



**Principal's Letter – Term 3, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

Dear Parent/Guardian

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

We look forward to having the children back in school after a good break in June ☺ Term 3 looks to be a busy and an exciting term as the school commemorates Racial Harmony Day, celebrates National Day, and the Primary Six pupils go full steam ahead with their Primary Six Leaving Examination (PSLE) preparations.

Unfortunately due to the uncertain haze situation, we have to postpone our Qifa Carnival that was originally scheduled on Saturday, 6 July 2013. We will hold the carnival at the end of the school year, and will announce the date shortly. We apologise for the inconvenience caused but seek everyone's understanding that we made the decision based on our duty of care to the pupils and staff as well as our stakeholders, and our concern over their health.

***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, 8 July 2013	Youth Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
2.	Wednesday, 7 August 2013	National Day School Celebrations	School ends at 10:30 a.m. for all pupils
3.	Thursday, 8 August 2013	Hari Raya Puasa	No school for all pupils
4.	Friday, 9 August 2013	National Day	No school for all pupils
5.	Thursday, 15 August 2013	PSLE Oral Examination Day 1	No school for P1-5 pupils only
6.	Friday, 16 August 2013	PSLE Oral Examination Day 2	No school for P1-5 pupils only
7.	Friday, 6 September 2013	Teachers' Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
8.	Friday, 20 September 2013	PSLE Listening Comprehension Examination	No school for P3-5 pupils only
9.	Friday, 4 October 2013	Children's Day Holiday	No school for all pupils
10.	Monday, 14 October 2013	PSLE Marking Day 1	No school for all pupils
11.	Tuesday, 15 October 2013	Hari Raya Haji	No school for all pupils
12.	Wednesday, 16 October 2013	PSLE Marking Day 2	No school for all pupils
13.	Thursday, 17 October 2013	PSLE Marking Day 3	No school for all pupils
14.	Friday, 18 October 2013	PSLE Marking Day 4	No school for all pupils
15.	Monday, 4 November 2013	Deepavali	No school for all pupils
16.	Wednesday, 6 November 2013	School Administration Day	No school for all pupils



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

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

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

In the Singapore Mathematics Olympiad for Primary Schools (SMOPS), our school achieved an encouraging **2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze results**. At the Singapore and ASEAN School Mathematics Olympiad, we are proud to announce that we emerged **second** out of 24 schools with a total of **5 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze** awards. At the Raffles Institution Primary Mathematics World Contest, we achieved **8<sup>th</sup> placing** and two of our pupils were amongst the top 45 pupils who qualified for the second round.

In the National Primary Schools Wits and Words Debate, we achieved a record **Top 8<sup>th</sup> placing**, and two of our pupils were conferred the **Best Speakers award**. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Inter-School National Scrabble Championship 2013, our pupils turned in an impressive performance. We are the **Champions** for the Junior Bowl category, **1<sup>st</sup> Runners-up** for the Junior Cup and Senior Bowl categories, **Second Runners-up** for the Team Wordsmith Category, and **Merit** for the Doubles Wordsmith, Senior Bowl and Junior Plate categories.

Our Volleyball Senior Boys and Girls have once again done the school proud with their fantastic achievements in the National Inter-Primary Schools Volleyball Championships. They demonstrated *resilience* and *self-discipline* as they fought against worthy and formidable opponents to emerge **Second** in the National Championships for the **Senior Girls** and **Third** for the **Senior Boys** team.

Without the dedication and commitment of our staff and pupils as well as the unstinting support of our parents, we would not have been able to achieve such impressive results in both the academic and non-academic areas. Together, I believe that we can achieve much for the pupils and the school in our pursuit of holistic education.

#### ***Overseas Immersion Programmes***

A group of Primary 5 pupils led by vice-principal, Ms Uma, HOD Information Technology/Media Resource Library, HOD Aesthetics, SH Malay Language and Assistant Year Head, Mr Benny Lim visited our partner school and other historical sites in Bangkok, Thailand from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The pupils had an enriching experience, and they had many opportunities to internalise and demonstrate the school values as well as develop multi-cultural skills through their interactions with their peers in the partner school, and with others during the trip to Thailand.



## QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

We could not go ahead with our trip to Dabu, China due to the avian flu situation in China and we also had to postpone our Volleyball trip to Taiwan for the same reason. The Taiwan trip will take place at the end of the school year. Our Primary 4 pupils will be going 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. We hope that you will support and encourage your child to participate in these cultural immersion trips which also seek to inculcate important lifeskills and values in the children.

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

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

#### ***A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff***

The school would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff: Ms Serene Cheong, Ms Yap Kar Wei and Ms Kamilah to the Mother Tongue department, and Mr Ian Chan to the PE and Mathematics department as well as Ms Poo Shue Jun, Allied Educator for Learning Behavioural Support.

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

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

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

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

#### ***Haze Management***

As announced at the Ministry of Education (MOE)'s press briefing last Friday, 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. As a precaution, we have also cancelled all CCAs and supplementary lessons for Primary One to Five pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5 July 2013.



## QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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. The school has also taken the additional step of engaging a text messaging vendor in order to send out mass smses or text messages quickly to our staff and parents/guardians. Please provide your child/ward's Form Teacher/Co-Form Teacher with the most updated mobile/home numbers in the event that the school needs to contact you urgently.

A separate letter with more details on haze management by schools will be sent out together with this letter.

### ***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, 4 July 2013** by the school. We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Tuesday, 2 July 2013**. 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.

### ***Improvements to School Facilities***

Some renovation works took place during the June holiday, and the school is excited to unveil its new performing arts studio in the media resource library. Other renovation works also took place in the canteen and some of the classroom blocks have been fitted with new cabinets and a wash area as part of the Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) upgrading. More renovations works will take place over the next two years including general repairs and repainting of the school façade and rooms. Most of the repairs and renovation works will only take place during the school holidays in order to minimise disruptions and disturbances to ongoing lessons.

Finally, I would like to announce that our new school website will be ready before the end of this week. We will strive to provide updated and useful information on the school website for the benefit of our stakeholders. Here's wishing everyone good health and a productive term ahead.

Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)  
Principal