



6 October 2016

From the Principal's Desk...

IN TOUCH 10/2016

Dear Parents,

I believe many of you would agree with me that Singapore experienced some adrenaline rush at the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic swimming events. On Saturday morning of August 13, after going through emotions of anticipation and excitement, the defining moment of jubilation came when Joseph Schooling became the first contestant to touch the finishing line in the final race of the 100m butterfly event.

Singapore experienced another equally immense triumphant joy on Saturday morning of September 10. This time, we celebrated the winning of our para-swimmer Yip Pin Xiu, who broke the world record to achieve gold in the 100m backstroke S2 event.

Schooling and Pin Xiu's gold medals win certainly brought joy to the nation and evoked a strong sense of pride in being a Singaporean. Joseph Schooling shared his dreams when he said that the toughest training he had done was when he was in Primary School. He said that he was asked to do 30 sets of 100m butterfly but only managed 20 sets. He said that he recognised his own limitations. He said that, "That was the hardest set I've done and failed miserably. I fail more than I succeed." More importantly, their accomplishments also drove home an important lesson-Nothing is impossible as long as you dare to dream big and strive to beat the odds with passion, determination and courage.

Lets' continue to work closely to help our children to turn their dreams into reality!

Achievements

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) –Mathematics and Digital Technologies

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

Mathematics

Name	Class	Award	Name	Class	Award
Hady	P2-A	Distinction	Elliot Chew	P2-C	Distinction
Koh Jia Pei Fiona	P2-A		Keston Chan Jing Hoi	P2-E	
Ho Leung Enn Jeremiah	P2-A		Titus Ang	P2-F	
Tan Shi Qi Jovie	P2-A		Andrea Mok	P2-F	



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Chia Xin Tong Jenith	P2-A		Yeo Raphael	P2-G	
Ng Yue Jia Gerlyn	P2-A		Lee Jung Han	P2-H	
Kartha Jeremiah Jeevan	P2-B		Austral Leow	P2-H	

Name	Class	Award	Name	Class	Award
Keane Yeo Shan Yuan	P3-E	High Distinction	Ang Ee Erne	P4-G	Distinction
Caleb Tan Yee Heng	P3-F		Chui Jun Ling Elroy	P4-G	
Chua Kah Yu	P3-G		Jovan Tan	P4-G	
Kaitlyn Ma	P3-F	Distinction	Phua ChengYang	P5-E	
Jayden Toh Gak Heng	P3-G		Ethan Chua Bing Heng	P5-F	
Yukan Cheng	P4-F	High Distinction	Dominic Chong	P5-H	
Huang YiJia	P4-D	Distinction	Tan Keng Guan	P6-G	High Distinction
Ng Zong Heng	P4-D		Rayner Tee Zhiyun	P6-E	Distinction
Nicole Tan Jing Wen	P4-E		Ryan Lee Wee Bin	P6-E	
Tham Ming Cher	P4-E		Lee Zhang Hui	P6-E	
Yow Lok Yang	P4-F		Farrell Fun Gao Wei	P6-F	
Tan Woon Teck	P4-F		Bevis Tan	P6-G	

Digital Technologies

Name	Class	Award	Name	Class	Award
Dhruva Manoj	P5-E	High Distinction	Cyrus Goh	P4-F	Distinction
Lucas Leong	P4-D	Distinction	Soh Yan Xi	P4-G	
Ng Zong Heng	P4-D		Caden Toh	P5-H	
Zhu Ziyan	P4-E		Rayner Tee	P6-E	

Royal Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition 2016

We are pleased to share the achievements of our students who took part in the recent Royal Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition 2016. We would like to congratulate the following students for their performance.



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Name	Class	Award
Calista Abella Ang	6-H	Gold
Arshul Garg	6-G	Silver
Valeda Clarabelle Ang	6-E	Bronze

Bukit Panjang Youth Olympic Carnival (BYOC)

Over 720 students from Primary 3, 4 and 5 participated in the annual BPPS Youth Olympic Carnival (BYOC), which was held on the eve of National Day and Teachers' Day. Students from the 3 levels have been preparing earnestly in order to capture the coveted title of the Champion BYOC for their respective level.

The Primary 3 and 4 students were actively engaged in Coneball, where they had to work together as a team to knock down their opponents' cones while at the same time protecting and defending their cones. Students engaged all their muscle and motor neurons as they communicated with each other in trying to win.

