



26 May 2022

Principal's Letter to Parents

Thanksgiving for Term 2, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

With the improving local COVID-19 situation, Singapore adjusted its DORSCON level from orange to yellow from 26 April. We give thanks to the Lord for keeping Singapore and PL safe since the onset of the pandemic. With the lowered DORSCON level and easing of COVID-19 restrictions, our PL-Lites have undergone and can continue to look forward to school experiences that have been shelved, for e.g. the National School Games, residential school camps and the up-coming School Open House on 28 May after a 2-year hiatus. Thank you parents/guardians for your tenacity and support through this period. Most importantly, we thank God. To God be the Glory!

In this letter, I will share some updates and reflections of Semester 1 as well as key information to prepare us for Semester 2.

1. Teacher-Meet-Parents 2022

Our Teacher-Meet-Parents Session on 26 May (Thur) will present a more holistic picture of each PL-Lite, aligned with the PL Desired Outcomes of Education – *Confident PL-Lite, Passionate Learner, Active Citizen and Inspiring Leader*. Class Form Teachers have taken up the challenge to learn and nurture each PL-Lite under their charge holistically, with you. With strong family ties and having a significant adult in school whom they can turn to, our PL-Lites will feel safer to learn, take risk and be more courageous when faced with challenges. In addition to TMP sessions, you may email the school or the relevant Subject or CCA Teacher directly if you have further queries, when necessary.

I hope you will have or had a purposeful conversation with the Form Teacher, together with your daughter. I hope the shift towards a more holistic conversation will also help our PL-Lites recognise that schooling is beyond academics and assessments. I hope our PL-Lites will learn to better appreciate learning, learning how to learn and nurture positive dispositions for learning for life.

2. Teaching and Learning Matters

- a. Overall learning in Semester 1. In my six months at PL, I have shared with some parents and our girls "*PL is the quietest school I have been in!*". Our PL-Lites are respectful and eager to learn and excel. Our staff and teachers work tirelessly to help our girls learn. I can see everyone's hard efforts every day. At the same time, I hope our PL-Lites can be more courageous to speak up, question and seek to understand multiple perspectives. It is never silly to ask a question, if one's intent is to learn, grow and glow, and for improvement for all.

The school tracks and monitors all PL-Lites' learning closely. The lower secondary girls are making good progress adjusting to secondary school life. We are happy to see many new friendships formed and relationships deepened with the lifting of SMM restrictions. The Sec 3 PL-Lites are also adjusting to their new classes, subjects and roles as upper secondary girls; their efforts are admirable and we must continue to support and encourage them.

- b. Sec 4/5 GCE O-Level MTL Examinations, Intensive Programme and the road ahead.
Our Sec 4/5 PL-Lites just completed their Prep Examinations and are now preparing for their first national examination. The entire PL family has been praying for our Sec 4/5 PL-Lites who will be taking their GCE O-Level MTL Examination on 30/31 May. This will be followed by an Intensive Academic Programme for our graduating students over 31 May, 1, 22 and 23 June, where teachers will use this additional time to bridge learning gaps and better prepare our PL-Lites for Semester 2 and their final lap.

Regardless of any pandemic or storms in life, we pray that our PL-Lites will be rested and resilient for the road ahead. How? Our PL-Lites must be rest secured in the fact that they are loved and accepted for who they are. Their identity and worth does not depend on their academic performance or CCA achievement. Let us work together to help our girls understand that they do not have to be afraid of making mistakes, because it is through mistakes that we learn and grow. In their toughest moments, our girls need to have a trusted adult they can turn to, be it their parents or teachers, to journey with them.

3. Start of the DSA-JC, EAE-Polytechnic, EAE-ITE

Sec 4 and 5 PL-Lites will have to delve deeper into post-secondary options and admissions exercises and programmes from May 2022. Direct School Admission (DSA) to Junior Colleges (JCs) for admission in 2023 have commenced in May. Applications for early admission to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and polytechnics based on course-specific aptitude and interests will start in May and June 2022 respectively.

Please refer to the following websites for more information.

