



# UNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

VISION:  
LIFELONG LEARNERS, INSPIRING LEADERS

MISSION:  
TO DEVELOP UNITIANS TO BE RESILIENT AND FUTURE-READY WITH THE PASSION TO SERVE AND LEAD

VALUES:  
RESPECT. COMPASSION. COMMITMENT. INTEGRITY. PERSEVERANCE

## COMMUNITY PARENTS NEWSLETTER

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Volume 18, Issue 1

3 January 2017

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### From the Desk of the Principal Mdm Aini Maarof

Dear Parents/Guardian,

On behalf of my team at Unity Secondary School, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and to extend a very warm welcome to our 2017 Secondary One cohort.

Firstly, allow me to share our latest staff and student achievements for 2016.

It is with great pride that we share the achievement of our Year Head for Upper Secondary and Malay Language Teacher, Mdm Norafizah bte Shariff, who was awarded the Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award (AGAB) 2016 (Role Model Category – Secondary). The Award is jointly organised by the Malay Language Council, Singapore (MBMS), Malay Language Teachers Association (PGBM), Berita Harian (BH) and Malay Language Learning and Promotion Committee (MLLPC). The award recognises the contributions of Malay Language teachers in the teaching and learning of the Malay Language. Mdm Norafizah received her award from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the award ceremony on 12 November 2016.

We are also proud to share that Mdm Jasmin Mariya Madasamy, Subject Head (Geography) was conferred the Associate of Academy of Singapore Teachers in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the professional development of fellow MOE officers. Mdm Jasmin received her award from the Director General of Education, Mr Wong Siew Hoong, on 14 November 2016.

Our Unity Unicorn Scouts achieved Silver Award at the National Patrol Camp held on 3 September 2016 for the Theory Component and from 24 to 28 November 2016 for the Residential Camp. They also participated in the Hong Kong National Jamboree from 23 to 27 Dec 2016.

Our Basketball (Boys and Girls) participated in the Under 17 T-Net Basketball Championship 2016 and were placed 4<sup>th</sup> (for Boys' team) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (for Girls' team). One of the Basketball girls, Alayna Robinson Panackal Sebastian, Sec 2E2, was selected by Basketball Association of Singapore to represent the National U16 Girls team at Cyberjaya International Youth Basketball Tournament, held in Selangor, Malaysia from 6-11 December 2016.

Our Sec 4NA and 4NT students did us proud with their very good achievements in the 2016 GCE N Level exams. Our Sec 4NA students had passes above that of National level for all subjects. 95.7% of our students are eligible for promotion to Sec 5NA, compared to 75.2% at National level. Our Sec 4NT students had percentage passes above the National percentage for 7 out of 8 subjects. 96.8% of our Sec 4NT students passed at least 3 subjects.

The above achievements reflect the strong commitment of our teachers in developing our students' potential and value adding their learning experiences. I would like to thank all staff for their relentless efforts in nurturing and developing our students to be the best they can be. I would also like to thank all parents for their partnership and support in our work with our students.

2017 marks a new chapter for the school as we continue our journey with a new school philosophy, mission and vision.

The School Philosophy, "**Every Unitian is unique, has potential and can be an inspiration**" expresses our belief in our students' ability and potential.

The School Mission, "**To develop Unitians to be resilient and future-ready with the passion to serve and lead**" reflects our commitment to develop our students to be adaptable, persevering and confident to respond to a changing world so that they could serve and lead others in the society.

The School Vision, "**Lifelong Learners, Inspiring Leaders**" communicates our overall goal of nurturing our students to have a mindset of continually striving towards greater excellence through learning, unlearning and relearning as they navigate through the VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world.

As our students journey towards excellence, we will constantly remind them to allow their thought and actions to be guided by the school's core values of **REspect, Compassion, Commitment, Integrity and Perseverance (REC<sup>2</sup>IPE)** and our school motto of "Leading Self, Serving Others; Actualizing Self, Inspiring Others". In the process, we hope that our students would become inspiring leaders who put the needs of others first, and help others develop and perform to their best.

