



# UNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

**VISION:**  
A SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS AND STAFF HAVE THE PASSION TO LEARN, THE DRIVE TO EXCEL AND THE COMMITMENT TO SERVE.

**MISSION:**  
TO EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY.

**VALUES:**  
RESPECT. COMPASSION. COMMITMENT. INTEGRITY. PERSEVERANCE

## COMMUNITY PARENTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 1

2 January 2014

### From the Desk of the Principal

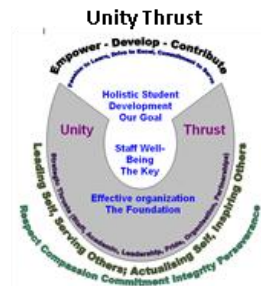
Mr Chan Ying Yin 陈英贤

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year 2014.

For our Sec 1 students and their parents, a warm welcome to the Unity Community.

Unity Secondary School believes strongly in the holistic development of our students. Indeed, in the Unity Thrust (an overarching guiding framework for the school that articulates the school goals and the school approaches in achieving the goals), holistic student development is our highest goal. This is in line with the School Mission of empowering our students to develop themselves to their fullest potential so as to contribute to society, and the School Vision of seeing all Unitians embrace the Passion to Learn, Drive to Excel and Commitment to Serve.



Guiding every Unitian in their journey of holistic development are the School Motto and the School Values. On the Unity School Badge:



The Eagle symbolizes our School Vision, soaring and sharp.

The Royal Palm represents our School Values, upright and rooted. The Red Banner represents a strong sense of pride and honour in our School Motto, characterized by our commitment to Lead, Serve, Actualise, Inspire.

By wearing the school badge with dignity, all Unitians **take pride in being a leader and who pledges to be guided by the school motto and the school values in actualizing the school vision by having the Passion to Learn, Commitment to Serve and Drive to Excel.** The Sec 1 students will be presented with the school badge after orientation to signify their commitment to the Unity Community.

The realization of the school goal of holistic student development will not be possible without a dedicated team of school staff and a strong home-school partnership. In the coming New Year, our school staff will continue to guide, support and care for each and every Unitian in their Academic Education as well as Character and Citizenship Education. They will work closely with you to foster an effective home-school partnership to provide the best for your child in his or her journey ahead.

Let us work together with strong commitment and in unity to empower all Unitians to develop themselves to their fullest potential.

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

Our staff is 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 team with a passion to learn and drive to excel. Staff appointments 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 is pleased to announce the following staff appointments with effect from 1 Jan 2014:

Mr Dimus Choong	– Year Head (Year 4 & 5)
Mdm Norafizah Shariff	– Year Head (Year 3)
Mr Rosman Aziz	– Head of Department / Design and Technology
Mr Tan Kee Seng	– Head of Department / Curriculum Development & Technology
Mr Adrian Ng	– Subject Head / English
Mdm Khamilia Hanapi	– Subject Head / History
Mr Daniel Teo	– Subject Head / Curriculum Development & Technology
Mr William Boh	– Subject Head / Student Leadership Development & Acting Year Head (Year 2)
Miss Keh Hui Hui	– Acting Subject Head / Discipline
Mdm Ong Pei Ee	– Acting Subject Head / Mathematics
Miss Tiffany Koh	– Acting Subject Head / Character and Leadership Development & Acting Year Head (Year 1)

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:

Mrs Patricia See (Head of Department / Humanities)  
Miss Wan Cheng Yi Rachel (Subject Head / Chemistry)  
Mr Yew Kai Long Clement (Senior Teacher / Chemistry)  
Miss Christine Leow Li Li (Humanities Department)  
Mr Feng Bozhe (Mother Tongue Languages Department)  
Miss Karen Tao Luk Sum (Mother Tongue Languages Department)  
Miss Koid Yushan (English Language Department)  
Mdm Liu Hua (Mother Tongue Languages Department)  
Mr Ow Aik Keong (Science Department)

The school would like to welcome the following new staff:

