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**PARENT LINK : MARCH 2016**

4 March 2016

Dear Parents & Guardians

We are approaching the end of one academic term. Understandably, staff and students are looking forward to the break and spending some quality time with family members. We hope that you will help to guide your daughters / wards to use their time wisely and meaningfully during this break to be ready for the challenges of Term 2.

**Mother Tongue Languages ( MTL) Fortnight**

This year, the Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) department had designated two consecutive weeks from 28 January to 12 February for MTL Fortnight, during which, a wide range of activities related to Mother Tongue languages and their cultures were carried out. To create an immersive environment for the learning of MTL, there were targeted activities for different groups and levels of students as well as activities which involved mass participation. We hope that this had enhanced the learning experience of each KC student to actively use their Mother Tongue and experience its culture.

Chinese Language (CL)		Malay Language (ML)	
<b>Language Appreciation Programme</b>			
<b>Morning Assembly Programme: Fun With Chinese Idioms / Malay Proverbs (All)</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fun-filled and interactive way to teach Chinese idioms associated with numbers and Malay proverbs related to the animal 'Monkey'</li> <li>• Provide opportunity for CL and ML students to be effective CL and ML oral presenters</li> </ul>		
<b>Introduction to Translation Workshop (Sec 3)</b>		<b>Vocabulary Competition (Sec 1 – 5)</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the key principles of translation</li> <li>• Appreciate the difference between Chinese and English syntax and sentence types</li> <li>• Learn the different methods of CL-EL translation</li> </ul>	<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the learning of Malay Language through games</li> <li>• Sharpen the oracy skills of students</li> <li>• Expand the students' vocabulary</li> </ul>
<b>Guess the Chinese Idioms (Sec 4 - 5)</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to guess the Chinese idioms from the pictures</li> </ul>		

	correctly and state its meaning accurately		
<b>Cultural Exposure Programme</b>			
<b>Traditional Chinese Paper-Cutting Workshop 剪纸 (Sec 1)</b>		<b>Silat / Dikir Barat / Calligraphy and Wau-Making Workshops (Sec 1 – 5)</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the history of traditional Chinese paper-cutting</li> <li>Appreciate Chinese culture through hands-on activity</li> </ul>	<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage students to appreciate cultural activities</li> <li>Expose students to cultural activities that interest them</li> </ul>
<b>Traditional Chinese Blow Art 吹画 (Sec 2)</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover what traditional Chinese Blow Art is</li> <li>Explore how a piece of artwork is done through the technique of blowing</li> </ul>		
<b>Learning Journey to River HongBao 2016 (Sec 2)</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show awareness and learn to appreciate the Chinese cultural heritage through a guided tour by specially trained Youth Ambassadors</li> <li>Learn about the history and interesting facts about River Hongbao</li> <li>Promote inter-racial understanding and appreciation of a cultural event through which Chinese-speaking students could internalise what they have learned and share with non-Chinese speaking classmates</li> </ul>		
<b>Appreciation of CL and ML Legends by MTL teachers (All)</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expose students to popular legends and famous legendary characters</li> <li>Develop the imaginative capacity and instil good moral values among students</li> </ul>		
<b>MTL Intergenerational Learning Programme</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are directly involved in the planning and executing of a community project</li> <li>Students learn important values and life lessons while the elderly gain new knowledge and skills</li> </ul>			
Students involved: Sec 2 HCL students Organisation involved: Family Central, a service by Fei Yue Community Services		Students involved: selected Sec 3 Express ML students Organisation involved: Simei Brisk Walking Group	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote intergenerational understanding between students and the elderly</li> <li>Provide opportunity for students to interact and converse in their respective MTL</li> <li>Facilitate and teach the elderly how to combine and create a photo and video collage using a collage maker application</li> </ul>	<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote intergenerational bonding and understanding between students and the elderly</li> <li>Provide opportunity for students to interact and converse in their respective MTL</li> <li>Facilitate and teach the elderly basic functions of Instagram app and create an account of their own</li> </ul>

## Creative Writing / Essay Writing Competition (Sec 1 – 5)

### Objectives

- Promote MTL literary writing in school
- Give students the platform to express their creativity and demonstrate their ability to stimulate and raise discussions on different topics and issues

### **MTL Academic Fun Day 2016**

The Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Department kick-started this year's Academic Fun Day with a culmination of a fortnight of language appreciation and cultural exploration. During the morning assembly on Friday 12 February, the Malay Language teachers were dressed in beautiful costumes and both students and staff were first introduced to four female legendary Malay heroines of different eras, namely, Puteri Gunung Ledang, Tun Fatimah, Mahsuri and Radin Mas. Not only were they famous for their exquisite beauty, these heroines were also remembered for their wit, courage and loyalty.