Holistic Development of our students continues to be our key focus. We achieve this through implementing the Unity Total Curriculum (UTC). The UTC comprises of the **Academic Education and Character and Citizenship Education**. It is delivered through the three key teaching and learning processes: namely, Academic Learning, Leadership Learning, Pastoral Care and Guidance.

The **Academic Education** aims to develop every student to become a passionate learner who is anchored on strong academic foundation while the **Character and Citizenship Education** aims to nurture every student to become a committed leader guided by sound values and effective life-skills.

I look forward to your strong support and partnership in putting our plans into action. I am confident that, as one Unity Family, we will see our Unitians growing and developing to become Lifelong Learners and Inspiring Leaders.

Thank you.

## Strategic Thrust 1: Grow As a Team with Passion and Professionalism

All staff are committed to grow as a team with passion and professionalism

### 1.1 Staff Appointment and Staff Movement

Our Strategic Thrust 1, Grow as a Team with Passion and Professionalism, guides us in our journey towards building a strong staff who are committed to grow as a team with passion and professionalism. Staff appointment and renewal is an important process in the school to ensure our staff are given the opportunities to grow and contribute to their best ability.

The school would like to thank the following staff who have left Unity for their contributions and wish them all the best in their future endeavours:

1. Ms Seah Wei Ee
2. Ms Wong Siew Leng
3. Ms Tan Xin Yu
4. Mr Azman b Wajiman
5. Ms Anna Cai
6. Ms Low Pei Yun
7. Mdm Sharon Gan
8. Mdm Phua Chia Ghee
9. Mdm Amarageetha (retired in July 2016)

The school would like to welcome the following new staff:

No	Name of Staff	Appointment
1	Ms Ng Pin Leng	Subject Head, Chinese Language
2	Ms Jean Ong Soo Chuin	Subject Head, NA & NT
3	Ms Lee Sin Choon	Teacher
4	Mrs Hun Sopheara	Teacher
5	Mr Hamsani Raoh	Teacher
6	Mdm Foo Wee Leng	Teacher
7	Ms Sharon Goh	Student Health Advisor

## Strategic Thrust 2: Every Student, An Engaged Learner

Every student can be an engaged learner and we are committed to develop all students to be self-directed learners and to achieve academic excellence

### 2.1 GCE 'N' Level Results

Our Strategic Thrust 2, Every Student, An Engaged Learner espouses our commitment to build a strong academic foundation for our students for their further academic pursuit. It also sets the expectation for our students to strive for their best in achieving academic excellence. We are proud to share the joy of our 2016 Sec 4NA and Sec 4NT students who have performed well in the GCE 'N' Level Examination. **96.8% of our Sec 4NA students and Sec 4NT students have attained three 'N' level passes.** We share the pride and joy of the following students for their outstanding performance. 95.7% of our 4NA students are eligible for promotion to Sec 5NA.

Sec 4NA students who have achieved an EMB3 aggregate of 11 points or less are as follows:

Names	Class	Names	Class
Ang Kai Lin	4N2	Nur Hidayah Bte Rusli	4N2
Angelica Faye Nerie Gamboa	4N3	Ong Hong Ming	4N2
Anhar Bin Johari	4N3	Pereira Amanda Alvionita	4N2
Ee Chew Fong, Olivia	4N3	Qistina Nuruljannah Binte Muhammad Uzair	4N2
Ericka Genesis Francis	4N2	Ryan Yong Shi Hong	4N3
Foo Chun Xuan	4N1	S C Shanwin Henry B	4N1
Heng Guan Xiang	4N3	Toh Min Jovinn	4N1
Irvine Tan Kah Ler	4N3	Wang Xing Hao	4N1
Janice Wong Xin Hui	4N3	Wen Zhengchao	4N2
Jerlynn Chew Min Wen	4N3	Wong Liang Jun	4N3
Joseph Ng Ching Yu	4N3	Yong Kiong Lu	4N3
Lee Yang Sheng	4N3	Zhang Yong Jie Joshua	4N1
Leon See Hao Jun	4N1	Zuhrah Beevi Bte Mohamed Rafi	4N3
Lim Xiang Yao	4N3	Alya Syahindah Bte Azlan	4N2
Nadzirah Bte Mohamed Kasim	4N2	Gabrielle Tang Jia Lin	4N3
Navesh s/o Velu	4N1	Tay Xinyi Elis	4N2
Ng Xian Ning	4N2		

