



20 Sep 2021

Ref: BBSS21-339

Dear Parent/Guardian

Warmest greetings to you. Time flies and we are now in the fourth and last term for the year. I thank you for standing by the school and staff as we made the best out of the challenges posed to us by the pandemic.

2. In this period of summative assessments, we would really appreciate it if you would partner us in closely monitoring your children's/ward's work and revision schedule so that they will be sufficiently prepared. There is no denying that there would be stress during this period, so adopt a growth mindset, support them and guide them towards putting their best efforts. Examination results do not define a child. Praise them for those efforts, less the outcomes, take care of their well-being and remember to **encourage and affirm** them so that they will live up to our motto of "Be Our Best". This would go a long way in building character as well as cultivating good parent-child relationship.

3. Despite the COVID-19 situation, as a country, we have kept our schools going and learning continues to take place. This would not have been possible without the resolve of the teachers and staff in managing a safe environment for students to come back to school to learn and even continuing to do so through the Self-Directed Learning (SDL) Days. I want to share my appreciation to my staff with you for the sacrifices that were made in this new norm to ensure that learning does not stop and to you, parents/guardians, for your understanding and partnership in the continued holistic development of your children/wards. Do take time to view the many appreciative notes to my teachers and staff, and also to pen your messages too at <https://thankyoucher.edu.sg/>.



4. I would like to share more accolades for this term (*Annex A* provides additional details of these achievements, if any):

Domain	Achievement
Academic	Tamil Debate Competition – 1st prize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sivakumar Hanish and Govindarajan Nithya Kiruthik from 3A7, Venkateswaran Gayathri (2A4) and Thulasiraman Nikhita (2A5). Public Tamil Speech Contest – 2nd prize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sivakumar Hanish Live on Festival 2021 – Design & Essay Competition winning entries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gareth Seah Ren Xiang, 2A6 (Junior Category) Yuen Mann Mei Rachelle, 3A4 (Senior Category)
CCA (UGs)	NCC (Sea) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC120 12 KM Virtual Race – Top Sea District Unit, 5th Overall
Interest Groups	StriTwis® Final Challenge Competition - 3rd Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacqueline Liew Wen Xuan, Joel Chew Khoi Joei, Kan Tak Yan and Thulasiraman Nikhita of 2A5
School	School Green Awards 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Environmental Project Award ALBA STEP UP Sustainability App <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the Top Recycling Schools earning a total of 555,150 CO2 points
Staff	BBSS Caring Teacher Award 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miss Anita d/o Chandrasagaran, Mdm Augustin Paul Nancy Bala, Miss Bibi Nur Shakirrah, Ms Crystal Ho, Miss Goh Zhi Qing, Mr Jacky Ong, Ms Janice Lim, Mr Nikhil Nath Chatterji, Ms Nithiya Bhavani d/o Thiyagarajan, Ms Yee Pei Fan

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Domain	Achievement
	Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) Community Integration Service (CIS) Awards 2021 - Ms Candy Lee, Outstanding Educator Award

5. While the nation is taking steps towards living with the COVID-19 situation at the endemic level, we are now facing more than 1000 new COVID-19 cases daily since the end of last week. Though we have staff and students not reporting to school in bigger numbers due to COVID-19 related infections, I would share that our ringfencing approaches through updating the school on the situation regularly and reminding all to be socially responsible with the continued vigilance of appointed staff carrying out safe management measures (SMM) duties, is helping to keep the numbers manageable and rising significantly lesser in proportion to national statistics. I see this as an opportunity for students to develop and exercise the important lifeskill of self-responsibility, of being able to take care of themselves and not needing constant reminders to exercise social responsibility, practise personal hygiene and maintain social distancing.

