

4 Feb 2021

## **Newsletter to Parents – The February Edition**

Dear Parent,

We are almost halfway through Term One and I hope your child is enjoying his/her learning experiences in school thus far in spite of the Safe Management Measures (SMM) in place. Due to the Covid situation, many of our school programmes and processes have to be adjusted and we are happy to see that our staff and student leaders have rose to the occasion to make the best out of the current situation.

In the previous years, the Sec 1 Orientation Programme was typically conducted in a large group in a single venue. This year, our student leaders had to reformat the programme and carried out the activities in small groups in the multiple venues. The student leaders also tried to enhance the orientation experience for the new Sec 1 students through the use of Google Meet and other online tools. We are delighted to see the student leaders' creativity and innovativeness in making the orientation programme fun and memorable for the Sec 1 students, despite the SMM restrictions.

Another adjustment we made was to our Sec 3 Camp. While we could not have our students stay overnight, our students still managed to enjoy some of the more popular activities from previous years like orienteering, outdoor cooking and high elements in a day camp format. They managed to learn a bit more about themselves, bond with their new classmates and, most importantly, enjoyed themselves.

As the year progresses, we will try our best to offer our students an enjoyable and enriching secondary school experience even as we continue to actively look out for the health and well-being of your children.

### *Celebrating our Students' Successes*

Our 2020 Sec 4 Express and 5 Normal (Academic) cohort, like the many cohorts before them, lived out our school values of resilience and espoused a mindset for excellence. They also supported one another in their preparations for the national examinations, despite the disruptions brought about by the Covid pandemic. We are happy that their hard work paid off and they did well in their GCE 'O' Level Examinations. We are proud of their progress and performance and we would like to wish them the very best in their post-secondary endeavours!

### *Parents as Our Partners in Education*

As we congratulate our graduating cohorts and look forward to celebrating the successes of our current students, we are mindful that this would not happen without the strong support from the parents as our partners in education. We hope you would continue to encourage your child to participate actively in school activities for their holistic development. These

experiences will give your child the opportunity to discover their strengths and talents, as well as to form invaluable bonds with their peers and teachers, setting them in good stead for any challenges that they might face in their paths ahead.

An excellent way for parents to keep in touch with the school is via our Parents@Xinmin (P@X) platform. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our new P@X Chairperson for 2021, Ms Hazel Yeo. She is assisted by a Vice-Chairperson, Ms Joanna Lye, Treasurer/Secretary, Ms Rebecca Tee and Ms Doreen Yuen, and Level Coordinators (Sec 1 Coordinators – Ms May Chong and Ms Eunice Sim, Sec 2 Coordinators – Ms Aniza Aquavella and Mr Thong Kwok Wah, Sec 3 Coordinator – Ms Jacqueline Ee,; and Sec 4 & 5 Coordinator – Ms Michelle Liaw). I hope you would find time to participate in some of the activities organized by P@X and network with other parents. Do also feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with them.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### School Sports Partnership Programme

Our students need to keep an active and healthy lifestyle, especially in view of the Covid situation. Studies on Singaporean children and adolescents have previously shown that they could only meet up to 40% of the recommended physical activity level and above 70% of adolescents exceeded more than 2 hours of electronic screen time daily. Furthermore, screen time has increased due to the pandemic and introduction of home-based learning.

To encourage a healthy lifestyle among our students, Xinmin is collaborating with SportSG to offer four sports to all Sec 2 and 3 students who wish to learn and/or further enhance their skills in the following areas: Football, Badminton, Floorball and Basketball. In addition, one of the main objectives of this partnership is to use sports as a platform for character development. Xinmin PE teachers, together with SportSG coaches, will aim to instil values such as sportsmanship, fair play and self-discipline during the training sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity for Xinmin students to exercise, learn new skills, make new friends, get them away from their mobile devices and relieve their daily academic stresses.

The Xinmin PE department hopes that parents will encourage their children to sign up for this programme. The deadline for signing up is 11 Feb (Thu). In view of SMM to ensure student health and well-being, we would like to assure parents that there is no mass or large-scale gathering of students, with the number of students for each sporting venue capped at 50.

Details of the School Sports Partnership Programme are as follows:

Start: Term 1 Week 7 (18 Feb)

End: Term 3 Week 10 (2 Sep)

The tentative weekly schedule for the 4 games are as follows:

| Sport                               | Day      | Time                     |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Football                            | Monday   | 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm (TBC) |
| Basketball                          | Thursday | 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm (TBC) |
| Badminton                           | Monday   | 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm (TBC) |
| Floorball (To start only in Term 2) | TBC      | TBC                      |

*Please note that there will be no sessions during the school holidays*

The cost of the programme is heavily subsidised by both the school and SportSG, and made free for Xinmin students. Students who sign up are expected to remain committed and maintain at least 75% attendance. Failure to do so will result in students bearing the full cost of the programme. For further information, please contact Mr Gabriel Tay, HOD PE&CCA, at [tay\\_lye\\_hock\\_gabriel@schools.gov.sg](mailto:tay_lye_hock_gabriel@schools.gov.sg).

