



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50 WEST COAST AVENUE SINGAPORE 128104

TEL: 67783085

FAX: 67761485

Principal's Letter – Term 1, January 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome

A warm welcome to the new pupils and their parents, especially the Primary Ones - you are now part of the Qifa family. Wishing everyone precious moments, treasured memories and fulfilled wishes for the new year. I begin 2018 and the start of my sixth year in Qifa with a grateful heart for the partnership and support of my staff and parents. My teachers and I will continue to focus on helping our pupils to find joy in learning as we seek to develop them into individuals with a sense of purpose and passion for the things that matter, and mindfulness towards the needs of others.

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

2017 Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) Results

Our 2017 Primary Six pupils lived out the school motto: '*Strive to Excel*' when a record number of them scored PSLE aggregate of 250 and above, including four who scored 270 and above. All the 2017 Primary Six pupils passed their PSLE and successfully progressed to secondary education. They are our best-performing cohort in the last five years in terms of PSLE aggregate, number of pupils who made it to the Express Stream and eligibility for secondary education, surpassing comparable schools and even the national mean.

The school has achieved stellar quality results (A* and A) for English, Mathematics, Science and Chinese Language, surpassing the national mean. Quantity passes for Mathematics, Science, Mother Tongue languages all surpassed the national mean while English Language percentage passes were comparable to the national mean.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all my 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 the highly commendable results.



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***Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

Staff Appointments & Movements

Three key personnel in the School Executive Committee have assumed new designations:

- Mrs Sia Song Ling has been appointed as Lead Teacher/Science
- Ms Moh Choy Ying, Level Head/Science has assumed the HOD/Science position
- Mrs Doreen Chan, HOD/English Language has assumed the Senior Teacher/English Language position

We are delighted to welcome the new additions to the Qifa family:

- Mr Justin Soo, Head of Department/Information Communications Technology and Media Resource Library (ICT/MRL) from Information Technology Branch, MOE. He was formerly HOD/ICT from Poi Ching Primary School. Justin will be teaching English Language, and Health and Physical Education
- Ms Nicole Lee Hui Min, Assistant Year Head for Primary Three from Early Childhood Development Agency. She was formerly from Innova Junior College and will be teaching Science
- Ms Janice Lum, Senior Teacher/Educational Support (Low Progress Pupils) from Academy of Singapore Teachers, MOE. She was formerly from New Town Primary School. Janice will be teaching Mathematics and Science
- Mr Tan Hsiao Yuz, Senior Teacher/Art who left the National Institute of Education, NTU as a Teaching Fellow. He will be teaching Art
- Mr Elson Loh Heng Meng, from Jurong Junior College, who will be teaching Health and Physical Education
- Ms Cheryl Chong Siang Feih, from Shuqun Secondary School, who will be teaching English Language
- Mr Aaron Goh, a newly trained teacher, will be teaching English Language and Mathematics
- Mdm Dahlia Binte Mohamed Aris is our full-time School Counsellor

We bade farewell to the following staff and thank them for their contributions to the school:

- Vice-principal, Mdm Lela, posted to Beacon Primary School
- Teacher, Ms Celetio Lee, posted to Greendale Primary School



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- Teacher, Ms Meena, posted to Dazhong Primary School
- Level Head, Mathematics, Mr Chew Chee Wai, on one-year No Pay Leave
- Subject Head, Malay Language, Mdm Putri, left the service

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

In Partnership with you

Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives: teachers, parents and other family members, work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child's developmental and learning needs therefore the meaningful involvement of parents, and partnership with the school are essential. The biggest beneficiary of a strong home-school partnership are the children. When we walk into a school and see parents and teachers working together, in a variety of roles and platforms, it is a clear indication that everyone is motivated by the common goal of creating meaningful educational experiences for the children to help them realise their fullest potential.

Your child/ward is encouraged to write details of his homework in the Pupils' Handbook 2018. You may also wish to use it to communicate with your child/ward's teachers. Besides monitoring your child/ward's learning progress and attending the networking and meet-the-parents sessions, we hope to have more parent volunteers accompany our children on learning journeys, support the school's reading programme and help out with recess duties to ensure the safety and well-being of the children.

