



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50, WEST COAST AVENUE. SINGAPORE 128104

Principal's Letter – Term 1, January 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome

On behalf of the staff at Qifa Primary School, I would like to wish you and your family a fulfilling and joyous new year. A warm greeting to our Primary One pupils and all those who have just joined us; you are now part of our Qifa family 😊 In 2016, we will continue to nurture every child in Qifa and we hope that everyone will have a bountiful year ahead filled with joyful learning, deep friendships and personal growth.

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

2015 Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) Results

Our 2015 Primary Six pupils lived out the school motto: *'Strive to Excel'* in the PSLE as a record number of our pupils scored PSLE aggregate of 250 and above. Many of these pupils have secured places in the top schools in Singapore and we are truly proud of them. The school has also achieved good quality results (A* and A) for Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue, surpassing the national mean. Once again, I would like to give the credit to our teachers, particularly our Primary Six teachers, who have played an instrumental role in our pupils' academic success. Without their dedication and hard work, Qifa would not have been able to achieve such highly commendable results.

I would like to make special mention of one of the 2015 P6 pupils who has excelled in PSLE and obtained PSLE aggregate of 250 and above: Anthea Lim Ann Tien from 6 Exemplary who has successfully secured a place in River Valley High School's Integrated Programme. Last year was not an easy year for Anthea but she has faced the challenges with a level of maturity and courage that belies her age.

Anthea had lived a carefree life up until when her mother, the pillar of her family, was diagnosed with a tumour in her ovary. She swiftly stepped up to support her father in shouldering the responsibility of caring for her mother and her 8-year-old sister, being the eldest daughter in the family.



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During this period of time, after Anthea reached home from school, she would cook for her younger sister and assist her in her homework daily. Knowing that her mother needed ample rest, she would urge her sister not to disturb her so as to allow her to rest. Anthea would also coach her sister in her studies.

Anthea firmly believed that one should continue to give one's best even in the most trying times. She put in her best effort to not only care for her family but also to manage her school work. As the Class Monitress, she continued to carry out her responsibilities with the same high level of commitment and pride. She remained cheerful and positive, never once giving up even when she was worn out by her worries and additional responsibilities at home.

Anthea sought and found support from her friends and teachers whom she knew she could depend on any time for help. As a result of these experiences, Anthea has grown as a person and pupil leader since her mother became ill. This challenging experience had strengthened her resilience and taught her to treasure her time with her family.

The school recognised her strength in character and presented the MOE ECHA (Edusave Character) Award to her, as she exemplifies the school values of 'A Caring Heart' and 'Resilience'. She also received the school's Most Resilient Pupil Award which is presented to pupil/s who has/have overcome personal challenges to perform well in school. We are very proud of Anthea who has excelled despite adversity, and she is a role model whom we encourage all our Qifa pupils to emulate.

Implementation of Programme for Active Learning (PAL) – Primary 1 & 2

Programme for Active Learning (PAL) is a major initiative recommended by the Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) Committee to address the need for greater emphasis on nurturing the whole child through non-academic programmes for all Primary One and Two pupils. PAL offers learning experiences in the pupils that are active, hands-on and meaningful. It seeks to develop soft skills in the pupils such as the ability to communicate clearly and cooperate with others, and having a lively curiosity about their environment and a belief in their ability to accomplish a task or deal with a challenge.

This year, the school is embarking on PAL implementation for all Primary One and Two pupils. The PAL curriculum for the P2 pupils will begin from Week 4, Term 1 onwards on every Monday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For the P1 pupils, they will embark on PAL from Term 2 onwards on every Friday, also from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.