On the other hand, the Chinese Language (CL) teachers were equally entertaining with their adaptation of a popular Chinese legend set in the Ming Dynasty, entitled "Ten Brothers". Each brother transformed from a baby to an adult overnight, each possessing a different supernatural power. From supersonic vision to healing tears, the CL teachers portrayed each character with dramatic gestures that drew joy and laughter from both staff and students. While the brothers were preoccupied with trying to outshine each other in a show of power and might, they soon realised that their power would disappear when they were not united. The underlying key message of "Unity is Strength" cannot be missed when the tenth brother was kidnapped. In the end, the ten brothers decided to cast aside their differences in an attempt to save him.

Both the Chinese and Malay legends are themselves lessons in values all of us could emulate. Through the fun and enriching performance, we hope our students have been culturally enriched and will embody the values learned. Kudos to the performance put up by the MTL department!

### **Ash Wednesday Mass**

On 10 February, in solidarity with Christians from all over the world, the school held a Mass celebration to commemorate Ash Wednesday and mark the beginning of Lent for all Catholic students, parents and staff in our Dance Studio.

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of the Lenten season, which lasts for a period of 46 days (40 fasting days, excluding 6 Sundays) before Easter. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

According to the gospels, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this event, practised through fasting for 40 days as preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of Catholics during the Mass.

In the spirit of Lent, the school unifies her voice with our celebrant Fr Simon Pereira to encourage each and every KCian to grow in self-discipline and charity, especially in our work and interaction with friends and family. Contrary to popular belief, Lent refrains from sombre mourning of the Crucifixion but offers us hope and an opportunity to rededicate our current energies to love more people, and love people more towards Easter.

## **Prayer@Chapel**

In the prayerful season of Lent, the School Chaplaincy Team will be organising “Prayer@Chapel” and it will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 715am to 740am at the school chapel.

The purpose of this morning activity is to provide an environment to encourage a praying community that starts the day with God before meeting the demands of the day. Participating students will be able to attend morning assembly for its programme and attendance-taking.

All parents who are interested to join us in prayer are warmly welcomed.

## **Class Committee Training**

On 18 January and 15 February, class leaders went through a leadership training session which focussed on their development as values-driven leaders who would have a positive impact on their community.

Organised and trained by the Student Leadership Committee, the programme was specially tailored to build these leaders up for success in their leadership portfolios. The leaders were guided in their roles and responsibilities as leaders, adapting different leadership styles to fit their class dynamics as well as the underpinning values required to face the challenges ahead. Next, class leaders were also developed in level specific skills like classroom management, peer mediation, programme management and people management. These skills were chosen for each level based on focussed group discussions with previous class leaders on the needs of their cohort. The training also afforded the class leaders an opportunity to work together as a class committee. This intentional approach allowed them to explore their team dynamics, as they planned, executed and reflected on working towards a common goal.

## **Assembly Programme**

In the second half of Term 1, a selection of arts-based programmes were presented as part of our weekly Assembly programme. *Scarlet Avenue*, a pair of brothers who write and sing their own tuneful ballads opened the curtain with a performance in week 6. In week 7, we had a presentation about jewellery by *Caratell*. The session focused on how in ancient times, people started using jewellery to adorn their bodies and the practices of the trade such as the design process, the job scope of a gemmologist and the features of some common gems. The term will end with a talk by the National Library Board to bring back the buzz with books. Students were also alerted to the perils of drug abuse and how to care for our environment. Our assembly programme underscores our commitment towards promoting the holistic goals of education as well as interest in the school’s niche in communicative, performing and visual arts (CPVA).

