

21 May 2018

Newsletter to Parents – The May-June Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are almost mid-way through the school year. Over the past few weeks, I have seen how our students worked intensely to prepare for their mid-year examinations. Although it is good to see students revising hard for their examinations, it is better to see them helping one another in revision. I am heartened to see that our students continue to live out the values of care, responsibility and mindset of excellence even in times of stress.

It is not all about the Marks

Our students would have received their examination papers back from their teachers. Some would be happy with their results, some would not. Regardless of how well they did, it is important to remind our students to focus on the learning, not just on their marks. The mid-year examinations contribute to students' overall grades. It also lets students know how well they have mastered what was taught to them over the past semester.

I would like to share the findings from an interesting research study of the impact of giving different kinds of feedback (i.e., grades only; grades with comments; comments only) to students. The study found that students who received grades as part of their feedback performed worse in a subsequent test than those who received only comments from teachers. The researchers concluded that this was because the grades distracted students from processing their teachers' comments. These comments often provided suggestions on how they might improve in their learning, and consequently do better in the next test!

As you talk to your children about their mid-year examinations, perhaps ask them questions like "how well have you mastered what your teacher taught you?", or "what skills or concepts would you still need to work on?" instead of just asking "how many marks did you get?" In helping your children to focus on the learning, we would also be helping them identify and bridge learning gaps. This would consequently help them to do better in their next round of assessments.

Essentially, it is learning to be Human

Just as how we should all aspire to lead balanced lives, our students' secondary school experience should not only be about the academics. My team of teachers and I work hard to design different learning experiences for our students. These experiences extend beyond the academic subjects and provide opportunities for students to try things that they would otherwise not have an opportunity to try.

Most of our students enjoy such diverse experiences. However, there were also times when students chose not to engage in these learning experiences due to various reasons. Some saw these as "time wasting". Others were unwilling to step out of their comfort zones.

I hope that you could work with us to encourage your child to fully engage in the different learning experiences we provide them with. Only then would we have an opportunity to help them learn more about themselves, and develop important 21st century competencies. More importantly, we

hope that these experiences would help our students forge wonderful memories of an important phase of their lives.

Have Conversations with your Child

At the beginning of the year, I shared with parents of our Secondary One cohort that secondary school is going to be a tumultuous phase in our students' lives. Not only do our students need to cope with physiological changes, they also undergo significant social and emotional growth. As parents, we want to be there to support our children through different phases of their lives. One way to do that in this exciting period of growth would be for you to have conversations with your child. It need not be limited to discussing serious life decisions. Even asking how they are enjoying their school experience would allow you to gain a better understanding of your child. It would also let them feel the love, care and concern you have for them.

ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS IN MAY AND JUNE

Resumption of CCAs (11 May)

All CCAs have resumed from 11 May. Please check with your child's CCA teachers with regard to June activities, if any.

Post-Exam Activities for Sec 1, 2 and 3 Students (21 – 25 May)

Here is the post-examination schedule. Please refer to the school website for the details of the programmes and further updates if any.

Day	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3
21 May (Mon)	- X'thetics Carnival [Dismissal – 12.40pm]	- X'thetics Carnival [Dismissal – 12.40pm]	- Multi-Sports Carnival [Dismissal – 12:40]
22 May (Tue)	- Inter-class games - Public Speaking Competition [Dismissal – 12.40pm]	- Mathematical Modelling (2E/2NA) - Code for Fun (2NT) - Public Speaking Competition - Drama Preparation [Dismissal – 1.40pm]	Sec 3 Level Camp
23 May (Wed)	- NE Learning Journey to Singapore Discovery Centre [Dismissal – 1.20pm]	- Inter-Class Games - Drama Preparation [Dismissal – 1.20pm]	Sec 3 Level Camp
24 May (Thu)	- Inter-class games - Aesthetics Performance - Preparation for Environmental Outreach Programme [Dismissal – 1.20pm]	- NE Learning Journey: Singapore Maritime Trail - Masak Masak* in the evening [Dismissal– 12pm/ 8.30pm*]	Sec 3 Level Camp
25 May (Fri)	- Environmental Outreach Programme - Form Teachers' Time - Principal's Talk [Dismissal – 12.40pm]	- Inter-class games - Principal's Talk - Form Teachers' Time [Dismissal – 12.40pm]	Sec 3 Level Camp

Masak Masak - Secondary 2 Drama-in-Curriculum Showcase (24 May)

“Masak Masak” is often used to refer to a child’s imaginative play. With this title, we invite you to reconnect with the wonder, innocence, and spontaneity of a child’s play, as you discover new ideas and fresh perspectives on drama-making at this showcase.

