



Parents' Connect

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July & August Issue

1. A Note from the Principal

Thank you, parents, for your partnership in Semester 1! I hope all of you took the opportunity of the June school holidays to spend meaningful time with your loved ones and friends. In the past month, we also saw the successful completion of some key school events such as the GCE 'O' Level Mother Tongue Language Examination, Sec 3E/NA Advanced Elective Modules and Student Leadership camps for selected students. Your enthusiastic support, the dedicated efforts of our staff and most importantly, the active participation of your child, have helped forge meaningful experiences in school that are integral to each Yuan Ching student's holistic development.

At Yuan Ching, we continually seek ways to support your child's well-being. Your child has just completed the first week of the new semester, which started with Circle Time, providing the opportunity to reconnect with their Form and Subject Teachers. We have lengthened recess to 40 minutes, and introduced playing of background music in the canteen during recess, in order to provide an inviting environment for our students to have their meals and bond in friendships. We have embarked on the process of redesigning our learning environment and refreshing our learning corners to further inspire the Thinker, Achiever and Concerned Citizen in every of our students. We will be engaging our students as part of this process, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions as well.

We also appreciate your continued support in our school's safety vision of 'A Safe School for All'. We are committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all. We conducted our message relay and temperature-taking exercises last Wednesday and Thursday respectively. We seek your cooperation to also remind your child on the importance of personal safety – which includes safety in the use of the internet and online social media.

A strong and credible defence force is the cornerstone of Singapore's continued independence and economic growth. National Servicemen (NSMen) form the bulk of our defence and security forces to guarantee our sovereignty and to preserve our way of life. While they perform these sacred duties, they also have to balance the demands of work and responsibilities at home. For our NSMen teachers, having strong support from the school, family and community provides the peace of mind for them to give their best when they serve their National Service (NS) commitments. In doing so, they are powerful role models of the importance of Total Defence for our students, while contributing towards the peace and security of Singapore.

On this note, I am pleased to announce that Yuan Ching has been awarded the prestigious Advocate of NS (Organisation) Award by MINDEF, together with the NS Mark (Gold) that has also been awarded to us. The award is assessed by the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD) and is the pinnacle of the awards given by MINDEF for

organisations that demonstrate strong support for National Service. We thank our NSMen, whether teacher, parent, or partner, both past and present, for your service. We also acknowledge family members such as spouses and parents for their support behind the scenes. The Advocate of NS (Organisation) Award is truly a meaningful team effort.

In this issue of Parents' Connect, we are sharing with you some of the key school events or activities in Semester 2. We hope that you will continue to encourage your child to participate actively as these school events and activities have been planned to support your child's holistic development. Your support for your child would definitely add to the vibrancy of the school and make these events memorable for him or her.

2. **Weighted Assessment and Examinations**

Weighted Assessment 3 for Sec 1s and Weighted Assessment 2 for Sec 2s will be conducted from 13 Aug to 23 Aug 2019 in Weeks 7 and 8 of Term 3. Weighted Assessment 2 for Sec 3s will be conducted from 19 Aug to 30 Aug 2019 in Weeks 8 and 9 of Term 3. The detailed schedule will be shared with the students by their respective Form and subject teachers by Week 5 (for Sec 1s, 2s, 4s and 5s) and Week 6 (for Sec 3s).

We would like to reiterate that students' attendance for all term tests is compulsory. Any student who is absent from a term test without a valid reason will be given a zero mark for the test missed. If your child/ward is unwell, he/she is advised not to come for the test. He/she, however, is required to see a doctor to produce a Medical Certificate on the following day. The subject teacher for the test missed will inform him/her of the date/time for the make-up test. Please note that a parent's letter for absence, even if due to medical reasons, will not be accepted.

a) GCE Listening Comprehension and Oral Examinations

For our graduating Sec 4 and 5 classes, do refer to the dates of the GCE O- & N-Level Listening Comprehension and Oral Examinations shared in the Term 1 Sec 4 & 5 cohort letter. The specific date, time and venue can also be found in the student's entry proof.

b) School GCE Preliminary Examination

The school's GCE Preliminary Examination will start with the following:

Preliminary Examination for GCE N-Level	Preliminary Examination for GCE O-Level
<u>6 Aug (Tue)</u> English Language (NA)	<u>29 Aug (Thu)</u> English Language
<u>7 Aug (Wed)</u> English Language (NT)	

Students sitting for the N-Levels will have been given the school's GCE Preliminary Examination timetable in Week 1, while those sitting for the O-Levels will be given theirs in Week 3. We would like you to take note of the detailed schedule and timing of the papers and support your child in his/her preparation.