DSA-JC (for 4E/5N): <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa>

Poly-EAE (for 4E/5N): <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae>

ITE-EAE (for 4N): <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae>

4. Student Services during June Holidays

Some canteen stalls will continue to operate when our PL-Lites are expected in school (for e.g. national examinations, Intensive Programme, CCA etc.). Students who are returning to school may get their refreshments from the stalls during their breaks.

The school bookshop will be closed during the June school holidays.

The library will remain open as usual to allow girls to revise and address their learning gaps.

Opening hours for school library:

Monday – Thursday: 8.30am to 5.00pm (except 20 June (Mon))

Friday: 8.30am – 4.30pm (except 3 June when the library will be closed from 12.30pm; the library will also be closed on 17 June)

5. Travel Declaration & Monitoring of Health after June Holidays

In alignment with MOH's travel advisory, fully vaccinated staff and students are allowed to travel to General Travel countries/regions, which currently covers all countries/regions (as of 17 May 2022). You may refer to the ICA website(<https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg>) for more information and updates on travel. Similar to our earlier letters on this matter, if you plan to travel with your daughter/ward during the June School Holidays, please submit your travel declarations via Parents' Gateway (PG) (go to SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS).

Please exercise personal and social responsibility during the holidays and your overseas travel. If your daughter/ward is unwell or have flu-like symptoms before the start of Term 3, please see a doctor or perform a self-test using ART.

6. Proposed Traffic Improvements

With two late days at PL(Sec) as well as having our upper secondary girls alight at Gate 4 since Jan 2022, the traffic along Lorong Ah Soo has improved on some mornings. To further ease the traffic conditions, we propose the following:

- a. PL(Sec) girls can make their way to school via Gate 6 at Jalan Lokam of PL(Pri) from 6.45am to 7.30am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, our non-late days; and
- b. Only allow vehicle entry for pick-up from 2pm daily (except 1.30pm on Wednesdays) and 6pm on CCA days. Parking and waiting along the driveway cannot be allowed as it limits traffic flow. Noting that parents/guardians may need to park and wait at times as our girls may be slightly delayed, specific parking lots will be made available for temporary parking. We will continue to exercise discipline to end our programmes punctually and remind our girls to head to the pick-up points promptly.

We welcome feedback that helps us improve our traffic conditions. You can email your feedback to plmgss@moe.edu.sg by 20 June 2022. With your support, I will share the implementation details of our latest proposals in my next letter.

7. Proposed Adjustment in Canteen Prices

Our canteen vendors are struggling with the increased prices of raw materials (e.g. cooking oil, eggs, chicken etc.) and other items. They have not increased their food prices in the last few years. After much consultations and negotiations, the school is seeking your support for the proposed \$0.10 to \$0.20 increase for a number of food items from Term 3, 2022. With this increase, the lowest-priced food item at \$1.10 will include sandwiches, fried rice and fried noodles. The highest-priced food item at \$2.70 will be the various donburi rice bowls, from the current price of \$2.50.

We will continue to work with the canteen vendors to ensure food variety, quality, affordability and portions are maintained. We have also highlighted to the canteen vendors that there should not be further increase with the hike in GST in 2023 if the school supports this present proposal.

We have also reviewed our meal subsidies for our girls on the Financial Assistance Scheme. No PL-Lite will be or should be affected by the proposed price increase. If you should require financial support, please see <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/financial-assistance> or email the school for further information on bursaries and others.

I seek your support and understanding on this matter. If you have any queries, please email plgmss@moe.edu.sg by 20 June 2022. With your support, I will share the final details in my next letter.

8. Highlights of Key School Events in Term 3

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 3, 2022.

