



SBPS/25/014

26 Feb 2025

**Open Letter from School Leaders 2/2025**

Dear Parents,

1. Firstly, we wish everyone good health and bountiful blessings in the Year of the Snake. Time certainly flies; we are already in Week 8 of Term 1. We are delighted to report that our students, including the Primary 1 students, have adapted well to the new school year.

2. At school, we continue to focus on imbuing 21st Century Competencies in our students' learning, embracing all learners and enhancing student well-being. We thank parents for your continued partnership with the school in this educational journey.

***Important Information...***

**Safety, Emergency Preparedness & Student Well-Being**

3. Total Defence Day 2025. Singapore commemorated Total Defence Day (TDD) on 15 February, a poignant reminder of the importance of collective efforts in keeping our nation safe and secure. On 12 February, the school observed TDD by reinforcing the 6 pillars of defence through Positive Minutes sharing and Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP), followed by a skit performed by Arts and Drama agency. Students also participated in booth activities, such as packing an emergency bag and completing a TD puzzle, and interacted with officers from the Singapore Police Force (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Students Immersing in TDD Activities



4. Exercise SBPS Ready and Fire Evacuation Drill. As part of our emergency preparedness efforts, the school simulated a power disruption for an hour, attributed to a fire outbreak at the school's power grid, followed by an evacuation to the school assembly area (see Figure 2). We are pleased to report that the school population was familiar with the evacuation procedures and adapted well to the challenging environment brought about by the power outage. Our students experienced classroom lessons without power as teachers



reverted to traditional methods of teaching until power was restored. The exercise has reinforced the importance of Total Defence, emphasising that we must be ready for any emergency.



Figure 2 – Fire Evacuation Drill

5. Safety Mindset. At school, we continue to inculcate in our students a safety mindset, emphasising the "think before you act" approach. We teach our students the importance of mental processing before taking action, including capitalising on teachable moments after an incident has occurred. For instance, students who have compromised safety, such as running in the canteen, are taught to process their actions mentally before acting in future.

6. P1 Road Safety Walk. The Road Safety Walk for Primary 1 students aim to introduce the safety DOs and DON'Ts at different types of footpaths, bus stops, linkways and overhead bridges in the immediate vicinity of the school. We hope that by walking the ground, our Primary 1 students were able to better take in the road safety points. Our Primary 1 students were also introduced to various amenities around the school, such as the neighbourhood police post, Canberra Community Club and playground.

7. Dismissal Arrangement for Lower Primary Students. Should parent intend to change the dismissal point for your child, we seek your understanding and co-operation to write in to the school's generic email **3 working days** in advance. This is to allow school the bandwidth to make and see to the arrangement are being executed accurately and smoothly.

**Student Matters**

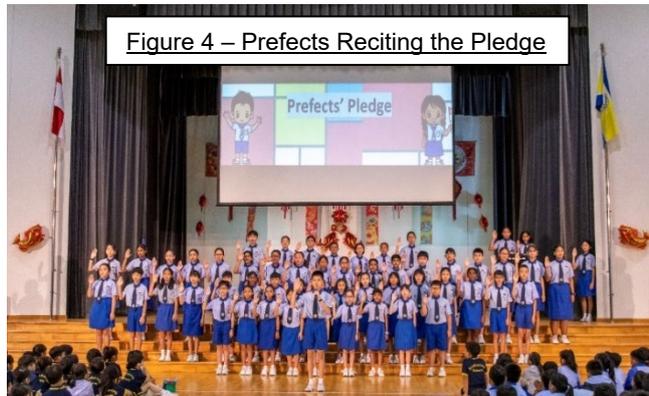
8. P5 Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC). Held from 22 to 24 January, the P5 OAC was designed to strengthen the resilience, independence and problem-solving skills of our Primary 5 students. These objectives were achieved through various activities such as high element courses, team challenges and outdoor trekking. In addition, the camp fostered character growth by encouraging perseverance in the face of challenges and instilling a sense of responsibility through shared tasks. The camp also achieved the objective of social mixing, evident in the interaction and integration of students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds (see Figure 3).

Figure 3 – Highlights of P5 OAC





9. Prefects' Investiture Ceremony. The Prefects' Investiture Ceremony is a pivotal school event that formally recognises our student leaders. Held on 5 February, the ceremony instils a sense of responsibility and pride in our young leaders who are expected to lead and influence their peers. In the symbolic ceremony, our Principal presented the prefect badges to the newly appointed Primary 4 and Primary 5 prefects. Led by the Head Prefect, Chan Sau Yeung, the prefect cohort pledged and reaffirmed their commitment to serve the school community with pride (see Figure 4). Congratulations to all appointed prefects.



10. National School Games (NSG). The school prepares our student athletes through structured training programmes and mentorship from coaches and teachers. The lead-up to and participation in the games provide a natural context and opportunity to develop resilience and teamwork in our students. Our student athletes are inspired by the journeys and struggles that others overcome, which in turn spur them to embrace the same spirit. As the Olympic creed rightly states, "The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought well." We encourage our student athletes to make the best of every opportunity and experience that the games offer. The very experience of participating in the competitions will allow our student athletes to build their character while striving for sporting excellence. We wish all the best to our student athletes!

11. MK@Sembawang. The children at MK@Sembawang enjoy varied learning experiences daily, both in the classroom and outdoors. During Learning Centre time, the children engage in purposeful play to develop their communicative and social skills. Outdoors, the children sharpen their observation skills and engage in active play to develop their bodily awareness (see Figure 5). These learning experiences aim to encourage the children to seek learning competently in their immediate environment, strengthen their socio-emotional competencies and inculcate healthy habits.

