us be committed to working together and building a close knit community so that our students can flourish. Should you have any queries or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 67691025 or email us at twps@moe.edu.sg. The school is always in the best position to address school-based concerns.

Yours sincerely

Suraj Nair

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Health and Safety

Please ensure that children who are **unwell stay home** and seek appropriate medical attention. Students are reminded to **take good care of their thermometers** and to bring them to school when required.

With the haze expected to return, students who require medication should bring it along with them.

School Closure and Curtailment of School Hours in Term 2

Parents will be informed via a letter and the school website if there are changes.

School Closure	Dates	Levels affected	Remarks
Good Friday	18 Apr	All	
Labour Day	1 May	All	
Vesak Day	13 May	All	
TWPS Games and Sports Carnival (P3-P6)	29 May	P1 & 2	School is closed for P1 & 2 students.
Parent-Teacher Conference P1-6 cum Home-based Learning Day	30 May	All	School is closed for all students. Parents of P1-6 students can arrange to meet your children's form teachers.
June Holidays	31 May – 29 Jun	All	
Curtailment of School Hours	Date	Levels affected	Remarks
TWPS Games and Sports Carnival (P3-P6)	29 May	P3 to 6	8.00 – 11.30am

Important Dates for Parents

Parents, we are informing you of these dates early and hope that it will facilitate your attendance where necessary.

Title of Event	Dates	Times	Remarks
Parents' Seminar	5 Apr	8-1pm	
MOE Excel Fest	12 Apr	Free and easy whole day	Suntec Singapore• Hall 401-402 Organised by MOE HQ Registration will begin in Feb 2014.
Parent-Teacher Conference P1-6 cum Home-based Learning Day*	30 May	8am-5pm	You may make an appointment with your child's teacher Students attending with parents are expected to be in school attire.

School Activities for Term 2

Please note that students will be issued with consent forms by the teachers-in-charge for all after-school activities.

Activities/ School Programmes	Dates	Time	Teacher i/c	Remarks
P3, 4, 6 Remedial/Supplementary	Mondays – 24/3, 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 28/4, 5/5, 12/5, 26/5	2.15 - 3.15pm	Respective subject HODs	
P5 HMT & MT Remedial/Supplementary	Mondays – 24/3, 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 28/4, 5/5, 12/5, 19/5* , 26/5	2.15 - 3.15pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	*19/5 P5 HMT only
P2-P6 Remedial/ Supplementary	Tuesdays – 25/3, 1/4, 8/4, 6/5, 27/5	2.15 - 3.15pm (Session 1) 3.15 - 4.15pm (Session 2)	Respective subject HODs	
P3-P5 Remedial/ Supplementary	Thursdays – 27/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 22/5	2.15 - 3.15pm	Respective subject HODs	
P6 HMT & MT Remedial/ Supplementary	Thursdays – 27/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 22/5	2.15 - 3.15pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P3 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected students)	Mon – Thurs 24/3-27/3, 31/3- 3/4, 7/4-10/4, 14/4-17/4, 21/4- 24/4, 28/4-2/5, 5/5-8/5	2.15 - 3.15pm	P3 – Mrs Elaine Lee, Ms Eileen Tan, Ms Zuraidah	
P4 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected students)	Mon – Thurs 24/3-27/3, 31/3- 3/4, 7/4-10/4, 28/4-2/5, 5/5-8/5, 12/5-15/5	2.15 - 3.15pm	P4 – Mdm Azlina, Ms Lim Mingli, Mdm Nurwati	
P3 Reading Remediation Programme (RRP) (Selected Students)	Tues and Thurs	2.15 – 3.00 pm	Ms Farhanah, Ms Abigail	
P4 & P6 NAPFA	15/4-16/4	2.00 - 5.00pm	Mr Morris Koh	
TWPS Games and Sports Carnival (P3-P6)	29/5	8.00 – 11.30am	Mr Morris Koh	P1 & 2: Home- based learning
P1-P6 MT Fortnight	31/3 – 2/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P1 Speech & Drama (EL)	Tuesdays – 25/3, 1/4, 8/4, 15/4, 22/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Siti Noor	10 x 1 hr sessions
P1-P2 Drawing & Painting	Term 2 and 3	Curriculum Time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	8 sessions
P1 Theatre Experience	1/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Siti Noor	All P1 classes
P1 Learning Journey to Zoo (PAL/EL)	17/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Siti Noor	All P1 classes
P2 Digital Music Compo	24/3 to 11/4	Curriculum Time	Ms Nicola Hoon	All P2 classes
P2 Speech & Drama (MT)	Mondays – 24/3, 7/4, 14/4, 21/4, 28/4, 5/5, 12/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	10 x 1 hr sessions