On the eve of National Day, the Primary 5 students battled to become the Champion of the P5 BYOC. Playing a modified Handball game, the Primary 5 students were all hands and feet as they sweated it out to outplay their opponents from other Primary 5 classes.

The following are the results for the BYOC:

Primary 3	
Champion:	3F
1 st Runner Up :	3E
2 nd Runner Up:	3C

Primary 4	
Champion:	4C
1 st Runner Up:	4E
2 nd Runner Up :	4A

Primary 5	
Champion:	5E
1 st Runner up:	5A
2 nd Runner up:	5B

CLEAN PLATE CAMPAIGN 2016

Over 1547 students from Primary 1 to Primary 6 students took part in the inaugural Clean Plate Campaign on 15 September 2016. The Clean Plate Campaign organised by Food From The Heart (FFTH) encouraged students to curb wastage and to buy only what they could finish.

FFTH's Clean Plate Ambassadors gave pens to students who emptied their plates. An information booth was also set up during recess to answer the students' queries.

When The New Paper visited Bukit Panjang Primary School on 15 September 2016, many of the pupils had empty plates after their recess meal.

Said Toh Rui Yi, 11: "If we keep on wasting food, one day we'll run out because we keep on consuming more than we need."



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Another pupil, Marcus Lim, 11, said he would spread the message to his friends by telling them "the benefits of not wasting food".

The Clean Plate Campaign has successfully raised awareness of the importance of food wastage.



ALL GONE: Pupils Sathvik S (above, left), Marcus Lim and Toh Rui Yi (above right) showing off their emptied plates. TNP PHOTO: CHOO CHWEE HUA

Children's Day Celebrations

This year's Children's Day Celebrations will be held on 6 October 2016 (Thu). Our teachers and Parents Support Group (PSG) have come together to plan the annual Children's Day celebration. The day will be packed with many fun-filled activities. We will begin the day with our interactive BPPS Youth Olympic Carnivals (BYOC) for our Primary 1 and 2 students. The PSG will set-up games stalls to engage our students during their recesses. Teachers will also organise mini class parties with their own students. The finale for the day will be the Children's Day concert put up by our teachers. This is definitely a segment which students will remember for a long time.

Please be informed that 7 October 2016 (Fri) is a school holiday. Students are not required to report to school.

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations

The Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) department celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival on 15 September 2016 (Thu). This year, the Primary 2 students and their parents were invited to our BPPS Mid-Autumn Festival Night Carnival. Many of our colleagues together with their families also joined us in the celebrations.



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Various games stalls such as Lantern Riddles, Puzzles, Rabbit Fixing and Paint Blowing and food stalls such as traditional tea, mooncakes and pomelo sampling were set up for participants to have fun and understand more about the Chinese culture. Most of our students loved the snow skin mooncake making session in particular, as they enjoyed the opportunity of making their own mooncake, and delighting themselves while savouring this sweet treat.

A much anticipated lantern walk outside our school, joined by our school leaders brought the celebration to a close. The MTL department, as well as the students and parents, are already looking forward to next year's Mid-Autumn Festival.

PSLE Marking Days

Please be reminded that the PSLE Marking Days will be on 17 October 2016 (Mon) to 20 Oct 2016 (Thu). Students need not report on these days unless they are told to do so. All the P1 to P5 students will be involved in Home-Based Learning (HBL) during these period. The HBL Plan will list the tasks for students to complete and this plan will be uploaded onto the school website. We seek your assistance to supervise the students on the completion of the HBL tasks.

Deepavali

Monday, 31 October 2016 is a school holiday in lieu of Deepavali which falls on Saturday 29 October 2016. We wish our Hindu friends a Happy Deepavali.

Annual Prize Giving Ceremony

The annual Prize Giving Ceremony will be held on Friday, 18 November 2016 from 10.00a.m. to 1.30p.m. All Primary 1 to Primary 5 prize winners and their parents are invited to join us for the ceremony. A separate notification will be provided to award recipients and their parents on a later date. There will be no school for all students except for the award recipients.

We look forward to a meaningful celebration and our congratulations to all award recipients and their families.

