



SPS/17/045

28 April 2017

## Open Letter from School Leaders

Dear Parents/Guardian

1. Warm greetings! We hope this letter finds you well.
2. We want to welcome Mr Chua Kim Yong, Operations Support Officer, to the Sembawang family.

### ***Important Information...***

#### Safety Matters

3. Student safety is our priority. To ensure the safety of our students as they travel along the roads leading to and from the school, as well as within the school compound, we seek all stakeholders' cooperation to observe the following road safety measure which will take effect from 3 May 2017 (Wednesday):

Private vehicles **will not** be allowed to enter the school 15 minutes before and after our school dismissal time at 1.30 pm (i.e. no entry of private vehicles from 1.15 pm to 1.45 pm).

4. The school gates will be closed between 1.15 pm and 1.45 pm, except to authorised vehicles such as school buses. Please use the public car park adjacent to the school and make the necessary arrangements to pick your child/ward at Side Gate 2 near the canteen.
5. We urge all drivers to slow down when travelling in the vicinity of the school and follow the directional signs and instructions from our security personnel. For those who cycle to school, please dismount and push your bicycles at high pedestrian areas such as traffic crossings, bus stops and covered link ways. Let's remind our children to practise the kerb drill<sup>1</sup>.
6. We seek your understanding and cooperation to ensure the safety of our students.

#### Presence in school

7. Research has shown a close correlation between students' achievement and their attendance for school. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to accomplish in their studies and enjoy schooling experiences. Attending school regularly during the early school years is especially critical for students as they require a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy, as well as strong social-emotional competencies to cope with the academic demands at higher level.

8. The school expects all students to attend school regularly. The only exceptions for absence are (1) the student is ill and is covered by valid medical certificates and (2) parents have sought prior permission from the Principal for leave of absence. We seek your cooperation and understanding in ensuring that your child attends school regularly. Please avoid taking your child out of school for extended family vacation during the school term.

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<sup>1</sup> **Kerb drill** – a set of precautions for children to look to the right, look to the left, look to the right again and make sure there is no vehicle or all vehicles have come to a stop, raise right hand above their heads and cross the road briskly.

9. If your child is not feeling well, please bring him/her to see a doctor and only allow your child to return to school when he/she is feeling better. Do support your child's absence with either a medical certificate from a doctor or a letter of excuse from you. With effect from Term 3, the school will accept not more than 5 letters from parents per semester to excuse a student from school.

10. If your child is down with Chicken Pox, Influenza (e.g. H1N1) or Hand-Foot-Mouth disease, please take your doctor's advice and let your child rest at home. As these conditions are highly infectious, do not bring your child back to school unless he/she has fully recovered. We seek your understanding in this matter as the health of our students is our utmost concern.

### Punctuality

11. As a school, it is important that we uphold and instil in our students the value of punctuality. Our students must know that punctuality is not only a duty but also a code of conduct and a part of good manners. When we are punctual, we show respect and consideration for others while conveying the message that we have self-discipline. Therefore, it is imperative that your child/ward gets to school on time every day.

12. We encourage all students to reach school by 7.25 am. We expect our students to be seated at the MPH or ISH by 7.30 am each morning. Your child/ward will thus be deemed late if he/she arrives in school after 7.30 am. The school records all late comings. Persistent lateness is a serious misconduct that will require disciplinary action.

13. If you have any concerns about your child's/ward's punctuality, please talk to us. Let's work together to give your child/ward the best chance to succeed in school by ensuring he/she arrives on time each day.

### ***Celebration of successes ...***

#### Destination Imagination (DI)

14. The DI programme is a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters students' creativity, courage and curiosity through open-ended academic challenges in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), fine arts and service learning. Participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and develop their ideas/solutions through a collaborative problem solving process.

15. On 1 April, 48 of our students took part in the above competition, organised by DI Singapore and ACS (Junior). We are happy to announce that we have achieved two Champions, two 1<sup>st</sup> Runners-up and two 2<sup>nd</sup> Runners-up. Keep it up, children!

<b>Name of Pupil</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Results</b>
Klos Tan Hao Xiang, Babu Ronald Rohan, Mohamad Asyraf Bin Mohamad Azmi, Tan Kai Kiat, Seo Meng Kai, Hardik Sajesh Patil & Nely Nurmariny Binte Mohamad Halim	Technical	First
Dhruv Manoj, Tara Ng Yun Xin, Goh Xin Tong Avril, Hannah Kaitlyn Lawrence, Kelly Tan, Shiven Behera & Ng Zor Zay	Engineering	First
Balaraaj Subaangi, Dibble Cherie Min, Lim Zhi Feng, Gerard, Hemanya Chadha, Woo Yu Rou, Elena, Wu Si Yun Ice & Quek Luck Syang	Engineering	Second
Mohammad Asif Jaiullah Anwar Sadath, Wong Qi Qi Henin, Ng Jun Min, Phua Shao Yu Evan Ho Hui Yi, Khaw Jyun Wah & Phue Myet Che Oo	Engineering	Third
Ariyappan Rameshkumar Tejoh Maay, Atienza Seal Paul Neo Manalo, Cheong Yi Xuan Alysa, Natasha Cai Tianyi, Wakharkar Aahan & Tharine Sandran	Project Outreach	Second

<b>Name of Pupil</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Results</b>
Nazurah Haziqah Binte Mohamad Zaime, Nur Aesha Aleyah Danker Binte Azmi Ivan Danker, Zaif Ilhan Bin Mohamed Nasir, Poh Shi Xuan Alyssa, Kaushikashree Tamilko, Sidharth Thanner Malai, Lim Enqi Shanelle	Improvisational	Third
Manokaran S/O Bala Subramanian, Suman Gudlesh Hallikeri, Lee Xin Yi Sheryne, Yedroudj Faiza, Ang Jun En, Srinivasan Pranav Sakthi, Lew Yuan Zheng	Scientific	Forth

#### Singapore and Malaysia Bilingual Olympiad (SMBO)

16. On 4 April, 10 of our P5 and P6 students took part in the above competition, organised by Nanyang Girls' High School, in collaboration with Thumbs Up (SPH). This is a friendly international competition which aims to promote effective bilingualism in English and Chinese. We are happy to announce that Jiang Enni (of P6A) achieved the Top 30 certificates. Well done, Enni!

