



SBPS/18/028

5 February 2018

Open Letter from School Leaders

Dear Parents/Guardian

1. This is already the sixth week of the school term and we trust that your child has a good start to the New Year. By now, your child would have settled in well to the routines of school life and we hope that his/her schooling experience has been positive and joyful.
2. We would like to thank you for your attendance at the Welcome Party for P1 Parents and Briefing for Parents on 12 and 25 January respectively. Your presence is important to your child. For those who have missed the briefing session, the slides are available on our school website. We would also like to thank you for your feedback and comments. We will work to strengthen this partnership. Together, let's strive to bring out the best in our children.
3. New additions to the Sembawang family. We want to welcome the following new staff to our school:
 - Mr Shawn Tan (Vice-Principal, Administration)
 - Mr Wan Hidhir (ICT Associate)
 - Miss Chang Shi Lei, Cindy (Teacher)

Important Information...

Photography and Videography

4. We would like to inform you that throughout the course of the year, photograph(s) or video image(s) of you and your child may be captured at all school events. We may use and publish such photographs and/or video recordings in school publications, website, social media channels, and other official school communication channels. For clarifications, please feel free to contact the school.

Closure of Side Gate 1

5. We are pleased to announce that the plan to link up the covered linkway from Blk 317 to Sembawang Primary School (at Side Gate 1) has been approved and construction work will begin soon. To facilitate the construction work, the Side Gate 1 will be closed from 28 February to 28 May 2018. During this period, please make arrangement to pick your child up from either the main gate or Side Gate 2. For parents of Primary 1 and 2 students, please inform the form teachers of the change in pick-up point.

Celebration of Successes...

Prefects' Investiture

6. The school held its Prefects' Investiture ceremony on 22 January during Assembly. 32 new prefects and the 52 existing prefects in the Prefectorial Board were recognised during the ceremony. We are proud to announce that Dhruv Manoj from 6 Care has been appointed as the Head Prefect and he will be assisted by two Vice-Head Prefects, Hannah Kaitlyn Lawrence and Tara Ng Yun Xin, both from 6 Care. The prefects took the Prefects' Pledge, led by the

Head Prefect. They promised to uphold the values of the school and to serve the school with humility and sincerity. Our heartfelt appreciation to Ms Joey Tan, the Prefect Mistress, who nurtured and developed the prefects under her charge.

Published Works

7. As part of our school's English programme, we encourage our students to read and write in to the What's Up newspapers to share their articles, opinions and reflections. We would like to congratulate the following students whose articles were published:

- 1) Alifah Ilyana Bte Mohammad, Primary 5 Respect – Facing my fears (personal recount)
- 2) Sunitha Nandhini, Primary 5 Respect – Win-win in gaming (reflection)
- 3) Seow Yue Tong, Primary 5 Respect – The Animal Morpher (self-created plan of a high technology robot)
- 4) Meryl Wan, 6 Gratitude – Shared a quote

8. We hope that more students will tap on this platform to share their creative writing and thoughts on topics that interest them.

Up-coming School Events...

Lunar New Year Celebration

9. The school will be celebrating the Lunar New Year on Thursday, 15 February. As it is the eve of the Lunar New Year, the school will operate from 7.30 am to 10.00 am. The canteen will be closed and there is no recess break on that day. Students are strongly encouraged to have their breakfast before coming to school.

10. There will be no formal lessons on that day. Students will enjoy a concert and have some activities in their classrooms. All students and staff are encouraged to come to school in their ethnic costumes on that day. However, students must put on their white shoes with white socks. Students without ethnic costumes can come to school in their school uniform.

11. In conjunction with the Lunar New Year, our school is organising a Charity Hongbao drive and the beneficiary is the Society for the Physically Disabled. We want to take this opportunity to encourage our students to show care and concern for the community. The red packets will be given out to the students on 14 February. Students are encouraged to donate part of their savings. They are not allowed to approach members of the public for donation. Form teachers will collect the red packets from the students on **20 February**.

Total Defence Day

12. Our school will also be commemorating Total Defence Day on 12 February. The theme for this year is "Together, we keep Singapore strong". The key message is to encourage our students to put Total Defence into action in their daily lives by reaching out to one another, forging new relationships and strengthening existing ones to keep Singapore strong and resilient. It is a reminder to us that our greatest strength lies in the unity and resilience of our people.

13. To help our students understand a little of the hardships suffered by the people during the Japanese occupation, the school canteen will serve a different menu (food that was eaten during war time) during the recesses on 12 February. We hope that you will give us your support.

Overseas Learning Journey (OLJ)

14. Based on the positive feedback and rich learning from last year's students who took part in the OLJ to Cambodia, we have increased the number of participants to 60 this year. 30 P5 students will be participating in the OLJ to Cambodia from 6 to 10 March and another 30 to Vietnam from 5 to 9 March.

15. To live out our school mission, "Preparing our children for life, for service to nation and humanity", the school will be organising a donation drive, as part of the P5 Values-in-Action (ViA) programme, to collect items to be brought over to Cambodia and Vietnam for two schools and orphanages. Students are encouraged to donate items such as stationery, new water bottles, school bags, toothpaste and toothbrushes, towels, shoes and simple story books. Collection will start from 12 to 23 February. Students are to place the donated items in the labelled boxes at the concourse area.

Experiential Learning Week

16. To cater to the holistic development of our students, our school has set aside the last week of Term 1 to be our Experiential Learning Week. Students of each level will have their own learning programmes catering to the five key domains of holistic education – cognitive, social, moral, aesthetics and physical. Through the authentic learning experiences, students will get to experience learning beyond the classroom and enhance their joy of learning. We look forward to our inaugural experiential learning week.

Open House for MOE Kindergartens

17. MOE started providing kindergarten education in January 2014. The objectives of the MOE Kindergartens (MKs) are to provide quality and affordable pre-school education for Singaporeans, pilot teaching and learning resources and distil good practices for sharing with the pre-school sector. In 2019, there will be 7 new MKs, bringing the total number of MKs from 18 to 241. Of these MKs, 22 are located within primary schools while two are located in the community. If you would like to know more about MOE Kindergartens, please attend their open house. A letter of invitation is attached for your reference (Annex A).

Concluding remarks...

*"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."
~ Anthony J. D'Angelo*

18. We want to echo the words of the school song, "Learning is an adventure, learning is fun." Let us work together to help our students develop a passion for learning so that they will have a thirst for knowledge and continuously seek to improve themselves.

19. Thank you for your strong support. We hope the students and teachers will have a wonderful and meaningful term 1. Wishing you and your child a good time of bonding during the Term 1 break.

Warmest regards

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