



SBPS/24/034

26 Mar 2024

### **Open Letter from School Leaders 3/2024**

Dear Parents,

1. First and foremost, a very warm Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim families.
2. We hope you had a wonderful bonding time with your loved ones during the March school holidays. We welcome back your child to Term 2.

#### ***New Staff to the Sembawang Family...***

3. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following staff who have joined our Sembawang family. They are (with effect from):
  - Ms Evelyn Wong Jingwei – MK Dy Centre Head (26 December 2023)
  - Ms Yvonne Elizabeth Pok Yin Fong – Music teacher (11 March 2024)
  - Ms Yan Muhan – MK Educator Chinese Language (18 March 2024)

#### ***Important Information...***

##### **Student Matters**

4. Strengthening Student Cyber Wellness. MOE aims to develop students as digitally empowered, future-ready learners and innovators, and achieve cyber wellness through the use of technology in a safe and discerning manner. In strengthening student cyber wellness, the school has refreshed the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) curriculum to include cyber wellness programmes in class and at school assemblies, with the aim to equip students with the skills and knowledge to be safe and responsible users of technology. The school is also looking into identifying possible at-risk students and implementing targeted intervention programs to provide them with the necessary support to develop better digital habits.
5. Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). We are pleased to share with you the schedule for the SYF performances. Parents are cordially invited to the SYF performances as your support and presence would mean a lot to your child. Seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis at the respective venues. More information on SYF 2024 can be found at the website: <https://www.syf.gov.sg/>. The schedule for the performances by our own performing arts groups is appended in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Details of Performing Art Group Performances**

<b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Chinese Dance	4 April (Thursday), 5.30 pm	University Cultural Centre Ho Been Auditorium
Indian Dance	8 April (Monday), 1.42 pm	University Cultural Centre Ho Been Auditorium



**SEMBAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Innovative Learners, Rooted in Values

Performing Arts	Date and Time	Venue
Choir	16 April (Tuesday), 11.00 am	School of the Arts (SOTA)
Malay Dance	22 April (Monday), 2.18 pm	University Cultural Centre Ho Been Auditorium
Chinese Orchestra (Sectional Ensemble)	2 May (Thursday), 4.15 pm	Singapore Conference Hall

6. Increase in Prices of Canteen Food and Drinks. Amid the rising cost of food commodities, the school has reviewed and approved the increase in the prices of the canteen food and drinks, with effect from Term 3 (24 June 2024). The revision of the set meal prices was in accordance with the guidelines from MOE. The detailed information on prices will be displayed at the individual stalls. Please refer to Table 2 for the summarised details.

Table 2 – Set Meal and Ala Carte Prices

Type	New Price (wef 24 June 2024)	
Set Meals (noodles, western and rice stalls)	\$2.00 (Medium portion)	\$2.50 (Large portion)
Ala Carte (selected items)	Increase of \$0.10 to \$0.20	

**Safety, Security and Well-Being**

7. Safe Environment. The number of reported dengue cases in Singapore has climbed steadily since January. Keeping the mosquito population in check is key to minimising dengue transmission, and everyone has a part to play. The school has stepped up on housekeeping in the school compound to check for potential mosquito breeding grounds, especially after a rain. We also encourage parents to keep your household mozzie-free by practising B-L-O-C-K (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Practise B-L-O-C-K



8. Road Safety Programme. The P4 students visited the Road Safety Community Park in Term 1 Week 10 to learn more about road safety rules and etiquette through role-playing (see Figure 2). The school believes that every student has a role to play in promoting road safety and they can play a part in keeping their friends and loved ones safe on the road.

Figure 2 – P4 Students at Road Safety Community Park





9. High Temperature Weather Condition. Recent reports of higher than usual temperature may result in our students experiencing heat related incidents. To mitigate such potential situations, we have allowed our students to report to school in their PE attire until further notice. We have also stepped up the monitoring of student activities in open spaces, with regular reminders to our students on the need to hydrate adequately.

10. No Smoking. Under the Smoking (Prohibition in Certain Places) Act 1992, smoking is prohibited in the educational institutions, including within 5 metres of the fenceline. For the latter, we have put up signs at the main gate and the 2 side gates to remind public who intend to light up. See Figure 3.

