



# Parents' Connect

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## 1. PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

I wish to thank parents for an enriching Term 3 for our staff and students. With your support, we had successfully commemorated our nation's 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day, and celebrated our students' and staff achievements on our Annual School Speech and Prize Presentation Day. Our students had also done us proud through their various curricular and co-curricular achievements in the term.

We are thankful for the Teachers' Day Concert put up by our students on 30 August to show their appreciation for the dedicated work of their teachers. We are also grateful to the members of the Parent Support Group and School Advisory Committee for taking time to celebrate with us at the Staff Appreciation Dinner held on 25 August. More importantly, our students had gained a deeper appreciation of the people who had contributed to make their schooling days meaningful and enjoyable. Thank you once again for your support!

Term 4 signals the approaching End-of-Year Examinations and the end of academic year 2017. In this last issue of Parents' Connect for 2017, we have some information on examinations and post-examination activities. These activities have been planned to support your child's holistic development. There will also be some co-curricular activities during the September holidays. If your child is involved in any of these activities, he/she will be issued a consent form. The detailed schedules and timings of the programmes will be given to your child if he/she is involved in these programmes. Your support for your child's participation will add meaning to the activities and make them memorable for him/her.

## 2. SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

### a) Term 3 School Vacation Supplementary Lessons

Term 3 school vacation is from 2 to 10 September. During the vacation, we have supplementary lessons scheduled on 4 and 5 September (Mon-Tue). Sec 1 to 5 classes involved would have been informed by their subject teachers and have received the notification letter with the schedule. The schedule is also available on the school website.

All students involved are to attend the lessons in full school uniform. There will be three canteen stalls opened during the first recess break at 10 am. However, students are advised to have their breakfast before coming for the lessons. For lessons scheduled to start at 1.15 pm, students are advised to take their lunch at the shops nearby the school and return to the school on time for the afternoon lessons.

b) Sport Education Programme 1-Star Kayaking Course for Sec 1 and 2 Students

The Sport Education Programme 1-Star Kayaking course for Sec 1 and 2 students who had signed up will be conducted on 4 and 5 September (Mon-Tue). The school is subsidising 50% of the course fee. A 1-Star Certification will be awarded to students who have successfully completed the two days (12 hours) course. All absences must be supported by valid documents. If your child has signed up for the activities, we seek your co-operation to ensure his/her full attendance.

c) English Language Test by Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board (SEAB) for Sec 1E and 2E

The School Placement and Scholarships Branch is conducting an exercise to monitor curricular standards. The exercise will be carried out by SEAB. A representative sample of students from Sec 1E and 2E classes is required for the study. Information obtained from the exercise such as students' performance on the test will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregated data would be used for the development of normative data.

The 1 hour 30 minutes test has been scheduled on 22 September (Fri), from 11 am to 12.30 pm and the venue will be the respective Sec 1E and 2E classrooms. Students who have been selected for the test will be given more information nearer the date.

d) Good Effort (Academic) Awards

Starting this year, we are introducing the Good Effort (Academic) Awards to recognise students whose good effort has brought about significant improvement in Semestral Assessment 2's overall results. The award will be given to the deserving awardees from every course of study at every level. We hope that this will spur more students to live out our school motto 'Efforts Today, Rewards Tomorrow' as they work towards their academic goals. The award will be presented during the Graduation Ceremony on 29 September (Fri) to Sec 4 and 5 awardees, and during the Final Assembly on 13 October (Fri) to Sec 1 to 3 awardees.

e) Graduation Ceremony for Sec 4 and 5 Students

To spur our graduating students forward and motivate them to do their best in their future endeavours, the school, in collaboration with the Parent Support Group (PSG), will be organising a Graduation Ceremony for all graduating classes on 29 September (Fri). The ceremony will be held in our school during the assembly period.

