



29 August 2016

From the Principal's Desk...

IN TOUCH 09/2016

Dear Parents,

Teachers' Day is a time that we express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our teachers for their dedication and tireless efforts in shaping the minds and hearts of our students. It takes a big heart to shape little minds and the impact that teachers have in our children is beyond measure. "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" by Henry Adams encapsulates the important role of a teacher. The school will be celebrating Teachers' Day on 1st September followed by a staff dinner.

The month of September also sees our Primary 6 students sitting for their PSLE. As this is the first time that they will be sitting for a National Examination, please continue to walk with them in this journey and provide them with the love, support, patience and care. I believe with the strong home-school partnership, our students will reap what they have sowed and enjoy their fruits of success. More importantly, this journey has helped to develop in our students' a growth mindset, the ability to take setbacks as checkpoints and overcome challenges

Achievements

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) –Writing

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

Name	Class	Award	Name	Class	Award
Elliot Chew	P2-C	Distinction	Sundaravel Laavanya	P4-D	Distinction
Yow Lok Mann	P2-D		Brandon Loo	P4-D	
Tan Yu Yang	P2-E		Freya Low	P4-E	
Claire Koh	P2-G		Soh Yan Xi	P4-G	
Naomi Lim En Qi	P3-E		Joshua Tung	P6-E	



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6th International Youth Dance Festival

On 21 August 2016 (Sun), our Chinese and Modern Dance groups took part in the above competition at Gold Theatre of the Golden Mile Tower. Our dancers were assessed by the Festival judges (70%), the live audience (20%) and the public votes on Facebook (10%). Despite facing stiff competition from the secondary schools, both our Chinese and Modern Dance groups attained Gold in the Festival. This feat would not have been possible without the dedication of the dancers and the strong support of the teachers, instructors and parents. Thank you!

Primary 1 and 2 'SPEAK AND ACT' 2016

Primary 1 and 2 students have just completed a 10-session 'Speak and Act' English Language enrichment programme which was conducted in Term 3 during English Language lessons. During these sessions, students were exposed to the English Language in an informal environment while they were trained in proper speech techniques like good pronunciation, rhythm, expression and voice projection. Opportunities were also given for pupils to explore ideas and feelings, to think imaginatively and to express themselves creatively.

The climax of the programme was the two special performances put up for the pupils' parents/families on 4 August 2016 (Thu) and 11 August 2016 (Thu) by each participating Primary 1 and Primary 2 class respectively.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the students' families who were present on that special day and to all the students for a job well done.

EL Fortnight: 'Characters come alive'

On 26 July 2016 (Tue), heroes and villains from stories came 'alive' as students dressed up as characters from their favourite book or movie. The Primary 1, 2 and 3 students were treated to a fun-filled assembly programme which saw both teachers and students parading and performing as various heroes and villain characters. 'Characters Come Alive' is part of the English Fortnight activity which aims to bring across the important message of reading and the importance of characterisation in any form of stories.

It also showcased a fractured fairy tale skit - 'Hansel and Gretel' performed by students from Primary 1 and Primary 2.

Opportunities were also given to students to participate in many fringe activities such as storytelling, colouring, pen-a-message, doodling and EL games.



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Values in Action – CCA Outreach Programme

The Indian Dance group was invited to grace the Racial Harmony Day Celebrations organised by the Senja-Cashew Community Club on 30 July 2016 (Sat). The joyful and dynamic dance, 'Josh', was showcased to the Guest-of-Honour, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, as well as the public who attended the event. It was an enriching and exciting experience for the Indian Dance group. The colourful Indian Dance costumes certainly adds on to the vibrancy and diversity of culture as part of the Racial Harmony celebrations.

Teachers' Day Celebrations

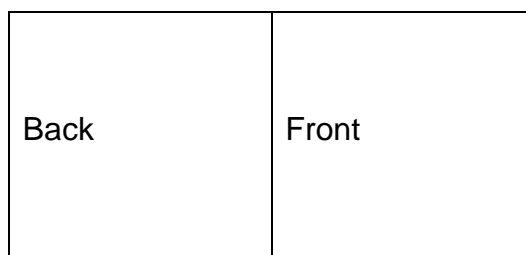
This year's Teachers' Day Celebrations will be held on 1 September 2016 (Thu). To express our appreciation and gratitude to the teachers, our student councillors and Parent Support group are organising the annual Teachers' Day concert. Some of the highlights of the concert include: a video montage that features our teachers' in action and a skit that pays tribute to the contributions made by our teachers' and their impact on our students' lives. In addition, there will be a game segment led by the Student Councillors where teachers will join in the fun. A mass sing along session brings the celebration to finale.

Please be informed that 2 September 2016 (Fri) is a school holiday, thus students are not required to report to school.

