



QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50 WEST COAST AVENUE SINGAPORE 128104

TEL: 67783085

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Principal's Letter – Term 4, September 2018

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 academic year. When I welcomed the pupils back to school and addressed them yesterday, I spoke to them about striving towards their dreams and goals as well as not giving up in the face of challenges.

I showed them the Colin Kaepernick Nike advertisement which included a powerful quote: "Don't believe that you have to be like anybody to be somebody". I urged the pupils to stay focused as they complete the last lap of the year but at the same time I hope that they will have a joyful time learning and interacting with their peers. I also shared the quote below with them:

**IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO
learn
NO ONE CAN HELP YOU.
IF YOU ARE DETERMINED
TO learn
NO ONE CAN STOP YOU**

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

Racial Harmony Day (RHD) Commemoration

As mentioned in the previous letter, the school hosted a few special visitors who joined us for the commemoration on that day. They included President Mdm Halimah Yacob, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education Ms Low Yen Ling, Director-General of Education Mr Wong Siew Hoong, Zonal Director of Schools (West) Ms Theodora Tan, Cluster Superintendent Mrs Rathi Parimalan as well as staffing officers from the Communications and Engagement Group/MOE and Character and Citizenship Education Branch/MOE. I have included on the next page a special feature on the school's RHD commemoration in the 25 July issue of NE Forte, a fortnightly emailer, shared with all MOE staff.



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Special Feature: RHD

Qifa Primary School

President Halimah Yacob and Senior Parliamentary Secretary Low Yen Ling visited Qifa Primary School last Friday to participate in the school's Racial Harmony Day commemoration. Here are some of the highlights of their visit!



The Qifa Primary pupils also hosted their friends from the neighbouring Japanese School of Singapore and shared with them practices unique to the different cultural groups. Together, they engaged in traditional and cultural activities. From *chapeh* to *kolam*-painting, *dim sum* to *kompang*-playing, the pupils had a blast!



Beauty salon, a movie theatre, grocery store, and even the zoo - these were some of the "places of interest" that the lower Primary pupils got to visit. This was no ordinary neighbourhood though. Set up within the confines of their indoor sports hall, all the signs were displayed in Mother Tongue languages, which meant that the pupils had to help each other to navigate this space. And this they did, amid so much laughter and joy. It was a wonderful example of how racial harmony can exist anywhere, despite different languages, and in the most ordinary and common spaces.



Members of the school's English Literary Debating and Drama Society presented a skit on how our early pioneers from different races worked hard together to overcome challenges and contribute to Singapore's success. The skit focused on the importance of unity in diversity through the advice given by the four pioneers who have travelled through time to present Singapore. The students also had the opportunity to ask Mdm President and Ms Low about their experiences growing up in a multicultural society.

Qifa's Academic and Non-Academic Achievements

The school has been blessed with many academic and non-academic achievements the whole year, and I will only highlight a few below. Please visit our school website under **CCA & Competitions 2018** for more information.

Academic Achievements

In the 2018 University of New South Wales (UNSW) International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), the school achieved its most outstanding results thus far with a total of 20 *High Distinctions* (top 1% of participants) and 157 *Distinctions* (next 10% of participants). The average raw scores achieved by our pupils are above national average across levels and areas/subjects. In addition, two pupils, Jeshier Lim Yi Hui from 2 Diligence and Tham Yujay from 3 Exemplary, received the highest score in Singapore for the ICAS – Writing assessment in their respective level, and they will be receiving the UNSW medals for their remarkable feats.



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The breakdown of the *High Distinctions and Distinctions* achievements for English Language, Science, Writing and Digital Technologies are as follows: 5 *High Distinctions* and 52 *Distinctions* for English Language, 5 *High Distinctions* and 43 *Distinctions* for Science, 5 *High Distinctions* and 39 *Distinctions* for Writing, 5 *High Distinctions* and 23 *Distinctions* for Digital Technologies. The results for Mathematics are not out for 2018 but last year, we obtained 19 *High Distinctions* and 65 *Distinctions* including a medal winner, Warren Wee from 3 Exemplary (2017) for achieving the highest score in Singapore for the ICAS – Mathematics assessment for the primary three level.

Yang Ryan Junhyeok of 5 Exemplary won the *Second Prize* for the ***On-The-Spot Chinese Essay Writing Competition*** organised by the Singapore Foochow Association. Mak Mun Yew from 5 Exemplary obtained the *Merit Award* at the ***Raffles Science Olympiad*** while Yeo Zi Xiang, also from 5 Exemplary, obtained the *Bronze Award* at the ***Singapore Primary Science Olympiad*** organised by the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science. At the ***National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore (NMOS)***, four pupils from 5 Exemplary received the *Silver* medals while five pupils from 5 Exemplary and 5 Diligence received the *Bronze* medals.

Non-academic Achievements

The school just received the good news that we will be receiving the biennial ***CD Ready School Awards***. This award is jointly organised by Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Safety, Security and Emergency Branch/MOE, and the National Fire Safety and Civil Emergency Preparedness Council (NFEC). The award is a recognition of the school's efforts in ensuring a fire-safe and emergency prepared environment where school teachers and pupils are equipped with essential emergency preparedness skills and knowledge.

