



Parents' Connect

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January & February Issue

1. WELCOME & HAPPY NEW YEAR

A warm welcome to all parents and students to a new academic year! To our Sec 1 students, we hope you have enjoyed the Orientation Programme organised by the Student Council this week. I am sure you are energised to usher in the new academic year with renewed hope and aspirations.

2. PARENTS' CONNECT

The Parents' Connect is a bi-monthly issue which aims to enhance communication with the parents of our students. It aims to provide timely information so that parents are aware of key school matters. I encourage all parents to read our Parents' Connect so that you are updated on the various school activities, and can support your child in his/her involvement.

3. 2016 GCE 'N' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2016 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 19 Dec. Our students have done the school proud!

The Sec 4NA students achieved percentage passes that are higher than that of the national figures for 10 of the 12 subjects offered, and for 5 subjects, quality grades were higher than national figures. 77.2% of our students in Sec 4 NA were promoted to Sec 5. Our top students are Angela Kim Li Lin, Megan Salguet Ng Min Ye, Victor Poh Hong Rong, Wong Yong Xiang, Marcus Foo Shi Quan and Kannan s/o Tanda Erpa.

Of the 9 subjects offered by the Sec 4NT students, 6 subjects showed 100% passes and quality grades for 8 subjects were higher than national figures. Our top students are Desmond Khoo Zheng Lin, Anna Lo Kai Bing, Toh Yun Ye, Yang Dan, Mohammad Sha'Heezran B M H, Muhammad Redha B Abdul Halim, Syahid B Mohamed Mulyadi and Tan Yew Sin.

We wish our 2016 Sec 4N cohort all the best in the next lap of their education journey.

4. SCHOOL MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

I would like to share with you our school's mission, vision and core values.

<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL MISSION</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Enriching Minds, Unleashing Potential, Impacting Lives</p>

SCHOOL VISION	
Every Individual A Thinker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An engaged learner who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - self-monitors and manages own learning - reflects on his/her thoughts, attitudes, behaviors and actions and determines the modifications needed (sound reasoning and decision making) - communicates and collaborates with others using a variety of ICT tools - locates and evaluates information effectively and efficiently using ICT tools
An Achiever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wholesome person who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strives and achieves academic and CCA excellence - acquires physical skills to exercise regularly to maintain a healthy lifestyle - participates and appreciates music and the arts
A Concerned Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concerned citizen who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contributes actively in school/community/nation by participating actively in Values In Action (ViA) and Environmental Education (EE) programmes - empathizes through understanding, acceptance and respect and engages in appropriate behaviors with diverse socio-cultural groups - is aware of local and global issues and understands the implications of these issues in the context of Singapore to maintain a sense of rootedness
SCHOOL VALUES	
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is honest and sincere • Has moral courage to defend what is right and admit one's mistakes • Willing to take responsibility and is accountable • Is always fair and just to all (peers/teachers)
Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks continual improvement • Is self-directed/has initiative • Has strong work ethics • Consistently showcases high quality work
Compassion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is sensitive to the needs of others • Shows care and concern for everyone • Is respectful and gracious • Is actively engaged in ViA and EE programmes
Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative and creative • Resolute in seeking improvement in all areas • Adaptable and willing to embrace changes • Ready to experiment and unafraid of making mistakes and learning from them
Loyalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes pride in and speaks well of the school • Conducts oneself well in public • Participates actively in all school programmes, including National Education (NE) and ViA programmes • Demonstrates allegiance to the school and Singapore (e.g. singing the school song and the national anthem and taking the national pledge with pride)
SCHOOL MOTTO	

Efforts Today, Rewards Tomorrow 今日耕耘, 明日长青	We guide and encourage our students to achieve success in school and beyond. Our teachers are caring and dedicated to nurturing the whole child through strong teacher-student relationships. Our school motto has served us well since the school was founded in 1978 and has spurred Yuan Ching students to strive for excellence and to contribute to the school, community and nation.
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5. CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) forms an integral part of our school's holistic education. In line with our school vision and strategic thrust of nurturing 'Confident Students of Good Character and Citizenship', we have programmes to inculcate values and develop Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and 21st Century Competencies, anchored on the school values of IExCEL.

The **Learning Outcomes** (LOs) of CCE describe what we want our students to learn and attain.

