



FMS(P) NewsLink

Term 4 / September 2015

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to a new term at FMS (P)!

I hope you had a refreshing break with your child/ward during the holidays. All too quickly, we have reached the last term of 2015. This term, I would like to warmly welcome to the Fairfield family, Mr James Chong, our Vice-Principal (Administration) who joined us on 7 Sep 2015.

Before we embark on this new term, allow me to share with you some of the highlights of Term 3:

National Day 2015

Our students had a memorable National Day this year as we came together and celebrated our nation's Golden Jubilee. In line with this year's National Day's theme, *Majulah Singapura*, we started our celebrations with a 50-day countdown from 11 July. Each week had a theme aligned with the school activities found on the calendar. On 6 August, the students witnessed a solemn Observance Ceremony. This was followed by a Community Singing session that ended off on a high note as students sang the various signature National Day songs from past years and participated in our very own Fairfield Kallang wave. Everyone then went back excitedly to their classrooms for their classroom activities. Our students got their hands busy with the building sets given to each of them and appreciated Singapore's heritage landmarks. The SG50 celebrations culminated with the Night of STARS concert on 29 August.

Mother Tongue Language Fortnight 2015

The Mother Tongue Language (MTL) Fortnight 2015 was successfully carried out in Term 3 from 21 to 31 July. Throughout the two weeks, many activities were organised for students, with the objective of injecting joy into the learning of MTL. The Chinese department organized the P1 and P2 Speech and Drama Presentation where every P1 & P2 class put up their own skit. The P3 and P5 students had opportunities to watch drama productions performed by local artists whilst P4 students participated in a cultural camp in collaboration with Dongzhou Primary School. The Malay and Tamil departments also organised a variety of activities for the students, such as singing and a poetry recitation competition, food-tasting and the playing of traditional games.

Cultural Immersion Programme 2015

The Mother Tongue department organised a cultural immersion trip in June for 38 P5 students. The objectives of the trip were to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Chinese culture, her values and history and to provide an authentic Chinese language learning environment for our students through attendance of lessons in a local primary school.

In return, a group of 37 students and staff from Dongzhou Primary School visited us from 20 to 24 July. Besides being attached to some Primary 5 classes for lessons, the students from Dongzhou Primary School also took in the sights of various places of interest in Singapore and got the opportunity to visit their buddies' homes and spent time with a typical Singaporean family for an authentic immersion experience.

Family@Fairfield

In July 2013, we launched Family@Fairfield, an initiative under MSF's FamilyMatters@Schools. It is an intentional partnership between School, PiE and Dads@Fairfield to provide support for parents and families within the FMSP community.

Now into its 3rd year, Family@Fairfield has reached out to hundreds of parents through regular Mom's Networking Tea Sessions and Dads and Mums talks. There will be more Family@Fairfield activities and talks lined up from September to November. Do look out for the email notifications and join other parents in a journey of learning how to be better parents!

Teachers' Day 2015

A **BIG** Thank You to all who contributed to making our Teachers' Day celebration a really wonderful and enjoyable one for all staff members at Fairfield. Your lovely gestures have been much appreciated by us. Special thanks also go to the group of parents from our PiE (Partners-in-Education) who organised entertaining activities for the whole staff and made us feel like Super Heroes!

School Holidays in Term 4

Please take note of the following school holidays in Term 4:

18 September (Friday)	PSLE Listening Comprehension <i>- Only P6 students have to report to school</i>
9 October (Friday)	Children's Day Holiday
19 to 22 October (Mon to Thurs)	PSLE Marking Exercise <i>- ALL students will not report to school on these days</i>
11 November (Wednesday)	Administration Day <i>- ALL students will not report to school on this day</i>

Temperature-taking exercise

Please ensure that your child brings his/her thermometer in working condition to school on **Thurs 17 Sep** as there will be a **Temperature-taking exercise**. These are measures put in place to eliminate the risk of any viral infection such as HFMD spreading within the school community. Do continue to encourage your child/ward to practise good personal hygiene and keep him/her away from school if he/she registers a fever or is unwell. It is also a good opportunity for the value of personal and social responsibility to be reinforced in our children.

Haze situation in Singapore

Singapore has been experiencing hazy conditions lately due to smoke haze from Sumatra being blown in by the prevailing south-southwesterly winds. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and take appropriate measures to manage the situation in school. We ask that you continue to monitor your child's health and if he/she has a pre-existing condition, please ensure that he/she have his/her medication with him/her daily.

End-of-Year Examinations

With the coming of the PSLE and Primary 2 to 5 Semestral Examination 2 (SA2) in Term 4, we seek your support in working closely with the school to consolidate your child's learning for the year. While it is important that they put in the extra effort to prepare for the examinations in the weeks before the examination, it is also essential to be mindful of their well-being and ensure that they get sufficient rest, exercise and leisure activities. Please take note of the schedule of the end-of-year examination in the attached calendar.

