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## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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13 September 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

1. 2016 will soon draw to a close. After SG50 in 2015, this year, our nation takes its initial steps for the next 10, 25, 50 or 100 years depending on how far ahead you wish to look. We have a strong foundation to build on and our younger generations have a bright future ahead of them. However, this should not lead to complacency. Even as we face the future with optimism, we must be fully aware of the challenges that need to be tackled. We can take pride in our past achievements but we must continue to strive to do better and be open to learn and adapt to changes. Strength of character and the spirit of lifelong learning will be essential pillars for us to navigate future complexities. We, as parents and educators, are essential role models for our children. So let's set the example so that they can take reference from us as they chart their own pathways.
2. Before the year ends, Term 4 will still have several important school activities and events including the year-end semestral examinations for P2 to P5 and the PSLE for P6. Seeking excellence in one's academic pursuits should still be encouraged. However, it should not be pursued at the expense of everything else. The marks obtained in exams can never fully indicate how intelligent or talented a child is. They may act as an important reference for future development but certainly cannot fully predict his or her future success in life. So let's view grades and marks in perspective. Let's focus instead on the character development of the children as they prepare for examinations and when they respond to their results. Let's emphasise values such as hard work, responsibility, resilience, integrity and personal excellence.

### School Achievements

3. We have further occasions to celebrate the learning and achievements of our students. These included:
  - National Photography Festival 2016 - Champions
  - National Coding Competition 2016 – Silver
4. Young Authors Thirteen Primary 4 students were involved in the Young Authors Programme in March this year and they have two books published to show for their efforts. The two books entitled 'Battle in the Peranakan House Museum' and 'Secrets in the House Museum' interweaved the children's imagination with Peranakan culture. The books were launched as part of the school's Racial Harmony Day celebrations. About 900 copies of each of the books were also given to kindergartens near the school. The digital copies of the book are also available on our Facebook page for download. We are proud of their contribution in helping others to better understand a part of the Peranakan culture. These students were also featured in the Straits Times on 18 July 2016.



Our Young Authors featured in the Straits Times on 18 July 2016

5. We also extend our congratulations to Mdm Intan Salwah bte Badiuzzaman, our Head of Department for English, for receiving the Commendation Medal, 2016 National Day Awards.
6. President's Scholar – Natasha Ann Lum Recently Natasha Ann Lum, a former Teck Whye alumna, received the prestigious 2016 President's Scholarship. Now an officer cadet (OCT) in the air force, she is also only the second female recipient of the SAF Scholarship. After completing her 6 years in Teck Whye Primary in 2009, she had gone on to Bukit Panjang Government High and then Pioneer Junior College. During her years in school she was involved in a wide variety of areas through her CCAs and student leadership role. She embraced the spirit of wanting to learn and improve. We are very proud of Natasha and her development. We hope the scholarship will give her further opportunities to contribute to Singapore.



TWPS Alumna Natasha Lum – 2016 President's Scholarship Recipient

### Strategic Thrusts 2015-2017

7. In my sharing about the school's strategic thrusts, I have covered the following in my previous letters:
  - i. Providing a **balanced curriculum** that emphasises **strong fundamentals** and **future learning**
  - ii. Creating a **learner-centred school** conducive for teaching and learning
  - iii. Growing a **quality and committed staff**
  - iv. Engaging **community and key stakeholders**
8. In this letter, I will elaborate on thrust 5 – Strengthening the TWPS Culture.
9. What is the desired TWPS Culture? We have identified three key domains: (i) A culture that reflects our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Integrity, Resilience and Excellence; (ii) A culture centred on care for one another and finally (iii) A culture of learning, innovation and improvement.
10. Who shapes the culture of the school? It is the people and community that make up the school. Thus moving towards the desired culture is a responsibility that everyone associated with the school should embrace.
11. What can you do? Here are some ideas.
  - i. Role model the school values and emphasise them in your interactions with your children
  - ii. Encourage them to show care and compassion at home and in school. For example, they can show care for you by greeting you in the morning or before bed or ask how your day was. They could also clean up after themselves such as washing their plates after meals or tidying the home.
  - iii. Share with them the joy of learning and nurture their curiosity. Don't focus on just academic learning. There are so many wonders in our world and many knowledge domains that they can explore.
  - iv. Encourage your children to ask questions and give them opportunities to share their ideas and dreams.
  - v. Support a reflective mindset. Always ask them how they could do better and how they will implement their plans to do better. When reflecting, don't just focus on the core subjects. You can get them to think about how to nurture their character better, or how they could improve their drawing, singing, physical health and so on. The idea is to nurture a mindset that values the importance of improvement and personal excellence.