LO1	Acquire self-awareness and apply self-management skills to achieve personal well-being and effectiveness
LO2	Act with integrity and make responsible decisions that uphold moral principles
LO3	Acquire social awareness and apply interpersonal skills to build and maintain positive relationships based on mutual respect
LO4	Be resilient and have the ability to turn challenges into opportunities
LO5	Take pride in our national identity, have a sense of belonging to Singapore and be committed to nation-building
LO6	Value Singapore's socio-cultural diversity, and promote social cohesion and harmony
LO7	Care for others and contribute actively to the progress of our community and nation
LO8	Reflect on and respond to community, national and global issues, as an informed and responsible citizen

The **Key Components** of CCE are as follows:-

Components in CCE	Key Programmes
CCE Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCE Syllabus • Guidance Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education & Career Guidance (ECG) ○ Sexuality Education (SEd) ○ Cyber Wellness (CW)
CCE programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value of the Month (VOTM) • Students' Voice • Assembly Programme
Citizenship Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Education (NE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NE Commemorative Days ○ NE Learning Journeys (LJs) ○ NE Ambassadors • International Students Programme • Trips for International Experience (TIE) • Values-in-Action (ViA) Programme

SEXUALITY EDUCATION - THE GROWING YEARS PROGRAMME

Sexuality Education (SEd) – The Growing Years Programme aims to enable students to understand the physiological, social and emotional changes they experience as they mature, develop healthy and rewarding relationships including those with members of the opposite sex, a

nd make wise, informed and responsible decisions on sexuality matters. SEd is premised on the importance of the family as the basic unit of society. This means encouraging healthy, heterosexual marriages and stable nuclear family units with extended family support. The teaching and learning of SEd is based on respect for the values and beliefs of the different ethnic and religious communities in Singapore on sexuality issues.

The **objectives** of SEd are to help students:-

- (i) make wise, responsible and informed decisions through the provision of accurate, current and age-appropriate knowledge on human sexuality and the consequences of sexual activity;
- (ii) know themselves and build healthy and rewarding relationships through the acquisition of social- emotional skills of self-awareness, management of their thoughts, feelings and behaviours, development of empathy for others, possession of effective communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills; and
- (iii) develop a moral compass, respect for themselves and for others as sexual beings, premised on the family as the basic unit of society, through the inculcation of positive mainstream values and attitudes about sexuality.

The **key messages** of SEd are:

- (i) Love and respect yourself as you love and respect others;
- (ii) Build positive relationships based on love and respect (which are the foundation for strong families);
- (iii) Make responsible decisions for yourself, your family and society; and
- (iv) Abstinence before marriage is the best protection against STIs/HIV and unintended pregnancies. Casual sex can harm and hurt you and your loved ones.

Should you need more information about the school's Sexuality Education Programme, you may contact Mr Leung Yulun, HOD CCE. Alternatively, you may access our school website - <http://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/programmes/sexuality-education>.

6. CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

We offer a varied Co-Curricular Programme comprising Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), Student Leadership Programme, Enrichment and Lifeskills.

CCAs provide a platform to inculcate good character and values by providing every student with opportunities to develop skills and talents. There is a wide range of CCAs to match our students' interests and strengths and provide them with meaningful and enriching experiences. Every student must take part in one CCA and their attendance at scheduled sessions is compulsory. CCAs are conducted from 3 to 6 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Should there be exceptions to this, your child will be informed accordingly. For example, Scouts will have training on alternate Fridays and, from 8.00 am to 12.15 pm on Saturdays. The Sec 2 to 5 students will start their CCA sessions on 9 Jan while the Sec 1 students will start on 1 Feb.

Student Leadership Programme comprises 3 levels of student leadership development for different segments of student leaders in each level (personal leadership, peer leadership and inspiring leadership). It provides every student with opportunities for leadership development, supported by the 4A approach of Awareness, Actions, Assessment & review and Affirmation of leadership competencies.

Enrichment and Lifeskills programmes which include culture appreciation and learning of a sport are conducted on Wednesdays.

7. Updates on Key School Initiatives

a. After School Engagement (ASE) Programme

An ASE Centre has been set up this year to provide students with a regular and safe environment for interaction and relaxation after curriculum time. The activities carried out at the ASE Centre would include interaction among students and with teachers or recreational games such as carom, table soccer, educational board and card games and educational video games.

The centre will be open 3 days a week, on Mondays and Thursdays from 2.30 to 5.30 pm and on Fridays from 2 to 5 pm, except during examination periods. We welcome all students to the ASE Centre when they are not involved in any school programmes such as remedial lessons, CCAs or enrichment activities.

The ASE programme aims to develop our students to be:

- Confident and able to self-monitor and manage his/her learning; reflect on his/her thoughts, attitudes, behaviours and actions and exercise sound reasoning and decision making;
- Resilient and will strive for excellence in the academics and CCA; and
- Disciplined and able to understand, accept, respect and engage in appropriate behaviours with diverse socio-cultural groups.

