



SBPS/23/029

27 March 2023

### **Open Letter from School Leaders 3/2023**

Dear Parents,

1. Warmest greetings from SBPS! We thank you for journeying with the school through the first term of 2023.
2. We hope you had a wonderful bonding time with your loved ones during the March school holidays. We are delighted to see your child back in school.

#### ***New Staff to the Sembawang Family...***

3. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following staff who have joined our Sembawang family. They are:
  - Ms Dione Chew Ying Ying (EL/MA teacher),
  - Mdm Elyana Binte Al-Ghazali (EL/SS teacher) and
  - Ms Gabrielle Wan Kexin (SEN Officer).

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

4. MOE Service Charter. We value parents as important stakeholders in the holistic development of our students. Our staff are committed to help and serve you with courtesy and respect. We can serve you better when there is mutual respect, understanding and patience. MOE values our staff and reserves the right to take appropriate actions against individuals who engage in abusive behaviour.

#### **Safety and Security**

5. Communicable Diseases. A serious communicable disease is one that can spread from human to human or animal to human and may spread to a number of affected persons. Examples of communicable diseases which are serious are Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) and Tuberculosis (TB). When a case is reported in the school, our immediate step is to prevent the spread to the rest of the school community, with localised cleaning and disinfection of the classrooms and other rooms used by the infected individual. To ringfence students who are present in school and subsequently found to contract a communicable disease, we urge all parents to bring their children to seek medical attention if they are feeling unwell. Thank you, parents.



### **Student Matters**

6. Experiential Learning Week (ELW). The ELW is a platform to provide our students with opportunities to further develop their 21st Century Competencies (21CC) skills such as communication, collaboration, knowledge application and independent learning, through specially curated programmes and activities. This year, the ELW will be held from 27 March to 31 March 2023. The timetable will be suspended and replaced with ELW programmes and activities during curriculum time. Students can look forward to exploring authentic experiences that extend learning beyond textbooks and classrooms during the ELW.

7. “What’s Up” at Media Resource Library (MRL). The school is continuously looking at improving the interest of our young readers at the MRL. To aid in our effort, the school is seeking input from our students through a Readers’ Interest Survey via the SLS. This survey is important to help us identify the type of books/genres that our students in SBPS love to read, so that we can curate our collection and cater to their interests as much as possible. Do encourage your child to complete the survey if they have not done so.

### **Celebration of Successes...**

8. Camp with Dad. Camp with Dad has successfully achieved the objective of creating a platform for father-child bonding. The planning of the camp was done by the coaches and facilitators for the camp who are dads themselves, together with our staff Mr Saidali and Mrs. Sujith. With fun activities such as outdoor cooking, telematch games, tent-pitching and campfire, participants were given the opportunity to communicate and work together. It was an eventful 2D1N camp from 4 March to 5 March 2023 for some of our P4 to P6 students with their dads (see Figure 1 for the snapshot of the camp). The combined team of PSG and SBPS teachers is looking forward to a Lower Primary Camp in August. Look out for the announcement in Parents Gateway!

Figure 1 – Snapshots of Camp with Dad





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Figure 2 – SPA 2023 (Silver)



9. North West School Partner Award (SPA) 2023. We are pleased to announce that our school has achieved the Silver Award for the North West SPA 2023 (See Figure 2). This award is given to schools that had participated actively in the North West Community Development Council (CDC) programmes in calendar year 2022. Being involved in community work creates an authentic learning experience for our students, allowing them to contribute with a sense of social responsibility, thus exemplifying the school value of 'care'.

Figure 3 – Distinguished Student Award

10. Distinguished Student Award. Chen Jiayu of class 6 Care (2018) has exemplified our school motto "The Best from Me". Having joined Xinmin Secondary School after his graduation from SBPS, he has performed exceptionally well in the 2022 GCE 'O' Level and was awarded the Commendable Achievement Award (See Figure 3). Congratulations, Jiayu!



11. Developing Our Students through Sports. On 7 March 2023, our school hosted rugby players from several other primary schools at the Rugby Ready Carnival which aimed to provide a platform to prepare rugby players leading up to the National School Games (NSG). Our rugby boys benefitted from the friendlies and forged closer camaraderie with their peers in the rugby circle.

12. Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) Donation Drive. As part of inculcating the value of caring and sharing, SBPS participated in the SPD Charity Hongbao, an annual fundraising campaign held over the Lunar New Year period, to support people with disabilities in their rehabilitation. Students were encouraged to share the blessings that they had received during the festive season by contributing to the fundraising effort. Our students responded generously and learnt that through this simple gesture, they have made a difference to people with disabilities. Thank you parents, for supporting this donation drive and your partnership in nurturing our students to be caring and compassionate citizens.



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13. Tamil Spelling Bee Competition 2023. The competition was jointly organized by Media Corp's Tamil News and Current Affairs Department and Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee, participated by 70 schools with over 300 students. Our students Nandhitha Natarajan, Monissa Yalini (from 5 RT), Murali Raksha, Godwin Selvaraj Rarya and Sathappan Shruthi (from 5 RY) (Figure 4 – from Left to Right) made it to the finals held on 25 March, with 5 other schools. We are extremely proud to announce our champions in the Tamil Spelling Bee Competition 2023. The dedicated hard work by our students and teachers, and the tremendous support from their parents were key factors for their achievement. Well done and congratulation!

Figure 4 – Our Tamil Spelling Bee Champions



### ***Up-coming School Events....***

14. International Friendship Day (IFD). The commemoration of IFD aims to acquaint students with the diverse and colourful cultures and traditions of the region and the lives of their peers in other ASEAN countries. Through this heightened awareness, students would be inculcated with the spirit of friendship and cooperation. It also provides opportunities for our students to develop an open mind and appreciation of the contributions of foreigners living, working, and studying in Singapore.

15. The school will be celebrating IFD on 5 April 2023 with an assembly program and recess activities. All students are encouraged to wear **ethnic costumes and school shoes** on that day to celebrate the event. A photo booth for students to take photographs with friends of other nationalities during recess would form part of the celebrations. Additionally, foreign students would be invited to share their unique culture and experiences of living in Singapore to enable us to better understand, appreciate and embrace diversity. The school is confident that the event would be a meaningful celebration for all members of the school community.

### ***Miscellaneous...***

16. New Canteen Stall. The school endeavours to provide a wide array of healthy food choices for our students. After much anticipation, we have finally acquired a new western halal food stall vendor. Mdm Azlamia, with more than 5 years' experience working in a school canteen, joined our school on 20 March 2023, whipping up western food favourites in accordance with the Health Promotion Board (HPB) guidelines. Please note that all Muslim stalls will remain open to serve our students during the month of Ramadan.

### ***Concluding Remarks...***

*"If you want to reach your goals and dreams, you cannot do it without discipline."*  
~Lee Kuan Yew~



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17. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim families a blessed and meaningful Ramadan.

18. Term 2 promises to be another enriching and fulfilling time for our students, and we are confident of your support and partnership to make learning better for your child. Thank you, parents!

Warmest regards.

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