f) 2017 GCE 'O' Level Preliminary Examination

Sec 4E and 5NA students sat for the GCE 'O' Level Preliminary Examination for Mother Tongue Language and English Language in August. The preliminary examination for the rest of the subjects will be conducted in Term 4, from 11 to 20 September. Your child may stay at home to revise on days that he/she does not offer the subjects examined. Lessons will resume on 21 September (Thu). For the detailed schedules and timings of the papers, please refer to the preliminary examination timetable given to your child.

g) Sec One to Three End-of-Year Examination

The End-of-Year Examination will be conducted from 28 September (Thu) to 10 October (Tue). Your keen interest in your child's preparation for the examination will motivate him/her to do well. A copy of the examination timetable will be given to your child by Week 1 of Term 4. It will also be available on the school website by Week 1 of Term 4. We hope that you will monitor your child's preparation for the examination.

This examination is a critical milestone particularly for the Sec 2 students as it will impact their decisions on the options for the subjects that they would like to pursue at the upper secondary level. The Subject Combination Option Form will be given to them at the start of Term 4. We hope that you will go through the subject combinations with your child so as to guide him/her in his/her choice. The completed Option Form has to be submitted to the Form Teachers on 17 October (Tue) after the End-of-Year Examination.

All co-curricular activities will be suspended from 16 September (Sat) to 14 October (Sat) in view of the End-of-Year Examination for Sec 1 to 3 classes. The co-curricular activities will resume on 16 October (Mon).

h) Marking Day and Promotion Day

We have set aside 11 October (Wed) for teachers to mark and 20 October (Fri) for teachers to finalise the promotion of students to their next grade. On the two dates mentioned, students are not required to report for school. Lessons will resume on 12 October (Thu) for Sec 1 to 3 students. Teachers will be going through the answer scripts.

Sec 4N students who have a GCE 'N' Level Examination paper on 11 October (Wed) are reminded to be present for the paper.

i) Post-Examination Activities

We have a line-up of post-examination activities such as the inter-class games, Mother Tongue Language and Cultural Day Camp, and Dragon Boat Quest aimed at enhancing bonding and providing holistic learning experiences for our students. We would like to share two of the programmes and the details of the rest of the programmes will be given to your child after the End-of-Year Examination.

i. ICT Baseline Standards Test

All Sec 1E and 1NA students will be taking the ICT Baseline Standards Test 2 on 17 October (Tue) during curriculum hours. The purpose of the test is to ascertain the levels of proficiency of the students in Level 3 standard of the ICT Baseline Standards. ICT enrichment lessons will be provided in 2018 for students who have not met the required standards as prescribed by MOE.

ii. Trips for Internationalisation Experience (TIE)

Our TIE programme aims to develop in our students 21st Century Competencies of global awareness and cross-cultural skills and sensitivities; expose them to Asia and the world and sensitise them to the place of Singapore in the world; as well as deepen their commitment and rootedness to Singapore. In line with these objectives, we have an exciting line-up of trips for selected Sec 3E and 3NA students, including:

- a) Yuan Ching – Shanghai Liucheng Experimental School Exchange Programme, from 30 October to 3 November;
- b) Sec 3NT Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Xi'An, China: The 3C Experience, from 31 October to 3 November for selected Sec 3 NT students;
- c) Yuan Ching – Shandong Jinan No. 8 Middle School Exchange Programme, from 6 to 12 November;
- d) Values-in-Action (VIA) cum Cultural Education Trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand from 7 to 10 November and
- e) Overseas Educational cum Cultural Trip to Hong Kong, China from 7 to 10 November.

There will be a briefing for parents of student participants prior to the trip. The details of these trips will be given to the students involved closer to the dates of the trips.