Parents of Sec 1 students who would like your child to be involved in ASE programmes may register with your child's Form Teachers by 13 Jan (Fri).

b. Applied Learning Programme (ALP)

We would like to update you on our school's ALP on Maritime Engineering & Architecture. Our Sec 2 students who completed the basic SeaPerch module last year will start on the SensePerch module in January. They will learn Arduino programming to allow their SeaPerch (underwater vehicles) made in 2016 to bring sensors into Jurong Lake to collect and process real time data for water quality testing. This will bring our students one step closer to the research work achieved by the Remotely Operating Vehicle (ROV) used by industries in the real world.

The Sec 1 students will have the basic SeaPerch module in Semester 2. They will work in groups to build underwater vehicles to overcome designated challenges. In the process, they will enhance their 21st century skills such as creative thinking, collaboration and communication and see how knowledge acquired in Science, Mathematics and Design and Technology lessons can be applied to make the vehicle works.

Those who are keen to stretch their potential in this field will also be registered for interschool competitions such as the annual Shell Challenge, Underwater Robotic Challenge and Marine & Offshore Challenge organised by Singapore Science Centre and Polytechnics respectively. In 2016, our Sec 1 participants had won Champion and Bronze awards in the friendly interschool SeaPerch match and our Sec 2 participants had won Bronze and Merit awards for Underwater Challenge organized by Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Meanwhile, we are also developing our ALP Tier 2 programme and enrichment in which selected levels/groups will participate in Learning Journey, Career Talks, Elective Modules & Advanced Elective Modules and Work Attachment co-organised with Singapore Maritime Foundation, Polytechnics and ITE respectively.

c. Subject-Based Banding (SBB)

SBB is an initiative rolled out by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to better cater to the strengths of students in different subjects in secondary schools. Starting SBB at lower secondary levels will give the students a stronger foundation in the subjects they are good at and motivate them to excel in the subjects. This year, our school will be rolling out the SBB initiative at lower secondary levels where Sec 1 students are offered subjects at a higher level based on their PSLE Subject Grade and Eligibility Criteria.

The table below shows the eligibility criteria for students to take a subject at a higher level.

Course	PSLE Standard Grade	PSLE Foundation Grade	Option to offer subject at
N(A)	A*, A	–	Express Level
N(T)	A*, A	–	Express Level
	B, C	1	N(A) Level

Based on their PSLE subject grades and Eligibility Criteria, Sec 1 students posted to the Normal Academic N(A) and Normal Technical N(T) courses may be offered the following subjects at a higher level:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Mother Tongue Languages

Students have a choice to opt out of SBB if they do not wish to do the subject at a higher level. To ensure that your child/ward can cope with the overall academic demand, your child/ward should take no more than 3 subjects at a higher level.

8. KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2017

a. SEC ONE MEET-THE-PARENTS SESSION CUM CCA SHOWCASE ON 7 JAN

The Sec One Meet-the-Parents Session has been scheduled on 7 Jan (Sat), in conjunction with our annual CCA Showcase for Sec 1 students from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. We invite all parents of our Sec 1 students to join us for this session so that you can get to know the school management team and your child's form teachers. It would also be a good opportunity for us to share with you our school ethos, key programmes and expectations of our students.

You are also invited to attend the CCA Showcase with your child and support them in making their choices for CCA that would enrich their school experiences. We look forward to seeing you then.

b. SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK FROM 9 TO 13 JAN

Our staff and students' safety is of utmost importance and we have designated 9 to 13 Jan as the Safety Awareness Week to emphasise safety messages and the importance of everyone being involved in ensuring safety in the school. We would also like to inform that CCTVs are in operation in and around our premises as necessary in the interests of security.

c. SEC 2 ICT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME STARTING 16 JAN

Selected Sec 2 Express and Normal (Academic) students will be attending an ICT enrichment programme starting on 16 Jan (Mon). These students have not met the minimum baseline ICT standards prescribed by MOE and the programme will help equip them with the ICT competencies to meet the standards. Details of the programme have been given to the selected students. We seek your support to ensure that your child attends the programme if he/she is selected.

d. REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING 16 JAN

We believe in timely intervention and supporting our students in closing their learning gaps. Weaker students will be identified for remedial lessons which are conducted on a weekly basis in the afternoons, starting on 16 Jan.

