



HPPS Monthly Newsletter

Oct 2023

29 Sep 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Principal's note

For the past few months, our Primary 4 students have been involved in a science project to plant rice within our school grounds. During the recent harvest process, they observed a lower yield than expected. This experience is a profound lesson in food production, where our students learn to appreciate the efforts of rice farmers and the importance of responsible resource management.

At our school, we take great pride in our core values - Respect, Integrity, Care, and Excellence, collectively known as "RICE" values. It is fitting that we are cultivating rice as a science project because, much like rice as a staple, our students will continue to nourish themselves with these essential values.

In a similar vein, our Primary 6 students have been diligently preparing for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE). While the exams may not cover everything they may have learned, it is important that our students embrace the broader aspects of their educational journey. Beyond exam results, this journey encompasses crucial skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and personal growth.

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our parents and guardians for your unwavering support and active participation in your children's education. Your encouragement, guidance, and dedication significantly contribute holistically to their academic and personal development.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Together, we are nurturing responsible, well-rounded individuals who are not only academically adept but also socially conscious.

*Honesty in Performance
Pride in Service*

Charles Chan
Principal

1 Class Allocation Policy

In HPPS, classes are of mixed abilities. Non-academic considerations such as gender and ethnicity for better social mixing, learning needs and profile of our students are taken into account to better cater to their diverse needs.

With the mixed-ability classes, it reduces fine differentiation and allows students to strengthen their social and emotional competencies as they learn from the strengths of their peers and collaborate with others of different abilities and backgrounds. The teachers will support students' learning through differentiated instructions to meet their learning needs.

The teachers have considered the needs of the students and class dynamics in the class allocation. Please be informed that the decision on the allocation of class to your child is final as reflected in his/her report book.

Please find out more about the class allocation for the respective levels below.

Transition level	Allocation Guidelines
P1 to P2	En-bloc promotion with minimal movement.
P2 to P3	With the removal of weighted assessment for P1 and P2 in 2019, all formative assessments are used to inform us of our students' learning progress and not for class allocation. In view of this change in school-based assessment, our P2 students will be re-grouped randomly from 10 classes (30 students in a P2 class) to 8 P3 mixed-ability classes (40 students in a P3 class) taking into account non-academic considerations such as gender & ethnic distribution.
P3 to P4	Each year, P3 students who are offered the GE Programme will leave their current P3 classes and have the option to join another GEP school or remain in HPPS. Hence, most of the P3 students will be promoted en-bloc into the P4 classes next year. We will retain the 7 mainstream classes and will have 2 mixed form classes for P4 next year. The 2 mixed form classes will comprise of mainstream students and students who have been selected for the Gifted Education Programme.
P4 to P5	The P4s will be allocated into their mixed-ability classes based on the school's recommendation from Subject-Based Banding (SBB). There are two broad bands of classes for some differentiation and students will be randomly placed within the two broad clusters to form mixed ability classes within each cluster.
P5 to P6	En-bloc promotion with minimal movement.

2 Rice Cultivation @ HPPS

In celebration of our school's 45th Anniversary last year, we embarked on a symbolic journey centered around the values of RICE - an acronym representing Respect, Integrity, Compassion, and Excellence. Rooted in Singapore's ambitious "30 by 30" initiative, which aims to locally produce thirty percent of our nutritional needs by 2030, our journey is not only about nurturing sustainable food sources but also instilling these core values in our students.

Our initial foray began with a small but enthusiastic group: our P4 Green Monitors (GMs). Collaborating with our dedicated vendor, Tembusu CSR, we provided specialized training to our GMs in the art of rice cultivation. This hands-on experience allowed them to develop a profound understanding of the rice plant's uniqueness, and they discovered how this process beautifully intertwined with our Science Curriculum.

The feedback we received from our P4 GMs was overwhelmingly positive. Despite the hard work involved, they relished every moment of this journey, cherishing the opportunity to learn and contribute to our shared goals.

With this encouraging start, our rice cultivation journey continued to flourish in April 2023 when we expanded it into a P4 level-wide programme. Each class took charge of three rice planters, starting from seeds and nurturing them through germination and transplanting. Located next to the lower ISH, these planters served as a tangible reminder of our commitment to sustainability.

Over the course of five months, as our students diligently cared for their rice plants, they learned valuable life lessons. Patience and resilience emerged as natural outcomes, as they faced and overcame challenges such as pest infestations and other obstacles associated with rice cultivation. Beyond cultivating rice, this experiential learning opportunity compelled our students to think deeply about pressing issues of food security and sustainability.

In summary, this rice cultivation journey is a holistic educational experience that melds our school's values with Singapore's aspirations for self-sufficiency in food production. This journey also empowers them to become informed, responsible citizens who understand the importance of sustainability and can contribute meaningfully to the achievement of Singapore's "30 by 30" vision.



Rice Cultivation begins with our Green Monitors



Transplanting and Caring for the Seedlings



Harvesting



Harvesting



Thrashing



Milling

3 Lost and Found Corner

Our “Lost & Found” corner has been relocated from the canteen to the area near the General Office at Level 3. At the beginning of Term 3, students were briefed during assembly about the new compartmentalized shelves that was built to store all the lost and found items in school.

The students were reminded of the following:

- The area is monitored by CCTV.
- To keep the area clean and organized by putting their items into the appropriate categories and storage trays.
- To return all wallets, watches, and mobile phones to the General Office.
- All lost & found items will be cleared by the end of each term.