Sec 4NT students who achieved 2A's and 1B:

Names	Class
Abdul Nabil B Azmi	4T1
Asyrani Syazwani Bte Asrak	4T1
Chia Puay Ling	4T1
Hawa Bte Hashim	4T1
Lok Jun Jir	4T1
Muhammad Syafiq B Rahim	4T1
Tiffany Ho Jia Hui	4T1

## 2.2 GCE'O' Level Results Release

The results of the 2016 GCE 'O' Level Examinations will be released in mid-January. We are looking forward to share the pride and joy of our 2016 Sec 4E and Sec 5NA students.

### **Strategic Thrust 3: Every Student, An Inspiring Leader**

Every student can be a committed and inspiring leader and we are committed to develop all students into leaders guided by sound values and effective life skills

## 3.1 Character and Leadership Development (CLD)

Our Strategic Thrust 3, Every Student, An Inspiring Leader, states our belief that every student is unique and can be developed as a committed and inspiring leader of self and others, and we are committed to develop all students into leaders of self and others. In this regard, the school has adopted a two-phased approach of ensuring that every student is able to *lead self and serve others*, and then to *actualize self and inspire others*. This approach is anchored on the five school values: respect, compassion, commitment, integrity and perseverance, and underpinned by the three principles of engaged leadership learning: *Heads, Hearts and Hands* (3H). The knowledge on values and leadership skills gained through both the formal and informal curricula, as well as opportunities that we provide our students through experiential learning, form the platforms through which character and leadership learning can be actualised.

Specific Level Outcomes which encompass aspects of social and emotional competencies, the school values and school motto, have been drawn out for each level. These Level Outcomes aim to equip and empower our students with relevant 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies to better prepare them for the future and to contribute back to society.

- Sec 1: *A Unitian with self-awareness and self-management skills and the ability to lead self with respect and integrity.*
- Sec 2: *A Unitian with social awareness and relationship management skills and one who shows respect and compassion to serve others.*
- Sec 3: *A Unitian with the ability to make responsible and informed decisions regarding national issues, and one who demonstrates commitment and perseverance to actualise self.*
- Sec 4 & 5: *A Unitian with the ability to respond to global issues and one who perseveres and inspires others as a leader.*

The CLD programme in the school includes the explicit teaching of values and life skills through the 4-period Character and Leadership Education (CLE) lessons in a week as well as the various experiential learning platforms provided for the character and development of the students in the areas of Value-in-Action (VIA) programme, National Education (NE), Cyber Wellness Education (CW), Sexuality Education (SEd), Aesthetic Programme (AEP), Environment Education Programme (EEP), Education and Career Guidance (ECG) and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA).

- National Education Programme

National Education is taught as part of CLE lessons and infused in Instructional Programmes where appropriate. The school also commemorates the four core NE events, and provides lesson packages for the students to emphasise the significance of the NE events.

NE Core Events	Date	Commemoration
Total Defence Day	15 February	Term 1 Week 7
International Friendship Day	7 April	Term 2 Week 3
Racial Harmony Day	21 July	Term 3 Week 4
National Day	9 August	Term 3 Week 7

NE learning journeys which are aligned to the focus and CLD Level Outcomes of each level are also planned for the students. These learning journeys encompass multi-disciplinary approaches in the learning experiences of students, and seek to provide students with experiential platforms to better understand and appreciate Singapore.

- Values-in-Action (VIA) Programme

As part of our Character and Leadership Development programme, students will be involved in a series of Values-in-Action (VIA) programmes. The purpose of the VIA activities is to instill in students a sense of compassion for the less fortunate, encourage volunteerism amongst them, as well as to provide opportunities for the students to put the values that they have learnt into actions while they lead themselves and serve others.

