



1 January 2023

# Principal's Letter to Parents

## *Term 1, 2023*

Dear Parents/Guardians

A very happy new year to all! A new school year will start in a few days. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the parents/guardians of our Secondary 1 cohort and all the new pupils who have just joined PLMGSS. I would also like to welcome all pupils back to school.

Our girls are the future of the nation. This is meant to inspire our girls. I sometimes wonder if this is one of the reasons why they place such high expectations on themselves and are afraid of making mistakes. Our girls are afraid because the future is uncertain and hence many a times, seems daunting. In my first year at PL, I had seen the Lord's abundant blessings on the school and our girls. Our PL-Lites are awesome and precious. At the same time, I also see some of them struggling with their sense of confidence and belief in their ability and worth, their fears.

A new year brings new hopes and new opportunities. 2023 brings new beginnings. I pray and trust that we will all learn, learn from our mistakes and bad decisions made, continue to learn to be better and stronger versions of ourselves each day. I pray we learn to fix our eyes on God as our ultimate goal, believing that we are more than enough in Him, and through Him we are already the "PL-Lite" who are 'made to shine' and can make a difference in this challenging world, to bring glory to His name.

Together with my colleagues, we look forward to partnering you to nurture every PL-Lite to truly be the beacon to the community and bring hope to those around them through faith and courage.

### **1. Thanksgiving**

We are very thankful that our 2022 N-Level PL-Lites have been blessed with excellent outcomes once again. The girls attained good improvement. We thank our parents/guardians for their unwavering support and the teachers who journeyed alongside the girls. Do refer to the school website for a breakdown of the N-Level achievements. Not just academic achievements but stories of how our PL-Lites have overcome life's challenges to achieve their goals. We continue to pray that our graduated girls will choose their post-secondary pathways wisely and move on confidently to pursue their aspirations.

PL(Sec) 2022 N-Level results

URL: <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/accolades/national-examinations/gce-n-level-2022>

## 2. 2023 Year and Monthly Theme

Our 2023 Year Theme 'Glory to God we give and pray' is taken from our School Song,

### Stanza 4

Now let us pray and learn and trust and obey  
To serve him in every way  
*Glory to God we give and pray*  
For Paya Lebar MGS (2\*)

We also have a Theme verse to support and anchor our Theme for the year:

*"Let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16

Our assembly programmes are also anchored on the following monthly themes. They seek to inspire our girls to build positive psychological resilience in their pursuit of a purposeful life, making a difference for themselves and others.

Month	Theme for the month
January	Glory to God We Give and Pray
February	Being the Salt and Light
March	Growing Through Perseverance
April	Loving At All Times
May/June	Being a Servant Leader
July	Living Zealously In Our Youth
August	Going Forth to Light the World
September	Fixing Our Eyes on Our Purpose
October	Overflowing with Thankfulness

## 3. 2023 School Terms and Holidays

Please refer to the following URL for 2023 School Terms and Holidays:

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20221019-school-terms-and-holidays-for-2023>

## 4. Highlights of Key School Events

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 1, 2023.

Monthly Themes	Dates	Key Events
Glory to God We Give and Pray	3 – 6 Jan	Orientation cum iDiscover Camp (for Sec 1) 'Start Right' Programme (for Sec 2 – 5)
	5 Jan, Thur	Principal-Meet-Parents (for Sec 1)
	11 Jan, Wed	Support programme for transition from Lower to Upper Secondary (for Sec 3) - <i>starts and takes place every alternate week for two sessions. Details to be disseminated on a later date.</i>
	19 Jan, Thur	Principal-Meet-Parents (for Sec 3 and 4/5)
	20 Jan, Fri	2023 Chinese New Year Celebrations ( <b>Note:</b> school dismissal at 10.30am)

