



# QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50, WEST COAST AVENUE. SINGAPORE 128104

TEL: 67783085 FAX: 67761485

## Principal's Letter – Term 4, September 2017

*Dear Parent/Guardian*

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

I hope the children are well-rested after the one-week break and ready to embrace new challenges in the last term of the year. When I welcomed the pupils back to school and addressed them on the first day of school, I urged them to practise being mindful of others which is pervasive in the Japanese culture and society. This goes beyond being civic-minded to showing consideration and being respectful towards others such as not littering in public places. Taking small steps towards being mindful of others will help us to form habits for success.

In line with the desire to inculcate in pupils good habits such as a sense of responsibility and care for their own and shared spaces in the school, Qifa has embarked on a ten-minute daily cleaning of the classrooms at the end of the day. This is also part of the education ministry's initiative to make classroom cleaning a daily affair as shared by the Minister for Education (Schools), Mr Ng Chee Meng, in 2016. The poster below, designed by our Art Teacher, Ms Sylvia Lim, shows the cleaning checklist.





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## **\*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 5<sup>th</sup> *Qifa Carnival* which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July this year to raise funds for the Children's Cancer Foundation. We raised a total of \$31,521.40 which is our best collection to date since we started this biennial fundraising event in 2009. The amount raised also included the generous donation made by the Char Yong (Dabu) Association in Singapore, through our School Advisory Committee. Thank you, everyone, for your generous support for a worthy cause. I would also like to express my appreciation to many of our parent volunteers for your time and hard work helping out at this event.

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

Below are some highlights of academic and non-academic achievements. Please visit our school website under **CCA & Competitions 2017** for more information.

#### ***Academic Achievements***

At the *Singapore Junior Reporter Writing Competition* (聆听 2017 全国小记者采访写作比赛), Shannon Tan Yan Teng (陈欣婷) from 3 Diligence clinched the **Second Prize**. Wang Chen (王琛) from 4 Exemplary, Aidanz Ng (黄威璁) and Quek Yi Shyen (郭懿萱) from 3 Exemplary, Kenisha Sng Jia Xin (孙佳妍) from 3 Diligence and Li Cheng Ao (李承澳) from 2 Gracious won the **Merit Award**. Li Cheng Ao (李承澳) from 2 Gracious received **Special Mention** for his flair in writing and display of self-confidence as the youngest participant to represent Qifa:

“贵校 2 Gracious 李承澳同学是这次全国比赛中最小的获奖选手，他的作文也很好，并勇敢地代表贵校上台进行分享，值得表扬！”

At the *National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore (NMOS)* competition, two pupils: Hugo Maximus Lim and Pothakamuri Srivayas from 5 Exemplary won the **Silver Award**, three pupils: Ethan Choy Ning Feng, Jared Wong Zi Heng and Png Chee Kai from 5 Exemplary obtained the **Bronze Award** and 8 other pupils received **Honourable Mention**.



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

After the volleyball teams' victories at the *National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships 2017*, the boys and girls teams did us proud again at the *National Inter-Primary Schools Soft Volleyball Carnival*. The boys emerged as the **Champions** while the Girls came in **Second** in the competitions.

In the *3<sup>rd</sup> Singapore International Wushu ZIJIN Cup Championship*, Matthew Wan Zhi Hin of 5 Exemplary clinched a **Gold Medal** in the *1<sup>st</sup> International Broadsword* and *In Chang Quan* categories. In the *MCC Land National Wushu and Sanda Championships 2017*, Jared Wong Zi Heng from 5 Exemplary came in **Second** in the *4-Duan Broadsword* category and **Third** in the *Cudgel* Category, Javier Wong Zi Yang from 3 Exemplary came in **Third** in the *4-Duan Broadsword* category, and James Tan Zi Long from 5 Exemplary emerged **Third** in both the *4-Duan Sword* and *4-Duan Spear* categories.

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

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

Our school mission on “developing lifelong learners” applies to both staff and pupils. Qifa teachers are continually involved in various professional learning and development platforms. “While we teach, we learn,” said the Roman philosopher Seneca. As our teachers enact innovative teaching strategies and practices to bring about engaged learning in the classrooms, we have also shared our best practices in various cluster and national platforms with other practitioners, and collaborated with the MOE agencies and National Institute of Learning (NIE) to deepen our knowledge and hone our craft. This is an affirmation of the quality of teaching and learning that is taking place in the school.

A group of our Science educators comprising Level Head, Science, Ms Moh Choy Ying, teachers Ms Candice Chen and Mr Su Yizhong, led by Head of Department (HOD) Science, Mrs Sia Song Ling will be presenting a paper titled ‘Incorporating Play into the Flipped Classroom Approach’ at the *Singapore International Science Teachers’ Conference 2017* in November this year. The same team had also shared “Flipping our Classroom: Our Three-Year Learning” at the *West 1 Cluster Professional Learning Day* in March this year.

This year, three of our Science teachers: Mdm Rashiqah, Ms Moh Choy Ying and Mrs Sia Song Ling are collaborating with the NIE Learning Science Lab on a project titled ‘Streamlining the Designs of Seamless Science Learning for Wider Diffusion’.