This year, the Lower Secondary cohort will be rendering support to organisations such as the Children's Charities Association (CCA), whilst the Secondary Three cohort would be initiating class VIA activities pertaining to social issues (such as reaching out to the ageing population or maintaining cultural harmony). The Secondary Four and Five students will be involved in Service Learning Projects in conjunction with International Friendship Day to raise awareness on global issues.

The following are the VIA activities that our students will be involved in for 2017:

Level	Activity	Period
Secondary 1	Collection of newspaper and old used items to help raise funds	Terms 1 & 2
Secondary 2	Food & Fun Fair to help raise funds	Terms 1 – 4
Secondary 3	Class-Initiated VIA on Social Issues	Terms 1 – 3
Secondary 4 & 5	Service Learning Projects in Conjunction with International Friendship Day	Terms 1 & 2
All	Youth Day Appeal Recycling @ Unity Keep Unity Clean Movement	Term 3 Terms 1 – 4 Terms 1 & 2

Besides the above activities, students are also given opportunities to be engaged in student-initiated VIA activities as well as VIA activities organised by their CCAs. An information form will be issued to you nearer the date of the activities to keep you informed of your child's involvement in the respective VIA programmes.

We would like to thank the parents who have participated in the activities that have taken place in 2016 and would like to extend our invitation to all parents to join us for the VIA programmes in 2017. Please contact our VIA coordinator, Ms Ong Pei Ee, for further information.

### 3.2 Presentation of School Badge

Since 2013, all Sec One Unitians have been presented with the school badge, bearing the new school crest, after the orientation programme. For 2017, all Sec One Unitians will be receiving the school badge at the Sec One Initiation Night on Friday, 6 January 2017 as part of inducting them during the Orientation Week.

**The wearing of the school badge identifies the student as a member of the Unity Community who takes pride in being a leader and who pledges to be guided by the school motto and the school values in actualizing the school vision of becoming a Lifelong Learners and Inspiring Leaders.**



## **Strategic Thrust 4: High Care, Strong Discipline, Actualising Potential**

Through high level of care from the school, our students exude strong discipline and are able to realise their potential

### **4.1 Discipline**

Our Strategic Thrust 4, High Care, Strong Discipline, Actualising Potential, guides us in ensuring student well-being through high level of care and discipline in the school, so that all students carry themselves with high level of self-discipline and personal pride. In this regard, the school emphasises much on decorum which is an important indicator of students' self-discipline and personal pride.

We believe in working closely with parents to monitor the students' decorum. The Discipline Committee has issued a Notification Letter to all parents to keep you informed of the Decorum Checks. Please acknowledge receipt of this information by signing on the **Reply Form** and returning it to your child's form teacher by **Thursday, 05 January 2017**. The Discipline Committee will be conducting Decorum Checks regularly during morning assembly.

## **Strategic Thrust 5: Strong Organisational Capabilities, Effective Administration**

We develop strong organisational capabilities and effective administration to support students' and staff development

### **5.1 Verification of Students and Parents' Particulars**

As it is important for the school to have the updated information of students and parents, the school will be issuing the **Personal Particulars Updating Form 2017** to Sec 2 – 5 students on the first day of school for verification. We would appreciate if parents could verify the form and return it to the school by **Thursday, 5 January 2017**.

### **5.2 Mass Collection of Payment for Enrichment Programmes and Other Items / Materials**

To provide greater convenience for parents and students, the school will be conducting a mass collection exercise on **Monday, 23 January 2017** for payment of students' enrichment programmes and lesson materials for the school year. Further details will be furnished nearer the date.

### **5.3 Insurance Coverage for Students**

As part of the students' well-being and pastoral care, the school has purchased an insurance policy to insure students against accidents. The policy provides 24-hour worldwide accident coverage related to all school activities and/or CCAs both in and out of school. A summary of the policy coverage and benefits as well as the claims procedure will be given to the students in January 2017.

