

4 November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from ACS(J).

2024 has been a fruitful year as we witnessed our boys allowing themselves to be **Crafted for Goodness** through diverse learning experiences and character-building opportunities, and growing in confidence, wisdom, grace and stature. Our theme verse from Isaiah 64:8 - "Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand" – reminds us of God's ongoing work in shaping and moulding us throughout the year, supporting us through challenges and celebrating our successes.

As the year draws to a close, we give thanks to God for His abundant blessings and protection over every member of the ACS(J) family. We are also deeply grateful for the unstinting support of our parents and stakeholders in building up every ACSian. Let us continue to trust in God's faithfulness and rely on His wisdom and grace to guide us through the rest of the year.

We bid farewell to our Vice-Principal (Administration), Mr Tony Tan, who will be posted to Saint Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) from Sunday, 15 December 2024. Mr Tan played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful completion of the PERI Upgrading project which has allowed us to enjoy the enhanced facilities for teaching and learning that we have in the school today. We thank him for his dedicated service to ACS for the past 8 years, especially in the areas of administration, safety, security and estate management, and wish him all the very best at SAJC.

Crafted for Goodness (Isaiah 64:8)

1. PSLE Written Examinations

All Primary 6 students have completed their PSLE written papers. We are proud of our boys for focusing on their goals and giving their utmost effort for each subject. We would like to express our gratitude to all parents for their unwavering support of their children, Cairnhill Methodist Church and the Chaplaincy team, who led the PSLE Prayer Night, and all teachers and staff who supported and prepared our boys for this examination.

2. Children's Day Celebration

The school celebrated Children's Day on Thursday, 3 October 2024 with the theme "Games Wide Open - Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together". Inspired by the Olympic spirit of inclusivity, the theme encouraged our boys to embrace teamwork as they pursued "Starting Right, Shaping Up, and Serving Others" together. We are grateful to our parent volunteers and teachers for organising engaging games and activities, which reminded

our boys that everyone has unique gifts and, by working together, they can achieve great things.

The celebration also had a meaningful outreach component, with each student receiving a donation envelope from Community Chest's Children's Day Appeal 2024, continuing a tradition from previous years. This opportunity allowed our boys to practise empathy and generosity, reminding them of the importance of giving back and serving others.

3. Celebrating Excellence

Our Basketball Junior Boys' team took part for the first time in the 2024 National School Games (NSG) Basketball Junior Division Competition and emerged 1st in Tier 2, Group 2F. Their fantastic effort reflects their hard work, teamwork, and determination. Well done to the boys, their coaches, and everyone who supported them!

4. Hockey Training with Cantonment Primary School

As part of efforts to optimise school resources and promote social mixing, a Combined Schools' Hockey Senior Boys Team was formed by ACS (Junior) and Cantonment Primary School in Term 3 this year. It provides students from both schools the opportunity to participate in the National School Games (NSG) 2025. This partnership fosters inclusivity by bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and provides a platform for the students to form meaningful friendships, appreciate diversity, and understand the power of collective effort as they work towards a common goal.

The team held its first combined training on Monday, 23 September 2024 at the MOE Hockey Pitch, where students, teachers, and coaches from both schools had the opportunity to interact and get to know one another. This initial session allowed the students to build camaraderie and teamwork. More combined training sessions are planned for 2025 to provide additional interaction time for the students to further strengthen their bonds, enhance their collaboration and prepare physically, mentally and socially for the NSG competition.

5. Values-in-Action Project with Farrer Park Primary School

Primary 6.6 collaborated with Primary 6 students from Farrer Park Primary School to organise an intergenerational social integration event at MWS Active Ageing Centre Greentops@Sims Place on Friday, 1 November 2024. The students in both schools took turns to host the preparatory meetings and plan the interactive activities (e.g. an exercise session, carnival games, community singing) that they jointly led to engage the seniors. Apart from developing students' leadership skills, this partnership promoted mutual understanding and empathy, enhanced social cohesion and deepened students' appreciation of diversity and intergenerational engagement.

Primary 6 Graduation Service

6. The Primary 6 Graduation Service will be held in school on **Wednesday**, **6 November 2024**. The Guest of Honour for the event is Reverend Jasper Sim, Pastor-in-Charge of Hakka Methodist Church and a member of our school's Chaplaincy Team. Details of the event have been shared with our Primary 6 parents via Parents Gateway.

Primary 4 Subject-based Banding and Promotion Exercise Day

- 7. Please note that the Subject Based Banding (SBB) option forms will be given out to all Primary 4 students on **Thursday**, **7 November 2024**.
- 8. There is <u>no school for all levels</u> on **Friday**, **8 November 2024** as all staff will be involved in processing students' results for the promotion exercise.

Release of Report Books

9. Report books for Primary 1 to 5 will be distributed on **Wednesday**, **13 November 2024**. Students are to bring them back to school on **Friday**, **3 January 2025**.

Thanksgiving and Honours Day 2024

10. Thanksgiving Programme – Thursday, 14 November 2024, 7.30 am to 10.00 am (All Students)

The school will close its academic year with a Thanksgiving Programme for all staff and students. Activities planned for the morning include a Thanksgiving Devotion, Parents' Appreciation, Presentation of Certificates (Commendation Awards only) and a Give Thanks activity. Please note that school dismissal is from 10.00 am. We seek the understanding of parents who are picking up their children by car that the school gates will only be opened after the school buses have left the school premises.

