

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

*Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens*

18 January 2017

*From the Principal's Desk...*

## **IN TOUCH 1/2017**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings!

I hope you have had a rejuvenated year-end break with your family. My staff and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and our students to a new school year.

At the end of 2016, we reviewed our school's mission and values. The staff went through a process of extensive review of the school's direction against the current educational landscape and school profile. After a series of discussions, our new mission "Developing our students holistically in a vibrant and caring environment" was developed. Taking reference from the vision and mission, we have revised our core values to Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Compassion and Gratitude. We will work towards instilling these values in our students.

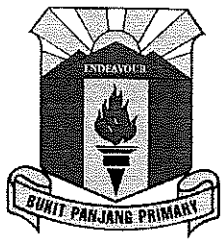
As we forge ahead in 2017, we will continue to commit ourselves to developing our students holistically and preparing them for the future. To achieve this, we will strive to inculcate a mindset of excellence in our staff and students. In the area of staff development, we continue to focus on strengthening the quality teaching and learning against the demands of the changing student profile. This would be achieved through strengthening our processes and enhanced partnership with CPDD, ELIS and NIE.

In the area of student development, we have also introduced a new initiative, the "START-It-Right Programme". This initiative aims to engage our students and thereby allowing them to better assimilate into the school environment through various activities such as team bonding and target setting.

We look forward to another fulfilling year of close partnership with you.

### **Our Direction**

Vision:	Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens
Mission:	Developing our students holistically in a vibrant and caring environment
Motto:	Endeavour
School Values:	Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Compassion and Gratitude



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- Strategic Thrusts:
1. Achieving Academic Excellence
  2. Developing staff and enhancing staff well-being
  3. Moulding the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of every student through a rich and varied co-curricular programme
  4. Nurturing Character, Leadership and Citizenship

### **School Hours**

Please be reminded that curriculum hours are as follows:

7.30 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.

All students should attend school punctually and regularly throughout the year. They are encouraged to be in school by **7.15 a.m.** to participate in the pre-assembly programme. Absence from school must be supported with a medical certificate or a letter from the child's parent/guardian.

You can assist your child/ward to be punctual by:

- Helping him/her understand the importance of punctuality
- Ensuring the necessary transport arrangements are made to ensure your child's/ward's safety and that he/she arrives in school on time
- Ensuring that your child/ward has sufficient sleep and has time to eat breakfast before he/she comes to school.

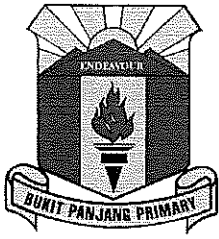
### **5 Golden Rules**

1. Listen and follow the teachers' instructions.
2. Raise your hands and wait for permission to speak.
3. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.
4. Do not touch anyone else with your hands, feet, or any object.
5. Use appropriate language.

### **Communication with the School**

The following are our modes of communication with you:

- Principal's monthly newsletter - In Touch
- Student's Diary
- School website
- Notification letters
- Dialogue sessions
- Annual Yearbook
- AsknLearn portal



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You can communicate with the school through:

- Student's Diary
- Teacher's individual email
- Telephone/fax: 67691912/67637462
- Email: [bpps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:bpps@moe.edu.sg)
- School visits (with prior appointment)
- Dialogue sessions
- AsknLearn portal

Please note that photograph(s) or video image(s) of you and your child/ward may be captured during school activities and events such as classroom lessons, CCA, camps, concerts, etc. The school may use and publish such photographs and/or video recordings in our school publications, website, social media channels and other official communication channels.

### **Attire**

At BPPS, we believe that proper attire and personal grooming (for example: neat hairstyle, nails are kept short, clean and not painted) are essential to the educational well-being of our students. Students are to wear the prescribed school uniform as stipulated in our Students' Diary 2017. They are only allowed to wear their PE attire on days when PE lessons are conducted and may wear the PE attire throughout that day. You may refer to page 13-14 of the student's diary for details.

