



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50, WEST COAST AVENUE. SINGAPORE 128104

Principal's Letter – Term 2, March 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome Back

“One heart, one voice, one mind... at Qifa we will shine” (School Song).

Greetings from Qifa Primary. We welcome your child/ward back to school after the one week break. At the same time, the school also received some pupils and teachers from our partner school in Bangkok, Anubanphibunwes School, who are visiting us for a week.

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

Values in Action (VIA)

I would like to share an encouraging story of our pupils, staff and parents coming together to demonstrate values in action, in particular, our school value: a caring heart. To set the context, I would like to make reference to *Ubuntu* which is a philosophy of the African tribes. The essence of this philosophy can be summed up as: “I am what I am because of who we all are”. *Ubuntu* speaks particularly about the fact that you cannot exist as a human being in isolation. It talks about our interconnectedness, and how what we do affects the whole community, country and even the world. When we do something good, it spreads out and touches the whole humanity.

As most of you are aware, our school partnered Metropolitan YMCA Singapore in *MY Manna* Food Donation Drive recently to reach out to the needy families from rental flats in our community. Our intention in involving the pupils in this food donation drive which lasted from 17 Feb. to 14 Mar. was to develop the pupils' sense of empathy for the less privileged, and we witnessed many instances of that.

During the donation drive, one of the pupils who is on the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) came to the office with a can of food as he wanted to play his part. His simple act touched me deeply, and I shared it with the school as I felt that therein lies a powerful lesson on caring for others even when we are in need ourselves. Another story worthy to be shared is how a Form Teacher galvanised her form class to contribute their pocket money (fifty cents for the children on FAS) which she matched dollar for dollar to teach them important life lessons. The pupils learnt that it is not how much you give but how much you care which matters, and that we can all contribute towards a good cause as every cent counts and touches the lives of those who are receiving our help.



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Our staff also actively played their part. Besides donating food items, some of the teachers pooled their resources together to make bulk purchases to support this donation drive. The Qifa staff culture has always been one which is caring, and I am glad that we all did our part to support the food donation drive and role-model to our pupils our school value 'a caring heart'.

Our parents have also been incredibly supportive, for example, a P1 parent made a generous donation of about 400 rolls of toilet papers and 600 cans of food. Our Parent Support Group Chairperson also offered the school the help of her workers and a delivery truck to transport all the donated items we had collected to YMCA. In addition, we were also heartened that one of our parents shared our school's food donation drive with her company, and as a result the Director and CEO of the ACEZ Group of Companies, Mr Ricky Yeo, and his employees donated a total of S\$1,403.30 in food items.

These are just a few of the many acts of kindness we encountered in this donation drive. This has been a particularly meaningful VIA activity as I see all of us in the Qifa family from pupils to teachers and parents coming together to play our part to meet the needs of our community. This Saturday, 29 March, our school is also collaborating with the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the West Coast Neighbourhood Committee to publicise and support the tray return campaign at Ayer Rajah Food Centre from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Do join us to support our VIA Ambassadors and catch them in action.

The Qifa Carnival

The school is proud to announce that our Qifa Carnival, which was held in November last year, was a great success. We raised a total of \$20,062.72 from the sale of carnival tickets. In addition, the Char Yong Dabu Association in Singapore, through our School Advisory Committee, has kindly contributed \$10,000 to support our school's fundraising efforts. In total, we will be presenting a cheque of \$30,062.72 to the Children's Cancer Foundation. Thank you everyone for your big-hearted support for a worthy cause.



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Qifa's Academic and Non-Academic Achievements

I have some good tidings to share. Our school was conferred the Green Schools @South West **Gold Award** for 2013 by the South West Community Development Council (CDC) and the National Environment Agency (NEA). This was in recognition of our environmentally-friendly initiatives.

Our lower primary pupils have also done the school proud. One of our pupils, Tan Zhi En from P2E emerged as the first runner up in the *Smart Kids Asia Challenge (English and Mathematics)* which was held on 22 March this year. Our P1 pupil, Siddharth Jagadeesh, competed in the *National Singapore Schools Individual Chess Championships* recently. Siddharth won 5 out of 9 games at the national level which qualified him for the Singapore National Junior Preparatory Squad for Chess.