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/ward'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/ward to be the best that he or she can be.

All the experiences children have, both in and out of school, serve to shape their feelings of self-worth and competency, their understanding of the world around them, and their beliefs about where they fit into the larger scheme of things. Experts opine that because children are observing their parents all the time, your actions, beliefs and attitudes become integrated into your child/ren's way of being. Therefore, as parents, it is important to be



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very intentional about what behaviours you model for your children, such as respect and empathy for others.

TEACHING KIDS RESPECT

6 Highly Effective Tips



STAY CALM

Do not overreact to seemingly disrespectful behavior. The child may be not paying attention or doesn't know the behavior is disrespectful.



IDENTIFY THE CAUSE

If a child's need is not being met, teach them skills and vocabulary to address their own needs instead of scolding them.



MODEL BEING RESPECTFUL

We cannot teach respect by being disrespectful. Respect your child as an individual with their own preferences. Allow them the freedom to make some decisions.



USE POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

Use non-punitive discipline to teach, not to punish. Model how to be respectful even when others make mistakes. Remember, we all make mistakes. There is no need to be cruel.



EARN, NOT DEMAND RESPECT

Do not demand your child to be respectful just because you are the parent. True respect can only be earned, but not demanded.

APOLOGIZE FOR MISTAKES

A mature, respectful grownup accepts responsibility and apologizes when he or she makes mistakes. Model this.



PARENTING FOR
Brain

For more parenting tips,
visit www.parentingforbrain.com

SOURCES:

[HTTPS://WWW.PARENTINGFORBRAIN.COM/6-CONTROVERSIAL-TIPS-TEACHING-KIDS-RESPECT/](https://www.parentingforbrain.com/6-controversial-tips-teaching-kids-respect/)



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I also seek your support to emphasise and signal to your child/ward the importance of schooling by getting your child/ren to report to school on time and attend school regularly. Please write to me to seek permission should you need to take your child/ward out of school for more than two days during term time (excluding weekends) for non-medical reasons. Do note that the school does not encourage parents to take their child/ren for holidays during school term.

2018 Networking Sessions

As mentioned above, 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 ***Networking Sessions with Parents*** this term where you will also have the opportunity to engage with your child/ward's Form &/or Co-Form Teachers. Dates and time are as follows:

Primary 1 to 3

0900-1100 Saturday, 27 January 2018

Primary 4 to 6

1830-2030 Friday, 2 February 2018

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

Discipline, Safety and Security Matters

Parents, please do not engage directly with other pupil/s especially with regards to discipline matters. Should there be any matter of concern, please bring this to the attention of the Form and/or Co-Form Teacher for follow up and resolution. The safety of our children is a top priority in the school. Do note that the teaching blocks are strictly out of bounds to non-staff members. Thank you for displaying your Visitor Pass prominently and reporting to the



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General Office when entering the school during the non-dismissal times. This will help our security staff to manage trespassing, and ensure the safety and security of our children in the school. Please wear your Visitor Pass, without demand, whenever you are in the school.

School Bus Rules & Expected Behaviours

If your child/ward is using the school bus service, we would appreciate that you partner the school to remind him/her of the following:

1. Seat belts are to be worn at all times.
2. Standing on the bus is strictly prohibited. All passengers are to remain seated at all times.
3. The school bus should be kept clean; there should be no eating or littering in the school bus.
4. Use of inappropriate language towards the bus attendant, driver and other children on the school bus will not be condoned.

Do note that the bus vendor is at liberty to stop providing bus service for an errant child who has been warned repeatedly but who fails to adhere to the bus rules above.

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, 5 January 2018**. We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Thursday, 4 January 2018**. We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child/ward brings his/her personal ODT on the two days mentioned. Each Primary One pupil will be issued a free thermometer during the temperature-taking exercise.

In Closing

We look forward to a fulfilling year ahead with your child/ward at Qifa Primary School, and thank you for your partnership and support. Thank you, and see you at the Networking Session/s.

Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)
Principal