



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Principal's Letter – Term 4, September 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Term 4 at QPS

It felt like it was not too long ago that I wrote my first letter as the Principal of Qifa to you and the pupils to welcome them to the start of term one. In a flash, we have approached the last term in the school year. What an amazing journey it has been! Please allow me to share some highlights with you.

***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

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

Qifa's Academic and Non-Academic Achievements

Our Lower Primary children, Nyla Putri from Class 2E and Chua Tsze Sin from Class 2G, proved that they may be younger than their seniors but they are no less outstanding as they emerged as **1st Runner-up** and **2nd Runner-up** respectively in the I CAN READ 'Page to Stage' competition. In August this year, Nyla Putri from 2E became the first Qifa pupil to make it to the finals of the 2013 YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards. She also won the Audience Favourite Speaker Award (Lower Primary) and the Silver Honour Roll. In the West 1 Cluster Reading Fiesta, which involved participating schools like Clementi Primary, Henry Park Primary, Nan Hua Primary and Yuhua Primary, our pupils aced the Storytelling Competition as both David Tay from Class 1A and Chua Tsze Sin from Class 2G came in **First** in their respective categories.

In the Asia International Mathematical Olympiad 2013 that was held in Taiwan which involved 11 participating countries from Asia and 15 contestants from Singapore, Tan Wei Xuan and Lim Jinyi from Class 3E represented Qifa Primary School. Wei Xuan turned in a stellar performance, outperforming the rest of the Singapore contestants to clinch the prestigious **Star of Asia** award. In addition, Wei Xuan also obtained a **Gold** award while Jinyi won a **Merit** award.

Our pupils also achieved commendable results at the National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore 2013 competition. Our Primary Five pupils who participated in this competition secured **5 Silver** awards, **7 Bronze** awards and **3** of them earned an **Honourable Mention**.

In Sports, Ernest Wang Hong Qi from Class 3A won a **Gold** award for Division D Boys in the Tiger Cubs Golf Championships 2013 @National Level. Finally, in the area of Aesthetics, our gifted singer Miguel Pinon from Class 6B beat the other contestants to emerge as the winner in the Judges' Choice for the Solo Category in the Singapore Youth Festival Youth Got Talent 2013 contest. Miguel and his sister, Isabella Pinon from Class 4A, also won the Judges' Choice for the Group Category in the same contest. Their brilliant performances won very positive reviews and they were invited by the organisers to perform at the closing ceremony of the Singapore Youth Festival Youth Got Talent concert. We also discovered another talented performer in Ewan Sean Macrae from 5E who played the lead role 'Troy' in the high school musical at the recent Big Day Out at Resort World Sentosa.

Overseas Immersion Programmes

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. Two batches of our Primary Four pupils have gone on a two-day cultural immersion programme to Malacca in September. 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. The pupils also tried their hands at batik painting and traditional games such as top spinning.

For many of the children, this is their first trip away from home without their parents which afforded them the opportunity to develop important lifeskills such as self-reliance and self-discipline. The next group heading out to Taiwan in November is our volleyball sports team for a training cum immersion programme.

Children's Day Celebrations 2013

Children's Day is celebrated every year to recognise the uniqueness of each child and the potential s/he possesses. This year, our celebrations will be held on Thursday, 3 October. It will be a normal school day but our Primary One and Two pupils will join us for the concert at 11:30 a.m. Friday, 4 October will be a school holiday.

