

From the Principal's Desk

31 March 2015

Dear Parents / Guardian

We started Term 2 with the sad news of Mr Lee Kuan Yew's demise and we mourned as a nation. The staff and girls wrote their tributes to our founding prime minister to express their gratitude to him. These were compiled and handed over to the Botanic Gardens tribute site.

When I read through the tributes, they moved me deeply because the love for Mr Lee was so sincere and the gratitude for all that he had done for Singapore strong. The students also expressed resolutely that they will continue his legacy to ensure that Singapore continues to thrive and excel. Indeed from the mouths of babes, we find hope, hope that Singapore's next 50 years will be better years. And we thank Mr Lee that in his passing as in his life, he secured a future for Singapore. Indeed Mr Lee left an indelible mark on us all.

School Achievements 2015

1	Badminton Zonal Competition	Senior Girls - Champion Junior Girls - Champion
2	Basketball Zonal Competition	Senior Girls – Champion Junior Girls - 3 rd Placing
3	Schools Digital Media Awards (SDMA)	Merit Award - Tan Kai Han - Clarissa Wong Wern Ting - Lucy Ming Yi - Richelle Jiayi Prakashan - Xiao Yixuan

We want to congratulate all winners and participants in the various competitions for always keeping the school flag flying high because they displayed excellence, perseverance and good sportsmanship. Credit also goes to the teachers and the supportive parents.

Traffic & Road Safety Matters

One of our security guards was knocked down by a resident's car along Mount Sinai Road outside Gate 1 while performing his morning traffic duty in early February. He has since recovered. On the advice of the Traffic Police, the security guards have since been directing traffic on the road pavement and not on the road itself. This has resulted in slower traffic flow at Gate 1 especially in the morning hours. Parents/Guardians are

advised to exercise caution driving in & out of the school premises and to be gracious and give way to one another.

Gate 2 is under-utilized and parents / guardians are encouraged to let the students drop off at the canteen via Gate 2. P5 and P6 students are to be picked up from the canteen pick-up point after lessons & CCAs. The segregated pick-up points for the different levels (Foyer pick-up for P3 & P4 and Canteen pick-up for P5 & P6) are meant for smoother traffic flow for all concerned. I would appreciate if parents / guardian abide by this.

Residents in the adjoining HDB blocks are still writing to the school about incessant honking and indiscriminate parking they have to endure since we moved in in January 2014. Values / behaviour role-modelling is more powerful than values / behaviour espoused. I hope parents / guardian who drive will show exemplary behavior for our young ladies to emulate.

School Operations on Saturdays wef 1 April 2015

With effect from 1 April, the school office will not be opened in keeping with the 5-day work week for staff. Children who may have left items in the classrooms are advised not to come to school on Saturdays as the rooms will be locked. Only the security guards will be on duty.

Students coming back on Saturdays for CCA band practice will be looked after by the teachers concerned. Parents whose children have signed up for Badminton lessons under 'Be A Champ' should note that the company is responsible for the students' safety.

Relaying of messages and delivery of forgotten books & files

As I have mentioned before there is no class intercom on this site. It is not possible for the office staff to hand deliver items that the children have forgotten to bring to their individual classes nor to relay messages / reminders from parents to their children. We will gladly help if it is urgent but the children need to accept the consequences of their actions and inactions, and the sooner we let them learn to face these, the more resilient they will become. We will not disrupt lessons for the whole school through the public address system (PA) to ask a child to come to the office to get her item(s) or to pass a message.

The items that the children forget to bring for lessons can be left in the office, if the parents so decide, and the children can retrieve them there on their own during their recesses.

Update on Hillcrest Upgrading Works & 2016

I want to thank the P1 - P5 parents who have given us your feedback on the proposed start & dismissal times for 2016 in the event that the school goes single session. We are deliberating on the best timings for all concerned while still awaiting approval from MOE on this matter of single session.

In the meantime the school has started talks with the bus operators. As a large portion of the bus operators' income comes from ferrying office workers, they find it difficult to accommodate to changing to much later pick-up times for the students. This is compounded by the fact that traffic along Dunearn Road is heavy with so many schools along the same stretch of road and our students coming from all over Singapore. While they are working to ensure that no school bus should reach school at 6.30am next year, the pick-up times for the students taking school buses may only be slightly later than currently especially with the P1 & P2 students also in the morning session.

The bus operators have also indicated that they are running a loss with the CCA bus scheme as often the number of students they ferry could be under 5 each day and as low as 2. In 2016, the bus fare for CCA bus will increase. The bus operators may also re-group the buses that would be available to pick up the students after CCAs according to routes plied to minimize loses or give up this segment altogether. With the former, parents would have to understand that the students will take a longer time to reach home after CCA (estimated between 1 – 1½h). Unless parents / guardian are agreeable to this, the bus drivers would not be able to ferry the students.

While the school will work with the bus operators to iron out the issues, parents / guardian need to understand that there are constraints that all of us work within in order to have a win-win situation. In choosing a school that is further from home, there will be some inconveniences, and it is advisable to train our students to cope with these. If there are carpool arrangements that parents / guardian could work out, it would be good. For the older students, perhaps it is time to teach them to use public transport. (Tan Kah Kee Station is scheduled to start operations in June 2016).

The school is also sourcing for new canteen operators. The new canteen has 10 stalls and if we can have all of them in operation, the students will have a wider range of food and do not need to stand in line too long to get their food as well. If parents / guardian know of anyone interested to operate a stall in the school canteen, please ask him /her to contact Mdm Grace Woon, our new Administrative Manager 2 at 64684377.

Fund-raising

The school hopes to raise \$500,000 for both non-standard items and financial assistance for students in need. The non-standard items include intercom system, lockers for the new classrooms, study and play areas. In the pipeline for fund-raising is a golf tournament which the School Advisory Committee will help to organize. We will let parents / guardian know of the details later.

Term 2 is a busy time with Games Carnival and the SA1 exams. Let us continue to work together to support our girls in their learning and encourage them to persevere when they meet with difficulties, to emulate Mr Lee Kuan Yew's example.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Yue Yoke Mun
Principal