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February Fresh Beginnings

Recently, my sister related her experience of how a small cockroach had caused quite a storm in her house. On seeing the pest, my sister had screamed, fearing for my 2-year old niece who was crawling on the floor. My poor niece who was startled, wailed loudly. That vexed my brother-in-law who was working on a concept paper.

I told my sister that her reaction was bad education for my niece. Although a hideous creature, the cockroach presented no imminent treat to my niece’s life or limb. She could have been more restrained instead and picked up my niece, then dealt with the pest later. What she had achieved unwittingly was to pass on her fear of cockroaches to my niece. The cockroach is probably universally hated but it is not monstrous enough to be feared, logically speaking.

What some adults do not realise is that young children are very impressionable and they take the slightest cues from their caregivers. They learn from the way we react, the words we use and how we treat people. In their formative years, children must learn from the correct role models so that they can grow up having the right values and good habits that will last a lifetime.

Charles Tan
Deputy Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>CNY Celebration (School dismisses at 10 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Jan – 1 Feb</td>
<td>Chinese New Year Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Feb</td>
<td>Chinese New Year School Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Feb</td>
<td>Topical Test – English (P3–P6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Feb – 21 Feb</td>
<td>MTL Fortnight (Malay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Feb</td>
<td>Topical Test – Mathematics (P3–P6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>Topical Test – CL &amp; ML (P3–P6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>Topical Test – Science (P3–P6)</td>
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<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>Commemoration of Total Defence (TD) Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Feb</td>
<td>Parents’ briefing for LSP and LSM</td>
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<td>TD - Sounding of Public Warning System at 12.05 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>Topical Test – Higher Mother Tongue Languages (P6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>P3 ML Day Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>Prefects’ Investiture</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 &amp; 28 Feb</td>
<td>Workshop for Parents – Malay Language</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Look out for the letter for further details</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Feb</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal at SOTA – preparing for SYF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- details coming up soon</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb – 14 Mar</td>
<td>Run Your Own Race</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Feb – 13 Mar</td>
<td>Health Screening by Health Promotion Board</td>
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</tbody>
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Announcements

1. Chinese New Year Celebrations
   The Principal and staff wish our Chinese pupils, parents and SAC members a very prosperous and bountiful Chinese New Year. 祝大家马年马到成功，幸福安康. Wishing everyone else a very happy extended holiday!

   On the eve of Chinese New Year, pupils will be dismissed at 10.00 am on 30 January. The school will be closed from Friday, 31 January to Monday, 3 February for the Chinese New Year holidays. Lessons will resume on Tuesday, 4 February.

   Our choir will be performing at the Punggol North Chinese New Year Dinner 2014, on 7 February 2014, held at the Punggol 21CC Multi-purpose Hall. Do come and join in to support our pupils.

2. Annual School-based Health Screening
   The School Health Service (SHS) team from the Health Promotion Board will be conducting its annual health checks and immunisation of pupils from 28 February to 13 March. Form teachers will be collecting your child’s Health Booklet and Immunisation Certificate. These will be returned to you later.

3. Absence During Examinations
   We would like to remind all parents that should any pupil absent himself or herself from school during an examination, a valid medical certificate is required to excuse the child from taking the paper. There will be no re-taking of the examination. With a valid medical certificate, "VR (Valid Reason) will be reflected in the pupil’s report slip. Any pupil who is unwell should see the doctor instead of coming to school to sit for the examination.

4. School Website
   Due to new guidelines issued by MOE governing school websites, the revamp of the school website will take a longer time than previously announced in the Gazette Volume 7 Issue 1. We will keep you informed when we are ready to launch the new website.

Partnership with Parents & Feedback

In his speech during the Public Service Week 2013, DPM Teo Chee Hean commented: "All agencies should maintain these good standards of service, and at the same time, we should support our officers should they be subject to unfair accusations or to abuse."

In the spirit of public service excellence, our staff will strive to do their best to serve all our stakeholders. The school values parents as partners in education and welcomes your constructive feedback. You can either call the school to leave a message for the teacher to return your call or email us at grendale_ps@moe.edu.sg. We will respond to you in three working days unless your request is complex and requires more time for fact finding.

We are thankful that the majority of our parents are understanding and supportive. However, there have been occasions when our staff are at the receiving end of unkind and uncalled for written or verbal abuse/threats. We have advised our staff that they need not acquiesce to such undignified abuses but to report cases of abuse, aggression or threats to the management for further action.

Sale of School Uniforms

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 February 2014</td>
<td>4 September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 March 2014</td>
<td>2 October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 April 2014</td>
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<td>8 May 2014</td>
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<td>3 July 2014</td>
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<td>7 August 2014</td>
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My Uniform Shop is the officially appointed uniform seller for our school. They will be selling school uniforms at the School Canteen on every first Thursday of each month in the school canteen from 8am to 3pm (except 9.40-10.40 a.m. which is recess time for pupils).

