



Official (Open) / Non-Sensitive

SEMBAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Innovative Learners, Rooted in Values

SBPS/22/034

29 Apr 2022

Open Letter from School Leaders 4/2022

Dear Parents,

1. Warmest greetings from all of us at Sembawang Primary School. We are delighted that many pre-COVID-19 activities could now resume, following the announcement by the COVID-19 Multi-Ministry Task Force (MTF) on 24 March 2022. Our teachers wasted no time to plan and build these activities into the curricular and non-curricular periods, while adhering to the prevailing Safe Management Measures (SMMs).

2. The tempo in school has picked up considerably, and the school is once again bustling with activities. While we surge forward, we are also cognisant of the need to ensure safety of our students and staff by gradually building up the pace, given the substantive period of inactivity.

Important Information...

Student Matters

3. Attendance. As a school, we take active measures to ensure the regular attendance of our students. The school expects all students to attend school regularly. Parents are strongly advised to refrain from taking your child away school for extended family vacation during term time. Let us work together to give your child the best chance to succeed in school by ensuring he/she attends school regularly.

4. P3 Read@Recess. We have set up a Read@Recess cupboard at the school canteen for students who wish to read during their recess, facilitated by CCA student librarians (see Figure 1). This initiative is intended to promote reading beyond the library – books anywhere, anytime. We have piloted this initiative with our P3 students. P4 students will get their turn from Term 3. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all parents and students who donated close to 200 books during the Book Drive in Term 1. Thank you parents for supporting our initiative of encouraging reading anytime, anywhere.



Figure 1 – Read@Recess

5. Anti-Drug Ambassador Activity. Our P4 to P6 students will learn about anti-drug messages and the harmfulness of drug through interactive activities found in the Anti-drug Ambassador Activity booklet from Central Narcotic Bureau (CNB) before the end of the term. Through this activity, we aim to equip our P4 to P6 students with knowledge on the harmful effects of drug abuse and to be able to say 'No' to drugs. For more information, you may visit <https://www.cnb.gov.sg/educational-resources/core-programmes/anti-drug-ambassador-activity>.

6. Book Week. At MK@Sembawang, we believe that books bring wonders to children's early development. Apart from enhancing children's language skills, early exposure to books helps to stimulate creativity and expand their understanding of the world. To spread joy, appreciation, and the importance of reading to children, MK@Sembawang celebrated Book Week (end March 2022) with exciting activities daily, based on different types of books. Children watched visually attractive videos by our Parent Support Group where stories came alive. On the last day of Book Week (1 April 2022), we encouraged children to come dressed as their favourite book character or bring a favourite book to school (see Figure 2). As a class, the children came up with a class book and presented it to their peers and parents via a video showcase.

Figure 2 – Book Week at MK@Sembawang



Safety and Security

7. Mask Wearing in School. At the national level, while mask wearing is mandatory in indoor spaces but optional in outdoor settings, we have disallowed mask-off provision (other than eating and drinking) when our students and staff step into the school premises for two main reasons. Firstly, it would require tremendous effort and manpower to ensure compliance for safe distancing at outdoor spaces. Secondly, the frequent mask-on and mask-off actions vis-à-vis indoor and outdoor spaces presents a higher probability of soiling the mask. Mask wearing is still the best protection against COVID-19 infection.

8. Inculcating Safety in our Students. All our staff epitomise safety and walk the talk. Likewise, we want our students to think about safety in every situation, at any location and in all activities that they participate in. Our safety warriors hold regular safety briefs and reminders, during assembly and in the classrooms, and would grab every opportunity to educate our students on safety when an unsafe act is in progress or is committed by our students. Our mission – zero accident/incident – is achievable!

9. Mosquito Traps. To ensure a safe learning environment for our students, we have installed 11 eco-friendly mosquito traps (see Figure 3) around the school premises since April to clamp down on the mosquito population, besides combing the premises for potential mosquito breeding sites and eliminating them. We are happy to report that the mosquito traps were efficient in luring and trapping adult mosquitoes, thereby allowing the school to direct our pest control agents to zoom in on potential trouble spots.



Figure 3 – Mosquito Trap

Celebration of Successes...

