



**BUKIT PANJANG PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
109 Cashew Road, Singapore 679676  
Tel: 67691912 Fax: 67637462  
<http://www.bukitpanjangpri.moe.edu.sg/>

*Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens*

5 January 2018

*From the Principal's Desk...*

## **IN TOUCH 01/2018**

Dear Parents/Guardian

Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy New Year and welcome to a new school year. I hope you have had managed to spend some quality time with your family during the year-end break.

Developing our students holistically and preparing them for the future has always been our key focus. The school firmly believes that every student can learn and wants to learn. We embrace the diversity of our students by striving to create an innovative, vibrant and conducive learning environment. One example is the restructuring of the CCA. Starting from this year, CCA would be conducted on every Friday morning. Opportunities would be created for students to widen their learning experiences and be equipped with fundamental skills to meet the demands of the future. As an educator, one question that we constantly ask ourselves, "Have we instilled the sense of empathy, compassion and awareness, for our students to want to contribute to the school, community and Singapore?" We saw the need to review and revamp our student leadership programme. Currently, we are working on the refinements and more details would be shared at a later date.

In the area of staff development, we would continue to strengthen our staff's competency in unleashing the Joy of Learning in our students through strengthening our processes, enhanced partnership with CPDD, ELIS and NIE.

We look forward to another year of meaningful and fulfilling partnership with you.

### **Our Direction**

Vision:	Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens
Mission:	Developing our students holistically in a vibrant and caring environment
Motto:	Endeavour
School Values:	Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Compassion and Gratitude
Strategic Thrusts:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Achieving Academic Excellence</li><li>2. Developing staff and enhancing staff well being</li><li>3. Moulding the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of every student through a rich and varied co-curricular programme</li><li>4. Nurturing Character, Leadership and Citizenship</li></ol>



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### **School Hours**

Please be reminded that curriculum hours are as follows:

7.30am-1.30pm

All students should attend school punctually and regularly throughout the year. They are expected to be in school by **7.30 a.m.** Absence from school must be supported with a medical certificate or a letter from the child's parent.

Parents can assist your child to be punctual by:

- Helping him/her to understand the importance of punctuality
- Ensuring the necessary transport arrangements are made to ensure your child's safety and that he/she arrives in school on time
- Ensuring that your child has sufficient sleep and has time to eat breakfast before he/she comes to school.

### **Class Rules**

1. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak
2. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.
3. Do not touch anyone else with your hands, feet, or any object.
4. No cursing and teasing

### **Communication with the School**

Our school communicates with the parents/guardians through:

- Principal's monthly newsletter
- Student's Diary
- School website
- Notification letters
- Dialogue sessions
- Annual Yearbook
- Asknlearn Portal

Parents/Guardians can communicate with the school through:

- Child's Student's Diary
- Teacher's individual email
- Telephone/fax
- Email: [bps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:bps@moe.edu.sg)
- School visits (with prior appointment)
- Dialogue sessions
- Asknlearn Portal

Please note that photograph(s) or video image(s) of you and your child/ward may be captured during school activities and events such as classroom lessons, CCA, school camps, school concerts, etc. The school may use and publish such photographs and/or video recordings in our school publications, website, social media channels, and other official communication channels.



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### **School Attire**

At BPPS, we believe that proper attire and personal grooming are essential to the educational well-being of our students. Students are to wear the prescribed school uniform as stipulated in our Students' Diary 2018. They are only allowed to wear their PE attire on days when PE lessons are conducted and may wear PE attire throughout the day.

### **Security and Safety at Bukit Panjang Primary School**

In our continuous effort to ensure the safety of all students, several procedures have been put in place.

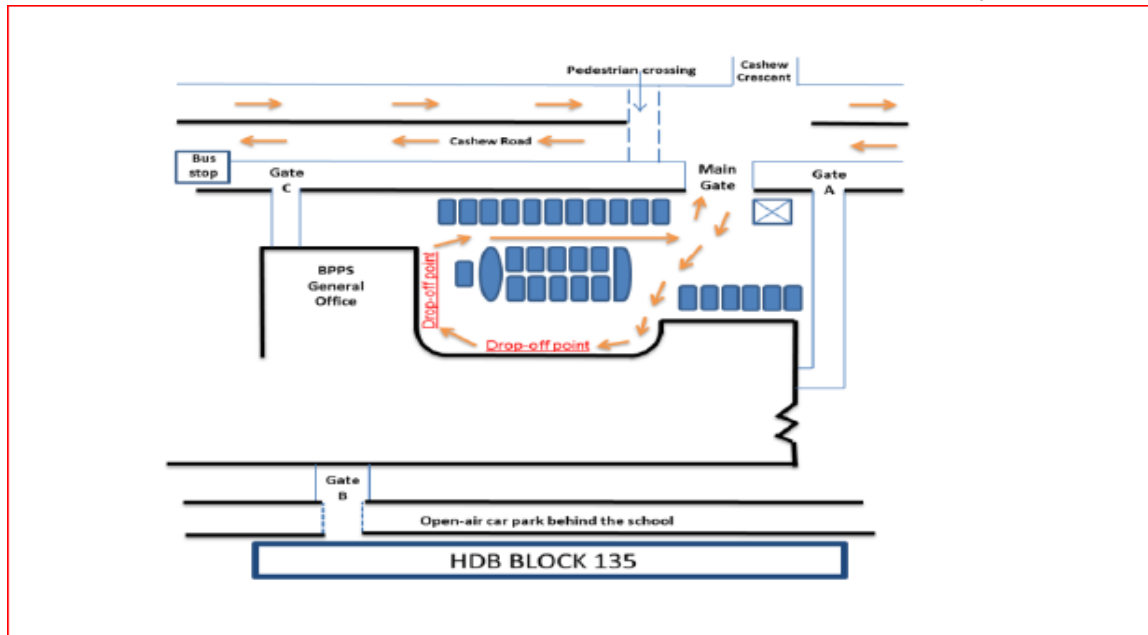
- Opening hours for the school gates are as follows:

<b>Gate</b>	<b>Opening Hours</b>
A	7.00 – 7.30 a.m.
B	6.45 – 8.30 a.m.
C	7.00 – 7.30 a.m.

All gates will be re-opened at 1:30 PM for dismissal

### **Parents who drive**

- Parents who drive into the school compound in the morning are reminded to observe the speed limit (15Km/h) and to strictly follow the directions given by our traffic wardens. Only a **single file** of cars must be formed to ensure safety. If yours is the first car, please drive all the way to the front of the general office so as to lessen the jam.
- Please get your child to alight only at the foyer. Do not allow your child to alight **before** reaching the foyer.
- Please **DO NOT** make an illegal right turn when driving out from the main gate. Do obey the stop sign at the gate before turning left into the main road.
- Please do not park your vehicles along Cashew Road/outside Gate A and wait to pick up your child at dismissal. You can only pick up your child from Gate B.



### Parents Who Walk

- Please ensure that you and your child do not jaywalk across the roads. Please use the pedestrian crossing at the traffic light junction and have your child raise his/her right hand when crossing the road.

Please be reminded that parents coming into the school during the school hours must register at the gate with our security guard to collect the visitor pass. Please display your visitor pass conspicuously at all times and proceed directly to our general office. Parents are strictly not allowed to loiter around in the school compound or proceed to the classrooms on their own at all times.

### Student Protection Plan

All students of BPPS are covered under the Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance. The summary of Policy Coverage & Benefits will be given to parents in January 2018. Should there be a need to make a claim, parents are to complete a claim form that is available in the General Office. Parents are to submit completed form directly to the insurance company.

### MOE Financial Assistance Scheme

The Ministry of Education (MOE) provides financial assistance to needy Singaporean students. The income criterion is \$2,500 or below (Gross Household Income) and \$625 or below (Per Capita Income). Application Forms are available from the school General Office.



