



6 February 2018

Newsletter to Parents – The February Edition

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

In the blink of an eye, four weeks have passed and we are in the middle of the first term. I hope that your child is settling well in both the academic and co-curricular settings, and is enjoying his/ her learning experiences in school.

Celebrating Tradition

In Xinmin, we have a long tradition of excellence in both the academic and student development areas. Our 2017 Secondary 4 Express and Secondary 5 cohorts did very well in their O-Level examinations. We are proud of their achievements and wish them the very best in their next stage of education. Details about our O-Level results are mentioned in the Academic Matters section below.

As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, our students also exercised their creativity in decorating their classrooms and in participating in the Chinese New Year music video competition. As I was walking along the corridors of our classrooms in the afternoons, I was very heartened to see our students enthusiastically making festive decorations out of Chinese New Year red packets and other recyclable materials, and putting them up together as a class. Our students also demonstrated their inventiveness when remixing elements of popular and traditional music when creating their Chinese New Year music videos.

Making a Difference to the Community

A tradition that we want to pass on to successive generations of Xinmin students is the desire to serve the community. A signature learning experience for all Xinmin students, our Spring-It-Up project combines educating our students on the Chinese culture of spring cleaning before the new year with our efforts in environmental education. In helping the community recycle unwanted paper and clothes, our students would have the opportunity to learn about the importance of reducing waste and recycling. This learning experience also provides us with the opportunity to inculcate the values of responsibility and respect in students, thereby contributing to their character development.

Our students also develop empathy for the less fortunate and share our abundant blessings through our Chinese New Year Hamper collection project. They will put together food hampers as a class and hand-deliver them to needy families in the community.

Partnership with Parents

Even as we hope to develop our students' environmental awareness, and inculcate in them values and dispositions such as responsibility, respect and empathy, our efforts alone would not be sufficient without the strong support from you.

We understand that Chinese New Year is a time for many families to renew ties and catch up with friends and relatives. As a school, we support this but also appreciate the care that our parents exercise in managing the time their children will be away from school for overseas visitations. As you know, curriculum time is precious and it would be best for the learning and development of your child if we could minimise disruptions to this curriculum time.

To the parents of our Secondary One students, welcome once again to the Xinmin family, and thank you for taking the time to attend our first Parent Engagement Session on 5 January. Our teachers were happy to get to know you better, and I hope our presentations have given you an idea of our school's approach towards developing your child's character and supporting them in their learning in the various domains.

I also hope that the parents who attended either the Chinese Language News in Education workshop on 20 January, or the Parents Engagement Session with Malay Language teachers on 26 January, found the sessions useful. These are some examples of activities and workshops that are organised by our parent support group, Parents@Xinmin (P@X) for parents to promote bonding with their children and encourage them to be involved in their children's life-long learning.

Lastly, it is my pleasure to introduce to you our new Chairperson of our parent support group, Parents@Xinmin (P@X) for 2017, Ms Ng Chiew Yian. She is assisted by two Vice-Chairpersons, Ms Priscilia Pang and Ms Goh Yar Lan. I hope you can find time to participate in some of the activities organised and do feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with them.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Total Defence Day Commemoration (6 – 13 February)

To commemorate Total Defence Day, a series of activities has been lined up. A community emergency preparedness exercise on 6 February during Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons will kickstart the Total Defence Day Commemoration, where Secondary Two students will have a hands-on course on Basic First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator. This is followed by a school-wide fire drill on 8 February. On 13 February, an interactive performance 'Just A Colour' will be showcased, which shows the threat of terrorism as one that is a reality for our country and the importance of working towards community resilience.

During CCE lessons, the Secondary One students will also be attending the Commitment to Defence (C2D) programme which taps on retired SAF officers and members of the Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League as volunteers to engage and inspire students with their life stories of serving the nation, followed by the making of origami flowers for their friends to express their hope for peace and harmony. Secondary Two, Four and Five students will be engaged in a mini-competition of the Guardian of the City card game facilitated by Uniformed Group students, to learn the importance of what it means to prepare, respond and recover in times of crisis and emergency.

Hamper Delivery (14 February)

Our students will be reaching out to 50 needy families in Hougang in collaboration with Covenant Family Service Centre by making hamper deliveries to these needy families, including the school's former cleaners. We hope that this will be a useful learning experience as our students understand the meaning of giving and sharing, and to appreciate what they have in life.

Chinese New Year Celebrations (15 February)

The school will celebrate Chinese New Year with a concert and some other exciting activities on 15 February (Thursday). Students will be dismissed at 10.30am and the school will be closed at 12pm. Please be informed that 19 February (Monday) will be a school holiday in-lieu of Chinese New Year.

Home-based Learning (HBL) (20 February)

The school provides the opportunity for students to experience an alternative form of learning through the use of technology. The purpose of Home-based Learning (HBL) is to prepare them to be future-ready and responsible learners. Learning materials and assignments from various subjects will be uploaded online via Edmodo/ Ace-Learning for access from home. In addition, the school has created an online module on Cyberwellness (Fake News & Protection from Scams) in view of emerging internet-related crimes. All students are encouraged to login and attempt the online module. We hope that through the module, students will broaden their understanding and take steps to protect themselves against such cyber-threats. **Students are not required to come to school on 20 February (Tuesday)**. If your child requires ICT support, he/she may use the computers available in the school library. Further information will be made available on the school website.

ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS

2017 GCE O-level Results

In the recent release of the 2017 GCE O-level results, 94% of our Sec 4 Express students are eligible for admission to a Junior College and 90% of our Sec 5 Normal (Academic) students are eligible for admission to a polytechnic. Several subjects, including English Language, Chinese Language, Higher Chinese, Elementary and Additional Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Combined Sciences, Geography, History, English Literature, Combined Humanities, Principles of Accounts and Design and Technology, obtained percentage distinctions that were higher than the national results. Our heartiest congratulations go out to all those who have achieved good results and to their parents/guardians and teachers who encouraged them all the way.

Among our top students who obtained 7 A1s and 8 A1s are students who were also outstanding leaders in their respective CCAs. At our Speech Day on 29 March, we will be honouring students who have done well in the national examinations, and have also excelled in other domains such as leadership, the visual and performing arts, service and sports.

Term 1 Common Tests (21 February to 6 March)

The Term 1 Common Tests are scheduled to take place from **21 February (Wednesday) to 6 March (Tuesday)**. The first period of each day will be used for tests. Lessons and CCAs will proceed as usual after the tests in the morning. Afternoon papers will also be conducted for some classes on 23 February (Friday) and 2 March (Friday) where the candidature is smaller. The detailed schedule can be found on the school website.

Subject-specific Assessment Plans for Sec 1-3 Students

We would like to provide you with information on the assessment weightings and components for each of the assessed subjects. Please refer to the respective tables attached with this newsletter in Annex A. Subjects not listed in the tables will not be assessed. However, they are nonetheless important subjects for the holistic development of your child.

For Secondary Four and Five students, the computation of the school grades will be based only on the scores obtained during the Preliminary Examinations in Term 3.

Students are strongly discouraged from being absent during the period of assessment. The school will only accept valid reasons e.g. illness (supported by medical certificate) for absence. For reasons deemed invalid, students may be given 'zero' for the test. We seek your understanding and support on this matter.

MOE Sexuality Education in Schools – The Growing Years Programme

As our students mature and develop into adults, the MOE Sexuality Education Programme helps students understand the physiological, social and emotional changes that they experience. As the primary care-givers, parents are responsible for the health and moral values of their children.

Please refer to the letter at Annex B for more information about the MOE Sexuality Education Programme. The school will require an acknowledgement from you concerning this.

Arts Showcases by Performing Arts CCAs

The Performing Arts CCAs will be organising a series of showcases to educate and enrich participants' understanding and appreciation of the arts. The line-up is as follows:

CCA Involved	Name	Date	Time	Cost
Chinese Dance and MLDDS	Xinthesis VI (Chinese Dance & MLDDS)	Friday, 23 March	7.30pm	\$10
Chinese Opera Troupe	Xinthesis VI (Chinese Opera)	Saturday, 24 March	9am	Free-of-charge
English Drama	Drama Night	Thursday, 29 March	4.30pm and 7.30pm	\$8 (4.30pm) \$10 (7.30pm)
Band	Xinfony	Saturday, 31 March	7.30pm	\$10
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)

You may purchase/obtain tickets to the showcase(s) through your child/ward from Week 8.

The school will resume the practice of rostering cohorts each year to attend selected arts showcases as part of the school's co-curriculum in developing every child in the aesthetics domain. Students will develop a keener appreciation of all art forms by attending these showcases in the course of their time in the school. Our approach also seeks to foster a stronger sense of camaraderie and support amongst students.

This year, **all Secondary Three students** will attend Drama Night on Thursday, 29 March. Students have a choice of attending either the 4.30pm or 7.30pm show. The cost is \$8 and \$10 respectively and can be paid via the school billing system or Edusave (if applicable). Your child/ward will select the show he will be attending through his form teacher. Your child/ward will pass you an acknowledgement form for you to sign and will need to return it to his form teacher.

For more information, please contact Mr Josh Wong, SH/ Arts Education at wong_han_xian@moe.edu.sg or Ms Ng Lee Hua, Year Head 3 at ng_lee_hua@moe.edu.sg.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Insurance Coverage for all Students

All students are covered by MOE Master Contract for Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance under NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Limited. Under this contract, students who participate actively or represent the school in the following sports and activities – badminton, shooting, volleyball, rock climbing and ODAC will be adequately covered. All claims submitted to the insurance provider, NTUC Income, must be endorsed by the school. If you find the coverage inadequate to meet your child's needs, you may consider purchasing your own insurance policy. The school will distribute the insurance coverage fact sheet to all parents via your child/ward on Tuesday, 6 February 2018 to provide you with more details.

Implementation of School Bill

As part of MOE's efforts to facilitate cashless payment, the school will be issuing a School Bill with effect from March 2018. Under this initiative, parents/guardians will be issued a statement for your child's/ ward's list of enrichment programmes and school charges for programmes planned by the school. An explanation note from MOE concerning the School Bill will be distributed to provide parents with a better understanding of the charges issued. This statement is separate from the current payment of school fees issued by MOE, otherwise known as MOE Bill.

NRIC Registration for 15 year-old Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents

ICA will be conducting an NRIC registration exercise for all 15 year-old Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents on 8 February 2018 from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm at the Multi-Purpose Hall. Parents will receive an ICA notification letter concerning the details of this registration exercise.

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 clarification. 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