12. I urge you to play your part for each of the areas and contribute to the school's progress and success.

### **PERI Upgrading and Road Works**

13. PERI upgrading The works are on track and we are likely to complete the project by the end of the year.

14. Road Works Outside the School To improve student safety and the traffic conditions outside the school, the LTA has sanctioned some road works. This will affect the way motorists leave the school premises. After the works, vehicles can only make a left turn out at the main gate. In addition, during dismissal times, drivers will no longer be able to wait by the road side and will need to use the HDB car park beside the school. We will share more details about this in a separate letter.

### **Student Care Centre**

15. Our **Student Care Centre** run by Big Hearts (Self-help Groups) will soon be inviting applications for 2017. If you would like a place next year for your child/ward, please register early. All applications will be reviewed before acceptance.

### **Later School Start Time from 2017**

16. I extend my appreciation to parents who have shared their views on the later school start time. We will share with you the final details before the term ends.

### **Health and Safety**

17. Haze The haze situation returned recently albeit briefly. However, it is still important to be prepared. Students **who require medication should bring it along** with them. In school, we will continue to monitor the situation closely. For example, the school will be guided by the daily health advisories. In addition, all classrooms are now equipped with air purifiers and air-conditioned rooms are prepared for those who have heart or respiratory problems and/or are not feeling well. There are also processes to get the necessary medical help from nearby clinics. **For important updates**, for example, in the event of any announced school closure by MOE, **please refer to the school website or Facebook page**.

18. Mosquito-borne Diseases Other than dengue, we now have to contend with Zika. The school premises are regularly fumigated and the premises are checked by staff frequently. Families may want to take additional precautions such as the use of mosquito repellants. Everyone should also take responsibility, be vigilant and prevent mosquito breeding in their homes and public spaces.

19. We encourage all children and their family members to take care of their health, take the necessary precautions and seek medical attention promptly should they feel unwell.

### **Administrative Matters**

20. Please retain the coloured section of this letter as it contains important information. Read through the section carefully especially on school closure, and curtailment of school hours.

21. If you have enquiries, feedback, suggestions or matters to discuss with the school, please contact us at 67691025 or email us at [twps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:twps@moe.edu.sg).

22. I wish all of you a very meaningful term ahead.

Yours sincerely

Suraj Nair

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

### 2016 School Closure, Holidays and Hours Curtailment

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

School Closure	Dates	Levels affected	Remarks
Hari Raya Haji	12 Sep	All	Public Holiday
PSLE Listening Comprehension	16 Sep	P1-P5	School is closed for P1 to P5. P6 students to report for examination.
Children's Day	7 Oct	All	School Holiday
PSLE Marking Days	17 – 20 Oct	All	School is closed for students but General Office is open
Deepavali	31 Oct	All	Public Holiday
Admin Day	11 Nov	All	School is closed for students but General Office is open
Parent-Child-Teacher Conference for P1 to P5 cum Home-based Learning Day	14 Nov	All	School is closed for all students. Parents of P1- P5 students can arrange to meet your children's form teachers. Students attending with parents must be in school attire.
Facilities Upgrading Works	18 Nov	All	School is closed for all levels
Year-end Holidays	19 Nov – 31 Dec	All	School Holidays
Curtailed School Hours	Dates	Levels affected	Remarks
Eve of Deepavali	28 Oct	Only Hindu Students of all levels	Hindu students may leave at 10.30am. Lower Primary Hindu students should have a parent/ guardian fetching them.

### Important Dates for Parents

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

Title of Event	Dates	Times	Remarks
Family Matters @ School (FMS) Programme: Raising Responsible Children with Self-Discipline	27 Sept	11.00am – 1.00pm	Registration forms will be made available through your child. For parents of all levels.
P6 Graduation and Dedication Tea	3 Nov	5.00 pm – 7.00 pm	All P6 parents are welcome
2017 P1 Orientation Day	12 Nov	9.00am – 12.00pm	For parents of 2017 P1 students. Please be seated by 8.50am.
Parent-Child-Teacher Conference for P1 to P5 cum Home-based Learning Day	14 Nov	8.00am – 5.00pm	Parents of P1- P5 students may make an appointment with your child's teacher. Students attending with parents are expected to be in school attire.
P1 - P3 "Read Swap Share" Evening for Parent-Child	14 Nov	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Parents of P1-P3 students are invited to attend with their children. More information will be made available through your child.
Level Awards Ceremony for P1 – P5	15 Nov 16 Nov	<b>P5:</b> 8.15am - 9.30am <b>P1 &amp; P2:</b> 12 noon – 1.30pm <b>P3 &amp; P4:</b> 12 noon – 1.30pm	Parents of award recipients and performers are welcome.

