

# Cantonment Times



Semester 1 | 2020

## From the principal's desk

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The first half of 2020 has been a very interestingly challenging one not just for CPS but for all of us as a nation. School began on a high note with us welcoming our new cohort of P1 students and their parents. This year my staff planned class bonding sessions for all levels of students at the start of school term. The P5 camp aimed at building teacher student relationships, instilling self confidence in students and promoting friendships among students of the class and cohort, was organized early in the year. The timing of the camp accorded us a great opportunity which could have otherwise been missed given that the pandemic started soon after in March. Chinese New Year celebrations went ahead as planned and gave us much joy to unite as one CPS family.

It also gives me great honour to thank all parents and guardians for the immense support you rendered to the school during the Circuit Breaker (CB ) period. My staff was prepared well ahead of time to roll out Home-Based Learning (HBL). They worked hard to pull together resources and lessons without compromising the learning outcomes for the various subjects. With your support, we were able to continue to engage our students in their learning during CB. We appreciate feedback given by parents, for guiding your children and working hand in hand with my staff during CB. CB gave us an enhanced perspective of how learning can take place beyond the physical space of a classroom. Students responded well to HBL and once again thank you, as this would not have been possible without your support. We are very impressed with our students' ability to take ownership of their learning and be self-directed learners. The educational landscape has shifted and it has taught students and staff the importance of resilience and steadfastness and how to innovate teaching and learning given the current situation. My staff, with your support, was able to make learning engaging and meaningful for the students in tandem with our school Vision: Concerned Citizens, Innovative Thinkers, Passionate Learners.

School has communicated to you via various platforms, the safety measures we have put in place as we reopened after CB. The high percentage of students returning to school is a reflection of the trust and confidence you have in us. With your support, trust and cooperation, we will continue to give the most engaging and meaningful learning experiences to our students regardless of prevailing situations.

Best Regards

Mrs Manokara

Principal



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## Strategic Thrust 1 - Engaging and Effective Curriculum

### PRIMARY 6 MOTIVATION WORKSHOP



The Motivational and Study Skills Workshop is a milestone event for our Primary 6 students. Through interactive lectures, group discussions, theme games, activities and written exercises, our students learn effective study habits and how to apply them to improve their ability to learn, take tests and excel academically.

During the workshop, students also learn that their level of achievement is affected by their own choices, effort and persistence and hence they will become more motivated to take personal ownership of their results. Students will be made more aware of peer interaction and friendships through peer problem solving to appreciate the importance of mutual support.





## Strategic Thrust 1 – Engaging and Effective Curriculum

### TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

#### Together We Keep Singapore Strong

Cantonment Primary School students commemorated Today Defence Day this year differently from previous years. With the additional precautionary measures, the assembly programme was held in the classroom instead. This year's theme "Together We Keep Singapore Strong" focuses on the many ways that our students can put Total Defence into action in their everyday lives. Through slides, videos, song, activities and discussions, students also learn that they can play their part in keeping Singapore strong and safe against COVID-19.

Our students also put into practice on what they have learnt by being involved in the wipe-down routine in the canteen. They will clean the table after their meals during recess. We would like our students to be socially responsible and considerate towards others.



## Strategic Thrust 1 – Engaging and Effective Curriculum

### WIPE DOWN ROUTINE @ CPS



This year's commemoration of Total Defence Day was different. In order to rally the students in Singapore to fight against Covid-19, the Ministry of Education introduced **The Soaper 5! The Soaper 5** are superheroes who aim to promote national resilience, social responsibility and personal hygiene.

A special lesson was conducted to learn more about **The Soaper 5**.

But most importantly, students were introduced to the **Wipe Down Routine**.

So what is the **Wipe Down Routine**?

*Here's how the routine works. After eating at the canteen table, students use a tissue and pump disinfectant on it. They then use the tissue to wipe the area of the table that they have used. After cleaning, students throw the tissues and wash their hands with soap. Through this, students were able to display social responsibility in school. By cleaning the table after use, the next person will be able to use a clean table. Every table is provided with a bottle of disinfectant, a pack of tissue and a simple guide on how to do the **Wipe Down Routine**.*



It was truly amazing to see our students taking part in the routine with great enthusiasm. Some were even seen wiping the whole table, showing a collective spirit in keeping the canteen clean. Even the Uncle who is in charge of canteen cleanliness was impressed by how clean the tables were after each recess! The **Wipe Down Routine** was also brought into the classroom, where students cleaned their tables and chairs before using them. Through this, we hope that the students adopt a habit of keeping their surroundings clean.



# Strategic Thrust 1 – Engaging and Effective Curriculum

## HOME-BASED LEARNING @ CPS



### *OUR REFLECTIONS*



#### **Madina Anwar Sidat** **1 Respect**

I love my HBL lessons as I am able to do it.

I did not enjoy it because I missed my friends and teachers.

#### **Cheng Zi Lin** **4 Integrity**

I like how online learning is identical to learning in school although I faced some challenges doing it initially. There were times I could not understand some of the work assigned and had to ask questions.

#### **Jazreel Low** **2 Resilience**

My HBL experience was good. The lessons were easy to follow. I like Zoom lessons as it was fun as sometimes, we get to watch shows. I would like to have HBL again although I will not get to see my friends often.