10. World Water Day. As part of World Water Day celebration on 22 Mar 2022, both our primary school and MK students participated in a series of activities to remind our students of the importance of water and the need to conserve this precious resource. Primary school students were treated to a poster and video presentation on water-saving tips by our Science & Green Club members, as well as a sharing by Waterways Watch Society, a non-profit environmental organisation, on water and environmental issues in Singapore. Our MK students also participated in various water-centric activities (see Figure 4). Through the activities, we hope that our students would become more environmentally conscious and inculcate good water-saving habits both at home and in school.

Figure 4 – World Water Day Activities



11. Singapore Moo-O Awards 2022. Our heartiest congratulations to Jaykerb Apolonio Liang (3 Empathy), Shefali Dash and Chaudhry Zubair Saeed (3 Integrity) for winning the Gold Award in the Singapore Moo-O Awards 2022, supported by the Speak Good English Movement! (Figure 5) In this digital storytelling competition, participants used the Moo-O software to portray themselves as various story characters. Our students were articulate, fluent, and expressive as they read the story. Well done! You can check out their wonderful performance at <https://plus.moo-o.com/tma/>.



Figure 5 – Trio in the Moo-O Competition

12. Northwest Outstanding School Partner Award. We are pleased to announce that our school has achieved the Silver Award for the North West Outstanding School Partner Award (SPA) 2022! See Figure 6 for the digital banner produced by North West CDC. This award was given to schools that had participated actively in the Community Development Council (CDC) programmes in calendar year 2021. 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.



13. Northwest Outstanding All-Rounder Student (OARS) Award 2022. The OARS Award recognises students, studying in schools within the North West District, who had achieved good academic results and were also active in CCA, community service and student leadership. Congratulations to our ex-students Quek Seng Ee and Rameshkumar Tejashwini for receiving the award! See Figure 7 for the award presentation ceremony attended by both students and their families.

Figure 7– Northwest OARS 2022 Recipients



14. 73rd National Chess Championship. At the 73rd National Chess Championship held on 15 March 2022, two of our chess club members, Dawson Oh Xu Jie and Siddharth Siva Kumar of 5 Resilience, came in 3rd and 5th position respectively in our North Zone segment. See Figure 8 for the recipients and their medals. Well done, boys!

Figure 8 – Award Recipients of 73rd National Chess Championship



15. 13th GoodTalk (Global Village) International Children & Youth Bilingual Speech Conference (地球村) 国际青少年双语演讲大会. A group of eight students from P5 and P6 participated in the 13th GoodTalk (Global Village) Children and Youth Bilingual Speech Conference in January 2022. The conference aimed to (a) establish a “second language learning community” for students in Singapore and China, and (b) let students in Singapore learn to speak Chinese well through speech. Our students showcased their work through recorded videos based on the topic “2025”. All our students did well in the preliminary rounds, with student Angel Koh (6 Respect) advancing to the finals which was held via online live broadcast on 26 March 2022. Congratulations to Angel Koh for clinching the bronze award in the finals, and the team comprising Carys Chui (5 Respect), Huang Yunru (5 Respect), Ling Kangyao (5 Resilience), Chan Zi Leng (6 Respect), Tan Ler Yee (6 Respect), Jalen Liang (6 Respect) and Sheyenne Chua (6 Resilience) for their outstanding performances in the preliminary rounds (see Figure 9).



16. The Straits Composition Competition 2022. Zhang Tianyi (5 Respect), Yao Yanchen (5 Resilience) and Huang Yunru (5 Respect) have done the school proud with their bronze awards in The Straits Composition Competition held on 28 February 2022. We hope that their achievements will spur others to pursue excellence and flair in writing skills. Congratulations and well done! (see Figure 10)



17. SOTA Primary Six Creative Writing Competition 2022. A group of Primary 6 students took part in the SOTA Primary Six Creative Writing Competition 2022 where over 1,300 submissions were received. Congratulations to Chaganti Nitya Elalakshmi Pranava Hasini (6 Resilience) and Tan Ler Yee (6 Respect) for making it to the top 50 (see Figure 11). As finalists of the competition, they had the opportunity to attend the Literary Arts Junior Academy writing workshop organised by SOTA. We would like to thank all our students who participated in the competition and extend our congratulations to our two young writers on their achievement.