Subject Percentile Tables

In line with holistic assessment, we have taken steps to ensure that our students' confidence is influenced positively when they receive information on their marks and grades. Since 2013

when this was first communicated, we have not been providing information on the child's class and level ranking as we would like to reduce the unnecessary stress and anxiety among students and parents, and instead focus on the child's personal growth and development.

The details available on the result slip (for report book) are as follows:

1. Mark for term (CA/SA) out of 100%
2. Corresponding Grade or Band
3. Total % for all subjects
4. Teacher's remarks

However, to provide a more in-depth analysis of your child's performance in each subject, we have also included the Subject Percentile Table from Primary 3 to Primary 6 since 2013. At mid-year and final year, accompanying the result slips for Semestral Examinations, the Subject Percentile Tables are **uploaded on to the school's website** after your child receives his/her report book. We hope that this information, which is specific to the subject, has been useful for you to know how your child is doing for that subject at mid year and final year.

Children's Day Celebrations 2015

Children's day is celebrated each year to recognise the uniqueness of each child and the potential he/she possesses. This year, our celebrations will be held on Thurs, 8 Oct. It will be a normal school day and dismissal will be as usual. Fri, 9 Oct will be a school holiday.

PERI Upgrading programme

The PERI Upgrading Project is now in its last stages of completion. The project is targeted to be ready in mid-November 2015. We thank you for your patience and continue to seek your cooperation and understanding with regards to not driving into the school during school operation hours until further notice.

Parents' Survey

We seek your help and about 10 minutes of your time to complete a school survey. You will be receiving the link to this survey by the end of the 1st week of Term 4 through SNAC and email. A deadline will be mentioned and we would be grateful if you could complete the survey by then.

My staff and I look forward to yet another fulfilling term with our students. Let us continue to partner each other to support our children in their learning.

Yours sincerely,



Chaillan Mui Tuan
Principal

Annex A - Term 4 Programme Highlights!**CCA 2016 (P2 to P5 students)**

Our CCA structure will be revised from 2016 onwards and all parents of P2 – P5 students will receive a letter to explain the revised CCA structure in Term 4. There is still a selection period for all students to check their CCA status as well as registering for Uniformed Groups or CCA modules. The details and instructions of selection will also be included in the letter. Do note that all P4 to P6 students are to have at least one CCA and that the selection for CCA Modules 2016 will be opened to P2 - P5 students who are solely doing CCA modules.

P3 - P6 Science Textbooks, Lab Activities, Files & Learning Logs

Please ensure that all Science learning materials bought and gathered over the 4 years from Primary 3 should be kept well and used for revision to prepare your child / ward for PSLE Science.

Sale of School Uniform and T-shirts and Popular@FMSP

To facilitate the purchase of the school uniform and T-shirts, books and stationery items, Yangtze Kiang Tailor and Popular@FMSP will be opened from 9am to 12pm on the following Saturdays from September to December 2015:

- 26 September
- 31 October
- 28 November
- 26 December



Just A Minute - Fairfield believes in working alongside with the parents of our pupils with the hope of achieving the best outcome for our children. We will feature an article each term containing some parenting tips. Our main aim is to equip and empower our parents so that the parenting journey can be a joyous and successful one.

Bonding with your Child

Children turn to their parents for guidance only if they have their parents' unconditional love. To build this environment of security and trust, parents need to build strong bonds with their children. Only then will the children have confidence to turn to their parents when they encounter adversity in life. To quote Brenda Nixon: "To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today."

One parent, Mr. Rich Ho, believes in being involved in his child's life and involving the child in his life. For example, he takes time to write letters to his child using creative means, such as through cartoons! Incidentally, apart from developing their creativity, cartoons can also encourage children to think, retain information and express themselves. Rich also shows his love by speaking the love language of his child. According to Dr Gary Chapman, the five love languages are Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts and Physical Touch. Using a child's dominant love language is the most effective way for the child to feel loved.

Another parent, Carol sees her bond with her children as a long term, consistent and conscious effort that involves understanding them and responding to their needs. For example, she would participate in activities they enjoy, such as cycling and playing board games like Scrabble, which often, her nine year old would win! As she spends time with them, Carol connects with her children. Even a seemingly common outing like shopping for clothes could be an opportunity to discuss family values, such as suitable clothing styles for a teenager.

If you have more than one child, make it a point to spend time with them individually. Every child is different and they want to be recognised as individuals. Making sure each child gets your undivided attention from time to time will strengthen the bonds. Even a short trip to the grocery store can be special for the child if he gets you all to himself.

Children naturally crave attention from their parents and sometimes, they will do anything to get it. Some misbehave just to get their parents to look at them. If parents fail to notice and address this cry for attention, their child may grow up looking for attention in the wrong places.

So if you want to be the influencer and 'the significant other' in your children's lives as they grow up, it is essential to work on that bond and keep the communication lines open!

The school holidays present opportunities to spend some quality time with your children. For a change, how about letting them choose what they want to do? A mother who did this was initially uncomfortable when her child chose to go to a trampoline park. But she followed through, even joining her child on the trampoline! She had so much fun with her child that they both wanted to do it again.

