



BUKIT PANJANG PRIMARY SCHOOL
109 Cashew Road, Singapore 679676
Tel: 67691912 Fax: 67637462
<http://www.bukitpanjangpri.moe.edu.sg/>

Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens

2 August 2016

From the Principal's Desk...

IN TOUCH 08/2016

Dear Parents,

For most Singaporeans, the month of August holds a very special place in our heart. This is the time where we come together to celebrate the progress of our nation and also a timely reminder for us not to rest on our laurels and continue our zealous pursuit in contributing to the greater success of the country.

The school will commemorate National Day on 8 August. Beside an observance ceremony, students will also participate in a host of fun filled activities that aim to drive home the theme for this year's National Day Parade (NDP) "Building our Singapore of Tomorrow".

I urge you to watch the live screening of the NDP 2016 together with your child. Besides serving as a good bonding time with them, it is also a good platform to instil the values of resilience and the courage to pursue our dreams in our child. Our former Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat said this at last year's National Day Observance Ceremony in Primary, Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges/Centralised Institute "Together, we can build something bigger and better than any of us can achieve alone. Together, looking after one another, we can build a place that we love and are proud to protect and call our home."

Thanking outgoing Staff Members

We would like to thank the following staff for their dedicated service and wish them well in their future endeavours:

1. Mdm Nurliyana Binte Ahkarunham
2. Mr Mohd Sadiqin Subhan Bin Mohd Aidil Subhan

Achievements

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) –Science

We are pleased to share the achievements of our students who took part in the recent ICAS-Science. We would like to congratulate the following students for their performance.



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Name	Class	Award	Name	Class	Award
Yeo Shan Yuan, Keane	P3-E	High Distinction	Yuan Hao Zhe	P4-E	Distinction
Tan Yee Heng, Caleb	P3-E		Zhu Ziyang	P4-E	
Huang Yijia	P4-D		Jethro Chia	P4-F	
Tan Jun Kai, Jovan	P4-G		Yow Lok Yang	P4-F	
Soh Yan Xi	P4-G		Cheng Yukai	P4-F	
Rayner Tee Zhiyun	P6-E		Song Yutong	P4-F	
Ryan Lee Wee Bin	P6-E		Tan Xin Yang Elliott	P4-G	
Jovie Tan	P2-A	Distinction	Chui Jun Ling Elroy	P4-G	
Elliot Chew	P2-C		Tey Kay Eng Vanessa	P4-G	
Raphaei Yeo	P2-G		Wai Yi Xuan	P4-G	
Heng Jing Jing, Tertia	P3-E		Jonathan Tan Zhi Wei	P5-E	
Zhao Zheng	P3-E		Tushar Gupta	P5-F	
Kerk Yu Jun Brandon	P3-F		Song Jiarong	P5-F	
Zenon Kwok	P3-F		Chen Yi Yong	P5-G	
Rui Qi Shi	P3-F		Low Zhan Rong	P5-G	
Samuel Tan Zhi Hao	P3-F		Zechariah Chng Jia Heng	P5-H	
Jayden Toh Gak Heng	P3-G		Phoebe Woo	P5-H	
Sundaravel Laavanya	P4-D		Lee Zhang Hui	P6-E	
Tee Shanyun, Ivan	P4-D		Ethan Chin	P6-F	
Ng Zong Heng	P4-D		Lai Foong Yee	P6-F	
Yeo Khai Kiat Gabriel	P4-E				

8th International Young Whizzes Challenge 2016

Two teams of students from P5 and P6 levels participated in the 8th International Young Whizzes Challenge organised by the Anglo-Chinese Junior College (ACJC) Science and Mathematics Council on 13 July 2016 (Wed). The half-day science quiz aims to stimulate the students' mind and encourages them to explore science with a different perspective and at a higher level beyond the classroom.

We are glad to share that one of the participating teams emerged as 2nd Runner-Up. For the individual category, our students clinched three gold and two bronze medals.



