

3 April 2018

Newsletter to Parents – The April Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A very warm welcome back to Term 2! You will find that this term is a hectic one for both our students and teachers as it is the peak period for competitions, performances and school events amidst our students' learning and preparation for the mid-year examinations.

Celebrating our Tradition of Excellence

One of the first school events in the term was our 73rd Speech Day on 29 March (Thursday). I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to parents, alumni, School Advisory Committee (SAC) and Parents@Xinmin (P@X), our parents support group, for their support and presence at the event.

I would also like to, once again, extend my heartiest congratulations to all the prize winners and the recipients of our school's pinnacle awards. We are incredibly proud of all our students and I would like to take this opportunity to specially mention the following students for their outstanding performance and contribution in the physical, aesthetics, social and leadership domains:

Award	Name of Student	Class/Year
L.E.A.D. Award and Valedictorian	Lee Zee Yan	406/2017
Chew Peng Leng Scholarship	Jalessa Law Xin Yi	402/2017
	Tang Lai Hoon, Tiffany	410/2017
Chew Peng Leng Award for Exemplary Service	Teng Xin Lin, Jolene	408/2017
Yap Fun Hong Award for Sports and Outdoor Education	Quek Shao Min, Charissa	401/2017
	Gilbert Tan Zhan Hong	405/2017
Heng Chin Soo Award for Visual, Creative & Performing Arts	Joanne Ku Wen Ai	401/2017
	Wong Min Zhi, Faith	406/2017
Tung Sey Yew Award for Leadership in the Uniformed Groups	Xu Xiaopeng	408/2017 501/2018

As I reflected after the event, it is clear that our students indeed have incredible potential and they will exceed our expectations if we – both the school and the home – partner each other to support their learning and growth. Of course, while both our students' parents and the school firmly believe in wanting the best for the child, we may sometimes have different ideas about how we should go about doing it, or even agreeing on what is 'best'. In such instances, I sincerely hope that we can have open communications, underpinned by mutual respect, to find the best way to support your child towards his/her aspirations.

Preparing Our Students for the Future

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a conference in which our Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Mr Ong Ye Kung, shared that, in light of the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous future ahead, schools should develop in all our students three essential life skills. First of which was to help our students know themselves; the second was to give our students a strong foundation in both the English Language and their Mother Tongue Language; and lastly, we should develop in our students the ability to think critically. In his address, Minister Ong also asserted that, with the SkillsFuture movement, the approach of front-loading our students (i.e. try to teach them everything while they were still in school) was slowly, but surely, being challenged. What is more important is that we teach our students important life skills.

While Minister's address affirms our school's efforts to prepare our students for the future by developing in them important attitudes, skills and knowledge through our various programmes and approaches, it is also important for parents to share these beliefs and support our efforts, especially with regard to helping our students know themselves.

Although we have, as part of our Education and Career Guidance programme, designed different learning experiences to expose our students to options for further education and the world of work, it is also important that you have conversations with your child about what he/she aspires towards at home. At the school's end, we are also working with our P@X members to organise sessions to keep parents abreast of the rapid changes in our further education landscape.

Supporting Your Child's Learning

As mentioned earlier, Term 2 is a very hectic time for our students. While we are heartened that our students will generally do their best in whatever they undertake, and strike a balance between their academic and co-curricular activity commitment, it is important that they need to learn to take care of themselves too. Through conversations with some students, I get concerned when I learnt that a number of them study well into the night and get insufficient sleep.

Even as we endeavor to regulate our students' overall homework, assessment and co-curricular activity loads, we need you to also encourage your child to get sufficient rest. It will be helpful for our students to learn to optimise the limited time and energy they have and be courageous enough to seek help from others (e.g. from their parents, friends or teachers) when they find that they have difficulty coping. These are important life skills that our students will need for their future and we hope to partner you to help them acquire these skills while they are still in Xinmin.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

International Friendship Day (6 April)

Xinmin will commemorate International Friendship Day (IFD) on 6 April (Friday). The theme this year is *Celebrating the ASEAN community*. With chairmanship of ASEAN and our leading of the milestone celebration beyond ASEAN's 50th anniversary, one of the highlights of the celebration includes sing-along song performances put up by local and international students in different languages to celebrate our shared success and the growth and resilience of the ASEAN people in our journey thus far. Through greater openness and mutual inter-dependence, we hope to inspire students to play an active role in fostering economic and people-to-people ties, reinforcing our sense of togetherness and strengthening our ASEAN identity.

On 2 April (Monday), students will receive an IFD Special Edition of the Straits Times student newspaper IN to keep them informed about the key messages of IFD. There will also be feature

articles to give students up-to-date information about IFD. We encourage you to discuss with your child the key issues so that they may develop balanced perspectives.

During their Character and Citizenship (CCE) lesson, Secondary Four and Five students will learn about ASEAN's diverse cultures and cultural sensitivities while Secondary Threes will get to play an ASEAN country traditional game and a local Singaporean childhood game, conducted by international and local students. Secondary Twos will participate in an ASEAN fusion food competition where they will brainstorm and cook up fusion food encompassing ASEAN food culture. Secondary Ones will participate in an engaging puzzle game to understand the values and attitudes that influence the way of life in ASEAN countries.

Last Day for CCA (17 April)

All CCA activities for students will cease two weeks before the start of the mid-year examinations. Do note that there will be no more CCA activities for your child from 17 April (Tuesday) onwards. CCA will resume after the end of the mid-year examinations.