Please note the staggered dismissal timings as follows:

Time	Group
10.00 am	Leaving by School Bus
10.10 am	Leaving on Foot
	 Meeting parents/siblings in the foyer; or
	 Walking or taking public transport home; or
	 Walking out of school to meet parents; or
	 Walking to the location where parents' cars are parked
	(e.g. Newton carpark, 10 Winstedt carpark).
10.10 am	Leaving by Car
	 Picked up by car at foyer (Gate 1 will open at 10.10 am)
	 Picked up by car at external lay-by
	(Cones will be removed at 10.10 am)

11. Honours Day - Thursday, 14 November 2024, 11.00 am to 1.30 pm (Prize Recipients Only)

To affirm our boys and celebrate their achievements, the school will be holding its Honours Day Service from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm, at the Performing Arts Hall (PAH). All prize recipients will proceed to the PAH upon school dismissal and be seated by 10.30 am. Invited parents and guests are to be seated in the PAH from 10.45 am. The Guest of Honour for the ceremony is our distinguished Old Boy, Mr Jonathan Kam, who has represented Singapore in various international tennis competitions. The ceremony will be held from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, followed by a lunch reception. Parents of prize

recipients would have already received an invitation to the ceremony via Parents Gateway.

End-of-Year Meet-the-Parents (MTP) Session

12. The End-of-Year MTP Session will take place in-person on **Friday**, **15 November 2024** to support students in their transition to the next level in 2025. Please note that there is no school for all levels on that day. Only selected Primary 1 to 5 students and their parents will need to attend the MTP. The respective Form Teachers will inform parents if their attendance is required and provide more details of the MTP by **Friday**, **8 November 2024**, via Parents Gateway.

Travel Declaration for Year End Holidays

- 13. To ensure that our school remains a healthy and safe environment for all, we require parents/ guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward if he will be travelling for the holidays.
- 14. To make a travel declaration for your child/ward via Parents' Gateway (PG), go to [SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS]. Please declare your child/ward's travel plan(s), indicating both the country and city of travel, and any city of transit, by **Thursday, 14 November 2024**. Only one parent is required to make the declaration.
- 15. If your child/ward is **not travelling** during the holidays, **no action is required**.
- 16. When planning your travel, please refer to https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart for more information and updates. If there is a change of travel plan(s) after declaration, please submit a new travel declaration via PG or inform the school if the travel plan(s) is cancelled.

MOE Financial Assistance Scheme

- 17. The Ministry of Education provides financial assistance to needy Singaporean students in our Government and Government-Aided Schools. For more information, you may refer to this link: www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/financial-assistance/.
- 18. Please submit the MOE FAS Application Form by **Friday**, **15 November 2024**. The form can be found on our school website. If you require further assistance, you may contact our administrative staff, Mdm Esther d/o Manickam Govindasamy, at Tel: 67337911 or acsi@moe.edu.sq.

Back to School in 2025

- 19. As communicated through public announcement for school reopening in 2025, only **Primary 1 students will be physically present on Thursday, 2 January 2025** to ensure they have a smooth transition and are well acquainted with the school.
- 20. All <u>Primary 2 to 6 boys will remain at home on Thursday, 2 January 2025</u>. They will report to school on Friday, 3 January 2025.

School Attire in 2025

- 21. All students will wear their formal school uniform from **Monday to Thursday**. The formal uniform comprises a white short-sleeved shirt (complete with the name tag) and a pair of navy blue school shorts. This uniform is to be worn with white shoes and socks. If track shoes are worn, they should be predominantly white.
- 22. Students may wear their corporate T-shirt on Friday. The corporate T-shirt is to be worn with a pair of black corporate shorts or navy blue school shorts. CCA attire can only be worn during CCA sessions.
- 23. Students may refer to the 2024 Student's Companion on page 14 (or at https://acsj.moe.edu.sg/our-school/school-rules) for more information about the different student attire. Information on ordering the school uniforms and corporate T-shirts can be found at https://acsj.moe.edu.sg/our-school/general-information/school-vendors.

Staff Matters

24. President's Award for Teachers and Outstanding Youth in Education Award 2025

Every year, two national awards are given out to teachers in Singapore in recognition of their professional excellence.

- (a) The President's Award for Teachers (PAT) pays tribute to experienced teachers for their role in moulding the future of our nation. This award recognises excellent and experienced educators who are role models for the teaching profession. These educators constantly adopt innovative approaches in their lessons and are lifelong learners and mentors to their peers and students. They embody a deep passion for teaching and inspire their students and peers with their words and deeds.
- (b) The Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) recognises young teachers, aged 35 and below, who are inspiring role models for the teaching profession. These teachers have shown admirable passion for teaching and commitment to inspiring and nurturing their students. They design learning experiences that motivate, challenge and inspire students and demonstrate effective pedagogy in facilitating learning. They embody youthful idealism, energy and enthusiasm in inspiring both students and peers. OYEA is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1990.

We would like to invite you and your child/ward to submit your nomination(s) for any deserving teacher(s) through the following links. Nominations for both PAT and OYEA 2025 are now open and will close on **Friday**, **10 January 2025**.



For queries and/or feedback about the awards, please contact MOE_PATOYEA@moe.gov.sg. Thank you for your support in recognising the contribution and impact of our teachers!

The ACS Echo (October - December 2024)

25. The digital version of ACS *echo* (October - December 2024) is available at https://acsecho.com for your reading pleasure.

On behalf of all the staff at ACS(J), I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful year-end holiday and a wonderful time together. May we continue to have willing hearts that are receptive to God's transforming works, allowing ourselves to be shaped by Him to bear the fruit of goodness and fulfil His glorious purposes.

To God Be The Glory. The Best Is Yet To Be!

Yours faithfully

Miss Cheryl Chee Principal