Dear Parents / Guardians,

**A Happy & Blessed 2015!**

On behalf of staff at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) I would like to wish you and your families a blessed and joyous year ahead. We hope that each child will have a fruitful year of rich learning and will build strong and lasting friendships. NewsLink, our termly newsletter to parents, provides our school's direction for the term and year and we hope you will find this a useful connection to what goes on in school. This newsletter is distributed online and can be downloaded on the first week of each term. For parents of Primary One students, you will obtain the hardcopy of the first issue. Subsequent termly NewsLinks for parents of Primary One students will also be distributed online.

**A Methodist Education & Refreshed Fairsian Outcomes**

Our students are not in Fairfield by chance. They have the privilege of benefitting from a 6-year Methodist education in this Methodist Institution. Through the academic and co-curricular programmes, students will not only build up the skills necessary to thrive in a changing environment, they will be equipped to make the right decisions based on Christian values. From little acts such as keeping the school environment clean, to more significant acts of contributing to the community, our students will understand that each of them can make a difference through their deeds of love.

It is also a privilege for our staff to be part of this Methodist Institution. We are united for a common purpose, which is to nurture a generation of Fairsians who **lead with character and serve with a heart**. Providing adequate opportunities to develop each child holistically and prepare for life’s challenges, our staff continues to uphold lessons of faith, resilience and service on a daily basis. As staff of Fairfield, we believe that the best way to educate our students is for us to set good examples for them to follow.

While we keep our focus on the school vision and mission, our staff has also redefined the Refreshed Fairfield Outcomes for 2015 and beyond, emphasising the development of school values and 21st century competencies.

**School Mission**

To provide a holistic education in a Christian environment so as to nurture leaders of good character, equipped to serve God, nation, community and school

**School Vision**

Leaders of the future pursuing excellence, Upholding strong Christian moral values and having a heart to serve

**Refreshed Fairsian Outcomes**

School Values: Love and reverence for God, Integrity, Resilience, Respect, Serving and Giving


Together in partnership with you, we hope to build the character of each child for service to God, nation, community and school. I invite you, parents, to join us on this mission to teach these lessons through word and deed.
**PSLE Performance**

We are thankful to God for His guiding hand upon our students during the PSLE and we are grateful for the good results that our students have obtained. As in previous years, we have performed significantly better than the national average for most subjects and are especially pleased that we have made improvements in the Chinese language.

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**Meet-the-Parents Sessions**

These sessions will take place on Saturday, 17 Jan 2015. They are held at the start of the year in order to give you more details of our school’s directions and programmes in 2015. During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child/ward’s form teacher. The schedule is as follows for each session:

- Hall session with P/VP- 30 mins / Classroom session – 45 mins
  - 0800 - 0920 h: Parents/Guardians of Primary 5 & 6 Pupils
  - 0930 - 1050 h: Parents/Guardians of Primary 3 & 4 Pupils
  - 1100 - 1220 h: Parents/Guardians of Primary 1 & 2 Pupils

We seek your understanding to park at the public carpark if you are driving to these sessions.

**Kindly indicate in the Acknowledgement cum Feedback slip attached (for Parents of P1 students) and the Acknowledgement slip given separately (for Parents P2 to P6 students) if you will be attending the sessions. Please return forms to Form Teacher by 9 January 2015.**

**New Staff**

A very warm welcome to the following who joined our staff in Fairfield: Mrs Lim Joo Hwang (Head of Department/Science), Ms Che Chang (Level Head/Chinese Language), Ms Sun Xue, Mr Liu Lijia and Ms Jasmine Nathan.
In Partnership with you
For a smooth transition into the new school year, I seek your cooperation to take note of the following matters:

- **PERI Upgrading (Estimated time of completion - 1st quarter 2016)**
  The upgrading works for the School continue and to date, key works which have been completed include renovations and reconfiguration of classrooms in the existing classroom blocks as well as our Outdoor Experiential Learning Gardens.

