



# 启发小学

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

## Principal's Letter – Term 4, September 2016

*Dear Parent/Guardian*

### **Welcome to Term 4 at QPS**

We ended Term 3 on a high note with different stakeholders coming together for our Teachers' Day School Celebrations and Dinner at Grand Shanghai including the Parent Support Group (PSG) EXCO members, coaches and members of our School Advisory Committee who generously paid for the dinner. In the first week of Term 4, this Friday 16 September, the school community will gather once again to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival. This is also an occasion for us to host a group of children from underprivileged families from the neighbourhood.

### **\*Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

#### ***Qifa's Academic & Non-Academic Achievements***

##### ***Academic***

In the University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), the school achieved **three High Distinctions** (top 1% of participants) and **28 Distinctions** (next 10% of participants) for Science, **four High Distinctions** and **42 Distinctions** for English Language, **one High Distinction** and **16 Distinctions** for Writing, **one High Distinction** and **7 Distinctions** for Digital Technologies. The results for Mathematics are not out yet.

For Science, Baek Sangsoo from 5 Exemplary received the **Silver Award** in the Singapore Primary Science Olympiad organised by the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, and the **Bronze Award** in the Raffles Science Olympiad.

In the Singapore and Asian Schools Mathematics Olympiad (SASMO), our P4 pupils secured **6 Gold Medals**, **3 Silver Medals** and **2 Bronze Medals** while the P3 pupils won **6 Silver Medals** and **9 Bronze Medals**. In the Singapore Mathematics Kangaroo Contest, our P3 pupils secured **4 Gold Medals**, **4 Silver Medals** and **6 Bronze Medals**. In the River Valley High School Mathematics Challenge, our pupils was placed in the **5<sup>th</sup> Position**.

For the 2016 International Chinese Language Competition for Primary Schools, Chen Yanlin from 6 Exemplary aced the **Gold Award** for both the Singapore and International Categories while Owena Eng Wan-Yu, also from 6 Exemplary, won the **Bronze Award** for the Singapore Category. Baek Youngok from 6 Exemplary and Zhong Chuhan from 5 Diligence won the **Merit Award** for the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Primary Schools Chinese Essay Competition for the Non-Chinese and Under 12 Categories respectively. In the Awaiyar Vizha National Tamil Competition, Manoharan Janyaa from 1 Caring won the **3rd Prize**.

### ***Non-Academic***

The school is honoured to be one of the 9 primary schools in Singapore shortlisted for the **2017 Reading Excellence Award**; and the **Crowd Favourite Award**.

We are proud of our debaters who qualified for the **Primary School Debate Open 2016 Grand Finals**, and one of our pupils, Chua Tzee Sin from 5 Exemplary, has been conferred the **Good Speaker Award** for Division 1 schools. The grand finals is held at Methodist Girls' School on this Saturday and we will be rooting for them. Aason Neo from 4 Exemplary won the **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** in the 21<sup>st</sup> Char Yong Cup Students Chinese Chess Championships – West/North Preliminaries (Under 10 Category).

### **\*Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

### **\*Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

***Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff***

### **\*Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

***Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships***

### ***School Value - A Caring Heart***

A school is not just a collection of individuals but a community of people. Stakeholders in the school community each play their part towards the achievement of school goals, and share in its successes and challenges along the way. The *Ubuntu* philosophy says that a human being does not exist in isolation; it talks about our interconnectedness. Caring for and about others in the community is a central value of *Ubuntu*. When we do something good, it spreads and touches the whole humanity.

A P1 teacher shared this story after a class birthday celebration. A boy in her class gave his goodie bag to his classmate when he saw how distressed she was when she misplaced hers. The same boy also decided to give his treasured aeroplane to his friend because he had accidentally damaged his friend's aeroplane. He did what he felt was the right thing to do - to replace the toy.

The next story happened during the haze period. Another child had asked for the teacher's permission to refill his water bottle. He offered to refill his group mates' water bottles as well and the reason he gave was he did not want his group mates to inhale the 'bad' air.

Stories of care and concern demonstrated by our staff towards our colleagues are plentiful. Before an elderly ex-colleague and relief teacher in the school went off for a surgery in August this year, the teachers in the level chipped in to buy him some tonics and organised a farewell lunch for him. It is also not uncommon to hear feedback from new staff members that the teachers here take the time to ask how they are settling in and make them feel welcome and supported.

Parent volunteers wanted the teachers to enjoy their Teachers' Day celebrations this year therefore they stepped up to lend their help and support in the planning and execution of the Teachers' Day concert. They frequently help out and support the school such as in the commemorations of key events and festivals and other school programmes such as Kidsread (a programme to reach out to low progress readers) and accompany the children on learning journeys outside the school.

One of our School Advisory Committee (SAC) members approached a fellow member of the Char Yong Dabu Association to provide financial support to two of our boys who had lost their father, the sole breadwinner of the family, to cancer. As they are non-Singapore citizens, they do not qualify for financial assistance from MOE. The SAC member stepped in to ensure that the children are able to continue their schooling.

These represent just a few of the many incidents that I know about which illustrate how the spirit of family and community is very much alive in our school. I believe that many such thoughtful gestures and actions take place among the pupils, teachers, parents and the wider Qifa community on a daily basis. Through genuine compassion, a shared vision for our school, 'An Achieving School with a Caring Environment' can be realised.