#### Raffles Institution Primary Mathematics World Contest (RIPMWC)

17. On 28 March, 19 of our P5 and P6 students took part in the above competition, organised by Raffles Institution. This competition aims to promote interest in Mathematics and develop problem solving ability through friendly Mathematics contest. We are happy to announce that Ng Zor Zay (of P5A) has achieved Certificate of Distinction and Nandula Gopal Krishna (of P5A) has achieved Certificate of Credit in the Junior category. Kim Joo Won and Jolie Lin Zhiyu (both of P6A) have achieved Certificate of Distinction and Edmund Lam Hao Ming (of P6A) has achieved Certificate of Credit in the Open category. Congratulations, children!

#### National Track & Field

18. In the recently concluded National Track & Field Championship, once again, our athletes did us proud. SBPS has emerged overall 3<sup>rd</sup> position for 'A' Division Girls and 4<sup>th</sup> position in 'A' Division Boys. Our students have made it to 58 finals, of which, 45 events were ranked among the top 8 positions and we won a total of 21 medals! Below are the results:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Name of students</b>	<b>Events &amp; Achievement</b>
'A' Division Boys	Reece Adrian	600m - 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1500m hurdles - 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Lit Yu Yang	High Jump - 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Muhammad Syahindra	100m Hurdles - 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Reece, Yu Yang, Syahindra & Adeeb	4 x 300m - 4 <sup>th</sup> 4 x 100m - 4 <sup>th</sup>
'A' Division Girls	Hassmetra Perumal	Shot Put 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Hassmetra, Li Xinyi, Li Li & You Qian	4 x 300m - 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 x 100m - 3 <sup>rd</sup>
'B' Division Boys	Roland Albert	Shot Put - 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Personal Best)
	Khairul Reza	High Jump - 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Personal Best)
	Joven Chew	High Jump - 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Personal Best)
	Subhash, Albert, Louis Khoo & Joven Chew	4 x 100m - 4 <sup>th</sup>
'C' Division Boys	Vince Toh	Shot Put - 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Personal Best)
	Tee Cheng En	100m - 4 <sup>th</sup> (Personal Best)
'C' Division Girls	Wong Jin Rou	Long Jump - 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Personal Best), High Jump - 2 <sup>nd</sup>
'D' Division Boys	Montanez Antonio	Shot Put - 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Personal Best)
'D' Division Girls	Angel Lim	Shot Put - 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Personal Best)
	Nikki Wong	600m - 4 <sup>th</sup> (Personal Best)
	Jade Yeo, Nikki Wong, Alifah Ilyana & Yeo Wynne	4 x 100m - 4 <sup>th</sup>

#### National Rugby U13

19. Our under 13 (U13) Rugby boys took part in the National Schools Rugby Tournament recently. We are happy to announce that our team has emerged 1<sup>st</sup> Runners-up in the tournament. Our heartiest congratulation to Mohd Saifuddin (of 5D), Qiu Jie (of 6B), Cregan Ho Cheng Jun, Jack Ryan Lawless, Mohd Damian Ruben, Harry Chew, Darius Ang, Muhd Shariq Aqeel, Albert Torres

(of 6C), Muhd Irham, Ricqiey Dannyall Bin Abdullah (of 6E), Hazwan Thafiq Bin Ishak (Captain), Mohd Shafiq Bin Mohd Elias, Darius Tan Ye Kai and Keith Tan Yongwen (of 6F). Well done, boys!

20. The successes of the above competitions would not have been possible without the effort put in by our staff, coaches and parents. Kudos to our teachers who worked tirelessly behind the scene – coaching and guiding the students! A big thank you to our parents who cheered their children on. Your presence means a lot to your child.

### ***Up-coming school events ...***

#### **Overseas Learning Journey**

21. In our previous Open Letter, we informed you of our planned Overseas Learning Journey to Siem Reap, Cambodia from 20 to 24 May 2017. After a stringent selection process, we have identified 30 P5 students for the programme. The teachers accompanying the students on this trip are Mdm Jamaliah (team leader), Miss Tracey Leong, Mdm Suraya Md Iqbal, Ms Roshiela Rosly and Mr Adrian Chong. We wish all the teachers and students a safe and enriching learning experience at Cambodia!

#### **The second Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM)**

22. The PTM will be held on Thursday, 25 May. There will be no lessons on that day as all teachers will be involved in the PTM. We will be sending out a separate letter with instructions on how to reserve your time slot for PTM with your child's/ward's teachers on Friday, 5 May. Booking of the time slot will be on first-come-first-serve basis. So, do look out for the letter.

### ***Concluding remarks...***

*“Self-discipline is the ability to make yourself do what you should do, when you should do it, whether you feel like it or not.”*

*~ Elbert Hubbard*

23. Indeed, **self-discipline** is about sacrificing the pleasure and thrill of the moment for what matters most in life. It requires us to act according to what we think, not how we feel at the moment. Success requires skill, knowledge, hard work and **self-discipline**. Parents, let's reinforce the same message in school and at home.

24. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

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