



24 May 2024

Principal's Letter to Parents

Thanksgiving for Term 2, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

We, at PL(Sec), have so much to be thankful for. "When one has a grateful heart, life is so beautiful" – Roy T. Bennett. We started the year with our largest Sec 1 cohort to date and our Start-Right Programme. This was closely followed by our Sec 1 Outdoor & Adventure Learning Camp and Sec 3 MOE-OBS Challenge. The National School Games 2024 commenced with more game opportunities as more sports take on the league-pool system, while our Musical Montage 2024 saw our largest number of students performing on our ACH-stage ever. Our Debaters and Uniformed Group CCAs also continue to excel in their respective areas. Towards the end of Semester 1, the school welcomed our PL-Lites and their families in school for our Movie-Under-The-Stars event before our inaugural Sports Day@Marina Barage took place last Friday. Highlights of our Mid-Year Pitstop Programme which ended today, include our Education & Career Guidance Conference, leadership modules, learning journeys etc.

We give thanks to our Father in Heaven for his provision and protection throughout this Semester. We thank you, parents, for your continued support and partnership.

In this letter, I will share some updates and reflections of Semester 1 as well as key information to prepare us for Semester 2.

1. 2024 Key Shifts in Learning @ PL

Student Learning in Semester 1. At our End-Term Assembly this morning, I reminded all that 'learning' is 'a process, not a product'. It is definitely not just about assessments, tests and examinations. 'Learning' requires students to be 'involved' in the learning experiences. I emphasised that our PL-Lites can do so much more to help themselves learn and learn better. 'Learning' is definitely not just about what the school or teachers can do to or for the students. For a start, I urge parents to journey with me to change our girls' mindsets about assessments which many students fear. They fear the marks and the grade; they fear failure (which often is their own expected mark or grade rather than a 'fail' grade). Help me help our girls appreciate 'assessment for their learning', and not be limited by their fear of assessment of their learning in marks and grades.

Parent Learning in Semester 1. Parents' positive mindset and learning will help our girls' learning too. I hope you are as excited as I am with the upcoming Meet-The-Parents session on Tuesday, 28 May, a day after the GCE O-Level MTL Examinations. We have asked our girls to share their learning experiences, goals and plans with their parents at this session. Let us learn and work

together - child, parent and teachers to nurture every PL-Lite into a woman of fine character with a passion for life and learning.

Mid-Year Holiday Homework and Time-Table for Semester 2. Our Sec 1-3 students were given time during the mid-year pit-stop programme to consolidate the various holiday homework and plan their holiday schedule in class with their FTs. For our Sec 4/5 graduating cohort, students would have received an email on the subject study tips to guide them through their consolidation of learning for the holidays. All students will also receive their Semester 2 Time-Table uploaded to the school website on Friday, the week before Term 3 starts. You may wish to find out a bit more from your daughters and be involved in their student life.

Late-Coming Routines from Semester 2 **(NEW!)**

To encourage punctuality and ensure a positive start to the school day, we are implementing new gate closing times. With effect from 24 June 2024 (Monday), the turnstile (Gate 2) and side gates (Gate 1A and Gate 4) will now close 5 minutes earlier: at 7.25am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and at 8.25 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to give our girls ample time to move to their assembly areas (i.e. parade square or classroom). Students arriving after these times should enter through the main gate (Gate 1). Only students who arrive after 7.30am at Gate 1 or at the reporting areas will be marked 'late'.

All students should be seated in the assembly area by 7.30am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and by 8.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Any student not in the assembly area by these times will be considered late. There will be a two-week grace period during Term 3 Weeks 1 and 2 to allow students to adjust. Starting from Term 3 Week 3, any student not at the assembly area on time will be marked late.

Your cooperation in encouraging your child's punctuality is crucial, as it helps them start the day with a sense of urgency and minimizes disruptions during our silent reading and flag-raising ceremony. Please help by dropping off your child a few minutes earlier if you intend to use the side gates.