The school would like to appeal to all parents to remind their children to collect their lost and found items from the “Lost & Found” Cabinets so that we can keep this space uncluttered for designated usage.



4 Teachers Day 2023 Celebration – “Summer Holiday”

Due to the Presidential Election set-up, the Teachers Day Concert, originally scheduled for Thursday, 31st August 2023, was moved forward to Wednesday, 30th August 2023. This adjustment provided us with two days to honor and celebrate our beloved teachers - one day for the concert and another day for in-class activities.

The concert commenced with an enchanting walk-in parade, where our teachers were adorned in theme-appropriate attire and received a heartwarming welcome into the school hall. This grand gesture set the tone for the rest of the event, creating an atmosphere overflowing with gratitude and appreciation.

To showcase their skills and express their gratitude, students from various grade levels delivered captivating performances. The concert featured talented individuals who played the Chinese Flute, Violin, Piano, and even showcased their vocal abilities through singing. Additionally, our esteemed String Ensemble CCA dazzled the audience with two exquisite melodies dedicated to our teachers.

Adding to the enchantment of the concert, the Henry Park Parents Association took the stage, delighting both students and teachers with a mesmerizing medley of songs. Their outstanding performance further exemplified the unity and support within our school community.



Performances by our students



Performances by our students



String Ensemble CCA Performance



Dance Performance by our HPPA

The celebratory spirit from Wednesday 30th August 2023 then transitioned to classroom activities on Thursday 31st August 2023, where students engaged in various activities with their teachers that increased the bonding between students and teachers and have students an opportunity to appreciate and thank their teachers.

Some of the activities included writing thank you letters to their teachers, creating artwork or crafts as a token of appreciation, and engaging in group discussions or games to foster a sense of camaraderie between the students and teachers. There were also opportunities for students to share personal anecdotes or stories about how their teachers have made a positive impact on their lives.



Making Origami Hearts



Kahoot Quiz on Guess the Teacher



Pictionary



Watching Teacher Interviews

Overall, the Teachers Day celebrations were a great success, both in honoring the teachers for their hard work and dedication, and in creating a meaningful and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. It was a time for students to express their gratitude and for teachers to feel valued and appreciated. The two days of celebrations allowed for a more comprehensive and memorable experience, ensuring that the teachers were truly celebrated and acknowledged for their important role in shaping the lives of their students.

5 Children's Day

The school will be celebrating Children's Day on 5 October 2023 (Thursday). Do note that 6 October 2023 (Friday) will be observed as a school holiday. Students are to return to school on 9 October 2023 (Monday).

During the Children's Day celebrations, the following have been organised for the students:

- Children's Day carnival co-organised by HPPA for all students
- Games Carnival organised by the PE department for Primary 1 to 4 students

More details of the celebrations are as follows:

Date:	5 October 2023 (Thursday)
Reporting Time:	By 7.25 a.m.
Dismissal Time:	P1 to P3 students – 11.15 a.m. P4 to P6 students – 11.35 a.m.
Attire:	PE Attire (Girls may put on their skirts over their PE shorts) Sports shoes will be allowed on that day
Things to bring:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bottle • Snack for snack break
Note:	<p>Participation in the carnival booths is free for all HPPS students. However, students will need to pay for any food or drink items they purchase from the canteen. Only two stalls, the drinks stall (Avalanche) and the snacks stall (Tummy Soothers), will be operational on this day.</p> <p>Due to the early dismissal, there will be no recess break for the students. Instead, they will be provided with a snack break.</p>

6 Class-based Awards

Class-based awards have been introduced to celebrate our students' strengths and to acknowledge that each student possesses unique qualities deserving of recognition during their six years at HPPS. Recipients of these awards are chosen based on input from their classmates and teachers. Do note that these awards are informal and will not be included in their official report books.

Certificates will be given out to the Primary 1 to 5 awardees on 5 October 2023, during the Children's Day celebrations. Primary 6 awardees will receive their certificates on 16 November 2023, during their Graduation Party.

7 2024 CCA Registration Exercise

CCA is an essential and integral part of education for our students at HPPS. It supports the school's mission and is one of the key components of our character development programme. We aim to provide a wide range of activities to cater to students' diverse needs and abilities. P3 to P6 students are strongly encouraged to participate in only one CCA. You may refer to the school website for the list of CCAs offered in 2023. The new CCAs that would be offered to students in 2024 are Basketball (boys only) and Floorball (boys and girls).

2024 CCA Registration Exercise for 2023 P2 to P5 students will take place online in Term 4 Week 5. Information on the Registration Exercise will be sent via Parents' Gateway (PG) to the parents by 13 Oct 2023 (Fri), 6pm. Students who would like to sign up for a CCA or change a CCA could do so using the Online CCA Registration Form in the PG.

8 Parenting Article

The No. 1 rule to learning effectively – and why parents should give their kids more space

NUS lecturer Katy Kan knows a thing or two about learning. She teaches business communication at the university's Centre for English Language Communication, and has come a long way from

barely passing her English exams in school. After more than 20 years of teaching tertiary and adult students, she has answers on how to get knowledge to stick.

You may read more from this [article](#).

Vision
Lead with Character, Serve with Talents

Mission
Nurturing concerned citizens with integrity and a spirit of excellence through holistic education

School Values
Respect, Integrity, Care, Excellence