All Secondary 2 students have embarked on a journey to gain an experience in creating improvisations based on their knowledge of what drama entails. Students will present a series of short original performances they have made using a variety of stimuli introduced in class.

We look forward to seeing you at the showcase on 24 May (Thursday) from 7.30 to 8.30 pm if you have indicated that you will be attending the showcase. For more information, please contact Miss Edna Pan at [PAN Yunxin_Edna@moe.edu.sg](mailto:Yunxin_Edna@moe.edu.sg) or 62889382.

Secondary 3 Level Camp (22 – 25 May)

The Sec 3 students will be participating in a level camp from 22 May (Tuesday) to 25 May (Friday) at Sarimbun Scouts Camp in Jalan Bahtera. A letter containing details of the camp had been issued earlier on 22 March to parents through the students. Please refer to the letter for more information. Students will be given a detailed briefing of the camp after the mid-year examinations. If you have any queries, please contact the respective Form Teachers or Ms Ng Lee Hua (Sec 3&4 Year Head) at ng_lee_hua@moe.edu.sg.

Leadership Adventure Camp (LAC) (4 – 7 June)

Selected Sec 2 students from each CCA will be participating in the Leadership Adventure Camp (LAC) from 4 June (Monday) to 7 June (Thursday) at the MOE Outdoor Learning Adventure Centre (Dairy Farm). This camp is run by a group of teachers who are MOE-certified outdoor activity instructors. Students will be exposed not only to adventure and self-confidence training but also practise leadership skills so that they can be prepared to lead their CCAs and school in the future. A letter containing details of the LAC has been given to parents of the participants on 13 April (Friday). If you have any queries, please contact Mr Gary Neo (HOD/Student Leadership) at [NEO Wei_Chung@moe.edu.sg](mailto:NEO_Wei_Chung@moe.edu.sg).

Issuance of Report Books (25 and 30 May)

Please be informed that Report Books will be issued on the following days for the respective levels:

- 25 May (Friday) – Sec 1, 2 and 4/5
- 30 May (Wednesday) – Sec 3

If you have any concerns with regard to your child’s results or any areas of school, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Form Teachers to arrange for a discussion.

Parent-Teacher Meeting 2 (28 May – 1 June)

Parent-Teacher Meeting 2 will be held from 28 May (Monday) to 1 June (Friday). Form Teachers will arrange meetings with parents of students who did not meet the necessary criteria in the mid-year examinations. We hope that this meeting will enable the school to work better with you in helping your child succeed in school.

Mother Tongue Language (MTL) Intensive Lessons (14 – 25 May)

MTL intensive lessons will be carried out from 14 May (Monday) to 25 May (Friday) for 4E, 4N(A) and 5N(A) students sitting for the GCE O-level Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Examination or Mother Tongue Languages B Examination on 28 May (Monday) and 30 May (Wednesday) respectively. Apart from 14 May (Monday), these lessons will begin at 8 am and end at 1:30 pm

every day. Students are to report to school by 7:30 am for flag-raising ceremony as per normal. Chinese and Malay Language students may look for their subject teachers for extra consultation after the intensive lessons.

Revision Classes and Subject-Based Banding Programme in May/June (31 May – 8 June)

To support students in their learning, the teachers will be conducting remedial classes and the Subject-Based Banding Programme for identified students from Secondary 1 to 3. The classes will be held from 31 May (Thursday) to 8 June (Friday). During these classes, teachers will help students identify their learning gaps based on the mid-year examination results, and provide targeted support for students.

For the Sec 4/5 students, supplementary lessons will be held from 31 May (Thursday) to 8 June (Friday). Teachers will be helping students attain content mastery in preparation for the O-level and N-level Examinations.

