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QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50, WEST COAST AVENUE. SINGAPORE 128104

Principal's Letter – Term 3, July 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Term 3 at QPS

I hope you had a rejuvenating break with your child/ward during the school holidays. Term Three looks to be a busy and an exciting term as the school commemorates its 30th anniversary celebrations cum Qifa Carnival on Saturday, 25 July, and the Primary Six pupils go full steam ahead with their Primary Six Leaving Examination (PSLE) preparations. The school is also hosting two MOE visits – Zonal Director, Schools West in July and Permanent Secretary (Education) in August.

The Sabah Earthquake Incident

We mourn the loss of the seven pupils and two teachers, together with Tanjong Katong Primary School (TKPS), as a result of an earthquake that occurred at Sabah's Mount Kinabalu on 5 June 2015. I addressed the pupils yesterday morning and shared with them that on behalf of the school, I penned some words of condolences and support on the tributes board set up in TKPS.

Overseas Immersion Programmes

We recognise that this unfortunate and tragic incident was the result of a natural disaster. In bringing pupils out on any trip, it carries inherent risks. However, experiential learning is an important part of holistic education, and the educational benefits that can accrue to the pupils are immense. I quote Mr David Lim, veteran climber, who was featured in the Sunday Times on 28 June "to withdraw from taking any risks is to deprive young people of experiencing rewarding and enriching lessons of the outdoors".

As our P4-5 pupils embark on their overseas immersion trips to Malacca and Sarawak, the school would like to assure the parents that we will do our utmost in ensuring the pupils' safety and well-being. I hope that parents will not let this unfortunate incident affect their decision on supporting their child/ren to go on such overseas trips which serve as great exposure and opportunities to inculcate in the children invaluable lifeskills such as self-reliance, relationship management and perseverance.



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***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

Strategic Thrust 1 - Providing a Holistic and Value-added Education

kNOw Cleaners' Day – 10 July 2015 & Respect for One Another

Qifa is honouring our cleaners on kNOw Cleaners' Day for the wonderful work they have put in to help us to maintain the school environment so that it is conducive for work and play. We would like our pupils to better appreciate the important roles played by the school cleaners. We will start the day with a simple ceremony to present tokens of appreciation to our cleaners. The P1-6 pupils will carry out spring cleaning of their own classrooms and the P3-5 Values in Action (VIA) monitors will clean some parts of the school premises such as the canteen and library. This is our way of teaching the children to acknowledge the cleaners' contributions and show our respect for them as persons and as members of the school community.

The pupils have always been reminded to be polite by greeting all the staff and visitors in the school. Recently I interviewed a 40-hour Parent Volunteer who shared that he was pleasantly surprised by the greetings he received from our pupils during a tour of the school. Today, two trainee teachers who reported for the first time also shared with me that they have a positive impression of the Qifa pupils who made it a point to greet them. During recess last semester, I was touched by the simple gesture of a little girl who greeted a cleaning lady warmly. I was standing behind her so she was not aware of my presence but it brought a smile to my face as she was living out the values we have espoused.

Qifa's Academic and Non-Academic Achievements

The school has been blessed with many outstanding academic and non-academic achievements this year and I will only highlight a few here. Please visit our school website under **CCA & Competitions 2015** for more results.

In the Raffles Institution Primary Mathematics World Contest, our pupils aced **a High Distinction and 3 Distinctions** in Round 1 Junior Category, and were placed in the **top 20 schools**. They also won **2 Distinctions** in the Round 1 Open Category. Our P3-4 pupils also won a number of gold, silver and bronze medals in the Singapore and Asian Schools Maths Olympiad and the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad for Primary Schools respectively.

Easan Saravan of 6 Exemplary was conferred the Best Speaker Award (1st and 3rd Preliminary Rounds) in Wits and Words Inter-School Debate Championship 2015. In the 14th Inter-School National Scrabble Championship 2015, our pupils turned in an impressive performance. We are the **Champions** in the Senior Team 1 - Bowl category, **1st Runners-up**



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for the Junior Team 1 – Plate Category and **Second Runners-up** for the Junior Team 4 – Plate Category, and 4th position and **Merit** for the Individual Bowl Category and **4th Position** for Primary 2 Doubles.

This is the first time that the school has received a **Certificate of Recognition (Special Mention)** in the 2015 SYF Art Exhibition. The curatorial panel gave special mentions to **19** out of the **177** artworks submitted by schools all over Singapore. The works are chiefly recognised for their unique qualities and the pupils' creative interpretation of the theme for the exhibition.

Our chess prodigy, Siddharth Jagadeesh from 2 Harmony, competed in the *ASEAN and ASIAN Chess Championships* recently. He came in **2nd** in the ASEAN (U-8) Rapid Category and **8th** in the ASEAN (U-8) Standard Category. He was the best performing Singapore team member and helped his team to ace a **Bronze** medal for Singapore in both the championships.

Our Volleyball Junior Girls and Boys were triumphant at the National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships. After extremely close and tough fights, both teams emerged as the **1st Runners Up** while our Senior Boys and Girls teams were placed **5th** respectively in the National Championships.

***Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

A Warm Welcome

The school would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff: Ms Chua Wan Jun who will be teaching English Language and Mathematics and Ms Lim Hui Ling, Wileen who is teaching English, Mathematics and Science.

Staff Learning & Development

In line with the school values of '*Inquiring Mind*' and '*Enterprising Spirit*', our teaching and non-teaching staff went on a learning journey to **Trick Eye Museum and SEA Aquarium** at Resorts World Sentosa on 25 June 2015. This learning journey provided an opportunity for us to bond as a Qifa family and to unleash our creativity through team activities.

