



QUEENSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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3 November 2017

AN OPEN LETTER NOVEMBER 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

1. Time flies and we are nearing the end of the academic year for 2017. It has been a fantastic year filled with events that enriched the learning experiences of our students. As the year draws to a close, it gives us great pleasure to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year.
2. We appreciate the dedication of our Parent Support Group (PSG). To show our appreciation to our PSG for their commitment and contribution, the school will be conducting a "Certificate of Appreciation" presentation ceremony on Wednesday, 8 November from 7.45 am to 8.15 am in the school hall. After the presentation ceremony, parent volunteers will proceed to the Band Room for a gathering cum breakfast buffet.
3. The December holidays are just around the corner. Good Cyber Wellness habits play an integral part to ensure the safe well-being of students as it is expected that they will have more opportunities to be online during this period. We have included in this November Open Letter, a tip sheet which we hope you would find useful as you partner us in ensuring that your child / ward stays safe in Cyber Space. Included in this tip sheet is a list of different websites which provides more information on how to help your child / ward practise good Cyber Wellness habits at home. Please refer to them to find out more on how to keep your child / ward safe.

Upcoming Activities ...

Admin Day

4. The school has set aside Tuesday, 7 November as the day to process the SA2 exam results. As all teachers will be involved in the exercise, **all P1 to P6 students need not report to school on this day.**

P6 Graduation Party

5. The P6 students will end their 6 years of education in QtPS with a P6 Graduation Party on Wednesday, 8 November. The graduation party will start at 11 am and end at 1.15 pm in the school hall. The teachers have planned a sumptuous lunch for the students, coupled with games to celebrate the occasion. Students can bring their Sunday best to change into after their recess. We look forward to having fun with them.

Annual Speech and Prize-giving Day

6. Our school's Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day will be held on **Thursday, 16 November**. The event will be held in our school hall from 7.30 am to 11 am. We apologise that we will not be able to accommodate everyone. Only parents of prize recipients and performers will be invited. We seek your understanding. Parents of prize winners and performers will receive the invitation in due time and more information will be given then. All students **will be dismissed at 11 am** after the event. Please make the necessary arrangements to fetch your child / ward at **11 am**.

P1 (2018) Orientation Programme

7. The school will be conducting the P1 Orientation Programme for our P1 (2018) students on Friday, 17 November. As such, **all P1 to P6 students need not report to school on this day.**

In Celebration...

SEC-StarHub School Green Awards (SGA) 2017

8. The school participated in the School Green Awards, an annual environmental audit programme organised by the Singapore Environmental Council. The programme aims to increase the school's level of environmental awareness and encourage each individual to develop solutions and adopt habits to improve their environment. It requires the school to submit information such as its usage of electricity, the amount and type of rubbish generated in different areas in the school and green activities organised by the school.

9. For the School Green Awards, there are four basic levels of awards – Palm, Hibiscus, Orchid and Lotus. We are pleased to announce that the school has attained the Lotus Sustained Achievement Award (the highest award given to schools that have achieved the Lotus Award three or more times consecutively) in the School Green Awards. Congratulations to all students, teachers and parents involved, especially members of the school's Science and Green Club and its team of dedicated teachers!

General Information ...

Applicable only to P6 parents / guardians – 2017 Sec One (S1) Posting Exercise

10. Your child / ward has been given the S1 Information Booklet. The booklet provides useful information for you and your child / ward when choosing secondary schools. As part of our post-PSLE activities, we have organised talks by various secondary schools. We hope that through these talks, our P6 students are better prepared to transit to the next phase of their lives.

11. The PSLE result is scheduled to be released **tentatively between 24 and 27 November 2017**. Please look out for the announcement over the Media. If you or your child / ward is unable to collect the result slip personally, please authorise an adult to collect it on your behalf. The Authorisation Form is available in the S1 Information Booklet.

12. The 2017 PSLE certificates will be ready for collection with effect from Friday, 15 December. Either you or your child / ward can collect it from the General Office.

Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA)

13. The Outstanding Youth in Education Award seeks to recognise excellent young teachers for their youthful idealism, energy, enthusiasm and active involvement in the development of youths. With effect from 2012, the age criterion for OYEA has been revised to **35 years and younger**. For OYEA 2018, it is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1983. Nominations for OYEA 2018 are now open and will close on **Friday, 30 November 2017**. You are encouraged to submit your nomination of any of our teachers. Nomination forms can be obtained from the General Office. Alternatively, you can submit your nomination via the online form at www.tinyurl.com/OYEA2018, or through the QR code below.