Fig 3 – No Smoking Sign



### ***Celebration of Successes...***

11. Camp With Dad. The ever-popular Camp with Dad has once again delivered a wonderful father-child bonding time for all the participants, through various activities and tasks such as cooking, tele-match, tent-pitching and campfire (see Figure 4). Kudos to the planning team comprising dads themselves who had meticulously planned and executed the activities, a key factor in the success of the camp. We are currently exploring Camp with Dad 2 for the lower primary students in August. Look out for the announcement in PG!

Figure 4 – Camp with Dad (P4 to P6)



*Participants engaged in bonding activities*

*Camp participants*

12. 13<sup>th</sup> Chung Cheng Cup Chinese Chess Competition. Our Chinese Chess Club members took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> Chung Cheng Cup Chinese Chess Competition on 1 March 2024. In their maiden competitive event, the junior team which comprises Nicolas Yeow Xin Perng (3 Resilience), Cai Zhexuan Atom (4 Empathy) and Pang Jing Sheen (4 Resilience) clinched the 4th position in the U10 category. The senior team also displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship during the competition. See Figure 5 that features our chess competitors. Well done, Chess Club!

Figure 5 – Chinese Chess Competitors







13. Experiential Learning Week (ELW). Since its inception in 2018, ELW has provided our students with opportunities to further develop their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies (21CC) skills through specially curated programmes and activities that foster a holistic approach to learning. For instance, in line with the Sports Education Programme (SEP) that advocates the importance of sports education and encourage sports participation in schools, we took the opportunity to introduce Mixed Martial Art (MMA) to our students (see Figure 6)!



14. National Chinese Calligraphy Competition 2024. Selected P3 to P6 students participated in the 2024 National Primary Schools Chinese Calligraphy Competition on 23 February 2024, aimed at cultivating the appreciation of Chinese culture through calligraphy, promoting the art of calligraphy and celebrating the festive period. Yao Yanze (3 Care) and Lim Jun Yu, Louis (3 Empathy) were recognised for their effort with consolation prizes, while certificates of participation were presented to the remaining students (see Figure 7). The opportunity had spurred our students to continue practising and refining their skills. Well done, team!



15. Tamil Spelling Bee Competition 2024. Selected Tamil pupils from P4 and P5 took part in the Spelling Bee Competition in March. This was jointly organized by Media Corp's Tamil News and Current Affairs Department and Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee, which saw a total of more than 70 primary schools taking part in this competition. Our Tamil students have done well with a berth in the semi-final round. The pupils' hard work, enthusiasm and motivation made this success possible, not possible without the tremendous support from the parents. See Figure 8 [L-R: Shahana Begum D/O Barakathullah (4I), Riyaskhan Faliha Nazli (4E), Murali Raveena (4I), Prathisha Sai (5RE) and Mahendran Maadhavan (5RT)]

Figure 8 – SBPS Tamil Spelling Bee Champions



16. Charity Hongbao. As part of inculcating the value of caring and sharing, our P2, P4 and P6 students participated in the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) Charity Hongbao donation drive, an annual fundraising campaign held over the Lunar New Year period to support people with disabilities. Students were encouraged to share the blessings that they had received during the festive season by contributing to the hongbaos. Our students responded generously with their personal contributions and learnt that through the simple gesture, they had made a difference to people with disabilities. Thank you parents, for supporting this donation drive and your partnership in nurturing our students to be caring and compassionate citizens.



### ***Up-coming School Events....***

17. International Friendship Day. The school will be commemorating International Friendship Day on the week of 1 April 2024. Students will be introduced to the diverse cultures of ASEAN countries and have the opportunity to participate in playing traditional games from the different ASEAN countries. To further embrace and appreciate the rich diversity of cultures around the world, we encourage students to come to school in international attire (with school shoes) on Wednesday, 3 April 2024. This special day aims to foster a sense of global friendship and understanding among our students. We look forward to a week of cultural appreciation and celebration with your children.

### ***Miscellaneous...***

18. Service Excellence. The staff at the General Office (GO) has embraced service excellence in their daily businesses. Whether you have had a pleasant experience or have suggestions for how we can better serve you, we invite you to share your thoughts with us. Your feedback and compliments are invaluable to us as they help us continually improve our processes and serve as affirmations of our efforts.

### ***Concluding Remarks...***

*"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it or work around it."*  
*~Michael Jordan~*

19. Parents, your partnership is one of the key factors contributing to the success of your child over the years. Thank you for journeying with the school.

Warmest regards,

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