## **Lower Secondary Geographical and Historical Investigations**

In week 5 of Term 1, the Humanities Department conducted outdoor experiential learning activities for the lower secondary students as part of the Historical/Geographical Inquiry task.

Secondary One students did their Geography investigative project at the Kallang River near school. During this trip, students explored the cleanliness of water and its varied uses, as well as learn to sketch a profile of the river. Through this, they were able to study the water quality in Singapore and understand the causes which affect water quality. This is an extension of the learning covered in the syllabus on how Singapore manages its water resources. Following this trip, students are to:

- analyse the data collected;
- do a reflection on the investigative process;
- create a sticker on water conservation awareness in Singapore, which is lacking among the population.

Students found the trip meaningful as evident in the reflections of Liza Sonnie Yeo Mae of Sec 1/3: "The GI trail was interesting and I have learnt so many new things. For example, I learnt how to measure the pH level and the amount of dissolved oxygen in the river. I enjoyed myself as the activity required teamwork and we conducted the tasks successfully as a team. I could tell that my friends had a lot of fun as well. It was a great learning experience!"

Secondary Two students on the other hand, went to the HDB hub @Toa Payoh to gather resources for their Historical Investigation project. In this trip, students learn more about Singapore's nation-building years and its impact on the lives of Singaporeans. They are required to use the information gathered to:

- construct their responses to the Historical Investigation question, 'How far were people's lives transformed after Independence?';
- make comparisons between the sources gathered and examine various transformations from 1965 onwards.

Through this experience, it is hoped that students would have a sense of appreciation of the efforts of the pioneer generation towards nation building to bring Singapore to where it is today.

### **Chinese New Year Celebration**

Our school celebrated Chinese New Year (CNY) on 5 February and the theme for this year was 《金猴献瑞闹新春》 "Swinging In A Boisterous Year". This event was jointly organised by the Mother Tongue Languages Department and the Values-in-Action Committee. To share the festive joy, all classes decorated their classrooms according to the CNY theme and prizes were given to the best decorated classrooms of each level.

The highlight of the day was the CNY celebration concert in the hall, beginning with the enchanting performance by our Chinese Orchestra, Vice-Principal's sharing on the significance of preserving our cultural practices, interactive CNY Quiz, the mesmerising Sichuan Opera Face-Changing performance and the ever-popular Lion Dance performance. All staff and students were equally excited and amused by the surprise appearance of the mischievous Monkey God. The CNY hall celebration ended on a high note, with class representatives and student councillors presenting oranges symbolising good wishes to all staff.

It was a high-spirited event, involving staff and students from all ethnic groups in the celebration with a view to build inter-cultural appreciation and understanding.

### **Chinese New Year Values-in-Action Experience**

To usher in Chinese New Year this year, the Secondary 1 to 3 students organised class parties and invited the school cleaners to join in the party. Secondary 2 students also prepared hampers for the senior citizens from GoodLife! whereas our Secondary 3 students prepared theirs for the school cleaners which were presented to them during the class party. Secondary 4 and 5 students played host to the senior citizens from GoodLife! and Sunlove Home. Our girls served them delicious home-cooked food and provided fun companionship. The senior citizens were also treated to an awesome performance by the school's Chinese Orchestra as well as the Concert Band.

From the reaction of our guests, it was clear that the gesture from our girls was greatly appreciated by them and it was truly gratifying to see the look of joy on their faces. At the same time, our girls felt satisfied and encouraged as they brought the festive cheer to one another.

### **ITE Visit**

Secondary 2/7 students visited ITE College Central and ITE College East for the **Enhanced Experience ITE Programme** on 12 and 19 February. This is essentially a learning adventure for lower secondary school students designed to help them experience ITE and discover how a "Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on" ITE education can help advance their careers. They were briefed on the

various ITE courses offered and the respective cut-off points as well as brought on a tour of the colleges to learn about the various schools in both colleges. They also had a chance to carry out various hands-on projects to challenge their creativity and help them understand the application of the skills and knowledge at ITE. Some of the projects include handling video-camera and the blue or green screen usually used for filming, making masks, developing apps, robotics programming and popcorn making. The girls participated in all the activities enthusiastically and enjoyed the various learning experiences at both ITE colleges.

