



29 December 2023

Principal's Letter to Parents

Term 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

A new school year will start in a few days. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Secondary 1 cohort and their parents/guardians. I would also like to welcome all pupils and their families back to the school community. Schooling is a family affair for us at PL.

Importantly, we welcome our new Vice-Principal, Ms Susan Toh, who joined us two weeks ago. Together with Ms Toh, I look forward to building strong relationships with all members of the PL family – staff, parents and students – and to learn and grow alongside students and colleagues.

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in our Singapore education system. With Full Subject-Based Banding (SBB) in all secondary schools in Singapore, there will no longer be separate Express, N(A) and N(T) course, and students will be in mixed form classes where they can interact with peers of different strengths and interests.

PL (Sec) was 1 of the 28 Pilot Schools that started the Full SBB in 2020. School Leaders and staff before me have worked hard and achieved much to give the Ministry the confidence to select PL (Sec) as a pilot school. It is our privilege to serve and we have learnt much in the last few years. For one, it is never easy for young people of diverse needs and interests to learn and live together. Hence, providing our girls the opportunities to interact and bond, to learn about themselves, to empathise and respect differing perspectives, are just some aspects we must work on to prepare our girls to *Just Shine!* in this uncertain world and future. With our varied Full SBB experiences, we will continue to improve and are confident that we will be able to make a difference in our girls' learning and growth.

A new year brings new hopes and new opportunities. 2024 brings new beginnings. I pray and trust that we will all learn, unlearn, relearn, to be better and stronger versions of ourselves each day. I pray we learn to fix our eyes on God as our ultimate goal, because in Him, we can truly be fearless and immovable - our 2024 Year Theme "Be True, Pure, Strong and Brave".

Together with my colleagues, we look forward to partnering you to nurture every PL-Lite to *Just Shine!* and be the beacon to the community, by bringing hope to those around them through faith and courage.

1. Thanksgiving

We are very thankful that our 2023 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) 2023 N-Level results

URL: <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/accolades/national-examinations/gce-n-level-2023/>

2. 2024 Year and Monthly Theme

Our 2024 Year Theme 'Be True, Pure, Strong and Brave' is inspired by our School Creed,

Stanza 1

I would be true for there are those who trust me

I would be pure for there are those who care

I would be strong for there is much to suffer

I would be brave for there is much to dare.

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

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable
– if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."*

Philippians 4:8 [NIV]

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	Be True, Pure, Strong and Brave
February	Be True to Serve and Shine
March	Be Pure in Thoughts, Speech and Actions
April	Be Strong in Overcoming Adversities
May/June	Be Brave to Step Out in Faith
July	Be An Example for All
August	Be a Light to Your World
September	Be Focused on Our Purpose
October	Be Thankful!

3. 2024 School Terms and Holidays

Please refer to the following URL for 2024 School Terms and Holidays:

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20230807-school-terms-and-holidays-for-2024>

4. Highlights of Key School Events

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 1, 2024.

Monthly Themes	Dates	Key Events
Be True, Pure, Strong and Brave	2 – 5 Jan	Orientation cum iDiscover Programme (for Sec 1) 'Start Right Programme (for Sec 2 – 5) Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec 1 iDiscover Programme Finale⁴ • Sec 2 Learning Journeys to URA, HDB, LTA & Ngee Ann Polytechnic • Sec 3 FIS Exploration Day • Sec 4/5 Learning Journey to Science Centre, FIS Planning
	3 Jan, Wed	Prep Work 1/3 for Sec 4 Overseas Trip to Batam
	5 Jan, Fri	CCA Fair (for Sec 1) Meet-the-Parents (for Sec 1)
	15 Jan, Mon	Start of National School Games (NSG)
	15 – 31 Jan	Sec 1 & 2 Health Screening & HPV Vaccination
	17 Jan, Wed	Start of PL21 Programme for Sec 1 <i>PL21 Programme for Sec 1s will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 2.45pm – 4.45pm in Semester 1. Further details will be provided shortly.</i>
	19 Jan, Fri	Meet-the-Parents (for Sec 3 and 4/5)
	18 and 25 Jan, Thur	Sec 5 Science Practical Bridging
	25 Jan, Thur	House Leaders Training
	29 Jan, Mon	House Meeting
Be True to Serve and Shine	1 Feb, Thur	Sec 4/5 Science Practical Session
	5 Feb, Mon	Home-Based Learning (Sec 2, 4 & 5) ¹
	5 – 8 Feb	Sec 1 Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp @ MOE Changi Coast Adventure Learning Centre (4 classes) & MOE Dairy Farm Adventure Learning Centre (4 classes)
	5 – 8 Feb	Sec 3 MOE-OBS Challenge Programme
	6 Feb, Tue	Sec 2 Learning Journey to National Museum (4 classes)
	8 Feb, Thur	Sec 2 Learning Journey to National Museum (4 classes)
	9 Feb, Fri	2024 Chinese New Year Celebrations <i>(Note: school dismissal between 10-10.30am, to be coordinated with PL (Pri) for staggered dismissal.)</i>
	10 – 13 Feb	Chinese New Year Holidays <i>12 Feb, Mon will be a public holiday and 13 Feb, Tue will be a school holiday and a designated day off-in-lieu.</i>

¹ 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.