### **3. EDUCATION & CAREER GUIDANCE (ECG)**

a) ECG Fair – Parent Engagement Session

An ECG Fair – Parent Engagement Session, centred on Hospitality (Hotels), Maritime and Logistics sectors, is scheduled on 16 September (Sat) at Republic Polytechnic from 9 am to 12.30 pm. It seeks to bring the world of work and related education and career pathways to students and parents. The session is customised for interested parents from all levels. Dr Jessie Ee, a Certified Behavioural & Career Consultant as well as an Adjunct Faculty member of NIE, NTU and co-author of 'Preparing Youths for the

Workplace', will give a keynote address centred on the theme 'Helping Children Flourish: Developing Children's Interests and Talent through 4Es (Engage, Explore, Embrace and Empower)'. Parents can register for the session by emailing to Mr Henry Chiang at CHIANG\_Hon\_Wai@moe.gov.sg or Mr Ong Wai Lit at ONG\_Wai\_Lit@moe.gov.sg.

b) Experience ITE Programme (EIP)

The EIP for Sec 3NA students is a one-day programme, scheduled on 26 October (Thu) at ITE College West (Choa Chu Kang), from 9 am to 4.30 pm. It is specially designed to introduce them to the benefits of an ITE education through an 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 and help them to better understand the Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on education at ITE.

c) Advanced Elective Module (AEM) on 'Introduction To Basic Health Skills'

An AEM on 'Introduction to Basic Health Skills', conducted by Ngee Ann Polytechnic School of Health Science, has been organised for selected Sec 3E and 3NA students from 6 to 9 November, during the second week of the year-end school vacation. The AEM aims to:-

- better cater to students' different strengths and interests;
- expose students to applied, hands-on and project-oriented ways of learning; and
- let students experience the life of polytechnic education so as to enable them to make more informed choices about where to go after their GCE 'O' Level Exams.

d) Work Attachments

Work attachments, organised for selected students from Sec 3E and Sec 3NA, from 30 October to 17 November, serve to provide students with structured authentic work experiences with suitable external organisations such as ST Schools, Singapore Press Holdings, AsiaOne, Singapore Press Holdings, STOMP, Singapore Press Holdings, Singapore Science Centre and Society Staples. The objectives of the programme are as follows:-

- enhance students' self-awareness and understanding of the expectations and requirements of the work place;
- instil a positive work attitude and values such as punctuality, teamwork, initiative, responsibility, thoroughness and perseverance in our students; and
- create a greater awareness of different career opportunities and how they can leverage their career interests and their strengths/abilities to work towards their desired career options.

#### **4. STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

a) National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Presentation Ceremony

NYAA is a platform for youths in pursuit of developing their Personal Leadership. It guides and motivates youths to develop themselves and contribute actively to the community. The NYAA Presentation Ceremony will be held for students who have completed the NYAA requirements on 27 September (Wed) during morning assembly.

b) Class Leaders Affirmation Ceremony

The Class Leaders' Affirmation Ceremony has been scheduled on 27 September (Wed) to recognise the efforts of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each class.

c) Student Council Training Camp & Preparation for 2018 Sec 1 Orientation

The Student Council will be organising an overnight training camp from 19 to 20 December (Tue to Wed). The camp is a key training programme for the leadership development of Student Councillors. It is also a platform for the Student Council to prepare for the upcoming 2018 Sec 1 Orientation Programme. All Student Councillors are expected to participate in the training camp.

## 5. 2017 NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Term 4 is a critical period for our graduating classes as the GCE Examinations are fast approaching. You can access the GCE 'O' & 'NA / NT' Level Examination Timetables from the Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB) website using the following link:

### GCE 'O' Examination Timetable

<http://www.seab.gov.sg/content/examTimetable/2017GCEOExamTimetable.pdf>  
(updated as at 7 March 2017)

We would like to highlight the start dates of the GCE 'O' Level Examination for your attention.

