



# 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

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Volume 16, Issue 1

2 January 2015

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### From the Desk of the Principal

Mr Chan Ying Yin 陈英贤

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year 2015. For our Sec 1 Unitians and their parents, a warm welcome to the Unity Community. I am happy to share that 2015 marks a new milestone for Unity in our commitment to the holistic development of our students. The school will be implementing two distinctive programmes which aim to provide Unitians with unique learning experiences to enable them to acquire and apply cognitive skills and life skills through hands-on learning. The first is the Applied Learning Programme (ALP) – “Inspire through Agro-Bio Science and Technology”. Under this programme, all Sec 1 and Sec 2 Unitians will have the chance to experiment with agro-bio technologies such as plant tissue culture, composting and high-tech farming. Learning will be fun and focused on practical application of skills and knowledge. The second is the Learning for Life Programme (LLP) – “Lead through Outdoor and Sporting Adventures”. Under this programme, all Unitians will hone their leadership skills through a number of specially designed outdoor and sporting adventures in their four or five years in Unity. They will learn outdoor survival skills as well as physical skills in various sports and games to strengthen their self-leadership and team-leadership.

The Unity ALP and LLP are designed in line with the school's efforts to develop every Unitian into leaders who are guided by the school motto to lead, serve, actualize and inspire. At this beginning of the school year, I urge all Unitians to pledge strong commitment to leading yourselves and serving others so as to actualize your potential and inspire others in the pursuit of excellence. Be always guided by the school values of Respect, Commitment, Integrity, Compassion and Perseverance in your thoughts and actions. In showing our commitment to the five school values, we have created the display “School Values in Unity” as part of our school façade. In the course of the year, Unitians will create pieces of artistic representations of the five school values, and all these representations will be put together to form a big art work to symbolize our commitment to the school values.

Apart from ALP, LLP and “School Values in Unity”, Unitians can also look forward to many exciting activities in the school's celebration of SG50. Yes! Singapore is turning 50 in 2015 and we will be celebrating this important milestone in nation building with a great sense of pride and honour. We are proud of Singapore's achievements in the last 50 years; and as the new generation of Singaporeans, we uphold with great honour our commitment to bring Singapore forward in the next 50 years.

I wish all Unitians a great year of learning and commitment to self and others, to Unity and to Singapore.

## **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 with a passion to learn and the drive to excel. Staff appointments and renewal is an important process in the school to ensure our staff is given the opportunities to grow and contribute to their best ability.

The school is pleased to announce the following staff appointments with effect from 01 January 2015:

Mr William Boh	– Year Head (Lower Sec)
Mdm Norafizah Shariff	– Year Head (Upper Sec)
Mr Scott Chew	– Acting Head of Department / Pupil Guidance and Discipline
Miss Keh Hui Hui	– Subject Head / Discipline
Miss Tiffany Koh	– Subject Head / Character and Leadership Development
Miss Gladys Choo	– Acting Subject Head / Science

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

Mrs Esther Choo	– Vice Principal (Academic)
Mr Dimus Choong	– Year Head (Year 4 & 5)
Mr David Chang	– (Science Department)
Mrs Wendy Ng	– (English Language Department)
Ms Vivian Tan	– (Humanities Department)
Mr Roslan	– (AV/IT Technician)

The school would like to welcome the following new staff:

Mr Daniel Ong Poh Soon	– Vice Principal (Academic)
Mdm Jiang Huahua	– (Mother Tongue Department)
Mdm Phua Chia Ghee	– (Mother Tongue Department)
Mdm Mangayarkarasi Ganesh Kumar	– (Mother Tongue Department)
Ms Yasmin bte Rahmatullah	– (Mathematics Department)
Mr Rahmat Ali	– (English Language Department)
Ms Xu Jiamin	– (Science Department)

### **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 **12 March 2015** as our Professional Learning Day to allow our staff to engage in professional 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 2014 Sec 4NA and Sec 4NT students who have performed well in the GCE 'N' Level Examinations. **100% of our Sec 4NA students and 94.2% of our Sec 4NT students have attained three 'N' level passes.** We share the pride and joy of the outstanding performance of the following students:

#### Sec 4NA Top Performing students:

Teng Shin Shoon, Nicholas	4N3	Low Kai Xing, Amanda	4N3
Zachariah Than Rui Sheng	4N1	Tan You Yu	4N3
Audrey Florensia Kusnadi	4N3	Siti Mutiara Bte Abdul Malek	4N1
Ng Hui Ting, Janelle	4N3	Chua Yuen Keong	4N3
Nurul Syakirah Binte Rahmat	4N3	Indra Dzuliman B Anwar	4N3
Chia Jin Siang	4N3	Mohd Zaid B Mohd Yusof	4N1
Patrick Lin Hanrong	4N2	Chiong Kaiting Joey	4N3
Nur Insyirah Bte Mazlan	4N3	Angela Tham Shi Ying	4N2
Izzah Syaza Bte Tazhar	4N3	Guinevere Foo Im Chun	4N3
Nikki Ursilla Koh Wen Fann	4N1		

#### Sec 4NT Top Performing students:

Venisa Wong Shi Wan	4T1
Muhammad Fathullah B Ridzuan	4T1
Ahmad Fatris B Mohd Zailani	4T1
Stacey Koh Ying Fang	4T1
Goh Shu Hui	4T1
Li Xing	4T1
Muhammad Rifdi B Mohd Rudy	4T1
Nur Raudhah Bte Zainal Abidin	4T1
Nurshazwani Bte Mohamad Sani	4T1

### **2.2 GCE 'O' Level Results Release**

The results of the 2014 GCE 'O' Level Examinations will be released in mid-January. We are looking forward to share the pride and joy of our 2014 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 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, 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, as 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 every week as well as the various experiential learning platforms provided for the character development of the students in the areas of Values-in-Action (VIA) programme, National Education (NE), Aesthetics Education 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 February	Term 1 Week 6
International Friendship Day	10 April	Term 2 Week 3
Racial Harmony Day	21 July	Term 3 Week 4
National Day	9 August	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 'Gems of Katong' trail for the Secondary One's and Two's, and the Singapore Discovery Centre for the Secondary Three's.

- 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, 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.

The Lower Secondary Cohort will be rendering support to both the Children’s Charities Association (CCA) and the Unity Financial Assistance Scheme, whilst the Secondary Three cohort will be helping the elderly from various Senior Activity Centres (SACs). The Secondary Four and Five students will be involved in Service Learning Projects in conjunction with International Friendship Day.

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

Level	Activity	Period
Secondary 1	Newspaper and old clothes collection to raise funds	Term 1
Secondary 2	Fun Fair to raise funds	Terms 1 & 2
Secondary 3	Keep Singapore Clean Movement & Reaching Out to the Elderly: Project SPHERE	Terms 1 & 2
Secondary 4 & 5	Service Learning Projects	21 Jan – 11 Apr
All	Youth Day Appeal Recycling @ Unity Keep Singapore Clean Movement: 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 programmes.

We would like to thank parents who participated in the activities that took place in 2014 and would like to extend our invitation to all parents to join us for the VIA programmes in 2015. Please contact our VIA coordinator, Miss Wong Siew Leng for further information.

### 3.2 Presentation of School Badge

Since 2013, all Sec 1 Unitians have been presented with the school badge, bearing the new school crest, after the orientation programme. For 2015, our Sec 1 Unitians will be receiving their school badge on **Tuesday, 6 January from 2.15pm to 3.15pm.**

**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 a high level of care and discipline in the school. Through this, students are expected to carry themselves with a high level of self-discipline and personal pride. The school thus 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 **Monday, 5 January 2015**. Reminders will be given to students one week before the official checks. Parents will also be notified via SMS before the checks.

## **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**

In providing greater convenience to parents and students, the school will be conducting a mass collection exercise on **Tuesday, 20 January 2015** for payment of students' enrichment programmes and lesson materials for the school year. Further details will be furnished nearer to the date.

### **5.2 Notice from Traffic Police**

In collaboration with the Traffic Police, please find enclosed with this Newsletter, a Notice to Parents on the additional demerit points for traffic violation committed in School Zone areas.

