



QUEENSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1 March 2023

AN OPEN LETTER MARCH 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

1. Greetings from Queenstown Primary School! How quickly time flies and we are fast approaching the end of Term 1.

In Celebration...

ezi Go-Green School Programme

2. Our school participated in the *ezi Go-Green School Programme* organised by SembWaste Pte Ltd from February to September 2022. The programme consisted of a recycling competition, as well as educational programmes on recycling. As a result of the whole-school effort in Nurturing QtPS Eco-Stewards, our school has received the Bronze award for the recycling competition.

3. QtPS Eco-stewards, let us continue to play our part in protecting the environment and taking action for positive change! We would also like to encourage all parents / guardians to join us in this recycling movement!

Upcoming Events...

Experiential Learning Week (6 to 10 March)

4. Hands-on learning experiences are wonderful ways for our students to grow their knowledge, develop social-emotional competencies and 21st century skills. In line with our endeavour of developing our students to be Critical Thinkers and Caring Citizens, this year's *Experiential Learning Week* will expose our students to a wide range of activities. The activities are:

- Introduction to Computational Thinking (CT) programme to develop our students' ability to break down a complex problem into simpler steps, identify patterns that are relevant to solving the problem, and finally to design the logical steps and rules in order to achieve the desired outcome.
- Values in Action (VIA) are learning experiences that support students' development as socially responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to the community, through the learning and application of values, knowledge, and skills. VIA fosters student ownership over how they contribute to the community.
- Social Skills Through Art as a life-long learning platform for students to make meaning and apply their social skills through photography-related activities.
- Math Trail to enable our students to see how Mathematics can be applied to our daily lives and develop their problem-solving skills.
- The Junior Achievement (JA) programme allows students to better appreciate real world concepts and skills, and to understand the relevance of basic skills such as financial literacy.

- Environmental Project-Based Learning @ QtPS allows our students to explore and address environmental problems while building on skills like teamwork, communication, critical thinking and reflection.

5. The table below shows a brief overview of the programmes for the various levels:

Level / Programme	Environmental Project-Based Learning	Junior Achievement	Values in Action	Computational Thinking	Social Skills Through Art	Math Trail
P1	✓	✓		✓	✓	
P2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
P3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
P4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P5	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
P6	✓					

6. As *Experiential Learning Week* progresses, do support your child's / ward's learning by getting your child / ward to share with you what they have learnt and experienced. We look forward to an enriching *Experiential Learning Week* for all our Queenstown. We would also like to extend a special 'thank-you' to all our Parent Volunteers for helping out in the *Experiential Learning Week* programmes.

March School Holidays (11 to 19 March)

7. The March School Holidays will be from Saturday, 11 March, to Sunday, 19 March. School will reopen for Term 2 on Monday, 20 March. We wish everyone in our Queenstown Family a restful term break!

Peer Support Leaders Training

8. Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) are selected to take on a more active role to look out for their peers and will be trained to listen actively, respond with empathy, manage conflicts, and encourage early help-seeking and positive coping strategies. This is in line with MOE's vision for every student to be a peer supporter. PSLs form a strong network of support in their class, CCA or peer group, where they can look out for their peers. PSLs are in turn supported by teachers, staff and school counsellors who check in with them regularly.

9. PSLs will attend two training sessions on two Thursdays, 23rd March and 20th April, from 2 – 4 pm at the Band Room and AVA Room. The school has engaged a vendor to run the programme.

10. The objectives of the training are to:

- Enhance their social skills through effective communication
- Empathise and apply strategies to aid their peers to cope with challenges
- Increase their confidence while building positive peer relationships
- Encourage help-seeking behaviour

Primary 5 SwimSafer Programme

11. *SwimSafer* is a national water safety programme developed to raise the standard of swimming proficiency in Singapore. Created specially for children below 16 years old, this programme will teach students the essential skills of water safety and how to work towards becoming a competent swimmer. The Primary 5 cohort will be participating in the programme from Term 2, Week 1 and the lessons will be held at the MOE (Evans Road) Swimming Pool. All lessons will take place during PE lessons in the morning and will be conducted by qualified swimming instructors. Details of the *SwimSafer Programme* will be given in a separate letter to all parents of P5 students in due course.

General Information...

Assessment Matters

12. As announced by MOE, all primary schools in Singapore will not have mid-year examinations. This is to strengthen our efforts to enhance the holistic development of our students and their intrinsic motivation to learn for life.

13. However, assessment plays an integral role in supporting a child's learning, and formative and weighted assessments continue to take place and are administered by the subject teachers. Feedback after each formative and weighted assessment will continue to be made available to you by the subject teachers. This move would allow us to focus on building students' confidence and intrinsic motivation to learn, rather than how students could score in exams. This is also to avoid conditioning the students to be extrinsically motivated. Instead, we would like to focus on instilling the joy of learning in our students.

14. The subject teacher will inform your child / ward of the actual day of weighted assessment/ End-of-Year exam nearer to the date. Please inform the teacher prior to the weighted assessment/ End-of-Year exam should your child / ward not be able to sit for it. A Medical Certificate (MC) or a letter of excuse with a valid reason is required should your child / ward be absent on the day of assessment/ exam. Your child / ward would be given the paper to complete and it would be marked by the teacher. However, the marks **will not** contribute towards the overall marks for the year.

Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2023

15. Nominations for the annual *Inspiring Teacher of English Award* are now open! This national award, presented by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times and with the support of MOE, acknowledges English Language teachers who:

- Exemplify the use of good spoken and written English.
- Promote learning-focused interaction during English lessons.
- Choose pedagogies appropriate to learners' readiness, interests, and learning profiles.

