



Parents' Connect

Ref No: 03/2018

May & June Issue

1. A LOOK BACK – SEMESTER 1, 2018

We have almost completed the first semester of 2018 and it is timely for us to look back and appreciate what we have accomplished in the first semester. We would like to thank the parents who had celebrated with us in many of our school events so far, including the 40th Anniversary WEAVE Concert in January, Ethnic Celebrations in February, Annual Cross Country in March and Annual Track and Field Meet in April. We are also proud to announce that we have set a new Singapore Book of Record for the Longest Chain Push Up with 54 participants, comprising both staff and students – together with Mr C Kunalan, our former national sprinter and an aspiring athlete in Singapore. This is indeed an unforgettable and significant feat for our school on her 40th Anniversary. Your participation had certainly added to the colour and vibrancy of these events, making them memorable for our staff and students.

2. 2018 MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS

Your child would have completed the written papers for the Mid-Year Mother Tongue and English Language examinations in April. You may refer to the detailed examination timetable issued earlier so as to support your child during this period. We seek your partnership to ensure that your child gets sufficient rest the night before each paper and to emphasise the importance of punctuality and integrity as he/she strives to give his/her best during this school examination.

The Mid-Year Examination will end on **11 May (Fri)**.

14 May (Mon) is Marking Day and students are not required to report to school on that day. Lessons will resume on **15 May (Tue)** till the end of the term on 25 May.

3. TERM 2 WEEK 10 (21 TO 25 MAY) - CUSTOMISED INSTRUCTIONAL AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

In Term 2 Week 10, we have programmes that cater to the holistic development of our students. A summary of the programmes is given in the following table:

Cohort level/Course	Customised Instructional and Enrichment Programme
Sec 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conversational Chinese/Malay (CCM) Enrichment Programme during Mother Tongue Language lessons for all Sec 1• SwimSafer Programme for all Sec 1• Learning Journey to KidZania for Sec 1NT
Sec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts Education Programme (AEP) – Drumming Workshop to deepen students' appreciation of the aesthetics• Learning for Life Programme (LLP) – Dragon Boat Orientation Course to introduce students to the values, basic knowledge and skills of dragon boating

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair to enable students to make well-informed post-secondary options aligned to their career aspirations • Learning Journey to River Safari for Sec 2NT
Sec 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Experiential Programme – MaritimeONE for 3NA/NT • Code for Fun Workshop, an extension of our Applied Learning Programme (ALP) for Sec 3Exp • MOE-Outward Bound Singapore Programme for all Sec 3
Sec 4 NA and 4 NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCE 'N' Level Food and Nutrition Practical examination for Sec 4 NA • Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair to enable students to make well-informed post-secondary options aligned to their career aspirations
Sec 4 Exp and 5 Normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCE 'O' Level Food and Nutrition Practical examination for Sec 4 Exp and 5 Normal • Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Intensive Programme in preparation for Mid-Year GCE 'O' Level MTL examination

The details of some of these programmes are given in the following sections while the details of the rest would be shared closer to the dates of the programmes.

a) SEC 1 SWIMSAFER PROGRAMME

As swimming is a critical life skill for water safety, the school will be arranging a swimming programme for all Sec 1 students as part of the school's Learning for Life Programme (LLP) and Sports Education Programme (SEP). This will provide the foundational skills for the students to participate in dragon boat activities and acquire dragon boating skills as they progress through the LLP. A swimming assessment will be conducted to place them in the appropriate swimming groups for the SwimSafer Programme in Term 3, 2018. Students who have been certified are not required to attend the swimming assessment. However, these students will be placed in the next higher level of the SwimSafer Programme for certification. Students who have not been certified or have lost their certificates are required to attend the Swimsafer assessment. The details of the SwimSafer assessment are as follows:

Date: 21 May (Wed)
Time: 3.00 to 5.00 pm
Venue: Bukit Batok Swimming Complex

b) SEC 2 ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME – DRUMMING WORKSHOP

The school has organised a Basic Drumming course for all Secondary 2 students as part of our Arts Education Programme on 21, 23 and 24 May. The Arts Education Programme is integral to our efforts to develop our students holistically. In this Basic Drumming course, students will learn basic drumming skills and learn to make use of percussion instruments as well as everyday objects to create rhythm in music. At the same time, they will be exposed to the different drumming techniques of the different ethnic drums.

c) LEARNING FOR LIFE PROGRAMME - SEC 2 DRAGON BOAT ORIENTATION COURSE

The 2-hour Dragon Boat Orientation Course is part of our LLP to introduce Sec 2 students to the basic knowledge and skills of dragon boating. Students will also develop social and emotional competencies such as self and social awareness and interpersonal skills to enhance their communication and collaboration with their peers.