2. Immediate Steps for our Graduating Cohort

Academic Subject Preparations

The entire PL family has been praying for our Sec 4/5 PL-Lites who will be taking their GCE O-Level MTL Examination on 27 May. This will be followed by an Intensive Academic Programme for our graduating students over 29 to 31 May and 18 to 20 June, where teachers will use this additional time to bridge learning gaps and better prepare our PL-Lites for Semester 2 and their final lap.

DSA-JC, EAE-Polytechnic, EAE-ITE

Sec 4/5 PL-Lites will have to delve deeper into post-secondary options and admissions exercises and programmes from May 2024. Direct School Admission (DSA) to Junior Colleges (JCs) for admission in 2024 have commenced in May. Applications for early admission to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and polytechnics based on course-specific aptitude and interests will start in May and June 2024 respectively.

Please refer to the following websites for more information.

DSA-JC (for 4E/5N): <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa>

Poly-EAE (for 4E/5N): <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae>

ITE-EAE (for 4N): <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae>

Night Study

To support our graduating cohort, our Night Study Programme (NSP) will commence in Term 3. Some of our graduating PL-Lites have requested for a more conducive study environment in school. NSP will start on 10 July, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., unless less than 15 girls sign up for that day. Detailed Information on NSP schedule and how to sign up will be emailed to the students during the last week of the June holidays.

3. June Holidays CCA schedule (see attached)

Attached is the CCA schedule for the June holidays. This only applies to the few CCAs who are preparing for upcoming competitions and performances.

4. Enhancements to Edusave Awards (NEW!)

As shared in my last letter to parents dated 18 March 2024 and in conjunction with the MOE Committee of Supply Announcements at that time, the MOE Edusave Awards will now reflect Enhanced EAGLES to recognise students who demonstrate 21st Century Competencies (21CC) in curricular and co-curricular activities. Enhanced 21CC will be a new domain under EAGLES, separate from the three existing domains of (i) leadership qualities, (ii) excellence in non-academic activities, and (iii) service to community and schools. Please see <https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/awards-scholarships/edusave-awards> for details.

Nomination for EAGLES-E21CC Award will start in Term 3, similar with the ECHA Award. Our girls will receive reminders when the nomination commences.

5. Student Services during June Holidays

The operating hours of the General Office during the holidays:

- Non-protected period (27 – 31 May, 18 – 21 June): 7.30am – 6.00pm (except 27 May due to GCE O-Level MTL Examinations where we will operate from 7.00am)
- Protected period (3 – 14 June): 7.30am – 5.30pm

The drinks stall in our Canteen will operate from 27 – 31 May from 8.00am to 1.00pm. Students who are returning to school for the national examinations, CCA practices and lessons may purchase drinks and fruits from the stall during their breaks. The snack-vending machine will also be re-stocked daily. Students can bring and consume their own snacks during their breaks.

The school bookshop will be closed during the June school holidays.

The library will remain open as usual to allow girls to revise and address their learning gaps. Opening hours for school library:

- Monday – Thursday: 8.00am to 5.00pm (except 10 – 13 June)
- Friday: 8.00am – 4.30pm (except 14 June)

6. Tips for Parents

There are various reports on Singapore youth's obsession with grades and fear of failure. This has impacted our young people's mental health and continues to be driving force for the changes in our education system. One such report is <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/uni->

[student-grades-exam-job-cv-experience-employer-2828756](https://www.illustratededucation.com/2023/05/28/student-grades-exam-job-cv-experience-employer-2828756), which also pointed out that since a mindset shift is crucial to moving beyond grades, parents need to be on board.

