



23 March 2025

Principal's Letter to Parents

Term 2, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to Term 2 2025!

This morning, we welcomed our PL-Lites back and shared our Term 2 Theme "A friend who loves all", and reminding ourselves of our Theme Verse:

A friend loves at all times.

Proverbs 17:17a

How can we be "a friend who loves all"? It is not an easy thing to do. Are we open to Love with **H.E.A.R.T.** (akin to our school's **H.E.A.R.T.** values)? To start, our girls are encouraged to **Honour** one another, and encourage one another to pursue **Excellence**.

This is most relevant in this exciting Term 2 with the on-going National School Games and culmination of the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation which offers our Performing Arts CCA Groups with opportunities for benchmarking and improvement through feedback from arts professionals. Our Sec 1 girls and teachers will also be participating in the biennial fundraising Methodist Walk 2025, together with 15 Methodist Schools at ACJC this Saturday. Through these experiences, we hope our PL-Lites will learn to honour each other above themselves, recognise each other's strengths and encourage each other to strive for their best, and not be too anxious about the outcomes. The girls will learn more about themselves and how to learn and thrive with each other during the Level Camps for Sec 1 and Sec 3 girls in Week 9 Term 2, cohort learning journeys for the Sec 2, and the last lap of MTL Intensive Programme for the Sec 4/5 PL-Lites. Please join me to help our young ladies embrace the relevance and importance of self-care and growth, in the cognitive, physical as well as social domains in their holistic education at PL.

Please see my last Letter to Parents for **Highlights of Key Events in Term 2**: https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/files/2025_Term 1 Thanksgiving Principal s Letter to Parents .pdf.

1. MOE Committee of Supply (COS) 2025

- a. Below are some key initiatives that will have more direct impact on our PL-Lites, focusing on maximising the potential of education.

1. Maximise potential of our students by strengthening holistic development

Revised Junior College (JC) admission criteria – *From 2028, the number of subjects required for JC admission will be reduced from 6 subjects (L1R5) to 5 subjects (L1R4)*

- Qualifying threshold for JC admission will shift from $L1R5 \leq 20$ to $L1R4 \leq 16$
- Subject requirements for Languages, Humanities and Mathematics/Science will remain unchanged for computation of the L1R4 aggregate score. Millennia Institute (MI)'s L1R4 subject requirements will be aligned to that of JCs
- Cap on bonus points for JC and MI admissions will be lowered from 4 to 3
- Frees up time for students to strengthen development of 21st Century Competencies and pursue other interests

Phase 2 of JC Rejuvenation Programme

- Anglo-Chinese JC, Catholic JC, National JC, Victoria JC will be rejuvenated
- From Jan 2028, Phase 1 JCs are expected to operate from their rejuvenated campuses: Anderson Serangoon JC, Jurong Pioneer JC, Temasek JC, Yishun Innova JC
- Better caters to future teaching and learning needs of students and staff

Expansion of Strategic Partnership-Co-Curricular Activity (SP-CCA)

- Canoeing and Hockey to be included in 2025 and 2026 respectively
- Athletics and Water Polo are already offered
- Provides more CCA opportunities and student interaction across secondary schools

2. Maximise potential of our ecosystem by supporting students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

MOE, Social Services Agencies (SSAs) and Special Education (SPED) schools to further leverage technology to enhance school processes

- Digital solutions will be explored
- Reduce SPED educators' administrative workload to give them more time for teaching and learning

Expansion of support for more ITE students with SEN

- ITE-SG Enable Internship and Employment Support Programme for students with SEN will be scaled up
- Support more students with SEN transition from ITE to workplace

3. Maximise potential of our workforce by enhancing lifelong learning

Updates to SkillsFuture Level-Up Programme (SFLP)

- From early 2026, SkillsFuture Mid-Career Training Allowance will be extended to selected part-time training programmes (from current full-time programmes)
- Supports workers to pursue lifelong learning

Extension of ITE Progression Award (IPA)

- From 1 June 2025, IPA will include diplomas issued under Singapore Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ)
- Equips ITE graduates with skills and credentials to access quality jobs

New Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) Campus

- New campus at the site and vicinity of the former Rocher Centre will be ready by mid-2030s
- Enhances educational experiences and accessibility to benefit diverse student body

- b. For “MOE Committee of Supply Debate 2025 Highlights”, see <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/cos2025/>.

