

11 September 2018

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS – The September Edition

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We ended Term 3 on a high note with a simple but meaningful celebration of All Staff Day. On this day, our students showed appreciation for the hard (and heart) work of their teachers in the form of thank-you notes and other small presents. Our teachers also enjoyed the interaction time they had with their classes and were treated to a student-organised concert which showcased the talents of our student performers. These gestures of appreciation affirmed our teachers and gave them a sense of satisfaction that would drive them to continue giving off their best for our students.

Why 'All Staff Day' and not 'Teachers' Day'?

Our students did not forget that many of their learning experiences would not have been possible if not for our dedicated non-teaching staff. They fondly recalled many examples of how they experienced the care and warmth of our non-teaching staff. One of them recalled how Mdm Helen, our receptionist, helped to clean up and dress her wound when she fell; another recounted how Mr Lee, our Creative Arts Centre staff guided her patiently when her CCA was putting up a performance at the Reflections Theatre; yet another shared, albeit sheepishly, that he was always 'chased' home by Mr Goh, our school attendant, at the end of the school day. It is for this reason that they wanted to show appreciation to our non-teaching staff too.

This year, our Student Leaders organized a breakfast for our non-teaching staff to thank them for their care and concern over the year. They also seized the opportunity to personally thank many of them and got to know our non-teaching staff better over breakfast. I am heartened to see that our students do not take the support they received for granted and have embraced the value of gratitude.

Appreciating our Students' First Teachers

Even as we appreciate our students' teachers in school, it is important to remember and appreciate our students' most important teachers – you! I am truly grateful for the strong partnership we have in supporting our students' learning and development thus far. I look forward to your continual understanding and support as we continue deepening our partnership towards achieving the best for our students.

Just as how our teachers are always looking for ways to better improve the way they help our students learn, we are also looking out for how the school could better work with parents to support our students' learning and growth. We have been exploring different platforms with Parents@Xinmin (P@X) to organize workshops that help parents better understand and support our students' holistic development. On 4 August, we organised a dialogue for parents to engage recent Xinmin graduates so that they could be better informed about the learning environments offered at different post-secondary education institutions. Parents who attended the session were appreciative of the candid sharing by our young alumni on their own post-secondary journeys. They also found the information shared useful in supporting their child in making decisions regarding post-secondary pathways.

A second workshop we organised was the Cyberwellness Workshop conducted by Touch Cyber Wellness on 25 August. The session highlighted the benefits and challenges brought about by technology, and provided parents with useful ideas for managing their child's use of mobile devices. It also gave us an opportunity to clarify our school's policy with regard to the use of mobile devices in teaching and learning, and dialogue on how best we could work with parents to help to manage our students' addiction to mobile devices.

Moving forward, I would like to encourage you to share your suggestions and feedback on areas that you might be interested to learn more about. We can then work with P@X to organize similar workshops for our parents so as to better support our students both in school and at home.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Student Achievements

Singapore Junior Biology Olympiad

The Singapore Junior Biology Olympiad (SJBO) is organised by the Singapore National Institute of Biology for Upper Secondary students. SJBO aims to promote the advancement of biology for Secondary School students and encourages the improvement of education in biology and the training of those interested in biology. We congratulate Quek Li Ning Tammy (401) for attaining a Bronze Medal in the competition.

Singapore Junior Chemistry Olympiad

The Singapore Junior Chemistry Olympiad (SJChO) is organised by the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry for Upper Secondary students. SJChO provides a platform for students to challenge themselves in chemical knowledge and skills. It also seeks to promote the excitement of learning and doing Chemistry, as well as to identify and develop talents. We congratulate Anton Timothy Lee Zi Jie (401) and Jiao Ruoyu (402) for receiving the Certificate of Merit in the competition.

Singapore Junior Physics Olympiad

The Singapore Junior Physics Olympiad (SJPO) is a Physics competition organised by the Institute of Physics Singapore and is catered to secondary school students. This is an annual competition to encourage the study and appreciation of Physics among all secondary school students. In addition, it is also a competition to highlight Physics talents and also part of the process to identify students for early training for the IPhO (International Physics Olympiad). Fong Kei Min (301), Xu Xueer (301), Brandon Shaun Kagoo (303), Thang Pang Ern (303) and Zhang Lanyu (303) received an Honourable Mention, while Tran Viet Khoa (301) clinched the Silver Medal.

Science Buskers Festival

Organised by Science Centre Singapore, the Science Buskers Festival is a competition that encompasses the idea of developing the individual's communication skills through expressions of science in creative manners, and serves as a platform to inspire an interest in science. On 31 August and 1 September, from a total of 202 teams in the Preliminary Rounds, the Firebanders team of Yeoh Hao Wen, Erland Abyasa Syafiq, Umar Faruq Bin Mohammed Zainud, Nguyen Van Lam and Dalbert Chea Zhi Jun (all from 204) bedazzled the judges with their fire-controlling act to make it all the way to the finals.

Staff Achievements

National Day Awards 2018

The National Day Long Service Medal is awarded to public officers who are of irreproachable character and who have completed at least 25 years in the service of the Government. This year, Ms Ten Yu Ping (English Language and Literature Teacher) and Mr Tengku Zainol Abidin Bin Hassan (Operations Support Officer) received the Long Service Medal for their dedication towards students' learning in the Ministry of Education.

The National Day Efficiency Medal is awarded to public officers who demonstrate exceptional efficiency and devotion to duty for work of special significance. Ms Low Chiow Chng (Technical Support Officer) was given this rare honour this year.

We congratulate all three officers for attaining the National Day Awards for 2018!