To enhance our emergency preparedness, a lockdown drill will be conducted this month to familiarise the school population with the actions to prepare and take in the event of a security incident in school which may be the result of perpetrator/s with malicious intent. In addition, we will conduct an evacuation exercise involving one level in the school to an External Holding Area (EHA) in the month of October.

The school has also been shortlisted for the ***Building and Construction Authority (BCA) Green Mark Certification Scheme*** which recognises the green features and practices of the school, and places emphasis on the school's curriculum in environmental sustainability to educate and raise the awareness amongst students on the importance of environmental sustainability and conservation. All schools in Singapore will need to achieve this certification by BCA at the end of 2020.

Both the uniformed groups, Brownies and Scouts troops, have been making steady progress in terms of the awards that they have won. The Scouts group received the ***Frank Cooper Sands Silver Award*** for 2017 (2018 results will only be announced in November). The Brownies



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group received a Bronze Award last year but this year they received the ***Puan Noor Aishah Silver Award***, an improvement from the 2017 Bronze Award.

After the volleyball teams' victories at the *National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships 2018*, the boys and girls teams did us proud again at the ***National Inter-Primary Schools Soft Volleyball Carnival***. The boys team came in *Second* while the girls team were placed *Fourth* in the competition. At the ***Woodlands Primary School Invitational Volleyball Tournament***, the girls team came in *First* while the boys team secured the *Second* position.

In the ***SC Global's Tennis for Every Child (TFEC) Inter-school Carnival 2018***, Robert Dolya from 3 Diligence came in *First* for the individual event in the 9-11 years old category. Juanita Bangari Venkatesha from 2 Caring came in *Second* in the ***International Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Competitions***.

***Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

Staff Learning & Development

Besides pedagogical skills, it is important to raise the awareness of the teachers on Special Educational Needs (SEN), and Social and Emotional Development as well as equip them with basic skills on supporting the children with SEN, pupils at-risk and those with social-emotional issues who may require counselling, additional and targeted support. During the March holiday, the teachers attended a school-based workshop 'Unlocking Learning and Developmental Disorders: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Sensory Processing Disorder and Developmental Dyspraxia' conducted by two occupational therapists.

Last Friday, four therapists were invited to the school to conduct a hands-on session for our teachers to give them a better understanding of basic mental health and well-being issues, and how to identify and support pupils who are struggling with mental well-being issues. The discussions centred on four case studies, and hands-on psychodrama with practical application.



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***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.	Friday, 14 September	2018 PSLE Listening Comprehension Examination	No school for P1-5 pupils only.
2.	Thursday, 27 September to Tuesday, 2 October	2018 PSLE Written Examinations	School for P1-5 pupils from 12.30 to 6 p.m.
3.	Wednesday, 3 October	2018 PSLE Written Examination – Higher Mother Tongue (Selected P6 pupils only)	E-learning Day; no school for P1-5 pupils.
4.	Friday, 5 October	Children’s Day School Holiday	No school for all pupils.
5.	Monday, 15 October to Thursday, 18 October	PSLE Marking Exercise	No school for all pupils.
6.	Monday, 5 November	Eve of Deepavali	Half day for Hindu pupils and staff.
7.	Tuesday, 6 November	Deepavali Public Holiday	No school for all pupils.
8.	Wednesday, 7 November	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils.
9.	Monday, 12 November	Meet-the-Parents (MTP) Session	Pupils to accompany their parents for the scheduled MTP session.
10.	Friday, 16 November	Honours Day	No school for P1-4 pupils except for the pupils involved.



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2018 Primary 1 Registration

The school is opening eight classes for the 2019 P1 intake. The 2018 Primary One Registration (for admission to Primary One in 2019) concluded on 2nd August with oversubscription by 22 places in Phase 2C for Singapore Citizens living more than 2km away from the school. A total of 26 places were taken up by the Active Community Leaders and 40-hours Parent Volunteers in Phase 2B.

PSLE and End-of-Year Examinations

Term 4 is often associated with the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) and End-of-Year examinations for the other levels. I will be distributing a lovingly prepared 'PSLE Care Pack' to every one of our Primary Six pupils to wish them well as they sit for their first national examinations. We pray and hope for good health, wisdom and perseverance for our P6s as they prepare to sit for their PSLE papers.

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. However, we recognise that the pupils may be tired if we were to resume the normal school hours on Wednesday, 3 October therefore we have designated that day as E-learning day so that the P1-5 pupils do not need to report to school. 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 (SA2).

In Closing

As 2018 draws to a close, I would like to express my appreciation to our parents for your active partnership with the school as we seek to nurture every pupil with their own unique talents, inclinations and dreams. We recognise that successful outcomes may vary and come at different times and in different ways for every child. Let us focus not on the immediate results but help the children to experience joy of learning in their academic and other pursuits.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan

Principal, Qifa