### **World Thinking Day**

Our Girl Guides celebrated World Thinking Day (WTD) together with their sister Guides on 22 February to reflect and show camaraderie with their sisters in other companies across Singapore and throughout the world! The theme for this year's 2016, 'Connect and Celebrate', encourages the girls to explore and celebrate the meaningful connections that make their lives better.

Our Guides greeted WTD with excitement, at the East Division celebrations at Bedok View Secondary School on 20 February. Over the holidays, some of the girls had tirelessly worked on their submissions for the WTD Competitions producing beautiful, hand-crafted entries for the following competitions:

- Selfie (Connect with Me)
- Quilt Making (Connect with Friends)
- Activity Booth (Connect with World)
- International Costume Parade (Connect with WAGGGS)

We are delighted to share that the Katong Convent Girl Guides has again clinched Gold for the Puan Noor Aisha Award (PNAA) for 2015. Congratulations to our Girl Guides!

In CHIJ Katong Convent, we are continuously looking for and providing opportunities for our girls to have a rich and fulfilling school experience that will enable the girls grow holistically to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We welcome parents in helping to source for or provide such experiential opportunities as well.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Chan (Ms)  
Principal

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1. Academic Support Programme (ASP)**

The ASP was put in place by the school to provide additional support for identified students outside of the core curricular hours. As a gentle reminder, the Lower Secondary ASP is held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2.45 - 3.45 pm, and the Upper Secondary ASP is on Thursday from 2.45 - 3.45 pm. The Sec 1 ASP will begin from Term 2.

Owing to our tight curriculum structure, parents are strongly encouraged to arrange extra-curricular programmes for their child such that they would not miss their ASP. As the ASP aims to provide additional support for identified students, do also note that there will be a review of eligible students after the mid-year examination.

## **2. KC Education & Career Guidance Fair**

Our school will be organising the annual Education & Career Guidance Fair in conjunction with our Meet-the-Parents Session on Saturday, **12 March from 8.00am to 12.00pm**. The five polytechnics, ITE, LaSalle College of the Arts, NAFA, SHATEC will set up booths to promote their courses. Their representatives will be on hand to provide consultation to our girls and their parents. Do take advantage of our network with these institutions to get your questions on post-secondary options answered from the representatives themselves. From previous feedback, our students and parents have found this beneficial and appreciate us getting these institutions here to assist them in making informed post-secondary educational choices. We strongly encourage you to visit the booths of the different institutions to have a deeper understanding of post-secondary education pathways and career options.

## **3. Timetable Changes**

We will carry out Friday's odd **week timetable on 6 April** (Wednesday, Wk 3) to replace 3 Fridays taken up for the Chinese New Year celebration, a Good Friday public holiday and the mid-year exam respectively.

## **4. National Physical Fitness Assessment (NAPFA) Test**

The NAPFA test for Secondary Two, Four and Five students will be held after school on the following dates and at the stated venues:

25 April Mon: 2.4km test for Sec 2 (Toa Payoh Stadium)  
26 April Tue: 2.4km test for Sec 4 & 5 (Toa Payoh Stadium)  
27 April Wed: 5-item test for Sec 2 (school hall)  
28 April Thurs: 5-item test for Sec 4 & 5 (school hall)

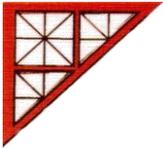
A letter will be issued to all students nearer to the test date, informing them of their reporting time according to their assigned slot. Please note that the NAPFA test is a national physical examination, and all physically fit students in Secondary 2, 4 and 5 are required to attempt the test. Students who are exempted from the NAPFA test or have a long-term MC are exempted, and do not need to report for the test on the above-mentioned dates. They are to submit their medical certificate to their PE teachers by the first week of Term 2 if they have not yet done so.

## **5. CCA Stand-Down**

CCA stand-down for Secondary 4 & 5 students will take effect from 11 March unless they are involved in competitions. As for the rest, CCA will stand down with effect from 22 April in preparation for the mid-year examinations which will commence on 5 May with the Language papers.