IMDA Lab on Wheels (19 – 20 April)

The technology-equipped buses under the IMDA Lab on Wheels Programme will be coming to our school on 19 and 20 April. The programme comprises guided bus visits and specialised workshops for our Secondary One students. On board, they will have opportunities to experiment with various cool new tech exhibits spanning across cutting-edge fields such as Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Robotics, Electronics and 3D-printing. In addition, the mini workshops will engage their young minds and bring experiential learning as they learn to construct and tinker with various types of coding programmes. This entire experience will definitely broaden their perspectives on technology and raise their interests in fields related to Computing and Engineering.

Arts Showcases by Performing Arts CCAs (April)

Our Band, Chinese Dance, Chinese Opera, Choir, Drama and MLDDS CCAs have organised sold-out showcases in March, which were well-received by the school community and members of the public.

The Choir and *Guzheng* Ensemble CCAs will be organising their respective showcases to educate and enrich participants' understanding and appreciation of the arts. The line-up is as follows:

CCA Involved	Name	Date	Time	Cost
Choir	Melizo	Friday, 6 April	7.30pm	\$10
<i>Guzheng</i>	Xinthesis VI (<i>Guzheng</i>)	Saturday, 7 April	3.00pm and 7.30pm	\$8 (3.00pm) \$10 (7.30pm)

Limited tickets are still available and you may purchase them through your child/ward. Do purchase them early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact Mr Josh Wong at wong_han_xian@moe.edu.sg should you require more details.

ACADEMIC & CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS

Oral Examinations (17 to 27 April)

The English and Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Oral Examinations for Secondary Two, Four and Five students will take place from 17 April (Tuesday) to 27 April (Friday). Secondary 3NT and Secondary Three Higher Mother Tongue students will be sitting for the MTL Oral Examinations too. The subject teachers will inform students of their individual examination dates.

Mid-year Examinations (27 April to 11 May)

The mid-year examinations for all levels are scheduled to start on 27 April (Friday) and end on 11 May (Friday). The exam schedule has been uploaded on the school website. Students are required to report to school at the usual timing of 7.30 am if they have been scheduled to take the first paper of the day. If students have been scheduled to take only the second paper of the day, they must report to school by 10.30 am. If no papers have been scheduled or if the papers scheduled are not applicable, students do not need to report to school during the examination period.

During the period between 27 April and 11 May, there will be no examination on these dates for all students:

- 1 May (Tuesday) – Labour Day Public Holiday
- 14 May (Monday) – Marking Day (students need not come to school)

The format and list of topics that will be tested for the various subjects during the mid-year examinations can be found on our website: [Study Here](#) → [Assessment](#) → [Mid-year Exam Topics](#).

Students will be briefed on the rules and regulations as well as the logistical aspects of the examinations. These instructions to students are also available on the school website: [Study Here](#) → [Assessment](#) → [Instructions to Students](#).

Students who are absent for any paper of the examinations must submit a Medical Certificate (MC) to the subject teacher and the form teacher on the day he/she returns to school. The school will then adjust the student's grades accordingly so as to not unduly penalise the student. Students who do not have a valid reason for their absence for any paper will be given zero marks for that paper. In general, letters from parents excusing their children from sitting for the examinations will not be accepted unless there are valid reasons.

Roll Out of the Singapore Student Learning Space

As part of Ministry of Education's (MOE) commitment to nurture future-ready learners, the Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS) – an online learning platform – has been developed by MOE in collaboration with students and teachers. Your child will soon be able to access quality curriculum-aligned resources, curated and developed by MOE and teachers across all grade levels. A separate ID and password slip will be handed to your child soon. Please remind your child to activate his student account during the account activation window period specified by the school. Students without internet access at home may choose to activate their accounts in the school library. Further information on the SLS is available in Annex A.

Revised MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (with effect from 1 April 2018)

MOE has revised the income eligibility criteria for MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) with effect from 1 April 2018. The key changes are as follows.

	Current	Revised from 1 April 2018
Income Criteria	- Gross monthly Household Income (GHI) of \$2,500 and below; or - Gross monthly household per capita income (PCI) of \$625 and below	- GHI of \$2,750 and below; or - PCI of \$690 and below

All previously rejected 2018 applications for MOE FAS which meet the new income criteria will be granted the benefits offered under MOE FAS.

Families and students who meet the revised income criteria are invited to obtain the application forms at our General Office and submit to the school by Monday, 16 April 2018. This will allow the school to render the FAS benefits to families which meet the revised criteria from the month of May 2018.

Safety Beyond the School Compound

We have observed an increase in the number of Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) and bicycles e.g. e-scooters and electric bicycles etc. by members of the public just outside the vicinity of our school. Some of these PMDs and electric bicycles have been seen to be travelling at high speeds along pedestrian crossings, pavements and bus stops. We advise our students and visitors to be watchful and alert, and to avoid getting into contact with these high-speed PMD users to prevent injury.

We thank all parents for your continued support of the school and our programmes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarifications. We can be reached via email at xinmin_ss@moe.edu.sg or you can call us at 6288 9382.

Yours faithfully



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

SINGAPORE STUDENT LEARNING SPACE

As part of its commitment to nurturing future-ready learners, the Ministry of Education had announced that all students in Singapore schools will be supported in their learning by the Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS), an online learning platform that contains curriculum-aligned resources and learning tools.

With the SLS, students will be able to learn better through the use of technology. Students will be able to learn anytime, anywhere, and at their own pace, whether independently or with their peers. Teachers will also be able to use the SLS to complement their classroom teaching, further enriching students' learning experience. Through effectively harnessing the affordances of the SLS platform, we also support students' engaged learning and 21st century competencies development. This is in line with our school's aim of helping our students become future-ready.

SLS is being rolled out to all schools in phases. The students in our school will be given their accounts in **April 2018**. Our teachers will guide your child in activating the SLS account and using the learning platform.

We look forward to your support as we help our students strengthen their learning through the SLS.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal