



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL
50 WEST COAST AVENUE SINGAPORE 128104
TEL: 67783085 FAX: 67761485

Principal's Letter – Term 4, September 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Term 4 at QPS

I hope you had a well-rested break with your child/ward during the one week break. All too quickly, we have reached the last term of 2015.

Please allow me to highlight again some important dates that you will need to take note of in Term 4:

S/N	Day/Date	Activity/Event/Public Holiday	Remarks
1.	Friday, 18 September 2015	PSLE Listening Comprehension Examination	No school for P1-5 pupils only
2.	Thursday, 24 September 2015	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday	No school for all pupils
3.	Thursday, 1 October to Tuesday, 6 October 2015	PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1 – 5 pupils from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
4.	Friday, 9 October 2015	Children's Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
5.	Monday, 19 October to Thursday, 22 October 2015	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils
6.	Tuesday, 10 November 2015	Deepavali Public Holiday	No school for all pupils
7.	Wednesday, 11 November 2015	School Administrative Day	No school for all pupils
8.	Thursday, 19 November 2015	P1-5 School Prize-Giving Day	School as Usual
9.	Friday, 20 November 2015	School Honours Day	No school except for prize-winners (all levels) & all P6 pupils

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

Values in Action (VIA)

The Qifa Carnival

The school is pleased to announce the success of its Qifa Carnival which was held in July this year to raise funds for Children's Cancer Foundation and school improvement works. We raised almost \$30,000 from the sale of carnival tickets which is our best collection to date. The Char Yong (Dabu) Association in Singapore, through our School Advisory Committee, will also contribute an additional sum of money to support our school's fundraising efforts for Children's Cancer Foundation. Thank you everyone for your generous support for a worthy cause.

Qifa's Academic & Non-Academic Achievements

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

Academic

In the *West 1 Cluster English Language Reading Fiesta*, which involved participating schools like Clementi Primary, Henry Park Primary, Nan Hua Primary and Yuhua Primary, our pupils aced the Storytelling Competition as both Warren Wee from 1 Aspiring and Shanice Tan-Haridas from 2 Aspiring did Qifa proud by emerging ***First*** in their respective categories.

Two of our pupils, Aye Myat Thiri Ko Ko Florence from 3 Exemplary (Lower Primary Category) and Lena Anusha Kerle from 4 Exemplary (Upper Primary Category) were recipients of the ***Honours Roll*** in the 2015 *YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards (PESA)*. In addition, our pupils participated in the 2015 Raffles Institution Inter-Primary Schools Debate Tournament and emerged ***2nd Position*** amongst the ***top 8 schools in the quarter finals***.

Two of our pupils, Li Meiyi from 4 Exemplary and Xu Yixiang from 6 Exemplary, participated in the *Primary Schools Chinese Essay Writing Competition* and their essays were selected for publication from the 1000 entries. In addition, the two pupils received ***honourable mentions*** for their writing.

In the *University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)*, the school aced ***9 High Distinctions*** and ***44 Distinctions*** for Science, and ***4 High Distinctions*** and ***14***

Distinctions for Writing. M Selimul Haque and Zhong Shuyang from 4 Exemplary *achieved 2 Distinctions* for Computer Skills. The results for Mathematics are not out yet.

In the 11th *International Mathematics Contest*, David Tay Yiwei clinched the **Gold award** for Singapore as he vied with participants from Taiwan, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and South Korea, etc.

In the *2015 Singapore International Mathematics Olympiad Challenge* which saw the involvement of 12 countries and 421 participants, Qifa is proud of our 4 representatives: Teoh Yu Xin and Zhong Shuyang from 4 Exemplary, and David Tay Yiwei and Hugo Maximus Lim of 3 Exemplary, who emerged from the competition with **2 Silvers** and **2 Bronze** medals.

Our Primary Five pupils also achieved commendable results at the *2015 National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore Competition* with a total of **3 Silver awards**, **8 Bronze awards** and **5** of them earned an **Honourable Mention**.

For Science, we are pleased to announce that Nurin Aliyah bte Mohd Iskandar from 5 Exemplary is one of the recipients of the **2015 Abbott Young Scientist Award**. This award includes a mentoring programme by Singapore Science Centre and a bursary for training in science knowledge and communication skills as well as a year-long structured programme on project work.

In addition, Olivia Baek Youngok of 5 Exemplary clinched the **Silver award** in the *2015 Singapore Primary Schools Science Olympiad Competition*. A total of 111 primary schools took part in this competition which has been organised by NUS High School of Mathematics and Science since 2009. Olivia was one of the 54 pupils from 25 primary schools who was shortlisted for the practical round. In the *2015 Raffles Institution Science Olympiad Competition*, Christie Chong Wei Lin from 5 Exemplary clinched the **Bronze award**. Christie was one of the top ten percent of the participants from the preliminary round who qualified for the final round.

Non-Academic

5 of our pupils from the Information Communication Club participated in an Inter-Primary Schools Digital Story Competition '*50 Years On, Remembering Our Everyday Pioneer Heroes*' organised by Civica. I beamed with pride when they went on the stage with the teacher-in-charge, Ms Koh Meng Hoe, to receive their \$7000 cash award as they emerged as the **Overall Winner in the Primary Schools Category**.

What is praiseworthy is that the organiser commended and made a special mention of the video 'All About Mr Wong' made by the Qifa pupils and supported by Ms Koh and the Information Technology Executive, Ms Nur Sabrina. They shared that the video best embodied what they were looking for out of all the videos submitted by the schools in Singapore including the Secondary and Junior College categories. The video featured one of the pupils' grandparents who was invited on the stage. Do check out the video 'All About Mr Wong' at this link: https://youtu.be/pd_4iy1AmgA on youtube.