16. All Queenstownians, parents and teachers are invited to nominate their inspiring English Teachers. Nomination forms for the Teaching Award can be downloaded from <http://goodenglish.org.sg/inspiring-teacher-of-english-award/nomination-information>.



17. Do submit your nominations via email to Mrs Ong Lay See at lim_lay_see@moe.edu.sg by **13 March 2023**.

Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award 2023

18. Nominations for the *Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award* are now open! Jointly organised by the Malay Language Council of Singapore, Malay Language Teachers Association, Berita Harian and the Malay Language Learning and Promotion Committee, this award recognises Malay Language teachers who:

- Instil knowledge, skills and interest in the learning of the Malay language, literature and culture, as well as their care and concern for the well-being of their students; and

- Demonstrate the values of Arif Budiman, a learned person who contributes to society through excellent and exemplary service as an educator.

19. All Queenstowners, parents and teachers are invited to nominate their inspiring Malay Language Teachers. Nomination forms for the Teaching Award can be downloaded from www.mbms.sg, www.mllpc.sg, and www.beritaharian.sg. Nominations can also be made online via <https://go.gov.sg/agab2023>.



20. Do submit your nominations by **31 March 2023**.

Most Inspiring Tamil Teachers Award 2023

21. Nominations for the *Most Inspiring Tamil Teachers Award* are now open! Jointly organised by Tamil Murasu, Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union and the Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee, this award recognises Tamil Language teachers who have made significant contributions in educating and promoting Tamil Language among students.

22. Nominees should be:

- Teachers who nurture students' interest in Tamil Language by using innovative methods to make lessons more interesting and engaging; and
- Dedicated and passionate teachers who demonstrate a keen interest in students' well-being and inspire students to be self-directed and engaged learners.

23. All Queenstowners, parents and teachers are invited to nominate their inspiring Tamil Language Teachers. Nomination forms for the Teaching Award can be downloaded from www.tllpc.sg and www.tamilmurasu.com.sg. Nominations can also be made online at <https://go.gov.sg/mitt-2023-form-tl> and <https://go.gov.sg/mitt-2023-form-el>.

For Tamil Language form: 	For English Language form: 
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24. Do submit your nominations by **10 April 2023**.


School's Calendar of Events (COE)

25. Our March calendar of events can be found on our school website, at <https://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/school-calendar/>



Keep in touch with us...

26. To be updated on what has been happening in our school, please visit us at:

<u>Our School's Website Page</u> www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg	
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Concluding Remarks...

27. Our School Value for Term 1, Respect, is about recognising that everyone has value, and expressing that value through our words or actions towards others. In QtPS, we believe in cultivating respect in our students, so that they will possess the belief in their own self-worth and the worth of others. As our very important partners at home, do help us by reinforcing this message of respect at home.

28. I would like to conclude the letter with this story about respect.

Juan worked at a meat distribution factory. One day, while doing his work, he went into the meat cold room to inspect something. However, in a moment of bad luck, the door closed and he was locked inside with no help in sight.

Although he screamed and knocked with all his might, his cries went unheard as no one could hear him. Most of the workers had already gone home, and outside the cold room it was impossible to hear what was going on inside.

Five hours later, whilst Juan was on the verge of death, the security guard of the factory eventually opened the door and saved his life.

Juan then asked the security guard how he got to open the door, as it was not part of his work routine, and he explained thus, "I've been working in this factory for 35 years. Hundreds of workers come in and out every day, but you're one of the few who greets me in the morning and says goodbye to me every night when leaving after working hours.

Many treat me as if I am invisible. Today, like every other day, you greeted me in your simple manner 'Hello' at the entrance when you reported for work. But curiously, after working hours today, I observed that I had not heard your 'Bye! See you tomorrow'. I look forward to your 'Hi' and 'Bye' every day, as to you, I am someone. By not hearing your farewell, I knew something had happened. Hence, I decided to check around the factory to see if you were alright. Fortunately, I managed to find you!"

Adapted from: <https://www.speakingtree.in/allslides/true-life-story-be-humble-love-and-respect-those-around-u>

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pearly Ng'.

Ms Pearly Ng

Principal

Pearly_Ng@schools.gov.sg



"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."

— Theodore Roosevelt

QtPSG Meeting 2023

On 30th January, QtPSG Exco Committee sat down with the School Leaders to plan for activities for both our students and their parents for year 2023. With our Vision – We aspire to make a Difference in the lives of our School Community and Our Mission – To be an effective Partner to the School, To be an engaging voice for the parents, To be a Caring Team for the Community. We have come up with a series of activities that are in line with both vision and mission.

Fathers' Group Kick-starts Activities!

Our Fathers@QtPS kick-started the year with an abundance of activities:

Dementia WayFinding Mural Painting

In support of the elderly and residents who are residing in Queenstown and may have difficulties with recognition, a total of 24 pairs of Parent-and-child will be taking part in Mural Painting. This is an initiative by Stirling View RC and HDB, spread over 4 Sunday sessions starting from 19th February.

The idea was motivated by how the elderly or individuals with Dementia may face difficulties identifying where they reside. To make it a little easier, these murals become "beacons", a way-finder of sorts.



NPC & Fire Station Visit

Close to a 100 Father and Child have signed up to this year's edition of visit to the Queenstown Fire Station, took place on the 25th February. A regular event pre-pandemic, we're excited that this event is able to resume once again!



Briskwalk to Fort Canning.

The Fathers' Group decided to mix it up a little, encouraging family participation at a monthly Briskwalk organized by the Queenstown Community Sports Network (CSN). February will see them visiting Fort Canning, while March will see the walk heading to Rifle Range.