Parents can also purchase the school uniform from their retail outlet. The details are as follows:

- Operating Hours: 3pm – 8pm (Weekdays) 10am-4pm (Weekends)
- Closed on Tuesdays & Public Holidays

Address: Tiong Bahru Plaza #06-05(Above Tiong Bahru MRT) Telephone: 6276 6689

Ad Astra Per Aspera
**Gate Opening Hours & Safety Concerns**

These are the opening hours for the gates before and after school hours. The school buses will come at 4.10pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and at 4.40pm on Fridays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gate A</th>
<th>Gate B</th>
<th>Gates C &amp; D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Daily)</td>
<td>(Mondays, Tuesdays &amp; Fridays only)</td>
<td>(Mondays &amp; Tuesdays only)</td>
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<td>• 6.45 to 8.00 am</td>
<td>• 7.00 to 7.30 am</td>
<td>• 7.00 to 7.30 am</td>
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<td>• 1.40 to 2.10 pm</td>
<td>• 1.40 to 2.00 pm</td>
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<td>• 3.10 to 5.25 pm</td>
<td>• 3.10 to 4.25 pm</td>
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*Gate C will be open from 3.40-4.00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays if it rains.*

**Safety of Our Pupils**

We appeal to all drivers to exercise extra caution when driving around the school. The Traffic Police has announced that there will be an additional demerit point for motorists who commit traffic offences within school zones. We seek parents’ cooperation to help keep our pupils safe. The measures that we have taken include:

- Road safety briefings for staff and pupils, and visit to the Road Safety Park early in January
- Education and orientation for all pupils on road safety, especially on the kerb drill
- Information for parents on our road safety policies via a joint-agency letter with LTA and TP
- Creation of additional drop-off/pick-up points following the completion of covered link-ways at Gates C and D so as to ease the traffic congestion along Edgedale Plains
- Employment of 2 more security guards to manage safety and traffic at the gates in the first weeks of the year
- Not allowing parents to drive into the school to drop-off or pick-up children unless there is heavy rain

**Traffic Situation at Gate C & D**

We thank parents who drive for heeding our call to drop-off/pick up your children at the alternative Gates C&D. We now observe that there is a long queue of cars at Gate C. In order not to hold up the traffic and to keep the road safe, we seek your help:

- To get your child ready with the school bag when nearing Gates C&D so that they can alight quickly
- Not to get out of your car to bid "lengthy farewell" to your child
- Not to stop on the zebra crossing
- To be patient and not to overtake cars recklessly especially since there are many pupils and people using the zebra crossing ahead

**E-Progress Reports**

Plans are underway to make the progress reports of our pupils’ academic and social and emotional learning available online. This allows convenient access by parents anywhere, anytime using computers, tablets and smartphones. The system will also help the child, school and parents to chart and monitor the pupils’ progress more closely.

Parents of P3-P6 pupils should be able to access the portal by Friday, 21 February 2014 while parents of P1 to P2 pupils can access it by Friday, 7 March 2014. For families without access to the internet, the school will give pupils and parents hardcopies of the progress reports. Please keep the documents securely as the school will not be providing replacements for lost progress cards. Do look out for more details to guide parents to access the online portal for information on their child’s termly progress.

There is no change to the hardcopy report cards that will be issued at the close of each semestral examinations (SA1 and SA2).

*Ad Astra Per Aspera*
Graciousness  Resilience  Appreciation  Commitment and Collaboration  Excellence

**Prefects’ Investiture**

The Prefects’ Investiture will be held on **Tuesday, 25 February**. On this special day, our Primary 3 and 4 trainee prefects will receive their official appointment as prefects as they pledge their oath of office together with their seniors. It is a significant ceremony that will take place during assembly with the aim to inspire our pupils to become future leaders with the heart to serve.

**Mother Tongue Language (CL) Fortnight 2014**

The aim of Mother Tongue Language Fortnight (Chinese Language) is to provide a platform for pupils to actively learn Chinese and its culture. The activities organised will provide authentic opportunities for pupils to use Chinese and experience the Chinese culture. These activities will be carried out from **27 January to 7 February 2014**, during Chinese lessons and during recess.

- **Highlights of CL MTL Week**
  - Language activity games
  - Chinese Calligraphy (P1 & P2)
  - Paper Cutting (P3)
  - Bean Sculpture (P4)
  - Hong Bao Lantern Making (P5)
  - Chinese Knots (P6)
  - Performances by the P1 pupils at the reflection pool during recess
  - Demonstration and hands-on sessions on Chinese Puppetry (皮影戏) during recess

**Mother Tongue (ML) Fortnight 2014**

The theme for this year’s Mother Tongue Language Fortnight (Malay Language and Culture) is “Malay Folktales”. The objective is to expose our pupils to the various types of Malay folklore. In addition, we also want to teach good communication skills through activities such as singing, storytelling and public speaking. These activities will be carried out from **10 – 21 February 2014**. The Primary 1 and 2 pupils will be taught various Malay traditional songs such as “Bangau Oh Bangau”. The Primary 3 and 4 pupils will be exposed to poetry recitation or “Syair”, a story within poetry. Selected Primary 5 and 6 pupils will be taught public speaking. These activities will help develop our pupils’ oracy skills and also build their confidence. They will get the opportunity to showcase their talent and work together with their peers. Most importantly, our pupils will learn to enjoy traditional Malay folktales.

**P3 Malay Language & Cultural Camp 2014**

The Malay Language Department has organized a fun-packed and educational day camp on 19 Feb for our Primary 3 Malay pupils. Our pupils will attend different workshops under the theme “Malay Folktales”. We have planned the camp with the main objective of nurturing our pupils’ interest and ability to learn the Malay language, through the melodic tunes and synchronised movements of Dikir Barat, and through role playing and dramatization. The camp promises to be a pleasant showcase of the many talents of the pupils in our school.

**Run Your Own Race**

The Annual Run Your Own Race (RYOR) event will be held from **24 February to 14 March 2014**. We welcome all pupils who are interested to participate, to indeed run your own race and learn perseverance while keeping fit. **Participants must be medically fit and have not been advised by medical doctors to refrain from vigorous physical activities.**

The two race categories are:
- 5 km Race (P1-P2)
- 10 km Race (P3-P6)

The top ten runners who complete the race will be given prizes. Participants will be given a certificate of completion at the end.

Ad Astra Per Aspera