Monthly Themes	Dates	Key Events
Dare to Lead	27 Jun (Mon)	2022 Term 3 commences Principal's Welcome Assembly
	27 – 28 Jun (Mon – Tue)	Sec 3 OBS (residential)
	27 – 29 Jun (Mon – Wed)	Sec 2NA & 2NT – EM@ITE
A Good Name is Better than the Riches in the World	1 Jul (Fri)	Musical Montage Virtual Concert (7.30pm – 9.00pm)
	4 Jul (Mon)	Youth Day School Holiday
	5 Jul (Tue)	O-Level Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) and BMTL Listening Comprehension
	5 & 8 Jul (Tue & Fri) and 4 Aug (Thur)	Sec 2 History/NE Learning Journey to Museum
	8 Jul (Fri)	Sec 3 Parents' Webinar Briefing: Updates on the Upper Sec Curriculum Assessment and Post-Sec Progression Matters (7.00pm – 8.00pm)
	6 – 18 Jul (Wed – Mon)	O-Level MTL Oral Examinations
	11 Jul (Mon)	Hari Raya Haji Off-In-Lieu
	12 – 18 Jul (Tue – Mon)	NA-Level English Language (EL) Oral Examinations
	15 Jul (Fri)	Sec 3NA EIP to ITE College East
	16 Jul (Sat)	Triple P Seminar – <i>Raising Responsible Teenagers</i>
	20 Jul (Wed)	Commemoration of Racial Harmony Day
	21 Jul (Thur)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
	21 Jul – 1 Aug (Thur – Mon)	O-Level EL Oral Examinations
	23 Jul (Sat)	Triple P Seminar – <i>Raising Confident, Competent Teenagers</i>
	25 Jul – 5 Aug (Mon – Fri)	N-Level Preliminary Examinations
	27 Jul (Wed)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
30 Jul (Sat)	Triple P Seminar – <i>Getting Teenagers Connected</i>	
Home is where the Heart is	3 – 4 Aug (Wed – Thur)	Sec 3 EL Oral Examinations Sec 2 MTL Oral Examinations
	3 – 5 Aug (Wed – Fri)	N-Level MTL and BMTL Oral Examinations
	5 Aug (Fri)	Sec 3NT EIP to ITE College East
	8 Aug (Mon)	National Day Celebrations & Prize-Giving Ceremony
	9 – 10 Aug (Tue – Wed)	National Day Holidays
	15 – 19 Aug (Mon – Fri)	O-Level HMTL Oral Examinations

	11 – 12 Aug (Thur – Fri)	Sec 1 MTL Oral Examinations
	17 Aug (Wed)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
	18 – 31 Aug (Thur – Wed)	O-Level Preliminary Examinations
	25 Aug (Thur)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
Have GRIT will Travel	1 Sep (Thur)	Principal's Term 3 Farewell Assembly Teachers' Day Celebrations ACES Day
	2 Sep (Fri)	Teachers' Day School Holiday
	5 – 9 Sep (Mon – Fri)	1-Week School Holiday
	5 – 6 Sep (Mon – Tue)	N-Level Intensive Revision

Every Mon morning, 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	<i>PrayingParents@PL</i> meets every Mon morning via Zoom, 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. for a time of prayer and fellowship. If you are interested to join in, please email Ms Irene Angullia at irene_angullia@moe.edu.sg
Every 3 rd Wed of the month 8 a.m. – 8.45 a.m.	<i>Fathers@School</i> holds its monthly breakfast bonding session via Zoom every third Wednesday of the month, 8 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Monthly blasts will be sent out via Parents Gateway. Please sign up for the sessions.

Please check the school website (<http://plmgss.moe.edu.sg>) for regular updates on the school programmes and other administrative matters. Do also follow us on our Facebook page for the happenings in and around the school (<https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS/>).

9. Open House 2022

After a 2-year hiatus, we can hold our physical Open House on 28 May (Sat). Our PL-Lites have been working closely with their CCA teachers and friends, and look forward to share their experiences and achievements with our visitors. PL(Pri) has also helped reach out to our P6 sisters. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to more opportunities to welcome parents and other visitors.

10. Resource for Parents

With our girls likely to experience more screen time during the school holidays, the possibility of them being exposed to cyber misconduct also increases. If you are feeling anxious on how to help your daughter pass her time meaningfully during the upcoming holidays, we have a resource for you from our Triple-P partner. Do see the attached EDM for 7 tips on "How to manage your teen's screentime during school holidays". If you would like one-on-one parenting support to learn how to implement the strategies, you may also register for a fully subsidised individual consultation session, via the QR code or URL in the EDM.

I wish you all a wonderful time of rest and bonding with your loved ones this mid-year break. May God's protection and blessing be with you and your family this holiday. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Amy Ng
Principal