****Every Teacher, a Caring Educator***

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

At Qifa, we believe that happy teachers maketh a happy school, and this is also in line with our school vision of 'An Achieving School with a Caring Environment'. During the September holiday all the school staff including the teachers and EAS (Executive & Administrative Staff) had our own day out at Gardens by the Bay. As part of the school's Teachers' Day celebrations on 5 September, our School

Advisory Committee (SAC) very generously hosted us to a sumptuous Teachers' Day dinner at Harbour Front. A number of our staff sportingly dressed up according to the theme 'Nerds' Night Out'; we all let our hair down for that night and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Our school is recognised for our team of caring and dedicated teachers who walk the extra mile for their charges and live out the school value of '*A Caring Heart*'. This year, three teachers garnered the most number of nominations from their pupils to win the '*Caring Teacher Award*' for the following categories:

*Primary 1-2: Mrs Jayanthi Rao

*Primary 3-4: Mrs Chow Meng Yoon

*Primary 5-6: Mrs Loh Kah Yen

Congratulations to the three teachers who are most deserving of the award as they are recognised by both their pupils and colleagues to be good role models in terms of the love, care and concern they demonstrate to their charges.

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

PSLE and End-of-Year Examinations

With the coming of the PSLE and Primary Two to Five Semestral Examination 2 (SA2) in Term Four, we seek your support in working closely with the school to consolidate your child/ward's learning for the year. Our Primary Six pupils sit for their PSLE Listening Comprehension examination this Friday followed by the start of the written papers next week. We wish them all the best, and we are confident that they will strive to realise their full potential. The SA2 schedule for Primary Two to Five will be distributed in Week Three.

Home-School Partnership

I would like to express my deep appreciation to our parents/guardians who participated so enthusiastically and contributed in various ways to the Racial Harmony Day commemoration in July and the Teachers' Day celebrations just before the end of Term Three. We received positive feedback from the parents of Primary One and Two pupils who joined us for the Racial Harmony Day commemoration while the teachers were wowed by the performance of the children and parent volunteers from the KidsRead programme at the Teachers' Day concert.

Parents and Guardians, we look forward to your turnout and active support at our next school event, the Qifa Carnival on Saturday, 16 November from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We seek donations of stationery, soft toys and books in good condition for our garage sale. Just before the carnival, we will be holding the Honours Day Awards Ceremony from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Together, we will end the school year with a big bang!

SAC and External Partners

Over the years, the school has steadily cultivated a strong partnership with the Singapore Japanese Primary School (SJS). We hosted a group of teachers from SJS in August. They sat in some of the teachers' classes and interacted with our staff. Our Primary Two and Three pupils have visited the SJS as well as hosted their visits in July, and the Primary One pupils will do the same in November. The objectives of our exchange programme with the SJS are to develop global awareness and multi-cultural skills in our pupils as espoused in our school mission to develop 'global citizens'.

This year, our pupils have also been actively involved in community-based events. Our Guzheng Ensemble performing arts group thrilled the audience at the West Coast National Day Dinner which was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr S Iswaran, Minister in Prime Minister's Office. Our Chinese Dance group opened the Char Yong National Day Dinner with a lively performance impressing the audience which included the Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transport, Mrs Josephine Teo.

At the recent West Coast Garden Kampong Night 2013, 12 of our pupils helped to man the games booths and sold bookmarks with messages on environmental awareness as well as distributed flyers on the Qifa Bagman Returns used schoolbag donation drive. Through the various platforms, we seek to strengthen ties with our community and stakeholders while giving our children the opportunity to hone their leadership skills and develop their self-confidence through public performances.

***Every School, a Good School**

Strategic Thrust 4 – Providing Quality Management

Facelift for the School

As highlighted in my last letter to parents, the school is currently undergoing repainting of the external facade, and we will also be adding some touches such as replacing the old school sign at the main gate so look out for Qifa with a new look in the months ahead. We will also be carrying out renovations in our Art Studio, sprucing up our school library and creating a hideout where the pupils can hang out during recess to play some board games and engage in other activities. Painting of the classrooms and other rooms in the school will take place during the end-of-year holidays so that the children start Term One in 2014 in the newly painted classrooms.

My teachers and I look forward to a fulfilling term with the children. I am very heartened to receive feedback and complimentary emails for my staff from our parents, and would like to thank all for your support for the school as we work together towards the growth and development of your child/ward
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Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)

Principal