GCE 'O' Level Mother Tongue 'B' Oral Examination - 25 September (Mon)  
GCE 'O' Level Written and Practical Examinations - 12 October (Thu)

### GCE 'N(A)/N(T)' Examination Timetable

[http://www.seab.gov.sg/content/examTimetable/2017GCEN\(A\)N\(T\)ExamTimetables.pdf](http://www.seab.gov.sg/content/examTimetable/2017GCEN(A)N(T)ExamTimetables.pdf)  
(updated as at 15 February 2017)

We would like to highlight that the GCE 'N' Level Written, Listening Comprehension and Practical Examinations will be held from 11 to 20 September, and continued from 2 to 13 October.

Lessons will resume from 19 to 29 September for all Sec 4 NA students and from 21 to 29 September for all Sec 4 NT students. We hope that you would take note of the dates of the examination and support your child in his/her preparation. Your child may stay at home to revise on the days that he/she does not offer the subjects examined.

The Sec 4N students are not required to report to school after the completion of the GCE 'N' Level Examination on 13 October. However, we would like to inform you that the tentative date for the release of the GCE 'N' Level results is 18 December (Mon).

## 6. ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR GRADUATING CLASSES

### a) Evening Self-Study

On weekdays, from 25 September (Mon) to 6 October (Fri), excluding public holidays, the classrooms (C1-01 to 03, B1-19), the Forum and the Foyer will be opened from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, for students who need a conducive environment for self-study. Teachers, on a voluntary basis, will be around to render their assistance. Students are advised to have their dinner before coming for the evening self-study. Students attending the evening self-study should be attired in either full school uniform or half uniform (PE or CCA T-shirt and school skirt/pants) and put on proper footwear (school shoes or track shoes). The use of handphone is allowed only in the school canteen as stated in the Student Handbook.

### b) Home Study

To allow time for focused revision, home study for Sec 4E and 5NA students will start from 9 October (Mon). Students may stay at home to study. Subject teachers will be having small-group consultation sessions for those who need help in preparing for the GCE 'O' Level Examination.

## **7. STUDENT SAFETY and WELL-BEING**

### **a) Haze Management During Examinations**

In the event that the forecasted air quality reaches 'Very Unhealthy' or 'Hazardous' levels, the national examinations can either continue or be rescheduled. We will keep our students informed should this happen.

The school has put in place measures to support our students. Besides visual checks on their well-being, we have provided all classrooms with air purifiers. Parents of students with pre-existing respiratory and heart conditions are reminded to ensure that your child brings his/her medication (eg inhalers) to school.

### **b) School Holiday Travel Plans**

You may have plans to travel overseas with your child during the year-end school vacation. We request that you provide details of the travel plans either online through the School Website ([www.ycss.edu.sg](http://www.ycss.edu.sg)) or on a hardcopy of the Travel Declaration form that is available from the General Office.

For the latest global disease situations, you may also refer to the WHO website at <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/index.html>. Another website: [www.e101.gov.sg](http://www.e101.gov.sg) will also give useful news on emergency situations around the world, such as terrorism, bird flu, flooding and/or dengue fever situations.

### **c) School Security**

If your child is coming for school activities during the school vacation, please remind your child to come in school uniform. When students come for the consultation sessions and/or the evening self-study, they should also be attired in either full school uniform or half uniform (PE or CCA T-shirt and school skirt/pants) and put on proper footwear (school shoes or track shoes). This is to facilitate implementation of measures to maintain safety and security of students in the school.

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **a) School Canteen**

The school canteen will be closed during the school vacation. However, selected stalls will continue operations to meet the needs of students taking the GCE 'O' Level Examination.

### **b) MOE Financial Assistance Scheme**

Students who need MOE financial assistance for 2018 may collect the application form from the General Office at the start of Term 4. Those who are currently on the scheme will need to reapply if they would like to continue with the scheme. If you need more details regarding the application process, please contact our Administration Manager, Ms Gina Ang, at 6261 2489 or [gina\\_ang@schools.gov.sg](mailto:gina_ang@schools.gov.sg)

### **c) General Office Operating Hours**

The staff will be having a Staff Retreat on 22 November (Wed) and a Learning Journey for Executive and Administrative Support Staff on 23 November (Thu). On the two dates, the General Office will close early. The office's operating hours will be confirmed nearer the date and made available on our school website.