Figure 5 – MK Students Engaging in Outdoor Activities



12. Student Well-Being. The safety of our students remains our highest priority. As a school, we treat all reported incidents seriously. We continue to educate our students on the importance of reporting incidents to facilitate prompt investigations. The school treats all bullying incidents very seriously and has equipped our students with practical strategies to



recognise, prevent and address bullying. Our goal is to cultivate a school culture where every student feels safe and valued, promoting empathy, respect and active support among peers. Should bullying occur in school, we acknowledge parents' concerns and seek to establish a mutual partnership in supporting our students, as echoed by Education Minister Chan. Together, let us create a safe learning environment for all staff and students.

13. Student Fasting. Students who are fasting during the Ramadan period should continue with CCAs and PE lessons to maintain their physical well-being. Teachers will closely observe students who are fasting and assess their condition throughout these activities. We kindly request parents to remind their children who are fasting to inform teachers should they feel unwell.

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

14. Green Living Awards 2024. We are pleased to announce that our school has attained the Bronze award in the Green Living Awards 2024, organised by the North West Community Development Council and the National Environment Agency (see Figure 6). This award is a testament to the school's active participation in various environmental initiatives in the North West District. An example is the Recycle @ North West programme, a school-wide initiative that encourages students to recycle on a sustainable basis.

Figure 6 – Green Living Awards 2024



15. Lunar New Year Celebrations. On 28 January, the students learnt about Chinese culture as part of the Lunar New Year celebrations in their respective classes and during recesses. This was followed by a concert at the Multi-Purpose Hall where students were treated to performances by a lion and dragon troupe, our very own Chinese Orchestra and dancers, and our Parent Support Group (PSG) (see Figure 7).

Figure 7 – School Leaders Receiving the CNY Scrolls (春联) and PSG Performance



16. MK Open House. Held on 15 February, the MK Open House was executed successfully. It consisted of (a) a briefing on the MK curriculum and the services by KCare, (b) children attending Mother Tongue lessons, and (c) a tour of the MK and KCare facilities. Since its inception in 2022, the MK Educators (MKEs) at MK@Sembawang have accumulated vast experiences in nursery education. Our MKEs are dedicated to supporting and nurturing young minds for a seamless transition into primary education. Parents, we encourage you to



introduce MK@Sembawang to families whom you know are seeking nursery education for their children.

17. Parent Support Group (PSG). The Sembawang PSG has built a strong foundation in the school since its inception in 2010. The credit goes to all PSG members, past and present. They have built a strong rapport among themselves, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment. We are thankful to the PSG members who have stepped up to assist the school in safety duties, chaperoning during learning journeys, uplifting our students who struggle with literacy, championing the "Camp with Dad" programme and many more activities. Thank you, PSG, for your unwavering support. Parents who are interested in joining the PSG may register using the QR code provided. Your support and involvement will make a meaningful difference in our students' educational journey.



<https://go.gov.sg/2025psgregistration>

18. Celebrating Staff's Efforts. As we work closely together to support your child, there may be times when our staff have gone the extra mile and made someone's day. If you wish to 'say it from your heart' and express your appreciation, we encourage you to do so. Please share with us [here](#) if you have encountered any staff members who have made a positive impression or impact during their interactions with you. This will allow us to affirm and celebrate their efforts, as well as encourage the entire team. We appreciate your feedback, parents.

19. Teaching Award Nomination. Every year, MOE presents accolades to deserving Malay Language (ML), Tamil Language (TL) and English Language (EL) teachers. These awards recognise the contributions of the ML, TL and EL teachers in the teaching of the subjects. The nominations for the **Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2025, Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award (AGAB) 2025** and the **Most Inspiring Tamil Teacher Award (MITT) 2025** are now open. We seek nomination(s) from parents and your nominations are affirmation of the efforts by the teachers. More details about the nominations can be found online via the following links (See [Table 1](#)).

Table 1 – Nominations Details for Teacher Award

Award	Nomination Details	Closing Date
Inspiring Teacher of English Award	<a href="https://www.languagecouncils.sg/goodenglish/inspiring-teacher-of-english-award/nomination-information">https://www.languagecouncils.sg/goodenglish/inspiring-teacher-of-english-award/nomination-information</a>	Mon, 24 March 2025
Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award (AGAB)	<a href="https://go.gov.sg/agab2025">https://go.gov.sg/agab2025</a>	Fri, 4 April 2025
Most Inspiring Tamil Teacher Award (MITT)	<a href="https://go.gov.sg/mitt2025">https://go.gov.sg/mitt2025</a>	Fri, 4 April 2025



***Up-coming School Events in Term 2...***

20. Dad's For Life Camp. This camp aims to strengthen the father-child relationship through group activities such as cooking and problem-solving. The first run is scheduled from 17 to 18 May for Primary 4 to Primary 6 students. Further details will be disseminated in Term 2.

21. P5 Overseas Learning Journey (OLJ). Selected Primary 5 students will participate in an overseas learning journey to Thailand or Malaysia in Week 9 of Term 2.

***Miscellaneous...***

22. Eat with Your Family Day (EWYFD). The next EWYFD falls on 14 March (Friday). To support this initiative, the General Office will close at 5.00 pm to allow our staff to leave early and spend time with their families over meals.

***Concluding Remarks...***

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

24. Together, we can develop your child/our student holistically. Thank you, parents, for your continued support and trust in our educational journey together.

Yours in education,

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Mr Shawn Tan Vice-Principal (Admin) TAN_Thiam_Siong@schools.gov.sg	Ms Tiffany Chong Vice-Principal chong_lay_ting@schools.gov.sg