



A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The school celebrated its achievements at its Honours Day on the 10th February 2023. As the school hall was not able to accommodate all parents, we could only extend the invitation to the parents of prize recipients and performers. Nevertheless, it is important to share with all our valued stakeholders, the theme for the coming two years (2023-2024) - Inspire and Enlighten, taken from the words 启发 (QIFA). I am pleased to share with all parents, the speech that I presented for the occasion here:

*Good morning, Mdm Lee Moo Hiang, our Guest of Honour, Mr Kok, the Chairman and members of the School Advisory Committee, guests, teachers and students, Today, I am honoured to talk about something close to my heart and that which I believe is fit for this occasion — **Inspiring and Enlightening** others. Incidentally, these 2 words also represent the school's name – QIFA.*

*Students, you are at a critical stage in your lives where the choices you make, the beliefs you hold, and the paths you take will shape your future. Therefore, it is so important that you are **inspired and enlightened**. **Inspiration** gives you the drive and passion to pursue your dreams and to make a positive impact on the world. **Enlightenment** helps you to see the world with clarity, to understand the deeper meaning behind things, and to find your place in the world. At school, you can be leaders, role models, and be sources of **inspiration and enlightenment** for your classmates and teachers. Whether it's through your academic achievements, your kindness and compassion, or your creativity and innovation, you can inspire others to be their best selves.*

*But, **inspiration and enlightenment** are not just important for individuals, they are also important for our schools. School is a place where we can broaden our horizons, explore new ideas, and gain new insights. It's a place where we can be **enlightened**, and where we can develop a deeper understanding of the world around us. A school that is **inspired and enlightened** is a school that is filled with energy, creativity, and a love of learning. It is a school where students are encouraged to reach their full potential and where teachers can make a positive impact on their students' lives.*

Highlights:

A Note from the Principal

Admin Matters

Sale of School Uniform

Travel Declaration for March Holidays

Key Updates

Honours Day 2023:
启发 — Inspire & Enlighten

Integration Programme:
Learning Journey to the Battlebox

Total Defence Day (TDD) 2023

Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM)
Session & March Break

A Note from the Principal (cont'd)

*In Qifa, with its humble beginnings as a school set up by the Hakka immigrants from Dabu, China, 117 years ago, we have the founders to thank for their **enlightened** minds – understanding that it takes a village to raise a child. In fact, today the Char Yong (Dabu) Association continues as a strong supporter of the school, sitting on the school board, and providing generous scholarships to our students every year. Parents, as a key partner of the school, offer their time and efforts generously in supporting the students via the Parent Support Group and as Parent Volunteers. We also have our early educators to thank in **inspiring** our students to reach for the stars and beyond, to achieve their potential. Old boys and girls come back to serve the school – Mr Low Ying Liang, a radiologist and Ms Chua Wei Shan, a grassroots volunteer, both serve on the school board. Mdm Lee Moo Hiang was a former pupil of Khee Fatt School. As the sponsor of the Lee Moo Hiang Bilingualism award, she is here with us today, to share her gratitude to her teachers and the school for realising her potential and sowed in her, the love for languages. These narratives and stories are important because they tell us that the school has done right by her students. As a school community, we must continue to create an environment that is conducive to QI-FA, **inspiration and enlightenment** –*

- where students are encouraged to ask questions, to explore new ideas, and to create, connect, collaborate and*
- where teachers are empowered to do what they must, to bring out the best in each child.*

*So, in the spirit of QI-FA, let us all make a pledge to be a source of **inspiration and enlightenment** to those around us. Let us be the light that illuminates the path of others. Let us be the wind that carries the seeds of hope to new heights. Together, we can create a brighter future, where every person is **enlightened**, and where everyone is **inspired** to reach his full potential.*

Thank you.



Mrs Catherine Chiang
Principal

Admin Matters

1. Sale of School Uniform

The sale of School Uniform will take place in school on the following days:

Date	Time
22 March 2023 (Wednesday)	2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
23 March 2023 (Thursday)	10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Parents who are unable to purchase the uniforms on the above dates can make your purchase via the following options:

- 1) Direct sale at the Shanghai School Uniforms retail shop
Address: 63 Ubi Avenue 1 #04-09, S408937
- 2) Online purchase at <https://shop.shanghai-uniforms.com/primary-schools/>
- 3) School bookshop

Sale of School Uniforms in School bookshop	
Day	Time
Mondays — Fridays*	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**starting from Friday, 24 March 2023*



Ms Kasturi Selvarajoo
Administration Manager

Admin Matters

2. Travel Declaration for March Holidays

To ensure schools continue to be a healthy and safe environment for all, we require parents/guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward only if he/she intends to travel for the March holidays by **10 March 2023 (Friday)**.