The measures below have been implemented since Oct 2013 and will be in action till end 2015.
For the safety of our children, all pedestrians and motorists, we seek your co-operation to adhere to the measures.

  a) Parents are not allowed to drive into the school compound from 7:00am to 4:30pm. At reporting time, please park your car at the HDB carpark across the school and walk your child over. At dismissal time, please park your car at the HDB carpark and walk across to pick up your child. There are ample carpark lots at the HDB carpark opposite the school.

  b) At dismissal time, the waiting area is along the sheltered pathway outside the church building and in front of the church carpark. There will be designated areas for parents/guardians to wait for your child BY LEVEL. Please look out for these signs stating the level eg. Primary One etc and wait at the designated area. If you have more than one child, please wait for your children at the area designated for the lower level.

Should you need to walk your child/ward into the school, please park your vehicle at the HDB carpark opposite the school.

- **Students’ Handbook 2015**
  Your child/ward would have received a copy of the Students’ Handbook 2015. Please go through the handbook with your child/ward so that you are familiar with its contents. The handbook also serves as the primary communication channel between you and the teachers. This helps establish a mutual understanding on your child’s/ward’s learning and progress in school.

- **Smart Notification Acknowledgement Console (SNAC) v3 Update**
  We are pleased to inform you that the SNAC system update has been completed. Kindly update it on your smartphones or download the latest version from [http://tiny.cc/fmspsnac](http://tiny.cc/fmspsnac).
  For new users, kindly refer to the above website for an overview of the use of the SNAC system and installation instructions. The technical support contact details are also put up there. Messages will be sent out soon through SNAC.

- **Timetable and the Use of Lockers**
  The timetable of your child/ward has been made known since the first day of school. Please ensure that your child/ward prepares the necessary books and materials for his/her daily lessons. In addition, each student is allocated a locker so that his/her school bag can be kept at a manageable weight.

- **School Calendar for 2015 Term 1**
  A copy of the Term 1 School Calendar is attached for your reference.

- **Pupils who are unwell**
  We would like to advise all parents/guardians that students who are unwell should see a doctor and not come to school until certified fit by doctors. In addition, the medical certificate should be handed in to your child’s/ward’s form teacher when he/she returns to school.
• **Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs)**
As a preparatory measure, please note that all students are required to have a personal ODT **at all times**. There will be a temperature-taking exercise on **Wednesday, 7 Jan 2015**. Please ensure that your child/ward has an ODT in working condition and brings it to school every day. ODTs will be issued free of charge to Primary 1 students as they have not been given one before. Students in other levels who have lost their ODTs are required to replace it. ODTs are available at the school bookshop at $5.00 each.

• **Remedial and Supplementary Lessons**
Please note that remedial and supplementary lessons are scheduled on Tuesdays (Mother Tongue) and Fridays (English, Mathematics and Science). P5 and P6 Supplementary lessons will begin in Week 3 (20 and 23 Jan). For the other levels, you will be informed through the form teachers if your child is required to attend supplementary/remedial lessons.

• **Update of profile and email in CCA portal**
Please log on to [http://www.fmsp.sg](http://www.fmsp.sg) and update any change to your contact numbers and email address in “My Profile” by **Friday, 9 January 2015**. This is to ensure that you get the latest information regularly and quickly with regard to school / CCA matters. The form and subject teachers will also use the portal to retrieve your contact details.

• **Sale of School Uniform and T-shirts**
To facilitate the purchase of the school uniform and T-shirts, Yangtze Kiang Tailor will be selling the items at the school’s canteen from 9am to 12pm on the following Saturdays from Jan to Mar 2015: 10 Jan 2015, 31 Jan 2015, 28 Feb 2015 and 28 Mar 2015.

• **Photo taking for Primary One and Primary Six pupils for School Smart Cards (SSC)**
The photo-taking exercise for all P1 and P6 pupils will be conducted on **Thursday, 29 Jan 2015**. All P1 and P6 pupils are required to be in their school uniform. P1 pupils will receive their SSCs by end Mar 2015 while the P6 pupils will receive their SSCs in their new secondary schools in 2016.

