



QUEENSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1 March 2022

AN OPEN LETTER MARCH 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

1. Warm greetings from Queenstown Primary School! Time flies and we are fast approaching the end of term 1. It has been a busy term and we hope both you and your child/ward are having fun learning. We are looking forward to a great finish to the term.

Upcoming Events...

Experiential Learning Week (7 to 11 March)

2. Hands-on learning experiences are a wonderful way 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
- 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 to develop our students' understanding of environmental issues and equip them with the skills to make responsible decisions in different environmental contexts.

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

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

4. 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 Queenstowners. We would also like to extend a special 'thank-you' to all our Parent Volunteers for helping out in the Experiential Week programmes.

March School Holidays (12 to 20 March)

5. The March School Holidays will be from Saturday, 12 March, to Sunday, 20 March. School will reopen for Term 2 on Monday, 21 March. We wish everyone in our Queenstown Family a restful term break!

General Information...

Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2022

6. 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.

7. All Queenstowners, 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>.



Do submit your nominations via email to Mrs Ong Lay See at lim_lay_see@moe.edu.sg by **14 March 2022**.

Students' External Achievements

8. If you would like your child's/ward's external achievements to be considered for his/her Direct School Admission (DSA) application (applicable to P6 students), or to be reflected in his/her Holistic Development Progress (HDP) report at the end of the year (applicable to P1 to P5 students), please email a scanned copy of the relevant certificates to your child's/ward's Form Teachers. The deadline for submission for DSA consideration is 4 May 2022 (tentative)

and the deadline for the other levels is 30 September 2022. However, we encourage you to submit the documents as soon as you have received them.

Safe Management Measures for Students

9. You are strongly encouraged to inform your child's/ward's Form Teachers once your child/ward has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

10. Heightened Safe Management Measures (SMM) will continue to be carried out to ensure our Queenstowners' safety. All students will continue to adhere to the following SMM:

- Wear masks daily, covering nose, mouth, and chin
- Visual checks by teachers and school personnel
- Daily temperature-taking drills
- Fixed seating plan
- Frequent handwashing and wipe-downs of personal spaces
- Use specific routes to and from the canteen to prevent mixing between levels
- **Wear TraceTogether Token at all times (daily checks by Form Teachers)**

11. Parents / guardians are reminded to keep your child/ward home if he/she is unwell. Inform the school immediately if your child/ward:

- has gone for a PCR COVID-19 test.
- is symptomatic (unwell) with ART+: to see a doctor as soon as possible to assess if a confirmatory PCR test is required.
- is asymptomatic (well) with ART+: to self-isolate for 72h and retest using ART. If still ART+, retest again in 24h. Child may return to school after ART- result.
- has any member of the household with ART+ or PCR COVID-19 positive and/or your child/ward has been issued by MOH the Health Risk Notice (HRN). Your child/ward will be able to return to school with ART- test result each day for the duration of the HRN. Before your child/ward leaves home, please submit daily photo evidence of the ART test results with the kit clearly labelled with your child's / ward's name and the date.

Queenstown Primary Parent Support Group (QtPSG) News Bytes

12. Our QtPSG committee's monthly newsletter features past and upcoming events/projects and parenting tips. The March issue is attached to this letter for your reading pleasure.

School's Calendar of Events (COE)

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



Keep in touch with us...

14. 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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Our School's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/qtps.sg/>



Concluding Remarks...

"Respect for the environment, however, means more than not destroying it; it also means using it for good purposes."

- Pope Francis

15. Our School Value for Term 1, Respect, also encompasses respect for the environment. As such, we aim to grow our students to be QtPS Eco-Stewards, students who respect and take good care of the environment. During Experiential Week, our students will get to experience our school's signature Environmental Project-Based Learning @ QtPS (E-PBL@QtPS). Each level will be tasked with a project that focuses on conserving our environment. At the end of each project, our Queenstownians will gain a better understanding of environmental issues and be equipped with the skills to make responsible decisions in different environmental contexts. As our very important partners at home, do encourage your child/ward to take small steps towards conservation by consuming and using less. One way to do so is by reminding your child/ward to bring his/her lunch box for recess when he/she makes food purchases. By taking such small steps, together we can protect Mother Earth and make this planet a better place for generations to come.

Warmest regards,

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

Ms Pearly Ng

Principal

Pearly_Ng@schools.gov.sg

Getting Our Children Vaccinated ...

As the Covid-19 vaccination is rolled out to our children, it can be a daunting decision for some parents. We thought that sharing some perspectives may prove beneficial as we go through this journey – we're never alone at this. Hence, we thought we might share some of that perspective as part of NewsBytes.



"We started preparing the vaccination journey for our students early, and planned for safe measures to be in place. We knew we had an important part to play at ensuring the well-being of the children."

We interviewed a teacher at QTPS, who shared with us that the school recognised early an important aspect of this vaccination journey - that students who take the vaccination should refrain from strenuous activity for 2 weeks after the jab.

Hence, teachers in both classroom sessions and PE sessions proactively ask, communicate and identify students who have taken the vaccine. Timelines for monitoring are noted, tracked and co-ordinated between our teachers. To ensure our students' learning remain uninterrupted, alternative ways for our students to learn were put together – this helped our students remain participative through different roles safely.

At times, the bigger challenge is when students are still keen to participate at (physically) active roles or when they overlook that it's not quite 2 weeks as yet. That's where our teachers step in to keep them safe.

"I took the time to do my reading and research, and quite frankly, came to the conclusion that the danger of my daughters not having the vaccine was simply too great to ignore."

We had wanted to also understand what goes on in the mindset of a parent who was an early adopter to having his children vaccinated.



As a Father of 2 daughters, he shared with us that he had made sure he did enough reading and fact-finding to be sufficiently comfortable. We asked if being an Engineer by training made it any easier for him to take the logical approach. His answer was, surprisingly, humanistic. He had mentioned that data in publications, both local and abroad, gave him the knowledge, for sure. It wasn't easy, since there was a fair bit of information. One had to care enough and took enough time if an informed decision was to be made.

As he read and researched, he also made it a point to take the time to explain it to his daughters. Children may have trouble grasping the granular details, hence he found explaining to them with analogies work. We enjoyed the idea he shared, that he had used the story of how our bodies needed 'soldiers' to be able to recognise the virus in order to defeat it. His young children's understanding helped give his wife and him comfort, knowing that their children too, were supportive of the vaccine. He had also mentioned the strong Healthcare support in Singapore to be a factor in his consideration.

"I was really worried at first, right up to the night before I had to go for the jab. I even asked Mummy if it was going to be really painful or if I will be really sick ..."

Our children's perspective is equally important. We spoke to a student who took the first jab of her vaccine recently.

She shared that she had been scared, right up to the day prior. She had asked for comfort food and drinks ahead of time as well, having heard that one can fall 'sick' the next few days.

But the experience was simple, fast and really over before she knew it, she said. While it could be different for each child, for her, she had not experienced any fever or significant body aches – beyond a mild ache on the arm.