Alternatively, choose a theme that your child is interested in and organise a series of activities linked to it. For example, if a child loves sea creatures, spend a weekend visiting the aquarium and learn about sea creatures together. After the outing, work together to record your fond memories in a scrapbook or create a story out of it.

No matter how busy we are, it is important that we prioritise and make special efforts to spend quality time with our children. Whatever the activity, it is about building beautiful memories and strengthening the bond with your child!

This article by Mrs Jenny Yeo was first published on Schoolbag.sg (<https://schoolbag.sg/>), an education news site, on 5th Dec 2014. You can access the article at (<https://schoolbag.sg/story/bonding-with-your-child#.VfBmv7KqoSU>). Mrs Jenny Yeo is a retired principal and is now a consultant associate in Ministry of Education for Parent Engagement. Mrs Yeo is also an alumnus of Fairfield. We thank her for allowing us to reproduce her article in this edition of NewsLink.

Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) Calendar Term 4 (14 Sep to 20 Nov)

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	14-Sep-15	15-Sep-15	16-Sep-15	17-Sep-15	18-Sep-15	19-Sep-15
	Sch Team Trg		CCAM(Wed5) PSLE Oral (Make-up, Tentative)	Release of P6 Report Books CCAM(Thu4) Sch Team Trg Mom's Tea #7	PSLE Listening Comprehension	Family @Fairfield #6
2	21-Sep-15	22-Sep-15	23-Sep-15	24-Sep-15	25-Sep-15	26-Sep-15
	Sch Team Trg	MT Remedial	CCAM(Wed6)	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday	Remedial/Supp	
3	28-Sep-15	29-Sep-15	30-Sep-15	01-Oct-15	02-Oct-15	03-Oct-15
	Sch Team Trg			PSLE (EL) CCAM(Thu5) Sch Team Trg P3 NESS LJ	PSLE (Maths) Remedial/Supp (P1-5)	
4	05-Oct-15	06-Oct-15	07-Oct-15	08-Oct-15	09-Oct-15	10-Oct-15
	PSLE (MT) P3&4 SA2 Oral Day 1 (pm)	PSLE (Science) P3&4 SA2 Oral Day 2 (pm)	PSLE (HMT)	Children's Day Celebrations CCA(Thu6) Sch Team Trg	Children's Day School Holiday	
5	12-Oct-15	13-Oct-15	14-Oct-15	15-Oct-15	16-Oct-15	17-Oct-15
	P2 SA2 EL Writing	P2&5SA2 Oral Day 1 [P2 (am) & P5 (pm)]	P2&5 SA2 Oral Day 2 [P2 (am) & P5 (pm)] Mom's Tea #8 Primary 6 GYS	Primary 6 GYS	SA2 EL & MT LC Remedial/Supp	Family @Fairfield #7 UG P6 Camp
6	19-Oct-15	20-Oct-15	21-Oct-15	22-Oct-15	23-Oct-15	24-Oct-15
	PSLE Marking Exercise	PSLE Marking Exercise	PSLE Marking Exercise	PSLE Marking Exercise	Remedial/Supp	
7	26-Oct-15	27-Oct-15	28-Oct-15	29-Oct-15	30-Oct-15	31-Oct-15
		SA2 EL Paper 1 & Paper 2	SA2 Math	SA2 MT Paper 1 & Paper 2	SA2 Science	
8	02-Nov-15	03-Nov-15	04-Nov-15	05-Nov-15	06-Nov-15	07-Nov-15
	SA2 HMT Paper 1 & Paper 2 Sch Team Trg	PIRLS P4	Mom's Tea #9 ePIRLS P4	Sch Team Trg	SG50 Trails Internal #9 (5G)	
9	09-Nov-15	10-Nov-15	11-Nov-15	12-Nov-15	13-Nov-15	14-Nov-15
	SG50 Trails Internal #10 (5F) Sch Team Trg	Deepavali Public Holiday	Admin Day	SG50 Trails Internal #12 (5D/5E) Sch Team Trg	SG50 Trails Internal #13 (5C) P1 Orientation	Family@Fairfield #8
10	16-Nov-15	17-Nov-15	18-Nov-15	19-Nov-15	20-Nov-15	21-Nov-15
	SG50 Trails Internal #14 (5B, 5A) Sch Team Trg Honours Day Rehearsal (am)	Charity Sale	Charity Sale Honours Day Rehearsal (am)	Honours Day Sch Team Trg	Thanksgiving Service P6 Grad Night	
S C H O O L H O L I D A Y	Term IV School Holiday (21 Nov - 31 Dec 15)					
	23-Nov-15	24-Nov-15	25-Nov-15	26-Nov-15	27-Nov-15	28-Nov-15
				Cultural Immersion Programme to Cambodia 26 Nov - 1 Dec		
	28-Dec-15	29-Dec-15	30-Dec-15	31-Dec-15	01-Jan-16	02-Jan-16

Legend:

CCAM (Wed5) CCA Module (Wednesday Session 5)
 UG (14) Uniformed Group (Session 14)
 MT Mother Tongue
 GYS Growing Year Series

School Cal (Pupil)
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