2017 Student's Diary Cover Design Art Competition

The school is holding a competition for the design of the cover of the 2017 student's diary. This competition is open to all Primary 1 to 6 students. The rules of the competition are:

1. Designs submitted must be original and students' own – not assisted by others.
2. Designs should not have been produced elsewhere.
3. Designs should be on an A4-sized paper, folded in half to show the front and back of the diary.





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4. Designs should be in colour.
5. Designs should show the following:
 - Theme: Features of BPPS
 - Artist Statement: a short paragraph explaining the idea behind the design
6. Students need to indicate their name and class on the other side of the design.

The students will be judged on the following criteria:

Clarity of theme	- 30%
Creativity & originality	- 40%
Artist's Impression	- 30%

All entries are to be deposited in the box outside the school hall titled '2017 Student's Diary Cover Design Art Competition'. The closing date has been extended to 15 September 2016 (Thu). Students can approach their Art teacher if they require more details. Please note that the judges' decision is final.

Release of answer scripts for P3-5 Continual Assessment 2

To provide parents with a better sense of the overall academic performance of their child, we will release the answer scripts for P3-5 Continual Assessment 2 for all subjects on 30 August 2016 (Tue).

Follow up on workshops for parents and Principal's address

We would like to thank all parents and guardians for joining us at the sharing sessions held last month for the P1, 2, 4 and 5 levels. The presentation slides for the above sessions can be found on the school website:

Partner's Corner, School Updates, School-Based Sharing Sessions webpage.
(<http://www.bukitpanjangpri.moe.edu.sg/cos/o.x?c=/wbn/pagetree&func=view&rid=1259714>).

Errata

Please note that the PSLE marking exercise is from **17 October (Mon) to 20 October (Thu) 2016**. Students are not required to report to school on these days. The dates indicated in the August issue of In Touch are incorrect. We apologise for the error made.



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Sharing

Your grades do not define you

“Instead of focusing only on academic success, let’s impart our children a lesson on self-worth from the way we value their attitude, effort and strengths.”

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

“Your grades do not define you” said Mr Jack Cook.

That was Debbie’s defining moment.

Debbie, a perfectionist, always had the best academic results in her earlier years at school. However, when studying Economics at Junior College, she was thrown off balance. Despite putting more effort, hard work as well as getting extra coaching from her teacher, Mr Cook, Debbie just could not grasp the subject. She could not understand nor accept the poor grades she got for her Economics examination. She felt ashamed and guilty; so much so that she avoided her teacher and did not visit the school after graduation.

A few years later, when Debbie heard that Mr Cook was retiring and leaving Singapore, she plucked up her courage to visit and bid him farewell.

Mr Cook greeted Debbie with a big smile and warmly welcomed her. She asked him sheepishly if he remembered her as the only student who scored a ‘D’ in his Economics class. Mr Cook simply replied, **‘I hope that you didn’t let the ‘D’ define you.’** In that moment, Debbie learnt a valuable lesson on self-worth.

She realised that her apprehension and fears were unfounded and unnecessary. Her teacher remembered her well and fondly, not for her grades, but for her attitude, efforts and character.

“I was always pleased to see students return to visit and stay for long chats, especially those who supposedly did 'badly' at my subject. Like Debbie, it was the bane of their life,” said Mr Cook, “It meant that they don’t hold it against me; but more importantly, they weren’t holding it against themselves and moved on.”

“Many of the happiest, most fulfilled people I’ve met have had their moments of self-doubt and failures as students. That setbacks are there to be learned from is a terrible cliché, but true,” said Mr Cook.

This episode changed Debbie’s perception about herself and her values. She realised that her focus on academic excellence had set her up for failure precisely because she was so afraid of failing. Debbie learnt that people had different talents and strengths. The key was to accept and



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work on our weaknesses, and hone our strengths. She understood that it was more important to be resilient, enjoy learning and pursue it passionately.

Later, Debbie became a teacher and her experience shaped her approach. At a Secondary School, she noticed that a student, Dan, was struggling with Mathematics and Science but was incredibly gifted in Art. Debbie spoke to Dan's parents during a parent-teacher meeting, encouraging them to recognise his talent and not focus only on his grades. She was confident that Dan could be a successful artist in future. Dan was encouraged because his teacher recognised his talent and did not penalise him for aspects he struggled with. Over time, he honed his artistic skills and was also motivated to do his best in his academic subjects.

Carol Dweck, psychologist and a professor at Stanford University, a pioneering researcher in the field of motivation, says, "Praise the process that kids engage in: their effort, their strategies, their focus, their perseverance, their improvement." In other words, focus on the process, not the end result.

Just like Mr Cook and Debbie, we all need to look beyond academic success for our children. As parents, we must not let grades define our child but instead, should focus on their attitude, effort and strengths. Show them that we love them unconditionally, that we accept them for who they are, regardless of their grades.

Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan
Principal

Learning never exhaust the mind ~ Leonardo da Vinci