### **5.3 Road Safety**

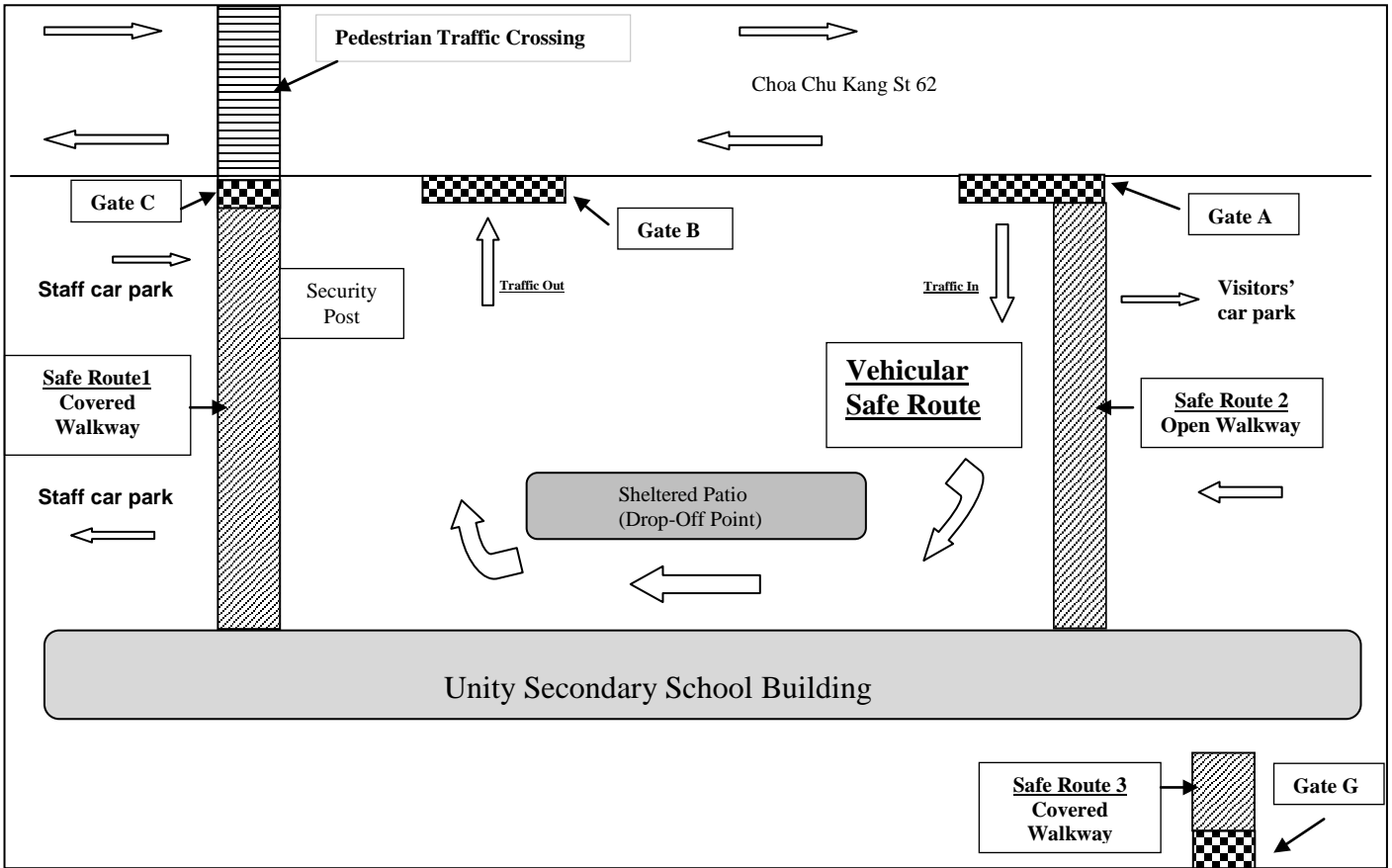
We would like to seek parents' support in working with the school in ensuring the safety of students when coming to and leaving the school premises. This is especially important as young children may not have the awareness and skills required to use the roads properly and safely.