## **6. Choir Concert**

Our school choir will be performing at the Victoria Concert Hall on Wednesday, 20 April. Tickets are priced at \$12 (Standard Seat) and \$60 (Premier Seat). Do place your ticket order with any choir member or simply visit the General Office from 1 March to register your interest and make payment. There are only limited premium seats available so book your tickets fast to avoid disappointment.



# OUR GIRLS. OUR FUTURE



## CHIJ KATONG CONVENT PARENT TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP

Email : [kcptsg@hotmail.com](mailto:kcptsg@hotmail.com)

PTSG website hyperlink @ <http://www.chijkatongconvent.moe.edu.sg>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PTSG Meeting of 2016

A big thank you to all parents who attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> PTSG meeting on Saturday 20 February!

Our Principal, Ms Patricia Chan addressed the parents, highlighting the important dates in Semester 1 and inviting parents to lend their support in the upcoming school events namely the KC Choir Concert on 20 April and National Day Celebrations. This was followed by updates on PTSG by PTSG Chairperson, Ms Tricia Boey who introduced the Level Reps and briefed the group on the roles of Level Reps. The flow chart of the Level Rep communication channel is appended below. Parents who have indicated their interest to be part of this communication channel will be able to communicate via the different levels of communication channels on various matters pertaining to school or PTSG activities such as in the upcoming events lined up for this year including prawning at East Coast Beach, cycling to Coney Island from Punggol and ice cream- making workshop. On behalf of the school and PTSG, we would like to thank these parents for their enthusiasm in volunteering as Level Reps.

- Sec 1 PTSG Level Reps : Alicia Lee and Fiona Kwa
- Sec 2 PTSG Level Reps : Junne Yeo and Chrislyn Liau
- Sec 3 PTSG Level Reps : Yap Chin Mee and Teresa Mak
- Sec 4 and 5 PTSG Level Rep : Lorraine Khoo

### Flow Chart of Level Rep Communication



## English and Mother Tongue Department Subject Sharing Session

Both the English and Mother Tongue Department shared on the respective subjects' curriculum in KC detailing the schemes of assessment with respect to writing, comprehension, listening and oral communications. Parents were informed on the various teaching pedagogies and strategies used in the classrooms during English and Mother Tongue lessons. Parents were very engaged as they listened to the Heads of Department highlighting the various platforms used to expose students to communicate confidently and meaningfully in real-life situations for example in the use of videos to spark off reflection writing or as stimulus for oral communication. Both sessions were very engaging, informative and effective. Thank you to all parents who attended the English and Mother Tongue Department Session for the positive feedback! Materials shared during the 2<sup>nd</sup> PTSG Meeting have been uploaded via the MCOOnline Parents Portal.

## Next PTSG Meeting

There will be no PTSG Meeting in March in view of the *Meet-The-Parents-Session on Saturday, 12 March 2016*. Details of the next meeting are:

Date : Saturday 2 April 2016

Time : 9 – 11 am

Venue : AVA Theatre (Level 3, above the Hall)

*Light breakfast and hot drinks will be served from 0830 onwards.*

***There will be a subject sharing session (Art and Food and Consumer Education) from 1000 – 1100hrs.***

We look forward to seeing you there!

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please note our contact details below. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

### PTSG Parents

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### PTSG Teachers

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Mrs Karen Jalleh (Sec. 4 PTSG i/c) [karen\\_jalleh@moe.edu.sg](mailto:karen_jalleh@moe.edu.sg)

Mdm Raudah (Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 PTSG i/c) [raudah\\_hussain@moe.edu.sg](mailto:raudah_hussain@moe.edu.sg)



FAMILY matters!

## Family Matters @School

Family Matters@School organised a talk on the topic “*Motivating Your Child And Managing Their Exam Stress*” on the same day after the PTSG meeting. A total of 18 participants who attended the talk found it useful and gave positive feedback. They gained many tips and knowledge from the speaker, Mr Johnny Ong. They were glad that they had been informed about the talk and would recommend the programme to other parents. There will be no talks in March. However, do look out for future talks from Family Matters @School in the April issue of Parent Link.

For any queries, please email [lorraine.familymatters@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.familymatters@gmail.com).