CCA Achievement Day

The CCA Achievement Day will be held on Friday, 18 November 2016 from 8.00a.m. to 10.00a.m. This is to recognise the achievements of our students in their CCAs. The awardees will be presented with their awards alongside with those who have done well academically. Through this ceremony, we hope to emphasise to our students that BPPS values the holistic development of each and every child. Students from the following CCAs will be honoured for their achievements at the Singapore Youth Festival and inter-school competitions:



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Category	CCAs
Performing Arts	Band, Choir, Chinese Dance, Indian Dance, Malay Dance, Modern Dance
Sports	Basketball, Swimming, Wushu

Release of answer scripts for P2-5 Semestral Assessment 2

To provide parents with a better sense of the overall academic performance of their child, we will release the answer scripts for P2-5 Semestral Assessment 2 for all subjects on 9 November 2016 (Wed). Report books for the respective levels will be released on the following dates:

Level	Date
P4	11 November 2016 (Fri)
P1, P2, P3, P5	15 November 2016 (Tue)
P6	To be given together with PSLE result slips.

2017 Class Allocation

I have communicated during the Meet the Parents sessions as well as the Breakfast with Parents on my intention to allocate classes a little differently.

We will be banding the P2 to P4 students based on their performance in the SA2. We believe that a more homogenous group of students will enable us to better address their differing needs.

The P1 students will move up to P2 en-bloc with minor movements while the P5 will move on to P6 with minor movements as well.

The needs of low progress students will continue to be addressed through smaller classes and more support.

Please be assured that the school has put in place a rigorous process to ensure that the banding exercise is fair and equitable.



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Follow up on engagement session with P1 parents on the new PSLE scoring

Thank you for attending the above session conducted on 16 September 2016 (Fri). For those who were not able to join us, the details of the changes can be found at MOE's website: www.moe.gov.sg/PSLE. A copy of the PSLE brochure has also been given to your child.

Sharing

Are we expecting too much?

"Clear expectations, paired with loving and supportive attitudes, can help children to learn manners, social skills, study skills, and other tools they will need to succeed in school and in society."

*by Mrs Jenny Yeo, retired Principal
Taken from Schoolbag.sg, Ministry of Education*

I was walking to my Primary One class when a pupil told me John⁺ was crying. I found out he had scored 98 out of 100 marks for his Chinese test, which was a fantastic score that he should have been proud of. But no, John was afraid to go home as his mother would cane him for not achieving a perfect score! My heart went out to John.

Another child, Mark⁺, was in Primary Four when I saw him crying quietly at the General Office. He scored 83 marks for Mathematics but blamed himself for the errors in his answers. He too, was afraid to return home.

A year later when I left the school, Mark made a very creative photo album as my farewell gift. In it was a note that read, "Dear Mrs Yeo, do you remember the day that you consoled me for getting low marks? I would like to thank you for telling me to be strong, and that everybody makes mistakes."

These incidents in my career as a teacher and principal altered my expectations of my own children's academic achievements. I decided that I would certainly not want to create pressure and foster performance anxiety in my children. Just achieve your personal best, I would tell them.

Parental expectations can have a strong and positive effect on a child's academic success. In a study published by the Harvard Family Research project, Professor William H. Jaynes of California State University at Long Beach found that parental expectations affected children's academic outcomes more than other types of parental involvement, including attendance of school events and the setting of clear rules.



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Clear expectations, paired with loving and supportive attitudes, can help children to learn manners, social skills, study skills, and other tools they will need to succeed in school and in society.

To establish healthy academic and behavioural expectations, parents should be aware of their children's unique needs, skills, strengths, and maturity levels. Also, avoid comparing them to others, as every child develops at a different rate.

Unrealistically high expectations can set a child up for failure, anxiety, discouragement and low self-esteem when the child cannot live up to his or her parents' goals. Conversely, low expectations can make it difficult for children to realise and achieve their full potential. It is better to create small, manageable goals to ensure that our children progress in their learning while not feeling daunted.

I helped Jane⁺, a Primary 1 student who was scoring zero out of ten marks in her spelling tests, by encouraging her to learn just one word instead of ten per test. Jane tried and managed to spell the word correctly. I then increased the number of words to two, and then to three. Over time, Jane finally achieved a perfect score of ten marks. I heard she has since graduated from university. I feel so proud of her and I am sure she feels the same about herself.

+Names have been changed to protect the identity of the students

Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan
Principal

If you can dream it, you can do it ~ Walt Disney