What can parents do? The website <https://positivepsychology.com> presents many resources and tools on positive psychology that can help us and our young people. A recent publication 'How to Overcome Fear of Failure: Your Ultimate Guide' by Dr Schaffner A. on 9 May 2023 (<https://positivepsychology.com/fear-of-failure/>) talks about 'trying something new' (e.g. a new hobby, a new skill like video-making etc.), which parents can do with your child/ward this June school holiday. Another rich resource site is <https://family.org.sg> by VWO Focus on the Family, Singapore and in the article 'Help your Child Overcome the Fear of Failure' (see <https://family.org.sg/articles/help-your-child-overcome-the-fear-of-failure/>), the tip to 'temper our reactions towards failures' resonates with me. I have learnt that how I respond, including the tone of my speech and my facial expression, matters. By responding with more compassion, we are teaching them to take personal responsibility towards failure. Today I am grateful that my child takes the initiative to come to me with his assessment papers for my signature, I can smile and we can have a conversation about his learning.

7. Highlights of Key School Events in Term 3

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 3, 2024.

Monthly Themes	Dates	Key Events
Be Brave to Step Out in Faith	24 Jun (Mon)	2024 Term 3 commences Principal's Welcome Assembly Vice-Principal Term 3 Safety Briefing
	24 – 26 Jun (Mon – Wed)	Applied Learning Modules for Sec 2 students on the NA and NT courses
	28 Jun (Fri)	<i>PL Heartbeat</i> – Youth Day Celebrations <i>Staggered dismissal from 1.35pm.</i> There will be no CCA.
Be an Example for All	1 Jul (Mon)	Youth Day School Holiday
	2 Jul (Tue)	Sec 2 Performing Arts Based Learning@Esplanade
	3 Jul (Wed)	O-Level MTL and BMTL Listening Comprehension <i>Early dismissal at 12.50pm.</i>
	4 – 12 Jul (Thur – Fri)	O-Level MTL Oral Examinations
	10 Jul (Thur)	Night Study for graduating cohort commences
	12 Jul (Fri)	SSO Community Outreach@Agape Concert Hall
	15 Jul (Mon)	Racial Harmony Day Sharing
	18 –19 Jul and 29 Jul - 6 Aug	N-Level Preliminary Examinations
	22 Jul (Mon)	N- and O-Level EL and HMTL Oral Examinations (PM)
	23 – 25 Jul (Tue – Thur)	N- and O-Level EL and HMTL Oral Examinations (Full Day)
	23 – 25 Jul (Tue – Thur)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 4/5)
	26 Jul (Fri)	N- and O-Level EL and HMTL Oral Examinations (PM)
13 & 27 Jul (2 Saturdays)	Triple P Seminars for parents; details will be shared later.	
Be a Light to Your World	8 Aug (Thur)	National Day Celebrations & PL Excellence Awards for CCA Prize-Giving Ceremony
	9 Aug (Fri)	National Day

	13 – 28 Aug (Tue – Wed)	O-Level Preliminary Examinations
	13 – 14 Aug (Tue – Wed)	Sec 3 MTL Oral Examinations
	15 Aug (Thur)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
	20 & 22 Aug (Tue & Thur))	Sec 2 MTL Oral Examinations
	21 Aug (Wed)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
	22 Aug (Thur)	Student Leaders-Principal Dialogue
	23 Aug (Fri)	Faithful-In-Service Roadshow (Sec 2 – 3)
	29 Aug (Thur)	Principal's Term 3 End-of-Term Assembly Teachers' Day Celebrations
	30 Aug (Fri)	Teachers' Day School Holiday
Be Focused on Our Purpose	2 – 6 Sep (Mon – Fri)	1-Week School Holiday
	2 – 3 Sep (Mon – Tue)	N-Level Intensive Revision

Every Mon morning, 7.30am at SFE Room or 8am via Zoom	<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	<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 any event. Please sign up for the sessions via PG then.

Please check the school website (<http://plmgss.moe.edu.sg>) for regular updates on school programmes and other administrative matters. You can also follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/myplstory/>) for the happenings in and around the school.

May God's protection and blessing be with you and your family this holiday. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Ms Amy Ng
Principal