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 it 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 children.
- Keep to the 15 kmph speed limit while driving in 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 (at the 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



### Gates Operation Hours

Gates	Mon, Wed, Thu	Tue	Fri
A	0645 – 0730 1345 – 1430	0645 – 0830 1345 – 1430	0645 – 0730 1215 – 1245
C	0645 – 1900	0645 – 1900	0645 – 1900
G	0700 – 0725 1345 – 1430	0800 – 0825 1345 – 1430	0700 – 0725 1215 – 1245

## **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, 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, 09 January 2015**. 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 Workshops**

Family Matters @ School will be organising 2 workshops in Term 1. The details are as follows:

No	Name of Workshop	Date	Time
1	Managing Transition to Secondary School	10 January	9 am – 11 am
2	Workshop 2 (to be confirmed at a later date)	7 February	9 am – 11 am

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

No	Date/ Time	Venue	Activities
1	2 January (Fri) 7-9pm	School Hall	Dads for Life Badminton Session 1 PSG Monthly Gathering 1
	17 January (Sat) 8-11am	School Field	PSG Soccer Session 1
2	23 January (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 the PSG-School Management Meeting
3	6 February (Fri) 7-9pm	School Hall	Dads for Life Badminton Session 2 PSG Monthly Gathering 2
4	28 February (Sat) 8-11am	School Field	PSG Soccer Session 2
5	6 March (Fri) 7-9pm	School Hall	Dads for Life Badminton Session 3 PSG Monthly Gathering 3
6	21 March (Sat) 8-11am	School Field	PSG Soccer Session 3



## 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 & 5-6 January	Sec 1 Orientation	Sec 1
6 January	Presentation of School Badge Ceremony	Sec 1
7 January	Temperature Taking Exercise Uniform and Bearing Check	All All
8 January	Polytechnic Open House	Sec 4 & 5
10 January	CCA Open House Sec 1 Parents Briefing	All Sec 1
10 January	Family Matters@ School: Managing Transition to Sec School	All Parents
12 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E1
13 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E2
	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Uniform and Bearing Check	All
14 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E3
15 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E4
16 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1T1
19 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N1
20 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N2
	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
21 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3N1
22 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3N2
23 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3N3
26 - 28 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
27 January	Uniform and Bearing Check	All
	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Photo Taking (Individual)	Sec 1
28 January – 29 April	Values In Action@Unity	Sec 3
29 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3E1
30 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3E2
2 February	Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
3 February	Class Councillors Appointment Ceremony	All
	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3E3
4 February	Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3E4
5 February	LMS Portal Training	Sec 3T1
6 February	Values in Action@Unity: Flyer Distribution	Sec 1
9 January	Media Literacy Training	Sec 1
	LMS Portal Training	Sec 4E1
10 February	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	LMS Portal Training	Sec 4E2
	Values in Action@Unity: Newspaper Collection	Sec 1
11 February	Photo Taking (Groups)	All
	Media Literacy Training	Sec 2
	Live@Lunch & Unity Talent Audition	All
12 February	LMS Portal Training	Sec 4E3

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Level</b>
13 February	LMS Portal Training	Sec 4E4
	Total Defence Day Commemoration	All
	Emergency Evacuation Drill	All
17 February	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
18 February	Chinese New Year Celebration	All
19-20 February	Chinese New Year Holiday	All
22 February – 06 March	MTL Fortnight	All
24 February	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
25 February	Live@Lunch	All
	LMS Portal Training	Sec 4N3
26 February	LMS Portal Training	Sec 5N1
3 March	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
5 March	Class Council Training	Selected Students
6 March	English Language Oral Communication Workshop	Sec 3E & 3NA
9 March	History Learning Journey	Sec 2
	Unity Council Appointment & Appreciation Ceremony	All
	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Tourism Fieldwork	Sec 4E2 & 4E4
11 March	History Learning Journey	Sec 2
13 March	Annual Cross Country	All
14 March	Field Work to SE Johor	Sec 3 Full Geography Students
16 March	Mother Tongue Language Cultural Camp	Sec 2
16 & 17 March	English Language: Expository Writing Workshop	Sec 3NA
16 – 18 March	Elective Module	Sec 3T1
17 March	B.R.i.D.G.E.S Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
19 March	CCA Leaders Reflection Day	CCA Leaders
20 March	Awards Night 1 <sup>st</sup> Rehearsal	Selected Students



02 January 2015

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