\* Other than these official slots, do keep in close contact with your children's teachers and make an appointment to meet them where necessary.

### School Student Activities for Term 4

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

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
No Cleaners Day in the canteen	21/9	9.00 am - 10.30 am	VIA Com	Recess Time
Children's Day Celebrations cum Lower Primary Games Day	6/10	Curriculum Time	Mr Sham	
No Cleaners Day in the school toilets	2/11	7.30 am – 11.00 am	VIA Com	
Cleaners' Appreciation Day	4/11	Curriculum Time	Mdm Masnah	
P1 – P4 Teck Whyean Voices	9/11	7.30am –12.30pm	Year Heads	
P1 - P6 Clean your Class Day	17/11	7.30 am -11.00 am	Ms Chia	
P1 - P5 Promotion Day	17/11	11.00 am -1.30 pm	Ms Chia	
P1 Boomwhackers (Music)	13/9 (P1-1, P1-3) 14/9 (P1-4, P1-6) 15/9 (P1-2, P1-5)	Curriculum Time	Mrs June Chin	
P1 & P2 KidsExcel Programme (Registered pupils)	Wed – 14/9, 21/9, 28/9, 5/10, 12/10, 26/10, 2/11, 9/11, 16/11  Fri – 23/9, 30/9, 14/10, 21/10, 4/11  *Make-up lessons - 18/10, 19/10 (tentative), 20/10 (tentative)	2.00pm - 5.15pm  1.30 pm - 4.45 pm  8.30 am - 11.45 am	Mdm Joyce Liew	Please note that any change in dates will be notified directly by KidsExcel service provider
P1 & P2 (selected pupils) International Teacher-Parent-Student Interaction Activity	23/9	2.00pm -5.00pm	Ms Qiu Yanyun	Please refer to consent forms issued
P2 ML Learning Journey	20/9	Curriculum Time	Mdm Siti Munira	For pupils taking Malay Language
P2 (selected pupils) and Post P6 Activity - Kindergarten Visit	21/10, 28/10	8.00am – 12.00 pm	Miss Ting	
LLP Public speaking for P2 (8 sessions)	3/11, 4/11, 7/11, 8/11, 9/11, 10/11, 15/11, 16/11	Curriculum Time	Mdm Jameela	
P3 GEP Selection Exercise (by invitation only)	18/10, 19/10	To be confirmed	Ms Chia	By invitation only
P3 "Travel with my Local Buddy" to Sentosa, Images of Singapore	2/11	1.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Ms Qiu Yanyun	Please refer to consent forms issued
P3 Reading Remediation (Selected students)	Tues- 13/9, 20/9, 27/9, 4/10 Thurs- 15/9, 22/9, 29/9	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Mdm Farhanah	Please refer to consent forms issued

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P3 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected students)	Mon- 19/9* , 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 24/10  Tues- 13/9, 20/9, 27/9, 4/10, 11/10, 25/10  Wed- 14/9, 21/9, 28/9, 5/10*, 12/10, 26/10  Thurs- 15/9, 22/9*, 29/9, 27/10	2.00 pm - 3.00 pm  (*Timing for the date reflected will be from 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm )	Ms Sanly Poh	Please refer to consent forms issued
P4 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected students)	Mon-19/9*,26/9  Tues- 13/9, 20/9, 27/9  Wed- 14/9, 21/9, 28/9  Thurs- 15/9, 22/9*, 29/9*	2.00 pm - 3.00 pm (*Timing for the date reflected will be from 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm )	Ms Sanly Poh	Please refer to consent forms issued
P4 Reading Remediation (Selected students)	Tues- 20/9, 27/9, 4/10 Thurs-15/9, 22/9, 29/9	2.15 pm - 3.15 pm	Mdm Chong	Please refer to consent forms issued
P4 Theatre Experience	10/11	Curriculum Time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	
P5 Malacca Trip Parents Briefing (Selected Children)	4/11	5.00pm-6.00pm	Dr Casey Ang	
P5 Malacca Trip	10/11-12/11		Dr Casey Ang	
LLP Public speaking for P5	7/11, 8/11, 9/11, 10/11, 15/11, 16/11	Curriculum Time	Mdm Jameela	
P5-P6 Teck Whyean Voices	7/11	7.30am -10.00am	Year Heads	
P5 IDA Lab on Wheels	7/11, 8/11	Curriculum Time	Ms Lye Sze Yee	
P6 Sports Education Programme- Bowling	10/10 (Day 1) 11/10 (Day 2)	Curriculum Time	Mr Sham	
P6 NE/SS Learning Journey to Marina Barrage	13/10	Curriculum Time	Ms Lee LM	
P6 (Selected pupils) – Intergenerational IT Bootcamp	14/10	12.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Dr Casey Ang, Ms Lye Sze Yee, Mrs Juliana Loke	(For Senior Citizens) - In collaboration with IDA
P6 Theatre Experience	1/11	Curriculum Time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	
P6 Graduation and Dedication Tea	3/11	5.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Mdm Sapiah	
P3, P4, P5 Remedial/ Supplementary	Mon- 19/9, 26/9, 3/10  Tue- 13/9, 20/9, 27/9, 4/10  Thu- 15/9, 22/9, 29/9	2.15 pm - 3.15 pm  2.15 pm - 4.15 pm  2.15 pm - 3.15 pm	Respective subject HODs	Please refer to consent forms issued