	14 Feb, Wed	Friendship Day
	14 Feb, Wed	Leadership Training – Class Committee Training (For Sec 2 – 5)
	15 Feb, Thur	Total Defence Day Leadership Training – Class Committee Training (For Sec 1) Chinese New Year Carnival for Elderly Rehearsal (S4/5 FIS)
	16 Feb, Fri	CCA commences for Sec 1
	19 Feb, Mon	Student Leaders' Badging Ceremony
	21 Feb, Wed	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
	21 Feb, Wed	Chinese New Year Carnival for Elderly (Sec 4/5 FIS)
	21 Feb, Wed	Prep Work 2/3 for Sec 4 Overseas Trip to Batam
	22 Feb, Thur	Tea with Year Heads
	23 Feb, Fri	CNY Carnival
	26 Feb, Mon	Start of GCE N and O Level Examination Registration
	28 Feb, Wed	Start of Mother-Tongue Fortnight
	28 Feb, Wed	Start of Active Youth Programme for selected students
Be Pure in Thoughts, Speech and Action	1 Mar, Fri	Parents' Briefing for Sec 4 Overseas Trip to Batam
	4 Mar, Mon	Sec 3 NRIC Registration
	7 Mar, Thur	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 5)
	7 Mar, Thur	Start of Sec 4 Overseas Trip to Batam
	8 Mar, Fri	International Women's Day Term 1 Farewell Assembly
	11 – 15 Mar	Term 1 School Holidays (Note: some CCAs may still function on 11 - 12 Mar in order to prepare the girls for National Competitions.)

Every Mon morning, 7.30am at SFE Room or 8am via Zoom (starts 8 Jan 2024)	<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 Josephine Oh at josephine.oh@yahoo.com.sg
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>).

5. Student Learning and Development Updates

- i. 'Start Right Programme in Week 1, Term 1. We begin the second year of our '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 refer to the 'Start Right' Programme PG notification for more details.
- ii. Learning and Assessment. The purpose of schooling is beyond performance and grades alone. We would like to emphasise on learning and personal mastery. On this note, please refer to <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/instructional-programmes/ip-overview/>

for an overview of our instructional programmes, which could help you in your conversations on learning in school with your daughters. Highlights include:

- Teaching & Learning (T&L) Approach – Curriculum Learning content Assessment Pedagogy Staff, denoted by the acronym **CLAPS**;
- Homework and Assessment Policies;
- Students’ Blended Learning Routines; and
- Students’ Learning Dispositions, or **PEARLS**

Present in body and mind
Enjoy the moment
Ask good questions
Reflect
Listen attentively
Something I learnt today

6. 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.

You can refer to <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/for-parents> for resources to support your child, which include “Resilience Boosters”, “Raising Confident Children” etc. Coming back to school after a long break will not be easy. Some tips from <https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/school-is-back-are-you-ready> are:

- Re-adjust your sleep cycle
- Review topics learnt in school
- Make the most out of your first week back

Transition and change for our Sec 1 PL-Lites will be significant. This resource <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/parent-kit/primary-to-secondary-transition.pdf> presents the key challenges and some recommendations for parents including:

- Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings
- Acknowledge their thoughts and feelings
- Assure them by teaching them ways to cope and manage their emotions and anxieties

7. Other Admin Matters

- i. School Canteen Prices. In the recent 1-2 years, we have seen a significant inflationary trend in food prices from the Department of Statistics (DOS) and NEA’s hawkker price survey. MOE also considered the 2023 canteen price data from the School Canteen Survey results. To ensure that our canteen price range reflects these cost pressures, there will be a 10- to 40-cent increase in some of our canteen prices from Jan 2024.

Our meal subsidies for PL-Lites on the Financial Assistance Scheme have also been adjusted accordingly. No PL-Lite should be affected by the changes. Please see www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/financial-assistance or email the school for further information on financial assistance.

- ii. School's Traffic Safety and School Security Arrangement. Our girls' safety is our priority. Please see **Annex – Traffic Safety & School Security Arrangements**, a useful reminder for our current parents/guardians. New parents to PL (Sec) must familiarise yourselves with these practices to ensure safety of all our girls.

On a related note, we seek parents' support to keep schools a safe environment for all our girls. If your child is unwell, please ensure that she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary. If your child is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage her to exercise personal and social responsibility (e.g. by wearing a mask, minimising social interactions with big groups).

- iii. Guidelines on Parents' Communication with the School. Please see Guidelines on Parents' Communication with the School in our website at <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/articles/guidelines-on-parents-communication-with-the-school>. Some parents may have received Whatsapp messages from the school. The Whatsapp account was attained to disseminate urgent messages at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are reviewing the relevance and sustainability of the Whatsapp account. In the meantime, we appeal to parents to call or email the school with your queries, and not expect immediate responses through Whatsapp.

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 partnership.

In His service,



Ms Amy Ng
Principal