Figure 11 – Finalists in the SOTA Primary Six Creative Writing Competition



18. Canberra Zone 3 Residents' Network (3RN) Easter Celebration 2022. The English Drama Club took part in the Canberra Zone 3RN Easter virtual celebration held on 17 April 2022. Members from our Drama Club enacted a skit titled 'The Giving Tree' based on the book written by Shel Silverstein (see Figure 12). This skit is available for your viewing at this link: <https://fb.watch/cDaPs0L8LS/>.



Figure 12 – Drama Club members involved in the skit

19. Labour Day Care Package. The Labour Day Care Package project is a school-wide initiative launched between 21 and 27 April 2022 for our students to express their gratitude towards our non-teaching staff who have tirelessly worked to make the school a better place. Each class prepared a Labour Day Care Package, filled with essential items and notes of appreciation for one non-teaching staff in the school (see Figure 13). Student representatives from each class then presented their Care Packages to 33 non-teaching staff on 27 April 2022. Thank you parents for encouraging your children to contribute to this initiative. Your support played a significant role in inculcating the value of 'Gratitude' in our students and promoted the fostering of a more appreciative society.

Figure 13 – Labour Care Packages Class Representatives



20. International Friendship Day (IFD). The school commemorated IFD on 6 April 2022 to further enhance the spirit of friendship with our students from ASEAN countries and beyond. Students learned about the rich diversity of cultures through Positive Minutes, display boards and the assembly digital theatre “Flight”. On 8 April 2022, our MK students were introduced to different festivals celebrated in different countries, made Brazilian Carnival masks and African necklaces, and played games from Greece, Philippines, Chile and Australia, topped with Italian pizza for snacks (see Figure 14). These out-of-textbook experiences are invaluable and timely to remind our students on the importance of connectedness between our neighbouring countries and beyond.

Figure 14 – Students Learning about Cultural Diversity in ASEAN Countries



21. Mother Tongue Fortnight (MTF). The MTF aims to (a) foster our student's passion for cultural learning and (b) appreciate and experience Mother Tongue Language (MTL) as a "living language" in everyday life. The MTF was held from 11 to 22 April 2022 and our students participated in a series of activities that brought MTL learning beyond the classroom. Through the activities, we hope to further enhance our students' understanding of their cultures, and thereby stimulate their interest to use MTL. See Figure 15 for snapshots of our students in action.

Figure 15 – Students' Learning during Out Of Classroom Activities in MTF



Up-coming School Events...

22. Open House. Our Open House for parents of 2023 P1 students is scheduled on 16 July 2022 (Saturday). With the easing of COVID-19 measures, more engagement can be planned for parents and students. Do look out for more information regarding the event via our official social media channels nearer the date!

23. "I Can't Live Without IT!" - Understanding & Engaging Our Digital Natives. We would like to invite parents from P3 to P6 to attend a Webinar workshop conducted by TOUCH Community Services with the aim of (a) sharing with parents the risks and concerns of excessive screen time in your child, and (b) equipping strategies for parents to understand, engage and manage your child's usage habits. The details of the talk can be found in Table 1 below. Details of the Zoom meeting will be emailed upon confirmed registration. Parents are encouraged to sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Table 1 – Details of "I Can't Live Without IT!" Workshop for Parents

Date	13 May 2022 (Friday)
Time	7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Registration Link	https://go.gov.sg/sbps-parentscw

Miscellaneous...

24. Designated Public Holidays. The school will be closed on 2 May 2022 (public holiday in lieu of May Day on Sunday 1 May) and 16 May 2022 (public holiday in lieu of Vesak Day on Sunday 15 May).

25. Eat-With-Your Family Day (EWYFD). The next EWYFD falls on 27 May 2022. To support this initiative, the General Office will close at 5.00 p.m. to allow our staff to leave early and spend time with their family over meal.

Concluding Remarks...

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know,
the more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
~Dr. Seuss~*

26. To an awesome remainder of Term 2, before we hit the brakes again for the June school holidays.

27. Stay safe and healthy!

Warmest regards.

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