	<b>22 – 24 Jan</b>	<b>Chinese New Year Holidays</b>
	25-27 Jan, 1-3 Feb	Sec 4/5 Faithful-In-Service Visits to Partner Charities - <i>starts and takes place on different days for different classes.</i>
Being the Salt and Light	3 Feb, Fri	Chinese New Year Carnival House Practice 1
	6 – 14 Feb	Sec 1 and 2 Health Screening CCA Commences for Sec 1
	7 Feb, Tue	Safer Internet Day
	8 Feb, Wed	Health Check (for all levels) from 8 to 15 Feb
	9 Feb, Thur	Tea with Year Heads
	14 Feb, Tue	Friendship Day
	15 Feb, Wed	Total Defence Day
	15 – 17 Feb	Sec 1 and 2 HPV Vaccination
	16 Feb, Thur	Sec 3 NRIC Registration Sec 4NA Pathfinder Workshop
	21, 23 Feb	Mother-Tongue-Language Showcase Activities
22 Feb, Wed	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 5) <sup>1</sup>	
Growing through Perseverance	2 Mar, Thur	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 5) Sec 4E Pathfinder Workshop (for selected students)
	8 Mar, Wed	International Women’s Day <i>Fathers @School</i> 12 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
	9 Mar, Thur	Lunchtime Concert Term 1 Farewell Assembly
	10 Mar, Fri	Combined Sports Day@PL
	<b>13 – 17 Mar</b>	<b>End of Term 1 – School Holidays</b> (Please note that some CCAs may still function on 14/18 Mar in order to prepare the girls for National Competitions.)

Every Mon morning, 7.30am at SFE Room or 8am via Zoom (starts 9 Jan 2023)	<i>PrayingParents@PL</i> meets every Monday morning either in school (SFE Room) or via Zoom, for a time of prayer and fellowship. If you are interested to join in, please email Ms Irene Angullia at <a href="mailto:irene_angullia@moe.edu.sg">irene_angullia@moe.edu.sg</a>
Once a term (likely a Wednesday)	<i>Fathers @School</i> holds its termly bonding session for fathers and their daughters, when possible. Parents will be informed via Parents Gateway (PG) closer to the date of the event. Please sign up for the sessions via PG then.

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>).

<sup>1</sup> HBL Day is integral of MOE’s initiative to nurture self-directed and independent learners as well as develop passionate and intrinsically-motivated learners through a Blended Learning approach. See <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/parent-kit/experiencing-blended-learning.pdf> for details. Remaining HBL Day dates for the rest of the year are reflected in the Student Handbook.

## 5. 2023 Methodist Walk

The theme of 2023 Methodist Walk is 'A Million for a Million'. This biennial fund-raising walk has been supporting 15 Methodist schools in Singapore for 22 years, and is organised by the Methodist Schools' Foundation.

### "A Million for A Million"

Methodist Walk Live 2023 will take place on **25 March 2023** at **ACS Independent**. 25 March is the last Saturday of March 2023 and the first Saturday after the March school holidays.

The Methodist Schools and the Methodist Church in Singapore will walk, in unity and humbly with God\*, *a million kilometres to raise (at least) a million dollars* for the schools.

\*Theme: Walking Humbly with God

Theme Verse: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8, NIV)

#### *Walking A Million Kilometres*

This is not as unachievable as it appears. There are in total about 21,035 students spread across the 15 Methodist schools in Singapore. The math means that all we need is 20,000 participants (students, parents, staff and church) to walk or run 50km over 25 days or 2km a day to make 1,000,000 km. If we add in the approximately 5,000 participants at the Live Walk, with each participant walking another 2 km, that'll be 10,000 km to add to the overall number.

#### *Raising A Million Dollars*

Similarly this is not as unachievable as it sounds. The Methodist schools have raised in total \$1.3m in 2019 and \$1.1m in 2021 (virtual walk). As usual, 100% of all moneys raised go to the schools.

PLMGS(S) will launch our 2023 Methodist Walk efforts on 16 Jan 2023. Each PL-Lite will receive a walkathon card. 100% of the proceeds raised by PL-Lites will be used by the school to continue to make our school more conducive for work and learning. You will receive more information on the 2023 Methodist Walk on a later date.