### **5.4 Health Matters**

In relation to the school's continued efforts in safeguarding the well-being of students and staff, it is important for all of us to uphold a high degree of personal and social responsibility. These include:

- Maintaining a high standard of personal hygiene, including washing one's hands with diligence
- Student who feels unwell should not come to school and should see a doctor

The school will also be issuing the **Student Medical Record Form** to Sec 2 – 5 students on the first day of school to collect and update information on the medical conditions of each and every student in the school. We would appreciate if parents could complete the form and return it to the school by **Thursday, 5 January 2017**.

## 5.5 Road Safety

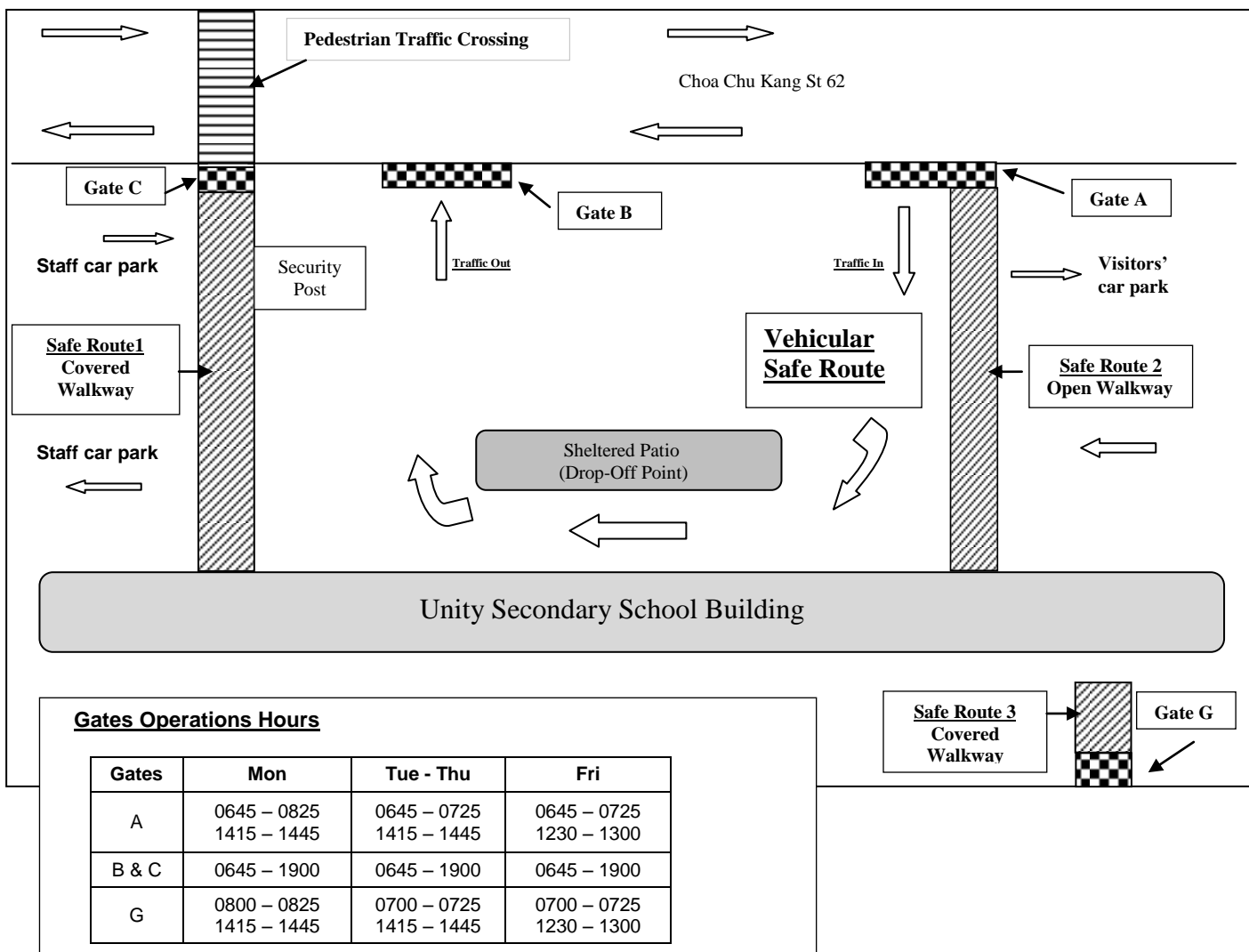
We would like to seek parents' support in working with the school to ensure the safety of students when coming to and leaving the school premises. This is especially important as young children may not have the awareness and skills required to use the roads properly and safely.