President's Award for Teachers (PAT)

14. The President's Award for Teachers gives national recognition to experienced teachers for their dedication and hard work in developing our young. These teachers prepare students for life, as well as model commitment to continuous learning and enterprise. They inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds. Nominations for PAT 2018 are now open and will close on **Monday, 15 January 2018**. You are encouraged to submit your nomination of any of our teachers. Nomination forms can be obtained from the General Office. Alternatively, you can submit your nomination via the online form at <http://tinyurl.com/2018pat>, or through the QR code below.



First Two Days of School 2018

15. The new academic year will begin on Tuesday, 2 January 2018. The time-table will be suspended on the first two days of the new academic year for Form and Co-Form teachers to establish schedules and routines in the classroom, set expectations and bond with the students. As such, all P2 to P6 students need only bring along with them their stationery, handbook/note book and a storybook on the first two days of school.

Purchase of books and school uniforms

16. The booklist for 2018 will be given to your child / ward together with the release of the Report Book. The dates and time for the sale of the books and school uniforms will be indicated on the booklist.

Donation of used textbooks and school uniforms

17. To promote a green and sustainable environment, the school will be collecting uniforms which your child / ward has outgrown, as well as used textbooks from Wednesday, 8 November till Friday, 10 November. Boxes will be placed in the school canteen for your child/ ward to drop off the items. We accept all textbooks and uniforms which are in good condition. As such, please ensure that the donated uniforms are cleaned and without any stains before you drop them off. Only the tops and shorts/skorts will be collected as we would be using them in the event that our students need a change of uniform during the school day. Please do not donate the Science textbooks as the PSLE curriculum includes content from P3 to P6. The textbooks collected will be offered to students in need of them.

School's Calendar of Events (COE)

18. Please access the calendar of event for the month of November at our website, <http://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg/others/coe-for-parents> or through the QR code below.



19. I would like to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable school vacation, and I look forward to meeting you again on 2 Jan 2018.

Warmest regards,

Ms Pearly Ng
Principal
Pearly_Ng@schools.gov.sg

HELPING YOUR CHILD STAY SAFE ONLINE

What are Cyberthreats?

Cyberthreats are malicious or criminal attempts to damage or disrupt a computer network or system. Examples of cyberthreats include malware, phishing, hacking and spamming.

What are some dangers of Cyberthreats?

- ! **Malware** – A malicious software programme that is installed without your knowledge or permission. It can spread through email and instant messages, websites and through the use of unsafe storage devices. *(e.g. ransomware, Trojan horse, virus)*
- ! **Phishing** – Any attempt to steal your personal information, such as usernames, passwords, credit card details or identity card numbers. These often appear to come from a bank or another trusted source. *(e.g. deceptive phishing, spear phishing)*
- ! **Hacking** – Any attempt to gain unauthorised access to data, such as private information, passwords, bank account details, in a system or computer. *(e.g. password cracking, cookie theft)*
- ! **Spam** – Irrelevant or unsolicited messages sent over the Internet designed to advertise and/or make money for the sender. It can also be used to collect personal information or to spread viruses and other malware. *(e.g. chain mails, dream job spam, pop-up advertisements)*

How to help your child avoid Cyberthreats?

Teach them to :

- ✓ Check privacy settings and do not reveal personal information on social media, e.g. location, phone number, full name, birthdate.
- ✓ Download software and apps only from official websites and trusted sources
- ✓ Ignore pop-up messages
- ✓ Lock devices and log off accounts after use
- ✓ Never open suspicious links or attachments
- ✓ Set appropriate privacy settings on social media
- ✓ Set strong passwords (using upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols)



KEY MESSAGES TO PARENTS



Promote and role model safe online habits



Teach your child to protect personal information online

Set house rules on internet use

Set up filters and anti-virus software for all devices



Where to find more information on how to stay safe online?



Ministry of Education

Check out MOE's Cyber Wellness Portal for parents. You can also access it through "The ICT Connection" mobile app.

ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents



Cyber Security Awareness Alliance

Check out information and tips provided by Cyber Security Awareness Alliance on cyberthreats.

csa.gov.sg/gosafeonline/go-safe-for-me/for-parents



Government Technology Agency of Singapore

Check out tips provided by Govtech on cyber security.

tech.gov.sg/technews/innovation/2016/10/stay-cyber-ready-to-be-cyber-safe



Media Literacy Council

Check out tips provided by Media Literacy Council on cyber security.

medialiteracycouncil.sg/online-safety/Pages/cyber-security.aspx