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Name	Class	Category	Award
Arshul Garg Ryan Lee Wee Bin Tee Zhiyun Rayner Joshua Tung Wen Zhong	P6-G P6-E P6-E P6-E	Team	2 nd Runner-Up
Arshul Garg Ryan Lee Wee Bin Tee Zhiyun Rayner Joshua Tung Wen Zhong Mo Sheng Yan	P6-G P6-E P6-E P6-E P5-F	Individual	Gold
			Bronze

Babble and Speak Competition 2016

One of our students, Verlene Chew Yun Ting of P5-G participated in the team challenge category of Babble and Speak competition on 15 July 2016 (Fri). The team comprised of two other members from other schools. We are proud to announce that the team clinched the Gold award for their excellent display of wits, composure and teamwork.

Community in Bloom (CIB) Awards

CIB is an initiative spearheaded by the National Parks Board (NParks) to promote and recognise gardening efforts by community gardening groups to create gardens within our community.

To foster a love of gardening among our students, staff and within the community, we participated in the biennial CIB which recognises and rewards gardening efforts of Singapore's gardening groups. We are proud to announce that we are awarded the silver banding. The award was presented on 31 July 2016 (Sat) at the Singapore Garden Festival.

National Examinations Matter

P1 to P5 students are not required to report to school on the following dates. However, a group of students has been selected to attend remedial lessons on these days. You will receive notification if your child is identified to attend the lessons.

PSLE	Dates
Oral Examinations	18 Aug 2016 (Thu) to 19 Aug 2016 (Fri)
Listening Comprehension	16 Sep 2016 (Fri)
Marking Exercise	17 Oct 2016 (Mon) to 19 Oct 2016 (Wed)



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Release of answer scripts for P6 Preliminary Examinations

To provide parents with a better sense of the overall academic performance of their child, we will release the answer scripts for P6 Preliminary Examinations for all subjects, for both standard and foundation levels on the following dates:

Subjects	Paper	Date
English Language, Foundation English Language, Chinese, Higher Chinese	2	8 Aug 2016 (Mon)
Foundation Chinese	1	
Mathematics, Foundation Mathematics, Science, Foundation Science	-	
English Language, Foundation English Language, Chinese, Higher Chinese	1	12 Aug 2016 (Fri)

Workshop for parents and Principal's address

As part of the school's on-going efforts to work closely with our parents, we have arranged the following sharing sessions on curriculum matters. The Principal will also be addressing the parents of P4 and P5 students. Details for the programmes have been disseminated to the students at the respective levels.

Date/Time	Level	Programme
29 Jul 2016 (Fri) 2.30pm-6.30pm	P5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal's address • Sharing on curriculum matters by English Language, Mathematics and Mother Tongue Languages Departments
5 Aug 2016 (Fri) 2.30pm-6.00pm	P1 and P2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing on curriculum matters by English Language, Mathematics and Mother Tongue Languages Departments
12 Aug 2016 (Fri) 6.00pm-7.00pm	P4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal's address on Subject Based Banding matters

National Day Celebrations

Our school will be commemorating National Day on 8 August 2016 (Mon). Students are to report to school at the usual timing and will be dismissed at 10.30am. Please be informed that 10 Aug 2016 (Wed) is a school holiday, thus students are not required to



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report to school. The school will resume on 11 August 2016 (Thu). More information are as follow:

Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observance Ceremony• Concert• BPPS Youth Olympic Carnival (for Primary 5 only)• National Day classroom activities for Primary 1 to Primary 4 students• Primary 6 students will resume their lessons after the concert.

Please note that:

1. Students are encouraged to wear red T-shirts.
2. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.
3. Light refreshments will be provided.
4. School bus operators have been informed of the revised school hours. Kindly liaise with them for details.
5. Supplementary lessons and CCAs will be cancelled.

Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight

We believe that to fully appreciate and be confident in the Mother Tongue Languages (MTL), our children need to be immersed in an environment that promotes active involvement and use of the MTL. As such, our annual MTL Fortnight will be held in Term 3, week 10 & Term 4, week 1 (29 August – 15 September 2016). A fun filled array of language based activities which include games and quizzes during recesses, level competitions, speech and drama performances, etc. has been planned for students to take part.

