



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

Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens

8 Feb 2018

From the Principal's Desk...

IN TOUCH 02/2018

Punctuality

Being punctual is a mark of respect and self-discipline. It is of paramount importance that students learn the value of time and take responsibility for their time management. By attending school on time, they will be able to start the day right and set the tone for learning. All students are expected to be punctual for school and school-organised programmes/activities at all times. We hope you can work with us in instilling the importance of punctuality by ensuring that your child reports to school on time. Some of the strategies that you may find useful include:

- Setting a regular bed time routine so that your child/ward receives plenty of rest and does not struggle to get out of bed in the morning.
- Packing school bags and getting the school attire ready the night before
- Making time for breakfast before leaving for school

MTV mornings

Morning sharing to Teach Values (MTVs) is introduced this year with the aim to engage, excite and enrich pupils with knowledge beyond the classroom. The topics shared during morning assembly are broadly classified under Mindful Mondays, Timely Tuesdays, WOW Wednesdays, Thankful Thursdays and Fantastic Friday.

Classroom Leadership Roles

In line with the school's vision of Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens, the students have been given the opportunities to take up classroom leadership roles. This is to cultivate a sense of ownership of the class. Roles will be rotated during the year so as to allow everyone to have an opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Prefects' Training

The school's prefects have undergone a training on 19 January 2018 to develop listening and critical thinking skills. As student leaders of the school, it is important for the prefects to be able to listen empathetically and be critical thinkers who are able to contribute to the school and the community. as part of the school's programme to develop future leaders, concerned citizens, this training is the first of many to come.

Total Defence Day 2018

Total Defence Day is commemorated annually on 15 February to mark Singapore's fall to the Japanese in 1942. This annual event reminds us that the task of building and defending a nation is not easy, and that we must continue to work together to preserve our security, stability and prosperity.

This year, the theme for Total Defence Day is *Together We Keep Singapore Strong*. Singapore has remained safe and peaceful over the past 52 years because of the efforts of all Singaporeans. This is essentially Total Defence. Total Defence remains relevant because the threats faced today require all Singaporeans to step up and play their part. Our youth are encouraged to put Total Defence into action in their daily lives by reaching out to one another, forging new relationships and strengthening existing



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

Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens

ones to keep Singapore strong and resilient because our greatest strength lies in the unity and resilience of our people.

Partners in Education

The education of a child is the joint responsibility of both parents and teachers. To allow you to have a better understanding of the school curriculum, and to meet up with your child's form, co-form and subject teachers, we have organised the following in January;

1. P1 Curriculum Sharing for Parents (2 January 2018)
2. P6 Principal's Talk on PSLE Matters (12 January 2018)

The sessions were well-received and we would like to thank you for your attendance and feedback. We have uploaded the presentation slides on our school website under Partners' Corner, Parents as Partners.

Mini Whiteboard

The school is providing each child with a mini whiteboard, which has to be returned at the end of the year. We seek your assistance to ensure your child/ward has a whiteboard marker and a duster/rag/tissue paper in his/her bag every day. These can be packed in a ziplock bag to ensure they do not dirty the contents of the schoolbag. We also seek your understanding to replace the whiteboard if it is lost. The whiteboards can be bought from our school bookshop at \$1.40.

Co Curricular Activities (CCA) Recruitment Day

This was conducted over a span of 3 days from 3 January to 5 January 2018 for the different CCA groups to promote their CCAs to the students. The aim is to provide opportunities for the students to have a deeper understanding of the CCA and what it offers.





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

Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens

CNY@BPPS

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on 15 Feb 2018 (Thursday). This year's celebration will be in the form of a CNY Carnival. Students will learn more about CNY through fun and interactive games.

On 15 Feb, school hours will be from 7.30 am to 10.30 am.

Please be reminded that 19 Feb 2018 (Monday) is a school holiday. Students are not required to report to school.

Time	Activity
7.30 am	Flag raising
7.30 am – 7.50 am	Total Defence Day
7.50 am – 8.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P4-P6 return to class• P1-P3 proceed to Carnival
8.00 am – 9.10 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P4-P6 Spring-cleaning and classroom decoration activities• P1-P3 Carnival
9.10 am – 10.20 am	P4-P6 Carnival
9.10 am – 10.15 am	P1-P3 CNY Classroom Activity
10.15 am – 10.20 am	P1-P2 Dismissal
10.20 am – 10.30 am	P3-P6 Dismissal

Sharing

The Best Problem-solvers Are Self-taught

Taken from Schoolbag.sg, Ministry of Education.

Give youths time to solve their own problems. Intervening too often can deny them learning opportunities, explains retired principal Mr Kwek Hick Chuang.

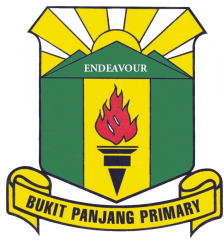
When I first started Pioneer Junior College – 15 years ago – we had a community programme for students to do volunteer work overseas. The first batch, in 2001, went to Vietnam.

A few hours after I sent them off at the airport, one parent rushed to my school office – worried about his daughter who would be in Ho Chi Minh for 10 days. The father said that she had forgotten to pack her slippers.

I told him not to worry. Students could purchase basic items like slippers over there. Besides, they saw this as an adventure trip. I was confident she could solve this simple matter on her own.

The father insisted that the school must courier the slippers to her – or he would do it himself. I offered to relay the message to the teachers accompanying the class, and ask them to look out for his daughter.

He walked out in a huff; unhappy that I didn't do as he wanted.



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

Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens

In the end, my teachers told me the girl had no issues getting her own pair of slippers. I didn't check on the student further because I felt it might embarrass her instead.

As children get older, it's important to give them space to grow up and manage tasks independently. JC students are at an age where they must learn to solve their own problems. Being overly protective, or overly supportive, can deny them learning opportunities.

I believe most parents know this, theoretically. Some are just too quick to intervene.

As JC principal, I've met fathers and mothers who would "sneak" into my office to discuss their child's studies and relationships, and then request that we keep these talks "secret". Some even got me to check if the coast was clear for them to leave the school without their children spotting them!

We all have stories of overzealous parents. Once, a student's parents went to a three-day multi-school camp in the National University of Singapore near midnight carrying a pillow and a bolster. I was chaperoning, and asked why they were there. They said their daughter had texted home saying she "wasn't used to the ones provided."

Another time, I received anonymous emails and letters citing global travel concerns, "petitioning" for my JC to stop the overseas volunteer programme. We eventually discovered the notes all came from one mother who was concerned about her son going overseas, and hoped we would cancel the trip without him knowing she intervened.

In all these cases, the parents meant well, no doubt. But we needed to help them find the courage to let their teenager socialise, be independent and discover the world on his or her own.

We'd also remind them that we prefer students to work with us directly to solve problems. And lastly, though perhaps most importantly for their children, teenagers tend to be concerned with how their peers view them – and being "mummied" didn't help their status.

Express support and offer advice, but give youths time to solve their own problems. Intervening too often doesn't do them any good.

Mr Kwek Hiok Chuang retired in 2016 after 38 years in the Education Service. He started as a Maths and Physics teacher, and rose to become principal of North View Secondary by 33. He subsequently served as principal of Anderson Secondary School and held senior positions in the Ministry of Education, before helping to start Pioneer Junior College in 2001. In 2006, he was appointed as principal of Nanyang Junior College, and spent a decade building a close-knit and caring culture in the school.

Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan
Principal

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.
~ Helen Keller