The details of the Dragon Boat Orientation Course are as follows:

Group	1	2
Classes	2E1, 2N1 & 2T1	2E2, 2E3, 2E4 & 2N2
Date	22 May 2018	23 May 2018
Day	Tuesday	Wednesday
Activity Venue	Water-Venture (Lower Seletar Reservoir), 100 Yishun Ave 1 Singapore 769140	
Reporting Venue	School Foyer	
Reporting Time	2.20 pm	
Reporting Attire	PE Attire	
Dismissal Venue	Yuan Ching Secondary School	
Dismissal Time	6.00 pm	
Transportation	2-way transportation will be provided.	

d) MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - OUTWARD BOUND SINGAPORE SECONDARY 3 PROGRAMME

Yuan Ching Secondary School has been selected for the above programme this year. This is part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan which the Ministry of Education (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 Physical Education and Character and Citizenship Education 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 **25 to 29 Jun 2018 for Sec 3NA/NT** and **3 to 7 Jul 2018 for Sec 3Exp** 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:

1. manage challenges positively through self-directed learning and making the right choices to influence their circumstances;
2. build friendships with students from different school backgrounds and actively help each other to achieve team goals in an inclusive manner; and
3. commit to play an active role in the improvement of one’s community and the environment.

We have arranged for a briefing for parents during our **Annual Sec 3 Meet the Parents Session on 24 May 2018, 6.00 pm**. We hope that parents of students who have successfully registered for the programme will be able to attend and find out more about the programme.

e) SEC 4E AND 5NA MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

The programme will be held from **21 to 25 May**, during school hours, to prepare graduating students for the 2018 GCE ‘O’ Level Mother Tongue Language Examination on **28 May 2018 (Mon)** and on **30 May 2018 (Wed)** for MTL ‘B’. Selected students who need extra help may be asked to stay back for small group consultation sessions in the afternoon.

The timetable provided by Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB) will be issued to your child together with the entry proofs after the Mid-Year Examinations.

f) SEC 2 AND SEC 4N EDUCATION & CAREER GUIDANCE (ECG) FAIR

In alignment to the recommendation from SkillsFuture in helping students make well-informed education and career choices, we will be organising an ECG Fair, specially customised for our Sec 2 and Sec 4 Normal Course students. Details of the ECG Fair are summarised below:

<p><u>Sec 2 ECG Fair</u> Date: 23 May (Wed)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen students' awareness of post-secondary education at Polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) To strengthen informed decision making for students' Secondary 3 subject combinations choices <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk on post-secondary education at Polytechnic and ITE by the ECG team Identify courses of interest at Polytechnic or ITE and the relevant subjects needed by making reference to their findings from 'Careers Interests Assessment' 	<p><u>Sec 4N ECG Fair</u> Dates: 21 & 22 May (Mon-Tue)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen students' Social Emotional (SE) competencies such as self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision making, in achieving their goals/aspirations in life To strengthen informed decision making for students' education and career choices <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivation talk and sharing of study skills by HOD/Math and Senior Teacher Sharing of experiences and good practices by alumni ECG counselling/Circle Time, facilitated by form teachers Concurrent session of talks by ITE lecturers from the different field, based on students' interest Concurrent session of talks by professionals from the different industries
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4. MEET-THE-PARENTS (MTP) SESSION

The schedule for Meet-the-Parents (MTP) sessions to be held at the end of Semester 1 is as follows:

Level	Date	Time	Student Segment
Sec 3	24 May (Thu)	6.15 pm - 8.30 pm	All Sec 3 students

Level	Date	Time	Student Segment
Sec 1, 2, 4 & 5	25 May (Fri)	11.00 am - 4.30 pm	Selected students

We seek your support and cooperation to set aside time on the given dates to meet up with our teachers. A letter will be sent to you for booking a suitable time slot to meet up with your child's teachers. Parents of Sec 3 students are advised to have a light dinner before coming for the session on 24 May (Thu) as the session could last till 8.30 p.m.

The MTP sessions provide you with the opportunity to learn of your child's progress in Semester 1. You can discuss with the form and subject teachers on the gaps in your child's learning and development that should be addressed during the June holidays so that your child would be better prepared for Semester 2. If your child has not been identified, you can also made an appointment to meet with his/her Form Teachers directly.

