

9 April 2019

## Newsletter to Parents – The April Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to a very exciting and activity-filled Term 2! You will find that this term is a hectic one for both our students and teachers. With competitions, performances and many other school events happening at the same time, it is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about time management and how to balance different aspects of their lives.

### Xinmin, Where We Started

We celebrated our 74<sup>th</sup> Speech Day on 5 April (Friday). I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to parents, alumni, our School Advisory Committee and our parents' support group (P@X), for their support and presence at the event.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and I would like to, once again, extend my heartiest congratulations to all prize winners and recipients of our school's pinnacle awards. In particular, I would like 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	Loo Min Min, Yuki	403/2018
Chew Peng Leng Scholarship	Chua Sing Yu, Beeny	402/2018
	Nigel Yeo Chang Feng	406/2018
Chew Peng Leng Award for Exemplary Service	Ang Yi Pin	404/2018
Yap Fun Hong Award for Sports and Outdoor Education	Peh Hui Jun, Samantha	402/2018
	Lim Si Rui	403/2018
Heng Chin Soo Award for Visual, Creative & Performing Arts	Lim Shi Ying	403/2018
Tung Sey Yew Award for Leadership in the Uniformed Groups	Lee Hui Xian Claris	403/2018
	Tjeong Yu Xuan Zachary	403/2018

As we celebrate the successes of our students over the past year, my colleagues and I are also looking at how we could do even better in helping our current students unleash their full potential. How do we get our students to develop holistically? Inculcate values and dispositions that will ensure their success in the future? Challenge them to step out of their comfort zones? Give them the confidence to stand tall alongside students from other schools? These are but some of the questions that I deliberate with colleagues.

### Seizing Opportunities

The world of the future seems to be one in which disruptions are pervasive. Even as *status quos* are constantly challenged, many new opportunities also arise. The future belongs to those who have the courage and confidence to step out of their comfort zones and grab hold of these opportunities.

We believe that these dispositions need to be developed in our students. As such, my teachers and I worked hard to provide a spread of different opportunities for students to try something new, stretch themselves and deepen their interests and passions in various areas.

One such opportunity arose when we were invited to participate, as student docents, in the “New World, New Life” exhibition organized by the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations. This platform not only allowed our students to deepen their presentation and public speaking skills, the programme also helped them better appreciate our cultural heritage. We are very heartened to see how the participants grew in their confidence (one even had the courage to engage and impress our Minister for Education in a post-tour conversation!) and deepened their mastery of life skills (e.g., resilience in mastering the content they need to present to the extent they are able to deviate from regurgitating the script). However, we are also disappointed that a number of our students turned down this opportunity, citing reasons such as the need to focus on their academics.

As we continue preparing our students for their future, I would like to appeal to all parents to encourage your child to seize these opportunities that come their way. While we may be concerned that some of these activities might take time away from revision and preparing for the examinations, we need to remember that at the heart of what we do in Xinmin, we are preparing our students for the test of life, not a life of tests!

## ACADEMIC & CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS

### Performing Arts CCAs’ Participation in Singapore Youth Festival (8 – 30 April)

Our Performing Arts CCAs will be participating in the biennial Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentations in April. The event is open to members of public on a first-come-first-served basis. We would like to invite you to make your way down to support your child/ward if you are able to make arrangements to do so. The details are as follows.

CCA	Day	Date	Estimated Performance Time	Venue	Teacher-in-Charge
Choir	Monday	8 April	1.15 p.m.	Concert Hall, School of the Arts 1 Zubir Said Dr, Singapore 227968	Mdm Sun Ying <a href="mailto:sun_ying@schools.gov.sg">sun_ying@schools.gov.sg</a>
Band (Concert)	Tuesday	9 April	3.20 p.m.	S’pore Conference Hall 7 Shenton Way, Singapore 068810	Mr Lee Kin Meng <a href="mailto:lee_kin_meng_a@schools.gov.sg">lee_kin_meng_a@schools.gov.sg</a>
Drama	Thursday	11 April	1 p.m.	Studio Theatre, School of the Arts 1 Zubir Said Dr, Singapore 227968	Mr Josh Wong <a href="mailto:wong_han_xian@schools.gov.sg">wong_han_xian@schools.gov.sg</a>
Chinese Dance	Tuesday	16 April	5 p.m.	NUS University Cultural Centre Hall 50 Kent Ridge Cres, Singapore 119279	Ms Pang Hui Chin <a href="mailto:pang_hui_chin@schools.gov.sg">pang_hui_chin@schools.gov.sg</a>
Guzheng	Tuesday	23 April	5.45 p.m.	S’pore Conference Hall 7 Shenton Way, Singapore 068810	Mr Zhuang Haoyang <a href="mailto:zhuang_haoyang@schools.gov.sg">zhuang_haoyang@schools.gov.sg</a>
Band (Percussion)	Tuesday	30 April	2 p.m.	S’pore Conference Hall 7 Shenton Way, Singapore 068810	Mr Lee Kin Meng <a href="mailto:lee_kin_meng_a@schools.gov.sg">lee_kin_meng_a@schools.gov.sg</a>

Please contact the respective teacher(s)-in-charge for more information.

### International Friendship Day (12 April)

Xinmin will commemorate International Friendship Day (IFD) on 12 April (Friday). The theme this year is Connected Communities. Globalisation provides us with the opportunity to appreciate and live together with friends with different traditions, languages, cultures and histories. It is important to encourage our youth to continue actively deepening the connection with our neighbours by empowering them in this process of celebrating our vibrancy and building our community. On this day, our international and local students will come together to present to the school the importance of maintaining good relationships with our neighbouring countries and share how this can be done through our daily activities.