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Our Mathematics teachers have also been involved in various sharing platforms such as the *Learning Support Mathematics (LSM) Training for Mathematics HODs* by our Mathematics HOD, Mrs Loh Kah Yen and *LSM Networked Learning Communities Briefing* by LSM teacher Mdm Siti Mariam. Our teachers, Mr Chua Gim San and Ms Delci Lau, will be presenting at the *West Zone ICT Committee's (WZ-ICTC) Communities of Practice Lessons Sharing* on 13 September while Mdm Rajiya, Mr Decha Lam and Mdm Siti Mariam will be sharing at the ICAN Symposium in November this year.

Besides sharing our best practices, LSM teacher Mdm Siti Mariam from the Mathematics Department is also involved in a two-year Pilot Project, *Pedagogical Strategies in LSM Class*, with the Mathematics Unit in Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD) to carry out new strategies to teach Mathematics to P1 low progress learners.

At the *West 1 Cluster EL Conversations II* hosted by our school in January this year, our HOD English Language (EL), Mrs Doreen Chan, and teacher Ms Seow Wen-qi shared 'A Whole-School Approach to Reading' while Level Head, EL, Mrs Thoo May Ling and Subject Head, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Ms Diana Foo presented 'See It! Write About It! Using Visualisation Technique to Teach Writing'.

This year, our Level Head, EL, Mrs Thoo May Ling, was invited to participate in a 96-hour *Professional Learning Programme for EL Teacher-Leaders* organised by the English Language Institute of Singapore (ELIS) to deepen her subject knowledge and develop a wider repertoire of pedagogy to engage EL learners. After completing the training, Mrs Thoo shared with her EL colleagues the skills and strategies she has learnt. As part of the school's efforts to review and improve our *Whole-School Approach towards Effective Communication*, we also consulted with ELIS on strategies to develop subject literacy.

Malay Language teacher, Mdm Nafisah was invited to sit in the working committee of the *MOE Malay Language Learning and Promotion Committee* to trial the Tembok Kata mobile application as a teaching and learning resource in her classroom. The application was launched during *Fiesta Bahasa 2017* (Language Fiesta) on 12 August and exhibited during the *Mother Tongue Languages Symposium* on 19 August 2017.

Our Chinese Language teacher, Ms Yap Kar Wei, is currently involved in a Networked Learning Community (NLC) for Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) - Chinese Language. The CCE-CL NLC is led by a Master Teacher who guides the group on creating CCE lesson packages and developing CCE lesson plans for implementation in 2018. The group will be presenting at the *2018 CCE Conference*.

At the *2017 Physical and Sports Education Conference*, Subject Head, PE/CCA, Mr Ken Teo, PE teachers Mr Govindarajan and Mr Tan Yew Wee, led by HOD, PE/CCA, Ms Kwok Hui Min,



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presented a paper titled 'Assessing Teacher Effectiveness and Pupil Learning through Formative Assessment'.

The above are just some examples of how our teachers role-model lifelong learning for our charges and "strive for excellence" (school motto) through continual professional learning and development.

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

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

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

This term, our Primary 6 pupils will be taking the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) while the P2-5 levels will sit for the End-of-Year examinations. I will be distributing a lovingly prepared 'PSLE Care Pack' to every one of our Primary Six pupils to wish them well as they take their first national examinations. We pray and hope for good health, focus, wisdom and perseverance for our P6s as they gear up for the final lap and strive to achieve their personal best in PSLE.

For the parents of Primary One to Five pupils, we seek your understanding as we adjust the school timing during the days of the PSLE written papers 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 the P2-5 pupils sit for the End-of-Year examinations.

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

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

#### ***2018 CCA & Remedial/Supplementary Schedules***

As part of ongoing review and refinement of our school programmes and schedules, we gathered feedback from stakeholders on the changes which we made this year to the Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) & Remedial/Supplementary Schedules: Remedial/Supplementary lessons for P3-6 pupils on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 2.15 to 3.15 p.m. followed by CCAs from 3.30 to 5.15 p.m. The changes helped to address the space constraints faced by our CCA groups.



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However, feedback from stakeholders indicated that the changes resulted in the children having extended school hours. Therefore, we have decided to make the tough decision to close one or two CCAs with small enrolment to address the space constraint issue. Doing so will allow us to revert to the previous schedule of having two CCA days on Tuesday and Thursday while reserving Monday and Friday for Remedial/Supplementary lessons. School hours will thus be shortened. More details will be shared towards the end of Term 4.

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

S/N	Day/Date	School Activity/Holiday	Remarks
1.	Friday, 15 September 2017	PSLE Listening Comprehension Examinations	No school for P1-5 pupils only
2.	Thursday, 28 September to Tuesday, 3 October 2017	PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1-5 pupils from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
3.	Thursday, 5 October 2017	Children's Day Celebrations cum Integrated Sports Carnival	School dismissal at 12.30 p.m.
4.	Friday, 6 October 2017	Children's Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
5.	Wednesday, 18 October 2017	Deepavali Holiday	No school for all pupils
6.	Thursday, 19 October to Tuesday, 24 October 2017	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils
7.	Wednesday, 8 November 2017	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils
8.	Monday, 13 November 2017	Meet-the-Parents Session	No school for all pupils
9.	Friday, 17 November 2017	Honours Day	No school for P1-4 pupils except for those involved



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## ***In Closing***

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter to be updated on school events and news. On behalf of my staff, I would like to wish you the best of health and a productive term ahead.

Yours sincerely

*May Wong-Tan*  
Principal, Qifa