4E4N Advanced Elective Modules (18 – 21 June)

The Advanced Elective Modules for Secondary 4 Express and 4 Normal Academic students will be held at Ngee Ann and Republic Polytechnics from 18 to 21 June. Students have earlier been issued with a separate letter on 10 April. Please refer to the letter for further details.

Homecoming (30 June)

The long-awaited annual Homecoming Day will be held on Saturday, 30 June from 10 am to 2 pm, and the objectives of Homecoming Day this year are twofold. First, we anticipate that Homecoming Day will be an excellent platform for past and present students to demonstrate gratitude through their emotional link with their alma mater. Second, we hope that through the careful planning and organization of the various stalls and sales, students will have an opportunity to develop entrepreneurship, courage and confidence. In total, there will be more than 60 food and games stalls and we warmly welcome all parents to be a part of Homecoming Day as well!

Submission of Video for Xinmin's Got Talent (XGT) (by 24 June)

XGT is a platform for interested students to showcase their talent in any art-form in conjunction with the school's Youth Day Celebrations. There are attractive prizes to be won.

Students who are interested may submit a video recording of their performance item to xinmingottalent@gmail.com by Sunday, 24 June. For more information, please contact Mrs Tiffany Lim at [LOH Ying Xuan Tiffany@moe.edu.sg](mailto:LOH_Ying_Xuan_Tiffany@moe.edu.sg) or 62889382.

GCE O-level and N-level EL and MTL Oral and Listening Comprehension Examinations

Please take note of the following dates for the GCE O-level and N-level Oral and Listening Comprehension Examinations:

- 3 July: O-level MTL(B) Oral Examination
- 4 – 16 July: O-level MTL Oral Examination
- 5 – 12 July: N-level EL Oral Examination
- 17 July: O-level MTL Listening Comprehension Examination
- 23 – 27 July: O-level HMTL Oral Examination
- 31 July – 3 August: N-level MTL and BMTL Oral Examination
- 1 – 2 August: O-level Malay(SP) Oral Examination
- 13 – 28 August: O-level EL Oral Examination
- 26 September – 5 October: O-level French Oral Examination

Admission into Post-Secondary Institutions

- a) ITE Early Admission Exercise (ITE EAE)
- b) Polytechnic Early Admission Exercise (Poly EAE)
Poly EAE is an admissions exercise that allows Sec 4 Express and Sec 5NA students to apply and receive conditional offers for admission to polytechnic based on their aptitudes and interests before taking the GCE O-Level Examination. It allows the polytechnics greater flexibility in selecting students on a broader measure of criteria other than academic grades, thus allowing a wider range of talents to be recognised. Please refer to the EAE Polytechnic website at <https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg> for more information. Interested applicants may also visit the respective websites of the polytechnics for more details on the courses offered.
- c) Direct School Admission – Junior College (DSA-JC)
DSA-JC Exercise provides Sec 4 Express and Sec 5NA students with the opportunity to seek admission to a Junior College (JC), based on a diverse range of academic and non-academic achievements and talents that they can demonstrate beyond the GCE O-Level Examination. Please refer to the “Information Note on 2018 DSA-JC Exercise” (only attached for Secondary 4 and 5 students) for more information.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Travel Declaration

If your child is travelling out of Singapore during the May/June school holidays, kindly keep the school informed of his/her travel plans. This is one of our practices to ensure emergency readiness. An online travel declaration form has been made available on the school website. Parents/Guardians may access this link at <http://tinyurl.com/XMS-eTravelDe> to submit your child's/ ward's travel plans by 25 May (Friday). A hardcopy of this form is also made available via the school website or at our General Office. A NIL reply is required.

Eat with Your Family Day (25 May)

Initiated in 2003, “Eat with Your Family Day” is a nation-wide event led by the *Centre For Fathering*. This event aims to encourage all Singaporeans to consciously set aside time on that day to be with their families. Through the simple ritual of having a family meal, the event will serve as a reminder for families to encourage them to eat together regularly.

This year's Eat with Your Family Day falls on 25 May (Friday), the last day of Term 2. We strongly encourage all staff and students to end all CCAs, activities and meetings by 5 pm on 25 May so that they can go back to have a meal with their families.

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