We would also like to inform Sec 1 parents that due to the short period that Sec 1 students have attended school since the start of 2018, we will include their Conduct Grade for their mid-year report. Their conduct grade will be reflected in the end-of-year report.. Additionally, we would like to stress that Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) is an important aspect in developing students' character and well-being. All students must participate in a CCA and attend their CCA regularly. Students' attendance in their CCA will be one of the factors in determining their conduct grade.

5. THE LAST DAY OF SEMESTER 1 – 25 MAY 2018 (FRI)

The schedule for the last day of Semester 1, 25 May (Fri) is as follows:

Level	Programme	Time
Sec 1	Circle Time Release of Mid-Year Exam results MTP Session with parents of selected students	8.00 am – 9.15 am 9.15 am – 10.30 am 11.00 am – 4.30 pm
Sec 2	Circle Time Release of Mid-Year Exam results MTP Session with parents of selected students	8.00 am. – 9.15 am 9.15 am. – 10.30 am 11.00 am. – 4.30 pm
Sec 3	Circle Time Release of Mid-Year Exam results	8.00 am – 9.30 am 9.30 am – 10.30 am
Sec 4NA & NT	Circle Time Release of Mid-Year Exam results MTP Session with parents of selected students	8.00 am – 9.15 am 9.15 am – 10.30 am 11.00 am – 4.30 pm
Sec 4E & 5N	MTL Intensive Programme Release of Mid-Year Exam results MTP Session with parents of selected students	8.00 am – 10.30 am 10.30 am – 11.00 am 11.00 am – 4.30 pm
All Levels	Closure of School	5.00 pm

6. EAT WITH YOUR FAMILY DAY – 25 MAY 2018 (FRI)

In support of the nationwide 'Eat With Your Family Day' initiative, the school will close at 5.00 pm on 25 May (Fri) to allow my staff time to make their way home for dinner with their families. We seek your support for this initiative and to make a special effort to do likewise with your families.

7. STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

a) INSPIRING LEADERS PROGRAMME

The Inspiring Leaders Programme is an in-house programme specially designed to develop our Inspiring Leaders of Yuan Ching. The Inspiring Leaders consist of the CCA Leaders, Student Council Executive Committee, as well as the Secondary Three Student Councillors. The Inspiring Leaders had attended the Inspiring Leaders Training Camp during the March vacation. This follow-up session on 21 May 2018 is the first of four follow-up sessions to provide developmental feedback for the Inspiring Leaders.

b) A DAY IN COURT SEMINAR BY STATE COURTS

Selected Secondary Three student leaders will participate in this special one-day programme on 31 May 2018 organised by the State Courts. This programme will introduce aspects of the criminal justice system and the restorative justice model adopted by the Courts for cases involving youth. Participants will also learn about how certain community disputes, such as those between neighbours, can be amicably resolved without seeking the Court's intervention. Knowledge gained and skills learnt by the student leaders at the seminar will empower them and give them a wider perspective of the different situations they may encounter in and out of the classroom.

c) LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP @ YUHUA

The Yuhua Leadership Training Camp (LTC) is co-organised by Yuhua Community Club and Pioneer Junior College. The LTC is a 2-day stay-out camp conducted from 4 June 2018 to 5 June 2018. The students can look forward to experiential activities that are infused with learning points on leadership competencies. Selected Secondary 2 student councillors will be taking part in the LTC.

d) Ngee Ann Polytechnic Youth Leaders Camp

Selected Secondary Three student leaders will participate in the Youth Leaders Camp (YLC) 2018 organised by the Youth Leaders Academy from Ngee Ann Polytechnic from 12 June 2018 to 13 June 2018. The objectives of the stay-out camp are to sharpen the student leaders' leadership competencies, communication and project management skills.

e) NATIONAL EDUCATION YOUTH AMBASSADOR TRAINING (SILVER/GOLD – NE GALLERY: DOCENT & TRAILS GUIDE TRACK) FOR SEC 2 – 3 NATIONAL EDUCATION AMBASSADORS

Selected students will undergo training for the Silver/Gold badge on 30 May (Wed) which comprises a hands-on and practical session with the following learning objectives:

1. To improve research and script-writing skills
2. To promote guiding and communication skills through hands-on session such as oral presentation and peer guiding/evaluation for a NE Gallery Docent/Trails Guide
3. To build self-confidence so that students believe that they can do their part to make a difference in promoting National Education in Yuan Ching.

Through the training, students will be able to acquire 21st Century Competencies such as communication, information processing and analysis. Students would be given opportunities to practise and hone these competencies through their support of school events such as NE Commemorative Events and Sec 1 Orientation Programme.