6. Next year, in alignment to the Personal Digital Learning Programme (PDLP), 2 departments would spearhead the use of e-textbooks loaded into the students' personal learning devices (PLDs) for teaching & learning whilst lightening the schoolbag load at the same time. The e-textbooks would be available for the following subjects and would be included in the 2022 booklists for the respective levels and streams:

Subjects	Level(s)	Additional Information
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sec 1, 2 & 3 Express & NA – Math Sec 3 Express & NA – Additional Math 	No e-textbook currently available for NT Math textbooks.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sec 3 Express – Physics, Chemistry, Biology, & Science (Phy/Chem) Sec 3 NA – Science (Phy/Chem) 	No e-textbooks available for lower secondary science and NT Science

7. N-Level Examinations having started on the 1st day of the term itself, will be followed by the O-Level Examinations in October. With the End-of-Year Examination (EYE)¹ commencing from Tue, 28 Sep, this would also be a period where our students would bring forth their self-directedness and exercise what they have learnt and cultivated through our school's Habits of Mind (HOM) programme, especially the dispositions of:

- Persisting – Remaining focused in the face of challenges in their revision;
- Managing Impulsivity – Reading instructions and understanding the questions carefully at the start of examinations; and
- Striving for Accuracy & Precision – To be exact and precise, checking their work, especially examination papers again before submission.

Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully

Mr Phua Huat Chuan
Principal

(This letter has been posted electronically on Parents Gateway. No signature is required.)

¹ The End-of-Year Examination (EYE) Timetables for respective levels were posted via Parents Gateway (PG) on 26 Aug to all parents onboard PG. The timetables can be downloaded from the BBSS website announcement tab (<https://bukitbatoksec.moe.edu.sg>).

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ANNEX A

Details of Achievements

Domain	Achievement
Academic	<p>Students taking Tamil (TL) has done us proud by clinching top spots in competitions organised.</p> <p>Tamil Debate Competition Our TL students, Sivakumar Hanish and Govindarajan Nithya Kiruthik from 3A7, Venkateswaran Gayathri (2A4) and Thulasiraman Nikhita (2A5) had won 1st prize in this annual national level debate competition and received a \$1000 worth of Popular Book vouchers and the Challenge Shield that was presented to Mr Phua, our principal on Fri, 17 Sep.</p> <p>Public Tamil Speech Contest Sivakumar Hanish (3A7) clinched the 2nd prize in this contest organised by Tamils IT Society, Singapore in Apr where contestants presented live speeches over Zoom.</p> <p>Live on Festival 2021 Live on Festival (LOF) is organised by the National Organ Transplant Unit, Ministry of Health. LOF celebrates having participants, youths in particular, expressing their thoughts on organ donation and transplantation through art and writing, serving as a platform for exploring values of responsibility, compassion, empathy and altruism through the delicate and emotive nature of the topic of organ donation and transplantation. For the Design & Essay Competition, 2 of our students, Gareth Seah Ren Xiang (2A6) and Yuen Mann Mei Rachelle (3A4) have emerged as winners for the Junior Category and Senior Category respectively.</p>
CCA (UGs)	<p>NCC120 12 KM Virtual Race BBSS NCC (Sea) cadets and teacher officers took part in one of NCC HQ's events, the Virtual Race, where participants would need to run a total distance of 12 km each from 29 Apr to 31 Jul. The combined efforts of the cadets and teacher officers were rewarded as everyone taking part persisted over the heightened alert period and everyone had to record their runs captured on GPS using a running app and uploading the distance covered. At the end, BBSS amassed a grand total of 5,164 km. This was especially heartening as the team started late in the activity and were placed last at one point. However, everyone persisted and encouraged each other to complete at least the 12 km requirement. All the teacher officers as well as 90% of the cadets, completed the basic 12 km requirement with many exceeding the requirement many times over. The perseverance and determination paid off with BBSS NCC (Sea) placed 5th Nationally and 1st among the Sea District units. This was recognised and announced during the NCC 120th anniversary celebrations on 9 Sep 2021.</p>
Interest Groups	<p>StrITwise® Final Challenge Competition A team of 4 2A5 students, Jacqueline Liew Wen Xuan, Joel Chew Khoi Joei, Kan Tak Yan and Thulasiraman Nikhita participated in the StrITwise®: Edge of Automation Final Challenge Competition organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), School of Infocomm Technology and emerged 3rd Overall in this competition. This competition is a 2-day overnight Challenge Event, which includes hands-on activities on Robotic Process Automation where participating teams automated repetitive mundane tasks using a software technology and pitched their final product to the judges.</p>
School	<p>School Green Awards BBSS would be receiving the Outstanding Environmental Project Award from the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) for School Green Awards 2021. The One Earth Club and the Environment Education Committee together with the rest of the school population, have initiated numerous projects and provided students with opportunities to learn first-hand</p>