We encourage you to do so via the Parents' Gateway (PG) app [**SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS**]. If you do not have access to Parents' Gateway (PG), you may do so by submitting your child's travel plan via the following link: <https://go.gov.sg/qps-2023-student-travel-declaration>.

If your child/ward is travelling, please indicate clearly both the country and city of travel. Only one parent is required to declare.

If your child/ward is not travelling during the March holidays, no action is required on your side.



Ms Kasturi Selvarajoo
Administration Manager

Key Updates

1. Honours Day 2023: 启发-Inspire & Enlighten



On 10 February 2023, our school gave recognition to Qifa students during the annual Honours Day. It was heartening to hold the event physically with invited guests and parents of Prize Recipients and CCA Performers after a break of over 3 years. A record total of more than 430 awards were given out to about 300 Prize Recipients to affirm and celebrate their holistic achievements in academic, leadership and character.

The Honours Day kicked off with an opening performance by the Chinese Drums troupe members upon the arrival of invited guests including the Guest-of-Honour, Mdm Lee Moo Hiang, an alumna of the school, members of the School Advisory Committee (SAC) and Qifa's Parents Support Group (PSG). The rousing presentation marked the official launch and opening of the revamped Qifa Heritage Gallery.



Opening performance by Qifa Chinese Drums Troupe with their energetic piece "24 Festive Drums" to symbolise a bountiful harvest for the year



SAC Chairman Mr Kok, Guest-of-Honour Mdm Lee and Principal Mrs Catherine Chiang opening the revamped Qifa Heritage Gallery

Key Updates — Honours Day 2023: 启发 – Inspire & Enlighten (cont'd)



Principal Mrs Catherine Chiang delivering her address in line with the theme: ‘启发-Inspire & Enlighten’



Mdm Lee Moo Hiang, Class of 1970, Guest-of-Honour of Honours Day 2023, addressing the audience

Honours Day 2023 also saw the introduction of a newly-instituted patron award – The Lee Moo Hiang Bilingualism Award – which was named after the Guest-of-Honour. In her speech, Mdm Lee shared fond memories of her time in Qifa and is thankful for the education that she had received. Through the award, she hopes to inspire her fellow Qifa juniors to appreciate the diverse languages and cultures in Singapore and instil a love of learning in them.

Various Performing Arts groups demonstrated their aesthetic talents during the ceremony. The graceful dancers from the Malay and Chinese dance groups showcased their finest pieces and the Guzheng Ensemble gave a splendid performance at the Performing Arts Studio during the VIP reception.



Chinese Dance members giving a graceful performance to the audience

Key Updates — Honours Day 2023: 启发 – Inspire & Enlighten (cont'd)



Malay Dance members showcasing traditional Malay dance moves with a lively piece called “Zapin Kita”



Guzheng Ensemble serenading with two pieces – 童谣 and 笑傲江湖 – at the Performing Arts Studio

Overall, Honours Day 2023 was a memorable event to start the year on a celebratory note while honouring the school’s long and rich history as an educational institution. Once again, the school would like to congratulate all Prize Recipients for their well-earned achievements!

Mr Mohd Faisal Jamain
HOD / Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy & Partnerships (LEAP)

Key Updates

2. Integration Program: Learning Journey to the Battlebox

Through the different learning experiences, our school provides our students with the knowledge, skills, and values to understand Singapore's history, realities and challenges unique to our nation. One of such experiences is the visit to 'The Battlebox' which our Primary 4 and 5 students in the Integration Programme participated.

This learning journey, led by experienced docents, depicted stories about Lt-Gen Percival's decision to surrender Singapore to the Japanese. Students understood that *The Battlebox* was part of the Malaya Command Headquarters during the World War II. The students discovered the true causes of the fall of Singapore and learnt how an underground command centre functioned during the war. Students were excited to see the mannequins as each looked like real army commanders and soldiers. The tour commentary and videos shown were relevant and students were engaged throughout the learning journey. Through this meaningful activity our students had a deeper understanding on the importance of Total Defence.