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P6 Remedial/ Supplementary	Mon- 19/9, 26/9	2.15pm -3.15pm	Respective subject HODs	Please refer to consent forms issued
	Tue- 13/9, 20/9, 27/9	2.15pm -4.15pm		
	Wed- 14/9	2.15pm -4.15pm		
	Thur- 22/9	2.15pm -3.15pm		
<b>CCA (P3 – P5)</b>				
Mondays: Selected CCAs	19/9, 26/9, 3/10	3.15pm – 5.15pm	Mdm Joyce Liew	Please refer to consent forms issued by the respective teachers
Thursdays: Selected CCAs	15/9, 22/9, 29/9	3.15pm – 5.15pm		
<b>Tests and Examinations</b>				
P1 Holistic Assessment  - English • Oral • Individual Writing • Mini Test  - Mathematics  - Mother Tongue • Listening Comprehension • Oral • Mini Test	3/10, 4/10, 5/10 24/10 3/11  10/10, 2/11  30/9 11/10, 12/10 26/10	Curriculum Time	Respective subject HODs	
PSLE English/Foundation English	29/9	Curriculum Time		
PSLE Math/ Foundation Math	30/9			
PSLE MT/ Foundation MT	3/10			
PSLE Science/ Foundation Science	4/10			
PSLE HMT	5/10			
P2 SA2 Oral (EL & MT)	22/9, 23/9	Curriculum Time	Mdm Intan & Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P3 SA2 Oral (EL & MT)	26/9, 27/9	Curriculum Time		
P4 SA2 Oral (EL & MT)	10/10, 11/10	2.00pm- 4.30pm		
P5 SA2 Oral (EL & MT)	12/10, 13/10	2.00pm-4.30pm		
P2 EL Paper 1	12/10	Curriculum Time	Respective subject HODs	
P2 MT & EL Listening Comprehension	24/10	Curriculum Time		
P3 MT Paper 1 and Listening Comprehension	10/10	Curriculum Time		
P5 EL Paper 1 and Listening Comprehension		Curriculum Time		
P3 EL Paper 1 and Listening Comprehension	11/10	Curriculum Time		
P5 MT Paper 1 and Listening Comprehension		Curriculum Time		

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P4 EL Paper 1 & Listening Comprehension	12/10	Curriculum Time	Respective subject HODs	
P4 MT Paper 1 & Listening Comprehension	13/10			
SA2 - P3 MT - P4 MA - P5 EL/FEL	24/10			
SA2 - P2 EL - P3 SC - P4 MT - P5 MA/FMA	25/10			
SA2 - P2 MA - P3 EL - P4 SC - P5 MT/FMT	26/10			
SA2 - P2 MT - P3 MA - P4 EL - P5 SC/FSC	27/10			
SA2 P5 HMT	2/11			
Please note that students who are absent for SA2 or P1 Mini Tests are to produce a medical certificate (MC) for record of their absence with valid reasons. No marks will be awarded for absence without MC and there will not be any make-up examination.				
<b>School Holidays</b>				
Term 4 Holidays	19 Nov- 31 Dec			
P1 & P2 KidsExcel Programme (Registered pupils)	23 Nov (Wed) 25 Nov (Fri)	TBC	Mdm Joyce Liew	Please note that any change in dates will be notified directly by KidsExcel service provider
KidsExcel Day Camp (Registered pupils)	Tentative dates: Day 1: 30 Nov Day 2: 1 Dec Day 3: 2 Dec	Whole Day		