



# QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50 WEST COAST AVENUE SINGAPORE 128104

TEL: 67783085

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## Principal's Letter – Term 3, June 2018

*Dear Parent/Guardian*

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

I hope you have had a restful and meaningful break with your child/ward during the school holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim parents/guardians *Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri*.

Term 2 was a fulfilling term for the school as many of our pupils participated in the various sports and Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) competitions which inculcated school values such as 'Resilience' and 'Pride in Work' in the pupils. Term Three will be no less interesting particularly the month of July as we commemorate Racial Harmony Day on Friday, 20 July and hosts a big group of about 100 Overseas Singaporean children and their parents on Thursday, 26 July. This year's Racial Harmony Day commemoration will be a particularly meaningful one as we are expecting to host a few special guests for the event. I will share more details with you in my next letter in Term Four.

### **\*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 2018** for more results.

Our school were the 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in the inaugural West Zone  $\pi$ -Force Challenge held on 26 March 2018. A total of 17 teams from nine primary schools in the West Zone took part in this Mathematics and Science competition. The pupils from the 17 teams participated in an exciting trail with 8 different stations, allowing them to explore a range of different Mathematics or Science concepts while having fun. The top 3 teams, including our school participants: Png Chee Kai, Yik Xin Yi and Sia Yong Hong from 6 Exemplary, competed in the final challenge which required them to analyse a given problem, discuss a possible solution and subsequently present their team solution to a panel of judges and the other participants. It required the teams to work effectively and efficiently together, and also think critically about which Mathematics or Science concepts they should apply, in order to solve the problem within a short period of time.

Our pupils from Choir, Guzheng Ensemble, and Ethnic Chinese, Malay and Indian Dance performing art groups demonstrated the school values 'Self-discipline', 'Resilience' and 'Pride



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*in Work' as well as lived out the school motto 'Strive to Excel' at the **Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) 2018** Arts Presentation. All the teams have made commendable improvements from their last SYF performance in 2016. All the three ethnic dance groups and Guzheng Ensemble received **Certificates of Distinction** while Choir was awarded the **Certificate of Accomplishment**. Our SYF performers will showcase their talents to their parents and our SAC members in **A Night with Our Stars** on the coming Friday, 29 June.*

Our Volleyball Junior Girls and Boys trumped at the *National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships 2018*. We are really proud of how hard our Senior Boys team fought against Catholic High School to be crowned the **National Champions**. It was a very exciting and nerve-wrecking match which kept us spectators on the edge of our seats. We are also pleased with the great showing of the rest of the three teams. Our Junior Boys' and Girls' teams emerged as the **1<sup>st</sup> Runners Up** while our Senior Girls team was the **2<sup>nd</sup> Runners Up** 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.

As shared in the last newsletter, Qifa was the only primary school shortlisted for the **Watermark Awards 2018 (水源成就奖)**. Three companies and two schools (one primary and one secondary school) received the *Watermark Awards 2018* for their commitment in the water sustainability journey. It is the nation's highest accolade for outstanding achievements in water efficiency and conservation of water resources in Singapore. I received the award, on behalf of the school, from Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, at the *Watermark Awards Ceremony* on 28 March 2018.

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

Our Primary Five pupils led by HOD/Mathematics, Mrs Loh Kah Yen, Senior Teacher/English Language, Mrs Doreen Chan, and two Chinese Language teachers: Mr Meng Xianmin and Ms Janet Seah, went on a 6-days-5-nights overseas cultural and educational immersion programme to Dabu, Meizhou and Xiamen in China from 22 to 27 May 2018. They visited two local schools, namely, Dabu and Hong Du Primary Schools where our pupils interacted with the local pupils, and joined them for art and performing arts lessons. Some of our pupils also participated in a friendly football match at Hongdu Primary School. Below are the learning points and reflections shared by two pupils:

"I learnt how to take care of myself without my parents and to manage my own responsibilities. I have also learnt a lot about the Hakka culture and history, and the trip has helped me to improve my Chinese Language. It was a fun immersion trip, and it taught me many things I did not know before which I could apply them to real life" Jayden Tan, 5 Exemplary.



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"I really enjoyed the Dabu trip as I learnt to look after my friends and myself, and be more independent. I carried with me many memories from the trip, with my friends and amazing teachers. Until now, I am still relating my adventures from the Dabu trip to my family. I loved the food and for once I did not waste any food. On the first day there, I felt really homesick but gradually less so and even wished that the trip would never end! The Tu Lou was one of my favourites as it was fun exploring and entering secret passages in the ancient building. I also enjoyed learning and interacting with the pupils in the schools in Dabu and Meizhou. The pupils and teachers from Dabu Primary School were very welcoming and nice" Alyson Chio, 5 Exemplary.