As a lead up to IFD, students will receive an IFD Special Edition of the Straits Times student newspaper IN on 8 April (Monday) to keep them informed about the key messages of IFD. During the CCE lessons, students will discuss about the challenges that people who move overseas face, as well as the help available in a foreign land. Through these articles, we hope that students will learn to build mutual respect and understanding across cultures, and foster a culture of care. We encourage you to discuss with your child the key issues to broaden his perspectives.

### CCA Stand Down for Graduating Students (19 April)

All CCA activities for graduating students will cease two weeks before the start of their mid-year examinations. The last day of CCA for graduating students is 19 April and there will be no more CCA activities for graduating students after 19 April.

### Oral Examinations (22 April – 3 May)

The English and Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Oral Examinations for the following levels will take place from 22 April (Monday) to 3 May (Friday), as follows.

*English Language: Secondary 4 and 5*

*Mother Tongue Language: Secondary 4 and 5*

*Higher Mother Tongue Language: Secondary 3*

Subject teachers will inform students of their individual examination dates.

### Weighted Assessments Two (WA2) for Secondary 1 to 3 Students (29 April – 24 May)

Weighted Assessments Two (WA2) for Secondary 1 to 3 students comprises 15% of a student's overall grade. It will be scheduled to between 29 April (Monday) and 24 May (Friday). Students will be informed of the schedule and it will be uploaded on the school website: [Study Here](#) → [Assessment](#) → [Weighted Assessments Schedule](#).

Students who are absent for any assessments must submit a Medical Certificate (MC) to the subject teacher and the form teacher on the day he returns to school. Students without a valid reason for their absence for any tests will be given zero marks. In general, letters from parents excusing their children from sitting for these assessments will not be accepted unless there are valid reasons.

### Mid-year Examinations for Secondary 4 and 5 Students (6 May – 16 May)

The mid-year examinations for Secondary 4 and 5 students are scheduled to start on 6 May (Monday) and end on 16 May (Thursday). The examination schedule has been uploaded on the school website. Students are required to report to school at the usual timing of 7.30 a.m. (all days except Wednesdays), and 8.30 a.m. on Wednesdays if they are sitting for the first paper of the day. If students are only sitting for the second paper of the day, they must report to school by 10.30 a.m. If no papers have been scheduled or if the papers scheduled are not applicable, students do not need to report to school for that day during the examination period. 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 returns to school. Students without 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.

### Home-Based Learning for Secondary 1 to 3 and some 4N Students (17 May)

Secondary 1 to 3 students and Secondary 4 students who are taking N-Level Mother Tongue Language will undertake Home-Based Learning on 17 May (Friday). As such, these students do not need to come to school.

### Intensive Revision for Secondary 4 & 5 GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Candidates (17 May)

The Mother Tongue Language intensive revision programme for Secondary 4 and 5 students who are taking GCE O-Level Higher Mother Tongue Language and GCE O-level Mother Tongue Language will be conducted on 17 May (Friday) from 8 a.m. to 12.40 p.m. (inclusive of a 40-minute break). Students are required to report to the respective lesson venues in school uniform by 8 a.m.

### Secondary Three Level Camp (27 – 30 May)

The Secondary Three Level Camp will be held on 27 – 30 May at Sarimbun Scouts Campsite. Parents would have received a separate letter issued on 4 April concerning the details of this camp and are advised to refer to that letter for more information.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE & DISCIPLINE MATTERS**

### Punctuality

We would like to remind parents about our school's policy towards punctuality for students. All students are required to be inside the school compound and with their class for attendance taking before 7.30 a.m. on all days except Wednesdays. The reporting time for Wednesdays is 8.30 a.m. The school gate will be closed at 7.30 a.m. sharp (or 8.30 a.m. for Wednesdays) and the school will proceed with the flag raising ceremony. Any student not in school by these timings will be deemed late for school. If there are extenuating circumstances at home, please give the General Office a call at 62889382 to inform our office staff that your child will be late. Generally, first-time latecomers are

given a warning with no further disciplinary actions taken. Second-time late comers will receive one demerit point and third-time (and onwards) latecomers will receive two demerit points and detention. We would like to advise that aiming to reach school at exactly 7.30 a.m. (or 8.30 a.m. on Wednesdays) is not a good practice as traffic conditions can be unpredictable. It is best to allow for buffer time on the journey to school.

### Sale of School Uniform

With effect from Term 2, our school uniforms will be sold through our appointed school bookshop vendor, Casco Educational Supply Pte Ltd. Their daily operating hours are 7.15 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays. We hope this new arrangement will provide greater convenience to students and parents.

Alternatively, parents can still approach our appointed uniform vendor, Jeep Sing Fashion outlet at Block 4012, Ang Mo Kio Ave 10, #01-08, Singapore 569628 to purchase the school uniform. Their operating hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Saturdays.

### MOE Parents Gateway Mobile App (with effect from 25 March)

Following our February and March newsletters, we wish to remind all parents and guardians that we have started implementing Parents Gateway with effect from Term 2, on 25 March. All parents and guardians are required to download the Parents Gateway mobile app as we will be issuing online consent forms and announcements for your direct response. Please visit our school website at <https://xinminsec-moe-edu-sg-admin.cwp.sg/stakeholders/parents-gateway-mobile-app> for more instructions and information about Parents Gateway. Please also note that with effect from Semester Two, our monthly newsletters will be issued through Parents Gateway and hard copies will no longer be printed.

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 [xinminss\\_email@schools.gov.sg](mailto:xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg) or you can call us at 6288 9382.

Yours faithfully



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang  
Principal