



# Principal's Message 2016

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2016 is an exciting year for all who love Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School. We celebrate our rich heritage of 100 years this year!

## **Growth with the Community**

From the school's humble beginnings of being a small school of just 24 students in the 1900s, the school has been richly blessed over the years to become a school of choice, with the Primary and Secondary sections together offering 10 years of holistic education to over 3000 students. The school has always opened its doors to girls of all social backgrounds. Families from surrounding communities entrusted their daughters to the values-driven education that our school is synonymous with. Now an established institution, the school's growth and transformation has been in tandem with our nation-building.

## **An Inclusive culture... a school where everyone is nurtured to shine**

We aim to make schooling a happy and enriching experience for every PL-Lite. Rooted in Christian values, we recognise our calling in educating girls with different strengths and abilities. We seek to inspire our girls to realise their potential and to find their place in society. Besides helping each girl to find personal success in discovering and pursuing her strengths and passions, the holistic education builds moral character and performance character<sup>1</sup> through the Academics and Co-curricular programmes. We seek to prepare our girls to face a world that is diverse and fast-changing. We believe that education should involve learning life skills that our girls will carry with them after their schooling years. This will help them navigate relationships and careers, and be a blessing to all who meet them in their lives.

## **Synergy with stakeholders**

*It takes a village to raise a child.* The School Board of Management, PL Alumni, Parents and Staff feel deeply invested and actively participate in the school's development. There is also close partnership between the school's stakeholders and social welfare organisations. These efforts not only go out to meet the needs of the communities we serve in, but nurture the spirit of care and selfless giving in our PL-Lites. We seek to constantly remind our girls that the world they live in is bigger than themselves.

Our school's strong emphasis on values and character-building has produced generations of men and women who make a powerful impact on the community and families.

- The late Mr E.W. Barker, former Minister for Law (Alumni of Paya Lebar English School, as *PLMGS* was formerly named, in the 1920s)
- Mr Lim Siong Guan (Alumni of Paya Lebar English School in 1953 to 1956)
- Ms Glory Barnabas, former national sprinter
- Ms Patricia Kim, former national table tennis player
- Ms Eunice Tay, former CEO of the National Kidney Foundation

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<sup>1</sup> The Smart & Good High Schools report. Retrieved 5 Dec 2015 from [www.cortland.edu/character/highschool](http://www.cortland.edu/character/highschool)  
Integrating Performance Character and Moral Character in Schools Retrieved 5 Dec 2015 from <https://www2.cortland.edu/dotAsset/255922.pdf>

- Ms Chia Yong Yong, former Nominated Member of Parliament

We believe that there are many more PL-Lites, who continue to make their mark in the society and the world on a daily basis. We hope to remind all stakeholders, past and present, of our blessings and continue to inspire PL-Lites to shine as lights wherever they are.

### **Celebration of God's Faithfulness**

The 2016 PL100 theme is '*God's Faithfulness through All Generations*' drawn from the Theme Verse:

*"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through all generations."  
Psalm 100:5*

In praise and thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and blessings upon our school, we have planned a year-long series of PL100 celebrations comprising the following monthly thanksgiving events:

- Jan - *PL Praise-a-thon*
- Feb - *PL Cares*
- Mar - *PL Testifies*
- Apr - *PL Sports Event*
- May - *PL Makes Her Mark*
- Jun - *PL Ebenezer Fair*
- Jul - *PL Musical*
- Aug - *PL Writes*
- Sep - *PL Honours Our Teachers*
- Oct - *PL Founder's Day Service & PL Founder's Day Dinner*

In line with PL100, we will see the opening of the newly-renovated PLMGS Museum. It was set up to explore and understand the rich culture and heritage that our beloved school is built upon. The PLMGS Museum will be a place where stories of God's faithfulness and blessings, and the hard work of our Pioneers will be told and retold to all who enter.

We invite you to join us in our celebrations and we look forward to rededicating ourselves to be an outstanding school of choice producing women of fine character with a passion for life and learning.

To God Be the Glory!

*Mrs Quek Li Jek*