Please refer to **ANNEX A** for the letter reiterating the road safety policies of the school, jointly crafted by the school, Singapore Police Force and Land Transport Authority.

Also, we would appreciate if you could adhere to the following:

- Students are to Use only **Safe Route 1, 2 and 3** to enter the school compound.
- Parents are to Strictly follow **Vehicular Safe Route** to drop off your child
- Keep to the 15 kmph speed limit while driving into the school compound.
- Obey directional signs and follow lane markings that have been set up.
- Students are to alight at the designated drop off point (in front of foyer) and not anywhere else.
- Lorry with 2500 kg ULW will not be permitted to drop off students in the school compound.

### Safe Routes to enter Unity Secondary School





## Strategic Thrust 6: Synergistic Partnerships

We build synergistic partnerships with parents and other stakeholders to support students' and staff learning and growth

### 6.1 Student Handbook 2017

Our Strategic Thrust 6 on Synergistic Partnership undergirds our efforts towards building synergistic partnerships with parents and other stakeholders to support students' and staff learning and growth.

The Student Handbook communicates the key school information which includes the school rules and procedures as well as the school's efforts in providing academic learning, leadership learning, and pastoral care and discipline for the students.

We strongly encourage you to go through the Student Handbook together with your child to have a better understanding of your child's learning journey in the school.

### 6.2 Sec One Initiation Night Cum Parents' Briefing

We would like to invite parents of Sec One students to attend the Sec One Initiation Night cum Parents' Briefing. Details of the programme are as follows:

Date: **Friday, 6 January 2017**  
Time: **7.00pm to 10.00pm**  
Venue: **School Hall**

The Sec One Initiation Night is a significant milestone for your child. During the Sec One Initiation Night, we will be witnessing the School Badge Presentation Ceremony and the Campfire performance prepared by your child. Your child is required (compulsory) to attend the Initiation Night and please ensure that they are in full school uniform.

### 6.3 Family Matters @ School Workshop

Family Matters @ School will be organising two workshop in Term 1. The details are as follows:

No	Topic	Speaker	Time	Venue
1	Transition from Primary to Secondary – The Art of Parenting	Mrs Sarojini Centre for Advancement of Family Education	9.30 – 11.30am	Library
2	Parenting With TetraMap	Adam Khoo Learning Technologies Group	9.30 – 12.30pm	

The Flyers for Parenting Talk #1 have already been given out to all Sec 1 parents during the Sec 1 Registration exercise on 22 Dec 2016. Do submit all registration form to your child's Form Teacher by **Thursday, 5 January 2017**.

The Flyers for Parenting Talk #2 will be out in Term 1 Week 3 via your child. We look forward to welcome you to all the parenting talk in Term 1.

#### **6.4 Term 1 Parents Support Group (PSG) Activities**

The PSG activities for Term 1 are as follows:

<b>No</b>	<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Event</b>
1	Friday, 13 January / 7.00 – 9.00pm	School Hall	PSG Games & Sports Session
2	Friday, 20 January / 7.00 – 9.00pm	School Library	PSG Welcome Tea Session
3	Friday, 3 February / 7.00 – 9.00pm	Conference Room	PSG Meeting 1
4	Friday, 10 February / 7.00 – 9.00pm	School Hall	PSG Games & Sports Session

## Calendar of Events for Term 1

The following calendar of events aims to provide parents an overview of the schedule for the events and programmes planned in Term 1. It is accurate at time of printing. Should there be any changes, the school will inform parents through your child.

