



TECK WHYE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

19 September 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians and Pupils

We will soon be reaching the end of an eventful 2013. For me, it has been a year to get to know the key partners and stakeholders of the school better, and understand their aspirations and concerns. I am very happy to note that many agree on one key point: Education is not just about the final scores you get in your report books or certificates at the end of each year or at the end of 6 years; it must be about developing the whole child, enabling every child to have the opportunity to nurture his or her character, talents and passions, and inspiring a love for learning.

PM Lee Hsien Loong made several announcements relating to education during this year's National Day Rally. Education will continue to play a key role in shaping the kind of Singapore that we want. To be inclusive and meet the aspirations of the young, we need to keep the pathways upwards wide open to all. MOE has been reviewing the required changes to the education system since Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, signalled a move towards Student-centric, Values-driven Education in 2011. Many have since been consulted including during the recently concluded Our Singapore Conversation (OSC) which had involved about 22,000 HQ staff, school leaders, educators, students and members of the public.

MOE's policy shifts are intended to encourage more holistic development, keep learning pathways open, and preserve the openness of our school communities. Some of the changes which are relevant to our primary level children include:

- Keeping our schools open by reserving 40 places for children with no prior links to the school during the P1 registration
- Expanding Edusave coverage to all Singaporean children of school-going age (aged 7 to 16) to signal that we value every child
- Reducing over-emphasis on examinations, and supporting holistic education through changes to PSLE scoring
- Keeping learning pathways open and porous by creating flexibility in secondary schools for students to tailor their education to their abilities and development. One way of doing this is to allow Secondary 1 students in all streams to take a subject at higher level if they have done well in that subject in PSLE

Some of the above changes, such as the first two mentioned above, will be implemented immediately in 2014. But the others relating to PSLE scoring and flexibility in secondary schools are more complex and will take some time to implement. It is important that we take measured and well thought through steps in these areas. MOE will continue to consult educators and key public stakeholders and discuss the shifts and implementation details. We look forward to strengthening our education system further for the benefit of the children's future.

Review of key term 3 programmes and accolades

We have had an exciting term 3 with the pupils involved in many different activities. We had a wonderful combined Hari Raya and National Day celebrations, and the Primary 5 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the National Education Show. I am certain many left the celebrations feeling just a little more proud about what our city state has achieved. Several other activities such as the Speak Good English Movement, P4 Mother Tongue Cultural Camp, Conversational Chinese and Malay Programme, P4 Media Literacy Programme and P3 Story-telling were also completed. In addition, we sent two groups of 25 pupils to Malacca and Kuala Lumpur during the September holidays for their international experience. These pupils shared that though we are close neighbours there were quite significant differences between the schools in Singapore and Malaysia.

Our Pupil Council took a bold leadership step in running a fund-raising activity for the Society of the Physically Disabled. With the support of pupils and staff, \$1400.95 has been raised so far. Another round of fund raising will be conducted during the Children's Day week. We hope our pupils learn about compassion and the importance of giving back to society in whatever small way they can.

Our pupils have done us proud in various competitions. Ang Kai Jun Elson and Cha Min Sung of 5 Benevolence attained the Bronze Award at the World Mathematics Olympiad Competition (WMO). Zou Gong Wang of 4 Compassion and Koh Meng Shi of 5 Benevolence participated in the 19th National Primary Schools On-the-Spot Chinese Creative Writing Competition and emerged with a Merit Award (Category B) and Outstanding Prize Award (Category E) respectively. Our Chinese Dance team clinched the Gold Award at the International Golden Lion Award Competition.

In the Sports scene, our pupils participated in the National Junior Hockey Championship. The pupils did their best and showed the expected positive character of a Teck Whyean pupil. Though they did not win the tournament, they are now determined to train harder and improve.

We have also had the pleasure of presenting two of our staff with National Day Awards for 2013. Mdm Sapiyah bte Samsudin received the Long Service Award whilst Mdm Majeena Rosia received the Efficiency Medal. We congratulate them and celebrate their achievements.

Engaging our pupils in learning

Term 4 is always a busy period. The P2-5 pupils will be preparing for the important year-end examinations and the P6 pupils will be sitting for the PSLE. We should all encourage each of them to aspire for and achieve their personal best. More than the results, what we want to see in our children are determination and effort. As significant partners in education, we ask that parents pay close attention to the pupils' physical and emotional well-being. The children must know that they can rely on us, the adults, for support should they need it. On behalf of all staff, I take this opportunity, to specially encourage our P6 pupils to put in their best effort for the upcoming examinations. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, **"Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory"**.

Over the remaining months, several other programmes will be conducted for the pupils including:

- Internationalisation Trips for the P5 level to Indonesia, and Hong Kong.
- Sports Experience Programme for P1, 2 and 6 pupils.
- Theatre Experience for P1, 3 and 6 pupils

A quality staff

We are happy to welcome Mdm Juraida binte Miswari into the Teck Whye team as the Subject Head for Malay Language. We look forward to her contributions in strengthening the school's programmes.