To deepen our teachers' pedagogical and pastoral skills, all our teaching staff attended two useful courses during the March and June holidays, namely, Questioning Techniques and Solution-focused Coaching. Questioning Techniques was conducted by Principal Master Teacher cum Programme Director, Pedagogy at the English Language Institute of Singapore



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(ELIS) Dr Ang May Yin, to equip our teachers with the know-how with regards to sharpening the types of questions we ask the pupils in class to stretch the pupils' thinking and to determine their mastery of content and skills. Solution-focused Coaching conducted by Dr Debbie Hogan seeks to equip the teachers with basic coaching tools and skills to enhance relationship building with the pupils.

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

As mentioned earlier, I have often impressed upon the pupils the importance of showing respect for one another and for all staff in the school, irrespective of their roles or jobs in the school. We always call the school community the Qifa family therefore respect for one another is fundamental. Parents are also integral members of the Qifa family and I would like to share some observations I have made.

In the past, some of my teaching and non-teaching staff have engaged with a small handful of parents who had raised their voices at them or spoken to them in a discourteous manner. Every one of my staff is a valued member of the Qifa family therefore I would like to appeal to all parents to be positive role models for their child/ren by honouring and respecting all members of the Qifa family. Every member has his/her place in the family and is therefore worthy of honour and respect whether they are the counter staff, security personnel or teachers. We should not be selective about this.

2015 Primary One Registration (for admission to Primary One in 2016) begins this week and I am pleased to announce that we have already filled three classes under Phase 1 Sibling Priority. We expect more places to be filled under Phase 2A and B. Thank you for your support for the school as we partner one another in our shared journey to educate and nurture your child/ward. Below is a meaningful poem on home-school partnership:

Whose Child Is This?

"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play
"Mine", said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while
To bathe his hands and comb his hair
To tell him what he is to wear
To prepare him that he may always be good
And each day do the things he should"



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"Whose child is this?" I asked again
As the door opened and someone came in
"Mine", said the teacher with the same tender smile
"Mine, to keep just for a little while
To teach him how to be gentle and kind
To train and direct his dear little mind
To help him live by every rule
And get the best he can from school"

"Whose child is this?" I ask once more
Just as the little one entered the door
"Ours" said the parent and the teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child
"Ours to love and train together
Ours this blessed task forever."

~Author Unknown

***Every School, a Good School**

Strategic Thrust 4 – Creating Quality Systems

Conduct of Temperature Taking Exercise

As part of our measures to maintain the school's preparedness to ensure that all pupils are familiar with temperature-taking in order to provide a healthy and safe environment for all in the school, there will be a temperature-taking exercise conducted on **Thursday, 2 July 2015** by the school. We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Wednesday, 1 July 2015**. We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child/ward brings his/her personal ODT which is in good working condition.



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Some Important Dates to take note of

S/N	Day/Date	School Activity/Holiday	Remarks
1	Friday, 17 July 2015	Hari Raya Puasa	No school for all pupils
2	Friday, 24 July 2015	Qifa Carnival Preparations	No school for P1-5 pupils only
3	Monday, 27 July 2015	Youth Day Holiday (in-lieu)	No school for all pupils
4	Thursday, 6 August 2015	National Day School Celebrations	School ends at 10.30am for all pupils
5	Friday, 7 August 2015	SG 50 Public Holiday	No school for all pupils
6	Monday, 10 August 2015	National Day Holiday (in-lieu)	No school for all pupils
7	Thursday, 20 August 2015	PSLE Oral Examination Day 1	No school for P1-5 pupils only
9	Friday, 21 August 2015	PSLE Oral Examination Day 2	No school for P1-5 pupils only
10	Friday, 4 September 2015	Teachers' Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
11	Friday, 18 September 2015	PSLE Listening Comprehension Examination	No school for P1-5 pupils only
12	Thursday, 24 September 2015	Hari Raya Haji	No school for all pupils
13	Thursday, 1 October to Tuesday, 6 October 2015	PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1 – 5 from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
14	Friday, 9 October 2015	Children's Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
15	Monday, 19 October to Thursday, 22 October 2015	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils
16	Tuesday, 10 November 2015	Deepavali	No school for all pupils
17	Wednesday, 11 November 2015	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils
18	Friday, 20 November 2015	Honours Day	No school for P1 – 4 pupils except for those involved



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E-learning Day & Qifa Carnival cum School 30th Anniversary Celebrations

As the school will be busy preparing for the Qifa Carnival cum School 30th Anniversary Celebrations on 25 July, there will be no school for our Primary One to Five pupils on 24 July. Instead, they will stay at home for E-Learning. Pupils with internet access at home will log on to MC Online to complete their English, Mathematics, Science (except P1-2) and Mother Tongue assignments. Each assignment will take from half an hour to an hour to complete. Pupils are advised to take eye breaks and avoid staring at the screen for too long. For pupils who do not have internet access at home, they will be given a hard copy of the assignments or alternatively they can opt to come in to school to use the computers in our school library or Computer Lab 1 anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to complete their E-learning assignments.

The last Qifa Carnival, which was held in November 2013, was a huge success and we presented a cheque of \$30,062.72 to the Children's Cancer Foundation. Our 4th bi-annual Qifa Carnival this year will be a particularly meaningful one as we are also celebrating our school's 30th anniversary as a government school, and 109 years when it was first set up as Khee Fatt Study Institution.

The celebrations will take place on **Saturday 25 July 2015** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a host of interesting activities for the Carnival including our very own House of Horrors, fun rides, garage sale, and so on. As part of our anniversary celebrations, we are going to showcase the school's journey and hakka heritage, milestone events and the people who contributed to and make up the Qifa family. We look forward to you and your child/ren and/or ward joining us for the celebrations.

In closing

On behalf of my staff, I would like to wish everyone good health and a fruitful term ahead.

Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)

Principal, Qifa