2. Overview of Post- Secondary Education Institutes (PSEIs) and Aptitude-Based Admissions into PSEIs

- a. The post-secondary educational landscape has progressed significantly over the last few years to support the learn for life movement. There are a variety of PSEIs available for secondary school graduates. Parents, especially those with Sec 4/5 girls, are strongly encouraged to learn about the different types of PSEIs the girls can choose from, and how they can apply for them here: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview>
- b. The following are upcoming aptitude-based admissions exercises that allow students to apply for and receive conditional offers for admissions to JC/polytechnics/ITE prior to receiving their final national examination grades. The PSEIs will have flexibility to select and admit students based on their aptitudes and interests, apart from academic grades.
- Direct School Admission (DSA)-JC
Please check the individual school websites for the application period and procedures as they can vary from school to school
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa>)
 - Early Admissions Exercise (EAE)-Polytechnics
Application starts end-Jun 2025
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae>)
 - EAE-ITE
Application starts end-May 2025
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae>)

3. Learn for Life from SG50 to SG60 and beyond

I researched and came across this ST article “Learning for life? Policies, parents need to change too” (<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/learning-for-life-policies-parents-need-to-change-too>, March 2015). Concerns over GEP and PSLE highlighted in the article have been tackled. Our Learn for Life movement is 10 years old this year, and many systemic changes have taken place to nurture students to be more confident and self-directed learners since 2015, our SG50 golden jubilee year.

- Reduced assessment load (e.g. removal of mid-year examinations) to free up time for students to explore interests and learning beyond classroom
- Full Subject-Based Banding so that students will have more flexibility to study subjects at the level suited to their strengths and interests
- Focus on 21st Century Competencies and enhanced curriculum (e.g. digital literacy) to prepare students for challenges and opportunities of the future

As we celebrate SG60 this year and urge all to build Singapore together, how far have we come to mould the future of our nation to learn for life? Are schools and teachers striving for all-round development of our students? Are employers hiring based on skills, not degrees? Are parents recognising their children’s strengths and building their character rather than being preoccupied with grades? The transformation of our education system “will need the collective will and action of employers, teachers, parents and students.” – then-Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat (ibid).

I thank parents for patiently journeying with the school as we navigate the various systemic changes together, and try to find the best balance and approach. I hope our shared goal remains constant – to nurture more Confident PL-Lites, Passionate Learners, Active Citizens and Inspiring Leaders. For instance, at our upcoming Sec 2 Meet-The-Parents Session on Education & Career Guidance & 2026 Sec 3 Subject Combination Matters in May 2025, we will do our best to address the needs and interests of our girls who will be preparing for the inaugural Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate examinations in 2027. The changes and evolving expectations of students, parents, teachers etc. are daunting. It is thus important for all stakeholders to always remind ourselves of our shared goal for our PL-Lites, appreciate each other's concerns and perspectives, and work together for our girls and future.

It takes a village to raise a child. I thank our Parents-School Support Group (PSSG) for working closely with the school all these years. As in previous years, our dedicated PSSG will be organising a family event on 31 May, Saturday. Do look forward to the exciting details, support and encourage these awesome PL parents! I would also like to invite you to join this awesome group of parent-volunteers and other parents to the following, where you can share parenting tips, support each other and even bond with your daughters when the opportunity arises.

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, please email Mrs Yolanda Gooi at yolagooi@gmail.com .
Once a term	<i>Fathers@School</i> is a father-centric group set up to encourage active and involved fathering in PL through purposeful activities and workshops designed to strengthen father-daughter relationships. If you are interested to join, please email Mr Sebastian Teo at sebastian.teoch@gmail.com .

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>).

Thank you for your continuous support and for partnering us to help our girls learn and grow as Confident PL-Lites, Passionate Learners, Active Citizens and Inspiring Leaders.

Yours faithfully,
Ms Amy Ng
Principal