3. **Weekly Remedial and CCA Routines for Semester 2**

The weekly remedial and CCA routines for Semester 2 had been issued for all classes at the end of Term 3 Week 1. The schedule is also posted on our school website under 'Information for Students and Parents' for reference.

4. **Sports Education Programme (SEP) for Secondary 1 & 2 Students**

The school's SEP will be conducted on Monday and Wednesday of Term 3, starting on 3 July. Your child can participate in a variety of sports learning programmes such as SwimSafer, Tchoukball, Inline Skating, Fencing, Archery and Aikido. On 11 and 12 Sep (Wed & Thu), during the school holidays, the 1-Star Kayaking Programme will also be conducted. More details will be given to the students who will be participating in the SEP.

5. **Commemoration of SAF Day**

SAF Day falls on 1 July, and the school commemorated SAF Day on 3 Jul (Wed) with a rededication ceremony held as part of the school assembly programme. The SAF Day message reminded our students of the importance of a strong and capable SAF to protect the nation's sovereignty and our way of life.

Led by our teacher, Captain (NS) Chen Zhanjiang, teachers who are our Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSMen) recited the SAF pledge to reaffirm their loyalty and commitment to the defence of Singapore. Through the ceremony, we hope to reinforce the confidence among our students that the SAF is critical to our Total Defence. Today, the SAF is strong and respected, due to the blood, sweat and tears shed by both regulars, NSMen as well as volunteers. What we have inherited from our founding generation – our home, our Singapore – is precious and our way of life is worth defending together. As such, Singapore is safe and peaceful, something that our students should not take for granted. We hope that Yuan Ching students will build on this strong legacy to protect our nation and ensure Singapore's progress and prosperity in the future.

6. **ICT Enrichment Programme**

Selected Sec 1 Express/Normal Academic students will be attending an ICT enrichment programme starting 10 Jul 2019 (Wed). The programme aims to empower them with essential ICT competencies for the 21st Century. Based on the results of the ICT baseline competency test conducted in January 2019, students who have not met the minimum baseline ICT standards prescribed by MOE will be required to attend. Details on the programme will be given to these selected students.

7. **Edusave Character Award (ECHA)**

MOE introduced the Edusave Character Award (ECHA) in 2012 to enable schools to recognise students who demonstrate exemplary character and outstanding personal qualities through their behaviour and actions. This is part of the larger goal to foster an inclusive and stronger Singapore as we broaden the qualities and achievements to be encouraged and applauded.

The award also supports schools' continuing efforts in nurturing students of good values and character, who are active contributors and concerned citizens. These students can be role models to inspire others. They may be nominated by their teachers or any staff members, peers, parents, instructors, coaches, members of school Alumni and/or any other key stakeholders who interact with them.

Nomination forms are obtainable from the school's general office or can be downloaded from the school website, from 17 Jul till 2 Aug 2019. Completed forms can either be dropped into a sealed nomination box in the school's general office or emailed to ycss@moe.edu.sg. Closing date for submission is on 2 Aug 2019.

We thank you for your support and look forward to receiving the entries soon. If there are any queries, please contact Mr Leung Yulun, Head of Department/Character & Citizenship Education, at 6261 2489 (ext 115).

8. Commemoration of Racial Harmony Day

Schools commemorate Racial Harmony Day (RHD) on 19 Jul (Fri) and the theme for RHD 2019 is *The Singapore Connection*. It is a day for schools to reflect on and celebrate our success as a harmonious nation and society built on a rich diversity of cultures and heritages. The RHD Commemoration helps students to understand the customs and traditions of the different races and religions and learn to respect these customs and traditions, and the need for the different races and religions to coexist peacefully.