### **d) Outreach to Primary Schools**

As part of the outreach efforts of the school, selected students will be representing the school to share about their school experiences with Primary 6 students. The Outreach Programme will take place from 30 October to 10 November.

In addition, we will be having our Annual Open House cum CCA Showcase for parents of Primary 6 students on 25 November (Sat). The details on the event will be made available on our school website closer to the date.

e) Dismissal Time for Sec 1 to 3 Students

Our teachers will be serving as invigilators for the GCE 'O' Level Examination which starts on 23 October (Mon). All Sec 1 to 3 students will be dismissed at 12.30 pm daily during the period of the GCE 'O' Level Examination.

f) Last Day Of School For Sec 1 To 3 Students

As our school is a GCE 'O' Level Examination venue, the last day of the final school term is 27 October (Fri). On that day, we will release the Report Books, Textbook List for 2018 and, for the Sec 2 students, the Sec 3 Subject Combinations allocated to them.

All students will be dismissed at 10.30 am on that day. Form Teachers will then meet up with the parents of selected students to give their feedback on their child's performance. We hope that you will take note of the date as your presence will be critical in ensuring your child is well prepared for 2018.

g) Term 4 School Vacation

The Term 4 school vacation is from 18 November to 31 December. Our teachers will also be planning some CCA activities to provide your child with richer learning experiences. More details will be given to the students and put up on the School Website nearer the Term 4 school vacation. Consent forms will be issued to parents before the end of Term 4 to notify you of your child's participation.

## 9. PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG)

We would also like to share that the PSG partners the school in supporting our students' learning. If you would like to take part in PSG activities, please email Mr Leung Yulun, HOD Character and Citizenship Education (email: - [leung\\_yulun@moe.edu.sg](mailto:leung_yulun@moe.edu.sg)) and / or Mr Raymond Yeo, HOD Mother Tongue Languages (email: - [yeo\\_tong\\_wei\\_raymond@moe.edu.sg](mailto:yeo_tong_wei_raymond@moe.edu.sg)).

## 10. 12<sup>TH</sup> CARING TEACHER AWARDS (CTA)

We are pleased to inform you that NIE in partnership with ExxonMobil will be launching the nomination for the 12<sup>th</sup> Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) 2018 on 31 Aug 2017. The CTA started in 1996 and is organised biennially by NIE, in partnership with ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd, with the support of the Ministry of Education. It aims to celebrate school teachers who exemplify the values of caring, sharing and concern for the academic, moral, social, emotional and mental welfare of their students. For more information on CTA, please visit <http://www.cta.nie.edu.sg>. The new website will be up by end August. This year, to complement hardcopy nomination form submissions, there will be an online submission system. We look forward to your continued support to affirm our teachers.

## 11. CLOSING NOTE

We hope that you will be able to spend some quality time with your child and engage him/her in meaningful activities during the vacation. It will also be a time for you to psychologically prepare your child for the new challenges that he/she will face in 2018. We are confident that you will support and reinforce the values and rich learning experiences that we have been providing for your child.

To ensure that we collectively create a conducive learning environment, we hope that you could reiterate the importance of respecting and meeting school expectations when your child returns to school next year on 2 January 2018 (Tue). In this respect, you may refer to the Student Handbook or the school website <http://www.ycss.edu.sg> with your child so that he/she has an idea of what is expected of him/her, pertaining to school discipline and decorum.

Finally, we wish all our students an enjoyable September school vacation following the Hari Raya Haji holiday on 1 September (Fri). We hope that you will be able to spend some quality time with your child. We would also like to wish all our Muslim students, parents and their families Selamat Hari Raya Haji.

CHUAH-KOH ENG NGOH (MRS)  
PRINCIPAL

30 August 2017