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**Photo-Taking for Primary 1 and Primary 6 students for the School Smart Cards (SSC)**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will be conducting the yearly photo-taking exercise for all students in P1 and P6 for the issue of the School Smart Card (SSC). Please note that this photo-taking exercise is strictly for P1 and P6 students only. While P1 students will get their SSCs by end Mar 2018, the photo-images captured for P6 will be used for the printing of Secondary SSCs when they are promoted to Secondary One in 2019.

The photo-taking exercise will take place on Thursday, 22 February 2018. Please ensure that your child/ward is wearing his/her school uniform on that day.

**Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Identification Exercise 2018**

The tentative dates for the GEP Screening and Selection Exercises are as follows:

<b>Name of Exercise</b>	<b>Date</b>
Screening Exercise (English and Mathematics)	Friday, 24 August 2018 during curriculum time
Selection Exercise (English, Mathematics and General Ability) for students shortlisted from the screening exercise only.	Tuesday, 16 October 2018 Wednesday, 17 October 2018

The administrative details for the GEP Screening Exercise will be shared in July 2018.

**Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)**

**Revised CCA timing**

As mentioned in the November 2017 issue of In Touch, the school's CCA programme will be conducted on every Friday morning, from 7.30 am – 9.00 am.

For students who has already signed up for CCA, they will report to their respective CCA groups. For students without any CCA, they will be put into a CCA group based on the availability and needs of the CCA. The Primary 1 and 2 students will be participating in a Co-Curricular Modular programme where they will be exposed to a variety of sports and aesthetics activities

Students who are selected to represent the school will have additional training sessions to prepare them for the various competitions. Details for these sessions will be issued by the respective CCA teachers at a later date.

**Range of CCA offered**

The range of CCAs offered to P3-P6 students in 2018 can be found in page 21 of the student's diary. We strongly encourage BPPS students to take up a CCA as part of their holistic development. However, they are limited to a maximum of TWO CCAs only.



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Students who participate in sports and games that are recognised by SPSSC or the Primary Schools Sports Council outside school on their own may be invited to represent the school for SPSSC zonal/national competitions. Kindly refer to the SPSSC link for the list of sports and games: <http://www.spssc.sg/>. Please inform the school if your child/ward falls under this category and is keen to represent the school in SPSSC zonal/national competitions

### **Swim Safer**

The Primary 3 students will participate in the Swim Safer Programme in 2018. Details as follows:

Venue: Chua Chu Kang Swimming Complex

Number of lessons: 8 lessons per class

Period: Term 1 – Term 2 (3 classes per term)

Details of the schedule, attire and other logistical arrangements will be issued to the students before the commencement of the programme.

### **Mentoring Programme**

The mentoring programme in BPPS is a platform for students and their form teachers to have a 1 to 1 interaction. This helps to establish positive teacher-student relationship (TSR). The mentoring programme also helps to surface issues which the students may be going through. It acts as a good platform for students to confide in their teachers. The interaction between the students and teachers venture into areas like issues faced in school, interest and also the type of support the students may need. Based on the feedback from the students, they find the programme beneficial and that they look forward to the quality time with their form teachers.

### **Start It Right (SIR)**

The Start It Right (SIR) is an orientation programme which aims to engage our students and thereby allowing them to better assimilate into the school environment. Activities such as team bonding and target setting will be carried out during the programme. The students will also be able to acquire pertinent skills which they will require for the rest of the year.

The SIR programme creates an opportunity for the teachers to establish rules, expectations and routines with the class. It allows for teacher-student interaction during which standard operating procedures in the class are co-constructed.

The segments in the START-It-Right or SIR Programme are:

- S – Study Skills
- T – Target setting
- A – Administration
- R – Routines
- T – Team Bonding



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### **Being responsible for their belongings**

Being responsible for their belongings is one of the fundamental life skills that a child needs to acquire. We seek your cooperation to work with us in helping your child to learn to be responsible for their belongings. Please do not deliver items (such as books and stationeries) to your child. Students are also not allowed to contact their parents to deliver items that they have forgotten to bring.

### **Supplementary and Remedial Lessons**

Please refer to the attached calendar of events for supplementary and remedial schedule for English, Mathematics and Mother Tongue Languages. Remedial lessons for Primary 1 students will start at a later date so as to provide time for them to ease into the school environment. Separate remedial and supplementary consent forms will be issued.