Mr Lau Khee Pheng - Vice Principal (Student Development)  
Mr Mohammed Fairus (Humanities Department)  
Ms Jin Beihua (Mother Tongue Languages Department)  
Ms Leow Shu Fen (Mother Tongue Languages Department)  
Ms Po Sok Yee (Humanities Department)  
Ms Siti Aisyah (Mother Tongue Languages Department)  
Ms Low Pei Yun (Mathematics Department)  
Ms Ng Ling Yin (Science Department)  
Ms Shilpa (Science Department)  
Ms Nur Shabrina (AED, Teaching and Learning)

## 1.2 Professional Learning Day

As part of the school's effort to support the professional development and continual learning of our staff, we have dedicated an afternoon on **13 March 2014** as our Professional Learning Day to allow our staff to engage in profession development activities. As such, there will be no remedial lessons and CCA for the students on that day.

### **Strategic Thrust 2: Teach for Understanding, Teach for Achievement**

**Our teachers teach for understanding and help all students to achieve academically**

## 2.1 GCE 'N' Level Results

Our Strategic Thrust 2, Teach for Understanding, Teach for Achievement, 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 2013 Sec 4NA and Sec 4NT students who have performed well in the GCE 'N' Level Examination. **100% of our Sec 4NA students and 97.1% of our Sec 4NT students have attained three 'N' level passes.** We share the pride and joy of the outstanding performance of following students:

Sec 4NA students who have achieved an EMB3 aggregate of 10 points or less:

Chia Carissa	4N2	Lee Zhen Yi	4N3
Neo Ya Jing	4N2	Liew Jian An, Ivan	4N2
Tan Jia Hui	4N3	Lee Kai Ting	4N3
Eng Han Rong Rayner	4N3	Tay Xun Yang	4N3
Nurul Syahirah Binte Rosman	4N2	Cheryl Ong Ying Qi	4N2
Lew Shu Ling	4N3	Lim Zhi Yan	4N3
Ong Jia Ni	4N3	Leong Mun Hon	4N2
Dominic Teo Wen Rui	4N3	Tan Wei Jie Nickolaus	4N1
Erlylly Irma Othman	4N3	Nursa'idah Bte A Yazid	4N2
Bryan Tan Guang Jun	4N3	Tengku Sophiya Suhanah	4N3
Lee Chuan Seng	4N2		

Sec 4NT students who achieved 3 or more distinctions:

Evelyn Leong Wei Ling	4T1
Ho Cheng Yee	4T1
Leo Kee Kok Lionel	4T1
Lim Sheng Xian	4T1
Nadatul Nadhira	4T1
Sim Wee Chye	4T1
Wismon Lum Wei Kang	4T1

## 2.2 GCE'O' Level Results Release

The results of the 2013 GCE 'O' Level Examinations will be released in mid-January. We are looking forward to share the pride and joy of our 2013 Sec 4E and Sec 5NA students.

### **Strategic Thrust 3: Every Student a Leader**

**We believe every student can be a leader and we are committed to develop all students into leaders**

#### **3.1 Character and Leadership Development (CLD)**

Our Strategic Thrust 3, Every Student a Leader, states our belief that every student can be a leader and we are committed to develop all students into a leader of self and others. In this regards, the school has adopted a two-phase 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 5 school values: respect, integrity, compassion, commitment 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, well as opportunities that we provide our students through experiential learning form the platforms through which character and leadership learning can be actualised – guided by the Unity Level Outcomes.

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), Aesthetic Programme (AEP), Cultural Education Programme (CEP), 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 4 core NE events, and provides lesson packages for the students to emphasise the significance of the NE events.

<b>NE core event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Commemoration</b>
Total Defence Day	15 Feb	Term 1 Week 6
International Friendship Day	11 Apr	Term 2 Week 3
Racial Harmony Day	21 Jul	Term 3 Week 4
National Day	9 Aug	Term 3 Week 6

NE learning journeys which are aligned to the focus of each level are also planned for the students. These learning journeys include the Yew Tee Heritage trail for the secondary one, the 'Gems of Katong' trail for the secondary two and the Singapore Discovery Centre for the secondary three.