Date	Event	Level
03 – 06 January	Sec 1 Orientation	Sec 1
05 January	Thermometer Checking Exercise (students are to bring thermometer to school)	Sec 2 - 5
06 January	Temperature Taking Exercise	All levels
	Sec 1 Parents Briefing	Sec 1
	Sec 1 Initiation Night	Sec 1
	Polytechnic Open House	Sec 4 & 5
07 January	Family Matters@School Workshop	Sec One Parents
09 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E1
10 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E2
11 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E3
12 January	Sec 1 Sports Talent Selection	Sec 1
13 January	CCA Open House	Sec 1
16 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N1
17 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N2
18 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1T1
19 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E4
25 January	Mentoring Programme	Selected 2NA students
27 January	Chinese New Year Celebration	All Levels
06 February	Class Council Appointment Ceremony	All Levels
06 February	3NT Music Enrichment Module (afternoon)	Sec 3T1
06 – 10 February 13 – 17 February	Continuous Assessment 1 (Test 1)	All Levels
08 February	Photo-taking Session	Sec 1
08 - 09 February	English Learning Journey to SDC	Sec 3
13 February	Art Learning Journey	Upper Sec Art students
	National Steps Challenge 3NT Music Enrichment Module (afternoon)	Sec 1 Sec 3T1
15 February	Total Defence Day Commemoration	All Levels
	Emergency Evacuation Drill	All Levels
	Mentoring Programme	Selected 2NA students
	National Steps Challenge	Sec 1
16 February	Class Council Induction Training	Sec 1 – 5 Class Council members
	National Steps Challenge	Sec 1
17 February	Sec 4 and 5 Parents Briefing	Sec 4 & 5 Parents
20 – 24 February	Cyber Wellness Week	All Levels
20 February	Lower Sec Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
	3NT Music Enrichment Module (afternoon)	Sec 3T1
22 February	Class Photo-taking	Sec 2 - 5
	Mentoring Programme	Selected 2NA students
	Lower Sec Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
23 February	Lower Sec Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
24 February	Sec 3 Parents Briefing	Sec 3 Parents
	Lower Sec Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
27 February	LMS Portal Training	Sec 5N1
	3NT Music Enrichment Module (afternoon)	Sec 3T1
27 March – 10 March	Mother Tongue Languages Fortnight	All Levels

02 March	Class Council Leadership Training	Sec 1 – 5 Class Council members
03 March	Sec 2 Parents Briefing	Sec 2 Parents
04 March	Coastal Fieldwork at South East Johore	Sec 3 Pure Geography students
06 March	Unity Council Appointment & Appreciation Ceremony 3NT Music Enrichment Module (afternoon)	All Levels Sec 3T1
06 – 09 March	Healthy Lifestyle Week	All Levels
08 March	Mentoring Programme	Selected 2NA students
09 March	Tourism Fieldwork (afternoon)	Sec 4E/4NA Pure Geography students
10 March	Unity Run	All Levels
14 March	Mother Tongue Languages Cultural Camp	Sec 2



03 January 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

### **ROAD SAFETY OF STUDENTS**

We would like to seek your cooperation to work with the school in ensuring the safety of students coming to and leaving school. This is especially important as young children may not have the skills required to use roads properly and do not always fully appreciate the dangers presented. Their small physique also makes them less visible to motorists.

This letter reiterates the road safety policies of the school:

- a. Reduce vehicle speed and stay alert for pedestrians in the school zone.
- b. Cooperate with traffic marshals to ensure overall safety and smooth traffic flow.
- c. Let your child alight only at the designated drop-off point.
- d. Be advised not to violate traffic rules by driving recklessly or making illegal maneuvers such as turning into the school from the outer lane(s) of the road.
- e. Do not sound the horn indiscriminately.
- f. Help your child alight from the car on the side nearest to the kerb as quickly as possible.
- g. Reinforce correct road safety behavior such as using pedestrian crossings, and avoiding jaywalking or using a handphone while crossing.
- h. Remind your children to practise the kerb drill before crossing - "look right, look left, look right again, ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise your hand high up and cross the road briskly".
- i. If your child must cycle to school, ensure that he knows safe cycling rules and is a competent cyclist.

For the safety of everyone, enforcement action will be taken against motorists who violate traffic rules.

We thank all parents and guardians who have been the role models for our children.

On Behalf of SPF and LTA,

Mdm Aini Maarof  
Principal