Activities/ School Programmes	Dates	Time	Teacher i/c	Remarks
P2 Abacus	3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 3/6, 3/7	2.15 – 3.45pm	Dr Casey Ang	
P2 Learning Journey to Botanic Garden (ML)	8/4	2.00 – 5.00pm	Mdm Juraida	
P2 Learning Journey to Science Centre (EL/IPW)	28/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Dawn Chew	
P3-P6 Ukulele	Term 1 and 2	Curriculum Time	Ms Abigail Teng	10 sessions
P3-P6 Math Olympiad	21/5, 28/5, 2/6, 3/6, 2/7, 16/7	2.15 – 4.00pm	Dr Casey Ang	*2/6 & 3/6 (1pm -3pm)
P3 Storytelling Workshop (EL)	Mondays – 24/3, 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 28/4, 19/5, 26/5	EL Supplementary	Mdm Siti Noor	
P3 Swimsafer Programme	25/3, 1/4, 8/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Joyce Liew	
P3 Cultural Prog Exposure Scheme (CL)	11/4	1.30 - 4.30pm	Ms Nam Ruiping	
P3 Heuristics Problem solving for students	27/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 22/5	Math Supplementary	Dr Casey Ang	
P3 Science Centre Workshop and Visit	15/4	2.00 - 5.00pm	Ms Eileen Tan	
P3 SwimSafer Programme	25/3, 1/4 & 8/4	Curriculum Time	Mr Morris Koh	
P3 SEP Archery	15/4	7.30 - 10.00am	Mr Morris Koh	3-1
	6/5			3-2, 3-3
	20/5			3-4, 3-5
P4 Heuristics Problem solving for students	31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 12/5, 26/5	Math Supplementary	Dr Casey Ang	
P4 E-Journalism (EL)	27/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 22/5	EL Supplementary	Mdm Siti Noor	
P4 NE/SS Learning Journey to Maritime Experiential Museum	8/4, 9/4	Curriculum Time	Ms Lee Lu Mei	
P4 SEP Archery	20/5	2.30 - 5.00pm	Mr Morris Koh	4-1, 4-2
	27/5			4-3, 4-4
P4 & P5 Literature Appreciation Programme	28/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Siti Noor	
P5 2D Animation Stop Motion	Term 4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	8 sessions
P5 Digital Music Compo	Term 3	Curriculum Time	Ms Abigail Teng	8 sessions
P5 E-Journalism (EL)	25/3, 27/3, 1/4, 3/4, 8/4, 10/4, 14/4	EL Supplementary	Mdm Siti Noor	
P5 NE/SS Learning Journey to Asian Civilisation Museum	2/4, 3/4, 4/4	Curriculum Time	Ms Lee Lu Mei	Selected classes
P5 SEP Golf	27/5	2.30 - 5.00pm	Mr Morris Koh	All P5 classes
P6 Batik Painting	Term 2	Curriculum Time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	8 sessions
P6 2D Animation Stop Motion	Term 1 and 2	Curriculum Time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	8 sessions
P6 Drama in Writing (EL)	Mondays – 24/3, 31/3, 7/4, 28/4	EL Supplementary	Mdm Siti Noor	

Activities/ School Programmes	Dates	Time	Teacher i/c	Remarks
P5-P6 Heuristics Problem solving for students	Mondays – 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 28/4, 5/5, 12/5, 26/5	Math Supplementary	Dr Casey Ang	
	Tuesdays – 25/3, 1/4, 8/4, 6/5			
P6 Research Field Trip	27/5	2.00 – 5.00pm	Mdm Janice Leong	
P6 HA Science Investigative Workshop	4/4, 25/4, 2/5, 23/5	2.00 – 3.30pm	Mdm Janice Leong	Selected pupils
P2 & P3 Kids Excel Programme	Wednesdays – 26/3, 2/4, 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 7/5, 14/5, 21/5, 28/5, 4/6	2.00 – 5.15pm	Mdm Joyce Liew	Pls contact the KidsExcel Instructors directly where necessary.
	Fridays – 28/3, 4/4, 11/4, 25/4, 2/5, 9/5, 16/5, 23/5, 6/6	1.30 – 4.45pm		
P2 & P3 Kids Excel Camp	12/6 & 13/6			
CCA (P3 – P5)				
Mondays: Selected CCAs	24/3, 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 26/5	3.15 – 5.15pm	Mr Morris Koh	
Thursdays: CCAs	27/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 22/5	3.15 – 5.15pm	Mr Morris Koh	
Tests and Examinations				
SA1 P3 Oral	21/4 – 22/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P5 Oral	21/4 – 22/4	2 – 4.30pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P4 Oral	23/4 – 24/4	2 – 4.30pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P6 Oral	23/4 – 24/4	2 – 4.30pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P3 EL Paper 1 & LC	29/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P4 MT Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P5 EL Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P6 MT Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P3 MT Paper 1 & LC	30/4	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P4 EL Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P5 MT Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P6 EL Paper 1 & LC				
P6 SA1 – EL/FEL P5 SA1 – MA/FMA P4 SA1 – MT P3 SA1 – SC	7/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P6 SA1 – MA/FMA P5 SA1 – MT/FMT P4 SA1 – SC P3 SA1 – EL	8/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P6 SA1 – MT/FMT P5 SA1 – SC/FSC P4 SA1 – EL P3 SA1 – MA	9/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P6 SA1 – SC/FSC P5 SA1 – EL/FEL P4 SA1 – MA P3 SA1 – MT	15/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	

Activities/ School Programmes	Dates	Time	Teacher i/c	Remarks
P6 SA1 – HMT P5 SA1 – HMT	16/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P1 Mini Tests - English - Mathematics - Mother Tongue	23/4, 28/4 - 30/4, 14/5 - 16/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	Refer to HA letter for details.
	9/4, 20/5			
	25/4, 5/5, 6/5			
P2 Mini Tests - English - Mathematics - Mother Tongue	23/4 – 25/4, 21/5	Curriculum Time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	Refer to HA letter for details
	20/5			
	15/4, 28/4 - 30/4, 14/5			
School Holidays				
Term 2 School Holidays	31/5 to 29/6			
P6 Math & Science Investigative Camp	6/6	8.00am – 12.00pm	Dr Casey Ang	
P5 & P6 Supplementary	2/6 to 6/6, 26/6, 27/6	8.00am – 12.00pm	Mdm Janice Leong, Dr Casey Ang	
Pupil Leadership Workshop	2/6	1.00pm – 5.00pm	Ms Samantha Ting	
P4 MT Language and Cultural Camp	2/6	To be confirmed	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P3 Conversational MT	2/6 – 3/6	To be confirmed	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	