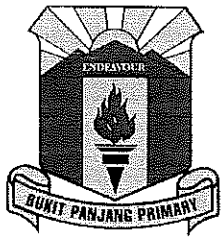
### **Security and Safety**

In our continuous effort to ensure the safety of all students, several procedures have been put in place.

- Parents who drive into the school compound in the morning are reminded to observe the speed limit (15Km/h) and to strictly follow the directions given by our traffic wardens. Only a single file of cars must be formed to ensure safety. If yours is the first car, please drive all the way to the front of the general office so as to lessen the jam.
- Please **DO NOT** make an illegal right turn when driving out from the main gate. Do obey the stop sign at the gate before turning left into the main road.
- The opening hours for the school gates are as follows:

Gate	Opening Hours
A	6:45 – 7:30 AM
B	6:45 – 8:00 AM
C	6:45 – 7.30 AM

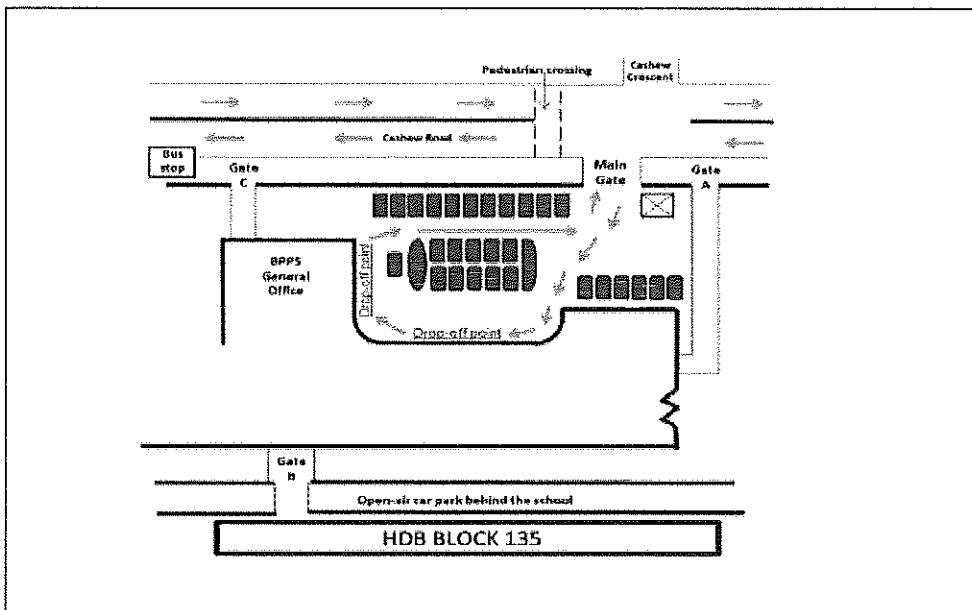
All gates will be re-opened at 1.15 p.m. for dismissal.



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- Please be reminded that parents/guardians coming into the school during school hours must register at the gate with our security guard and collect the visitor pass. Please display your visitor pass conspicuously at all times and proceed directly to our general office. Parents are strictly not allowed to loiter around in the school compound.



### **Student Protection Plan**

All students of BPPS are covered under the Student Protection Plan. The summary of Policy Coverage & Benefits will be given to you in January 2017. Should there be a need to make a claim, you can collect the claim form that is available in the General Office. The completed form must be submitted directly to the insurance company with original receipts attached.

### **MOE Financial Assistance Scheme**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) provides financial assistance to needy Singaporean students. The income criterion is \$2,500 or below (Gross Household Income) and \$625 or below (Per Capita Income). Application forms are available from the General Office.

### **Photo-Taking for Primary 1 and Primary 6 students for the School Smart Cards (SSC)**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will be conducting the yearly photo-taking exercise for all students in P1 and P6 for the School Smart Card (SSC). Please note that this photo-taking exercise is strictly for P1 and P6 students only. While P1 students will get their SSCs by end Mar 2017, the photo-images captured for P6 will be used for the printing of Secondary SSCs when they are promoted to Secondary One in 2018.