"It was a really good learning experience for me. I enjoyed interacting with the local pupils and teachers from the two primary schools, and also getting to know my schoolmates and teachers better during the trip," shared Lieu Senquan, 5 Fortitude.

Another group of Primary Five pupils led by Level Head/English Language, Mrs Thoo May Ling, SH PE/CCA, Mr Ken Teo, Mr Su Yizhong and Ms Karen Kong visited our partner school, Anubanphibunwes School, and other historical sites in Bangkok, Thailand from 22 to 26 May 2018. 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. It was heartening to see friendships being fostered through the interaction between our Qifa pupils and their Thai buddies. Besides, learning Thai dancing and making Thai street food, our pupils also attended Science and Thai Language classes with their Thai buddies.

Sathya, 5 Fortitude said, "This trip is rewarding because I learnt much about the history and culture of Thailand. I also enjoyed my time spent in Anubanphibunwes School. I got to learn basic Thai Language and the moves of Thai dance!"

"I learnt a very important lesson about perseverance during our walk through Hell Fire Pass. It was a long and tiring walk but I persevered and completed the walk. It was worthwhile as I got to learn about the history of Hell Fire Pass and how torturous the construction of the Pass was," reminisced Hamza Asim from 5 Exemplary.

Genial Thong, 5 Gracious shared that, "During this trip, I learnt to be independent and how to take care of myself and my belongings. I also learnt that I had to look out for my friends and be caring towards them."



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

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

#### ***Staff Movements***

We bade farewell to a valued member of our school staff, HOD PE/CCA, Ms Kwok Hui Min who has joined Physical Education and Sports Teacher Academy (PESTA) with effect from yesterday. Ms Kwok has made significant contributions in her six years with Qifa and she will be dearly missed by all. We wish her well in her future undertakings. We also welcome a new staff, ICT Associate, Mr Andrew Lim who will provide support in the area of ICT infrastructure and logistics.

## **\*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, 2 July	Youth Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils
2	Wednesday, 8 August	National Day School Celebrations	School ends at 10.30 a.m. for all pupils
3	Thursday, 9 August	National Day Public Holiday	No school for all pupils
4	Friday, 10 August	Day After National Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils
5	Thursday, 16 August	PSLE Oral Examinations Day 1	No school for P1-5 pupils only
6	Friday, 17 August	PSLE Oral Examinations Day 2	No school for P1-5 pupils only
7	Wednesday, 22 August	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday	No school for all pupils
8	Thursday, 30 August	Teachers' Day Celebrations	School ends at 10.30 a.m. for all pupils
9	Friday, 31 August	Teachers' Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils



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10	Friday, 14 September	2018 PSLE Listening Comprehension Examination	No school for P1-5 pupils only
11	Thursday, 27 September to Tuesday, 2 October	2018 PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1-5 pupils from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
12	Friday, 5 October	Children's Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils
13	Monday, 15 October to Thursday, 18 October	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils
14	Tuesday, 6 November	Deepavali Public Holiday	No school for all pupils
15	Wednesday, 7 November	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils
16	Monday, 12 November	Meet-the-Parents Session	No school for all pupils
17	Friday, 16 November	Honours Day	No school for P1-4 pupils except for those involved

### **2018 Primary 1 Registration**

2018 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.

### **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, 28 June 2018** by the school.

We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Wednesday, 27 June 2018**. 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.



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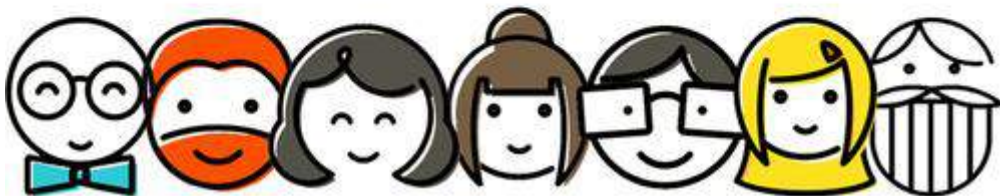
## *In Closing*

On behalf of the school staff, I would like to thank our parents and guardians for partnering the school closely for your child's education in Qifa. When I welcomed the pupils back to school yesterday morning, I reminded them that we want to create a joyful school where we are kind to one another. I hope that you will also reiterate the same message to your child/ren to always treat others with kindness and respect.

Thank you.

**“Kindness means taking  
your positive energy  
and spreading it to the  
world around you.”**

*- RAKtivist*



Yours sincerely

*May Wong-Tan*

Principal, Qifa