



# 启发小学

## QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50, WEST COAST AVENUE. SINGAPORE 128104

### Principal's Letter – Term 3, July 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian

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

I hope you had a restful and meaningful break with your child/ward during the school holidays. As some of you have already read on the MOE and school websites, Qifa is going single-session in January 2015. My staff and I have started planning to ensure, as far as possible, a seamless transition. I will provide more details such as school hours and other logistical arrangements at a later date.

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

Your child/ward does not need to report to school on the following dates as stated in the table below:

S/N	Day/Date	School Holiday	Remarks
1.	Monday, 7 July 2014	Youth Day Holiday (in-lieu)	No school for all pupils
2.	Monday, 28 July 2014	Hari Raya Puasa	No school for all pupils
3.	Friday, 8 August 2014	National Day School Celebrations	School ends at 10:30 a.m. for all pupils
4.	Monday, 11 August 2014	National Day School Holiday (in-lieu)	No school for all pupils
5.	Thursday, 14 August 2014	PSLE Oral Examination Day 1	No school for P1-5 pupils only
6.	Friday, 15 August 2014	PSLE Oral Examination Day 2	No school for P1-5 pupils only
7.	Thursday, 4 September 2014	E-learning Day cum School's Mid-autumn Festival Celebrations	No school for P1-5 pupils only
8.	Friday, 5 September 2014	Teachers' Day Holiday	No school for all pupils

#### **E-learning Day & Mid-Autumn Festival – 4 September 2014**

As the school is organising its bi-annual event, the Mid-autumn Festival Celebrations with Char Yong (Dabu) Association on 4 September 2014, our Primary One to Five pupils will stay at home for E-learning on that day. Pupils with internet access at home will log on to MC Online to complete their English, Mathematics, Science (except P1-2) and Mother Tongue assignments. Each assignment will take from half an hour to an hour to complete. Pupils are advised to take eye breaks and avoid staring at the screen for too long. For pupils who do not have internet access at home will be given a hard copy of the assignments or



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alternatively they can opt to come in to school to use the computers in our school library or Computer Lab 1 anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to complete their E-learning assignments.

As mentioned in the earlier paragraph, the Mid-autumn Festival Celebrations will run from 6 to 9 p.m. All Primary One and Two pupils are strongly encouraged to attend the event with their parents. The event will start off with a concert followed by a host of interesting activities including traditional games, mooncake-making demonstration, food sampling, and as a finale, our Primary One and Two pupils will carry their lanterns around the estate.

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

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

During the school holiday, my staff and I were reviewing the school programmes and taking stock of the Qifa brand of education we are delivering to our charges. I would like to share a poem by a Japanese poet which captures aptly our educational philosophy – that our children are all different but they all have their own strengths and merit which the school values and seeks to nurture. We hope that as your child/ward progresses in his/her six years in Qifa, every child will discover his/her own unique talents and interests and blossom.

#### **Me, the Bird and the Bell (私と小鳥と鈴と)**





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### **Me, the Bird and the Bell (私と小鳥と鈴と)**

*Though I hold out my arms as wide as I can,  
I can never soar the skies;  
A little bird can do just that,  
yet not run as fast as I can.*

*Though I jiggle my body from head to toe,  
I can't make pretty sounds;  
A tinkling bell can do just that,  
yet not know as many songs as I do.*

*The bell, the bird, and then there's me;  
each of us different, and each of us good.*

*Kaneko Misuzu*

### **Effective Communication Programme**

Starting in April this year, the school was selected by MOE to offer Effective Communication as its *Applied Learning Programme (ALP)*. ALP aims to develop every pupil into a confident person who communicates effectively, in line with MOE's 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and student outcomes.

Equipping the pupils with the salient skills of speaking and listening effectively is the cornerstone of the school's Effective Communication Programme. Each pupil will undergo comprehensive communication modules progressively in speech, drama and theatre as well as master persuasive and argumentative techniques. Beginning with phonics, voice modulation and projection through speech and drama in the Lower Primary (P1 & P2), theatre and presentation skills at P3 & P4, and persuasive and argumentative techniques in the Upper Primary (P5 & P6), the school leverages existing resources such as ICT tools and the newly-opened broadcast studio.