#### Chinese New Year Celebrations (11 Feb)

The school will celebrate Chinese New Year with classroom decoration competition, class-based hands-on calligraphy activity and a school-wide virtual concert on 11 Feb (Thu). Staff and students are encouraged to wear red top on Chinese New Year Eve. Students will be dismissed at 11 am and the school will be closed at 12 pm.

Please also note that 15 Feb (Mon) is a school holiday and the lessons will resume on 16 Feb (Tue).

#### Total Defence Day Commemoration (16 Feb)

To commemorate Total Defence Day on 15 Feb, Form Teachers will engage students in understanding the six pillars of Total Defence during Form Teacher Time on 16 Feb (Tue). This year's theme of 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong' is a continuation from previous years, focuses on the many ways we can put Total Defence into action in our everyday lives.

Singapore is facing a wider range of challenges and threats. They are complex and multi-faceted. They are also increasingly targeted at hearts and minds, aimed at breaking social unity and unsettling commitment to the nation. Hence, it is crucial for us to step up and play our part to strengthen our unity, resilience, and resolve in the face of these challenges and threats. Through our activities and engagement, we hope that Total Defence would continue to help to rally Singaporeans through threats and challenges, and be resilient as we manage the effects of Covid-19.

#### Sec 2 Museum-Based Learning for Art Education via Zoom (22 Feb to 3 Mar)

Museum-based learning is an integral component of Art education. In past years, students visited National Gallery Singapore, viewed exhibits and artefacts and the stories behind them allowed students to make connections to society and culture. While we are unable to visit the museums this year, it did not deter Xinmin's Visual Art department in wanting our students to have a more holistic visual arts experience. Hence, the idea for a virtual learning journey was born.

Students will be attending a one-hour virtual learning journey about Art and the World at National Gallery of Singapore via Zoom. The session will be conducted by National Gallery of Singapore. Students will learn about how artists have responded to their rapidly-changing environments and identify new words and concepts that lead to conversations and discussions. This will be held during art curriculum time in their respective classrooms. The dates for each class are as follows:

| Date   | Class    |
|--------|----------|
| 22 Feb | 202, 204 |
| 23 Feb | 207      |
| 24 Feb | 205      |

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| 25 Feb | 206     |
| 26 Feb | 201,203 |
| 3 Mar  | 208     |

For more information, please contact Ms Grace Ho at [ho\\_su\\_yin\\_grace@schools.gov.sg](mailto:ho_su_yin_grace@schools.gov.sg).

### Parent Teacher Meeting

The school will be having a Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) for all levels at the end of Term 2 in end May. More details regarding the PTM will be shared with the parents at a later stage. In the meanwhile, please drop your child's teachers an email or call the school during office hours if you have any questions or queries.

## **ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS**

### 2020 GCE O Level Results

In the recent release of the 2020 GCE O Level results, 89 % of our Sec 4 Express students are eligible for admission to a Junior College and 85% of our Sec 5 Normal (Academic) students are eligible for admission to a polytechnic. Our heartiest congratulations to all those who have achieved good results and to their parents and teachers who encouraged and nurtured them along the way!

We are also happy to note that our top students with six, seven and eight A1s were also outstanding leaders in their respective CCAs, similar to the previous years. At our Speech Day in April, we will be honouring students who have done well in the national examinations and have also excelled in other domains such as leadership, the visual and performing arts, service and sports.

### Term One Weighted Assessments for Sec 1 to 3 (8 Feb to 5 Mar)

The Term One Weighted Assessments for Sec 1 to 3\_students are scheduled to take place from 8 Feb (Mon) to 5 Mar (Fri). Weighted Assessments are conducted in the form of class tests or performance tasks during normal lessons. The detailed schedule can be found on our school website.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### School Uniform Regulations

We would like to thank our parents for their patience with the unforeseen delay in the delivery of the school uniform by the uniform vendor at the end of last year. We have given our feedback and suggestions to the vendor to improve the experience for the parents/students and the vendor had reassured the school that they would do everything within their means to prevent similar delays in the future.

We would like to remind parents that all students are required to meet school uniform regulations which can be found on our school website under School=>School Rules and Regulations=>Attire and Grooming. If any student requires customization of the uniform in order to meet these regulations, the uniform supplier offers customization services. You can get the uniform supplier's contact from our school website under Students=>Resources=>Bookshop and Uniform Supplier.

We thank all parents for your continued support of the school and our programmes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarification. We can be reached via email at [xinminss\\_email@schools.gov.sg](mailto:xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg) or you can call us at 6288 9382.

Your partner in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tan Kuo Cheang', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Tan Kuo Cheang  
Principal