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Domain	Achievement
	<p>about saving our environment. The award was presented to the school during the award ceremony at Suntec Convention Centre graced by our Minister of Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing as GOH on 20 Sep 2021.</p> <p>ALBA STEP UP Sustainability App BBSS is amongst the top recycling schools using the ALBA STEP UP app to earn CO2 points which reflects the amount of CO2 emissions saved through their recycling activities. BBSS accumulated a total earning of 555,150 CO2 points! ALBA W&H Smart City is our waste collection company that provided the school with 2 recycling bins for our cardboard, paper and general waste recycling efforts. BBSS has been invited to the prize giving ceremony presided over by Senior Minister of State Dr Amy Khor on 14 Nov during Hong Kah's Environment Day.</p>
Staff	<p>BBSS Caring Teacher Award (CTA) 2021 The BBSS CTA aims to acknowledge BBSS teachers who show care and concern for the holistic development of their students and go the extra mile to ensure they grow up to be confident and independent learners, recognising an educator's exemplification of the values of caring, sharing and concern for the academic, moral, social, emotional and mental welfare of their students. With the assistance of the student councillors, voting results were tabulated and write-ups consolidated with following teachers emerging as recipients of the CTA 2021. They are Miss Anita d/o Chandrasagaran, Mdm Augustin Paul Nancy Bala, Miss Bibi Nur Shakirrah, Ms Crystal Ho, Miss Goh Zhi Qing, Mr Jacky Ong, Ms Janice Lim, Mr Nikhil Nath Chatterji, Ms Nithiya Bhavani d/o Thiyagarajan and Ms Yee Pei Fan.</p> <p>Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) Community Integration Service (CIS) Awards 2021 The Outstanding Educator Award is presented to teachers/education personnel of clients from AWWA CIS, who have been supportive of, and compassionate towards Persons with Disabilities, by adopting a strengths-based and empowering approach in working with them. To be nominated, consistent collaboration with clients, clients' families and CIS team members, going above-and-beyond in the implementation of strategies and modifications to support clients and advocating for equal rights and the welfare of clients in the school setting are aspects that may be considered. For her efforts towards the students under her ward, Ms Candy Lee was nominated and awarded the Outstanding Educator Award in AWWA CIS Awards 2021.</p>

ANNEX B

Major School Events/Activities (13 Sep, Term 4)

DATE	EVENT
Mon, 13 Sep to Wed, 23 Sep	N-Level Examinations
Fri, 24 Sep	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day
Tue, 28 Sep to Fri, 1 Oct	End-of-Year Examinations (EYE)
Mon, 4 Oct to Fri, 8 Oct	
Thu, 4 Oct to Mon, 15 Nov	O-Level Examinations
Thu, 30 Sep	e-Graduation Day – 4N [1300 to 1445 hrs]
Fri, 1 Oct	e-Graduation Day – 4E/5N [1030 to 1225 hrs]
Mon, 4 Oct to Thu, 14 Oct	N-Level Examinations (Cont'd)
Fri, 29 Oct	The last day of the final school term
SCHOOL HOLIDAY (SAT, 30 OCT TO SUN, 2 JAN 2021)	
PUBLIC HOLIDAY (THU, 4 NOV) - DEEPAVALI	
Sat, 27 Nov	BBSS e-Open House