## 6. Student Learning and Development Updates

- i. 'Start Right' Programme in Week 1, Term 1. The Student Development Team led our teachers to design our inaugural 'Start Right' Programme in the first week of school. In Week 1, we will focus on nurturing positive relationships and establishing positive expectations and routines to support our girls learning and growth for the rest of the year. ***Please note that dismissal time for our Sec 2 - 5 PL-Lites is 1325hrs from 3 – 5 Jan. On 6 Jan, Friday, some PL-Lites will be required to remain in school until 1700hrs for the CCA Fair; relevant girls would have been informed by their respective CCA teachers. PL-Lites who are not involved in the CCA Fair will be dismissed at 1215hrs. Sec 1 PL-Lites have a separate Orientation cum iDiscover Camp programme from 3 – 6 Jan.***
- ii. Student Development and Management. To ensure that we maintain a positive school environment and tone for learning as well as to allow our girls to take greater ownership of their growth, our Student Development and Management Teams have made some improvements. These include the introduction of a late-coming app to support timely intervention and reflecting the updated school rules and respective consequences in the Student Diary that will be clear and transparent to all. I would like to appeal for parents/guardians to submit your daughter/ward's MC or a letter of excuse within a week to

lessen our teachers' admin workload; PL-Lites who fail to do so will have their attendance recorded as 'Absent Without Valid Reasons' as a consequence.

- iii. Learning and Assessment. With the removal of mid-year examinations, the school will have more time to teach, learn and assess to support learning. Assessment of our students' learning will commence in Week 5, Term 1 and continue up to Week 10. This will give the teachers and girls more time to enjoy learning together, as well as act on teachers' feedback. With the various assessments spread across a longer period of time, parents can expect to receive the result slips on a later date. In this regard, I would urge parents to have on-going conversations with your daughter/ward on her learning and school experiences.

## 7. Supporting Your Daughter During Transitions and Change

The Sec 1 and Sec 3 years are transitional years that our PL-Lites need to adapt to new schooling experiences, make new friends and explore new leadership opportunities. Our Sec 2 and Sec 4/5 PL-Lites will also experience change and new challenges. We want to inculcate within all our girls the ability to thrive despite challenges.

We have partnered the National Healthcare Group (NHG) for our 2023 Mental Health and Nutrition initiatives. NHG has curated and prepared some bite-sized resources which I hope you will find useful.

S/N	Key Message	Message Body	Link
1	Please Do Not Eat Your Feelings	Do you know when your child eats when they are hungry and when they eat just to feel better? Find out whether your child is an emotional eater.	<a href="https://view.genial.ly/62c00ad46844b100114c534d">https://view.genial.ly/62c00ad46844b100114c534d</a>
2	Nutrition and Stress Management	Is there anything we can eat to help us manage stress? Find out what the dietician has to say!	<a href="https://youtu.be/zDYGrqLXID4">https://youtu.be/zDYGrqLXID4</a>
3	Don't Assume Read This!	We all make assumptions. Assumptions can lead to negative experiences and may hurt relationships. How can you guide your child to clarify their assumptions?	<a href="https://app.7taps.com/4rPAfEW4UEq">https://app.7taps.com/4rPAfEW4UEq</a>
4	Challenge Accepted!	It is important for your child to embrace challenges from a young age. Keen to know how you can help your child embrace challenges? Find out one simple method.	<a href="https://view.genial.ly/6242685f6017ef00117cc80a">https://view.genial.ly/6242685f6017ef00117cc80a</a>

We pray and trust our parents/guardians will provide the best guidance and care for our PL-Lites, your daughters/wards. Take time to understand your daughter/ward and what goes on in her school life. Reinforce their good behaviours and set clear boundaries and expectations. My colleagues and I look forward to forging an even closer partnership with you as we work together to shape our PL-Lites' character and help them succeed in life. We must also remind our PL-Lites that they must take responsibility for their learning and growth too.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support and for partnering us to care for your daughter/ward.

In His service,  
Ms Amy Ng  
Principal