

4 Mar 2021

Newsletter to Parents – The March Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hope you have been well and that the Lunar New Year break was a welcomed one!

Lunar New Year this year felt a little strange. In order to keep our students and staff safe from the Covid virus, we could not celebrate it in the way we used to – no spreading of festive cheer to our neighbours through Spring-It-Up; no mass *lo-hei*; no mass gathering at the hall to enjoy the Chinese New Year celebrations programmes. Yet we managed to re-create a festive atmosphere in school. Notwithstanding the Safe Management Measures, our staff and students still managed to enjoy the festivities (and learn a thing or two about Chinese heritage and culture).

How did we do that? We used technology!

Wonders of Technology

Technology, when used properly, is an enabler. We can access all the information available with the touch of a button. We can connect with people who might be miles away from us physically. More importantly, in Xinmin, technology enhances our students' learning.

If you browsed our Facebook page recently, you would discover that our teachers have been skilfully harnessing the affordances of technology to help bring learning to life for our students. For example, in the Sec 3 Geography classes, our teachers used Virtual Reality to take their students on an exciting "helicopter ride" to closely observe a volcanic eruption in Kamchatka, Russia – all from the safety of their classrooms. Our students also reached out to the elderly residents in the Thye Hua Kuan Nursing Home using Zoom and interacted with them as part of our XinminCares programme.

So you see, technology has the potential to enrich our students learning and school experience greatly.

Exciting Change Coming Up

We are thus very excited about the possibilities offered by the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) that is coming up in Term 3. As part of the PDLP, all our Sec 1 to Sec 3 students will own a personalised learning device. We believe that the device will enable us to overcome physical constraints and transcend boundaries to empower our students to learn any time and at any place. Just like what our geography students experienced, technology could make learning fun, exciting and relevant to the real world.

Being a new programme, we understand that you may have some questions pertaining to the PDLP. As such, we will be sharing more information with you in soon, and will be looking at organising information sessions for you to clarify any queries you may have on the programme.

Preparing Ourselves for the Change

However, that is not to say that the use of technology is without its perils. The increased use of technology by students have also brought about concerns from parents and educators alike, about excessive gaming, assessing inappropriate online content and obsession with social media. It is thus important for both the school and home to put in place measures to enable a safe learning environment for our students.

Even as our teachers use technology in their lessons, they are also consciously reinforcing learning routines and developing learning dispositions in our students that would help them learn more effectively with technology. Our revised CCE curriculum will also feature Cyber Wellness more significantly. During CCE lessons, students could look forward to learning more about maintaining a healthy balance of online and offline activities, developing a healthy online identity, developing safe, respectful and meaningful online relationships and learning to be a responsible member of the online community. We will also be putting in place safeguards like the device management application in our students' personal learning devices to provide them with a safe learning experience and to prevent device misuse.

As we navigate towards providing a technology-enriched learning environment for our students, I hope you will partner us in guiding your child on the responsible use of technology. Establishing rules at home such as limiting your child's time spent on digital devices would be helpful. You may also wish to engage your child in conversations about healthy, responsible online behaviours. With your strong support and close partnership, I am confident that we will be able to nurture our students to be future-ready citizens of tomorrow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Geographical Investigation Fieldtrip for Sec 4 Pure Geography Students (2 Mar, 10 Mar)

Sec 4 Pure Geography students will be going for a Geographical Investigation (GI) Fieldtrip to Pasir Ris Park organised by the Humanities Department.

GI is an essential component for the Pure Geography syllabus and the cohort was unable to experience it last year due to the disruptions brought about by COVID-19. It is thus important that the students experience this GI fieldwork which cannot be replicated through class-based activities. Please be assured that your child/ward will be briefed on the safety aspects in the field and also safe management measures which will be adhered to strictly.

The dates, time and classes involved are shown below:

Date	Time	Classes Involved
2 Mar (Tue)	2.20 pm – 6.15 pm	402 and 404
10 Mar (Wed)	2.40 pm – 6.30 pm	403 and 405

Please note that two-way transport is provided and your child/ward will be dismissed from school after the GI Fieldtrip. A consent form will also be sent via Parents Gateway for your reference and approval.