- 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, our school has adopted the Children Charities Association (CCA) and Lee Ah Mooi Old Aged Home for the Lower Secondary cohort and the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) for the Upper Secondary cohort as our beneficiaries.

The following are the structured activities that our students will be involved in:

Level	Activity	Period
Secondary 1	Fund-raising through newspaper, plastic bags and old clothes collection	28 Jan (Tue)
Secondary 2	Interaction with elderly at Lee Ah Mooi Old Aged Home	5 Feb – 2 Apr (Wed)
Secondary 3	Job-shadowing-cum-visit to MINDS Woodlands Employment Development Centre	12 Feb – 16 Apr (Wed)
Secondary 4 & 5	Service Learning Projects	21 Jan – 11 Apr
All	Youth Day Appeal Recycling @ Unity Community Service @ Unity	Term 3 Terms 1 - 4 Terms 2 & 4

Besides the above structured 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 structured VIA programme.

We would like to thank the parents who have participated in the activities that have taken place in 2013 and would like to extend our invitation to all parents to join us for the VIA programmes in 2014. Please contact our VIA coordinator, Miss Wong Siew Leng for further information.

### 3.2 Presentation of School Badge

From 2013, all Sec 1 Unitians will be presented with the school badge, bearing the new school crest, after the orientation programme on 6 Jan (Mon) at 1.45pm to 2.15pm.

**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 having the Passion to Learn, Commitment to Serve and Drive to Excel.**



## **Strategic Thrust 4: High Care, High Discipline, High Pride**

Through high level of care from the school, our students exude strong discipline and pride

### **4.1 Discipline**

Our Strategic Thrust 4, High Care, High Discipline, High Pride, 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 regards, the school emphasises much on personal bearing which is an important indicator of students' self-discipline and personal pride.

We believe in working closely with parents to monitor the students' personal bearing and grooming. The Discipline Committee has issued a Notification Letter to all parents to keep you informed of the schedule of Uniform and Bearing Checks. Please acknowledge receipt of this information by signing on the **Reply Form** and returning it to your child's form teacher by **Tuesday, 7 January 2014**. Reminders will be given to students one week before the official checks. Parents will also be notified via SMS before the checks.

### **4.2 Pupil Welfare & Pastoral Care**

The Pupil Well-being and Pastoral Care (PWPC) Committee is organising the **Sec 1 Jump Start Programme on 8 and 9 January 2014 from 2.15pm to 5.30pm**. The programme is compulsory for all Sec 1 students to help them to have a smooth transition into secondary school life. We would appreciate it if parents of our Sec 1 students could sign the Edusave form or pay cash of S\$16 to your child's form teacher by **Tuesday, 7 January 2014** if your child does not have an edusave account.

## **Strategic Thrust 5: Strong organisational capabilities, Effective administration**

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

### 5.1 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 Friday, 17 Jan 2014 for payment of students' enrichment programmes and lesson materials for the school year. Further details would be furnished nearer the date.