On 21 Jul 1964, Singapore saw racial riots. RHD serves to remind our students about the serious consequences of a breakdown in racial and religious harmony, that social division costs us dearly and that race and religion are potential fault-lines in Singapore's multi-racial and multi-religious society. These lessons can be drawn from our own history as well as recent incidents in the world. The message is that racial and religious harmony cannot be taken for granted.

9. 2019 MOE-OBS Challenge Programme for Secondary 3 Students

Our school has been selected for the above programme this year. This is part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan which MOE has put in place to strengthen the holistic development of our students. The programme seeks to develop ruggedness, resilience, and build cohesion amongst our youths. The programme comprises a series of school-based PE and CCE lessons facilitated by teachers as well as a 5-day expeditionary course at Outward Bound Singapore (OBS).

The 5-day course will be conducted from 29 Jul to 2 Aug 2019 for all Sec 3 students who have successfully registered for the course. It will be conducted at OBS in Pulau Ubin and/or mainland Singapore. Using the outdoors as the 'classroom' for learning and development, the course will offer your child/ward a unique opportunity to work together with students from other schools and to overcome various outdoor challenges.

Through the course, students will learn to:

- manage challenges positively through self-directed learning and making the right choices to influence their circumstances;
- build friendships with students from different school backgrounds and actively help each other to achieve team goals in an inclusive manner; and

- commit to play an active role in the improvement of one's community and the environment.

We have conducted a briefing for parents on 30 May 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Liew Wei Sheng, HOD/PE&CCA at 62612489 ext 217 if you require further information on the programme.

10. **Experience ITE Programme (EIP)**

EIP is specially designed for secondary school students to introduce the benefits of an ITE education to them, through the authentic learning environment in ITE. The students will have a chance to try out a range of fun, hands-on projects which will challenge their creativity. Through participating in these, the students will better understand the Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on education at ITE.

EIP is a formal part of the Sec 2NT curriculum for all students in 2T1. The duration will be 2 days, and the details are as follows:

- 5 Aug (Mon, T3 W6) at ITE College West (Choa Chu Kang), 9am to 4.30pm
- 6 Aug (Tue, T3 W6) at ITE College Central (Ang Mo Kio), 9am to 4.30pm

11. **2019 The Bicentennial Experience – Sec 2E & Sec 2NA Level**

On 7 Aug (Wed), our students from the Sec 2E and Sec 2NA Level will have the privilege of experiencing the Bicentennial Experience at Fort Canning Centre as part of their learning journey. As known through historical texts, 1819 is a turning point in our journey towards becoming a modern nation. From 1819, the students will reflect on the 200 years leading to 2019 and go back 500 years before to 1299 for a longer view of our history. Through these 700 years, the Bicentennial Experience will help the students to seek a broader spatial understanding of our history and see the global and regional influences on our evolution.

More details of the learning journey will be given to the selected students closer to the event.

12. **54th National Day Commemoration in Conjunction with School Speech and Prize Presentation Day**

This year's National Day Celebration marks the 54th Anniversary of our country's independence. The theme this year is 'Our Singapore'. In conjunction with the National Day Commemoration, the school will be holding our school's 41st Speech and Prize Presentation Day. The event will be held on 8 Aug (Thu), from 7.30 to 11 am. Students will be dismissed at 11 am on that day. More details of the celebration will be given to the students closer to the event.

13. **Parents Gateway**

Parents Gateway is an initiative by MOE to enable parents to interact with schools more conveniently on administrative matters. Parents will also be able to use this mobile application to stay updated on the school's programmes and activities. They will also be able to give consent online for activities for their children organised by the school.

We encourage all parents to use the Parents Gateway app. The app is available on the Android and iOS platforms. For more details, please access the following link:

<https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/parents-gateway>

Ng Sook Kit (Ms)

Principal

9 Jul 2019