#### **Sophie Tan** **5 Respect**

During HBL, I get to participate in Zoom sessions with my friends and teachers. Although I would prefer being in school, I hope we can stop the spread of Covid -19 by following the safety precautions and guidelines. We can do it, CPS!

#### **Advik** **3 Care**

HBL was a new learning journey for me. Sometimes, the teachers gave online educational games that were mostly fun. Although I missed my friends and teachers, I still felt happy as I could see them online. I am grateful to my parents and teachers for helping me during HBL.

#### **Tiffany Chan** **6 Care**

My HBL experience has been challenging. I had to learn to overcome the distractions when learning from home so I prefer to come to school as it is a more conducive environment. I am glad that we are now back in school. I hope that the Covid -19 situation would improve as my PSLE is approaching.



## OUR REFLECTIONS



### **Mrs Jocelyn Chew**

HBL has been an eye-opening experience, not just for students and parents, but teachers too! For one month, lessons were transformed. Face to face interaction became looking at 40 faces on the computer screen with virtual 'raised hands' and 'thumbs up'. The whiteboard and markers have shrunk 20 times to the screen of a computer with a stylus pen. It was a steep learning curve for everyone but I think we did a great job! We had fun during our 'live' lessons and interacting with one another at home. It is heartening to see many students taking ownership of their learning and participating actively.

### **Ms Ta Sze Mian**

HBL is a new experience that requires us to adjust to new routines and teach in different ways. We had to learn to use various online platforms and conduct live lessons. Despite the challenges, we continued to deliver learning content, engage students and monitor their learning. Moving forward, we will continue to level up and learn to make use of various tools for teaching and learning.

### **Mr Joshua Goh**

HBL has been somewhat like performing a high jump. It is daunting because of the bar that has been set, yet it is fun and rewarding. The start of HBL was quite intimidating as there were many uncertainties and we had to bridge the divide between technology and teaching of PE. During this period of time, all the PE teachers have to start adapting to the new landscape through the use of the various online platforms. It was quite a journey to have picked up these new skills in teaching lessons. It was really refreshing and heartwarming to see brand new sides of the students learning and enjoying themselves. It had been a rewarding and fulfilling journey.

### **Ms Caroline Selva**

HBL has been one of the most enriching learning journey for me. I learn how to carry out live lessons using various tools. This experience has empowered me to learn and adapt quickly. While there were challenges, learning about what works has made me a better educator. I am thankful to be part of a team of teachers who love what they do and who work tirelessly to plan and implement effective lessons. I am thankful to our parents, who have been extraordinarily supportive. I am also proud that our students have embraced the challenge of online learning. While there are gaps to fill, learning to be deepened and a virus to fight, I am confident that we can do this easily given the can-do spirit of our parents and the resilience of our students.



## Strategic Thrust 2 – Leaders anchored on Values

### P1 AND P4 BUDDY PROGRAMME

When school reopened for the new academic year on 2 January, our Primary 4 students were extremely excited about the new role they would play. They were buddies to our new cohort of Primary 1 students for five days during recess. Being totally new to the school environment, it was important for our Primary 1 students to know that their schoolmates care for them.

Their Primary 4 buddies guide them to navigate the process of purchasing food and drinks from the canteen stalls and thereafter to move carefully and safely to the tables and benches to consume their food. With the extended recess given during the orientation, the Primary 4 buddies were able to show their younger friends the school grounds and the facilities they would be using for their lessons as well as play areas. Our Primary 1 students settled down quickly and happily with the help of their wonderful buddies.



I was excited to meet my Primary One buddy as it was my first time. On the first day of the buddy programme, I brought my buddy to the library. I found out that she enjoyed reading. On other days, I accompanied her at the canteen. She talked so softly and was shy and scared. I was glad that I was able to help her in her new school. I had a great time with my Primary One buddy.



Adora Chow  
4 Resilience

I learned how to be responsible in helping my Primary One buddy. It was hard at first to understand how to help my buddy but I was comfortable doing it after a while. I was sad when the buddy programme ended. I wrote a card for my buddy and he shared a Thank You note with me.



Kaveenesh S/O Kumaran  
4 Integrity



## Strategic Thrust 2 – Leaders anchored on Values

### PRIMARY 5 CAMP

The Primary 5 students took part in an Outdoor Adventure Camp from 20 to 22 January at Labrador Outdoor Adventure Learning Centre. A total of 173 students and 15 teachers were involved in the camp which took place for 3 days and 2 nights.

Students had the opportunity to go on a Science Trail at Hort Park to learn about the different species of plants and the biodiversity that was present in the park. The students had a wonderful time learning and walking around Hort Park to engage in hands-on learning.





The Primary 5 students were also given the chance to try out outdoor cooking, where they learnt to make their own popcorn. They had fun and great satisfaction when they saw their creations pop to life! It was evident that they were very proud of themselves as they tasted the popcorn they had worked together to make.



One of the highlights of the camp was definitely the High Ropes Course where the students challenged themselves to complete various high elements. Despite some of them having reservations and concerns about the height of the obstacles, many overcame their fears and completed the challenge.



The finale of the camp was on the final night when the students had a campfire together at the parade square of the campsite. Each class presented a unique dance item and everyone enjoyed the creativity, coordination and overall effort put in by the campers. It was a great way to end off the camp before they headed back to school the next day.