Recycling

To promote environmental awareness amongst students and cultivate a habit of recycling, we will be inviting students from Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) to introduce good recycling habits to our students for the coming assembly programme on 16 August 2016 (Tue). By presenting practical solutions that make recycling a simple, everyday task, we hope that our students will be able to participate actively in recycling.



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Changes to PSLE Scoring and Secondary One Posting

Changes to the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) scoring and Secondary One (S1) posting will be made as part of a larger shift to nurture well-rounded individuals and move away from an over-emphasis on academic results. To be implemented starting from the 2021 PSLE cohort, the changes aim to:

- Reduce fine differentiation of students
- Reflect a student's level of achievement regardless of how his peers have done
- Encourage families to choose schools based on their suitability for the child's learning needs, talents and interests.

To support parents in understanding the changes, we will be conducting a parent engagement session for parents of P1 students. More details will be given at a later date.

For more details on the PSLE scoring changes and S1 posting system, please refer to <https://www.moe.gov.sg/psle>.

Student Well- Being

A Good sleep is all they need...

Research has indicated that children at the age of 6 to 12 years need about 9 to 10 hours of sleep a day. Most often, in order to get ready for school, students need to wake up as early as 5.30 a.m. Based on our observation, children who lack sleep tend to get tired easily and faced difficulty in staying focused. Thus, for their physical and mental well-being, it is of paramount importance that we help our children to develop a good sleeping routine.

Attire and Grooming

Proper attire and grooming have a positive impact on the image of the school and the students. Every student must project an appropriate and well-groomed appearance.

One of the school rules is about having a short and neat hairstyle for the boys where ears should not touch the ears or the collar of the uniform. The fringe should also not touch the eyebrows when combed down.

We have had to remind students frequently to ensure that this is followed. Very often, their retort is that they have just had their haircut.



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We seek your co-operation in ensuring that your child has a haircut that fulfils the requirements of the school.

Security Matters

We continue to place the safety of our children as the top priority in the school. Thank you for displaying your pass prominently in the school. This has greatly helped our security staff in managing trespassing. We would like you to continue to wear your pass without demand whenever you are in the school.

Sharing

Teaching Kindness (Part 2)

*Children need emotional intelligence as much as the other kind. What parents can do. By Sarah Hutter
Continuation from the last issue*

How good is my child at waiting and controlling impulses?

Children who learn how to control impulses and delay gratification are better able to concentrate, deal with frustration, make plans, and follow through on them. In a study conducted at Stanford University, pre-schoolers were left alone with a marshmallow and told that if they waited to eat it until the adult returned to the room, they'd get another one.

Fourteen years later, the children who waited longest scored on average 200 points higher on the SAT than the children who didn't wait. "The ability to wait is a tremendously important skill and, in young children, a major predictor of academic and social success," says Elias. The good news, he adds, is that controlling impulses can be taught and learned like any other skill.

You can teach kids self-discipline and time management techniques by encouraging them to save their allowance to purchase an expensive toy, or postpone watching a video or going on a play date until they have finished their homework.

How does my child get along with his classmates?

Learning to work well in groups is a skill children will need in school-and in life. They will be better at it if they have learned to listen, take turns, share, compromise, create consensus, and state ideas clearly. "Kids can't have good relationships without the ability to understand other people's feelings," says Elias. Such skills are currently being taught in schools in a variety of ways, from impromptu lessons in how to be considerate and polite and wait your



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turn to formal workshops on how to manage stress, resolve conflicts, resist negative influences, and set goals.

But even more important, experts agree, are the lessons taught at home. “Parents are the most powerful teachers of social and emotional intelligence,” says Elias. He encourages parents to use TV and books as learning tools—pointing out the problems facing the characters and asking your child how those characters might be feeling. When your child is upset over a fight he had with a friend, use the opportunity to help him verbalize his feelings, understand both sides of the story, and come up with solutions to the problem on his own.

Most importantly, be a good role model: show your child respect, empathy, and compassion, and listen to what he has to say.” I have what I call the twenty-four karat golden rule of emotionally intelligent parenting,” says Elias, “And that is: Do unto your children as you would have others do unto your children.”

Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan
Principal

Kindness doesn't cost a penny, but its value is beyond measure to the recipient – Chris Holmes