• **School Health Visit (8 Apr 2015 to 21 Apr 2015)**
Health booklets and other health documents for all pupils from P1 to P6 are to be submitted to form teachers before the health visit. Parents of Primary 1 pupils are to complete the Medical information Form & Consent Form for Immunisation and submit the completed forms to the form teacher prior to the health visit. Parents of Primary 5 pupils are to complete the Consent Form for Immunisation and submit the completed form to the form teacher prior to the health visit. Parents are to submit the health booklets and completed forms to form teachers from 27 Mar 2015.

• **Security Matters**
The safety and security of our children are always a priority. As such, should you need to come in to the school to see your child’s/ward’s teachers, please continue to observe our security procedures and to sign in at the Security Post. Kindly park your car at the public carpark and take note of the timing found in our Students’ Handbook regarding vehicles’ access into the school to drop off or pick up your child/ward. Parents should not be on the school grounds (including recess) unless you have an appointment with a member of staff.

• **Appointment with teachers/staff**
If you need to see a teacher or staff member, please make an appointment with the person concerned before you come in. Our teachers will not be able to see you if they are in class or engaged in CCA activities with the students.
• **Methodist Walk (28 March 2015)**
On 28th March 2015, the Methodist Schools’ Foundation will be holding its bi-annual walkathon. The event will take place at Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and promises to be fun-filled, drawing support from all the Methodist Schools and Churches in Singapore. All funds raised will be given back to the school for our PERI upgrading project which is underway. Our Primary 4 pupils will be participating in this event and we would like to encourage all students and parents to give your full support for this fund-raising event.

• **A Blessing To Share – Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) Hong Bao Donation Drive 2015**
During this Chinese New Year, we will be inviting our students to share some of the hong bao money they will receive with the less fortunate. In doing so, we hope that our children will imbibe the invaluable qualities of compassion and empathy that will serve them well for life. From 23 -25 Feb 2015, students may bring a hong bao they have received and drop them into boxes provided at the canteen during their respective recesses.

• **Charity Sale 2014**
We have raised a total of $14,208.65 at the last Charity Sale in 2014. Proceeds will go to the local charities which our P6 students will visit and serve in 2015. These local charities include SPCA, Children’s Cancer Foundation and Orange Valley Nursing Home. Thank you for your kind support.

Throughout the year, if you have any pressing concerns, suggestions or constructive feedback, kindly email me (Chaillan_Mui_Tuan@moe.gov.sg), or my Vice-Principals; (Sharon_Geraldine_Liat@moe.gov.sg) or (Andrew_Ng@moe.gov.sg). We look forward to an enriching year for all of us at FMS(P) and we thank you for your continued support and prayers of encouragement.

Yours sincerely,

Chaillan Mui Tuan
Principal
Term 1 Programme Highlights!
For Term 1 in 2015, we have lined up the following programmes:

PE Programme Highlights
- **House Practices and Sports Carnival for P4 – P6**
  Our annual Sports Carnival will take place on Friday, 13 March 2015, at the Academy of Singapore Teachers (Malan Road). In preparation for the event, House Practices will be conducted to equip our students for this day. House Practices will be conducted in Week 1 / 2 and Week 9 / 10. Please refer to the school calendar for the individual House Practice days. More details regarding Sports Carnival will be furnished nearer the event.

- **P1 Games Day**
  Primary 1 students will be having their Games Day on Friday, 6 March 2015 during curriculum time. Their Physical Education (PE) teachers will train them in preparation for the event. The Games Day aims to provide a learning platform for these children to display the skills learnt during PE lessons.

CCA Updates
- **School Teams (Sports)**
  The school teams will be gearing up for their upcoming South Zone and National competitions in Terms 1 and 2. The training sessions will intensify and the respective teachers-in-charge will continue to keep you informed of the training and competition dates. Do continue to support your child/ward as he/she prepares for these competitions. The school will also help them pace their schoolwork accordingly when the competitions are approaching. The school would also like to thank you for your continuous support to these teams.