8. JUNE HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

a) SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS

The supplementary lessons will be conducted for **selected groups or classes** as follows:

- Sec 1 to 5 in the **first week (30 May – 1 Jun)**;
- Sec 1,2,4 and 5 in the **last week (18 Jun to 20 Jun) of the June holidays**.

More details on the selected groups/classes, subjects for the lessons and the venues will be issued to students in Term 2 Week 10. We seek your co-operation to ensure that your child attends these lessons when required to do so.

b) ADVANCED ELECTIVE MODULES (AEMs)

Objectives:

AEMs serve to broaden the learning experiences of Sec 3Exp/NA students and to provide for their varied learning needs through applied learning, focusing on:

- Extending and building on the learning objectives of existing subjects through applied learning
- Introducing students to a course of study in post-secondary education institutes
- Exposing students to possible career paths

1	Details for AEM on ‘Aerospace Fundamentals with Flight Simulation’: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28, 30, 31 May & 1 June (Mon, Wed-Fri) • Conducted by Singapore Poly, School of Engineering • Selected Sec 3E/NA students
2	Details for AEM on ‘Leisure Travel & Attractions Management’: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28, 30, 31 May & 1 June (Mon, Wed-Fri) • Conducted by Republic Poly, School of Business • Selected Sec 3E/NA students
3	Details for AEM on ‘The Science of Ship Design’: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-21 June (Mon-Thu) • Conducted by Ngee Ann Poly, School of Engineering • Selected Sec 3E/NA students

c) EARLY ADMISSION EXERCISE (EAE) – POLYTECHNIC & ITE

EAE is an admissions exercise that allows graduating students to apply for admission to Polytechnics (Polys) and Institutes of Technical Education (ITE) based on their interests and aptitudes, and secure a place in a course prior to their GCE ‘O’ or ‘N’ Level Examinations.

It allows Polys and ITE greater flexibility to select students based on a broader measure of aptitude beyond just academic grades. This allows for a wider range of talents to be recognised, thereby encouraging lifelong learning and mastery.

Eligibility for application by students of different courses is as follows:

- Poly EAE – Sec 4E/5NA
- ITE EAE, Nitec courses – Sec 4NA/NT & 4E/5NA
- ITE EAE, Higher Nitec courses – Sec 4E/5NA

Timeline of ITE EAE 2018:

Date	Process
21 May (Mon) to 25 May (Fri)	<u>Application Phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can apply through the online portal: https://www.ite.edu.sg/wps/portal/intake/ • Up to 3 ranked choices • 4NA/NT – Eligible to apply only for Nitec courses • 4E/5NA – Eligible to apply for both Nitec and Higher Nitec courses
28 May (Mon) to 27 Jul (Fri)	<u>Selection Phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITE calls up students for interviews and/or aptitude tests
27 Aug (Mon) to 30 Aug (Thu)	<u>Offer & Acceptance Phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can view and accept offers online

3 Sep (Mon) to 7 Sep (Fri)	<p><u>Withdrawal Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students need to proceed to any of the ITE Customer & Visitor Centres to withdraw from their accepted conditional offers • Students who withdraw can participate in JIE or JAE
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The timelines for Poly EAE 2018 have yet to be confirmed. For latest updates, please refer to <https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/eae/overview>

9. HAVE A MEANINGFUL AND HAPPY JUNE HOLIDAY

In the upcoming June vacation, we hope that you will be able to spend some quality time with your child in meaningful activities. We request that you support and encourage your child to make use of the school holidays to close the learning gaps surfaced in Semester 1 so that they can sustain their academic progress in Semester 2.

If you have plans to bring your child overseas during the June vacations, we seek your co-operation in declaring the travel plans. You can submit your travel declaration by accessing the school website for the online form. Alternatively, you can obtain a hard copy of the Travel Declaration form from the General Office. These declarations must be submitted before the start of the school holidays or before your child travels overseas.

We would also like to remind that the school has high expectations for our students' conduct and behaviours. In preparation for the reopening of the school on **25 June 2018 (Mon)**, the first day of Semester 2, we seek your support and cooperation to ensure that your child's attire and grooming are in compliance with the school rules, as spelt out in the Student Handbook. Students' readiness for the new semester is demonstrated through their attire and grooming on the first day. A good start will go a long way in ensuring quality outcomes at the end of the year.

CHUAH-KOH ENG NGOH (MRS)
PRINCIPAL
7 MAY 2018