



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50, WEST COAST AVENUE. SINGAPORE 128104

Principal's Letter – Term 2, March 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to School

The children look rejuvenated after a one week break and the school has come alive once again with their cheerful chatter and smiling faces 😊

Passing of First Prime Minister of Singapore

We started the term most regretfully with news of the passing on of our first Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. On Monday, our flags were flown at half mast, and yesterday we held a ceremony in school in which we shared with the children the life, qualities and contributions of Mr Lee as well as tributes received from world leaders. We observed a minute of silence as a mark of respect and have set up a tribute board in the canteen for the pupils and staff to pen their thoughts and wishes for Mr Lee.

On Thursday, 26 March, my VP Ms Uma and I will lead a selected group of pupils to the Parliament House for the Lying-in-State. They have a symbolic role during the public homage, as they represent the school and MOE in this national expression of gratitude and respect to Mr Lee. Through this experience, we seek to help them appreciate the immense contributions made by one of our founding fathers of independent Singapore and the sacrifices he had made for us. We hope that our pupils will be inspired to live up to the same ideals.

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

Values in Action (VIA)

Sentosa Kidz Flea

On the first day of the March holiday, some of our staff and pupils were involved in a VIA activity, Sentosa Kidz Flea, to raise funds for the Hospice Care Association. What was particularly meaningful about this activity is how the different groups: Art Club members, Prefects, the VIA Ambassadors and VIA Monitors, and some teachers from the Aesthetics, CCE and Mother Tongue departments, came together to contribute to the community as they demonstrated the school values 'A Caring Heart' and 'Enterprising Spirit'. All the proceeds raised went to the Hospice Care Association.



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Qifa's Academic and Non-Academic Achievements

Two of our P2 pupils, Lim Ruici and Siddharth Jagadeesh, competed in the 67th *National Singapore Schools Individual Chess Championships* recently. Ruici was ranked **Sixth** in the Junior Girls Category while Siddharth aced the Junior Boys Category, and secured the **First Position**. Siddharth also recently attained a FIDE World Chess Federation rating in the Blitz category (Fast Chess), and is currently in the **12th Position** for World Under 8 Age Group. We are very proud of his achievements at such a tender age.

At this point, I would like to add that this year the Mathematics department has piloted the *Mathematical Thinking with International Chess Programme* for all the P3 classes. The programme aims to develop the pupils' competencies in visualisation, attention span, spatial reasoning and critical thinking skills which in turn help to improve the pupils' mathematical problem solving skills.

Our volleyball teams have turned in stellar results once again. Our pupils emerged as **Champions** for the **Junior and Senior Boys** teams and **Second Position** for the **Junior and Senior Girls** teams 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, Jynelle Ong, Reshma Kaur and Lee Hwee Min from the Senior Girls team, and Glen Tan and Kester Tok from the Senior Boys team were conferred the Singapore Primary Schools Sports Council Sportsmanship Award.

This year, our Basketball **Senior Boys** team outperformed many strong teams from Nanyang Primary and De La Salle to emerge **Runners Up** in the West Zone Inter-Primary Schools Basketball Championships. Well done, boys! In addition, our Brownies emerged **Second** in the West Division Heritage Trail.

Our school was conferred the Green Schools @South West **Gold Award** for 2014 by the South West Community Development Council (CDC) and the National Environment Agency (NEA). This was in recognition of our environmentally-friendly initiatives. This is the second year we have won the Gold Award and we are glad that we have managed to sustain the good results.

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.



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For the Primary 4 pupils, they will go on a two-day overseas immersion programme to Malacca in July-August. Some of the highlights of the educational trip included visits to a rubber plantation, a traditional kampong house, the Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum and an organic fruits farm.

For the Primary 5 pupils, two overseas trips have been planned for the month of June. There will be an overseas immersion programme led by the HOD, Mother Tongue to Nanjing, China from 28th May to 3rd June. The programme seeks to strengthen the pupils' understanding and appreciation of the Chinese Language and way of life by immersing in an authentic Chinese Language learning environment at Xingzhi Primary School. The programme will also expose the pupils to the Chinese culture and history as they visit various historical and places of interest. Another overseas trip will be led by the HOD, Aesthetics to Sarawak, Malaysia from 29th May to 3rd June. It includes cultural activities and educational tours of cultural and historical sites as well as interaction with the pupils from a local school.

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 immersion trips which also seek to inculcate important lifeskills and develop social and emotional competencies in the children such as self-discipline, self and social awareness as well as self and relationship management.

***Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

This year, we have introduced a segment during Staff Contact Time whereby selected teachers share good practices with their colleagues. For the first sharing we invited three teachers to share how they make use of class blogs, Social Learning Wall on MC Online, Blogspot and Edmodo etc to keep pupils and parents updated on homework, class activities and programmes as well as to facilitate online conversations and discussions. These platforms serve to better support pupils' learning, help to enhance teacher-pupil relationships and foster stronger home-school partnerships.

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships



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Home-School Partnership

I would like to thank all the parents who turned up for our networking sessions in January this year. We are heartened by your commitment to partner us in your child's education. Our school's Semestral Assessment (SA) 1 will start on 4th May with Oral Examinations while the written papers will take place between 8th to 14th May. The examinations schedule will be distributed to your child by the 4th week of the term. We seek your help to support and monitor your child/ward's preparations for SA1.

***Every School, a Good School**

Strategic Thrust 4 – Creating Quality Systems

Qifa Carnival cum School 30th Anniversary Celebrations

The last Qifa Carnival, which was held in November 2013, was a huge success and we presented a cheque of \$30,062.72 to the Children's Cancer Foundation. Our 4th bi-annual Qifa Carnival this year will be a special one as we are also celebrating our school's 30th anniversary as a government school, and 109 years when it was first set up as Khee Fatt Study Institution. The celebrations will take place on **Saturday 25 July 2015** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We look forward to you joining us for the occasion.



Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)
Principal