## **\*Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

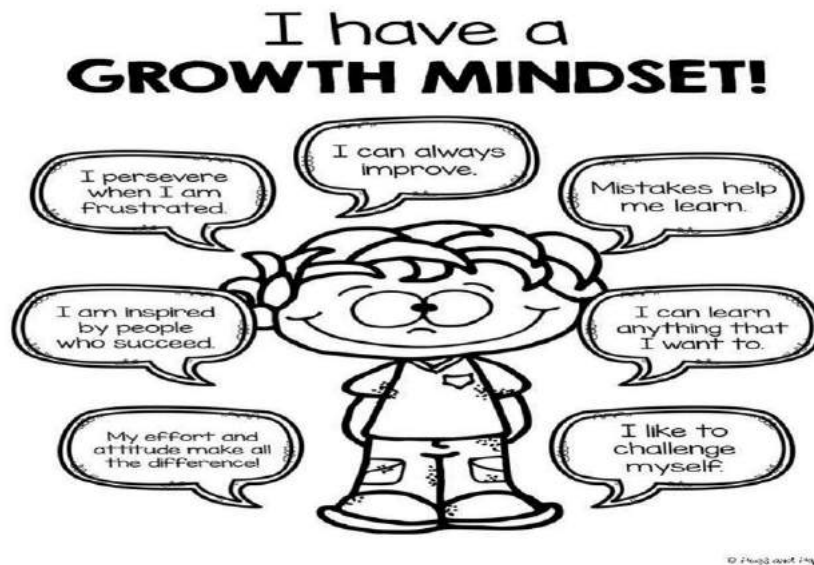
### ***Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships***

#### ***Cultivating a Growth Mindset***

When I welcomed the children back to school on the first day of Term 4, I spoke to them about my desire for them to develop a growth rather than fixed mindset towards learning. Growth Mindset is the brainchild of Carol Dweck, a Professor of Psychology at Stanford University, and the author of *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. Dweck believes that a growth mindset is critical towards developing a love of lifelong learning and building resilience which have the greatest impact on how far one can go in life.

In the book, Dweck explains why it is not just our abilities and talents that bring us success but whether we approach life with a fixed or growth mindset. She makes clear why praising intelligence

and ability does not foster self-esteem and lead to accomplishment but may actually jeopardise success. With the right mindset, we can motivate our children and help them to raise their grades and achieve their goals.



At Staff Contact Time yesterday, I also spoke to the teachers about the part we play in nurturing growth mindsets in our charges, first by being mindful of whether we possess a growth or fixed mindset ourselves towards how our pupils are learning.

The following was shared with the teachers:

### How Educators Can Assist Learners in Developing a Growth Mindset

by Jackie Gerstein, Ed.D.  
User-Generated Education

**I believe that all students can learn and be successful.**

**I believe that I should assist students in believing that they are good & powerful learners.**

**I believe that all learners are smart in their own unique ways.**

**I believe all students should be challenged and be rewarded for taking risks and rising to challenges.**

### Growth Mindset Reflection Questions for the Educator

- Were my expectations clearly presented to learners?
- Did I set and maintain a climate to learn from mistakes and failure?
- Did I set a forum for learners to receive authentic feedback from me, peers, and experts?
- Did I provide the resources and scaffolding if and when needed?
- Did I provide the time and resources to address learner questions and confusions?
- Did I praise effort, resourcefulness, and resilience?
- Did I ensure that learners were engaged in and motivated by the work?
- Did my learners and I consider and use best practices for similar work?


For parents, I hope you will find the following tips useful in partnering us as we try to develop a growth mindset in the Qifa children.

The Do's and Don'ts of  
ENCOURAGING A GROWTH MINDSET

By promoting a growth mindset, you can provide your child a sturdy foundation for future learning.


**DON'TS**

- Model a fixed mindset in your own life.
- React to problems negatively
- Allow your child to make excuses for poor work
- Give non-specific praise (e.g. "You did a good job on that")
- Allow your child to avoid challenges because of a fear of failure
- Compare your child to other children
- Praise effort if your child is not learning
- View intelligence and talents as most important
- Criticize your child for making mistakes



**DO'S**

- Model a growth mindset in your actions at home.
- Encourage effort and perseverance over fixed traits, such as intelligence and raw talent.
- Help your child to actively solve problems instead of reacting to problems.
- Give feedback without criticism and judgment.
- Choose specific actions to praise.
- Help your child develop goals in his everyday life
- Provide opportunities for your child to be challenged.
- Emphasize your child's ability to grow in all things.



Schoolhouse Live

### ***PSLE and End-of-Year Examinations***

Term 4 is often associated with the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) and End-of-Year examinations for the other levels. I have just distributed 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 Two to Five pupils, we 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***

### ***Zika Management***

The school has increased the frequency of the fogging of the school compounds to fortnightly from monthly. We have also stepped up checks of mosquito breeding in the school compound. We started our Zika education including a morning assembly talk this morning and the Science teachers will also

be using a teaching resource prepared by Curriculum and Planning Development Division in MOE to educate our children on this matter.

***Some Important Dates to take note of***

S/N	Day/Date	School Activity/Holiday	Remarks
1.	Friday, 16 September 2016	PSLE Listening Comprehension Examinations Mid-Autumn Festival School Celebrations (evening)	No school for P1-5 pupils only
2.	Thursday, 29 September to Tuesday, 4 October 2016	PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1 – 5 from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
3.	Wednesday, 5 October 2016	PSLE Written Examination – Higher Mother Tongue	School as normal for P1-5 pupils
4.	Friday, 7 October 2016	Children’s Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
5.	Monday, 17 October to Thursday, 20 October 2016	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils
6.	Monday, 31 October 2016	Deepavali (in-lieu)	No school for all pupils
7.	Wednesday, 9 November 2016	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils
8.	Monday, 14 November 2016	Meet-the-Parents Session	No school for all pupils
9.	Friday, 18 November 2016	Honours Day	No school for P1 – 4 pupils except for those involved

***In Conclusion***

As 2016 draws to a close, I would like to extend the school’s appreciation to 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.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

*May Wong-Tan (Mrs)*

Principal