



SBPS/24/039

2 May 2024

### **Open Letter from School Leaders 4/2024**

Dear Parents,

1. Warmest greetings from SBPS! As we reflect on the events of Term 2, we are pleased to share some exciting updates. Our students showcased their talents and dedication at the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) performing arts competition, adding to the vibrancy of the school year. Alongside this, they also participated in the annual National School Games and the termly Non-Weighted Assessment/Weighted Assessment for all levels. We are delighted that our students were on task.

2. Additionally, after a 4-year hiatus, we are embarking on an Overseas Learning Journey (OLJ) in May this year. The planning for this OLJ started since July last year and we are thrilled to provide this enriching experience for our students. Considering that our last OLJ took place in 2019, we carefully deliberated and decided to embark on a single OLJ to an ASEAN country. We will assess the frequency and destinations of such experiences for our students in the coming years.

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

#### **Student Matters**

3. P6 Parent Teacher Conference (PTC). For the majority of our P6 students, the PTC will be carried out online, with selected students attending face-to-face sessions. Please refer to Table 1 for the details. More details will be shared via Parents Gateway (PG) in due course.

Table 1 – Details of PTC

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
6C, 6E, 6G, 6I, 6RE	20 May (Mon) & 21 May (Tue)	2.20 to 5.00 pm	Online via Zoom	
	23 May (Thu)	2.20 to 5.00 pm	In-person meeting in school	Only for selected students
6RT, 6RY	20 May (Mon), 21 May (Tue) & 23 May (Thu)	2.20 to 5.00 pm	Online via Zoom	

4. Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec). DSA-Sec seeks to broaden the recognition of talents and achievements beyond academic grades. P6 students can gain direct entry to certain secondary schools based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas, before taking the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE). Application will be opened from 11.00 am on 7 May to 3.00 pm on 3 June 2024. Interested applicants may visit MOE's DSA website (<https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa>) for more



## SEMBAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

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information. You may also refer to the info sheet sent via PG on 22 April 2024 by Mr Yang Binglin, Year Head/Upper Primary, for more information.

5. **Strengthening Student Stewardship.** As part of fostering a sense of stewardship in our students for their holistic development, we would like to emphasise the importance of students taking care of their own belongings and responsibilities. By instilling this value, students not only learn to be responsible for their possessions and tasks, but also gain a sense of independence and self-reliance. We seek your support in reinforcing this message at home, as it will greatly contribute to the overall growth and character development of our students.

6. **Deepening Learning through the Media Resource Library (MRL).** Learning is multi-modal and our school continues to explore ways and means to enhance the learning of our students. Via the MRL, teachers enhance the students' learning through quizzes based on a thematic display of an author, book reviews of authors, activities and book reading associated with festivities. See [Figure 1](#) for a sample of a thematic display of an author.



Figure 1 – Author Harry Potter

### **Safety, Security and Well-Being**

7. **Safe Environment.** Working in partnership with stakeholders, the school adopts a concerted approach to ensure our students learn and play in a safe environment. To highlight an example of such partnerships, the school notified Sembawang Town Council about the accumulation of dried leaves outside the school fence line that could potentially create mosquito breeding sites as a result of them trapping rainwater.

8. **General Repair & Redecoration (GR&R).** The school has commenced the GR&R, primarily on repainting and minor repairs, scheduled to complete in August this year. The scope of work requires the setup of peripheral equipment such as scaffolding and safety barricades within the school compound, for high rise works and temporary equipment storage. To ensure the safety of our students, works that may pose a safety concern are scheduled during the June school holidays, while those that are carried out during curriculum hours are subjected to safety checks before commencement.

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

9. **North West School Partner Award 2024.** We are delighted to announce that our school has been conferred with the Silver Award for the North West School Partner Award 2024 (see [Figure 2](#)). This accolade acknowledges schools that have actively participated in the Community Development Council (CDC) programmes throughout the calendar year 2023. Our school's active engagement in various sustainability initiatives provides students with genuine learning opportunities, fostering a sense of social responsibility and environmental stewardship.



Figure 2 – Award Presentation by Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam



10. International Friendship Day (IFD). Our students commemorated IFD with an assembly programme on celebrating diversity and appreciating differences in our multi-national and cultural society, followed by hands-on activities on traditional games from different parts of Asia during recess time. Our MK students were also introduced to the traditional games (see Figure 3). We would like to express our gratitude to all parents in supporting the commemoration of IFD by getting your children to wear international / ethnic attire to school on 3 April, and to all PSG who had supported our recess activities.

**Figure 3 – Students enjoying the traditional games**

	
<p>Korean traditional “Tohu” game – students attempting to throw arrows/sticks into a pot, under PSG’s guidance</p>	<p>Enjoying a game of “Pick-Up Sticks”, believed to have its origin in China</p>
	
<p>Students tried their hands on “Len Choa”, a predator-prey board game, originating from Thailand</p>	<p>MK students trying their hands on gasing, believed to have been introduced by middle eastern traders who conducted trade in Malacca</p>

11. World Water Day. Our MK students were introduced to the importance of saving water and learnt the value of water through a water rationing exercise. They discovered how people used to retrieve water from wells in the olden days when they interacted with the miniature well created by the PSG (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4 – World Water Day activities in MK**







12. Singapore Athletic U13 Championship 2024. In preparation for the National School Games, our Track & Field team participated in the Singapore Athletics U13 Track & Field Championship held on 23 and 24 March at the Home of the Athletics (formerly known as Kallang Practice Track). Competitions are suitable platforms to put our student-athletes through the paces and the experiences gained has certainly propelled them towards scaling further heights.