The Daily Routines for Semester 1 will be disseminated to all students by Term 1, Week 2. It gives, among others, the details of the remedial lesson schedule, daily curriculum hours, CCA sessions and operating hours of the General Office. A copy of it will also be uploaded on the school website. You can download a copy for reference when communicating with your child on their school experiences.

e. ANNUAL HEALTH SCREENING

The Wellness Assessment Centre will be conducting health screening for all students from 19 Jan to 2 Feb. All students are scheduled by class for the health screening and have to be in their PE attire for the screening. Students' Health Booklet is not required for the screening.

f. CHINGAY PARADE 2017 NATIONAL EDUCATION SHOW ON 21 JAN

Chingay is an annual street parade held in Singapore as part of the Lunar New Year celebrations. The term 'Chingay' is derived from the Chinese term zhuangyi (妆艺), meaning 'the art of masquerading', with reference to the original stages or floats depicting religious and historical scenes that were carried in procession on the shoulders of men. This national event is the largest street performance and float parade in Asia. From the main parade site to the heartlands, this street extravaganza epitomises the dynamism of Singapore's vibrant and multicultural society. Today, Chingay has become a uniquely Singaporean Lunar New Year tradition, held during the first weekend of the Lunar New Year. This yearly street parade is now a national festival, celebrated by Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians alike.

This year, our Sec 4 and 5 students will be watching the Chingay parade with the following aims:

- i. to witness the support of Singaporeans for the five core values enshrined in our national flag (Democracy, Justice, Peace, Prosperity and Equality) and pledge to live by them to build by a Shinning Singapore through beautiful illustrations on sky lanterns and cubes.
- ii. to immerse in cultural performance and feel the vibrancy and spirit of this uniquely Singapore parade.
- iii. to appreciate the importance of multi-cultural and harmony in diversity as portrayed in Chingay.

g. MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGES (MTL) FORTNIGHT FROM 23 TO 27 JAN & 6 TO 10 FEB

In line with MOE's initiative to create an environment conducive for the learning of the Mother Tongue Languages and their unique cultures both within and outside school, the Mother Tongue Languages Department will be organising the MTL Fortnight from 23 to 27 Jan and 6

to 10 Feb. The planned activities such as singing competition, reading week and learning journeys to ethnic heritage sites will give our students opportunities for authentic usage and exposure to the Mother Tongue Languages in fun and engaging ways.

h. ETHNIC CELEBRATION ON 27 JAN

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on 27 Jan (Fri). An Ethnic Celebration Programme based on the theme 'Let's Celebrate!' has been planned to engage our students in a range of entertaining and meaningful activities. Students will learn more about the traditions and cultural aspects of the different ethnic groups through the performances, mini-competitions and concert. The senior citizens in the Taman Jurong community will also be invited for the celebration so as to promote the spirit of sharing and imbibe in our students the values of filial piety and respect.

Students will be dismissed at 10.00 a.m. on that day for them to celebrate with their families. More details on the Ethnic Celebration Programme will be given to the students closer to the event. We wish all Chinese parents and students a Happy and Fruitful Lunar New Year in advance.

i. COMMEMORATION OF TOTAL DEFENCE DAY ON 15 FEB

Schools commemorate Total Defence Day (TDD) on 15 Feb annually to mark Singapore's fall to the Japanese in 1942. The commemoration serves to remind our students that Singapore is defensible and is worth defending, and we ourselves must defend Singapore. This year, the theme for TDD is 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong'. TD 2017 aims to strengthen our resilience as a nation by:-

- i. reaffirming our shared attitudes, values and instincts as a nation, borne out of our collective will to continue keeping Singapore safe, secure and special; and
- ii. celebrating our common identity as Singaporeans, rooted in a strong sense of self, and committed to building a cohesive society ready to face the future together.

Our youth are encouraged to put Total Defence into action in their daily lives by reaching out to one another, forging new relationships and strengthening existing ones to keep Singapore strong and resilient because our greatest strength lies in the unity and resilience of our people. At the secondary level, TDD commemoration aims to help students understand the rationale behind Total Defence and know that Total Defence is the cornerstone of Singapore's deterrent strategy and is crucial to the continued security, survival and success of the country.

j. REGISTRATION FOR 2017 GCE 'N' AND 'O' LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

We will start the registration for the 2017 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations from **20 Feb to 3 Mar** for all Sec 3 Higher Mother Tongue and Sec 4 and 5 students. They will be given a Registration Booklet which indicates the subject information and examination rules and regulations. Tentatively, the collection/deduction of the examination fees will take place in the months of March and April. Singapore Permanent Residents and International Students are reminded to make prompt payments for the examination fees in order to sit for the examinations.

k. SUBJECT TERM TEST & ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEMESTRAL ONE ORAL EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY

All students are to note that Term Test 1 will be conducted in Term 1 Week 7 to 9, from 15 to 28 Feb.