### 5.2 Road Safety

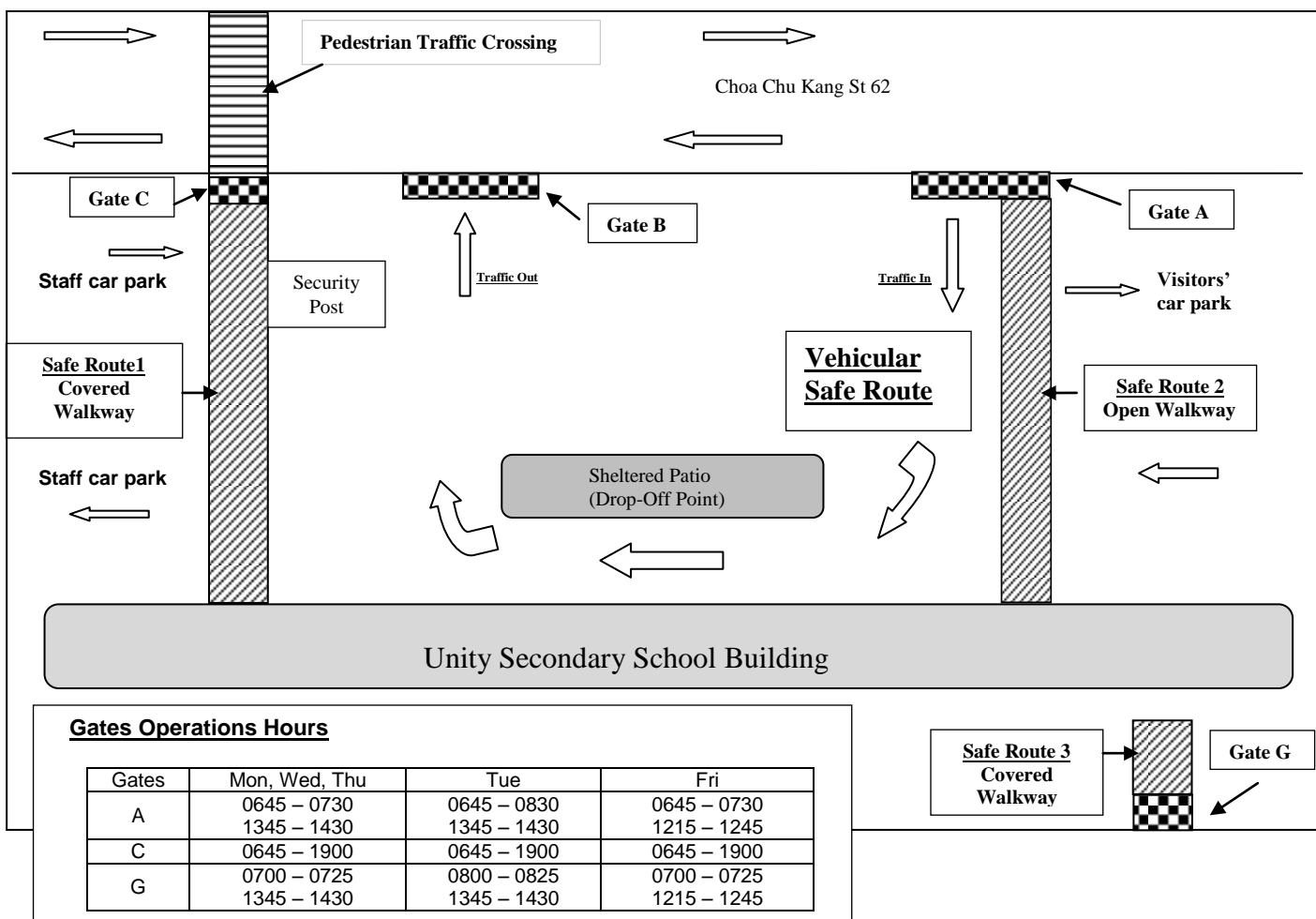
We would like to seek parents' support in working with the school to ensure the safety of students when coming to and leaving the school premises. This is especially important as young children may not have the awareness and skills required to use the roads properly and safely.

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: Strength with Partnership, Synergy with Parents**

**We build synergy with parents and strength with partnerships to support students' learning and growth**

### **6.1 Student Development Handbook**

Our Strategic Thrust 6 on Synergistic Partnership – Strength with Partnerships, Synergy with Parents, undergirds our efforts towards garnering active parent, contributive supplier, enriching community and supportive alumni partnerships. As part of our effort to strengthen this partnership with parents, from this year onwards, all our students will be presented with a ***Student Development Handbook*** which will be one of our means of communication with you.

The Student Development Handbook communicates the key directions of the school, the school rules and procedures, as well as our efforts in providing academic learning, leadership learning, and pastoral care and discipline for our students. It also comprises the learning resources that your child will be going through with his/ her form teacher as part of his/ her character and leadership development.

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

### **6.2 Sec 1 Parents Briefing**

We would like to invite all **Sec 1 parents** to attend a briefing on **Friday, 10 January 2014**. Parents are to be seated in the school hall by 7.15 pm. Your child is not required to attend the briefing. However, if they wish to attend, please inform them to be in proper school uniform.

