



# QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50 WEST COAST AVENUE SINGAPORE 128104

TEL: 67783085

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## Principal's Letter – Term 3, June 2017

*Dear Parent/Guardian*

### **Welcome to Term 3 at QPS**

The school is bustling once again with the children's voices and laughter. I trust everyone has had a wonderful break with plenty of rest and opportunities to enjoy various activities with family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim parents/guardians *Selamat Hari Raya*.

Term Three looks to be a busy and an exciting term as all stakeholders come together for the bi-annual Qifa Carnival on Saturday, 22 July, to raise funds for the Children Cancer Foundation and our P6s gear up for their Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE).

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

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

#### ***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 2017** for more results.

Our P2 to 6 pupils took part in the *16<sup>th</sup> Inter-School National Scrabble Championship 2017* and swept a significant number of trophies for the different categories. In particular, the P2 Doubles Team emerged as the **Overall Champions for Schools** in the Super Junior Division. Our pupils also excelled in the various Mathematics competitions, including the *Singapore Mathematical Olympiad for Primary Schools (SMOPS) Competition* at Hwa Chong Institution in which Hugo Maximus Lim from 5 Exemplary emerged with a **Gold Award**. His excellent performance earned Hugo an invitation to participate in the *Invitation Round of the Asia Pacific Mathematical Olympiad for Primary Schools (APMOPS)*. Also worthy of mention are two younger pupils from 3 Exemplary, Nicholas Cao Junshuo and Pua Hong Wei, who won the **Gold Awards** in both the *Singapore and Asian Schools Mathematical Olympiad (SASMO)* and the *Singapore Mathematics Kangaroo Contest (SMKC)*.

I am pleased to announce that a video produced by our School Choir was selected by the *Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) 2017 Virtual Music Ensemble* to be featured in its musical project video/multimedia compilation. The SYF Virtual Music Ensemble, which has brought together a diverse mix of more than 400 student-musicians from over 50 schools across the country to jam together in a virtual music environment, will be featured in the SYF 2017 Festival Concert – Radiate, at Esplanade Theatre on 30th June and 1st July 2017.



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Two of our girls from Brownies received the prestigious **Chief Commissioner's Award 2017**. Our chess prodigy, Siddharth Jagadeesh from 4 Exemplary, competed in the *69<sup>th</sup> National Schools Individual Chess Championships 2017*. He rose to the occasion and aced the *Boys Junior Division Championship*. In the *13<sup>th</sup> National Primary Schools Wushu Championship 2017*, Mathew Wan from 5 Exemplary came in **Second** in the *1<sup>st</sup> International Broadsword* and **Fifth** in the *Formulated 5-Duan Nanquan*. James Tan from 5 Exemplary emerged as **Sixth** in the *1<sup>st</sup> International Sword* while Jared Wong, also from 5 Exemplary, came in **Sixth** in the *5-Duan Broadsword*.

Once again, our Volleyball Junior Girls and Boys were triumphant at the *National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships 2017*. We are pleased to announce that our Junior Boys team fought their way to be crowned the **National Champions**. The Junior and Senior Girls' teams emerged as the **2<sup>nd</sup> Runners Up** while our Senior Boys team was placed **8<sup>th</sup>** in the National Championships. The children have exemplified our school motto 'Strive to Excel' and done the school proud. Credit also goes to the coaches and teachers who dedicated time and effort to prepare and lead the four teams in the national championships.

Finally, the school was conferred the **Gold Star Award** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, and consequently we received the **Platinum Star Award** presented by the *Restroom Association of Singapore*.

## **Good Stories from Our Overseas Immersion Programmes**

HOD/Mother Tongue, Mr Ng Joon Khang, School Staff Developer, Mdm Selene Tan, and two Chinese Language teachers: Ms Yap Kar Wei and Mr Lai Kar Kit, led a group of P5 pupils on a 6-day educational trip to Nanjing and Shanghai in China. The pupils stayed in the Xingzhi Primary School hostel, visited the nearby village and experienced farming as well as dining at a farmer's house.

It was a good learning experience for the pupils and the teachers were very pleased with how they conducted themselves as ambassadors of Qifa. In particular, I would like to commend Png Chee Kai from 5 Exemplary who reached out to help another pupil who struggled with the steps during a recycled paper art activity. When Chee Kai saw that his friend could not keep up with the activity, he stopped what he was doing and patiently guided his friend through the steps so that his friend could successfully complete the activity. In helping a friend in need, Chee Kai made the sacrifice of producing only two instead of the four or five pieces produced by the rest of the pupils.

Another pupil, Ella Tang from 5 Exemplary, showed a deep sense of consideration for others which was remarkable for a child her age. She consistently allowed the other pupils to go first for food servings, and she even offered to finish up her friends' vegetables so that no food



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would be wasted. I would also like to make a special mention of Javier Chan Zhi Heng from 5 Benevolent who showed that he was mature and reflective. After receiving feedback from the teachers to improve his behaviours, Javier took his teachers' advice to heart and became more proactive and helpful to the rest of his travel-mates such as serving them food during meal times and arranging the furniture during a campfire on his own accord. Although Javier was the only pupil from his class who joined the Nanjing trip, he ended the trip with a few new friends due to his outgoing personality and helpfulness.

Another group of Primary Five pupils led by Level Head/English, Mrs Thoo May Ling, SH PE/CCA, Mr Ken Teo, Senior Teacher, Dr Jarina Peer and Mr Chua Gim San visited our partner school and other historical sites in Bangkok, Thailand from 23 to 26 May 2017. The pupils had an enriching experience, and they had many opportunities to internalise and demonstrate the school values as well as develop multi-cultural skills through their interactions with their peers in the partner school, and with others during the trip to Thailand.

