



20 March 2023

# Principal's Letter to Parents Term 2, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back. I am grateful for the short March school holidays to rest, restore and rejuvenate. I trust you and your family found time to bond and rest as well.

This morning, we welcomed our PL-Lites back and reminded ourselves of our March Monthly Theme "Growing Through Perseverance" with the following verse:

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time  
we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*Galatians 6:9*

We encouraged our girls to never stop "doing good", which includes "learning as a learner" too. "Doing good" is NOT about being perfect and top performance. "Doing good" is about being "others-centred" and valuing efforts, feedback and improvement. "Doing good" is believing that one can and must make a difference for themselves and those around them. On learning, we reminded our girls of the relevance of learning for life today. With the focus of "doing good" and a growth mindset, our girls will learn to better enjoy learning when their purpose for learning goes beyond grades. Let us join our girls to grow through perseverance, together as one PL family, on our lifelong learning journey.

Please see my last Letter to Parents for **Highlights of Key Events in Term 2**: <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/announcements/principal-letter-to-parents/>. We look forward to our Homecoming of four cohorts (2019 to 2022) this Friday, 24 March, and Methodist Walk 2023 on Saturday, 25 March where all Methodist schools in Singapore will be represented. Our Secondary 1 PL-Lites will be proud to represent PLMGS(S) at Methodist Walk 2023.

## 1. MOE Committee of Supply (COS) 2023

- a. Below are some key initiatives that will have more direct impact on our PL-Lites, focusing on maximising the potential of every child during their schooling years as we prepare them to learn for life.

<b>1. Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB): Greater Customisation and Flexibility in Learning</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will be posted to Secondary 1 through one of three Posting Groups; students will be placed in mixed form classes comprising peers with different backgrounds, strengths and interests.</li></ul> |
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- Students can take subjects at different subject levels according to their strengths, interests and learning needs. For example students taking mostly G3 subjects can take up Additional Mathematics at G2 level based on interest.

## **2. More Paths, More Porosity In Between**

- Increased access to polytechnics. From the AY2026 intake, Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) students can choose a cluster of interest instead of a specific diploma. From the AY2028 intake, more students, like those taking G3 subjects or a mix of G3 and G2 subjects will be eligible for the PFP.
- A-Level curriculum changes to strengthen 21CC and intrinsic motivation to learn:
  - Three H2 content-based subjects will count towards University Admission Score (UAS) by default. *Fourth content-based subject included only if it improves UAS.*
  - Removal of mid-year examinations progressively from 2024.
  - All students must study General Paper; H2 Knowledge & Inquiry remains a contrasting subject for both Arts and Science subjects.
  - Project Work will be a Pass-Fail subject.

## **3. It Takes a Village**

- MOE to partner parents as they seek to strengthen relationships with their children.
- Support our Parent Support Groups to work closely with schools.
- Increase students' exposure to workplaces by facilitating more partnerships between industry and schools.
- Support disadvantaged students: Nationwide expansion of UPLIFT Community Network to support 1300 students from disadvantaged backgrounds through partnerships between school and community.

- b. For “MOE Committee of Supply Debate 2023 Highlights”, see <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/cos2023/index.html>.

## **2. Overview of Post- Secondary Education Institutes (PSEIs) and Aptitude-Based Admissions into PSEIs**

- a. The post-secondary educational landscape has progressed significantly over the last few years to support the learn for life movement. There are a variety of PSEIs available for secondary school graduates. You can learn about the different types of PSEIs you can choose from, and how you can apply for them here: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview>
- b. The following are upcoming aptitude-based admissions exercises that allow students to apply for and receive conditional offers for admissions to JC/polytechnics/ITE prior to receiving their final national examination grades. The PSEIs will have flexibility to select and admit students based on their aptitudes and interests, apart from academic grades.
- Direct School Admission (DSA)-JC  
Please check the individual school websites for the application period and procedures as they can vary from school to school  
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa>)
  - Early Admissions Exercise (EAE)-Polytechnics  
Application starts end-Jun 2023  
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae>)

- Early Admissions Exercise (EAE)-ITE  
Application starts end-May 2023  
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae>)

### 3. Assessment is Learning

Learning with purpose – this is our challenge. Not grades, but purpose. I challenged the girls this morning to ensure they are clear of their learning objectives or purpose at the start of every lesson today. Once the objective or purpose is met, they will attain a sense of fulfilment and motivation. That said, why are there still assessments and examinations? These will be more high-stakes learning objectives or purpose as they contribute to progression. But “what does the bible say about exams?”. Based on the article <https://biblical-parenting.org/articles/what-does-the-bible-say-about-school-and-exams/>, one reason is to help our young ones discover and develop their talents. Do take time to read this article as it also shares practical tips and key reminders to facilitate our children’s schooling years, to give them purpose to learn and grow, and to pursue God’s calling for their lives. I hope this article will also present different perspectives as secondary schools adapt our assessment schedules with no mid-year examinations from 2023.

It takes a village to raise a child. I thank our Parent-School Support Group (PSSG) for working closely with the school all these years. The PSSG *Fathers@School* commemorated its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, 18 March by volunteering with the “Kovan City of Sharing 2023” initiative. More than 30 PL-Lites, their parents and families collected and packed food and groceries from Kovan residents for various beneficiaries such as Sheng Hong Family Service Centre, Senior Activity Centre (SAC) & Society of Aged Sick (SOAS) etc. On this note, I would like to invite parents to join other parents to the following, where you can share parenting tips, support each other and even bond with your daughters when the opportunity arises.

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>). Term 2 will be an exciting Term with the on-going National School Games as well as the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentations by our various CCA groups. We can also look forward to our inaugural Mid-Year Pit-Stop Programme at the end of Term 2.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support and for partnering us to help our girls learn and grow to be the best versions of themselves.

In His service,  
Ms Amy Ng  
Principal