The photo-taking exercise will take place on Thursday, 23 February 2017. Please ensure that your child/ward is wearing his/her school uniform on that day.



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### **Supplementary and Remedial Lessons**

Please note that supplementary lessons and remedial lessons for English and Mathematics start in week 3 for Primary 2 to 6 students. Lessons for Primary 1 students will start at a later date so as to provide time for them to ease into the school environment. Please refer to the letters issued by the English/Mathematics teachers for the exact schedule.

### **Assessment**

The school supports holistic education and balances assessment for learning and assessment of learning. Students will be given feedback from the various assessment modes to help in their development. The assessment rubrics can be found on page 17 to 19 of the Student's Diary. We have also attached details of CA1s for P3-P6

Please note that there will be no make-up for all assessment. This is to ensure that results are valid and reliable. If your child/ward would like to take the tests/examinations when they return, they will be allowed to do so. However, the marks will not be included in the report book.

### **2016 PSLE Results**

The 2016 Primary 6 students did very well in the PSLE and made the school proud. 98.47% of our students are eligible for secondary school, which is above the National Average of 98.39%.

20 students succeeded in their application for Direct School Admission (DSA) to secondary schools of their choice.

### **Co-Curricular Activities**

The range of CCAs offered to P3-P6 students in 2017 can be found on page 20 of the student's diary. We strongly encourage BPPS students to take up a CCA as part of their holistic development. However, they are limited to a maximum of TWO CCAs only.

Students who participate in sports and games recognised by the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council (SPSSC) outside school on their own may be invited to represent the school for SPSSC zonal/national competitions. Kindly refer to the SPSSC website for the list of sports and games: <http://www.spssc.sg/>. Please inform the school if your child/ward falls under this category and is keen to represent the school in those competitions

### **Parent-Teacher Dialogue (PTD)**

We wish to inform you that the first PTD will be held on Friday, 10 March 2017. You will be able to meet the teachers and discuss your child's/ward's progress. It also allows the teachers to share with you on strategies to maximise your child's/ward's potential. Details on the PTD will be communicated at a later date.

The Principal's talk cum mingling session for the P6 parents was conducted on Friday, 13 January 2017. It was an engaging session and 200 parents attended the session.



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### **Mentoring Programme**

The school will be conducting this programme before the flag-raising ceremony every morning. The Mentoring Programme is a platform for 1-to-1 interaction between the teachers and the students. The objectives of this programme are to establish positive teacher-student relationship and identify the needs and concerns of our students.

### **Gifted Education Programme (GEP)**

The tentative dates for the GEP Screening and Selection Exercises are as follows:

- a) GEP Screening Exercise (English and Mathematics) – Wednesday, 23 August 2017
- b) GEP Selection Exercise (English, Mathematics and General Ability) – Thursday and Friday, 19 & 20 October 2017

Administrative details for the GEP Screening Exercise will be shared in July 2017.

### **SwimSafer Programme**

The ability to swim is a required learning outcome within the PE Syllabus 2014. Thus, in BPPS, the 8-week swimming programme is part of the broad-based movement education for all our students that covers a variety of learning areas in PE. Through the P3 SwimSafer Programme, the students will learn to be water-safe and acquire life-long swimming skills.

Water safety and water survival skills are essential for a child's safety. Hence, all students are required to participate in the swimming programme unless there are strong medical reasons for the child to be exempted. Permission for exemption must be sought from the school.

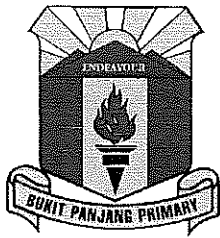
The Primary 3 students will be having their lessons at Chua Chu Kang Swimming Complex. As this programme will take place during curriculum time, students need to report to school as usual.

### **Keep Singapore Clean Movement in BPPS**

As you may have already known from the media last month, all schools will have daily cleaning from January 2017. This aims to provide students with learning experiences which allows them to cultivate good habits for life and also the sense of responsibility for self and others. We seek your support in this by encouraging your child on his/her good efforts in school. You may also like to establish a similar routine at home by encouraging your child to make his/her own bed after waking up, put away his/ her books and toys after use, help in simple household chores, etc.