A mutually beneficial supportive partnership

My staff and I thank all parents and pupils for their warm Teachers' Day wishes this year. I would like to especially thank our Parent Support Group (PSG) members, who with their talent and creativity, baked cookies and contributed to the decorations for the celebrations including the Teck Whye Teachers Super Heroes board. We truly appreciate their kind gesture.

We have continued to run events as part of the School Family Education (SFE) programme. We recently concluded talks on Helping your Child be Self-Motivated for Success in Studies and Conduct as well as Coping with Exam Stress and Transition to Secondary School. We also had a "Parent-Child Kite-Flying and Bonding" session at Marina Barrage. We will continue to mount more SFE-related activities over the coming months and I hope you will take some time off your busy schedules to attend them.

The school is embarking on a comprehensive review of the school's strategic initiatives. We have organised focus group discussions to obtain parents' feedback and views so that they can be considered in our planning process. Over 160 parents have signed up and we thank them for their active participation. We completed the first session on 11 September and look forward to the next one on 12 October.

I would like to mention that our new school website will be ready by end September. I hope you take some time to visit it.

In closing...

Appended to this letter are some administrative details. Please read through them carefully.

Should you have any queries or feedback, please call the school at 67691025 or email us at twps@moe.edu.sg.

Yours sincerely

Suraj Nair

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

School Closure in Term 4

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

| School Closure | Dates | Levels affected | Remarks |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| PSLE Listening Comprehension | 20 Sept | P1-5 | P6 pupils to report for examination |
| Children's Day | 4 Oct | All | |
| PSLE marking | 14 Oct, 16 - 18 Oct | All | |
| Hari Raya Haji | 15 Oct | All | |
| Deepavali | 2 Nov (Sat) 4 Nov (Mon) | All | 4 Nov is a school holiday |
| Admin Day cum P1 Parent-Teacher Conference | 8 Nov | All | Pupils do not attend school. |
| Honours Day | 15 Nov | P1-4 | Only prize winners, helpers and performers will attend school. See Curtailed Hours below. |

| Curtailed School Hours | Dates | Levels affected | Remarks |
|------------------------|--------|--|---|
| Deepavali Eve | 1 Nov | Hindu pupils of all levels only | Hindu pupils may leave school at 1030am. Lower primary Hindu pupils should have a parent/guardian fetching them home. |
| Honours Day | 15 Nov | P5-6 pupils, all prize winners, helpers and performers | School will function from 7.30am-11am |

School Activities for Term 4

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

| Activities | Dates | Time | Teacher i/c | Remarks |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| P3-P6 Remedial/Supplementary | Mondays – 16/9, 23/9, 30/9, 7/10 | 2.10 - 3.20pm | Respective subject HODs | 23/9 excludes P4 30/9 excludes P6 7/10 excludes P5-6 |
| P5-P6 HMT | Mondays – 16/9, 23/9, 30/9, 21/10 | 2.10 - 3.20pm | Tan Wan Foon | 30/9 and 21/10 excludes P6 |

| Activities | Dates | Time | Teacher i/c | Remarks |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| P6 Homework Club & Remediation | Mon, Thurs – 16/9, 23/9, 19/9 | 3.30 – 5.30pm | Casey Ang, Intan Salwah | |
| | Wednesdays – 18/9 | 2.00 – 5.30pm | | |
| P2-P6 Remedial/Supplementary | Tuesdays – 17/9, 24/9, 1/10, 8/10 | 2.10 - 3.20pm (Session 1) 3.20 - 4.30pm (Session 2) | Respective subject HODs | 24/9 excludes P4 1/10 excludes P6 8/10 excludes P5-6 |
| P3-P5 Remedial/Supplementary | Thursdays – 19/9, 26/9, 10/10 | 2.10 - 3.20pm | Respective subject HODs | |
| P6 MT Remedial/Supplementary | Thursdays – 19/9 | 2.10 - 3.20pm | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P3 Dyslexia Remediation | Mon – Thurs 2/9 – 26/9 | 2.10 - 2.55pm | Azlina, Lim Mingli and Nurwati | Selected pupils |
| LSP Extensive Reading Programme (Buddy Reading) | Mon-Thurs Gp A: 23/9, 30/9, 7/10, 21/10 Gp B: 26/9, 10/10, 24/10, 31/10 | 2.00 – 3.00pm | Estherelda Chin | P2 LSP Pupils only |
| P1 SEP – Wushu | 16/9, 23/9, 30/9 | 8.00 – 9.00am | Juliana, June | 1E |
| | | 11.30 - 12.30pm | Joyce, June | 1D |
| | 18/9, 25/9, 2/10 | 8.00 – 9.00am | Yang Fan, Dawn | 1G |
| | | 11.30 - 12.30pm | Nurwati, June | 1F |
| | 19/9, 26/9, 10/10 | 8.00 – 9.00am | Eileen, Esther | 1B |
| | | 11.30 - 12.30pm | Azlina, June | 1A |
| | 24/9, 1/10, 8/10 | 11.30 - 12.30pm | Farhanah, June | 1C |
| | P2 SEP | Week 3,4,6,7 | Curriculum Time | Joyce Liew |
| P1 Theatre Experience | 17/9 | 8.00 – 1.00pm | Lynn Yeo | |
| P3 Swimsafer Programme | 17/9, 1/10, 8/10, 29/10, 31/10, 5/11, 7/11, 12/11 | 8.00 – 10.30am | Kenneth Teo | P3 pupils |
| P3 Math & NE Trail | 18/9 | 7.45 – 1.30pm | Lee Lay Tin | P3 pupils |