The school also participated in two other competitions organised by Civica. For the *2015 Tales of 'S' eBook Competition*, Owena Eng Wan-Yu from 5 Exemplary received an award as she was one of the top 50 winners in Singapore. The works of 5 of our pupils were also selected for publication for the *Illustrations for 2015 Tales of 'S' eBook Competition*.

I have another piece of exciting news to share. Two of our pupils, Yu Jia Xun and Olivia Baek Youngok from 5 Exemplary were selected for the finals of the *2015 Melody of Hope Song Writing Competition*, organised by the Singapore Kindness Movement. Their entry was one of the top 12 entries that were shortlisted by the judges of the competition. The pair will be receiving complimentary vocal coaching from professionals and their piece will be featured in a CD album due to be released at the end of this year. Do look out for it!

In Sports, our boys emerged as the **Champions** in the *National Inter-Primary Schools Soft Volleyball Championships* while our Girls came in **Second**. For Wushu, Gao Xing from 5 Diligence won the **Bronze Award** for *International Broadsword in the 2015 National Primary Schools Wushu Championship* while Matthew Wan Zhi Hin from 3 Exemplary **won 2 Silver Awards** for the *3 Duan Nan Quan* and *Ji Ti Quan* categories in the *2nd Singapore International Wushu Trail Blazer Xinxiu Elite Championship 2015*. Together with Gao Xing and Matthew Wan, Kaven Tham Hoy Mun from 4 Exemplary and Chua Min Cheung from 4 Diligence also received the **Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council Sportsmanship Awards**.

Our Floorball junior boys team participated for the first time in the *National Inter-Primary Schools Floorball Championships*. They performed credibly as they reached the quarter finals, outperforming two schools which have Floorball as their niche CCA. Well-done, boys!

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

PSLE and End-of-Year Examinations

Term 4 is often associated with the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) for Primary 6 and End-of-Year examinations for the other levels. I will be distributing a lovingly prepared '*PSLE Care Pack*' to every one of our Primary Six pupils to wish them well as they sit for their first national examinations. We pray and hope for good health, focus, wisdom and perseverance for our P6s as they prepare to sit for their PSLE papers.

For the parents of the Primary One to Five pupils, we seek your understanding as we adjust the school timing during the days of the PSLE written papers (provided in the table on P.1) for the P1-5 pupils to the afternoon session in order to provide a conducive examination environment for the P6 pupils. We

also seek your support in working closely with the school to consolidate your child/ward's learning for the year as they sit for their SA2.

***Every School, a Good School**

Strategic Thrust 4 – Providing Quality Management

Haze Management

We have put in place a school continuity plan to ensure the well-being of your child during a haze situation. We are ready to respond and take appropriate haze management measures based on the guidelines corresponding to MOH's health advisory (see **Annex A**).

To enable our teachers to continue to safeguard the well-being of your child while in school, please keep us updated on your child's health status. Children, who are feeling unwell, should receive medical attention promptly. They should also have their necessary medication, such as their inhaler and spacer, with them at all times, and be encouraged to drink lots of water which my VP and I have reminded them twice this week.

We would also like to inform you that the Ministry of Education is monitoring the haze situation closely, and will make adjustments to school activities corresponding to MOH's health advisory, to ensure the well-being of all our pupils. As part of our haze management measures developed over the years, we would like to reassure parents that our schools are equipped with air purifiers and sufficient enclosed spaces to cater to our pupils.

As stated in MOE's website on Haze Management Measures, the Ministry will consider closing all primary and secondary schools if NEA's air quality forecast for the next day is in the hazardous level. Any decision to close schools will not be taken lightly as MOE is mindful of the disruptions to families' care arrangements for their child/ren. The Ministry's decision will take into consideration all available information, health advisories and forecasts from the relevant authorities that we have on hand regarding the next day's haze situation. As forecasts are based on prevailing weather conditions, real time conditions may differ from forecasts due to factors such as unforeseen changes in wind conditions.

To ensure smooth operations in schools, and to avoid confusion among parents and students with adjustments to real time conditions, we seek your understanding that MOE's decision made the previous day, as to whether schools close or remain open, will stand. Should school closures coincide with national examinations such as the PSLE, the affected examination papers will be rescheduled and the examination period extended.

Unless official notification is issued from MOE to close schools, schools will remain open (including school-based Student Care Centres), and all activities including examinations will continue. Parents will be given adequate notice.

For more information of MOE's Haze Management Measures, please refer to <http://www.moe.gov.sg/haze/>.

In Conclusion

As 2015 draws to a close, I would like to thank you, our parents, for your continual strong partnership and support, which have helped to make Qifa a school we are all proud to be a member of. Do have a great term ahead.

Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)

Principal, Qifa

Haze Management Measures

Index Category	Management Measures
101-200 (Unhealthy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will minimise outdoor activities • Students with pre-existing lung or heart conditions or are unwell will be exempted from all physical exercise
201-300 (Very Unhealthy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no indoor or outdoor physical exercises • Classroom lessons will continue, but lessons may be modified as appropriate • Students with pre-existing lung or heart conditions will be moved to enclosed indoor spaces
>300 (Hazardous)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the forecast for the next day is 'Hazardous', school closure will be considered. • If PSI reaches 'Hazardous' level <u>during school hours</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools will scale down lessons ○ All students, including those with pre-existing lung or heart conditions, will be in enclosed indoor spaces, including classrooms with doors and windows fully closed. Schools will spread out students across the enclosed indoor spaces, such as the library, to allow for better thermal comfort and ventilation ○ Students and staff who are unwell will be temporarily accommodated in an air-conditioned room with an air purifier, before taken to seek medical attention. Parents of these students will also be notified