### **'Elevenses' (Snack Break)**

Besides the daily half-hour recess break, we will be introducing an additional break between lessons. This is to improve our students' well-being, as according to an article on snacking in Kidshealth, snacks can keep younger children from getting so hungry that they become cranky, and can also keep older kids from overeating at larger meals. Our students will also be able to



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concentrate better in class. This 10-minute break will take place between 12.00 pm to 12.10 pm each day. As such, please prepare a healthy snack (eg: biscuits, bread, a packet of milk, finger food, healthy cereal bar, fruits [whole and not cut, as cut fruit loses its nutrients easily], etc for your child which can be consumed within 10 minutes.

### **Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebration, Friday, 27 January 2017**

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Friday, 27 January. As that day is the eve of the Chinese New Year, students will be dismissed at 10.30 am. All after-school activities such as remedial/supplementary classes and CCA will be suspended on that day. The following Monday, 30 January, will be a public holiday, while Tuesday, 31 January will be a school holiday. As such, students will only return to school on Wednesday, 1 February.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Chinese students and their families "A Happy and Prosperous Chinese New Year – 新年快乐, 万事如意!" and everyone a good holiday break.

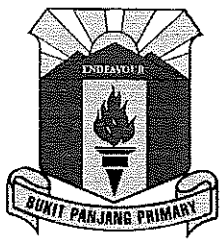
### **HealthHub- Online Portal by Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Board**

HealthHub is a one-stop information and services portal and mobile application by the Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Board. This portal allows you to access your child's immunisation, dental and school health records, lab test results and medical/ dental appointments (only for Public Health Institutions). You can visit [www.healthhub.sg](http://www.healthhub.sg) or download the app from the Google Play Store or Apple APP Store. After you have downloaded the app, login to MyHealth with your SingPass to access the health records of your child.

### **Staff Deployment**

We would like to warmly welcome the following staff to our BPPS family. They are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Teaching Subjects</b>
Ms Ng Sin Nee	SH/Innovation	English
Ms Lalitha Kasi Pandiyan	Teacher	Mathematics and Science
Ms Yogeetha Rajagopal	Teacher	English and Mathematics
Mr Lim Zonghan	Teacher	English and Social Studies
Ms Felecia Cheong Jia Hui	Teacher	Art
Mr Lim Yap Seng	Part-Time School Counsellor	-



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We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following outgoing staff for their dedicated service and wish them all the best as they embark on a new chapter in their life journey:

Name	Designation	School posted to
Mr Ravindran s/o Kanna	HOD CCE	Yew Tee Primary School
Mrs Rebecca Wong	ST/English	Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School
Mr Tan Kah Keong	Teacher	Greenridge Primary School
Mdm Norain Ahmad	Teacher	Horizon Primary School
Mdm Miao Rui	Teacher	Innova Primary School
Mrs Archana Shailesh	Teacher	CHIJ (Our Lady of Nativity) Primary School
Mdm Junaidah Senior	Teacher	No Pay Leave to accompany spouse overseas

### Sharing

**“How many times can I fail before I’m considered a failure?” by Mrs Sher-Li Torrey**  
*[taken from Schoolbag.sg, Ministry of Education]*

*“But I have seen that successful people are usually the ones who find the strength in them to say, ‘I’ll find a way to pick myself up.’”*

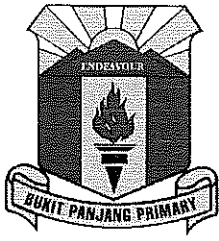
The fear of failure is something that Sher-li Torrey often encounters in her conversations with students.

The Founder and Director of Mums@Work, a career portal that offers flexi-work solutions for mothers, says, “If the first, second or even third job you have isn’t what you’re looking for, it doesn’t mean that they’re failures. You have to think of how each job has developed your skills and helped you discover what you value. I always see them as learning points in life.”

This is the advice that Mrs Torrey wants students to walk away with at the end of the Education and Career Guidance (ECG) talks she conducts in schools.