Interior view of the Battlebox



Miss Mumtaz
HOD / Character and Citizenship Education (CCE)

Key Updates

3. Total Defence Day (TDD) 2023

Total Defence Day (TDD) 2023 was commemorated on both 15 and 16 February 2023 in Qifa Primary. The theme for this year's TDD - "Together We Keep Singapore Strong" – continues to focus on the many ways we can put Total Defence into our daily activities. Total Defence remains relevant to deal with the ever-evolving threats and challenges to Singapore. Every Singaporean has a part to play to ensure that Singapore is prepared for crises and disruptions and that we remain resilient and united as one people.

This year, the event was held over two days. For Day One, 15 February, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) was invited to conduct informative and fun recess activities. Students had the opportunity to explore and experience first-hand the many facets of civil defence which also included seeing an actual police patrol car at the school foyer. It was heartening to see the interactions between our students with our friendly police officers.



On Day Two, 16 February, our students learnt more about the six pillars of Total Defence, starting with an online Assembly Talk on Total Defence by our Principal, Mrs Chiang, who delivered a speech to remind our students and staff of how important it is for us not to take our country's security and stability for granted. The students also had lessons during the Form Teacher Guidance Period that focused on the importance of helping one another and identify steps such as 'Press-Tie-Tell' that they can take during an emergency.

Key Updates — *Total Defence Day (cont'd)*

During recess time, our students took photos where they dressed up as our country's defence team. They also wrote heartfelt messages about their country and their wish for Singapore to be safe.



Mr Lim Cheng Leong
HOD / Educational Technology

Key Updates

4. Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) Session & March Break

As communicated on 24 February via Parents Gateway, we have designated 22 March (half day) and 23 March (whole day) for our Form Teachers to engage you to better support your child's holistic development.

Your child's teachers are a great source of information. Through the conversations, both you and the teachers may make new discoveries about your child!

Do take the opportunity to find out more about your child's interaction with others, their learning styles and interest in the various subjects and/or CCA. Every child is unique, and when parents and teachers work closely together, they can do more for him/her than we could alone.

Preparing for PTM

Below are three simple tips to prepare yourself for a meaningful dialogue with your child's Form Teachers:

1. Talk to your child

Have a chat with your child to understand about the subjects that they like, and the problems or challenges that they are facing in school or their learning. Having an open and honest conversation will help you give pointers to speak to the Form Teachers and work towards a common solution.

2. Have a look at completed assignments and daily work

Before the PTM, it is helpful to take a look at their daily work and assignments. Read the teachers' comments as this will give you a more holistic view and understanding of your child's general learning attitude and progress.

3. Note down key points

Finally, jot down some key points – there might be a few, so prioritise! – that you may want to discuss with your child's Form Teachers. There is a chance that you may forget during the PTM conversation so keep the written notes nearby so that you can refer to them easily.

Key Updates — PTM Session & March Break (cont'd)

Questions to Ask

There can be many questions to ask but don't just ask about his/her grades because their test scores can tell you that. Find out about your child's overall well-being and development.

Below are some questions you may ask the teachers:

1. How is my child's behaviour in school?
2. How well does my child interact with his/her friends?
3. How can I continue to motivate my child if he/she is facing a challenge?
4. What can I do at home to help my child in his/her growth?
5. How can we both work together to support my child?

After the meeting

After the PTM, it is important to discuss the teacher's feedback with your child. There is no need to be critical or burden them with comparisons. Instead, help them to identify their strengths and motivate them to work on their areas for growth. This will give your child the confidence that your support and encouragement will be there when they need it the most.

Recommended: We encourage you to bring your child along for the meeting with your child's Form Teachers. The relationship with school is between the child, teacher and parent so it is important to keep the lines of communication open between all three.

Note: Your child should wear his/her school uniform to attend the PTM with you.

Key Updates — PTM Session & March Break (cont'd)

Family Time during March holidays

As your child will get to enjoy a short break before Term 2 starts, we would like to encourage you to bring them out to explore more about our community and Singapore. Immerse them in the world of books by bringing them to the public libraries or ignite a love for learning and creativity in your child at the newly opened [Children's Museum Singapore](#). Child-friendly activities can also be found in Esplanade's annual children's festival, [March On 2023](#), with a range of ticketed and free events. Alternatively, you can sweat it out with your children by taking them on hike to the latest nature trail at [Rifle Range Nature Park](#). These experiences not only develop your child holistically, but also help to form strong bonds between you and your child.

Wishing you and your family a meaningful March break!



Mr Mohd Faisal Jamain
HOD / Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy & Partnerships (LEAP)