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***Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

Staff Appointments & Movements

The school would like to congratulate the following two staff who have joined the School Executive Committee: Mrs Thoo May Ling who has been appointed as Level Head, English Language and Ms Low Xiu Ling who has been appointed as Level Head, Mathematics. In addition, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff who have joined the Qifa family:

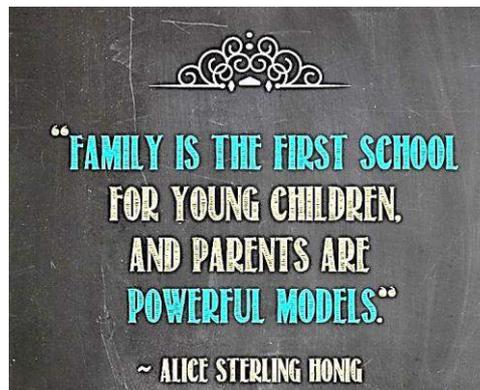
Vice-principal (Academic) Mdm Lela from East Coast Primary School, Ms Diana Foo, Subject Head of ICT from Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School; Ms Soh Hui Ting from Sembawang Primary School who will be teaching English language; Mdm Norhazlinah from Nanhua Primary School who will be teaching English and Mathematics, and Ms Charlotte Goh who will be teaching Music.

We bade our fond farewell to our former vice-principal, Ms Uma who had served the school for 24 years, and who will be dearly missed by all as she is rotated to Lakeside Primary School to serve as a vice-principal there.

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

In Partnership with you





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In 2014, Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), in collaboration with SIM University, conducted its first national early childhood parenting study. One of the findings indicated that parents in Singapore are knowledgeable about child development. 90% indicated that they consider all developmental domains, from the physical to social and moral, important for their children's development. It is also heartening that parents value their children's happiness and character development over material achievements such as academic success. For their top two choices, almost all the parents said that they want their children to be gracious and caring to others whereas only seven out of ten parents indicated that they want their children to excel academically.

In Qifa, we firmly believe that beyond academic achievements, a child needs to develop steadfastness and strength of character in order to succeed in an increasingly complex and nebulous 21st century work environment. The development of a child's character begins at home with parents but schools play a critical role to reinforce the parents' efforts.

Your child will benefit the most when we work together to bring out the best in your child. Having a close partnership with us will help you to better understand your child's learning experiences in school so that you can provide him or her with the necessary family care, support and reinforcement at home.

I would also like to encourage you to join the school's Parent Support Group (PSG) so that you can get involved in the school's activities, and get to know other parents and your child's friends in school. You can sign up for activities that suit your schedule and you do not necessarily have to devote long hours in the school's PSG to be fully engaged in your child's education. We would like to partner you to develop your child to be the best that he or she can be.

Networking Sessions

Research has shown that while socioeconomic status is important, the best predictors of pupil achievements are:

- A home environment that encourages learning
- Parents' high expectations for achievement and future careers
- Parents being involved in a child's education



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My team and I would like to forge closer partnerships with parents in the education of your child/ren. I would like to urge you to take the time to join us for the upcoming **Networking Sessions with Parents** this term:

Primary 4 & 6

0830-1215 Saturday, 23 January 2016

Primary 5

0930-1300 Saturday, 23 January 2016

Primary 1, 2 & 3

1830-2100 Friday, 29 January 2016

My key personnel and I will be sharing with you more information relating to the school's strategic directions and key programmes for 2016 including briefings on syllabus changes for P5 Science and Mother Tongue, *Subject-Based Banding* for P4 and *Holistic Assessment* for P1-2. During these sessions, you will also have the opportunity to engage with your child/ward's Form &/or Co-Form Teachers. More details will be sent in a letter to you at a closer date.

Throughout the year, if you have any pressing concerns or constructive feedback for us, please feel free to approach your child/ward's Form, Co-Form and Subject Teachers, or email us at the following school email address: qifa_ps@moe.edu.sg. You can call the General office at 6778 3085 to leave a message for the teacher to contact you or send an email to the teacher concerned. The email addresses of our staff are available on the school website at: <http://www.qifapri.moe.edu.sg/about-us/school-teaching-staff>.

***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, 7 January**



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2016. Each Primary One pupil will be issued a free thermometer during the temperature-taking exercise.

We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Wednesday, 6 January 2016.** We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child/ward brings his/her personal ODT on the two days mentioned.

We look forward to an enriching year ahead for your child/ward at Qifa Primary School, and thank you for your partnership and support.



Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)
Principal