| Activities | Dates | Time | Teacher i/c | Remarks |
|---|---|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| P1 Learning Journey to Peranakan Museum | 17/9 | 10.10–1.00pm | Lee Lu Mei | 1E, 1F |
| | 8/10 | | | 1A, 1B, 1D |
| | 10/10 | | | 1C, 1G |
| P5 Social Etiquette Workshop | 25/9 | 2.00pm – 5.00pm | Christine Poon | For selected pupils only |
| P4 Adventure Camp | 30/9 – 2/10 | Depart from TWPS at 7.30am | Kenneth Teo | P4 pupils |
| P6 Learning Journey to Gardens by The Bay | 9/10 | 9.00 – 11.30am | Lee Lu Mei | 6A, 6B, 6C |
| | 10/10 | | | 6D, 6E |
| P6 Bowling | 28/10 | Curriculum Time | Kenneth Teo | 6D |
| | 29/10 | | | 6B |
| | 30/10 | | | 6C |
| | 31/10 | | | 6E |
| | 1/11 | | | 6A |
| P4 Literature Appreciation Programme | 28/10–1/11; 5/11 – 7/11 | Curriculum Time | Intan Salwah | P4 pupils |
| P3 Theatre Experience | 6/11 | 8.00am – 1.00pm | Lynn Yeo | P3 pupils |
| P5 Music Composition | 5/11, 6/11, 7/11, 11/11, 12/11, 13/11 | Curriculum Time | Nicola Hoon | P5 pupils |
| P6 Theatre Experience | 7/11 | 8.00am – 1.00pm | Lynn Yeo | P6 pupils |
| P1 Parent-Teacher Conference | 8/11 | 8.00am – 12.00pm | Dawn Chew | Please see school closure above |
| Level Awards | 13/11 | Curriculum Time | Christine Poon | P1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Level Awards | 14/11 | Curriculum Time | Christine Poon | P5, 6 |
| P6 Dedication Night | 14/11 | 6 – 8pm | P6 Teachers | P6 pupils only |

| Activities | Dates | Time | Teacher i/c | Remarks |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Honours Day | 15/11 | 7.30 – 11.00am Event will start at 8am | Christine Poon | P5, P6 pupils, helpers, performers and prize recipients will attend |
| CCA (P3 – P5) | | | | |
| Mondays: Selected CCAs | 16/9, 30/9, 11/11 | 3.30 – 5.30pm | Kenneth /Sham | |
| Thursdays: CCAs | 19/9, 26/9, 7/11 | 3.30 – 5.30pm | Kenneth /Sham | |
| Tests and Examinations | | | | |
| PSLE Listening Comprehension | 20/9 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | No school for P1-P5 |
| SA2 P3 Oral | 23/9, 24/9 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P4 Oral | 23/9, 24/9 | 2.00 – 4.30pm | Tan Wan Foon | After school |
| PSLE Written Papers: EL/FEL Math/FMA MT/FMT Sc/FSc HMT | 26/9 27/9 30/9 1/10 2/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 MT Listening Comprehension | 3/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P2 Oral | 7/10, 8/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P5 Oral | 7/10, 8/10 | 2.00 – 4.30pm | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 MT Oral | 9/10, 10/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P2 EL Paper 1 & LC | 10/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P3 MT Paper 1 & LC | | | | |
| SA2 P4 EL Paper 1 & LC | | | | |
| SA2 P5 MT Paper 1 & LC, FMT LC | | | | |
| SA2 P2 MT Paper 1 & LC | 11/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P3 EL Paper 1 & LC | | | | |
| SA2 P4 MT Paper 1 & LC | | | | |
| SA2 P5 EL Paper 1 & LC, FEL LC | | | | |

| Activities | Dates | Time | Teacher i/c | Remarks |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| SA2 P5 EL/FEL, P4 MA, P3 MT | 22/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P5 MA/FMA, P4 MT, P3 SC, P2 EL | 23/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P5 MT/FMT, P4 SC, P3 EL, P2 MA | 24/10 | | Tan Wan Foon | |
| SA2 P5 SC/FSC, P4 EL, P3 MA, P2 MT | 25/10 | | | |
| SA2 P5 HMT | 28/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 EL Oral | 29/10 – 31/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 MT Mini Test | 31/10 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 MA Mini Test | 5/11 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 EL Individual Writing | 6/11 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| P1 EL Mini Test | 7/11 | Curriculum Time | Tan Wan Foon | |
| School Holidays | | | | |
| Trip to Surabaya, Indonesia | 23/11 – 27/11 | Depart on 23/11 at 5am from TWPS | Chia Siew Hua | Selected P5 pupils |
| Trip to Hong Kong | 23/11 – 27/11 | | Lynn Yeo | Selected P5 pupils |