One of the main takeaways from the trip was that they learnt to work harmoniously in teams, exercise initiative and become more independent. In her reflections, Kristine Chng from 5 Diligence shared that she learnt to become more self-directed and responsible by taking good care of her own belongings and looking out for her buddy. She related how she had learnt how to collaborate with her group mates and Thai buddies. All in all, it was an enriching experience for the children as they learnt how to embrace diversity, to respect and empathise with others.

Our Primary 4 pupils will be going on a two-day overseas immersion programme to Malacca in July where they will be exposed to a different historical and geographical environment in our neighbouring country. We hope that you will support and encourage your P4 child to participate in this cultural immersion trip which also seeks to inculcate important lifeskills and values in the children.





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

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

#### ***New Staff***

The school is glad to welcome some new members which will boost its teaching staff strength:

- Ms Amalina Bte Hussein, an experienced Malay Language teacher from Clementi Primary School
- Ms Wileen Lim, a newly trained middle and upper primary English and Science teacher
- Ms Lian Kay Yun, a newly trained middle primary English and Mathematics teacher
- Ms Nurul Adlina, a newly trained lower primary English and Mathematics teacher

Some of the new Physical Education-Art-Music (PAM) teachers will specialise in one teaching subject. They are:

- Ms Sherry Tan, an experienced Art teacher from Nanhua High School
- Ms Grace Lee, a newly trained Music teacher
- Ms Mimi Goh, a newly trained PE teacher
- Ms Junie Ang, an untrained Art teacher
- Mr Gerald Chiang, an untrained PE teacher

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

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

#### ***Home-School Partnership***

Thank you for your continual partnership and support for the school in our shared journey to educate and nurture your child. We highly value home-school communication here at Qifa. We believe that it plays an integral role in every pupil's success. We encourage you to contact us if/when the need arises, and to stay in the know about your child's studies, assignments, assessments, and school activities, as well as other events and happenings.

*“Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is a process, Working together is success.”*

Author Unknown



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Below is a meaningful poem on home-school partnership which embodies what the teaching staff in Qifa would ideally like to establish with our parents:

*I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two family sculptors there,  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher;  
the tools she used were books and music and art;  
One was a parent with a guiding hand and a gentle loving heart.*

*And when at last their work was done  
They were proud of what they had wrought  
For the things they had worked into the child  
Could never be sold or bought.*

*And each agreed she would have failed if she had worked alone  
For behind the parent stood the school,  
and behind the teacher stood the home.*

By Ray A. Lingenfelter

## **\*Every School, a Good School**

### ***Strategic Thrust 4 – Creating Quality Systems***

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

S/N	Day/Date	School Activity/Holiday	Remarks
1	Monday, 26 June 2017	Hari Raya Puasa Holiday	No school for all pupils
2	Monday, 3 July 2017	Youth Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils
3	Friday, 21 July 2017	Home-based Learning	No school for all pupils except for those involved in the Qifa Carnival Preparations.



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4	Saturday, 22 July 2017	Qifa Carnival	No school for all pupils
5	Tuesday, 8 August 2017	National Day School Celebrations	School ends at 10.30 a.m. for all pupils
6	Wednesday, 9 August 2017	National Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
7	Thursday, 10 August 2017	Day After National Day	No school for all pupils
8	Thursday, 17 August 2017	PSLE Oral Examinations Day 1	No school for P1-5 pupils only
9	Friday, 18 August 2017	PSLE Oral Examinations Day 2	No school for P1-5 pupils only
10	Thursday, 31 August 2017	Teachers' Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils
11	Friday, 1 September 2017	Hari Raya Haji Holiday	No school for all pupils
12	Friday, 15 September 2017	PSLE Listening Comprehension Examinations	No school for P1-5 pupils only
13	Thursday, 28 September to Tuesday, 3 October 2017	PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1-5 pupils from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
14	Friday, 6 October 2017	Children's Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
15	Wednesday, 18 October 2017	Deepavali Holiday	No school for all pupils
16	Thursday, 19 October to Tuesday, 24 October 2017	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils
17	Wednesday, 8 November 2017	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils
18	Monday, 13 November 2017	Meet-the-Parents Session	No school for all pupils
19	Friday, 17 November 2017	Honours Day	No school for P1-4 pupils except for those involved



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## ***2017 Primary 1 Registration***

2017 Primary One Registration (for admission to Primary One in 2018) begins this week, and I am pleased to announce that we have already filled more than three out of the eight classes under Phase 1 Sibling Priority. We expect more places to be filled under Phases 2A and B by children of staff and 40-hours Parent Volunteers Scheme.

The school received a record number of applications for the 40-hours Parent Volunteers Scheme for the 2018 P1 Registration Exercise (for admission to Primary One in 2019), and the selection interviews have stretched from early June to early July this year. This is a clear signal that Qifa is a school of choice in the community, and a testimony of the wonderful work and contributions of all our stakeholders including all our highly dedicated and passionate staff, our active and committed Parent Support Group, our ever supportive parents/guardians and our School Advisory Committee (SAC) members.

## ***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 **Friday, 30 June 2017** by the school.

We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Thursday, 29 June 2017**. You have been informed via the SNAC platform yesterday. We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child/ward brings his/her personal ODT which is in good working condition.

## ***In Closing***

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

Yours sincerely

*May Wong-Tan*  
Principal, Qifa