### **Assessment**

The school supports holistic education and balances assessment for learning and assessment of learning. Students will be given feedback from the various assessment modes to help in their development. Assessment rubrics can be found in page 10 to 12 of the student's diary.

Please note that there will be no make-up for P2 SA2, CAs and SAs for P3-P6 levels. This is to ensure that results are valid and reliable. If your child would like to take the tests/examinations when they return, they will be allowed to do so. However the marks will not be included in the report book.

### **2017 PSLE Results**

The 2017 Primary 6 students did very well in the 2017 PSLE and made the school proud. We have 100% of students eligible for secondary school which is above National Average of 98.38%

23 students succeeded in their application for Direct School Admission (DSA) to secondary schools of their choice.

### **Welcoming New Staff Members to BPPS**

We would like to warmly welcome 7 staff members to our BPPS family. They are;

1. Mdm Zoey Lim Ching Sia – School Staff Developer
2. Mr Teo Yee Sin Mike – SH/ Outdoors & CCA
3. Mdm Ramlah Bte Rahmat - Teacher
4. Mr Muhammad Shahrilnizam Bin Mustapha - Teacher
5. Mr Melvin Chan Wei Yi – Teacher(untrained)
6. Ms Wu Zhekang – Teacher(untrained)
7. Mdm Cheah Sin Yi – Administrative Executive

### **Calendar of Events for Term 1**

The calendar of events for Term 1 is attached for your reference. We hope this will help facilitate your own scheduling.





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## Sharing

### Raising Grateful Children, Not Just Polite Ones

*"Remembering and appreciating the good things that happened to us during the day can change our perspective."*

*Taken from Schoolbag.sg, Ministry of Education*

"Say thank you!"

Growing up, many of us hear this simple instruction uttered by our parents, and now, we echo the same to our children. But is teaching our children to say thanks enough? Does it make them truly grateful people, or are they merely polite? And why is gratitude all that important anyway?

Studies have found that there are many [benefits to practising gratitude](#). They've observed an increase in levels of satisfaction and positive emotion, improved sleep quality, lowering of negative emotions and an ability to better cope with stress. People who are grateful also have deeper relationships and are helpful.

There are many [ways to practise gratitude](#). Here are two fun methods that are based on research and [curated by the Greater Good Science Centre at the University of California, Berkeley](#), which you can try with your child. Doing these on a regular basis helps to make gratitude a habit, and they come to our aid during times of stress.

### Three Good Things

Remembering and appreciating the good things that happened to us during the day can change our perspective. We may have had a bad day and feel that everything went wrong, but [this practice](#) helps us notice the good things as well.

#### How to do it

Together with your child, spend about 10 minutes at the end of each day writing down three things that went well that day and reflect on them.

The three things can be big or small and you may ask your child to think about why they think these things happened.

#### Mental Subtraction of Relationship

When we [try to imagine our lives without certain people](#), we realise how important they are and how fortunate we are. Recognising these important relationships reminds us not to take these people for granted.

#### How to do it

Trying using the following script for yourself first to experience the process. Modify it to guide your child through this gratitude practice. This practice could be repeated for different people in your child's life, ranging from the family, friends to even the people you meet in the neighbourhood.





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1. Take a moment to think about one person in your life – this could be a family member, friend or anyone you know.
2. Think back to where and how you met this person.
3. Imagine how your life would now be if things were different, and you had never met this person.
4. Think about the joy and benefits you have experienced and enjoyed as a result of the friendship or relationship – consider how you would feel if you were denied all of them.
5. Shift your focus to remind yourself that you did actually meet this person. Reflect on all the benefits that this relationship has brought you. Now that you have considered how things might have turned out differently, appreciate that the benefits from this relationship were not certain in your life.
6. Allow yourself to feel grateful for things that happened as they did, and that this person is now in your life.
7. As a follow-up, consider expressing what you are thankful for to this person through words or a written note.

Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan  
Principal

*If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got- Albert Einstein*