UPCOMING EVENTS

GCE O-level Briefing and Graduation Ceremony (28 September)

In the afternoon of 28 September (Friday), all GCE O-Level candidates will need to attend the GCE O-Level briefing at 2.30 pm. This will be followed by a special Graduation Ceremony for all Secondary Four and Five graduating students at 3.30 pm in the School Hall to mark the completion of their secondary school education at Xinmin. This occasion symbolises the culmination of their preparations for the national examinations, and receiving best wishes from their teachers and peers will motivate them to put in their best performance. Students will report for normal lessons in the morning, with the ceremony estimated to end by 5.30pm. The Secondary Four and Five cohort will then begin their study break from 1 October (Monday), and students who wish to seek their subject teachers' help for consultations and additional coaching in school may still do so from 1 October until the end of the national examinations.

ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS

Assessment Matters

Please note that the timetables for the end-of-year examinations for Sec 1 to 3 students can be found on our website. A hardcopy of the topics tested for the different subjects had also been given to you with the August newsletter. The last day for all CCAs before standing down is Friday, 14 September (and not Monday, 10 September as reported in our August Newsletter) to allow students adequate time to prepare for their examinations, and will resume on 12 October (Friday).

Post-exam Activities for Sec 1 to 3 Students

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

Date/Day	Event
12 & 15 Oct (Fri & Mon)	Marking Days – Students <u>do not</u> need to come to school on these days except for CCA.

Date/Day	Event
15 to 19 Oct (Mon to Fri)	Sec 3N students will attend their Elective Modules from 15 to 19 Oct (Mon to Fri)
16,17 & 18 Oct (Tue, Wed & Thu)	Checking of examination scripts
19 Oct (Fri)	Regular school day – Regular timetabled lessons for all except Sec 3N students who are attending their Elective Modules.
22 to 25 Oct (Mon to Thu)	Post-examination activities: <u>22 Oct (Mon)</u> Sec 1E Math trail and enrichment (Dismissed at 1220) Sec 1N Pet Rocket Programme (Dismissed at 1200) Sec 2s CAEP (Dismissed at 1250) Sec 3s Inter-class games and Survey (Dismissed at 1220) <u>23 Oct (Tues)</u> Sec 2E IDM Enrichment (Dismissed at 1340) Promotion Meeting – Sec 1s, 2N and 3s students do not need to come to school except for CCA (if any) <u>24 Oct (Wed)</u> Sec 1s D&T Enrichment Programme (Dismissed at 1200) Sec 2E LKCNHM Gallery Tour (Dismissed at 1220) OR IDM Enrichment (Dismissed at 1340) Sec 2N Learning journey to Frog Farm (Dismissed at 1200) Sec 3s Inter-class games (Dismissed at 1200) <u>25 Oct (Thu)</u> Sec 1E Learning journey to Frog Farm (Dismissed at 1200) Sec 1N Math trail and math enrichment (Dismissed at 1200) Sec LKCNHM Gallery Tour (Dismissed at 1220) OR IDM Enrichment (Dismissed at 1340) Sec 2N Dragon boating (Dismissed at 1320) Sec 3s Bridging Lessons to prepare for Sec 4
26 Oct (Fri)	Last academic school day for all students – Students will receive their report books and do spring cleaning of their classrooms and the school. (Dismissed at 1200 for Sec 1s and 2s and 1230 for Sec 3s)
29 Oct to 2 Nov (Mon to Fri)	Parent-Teacher Meeting – School Leaders and Form Teachers will meet parents of students who have underperformed in the exams.
25 Oct to 2 Nov (Thu to Fri)	Compulsory Bridging Programme for <u>Sec 3 students</u> only.
29 Oct to 9 Nov (Mon to Fri)	Sec 1 and 2 Remedial Programme / SBB Bridging Programme for identified students who need more support for certain subjects.

GCE N-level and O-level Examinations

As mentioned in the August newsletter, the N-level Examinations will take place from 10 to 19 September and from 1 to 12 October. Please note that NA and NT students are required to come to school for lessons in between the two examination periods. After the first part of the examinations, NA and NT students will resume lessons on 20 September (Thursday) and their last day of lessons is 25 September (Wednesday) followed by the graduation ceremony on 28 September (Friday).

The O-level Practical Examinations for Secondary 4E5N Pure Science students will take place on 4 October (Thursday), 9 October (Tuesday) and 17 October (Wednesday). The O-level Practical Examinations for Secondary 4E5N Combined Science students will take place on 11 October (Thursday). All Secondary 4E5N students will be sitting for their written papers from 22 October (Monday) till 19 November (Monday). 4E Art students will sit for their exam on 12 October (Friday). Students who are taking French will sit for their written papers on 15 October (Monday) and

18 October (Thursday). Sec 3E Higher Mother Tongue students will also be taking the Mother Tongue papers during the stated period.

Students must bring along their NRIC (or Student Pass for International Students) and Entry Proof for all papers. A personalised timetable can be found on their Entry Proof.

Reminder about School Discipline

We would like to remind parents of our school policy on mobile phones. Mobile phones are among the restricted items in school and their use by students is subject to restrictions. Students are not allowed to use their mobile phone without teacher supervision during curriculum time. During recess, students may use their mobile phones in the canteen only. Students who use their mobile phones during restricted time or venues will have their phones confiscated for a period of one week. For details, please visit our school website and view the school rules and regulations.

Reminder about Safety on Footpaths and Cycling/ Shared Paths

It has been observed that there has been a rise in the number of Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) being used by members of the public in the vicinity of the school. Although the current speed limits for PMDs are 15 km/h and 25 km/h on footpaths and cycling/ shared paths respectively, these PMD users have been observed to traverse at speeds beyond the limits allowed. We would like to remind all parents, students and staff to exercise due care and diligence while in transit to our school, and to watch out for PMD users who wantonly flout the rules, for your own personal safety.

Thank you 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