The English Language Oral Examinations for Sec 4E and Sec 5NA students will be conducted on 20 Feb (Mon) and on 27 Feb (Mon) for Sec 4 NA and Sec 4NT students.

Subject teachers will give more details on the tests/examinations to your child. We hope you will help your child to prepare well for the tests/examinations.

9. SCHOOL RULES AND 2017 STUDENT HANDBOOK AND PLANNER

We believe that a positive school tone is crucial to our students' development. School rules state the school's expectations of student behaviour and conduct, both within and outside the school. It is important to start the year right by displaying exemplary conduct and cultivate good habits such as punctuality and attendance in school. All students must abide by the school rules and strive to uphold the school's good name. There are three important school rules that I wish to highlight and emphasise at the start of the year.

The first concerns the daily flag-raising ceremony. Students must be punctual and seated with their classes by 7.25am in preparation for the flag raising ceremony at 7.30am with the exception of Wednesdays when the flag-raising ceremony begins at 8.30am. Students who are Singapore citizens must sing the National Anthem and take the pledge with their right fist placed over the heart. Non-citizen students must stand at attention during the flag-raising ceremony. The second concerns school attire. Students are to wear their prescribed school uniform and modifications to the uniform are strictly not allowed. The third rule requires all male students to be clean-shaven at all times.

Regular attendance in school is critical to student learning. The school takes a serious view of students' attendance. Kindly note that students who are absent from school (during curriculum time and/or for afternoon programmes or CCAs) must produce a medical certificate upon their return to school. Letters from parents will only be accepted for exceptional cases.

All students are given a copy of the 2017 Student Handbook and Planner which they need to bring to school every day. You may wish to check your child's handbook for important information such as homework, examination or test dates as well as use it to communicate with your child's Form Teacher on your child's progress.

Our school rules are also stated in the handbook. We hope that you and your child will take the time to be familiar with the school rules so that together, we can provide a conducive environment that supports our students' learning and holistic development.

School Attendance Messaging

Please note that from 23 Jan, the school will activate automatic SMS messages from the School Attendance Taking App to inform you of your child/ward's absence at 9am. Please ensure that you have updated your phone numbers with your child/ward's Form Teachers to benefit from this service.

10. PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

All parents of our students are invited to join the Parent Support Group (PSG). A strong partnership between the school and parents is critical to our students' development. The PSG has been actively involved in our school events and has provided invaluable support to both our staff and students. The PSG also plays an important role in facilitating and coordinating Project PAiR (PArents Involved in Reading) which won the MOE Innergy Award in 2014. In addition, PSG organises family-oriented activities to promote parent-child bonding and to create a strong sense of identity among PSG members. If you are interested to find out more about the PSG, kindly email us at: ycss@moe.edu.sg.

We would also like to share that the PSG has collaborated with Family Matters@School to organise parenting workshops. The first two parenting workshops have been planned as follows:

- a. Talk on 'Transition from Primary to Secondary – The Art of Parenting' for parents of Sec One students on 1 Apr (Sat) from 10am to 12pm, at the school's Enno Lab; and
- b. Talk on 'Managing Exam Anxiety and Stress' for parents of Sec One to Five students on 1 Apr (Sat) from 10am to 12pm, at the school's AVT.

Registration forms for the talks are available at the General Office. You may also contact Ms Carol Neo, the school's Family Matters Coordinator, at 98478908 or email her at carol7749neo@yahoo.com.sg.

11. OFFICE HOURS

As part of our efforts to support you in educating your child, we welcome inquiries from parents. Should you wish to speak to the teachers, you may contact them during the school term, from 7.30am to 6pm, on weekdays. We seek your understanding that our teachers may not be able to respond immediately to your call as they may be conducting lessons. You may contact the General Office staff at 6261 2489 to leave a message for the teachers to return your call when they are free.

However, please note that our office closes at 6pm daily and all students and staff are to leave the school by 6pm. Should you have any queries on school matters after the school operating hours, we appreciate that you call the next working day. Alternatively, you may access our school website as we will upload key information on school programmes and updates to the 2017 School Calendar. We strongly encourage all to co-operate with our requests.

12. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

We would also like to inform that photograph(s) or video image(s) may be captured at school events. We may use and publish such photographs and/or video recordings in school publications, website, social media channels, and other official school communication channels.

We wish you A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2017!

CHUAH-KOH ENG NGOH (MRS)
PRINCIPAL
7 JANUARY 2017