A select group of pupils are identified to form a community of talents which serves as an interest group. Platforms and opportunities are provided to this group of pupils to demonstrate and hone their skills through drama, debates and public speaking competitions held at school, cluster and the national level.



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

### **Academic**

In the *Wits and Words Inter-School Debate Competition*, our school emerged as the **Top 5 Team** in the West Zone. Our pupils have also qualified for the **finals** in the *Babble and Speak Competition* organised by Nanyang Girls' High School. We look forward to their good showing. In the *Junior Science Whiz Challenge*, we emerged **Third** in the team event. Dave Wong from P6E secured **7<sup>th</sup> placing** while Fabian Oskar obtained **14<sup>th</sup> placing**.

For the *Singapore and ASEAN School Mathematics Olympiad*, we are proud to announce that our P3 pupils were placed **4<sup>th</sup>** and secured the **Top Teams Award**. They secured **2 Gold, 7 Silver** and **6 Bronze** awards. In the Singapore Mathematics Olympiad for Primary Schools (SMOPS), our school achieved an encouraging **2 Gold** and **4 Silver** awards. In the River Valley Mathematics Challenge, we were placed **10<sup>th</sup>** in the competition. In the Raffles Institution Primary Mathematics World Contest, we were ranked among the **Top 20 schools** with **3 Distinctions** and **1 credit** in the **Junior Category** and **1 Distinction** and **1 Credit** in the **Open Category**.

For more details of other academic achievements please visit our school website under **CCA & Competitions 2014**.

### **Non-academic**

Our Volleyball Junior Girls were triumphant at the National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships. They put up a tough and good fight to emerge as the **National Champions**. Our pupils from Angklung, Choir, Guzheng, and Ethnic Chinese, Malay and Indian Dance performing art groups demonstrated the school values "*Self-discipline, Resilience and Pride in Work*" giving their best at the **Singapore Youth Festival (SYF)** Competitions. We clinched a commendable **Certificate of Accomplishment** for all except Choir which obtained a **Certificate of Commendation**.

In recognition of their hard work and to give the performers a platform to showcase their talents to their parents, the school has organised its first post-SYF event, *Starry Moments*. We will be presenting certificates and plaques to the performers and tokens of appreciation at *Starry Moments* after their performances on Friday, 4 July at 6.30 p.m. in the school hall.



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Two of our talented performers, Ewan Sean Macrae (6E) and Sakura Yamakawa (6B), were selected for the *SYF Youth Got Talent!* at Gardens by the Bay on 4 July 2014. Ewan will be presenting a song entitled *On the Street Where You Live* taken from a well-known musical, *My Fair Lady*. Sakura will be playing her violin to the tune of *Polonaise Brillante*. Both pupils were selected after going through a few rounds of rigorous video and live auditions in May. This is a testimony of the school's range of engaging Aesthetics programmes which have created a number of platforms for our pupils to showcase their artistic talents.

In this same event, five of our Primary 6 pupils alongside their art teachers will be facilitating an art activity in an art carnival known as *SYF Art Lab* for members of the public. The selected pupils display a keen interest and aptitude in art. They will be demonstrating the art of paper quilling at their booth. Do go and support them if you can.

In line with the Aesthetics department's mission "*To Hone the Artistic Talents of Our Pupils*", the school conducted a two-day Art Camp during the June holiday for 18 pupils from our Primary Two to Primary Five levels. These pupils, who demonstrate a positive attitude and keen interest in art during art lessons, were identified based on the observations and recommendations of their art teachers. They learnt skills like 'wax resist'<sup>1</sup> during the workshop, and created art pieces related to the National Day theme. Some pieces were inspired by our national icons like the Merlion. The Art Camp helped the pupils to develop their art portfolios which document their journey in visual art. The art portfolios will come in handy for pupils who are interested in applying for Direct Schools Admission (DSA) to School of the Arts (SOTA). The next event in the department's art talent development programme is the *Istana Art Competition 2014* on National Day. All the best to our young Van Goghs and Picassos!