- **CCA Modules**
  The modules for Term 1 will begin on Wednesday, 14 January and Thursday, 15 January. The respective teachers-in-charge will send you information pertaining to the module via email prior to the commencement of the modules. Please ensure all payment is given to your child/ward’s Form Teacher by 6 February 2015. Do remember to print out the Payment and Edusave Withdrawal forms from the CCA Portal ([http://www.fmsp.sg](http://www.fmsp.sg)) from 12 January 2015 onwards before submitting to the Form Teachers.

- **Uniformed Groups**
  The Uniformed Group meetings will commence on Wednesday, 14 January 2015. Updates on future meetings and activities will be communicated to all members via the UG noticeboards. The various teachers-in-charge will inform your child respectively. Kindly remind your child to read the notices regularly.

MySG Trails in celebration of SG50
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Singapore's independence, our students and teachers have developed an interactive trail entitled, "Celebrating Education in Singapore". This trail allows participants to appreciate the development of education in Singapore over the past 50 years by visiting the various educational institutions along Dover Road and learning about their history.

There are plans for our Primary 5 and 6 students to go through the trail in Term 1. On top of that, the school has set aside 2 dates in Term 2 for you and your family to participate in this trail. Guided by our very own Fairsians, you will be in for an exciting journey through the past and learn how our schools have evolved over time. Please look out for more details on how to sign up for the trail! It will be on a first come first served basis.
Just a Minute - Term 1

(The school believes in working alongside with parents of our students with the hope of achieving the best outcomes for our children. We will feature an article each term with some parenting tips and we hope some of these ideas will help you enjoy your parenting journey even more. This term’s article is brought to you by the CCE Department.)

Starting the year on the right foot

1st - Help your child know where he is and where he wants to go.

Children progress at different paces. Believe that your child can progress and sow that belief in your child. Help him to appreciate his strengths and identify small achievable targets he can work towards.

Celebrate little successes. Affirm him when he makes an effort. Help him to appreciate himself for who he is. That’s self-respect! Self-respect is not dependent on success and it is also not the result of comparison with others.

2nd - Remind him to pack his schoolbag, make his own bed and pack his own room.

Develop a sense of responsibility in your child by having him take ownership in the jobs assigned to him. You can start by teaching him how to take care of himself and help him be proud of what he does. This also means that your child should be expected to note his homework and complete them on time and with pride. As your child grows older, he can be tasked with larger tasks like preparing the family’s breakfast, bathing the dog or buying the weekly grocery. It is important that your child tastes success in whatever he does. In this process, he will grow to be more independent and more confident.

3rd - Advise him to listen when someone is talking to him.

This certainly takes a lot of gentle reminders but listening is the first step to respect. Once a child shows respect to others, listens to what others have to share with him, he will not only gain knowledge, but also empathy and understanding of the people around him.

You can start by having a weekly family time where family members take turns to talk about their day. Share your day with your child and also show him you are listening and that you care when he shares his.

4th - Ensure that he sleeps early.

A growing child needs about 9-11 hours of sleep. A fresh mind is essential for your child to absorb what is being taught in school and for him to enjoy his day learning and interacting with others.

Some children share their anxiety of not having enough time to complete their assignments and their frustration of having no time to do what they like.

Take a look at your child’s daily schedule. It is important to set aside quiet time for him to reflect and to revise what he has learnt in school and free time to do something of his choice.
5th – Encourage him to read regularly

Reading opens a child’s mind to wider perspectives and to the world around him. It helps the child form ideas and analyses cause and effect.
Seize opportunities to discuss the things you read about with your child. Use these moments to teach important values your child could not have gained from text books.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

Starting the year right by instilling the right values and developing self-respect and a positive outlook are keys to enabling your child to face the challenges in the year ahead. Here’s wishing you a blessed new year and a joyful and successful parenting journey ahead!
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