13. Tamil Language Festival (TLF). In conjunction with the Tamil Language Month, our P6 Tamil students performed the 'Villu Pattu', which is a traditional way of storytelling by infusing songs, at the Woodlands Regional Library on 7 April (see Figure 5). They scripted the story, wrote the song, and choreographed the performance, underscoring an excellent example of student agency at work. Kudos to the team who put up an entertaining performance!



Figure 5 – From Left (Harshith 6RE, Rarya 6RY, S Shruthi 6RY, Raksha 6RY, Hasene 6G, Nandhiha 6RT, Yalini 6RT, Varnika 6G and Anirudh 6RY)

14. Separately, as part of the TLF, our MK students also participated in a memory cum recitation contest and an in-house poem recitation competition, with children dressed as renowned poets. These programmes are excellent platforms to develop the confidence of our MK students. See Figure 6.

Figure 6 – MK students in action

Esha Sathiesh (K2 Azalea) and Ritvi Jaswanth Lal (K2 Azalea) won the consolation prize.		Ravindran Aarvan (K1 Coral) emerged third.
		<p>Students dressed as famous poets.</p> <p><u>K1 Prize Winners</u></p> <p>1st - Ravindran Aarvan, K1 Coral 2nd - Tejashree Karthikeyan, K1 Beluga 3rd - Roshan Thiruselvam, K1 Beluga</p> <p><u>K2 Prize Winners</u></p> <p>1st - Reuben Emmanuel Raj, K2 Azalea 2nd - Ritvi Jaswanth Lal, K2 Azalea 3rd - Mehvish Mishal Binte Jaffar Sadik, K2 Daffodil</p>



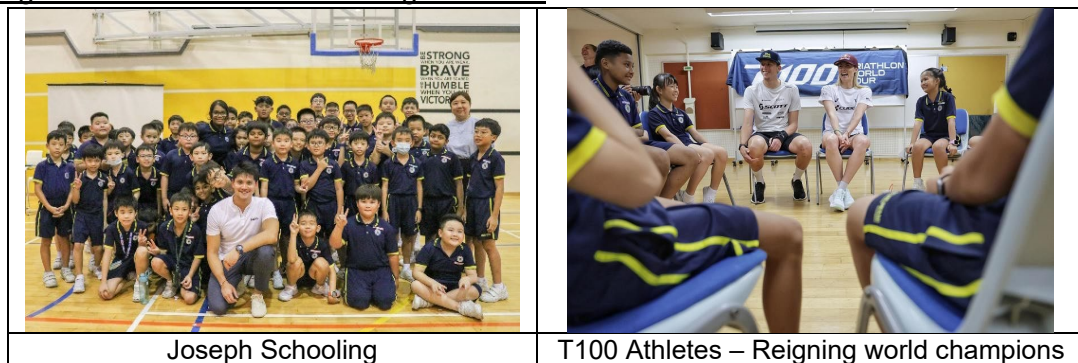
15. Hari Raya Celebration Performance. As part of the Sembawang Central Zone 1 Residents Network's Hari Raya celebrations, our Malay dancers put up a colourful performance at the pavilion next to Block 312 on 27 April. The performance provided our Malay dancers with the opportunity to gain valuable experience and showcase their talents (see Figure 7). Well done girls!



Figure 7 – Our Malay dancers in action

16. Talent Development Programme (TDP). Customised and differentiated programmes in the TDP are offered to SBPS students, ranging from programmes for the whole school population to targeted programmes that cater to the specific skillsets of selected students. Besides training sessions, we have leveraged “Meet & Greet” sessions with notable sports personalities to motivate our students. See Figure 8 for the sessions with T100 world athletes and Joseph Schooling, Singapore's first Olympic gold medallist!

Figure 8 – Meet & Greet Sharing Sessions



17. Moo-O Awards Digital Storytelling Competition. On 17 April, our Primary 3 students – Chee Kai Ting (3RE), Vincci Cheng (3G), Rainie Yong (3G) and Valerine Chuah (3E) – participated in the annual Moo-O Awards Digital Storytelling Competition which is supported by the Speak Good English Movement (see Figure 9). The students did our school proud by clinching the Gold Award. The students exhibited positive speaking dispositions, demonstrated good oral communication skills and spoke with accurate pronunciation, articulation and intonation. Kudos to all participants and teacher mentors for their outstanding effort and work!

Figure 9 – Moo-O Awards Digital Storytelling





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

18. Primary 5 Overseas Learning Journey. Overseas learning journeys are excellent opportunities to deepen our students' acquisition of 21CC, specifically in global awareness and cross-cultural skills. Scheduled from 13 to 17 May, 32 students with 5 teachers (including 2 senior and experienced Key Personnel) will interact with their counterparts in 2 Malaysian schools through classroom lessons and activities on environment sustainability and culture, as well as visits to iconic places, farms and orchards in Kuala Lumpur. The safety and security of our students are key considerations in the selection of accommodation, places of visit and dining locations.

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

19. Eat with your family day (EWYFD). The next EWYFD falls on 24 May 2024 (Friday). To support this initiative, the General Office will close at 5.00 pm to allow our staff to leave early and spend time with family over a meal.

20. Travel Declaration. As we approach the June school holidays, we would like to gently remind parents on travel declaration. All students (including MK children) **must declare their travel only if they intend to travel during the June school holidays**, via PG from 10 May.

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

*"There is no substitute for hard work."  
~Thomas Edison~*

21. We would like to take this opportunity to wish parents and child a great family bonding time during the upcoming June school holidays.

22. Stay safe and healthy!

Warmest regards,

Mr Ng Aik Boon  
Principal  
ng\_aik\_boon@schools.gov.sg

Mr Zafilin Abdul Hamid  
Vice-Principal  
Zafilin\_Abdul\_Hamid@schools.gov.sg

Mr Shawn Tan  
Vice-Principal (Admin)  
TAN\_Thiam\_Siong@schools.gov.sg