### **Overseas Immersion Programmes**

Our Primary Five pupils led by myself and HOD Mathematics, Mrs Loh Kah Yen and a team of teachers, went on a 7-day educational trip to Meizhou, Dabu and Xiamen in China. We visited two schools, namely, the Meizhou Primary School and the Dabu County Zhang Yun Zai Experimental Primary School, and interacted with the pupils there. It was an enriching experience for our pupils as they sat in and participated in the Chinese, Calligraphy and Chinese Painting lessons with their Chinese buddies and even a gardening activity thoughtfully planned by our host schools. Our pupils and a teacher were interviewed by a Dabu TV station and appeared in the local news.

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<sup>1</sup> Using a waxy medium to create a design; a wash of colour is layered over the design to create a desired effect.



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In addition, the pupils learned about the Hakka culture and traditions through sightseeing tours at cultural and historical sights such as the Hakka Meizhou Museum. They also demonstrated school values such as *"Caring Heart and Self-discipline"* as well as self-reliance as one of the pupils reflected: "I learnt more about the Hakka culture. As my parents were not with me, I learned to take care of myself. I also learnt how to interact with my roommate."

Our Primary 4 pupils will be going on a two-day study trip to Malacca in end July/early August where they will be exposed to a different historical and geographical environment in our neighbouring country. Due to the unstable political situations in Thailand and Vietnam, the school has decided to plan a trip for our Primary Five pupils to Sarawak in East Malaysia at the end of Term Four. I hope that the pupils who did not take part in the China trip will actively sign up for the Sarawak experience.

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

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

##### ***A Warm Welcome***

The school would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff: Mr Ng Joon Khang and Ms Yuzalina Bte Mahfuz to the Mother Tongue department. Mr Ng assumes the position of HOD Mother Tongue while Ms Yuzalina joins us as a Malay Language teacher. Ms Chow Shuet Ling, who was with us during her practicum, has also joined us as our second Allied Educator for Learning Behavioural Support (LBS). We are also glad that the following staff have returned to the fold: Ms Elis who completed her Masters in Melbourne, Australia and Ms Angeline Lee and Mrs Fadly who were away on maternity leave.

##### ***Staff Learning Journey to Bollywood Veggies***

In line with the school value of *'Inquiring Mind and Healthy Body'*, the school organised a learning journey to *Bollywood Veggies* on 27 June 2014 for both our teaching and non-teaching staff. This learning journey provided an opportunity for us to bond as a Qifa family and was also aimed at promoting healthy living among our staff. The staff toured the 'edible' farm, listened to a talk by "Medicinal Woman Asia" on the healing properties of vegetables and plants, and potted a plant that they pledged to care for. The learning journey was enriching for both the mind and body, and we left rejuvenated after a 'green' sojourn at Bollywood Veggies.



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

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

#### ***Discipline and Safety***

Please be reminded that parents are not to engage directly with other pupils especially with regards to discipline matters. Should there be any matters of concern, please bring this to the attention of a teacher for follow up and resolution. Also, please write in to me to seek permission should you need to take your child out of school for more than two days (excluding weekends) during term time for non-medical reasons. Do note that the school does not encourage parents to take their child/ren for a holiday during a school term.

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

### ***Strategic Thrust 4 – Providing Quality Management***

#### ***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, 3 July 2014** by the school. We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Wednesday, 2 July 2014**. We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child/ward brings his/her personal ODT which is in good working condition on the two days mentioned.

#### ***In closing***

My teachers and I look forward to a fulfilling term with the children. 2014 Primary One Registration is going to start and I am pleased to announce that we have already filled two classes under Phase 1 Sibling Priority. We expect more places to be filled under Phase 2A and B. Thank you for your support for the school as we work together towards the growth and development of your child/ward 😊

Yours sincerely

*May Wong-Tan (Mrs)*

Principal