Our volleyball teams have turned in stellar results once again. Our pupils emerged as **Champions** for the **Senior Boys and Girls** teams and **Second Position** for the **Junior Boys and Girls** team in the West Zone Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships. All four teams have successfully progressed to the National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships. In addition, Nichole Kong and Michelle Chung from the Senior Girls team, and Ewan Sean Macrae and Teiw Yong Hup from the Senior Boys team were conferred the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council Sportsmanship Award.

This year, our Basketball **Junior and Senior Boys** teams have performed exceptionally well in their competitions. They demonstrated the school values: *resilience* and *self-discipline*, as they trained hard and battled their way to secure a **4th placing** in the West Zone Inter-Primary Schools Basketball Championships.

The school would like to acknowledge the commitment of our stakeholders including our pupils, staff and parents without whom we would not have been able to achieve such encouraging results. In particular, I would like to thank our parents who are our invaluable partners in our effort to provide a holistic education for our pupils.

Next, we wish our Table-tennis and Wushu teams well as they represent the school to compete in their respective competitions this month. Our performing art groups will also be involved in the upcoming Singapore Youth Festival Angklung, Choir, Dance and Guzheng competitions in April. While we hope that the hard work of our pupils, coaches and teachers will be recognised and affirmed, we believe that the journey is far more important and our pupils have gained much from the whole experience of training and preparing for the competitions.



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Overseas Immersion Programmes

As in previous years, our school believes in creating opportunities for experiential learning for our pupils and in the value of internationalisation in developing in our pupils the 21st century competencies of global awareness and cross-cultural skills and sensitivities. Therefore we have planned a few overseas immersion programmes for our Primary 4 and 5 pupils this year.

For the Primary 4 pupils, they will go on a two-day study trip to Malacca in September where they will be exposed to a different historical and geographical environment in our neighbouring country.

For the Primary 5 pupils, two overseas trips have been planned for the month of June. There will be an overseas trip led by myself and the HOD, Mathematics to Dabu, China for the Chinese pupils to better acquaint themselves with Qifa's Hakka past, and to gain a better understanding of the Chinese culture and history as well as interact with two local schools there. We are also planning a trip that will be led by the SH National Education/Social Studies that is open to all pupils to Bangkok, Thailand to visit our partner school there.

More details on the above overseas trips will be provided at a later date. I hope that you will encourage your child(ren) in Primary 4 and/or 5 to participate in these cultural immersion trips which also seek to inculcate important lifeskills and values in the children such as working well with others, independence and *self-discipline*.

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

Home-School Partnership

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the parents who turned up for our networking sessions in January this year. The turnout was encouraging, and we are heartened by your commitment to partner us in your child's education. Parents, I would like to invite you to a welcome tea this Friday evening, 28 March 2014, for all our parent volunteers and those who are interested to volunteer. Our parent volunteers play a vital role in supporting our delivery of a holistic education for our charges in Qifa. Do join us to find out how you can also play a part as a parent volunteer to enrich the learning and development of our children.



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Haze Management

MOE and the school will monitor the haze situation closely and implement appropriate measures based on the health advisory. The school has set aside an air-conditioned room with an air purifier for pupils and staff who suffer from respiratory problems in the event that they feel unwell in school. The staff have been briefed to watch out for signs and symptoms of pupils who are unwell. Arrangements have been made to minimise outdoor activities should the haze situation worsen. We seek the help of parents or guardians to ensure that your child/ward bring along his/her inhalant or medicine to school if they suffer from asthma or other respiratory ailments.

MOE ExCEL Fest 2014

The MOE ExCEL Fest 2014 will be held on 11 to 12 of April this year. The theme of this year's ExCEL Fest is 'Valuing Every Child, Learning For Life'. Members of the public will be able to attend this event on the 12th of April. For more information on what to expect, please visit the ExCEL Fest website at <https://www.excelfest.com/>.

In Partnership with you

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>.



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***Every School, a Good School**

Strategic Thrust 4 – Providing Quality Management

Improvements to School Facilities

The Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) upgrading works have finally been completed and our new indoor sports hall, sheltered basketball court, dance studio, band studio and a broadcast studio are now in use. We have also opened the hangout named ***Playspace @QIFA*** for the pupils in February. We will continue with the General Repairs and Renovation works which started in September last year and are expected to be completed in a year. We are confident that the improved physical environment and learning spaces will help us to enhance teaching and learning in Qifa.

Finally, I would like to leave you with this quote:

“Every child, every person adds unique value to our world.”

Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)
Principal