



QUEENSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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2 February 2018

AN OPEN LETTER *FEBRUARY 2018*

Dear Parents / Guardians,

1. Greetings from Queenstown Primary School! We are into the fifth week of the new term and my staff and I are happy to see that our students have settled well into the school. I hope the Briefing for Parents held on Saturday, 20 January 2018 was a useful session for you to know more about the school's directions, programmes and highlights. You would also have met your child's/ward's teachers during the class interaction time. I encourage you to keep in close communication with your child's/ward's teachers, so that we can provide a memorable learning experience for your child/ward.

Upcoming Activities...

Total Defence Day

2. The school will commemorate Total Defence Day on Thursday, 15 February, to mark the fall of Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942. This is one of the key historical events that schools commemorate as part of National Education. It serves to remind us that no one else is responsible for our security and well-being and as such, we must defend Singapore ourselves. The programme for the day will inculcate in our students the five aspects of Total Defence (Military, Civil, Economic, Social and Psychological) and how they can play a part in defending the country.

Chinese New Year Celebrations & Holiday

3. The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on **Thursday, 15 February**. As that day is the eve of the Chinese New Year, students will be dismissed at **10.00 am**. All after-school activities such as remedial/supplementary classes and CCA will be suspended on that day. **The following Monday, 19 February, will be a school holiday. As such, students will only return to school on Tuesday, 20 February.** We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Chinese students and their families "A Happy and Prosperous Chinese New Year – 新年快乐, 万事如意!" and everyone a good holiday break.

P2 Values In Action (VIA)

4. Values in Action (VIA) are learning experiences that support students' development as socially responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to the community, through the learning and application of values, knowledge and skills. VIA also aims to foster student ownership over how they can contribute to the community.

5. In Queenstown Primary School, one way in which VIA is manifested is through '5516'. During '5516', students clean their classrooms for 5 minutes at the end of every day, so as to ensure that their environment is conducive for learning. This experience inculcates in our students good life habits.

6. In Term 1 Week 5, our Primary 2 students will perform their VIA through art. Supported by the Restroom Association (Singapore), students will use their creativity to design posters and/or art pieces to remind toilet users of good toilet habits. Through this, the Primary 2 students will also learn to appreciate the efforts of the school janitors and use the toilets responsibly. This way, everyone will have a pleasant, clean and beautiful toilet experience.

Important Announcements...

Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Screening Test (Only for P3 students)

7. The Gifted Education Branch of the Ministry of Education will be conducting the GEP Screening Test on Friday, 24 August. The test is open to all P3 students and it will be based on what students have learnt from Primary 1 to Primary 3 in the English Language and Mathematics syllabuses. This test is designed to identify students with high intellectual potential. Let us be mindful that we do not put unnecessary pressure on our children and there is no need to have any extra or special preparation for this screening test. A separate letter will be issued to all P3 parents in August.

8. The tentative schedule for the two stages of the GEP Identification Exercise 2018 is as follows:

Stage	Date	Participants	Papers
GEP Screening Exercise	24 August 2018 (Friday)	Primary 3 students enrolled in government and government-aided schools	English Language Mathematics
GEP Selection Exercise	16 & 17 October 2018 (Tuesday, Wednesday)	Only shortlisted students will be invited to the Selection stage	English Language Mathematics General Ability

General Information...

Queenstown Primary Parent Support Group (QtPSG) News Bytes

9. This is a monthly newsletter published by our QtPSG committee which will feature past and upcoming events/projects and parenting tips. The February issue is attached to this letter for your reading pleasure.

School's Calendar of Events (COE)

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



Concluding Remarks...

There was once a farmer who devised a competition between his dog and his rabbit. He made a hole in one of his biggest fields, and hid a carrot and a bone in it. He wanted to see which animal would find them first.

The rabbit was very cheerful and optimistic, and he threw himself into looking for the carrot, digging here and there, totally convinced that he would find it. But the dog was pessimistic, and after sniffing around for a bit, he lay down on the ground and began to complain about how difficult it was to find one bone in such a big field.

The rabbit dug for hours, and with every new hole the rabbit dug, the dog complained even more about how difficult this was, even for the rabbit. The rabbit, on the other hand, thought that each hole dug was one hole less that needed digging. When there was no place in the whole field left to dig, the rabbit dug a tunnel to right under where the dog had been lying all that time. There, he found the carrot and the bone.

The dog should have won the competition because thanks to his great instinct, he had already found the right place at the very beginning. However, due to his pessimism, he lost. On the other hand, the rabbit had won because he had displayed positive thinking.

Adapted from: <https://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-tales/pessimistic-dog>

11. Indeed, our thoughts create our moods and our emotions, shaping our lives, for good or bad. Whatever situations we find ourselves in is a direct result of what we think. Parents/Guardians, do work with us to encourage your child/ward to be positive thinkers who see potential and to turn obstacles into opportunities.

Warmest regards,



Ms Pearly Ng
Principal
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Back to School with Dad 2018

Through this initiative, fathers are encouraged to make a commitment to send their children to school, at least for the first 2 days of the school year. Whether the child is starting or returning to school, the presence of a father is always special and reassuring. A father's simple act shows interest and involvement in their child's academic journey.

“The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature”

Antoine François Prévost d'Exiles, Manon Lescaut

Welcome Party 2018

New Parents were treated to a rousing Welcome Party organised by QtPSG. This enabled new parents to network with other parents as well as the school leaders. New Parents explored possibilities of how they could contribute to their child's development as well as the school. They also gained awareness towards the multitude benefits to be had by being an involved parent. Research has listed benefits such as positive outlook, better performance, regular attendance, better homework completion, greater rate of success and better social skills – to list a few.



Events : Jan /Feb 2018

- 2nd January
Back to School With Dads
- 13th January
Welcome Party
- 1st February
AM Read Starts
- 2nd February
Chinese Read Starts
- 5th February
RockKids Can Read Starts
- 3rd February
Junior Achievement Training
- 14th February
Leaders Meeting & “Lohei”
- Father's Group Feature:
Family Nature Walk!
(Dates coming soon)