### **6.3 Family Matters @ School Workshop**

Family Matters @ School will be organising a workshop on Managing Transition to Secondary School on **Saturday, 11 January 2014**. The details of the workshop are as follows:

Time : 9.00 am to 11.00 am

Venue : School Library

Speaker : Dr Moo Swee Nghoh

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

<b>No</b>	<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1	24 Jan (Fri) 6-9pm	School Library	PSG Welcome Tea Party (6-7pm) 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter PSG-School Meeting (7-9pm) All new parents are invited to the Welcome Tea Party and to join in the PSG-School Management Meeting
2	7 Feb (Fri) 7-9pm	School Hall	Dads4Life Badminton Session #1 PSG Monthly Gathering #1
3	7 Mar (Fri) 7-9pm	School Hall	Dads4Life Badminton Session #2 PSG Monthly Gathering #2



## 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Level</b>
2 – 3 January	Sec 1 Orientation	Sec 1
6 January	Presentation of School Badge Ceremony	Sec 1
7 January	Temperature Taking Exercise	All
	Uniform and Bearing Check	All
8 – 9 January	Sec 1 Jump Start Programme	Sec 1
9 January	Polytechnic Open House	Sec 4 & 5
10 January	CCA Open House	All
	Sec 1 Parents Briefing	Sec 1
11 January	Family Matters@ School: Managing Transition to Sec School	Parents
13 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E1
14 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E2
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Uniform and Bearing Check	All
15 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E3
16 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E4
	Financial Literacy Workshop	Sec 2
17 January	Band Concert	All
	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1T1
20 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N1
21 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N2
	Values In Action: Distribute Flyers for Newspaper Collection	Sec 1
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
23 January	Financial Literacy Workshop	Sec 2
24 January	Financial Literacy Challenge	Sec 2
	PSG Welcome Tea Party & 1 <sup>st</sup> PSG Meeting	Parents
27 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
28 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
	Values In Action: Newspaper Collection	Sec 1
	Uniform and Bearing Check	All
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2
	Photo Taking (Individual)	Sec 1
29 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
30 January	Chinese New Year Celebration	All
4 February	Class Council Appointment Ceremony	All
	Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
5 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 1T1
	Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
	Values In Action @ Unity	Sec 3
6 February	Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
7 February	Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
	PSG Badminton Session (7pm)	Parents
10 February	Media Literacy Workshop	Sec 1
11 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Media Literacy Workshop	Sec 2
11 February	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3N

12 February	Photo Taking (Class/Group)	All
	Values In Action @ Unity	Sec 3
	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3N
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 1T1
14 February	Total Defence Day	All
17 February	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3E1 & 3E2
18 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3E1 & 3E2
19 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 1T1
	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3E3 & 3E4
20 February	Financial Literacy Workshop	Sec 1
	Oral Skills Workshop	Sec 3E/3N
21 February	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3E3 & 3E4
24 February	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 4N
25 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 4N
26 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 1T1
	Live @ Lunch 1	All
27 February	Financial Literacy Workshop	Sec 1
28 February	Unity Scientific Innovation Challenge (USIC) School's Briefing	YGSP students
	Financial Literacy Challenge	Sec 1
31 February	Earth Week Rehearsal	Selected Students
3 March	Physical Education Learning Journey	Sec 1
4 March	Physical Education Learning Journey	Sec 1
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
5 March	Physical Education Learning Journey	Sec 1
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 1T1
6 March	Class Council Training	Class Council members
10 March	Cultural Camp	Sec 2
11 March	Unity Council Appointment & Appreciation Ceremony	All
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Cultural Camp	Sec 2
12 March	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 1T1
14 March	Annual Cross Country	All



Land Transport Authority

02 January 2014

Dear Parents/Guardian,

## **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 the pedestrian crossings, and avoiding jaywalking or using a handphone while crossing.
- h. Remind your child 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,

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Mr Chan Ying Yin  
Principal