



Parents' Connect

Ref No: 05/2018

Sep-Dec Issue

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 53rd National Day, and celebrated our students' and staff achievements on our Annual 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 heartened to see our students expressing their appreciation for their teachers through the Teachers' Day Concert and class celebrations on 30 August. We are also grateful to the Parent Support Group and School Advisory Committee for taking time to celebrate with us at the Staff Appreciation Dinner held on 24 August. We hope that our students will learn to appreciate the people who had contributed to their development in school, including their teachers and parents. Thank you once again for your support!

Term 4 signals the approaching End-of-Year Examinations and the end of academic year 2018. In this last issue of Parents' Connect for 2018, we have some information about 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 ensure meaningful learning experiences for him/her.

2. SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

a) Term 3 School Vacation Supplementary Lessons

The term 3 school vacation is from 3 to 9 September. During the vacation, we have supplementary lessons scheduled on 3 and 4 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 10am. However, students are advised to have their breakfast before coming for the lessons. For lessons scheduled to start at 1.15pm, students are advised to take their lunch before reporting to the school for their afternoon lessons.

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

The SEP 1-Star Kayaking course for Sec 1 and 2 students who had signed up will be conducted on 3 and 4 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-day (12 hours) course. All absence 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) Good Effort (Academic) Awards

Since 2017, we have introduced 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 26 September (Wed) to Sec 4 and 5 awardees, and during the post-examination week to Sec 1 to 3 awardees.

d) 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 26 September (Wed). The ceremony will be held in our school during the assembly period.

e) 2018 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 10 to 19 September. Your child may stay at home to revise on days that he/she does not offer the subjects examined. Lessons will resume on 20 September (Thu). For the detailed schedules and timings of the papers, please refer to the Preliminary Examination timetable given to your child.

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

The End-of-Year Examination will be conducted from 27 September (Thu) to 9 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 on 30 August, the last day of Term 3. It will also be made available on the school website. 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 16 October (Tue) after the End-of-Year Examination.

All co-curricular activities will be suspended from 15 September (Sat) to 9 October (Tue) morning in view of the End-of-Year Examination for Sec 1 to 3 classes. Some co-curricular activities will resume on the afternoon of 9 October.

g) Marking Day and Promotion Day

We have set aside 10 October (Wed) for teachers to mark and 19 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 11 October (Thu) for Sec 1 to 3 students. It is important for your child to attend school as their teachers will be going through the answer scripts.

Sec 4N students who have a GCE 'N' Level Examination paper on 10 October (Wed) are reminded to be present for the paper.

h) 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 16 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 2019 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 commitment and rootedness to Singapore. In line with these objectives, we have an exciting line-up of trips for Sec 3 Normal Technical students and selected Sec 3 Express & Normal Academic students which will take place from 29 October to 2 November as listed below:

- a) Overseas Cultural Immersion & Education Trip to Shanghai, China for the Yuan Ching-Liucheng Experimental School Exchange Programme;
- b) Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Hong Kong, China;
- c) Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Nanjing, China; and
- d) Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Xi'An, China.

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

3. EDUCATION & CAREER GUIDANCE (ECG)

a) Experience ITE Programme (EIP)

The EIP for Sec 3NA students is a one-day programme, scheduled on 22 October (Mon) at ITE College West (Choa Chu Kang), from 9am to 4.30pm. 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.

b) Work Attachments

Work attachments, organised for selected students from Sec 3E and Sec 3NA, from 29 October to 16 November, serve to provide students with structured authentic work experiences with suitable external organisations such as PacificLight Power Pte Ltd, Lakeside Family Services, 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 was held for students who have completed the NYAA requirements on 29 August (Wed) during morning assembly.

b) Class Leaders Affirmation Ceremony

The Class Leaders' Affirmation Ceremony will take place on 28 September (Fri) to recognise the efforts of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each class.

c) Student Council Training Camp & Preparation for 2019 Sec 1 Orientation

The Student Council will be organising an overnight training camp from 18 to 19 December (Tue to Wed). The camp is a key training programme for the leadership development of our Student Councillors. It is also a platform for the Student Council to prepare for the upcoming 2019 Sec 1 Orientation Programme. All Student Councillors are expected to participate in the training camp.

d) Singapore Poly L.E.A.D (Leadership Experience and Development) Programme

The Singapore Poly L.E.A.D (Leadership Experience and Development) Programme aims to equip Student Leaders with servant leadership know-how and skills. At the end of the programme, the students will gain skills related to problem-solving, innovation, critical thinking, etc. 15 Inspiring Leaders would be attending the 3-day non-residential programme from 7 to 9 November (Wed to Fri).

5. 2018 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

<https://www.seab.gov.sg/pages/nationalExaminations/GOL>

GCE 'N(A)' Examination Timetable

<https://www.seab.gov.sg/pages/nationalExaminations/GNAL>

GCE 'N(T)' Examination Timetable

<https://www.seab.gov.sg/pages/nationalExaminations/GNTL>

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 - 24 September (Mon)

GCE 'O' Level Written and Practical Examinations – 4, 9, 11 & 17 October (Thu)

We would also like to highlight that the GCE 'N' Level Written, Listening Comprehension and Practical Examinations will be held from 10 to 20 September, and will then continue from 1 to 12 October.

Lessons will resume from 18 to 28 September for all Sec 4 NA students and from 20 to 28 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 12 October. However, we would like to inform you that the tentative date for the release of the GCE 'N' Level results is 17 December (Mon).

6. ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR GRADUATING CLASSES

a) Evening Self-Study

On weekdays, from 24 September (Mon) to 5 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 hand phone 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 8 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 & 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 (e.g. 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.yuanchingsec.moe.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>.

c) School Security

If your child is coming for school activities during the school vacation, please remind your child to come in school uniform and to sign in their attendance at the foyer. 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 their 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 2019 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

c) General Office Operating Hours

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

d) YCSS Open House & Outreach to Primary Schools

As part of the outreach efforts of the school, we will be having our Annual Open House cum CCA Showcase for parents of Primary 6 students on 24 November (Sat). The details on the event will be made available on our school website closer to the date. In addition, selected students will be representing the school to share about their school experiences with Primary 6 students. The Outreach Programme will take place from 29 October to 9 November.

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 22 October (Mon). All Sec 1, 2 and 3E students will be dismissed at 12pm daily during the period of the GCE 'O' Level Examination. Sec 3NT and 3NA students' dismissal time will be available at a later date.

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 26 October (Fri). On that day, we will release the Report Books, Textbook List for 2019 and the allocation of Sec 3 Subject Combinations for the Sec 2 students. 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 2019.

g) Term 4 School Vacation

The Term 4 school vacation is from 19 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) and / or Mr Raymond Yeo, HOD Mother Tongue Languages (email: - yeo_tong_wei_raymond@moe.edu.sg).

10. 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 2019. 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 2019 (Wed). In this respect, you may refer to the Student Handbook or the school website (www.yuanchingsec.moe.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. We hope that you will be able to spend some quality time with your child.

CHUAH-KOH ENG NGOH (MRS)
PRINCIPAL
30 August 2018