Mrs Torrey is no stranger to the idea of “failure” and self-doubt. In her mid-20s, she had left her job at IE Singapore to head to northeast Japan to teach English to high school kids. She didn’t speak any Japanese, but had decided to take the plunge to gain exposure to other cultures. Her father was against her decision and at times, she had doubted her move, particularly when she heard from her peers who were moving up the ranks in their careers. It’s not failure; it’s time to try something new.





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"When people say something is a failure, it's when they think they are stuck," Mrs Torrey says. She remembers a Normal Technical student who asked her whether he would get a job and have a successful career. He wasn't hopeful about his future at that point in his life. Mrs Torrey's advice to him was that he should think about the goals he can work towards instead of focusing on what he didn't achieve.

"If you're feeling stuck, ask yourself, 'Am I really stuck or I just think that I am?'" Mrs Torrey says. What if you shift your mindset and start looking for an opportunity to move out?"

Flying without fear of failure

What can parents do to nurture kids who are ready to bounce back after failure?

Mrs Torrey likens the challenge of parenting to flying a kite. If you want the kite to fly high, you need to loosen the string. When the wind changes, the kite may dip but you can always pull back to prevent it from falling.

While finding the right balance is not easy, says Mrs Torrey, who has a daughter in Primary 2 and a four-year-old son, here are some of her suggestions for nurturing kids who are resilient and not afraid to fail:

**Allow your kids to experience setbacks or missteps early in life.**

As parents, it may be hard for you to watch your kids struggle, but you're doing them a favour. Kids who learn to overcome challenges at a young age grow into resilient teenagers and adults.

Mrs Torrey recalls how her daughter had to make an impromptu presentation in Chinese class and it was a "nightmare". Some parents wanted time for students to prep for these presentations to protect their children from embarrassment. But Mrs Torrey decided to speak with her daughter more frequently in Chinese at home. Over time, her daughter's Chinese improved and she was able to make impromptu presentations with confidence.

**Recognise that it's their life not yours.**

Parents are too quick to tell their children what to do. "When my daughter told me she wanted to play the piano, I told her to pick up the violin as it was something I would have done." One way to avoid falling into this trap, Mrs Torrey says, is to think of your own career path and what you would have done differently. Ask yourself: Are you imposing your dreams on your child?

**Find a middle path.**

What if your child's dream seems unrealistic to you? A polytechnic lecturer told Mrs Torrey that he was discouraging his son from wanting to be an opera singer because "he can't sing for nuts". Mrs Torrey's advice is that parents strike a balance between their desires and their kids'. Encourage children to pursue varied interests instead of telling them what's not going to work out. "So, if opera singing doesn't work out, he'll have a backup path. Or he could prove you wrong and succeed."



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**It's not always about getting the answers right.**

Before becoming a full-time “mumpreneur”, Mrs Torrey was head of the postgraduate team at the Office of Career Services at the Singapore Management University (SMU). She shares that at group interviews, some students would be so fixated on giving the right answers, they would not speak up unless they were sure. This didn't work in their favour. As Mrs Torrey points out, employers are looking for candidates who can think on their feet, are not afraid to try something new, and who have tenacity and can bounce back after a setback.

**Know when to step in.**

When Mrs Torrey's daughter came home with a score of one out of 10 for her Maths test and wasn't even bothered by it, she knew she had to talk to her. Her daughter said that she had no interest in the subject. Instead of making her daughter do more practice questions, she found ways to teach her Maths through games and puzzles. Mrs Torrey's advice is that before you jump into solving the problem, talk to your kid and find out what the issue is.

**Don't feel guilty about letting your child fail.**

You are not pulling the rug out from under their feet. You're allowing small areas of risk-taking in their growing-up years so that they're able to better identify and assess what's at stake when they make decisions later in life.

But are there failures that you can't afford? “There'll be ones that are very painful,” Mrs Torrey says. “But I have seen that successful people are usually the ones who find the strength in them to say, ‘I'll find a way to pick myself up.’”

Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan  
Principal

*“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”*  
— Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*