HPV Vaccination (9 Mar)

The Health Promotion Board's appointed vendor will be conducting the second/third dose of the HPV vaccination to the Sec 4 girls on 9 Mar (Tue). It is recommended that your daughter receives this final dose to get the full protection offered by the HPV vaccine. We will inform the students of their schedule closer to the date. For any queries or assistance on the National School-based HPV Vaccination Programme, please email HPB_mailbox@hpb.gov.sg or call 6435 3895.

Student Council Investiture Ceremony (11 Mar)

The Student Council Investiture Ceremony will be held on 11 Mar during Form Teacher Time. The annual ceremony formally recognises and welcomes the Student Council Interns who have passed their 6-month internship into the Student Council family. As newly-minted Student Councillors, they will embark on a journey of discovery as they learn to work together with one another as student leaders of the school. The event also publicises some of the events and duties managed by the Student Councillors and invites interested students to submit their application to join the Student Council.

Create Your Own Newspaper Competition Workshop (13 Mar)

Xinmin is co-organising the 10th Create Your Own Newspaper Competition (全国中学编采比赛工作坊) with Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) and the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning (CPCLL). In the lead up to the competition, an online workshop will be conducted on 13 Mar (Sat) for participants from the different schools in Singapore.

Level 3 Student Leaders' Training (15 to 16 Mar)

The Level 3 workshop is organised by the Student Leadership Committee. About 90 Sec 3 students will be nominated by their CCA teachers-in-charge to attend this two-day workshop and skills such as facilitation and conflict resolution using the Leadership Challenge Model will be taught. This year, the workshop aims to help student explore their motivations as a leader and to further develop our students' leadership skills so that they can better facilitate the learning experiences of their peers and juniors in CCA effectively. You may contact the teachers-in-charge, Mr Kevin Lu at Lu_wenqi_kevin@school.gov.sg or Ms Grace Heng at heng_hui_mien_grace@schools.gov.sg for more information. To safeguard our students against COVID-19, the school will conduct temperature-taking and visual screening for all students and instructors prior to the workshop. The workshop will be conducted at three separate venues throughout the two-day duration to ensure that there is no mass gathering of participants at any point of time. If your child has been nominated for the workshop, please look out for the notification and consent form on Parents Gateway which will be sent out to you soon.

Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Festival (22 Mar to 1 Apr)

The MTL Festival (母语双周) is a two-week event from 22 Mar (Mon) to 1 Apr (Thu). The theme for this year's MTL Festival, 心之所向, 智之所系 / *Hati Dan Minda Bersatu*, encourages the love of MTL through various programmes and enrichment activities. It also creates an immersive environment for the learning of these languages outside academic lessons through hands-on and practical activities. These activities aim to raise students' awareness of the value of conversing in their MTL in real-world contexts and, at the same time, enable them to appreciate their cultural and historical significance.

Elective Modules for Sec 4 Normal (Technical) students (Category A) (22 Mar to 25 Mar)

The Sec 4 Normal (Technical) students will be attending their Category A Elective Modules on 22 Mar to 25 Mar. These courses are developed to provide a broader learning experience to the students as well as to expose them to the educational progression and career pathways available. The students have selected their modules for the 4 full-day course. The modules and venues are as follows:

Category A Elective Module	Venue
Video Production	College Central
Introduction to Restaurant Services	College West

Parent Engagement Talk for Sec 4 & 5 - Educational Pathway Talk (26 Mar)

We will be sharing links with Sec 4 and 5 parents on the different post-secondary opportunities on 26 Mar. These links will point to the different resources to keep parents and students updated about the suite of post-secondary options available. More details will be sent through Parents Gateway subsequently.

Speech Day (1 Apr)

It is the time of the year to recognise the outstanding efforts made by students, staff and partners in realising the Desired Xinmin Outcomes. In view of the safe management measures, we would be taking a blended approach to our Speech Day this year.

For current students, the prize-giving ceremony will take place during curriculum time for the prize recipients.

For graduated student prize recipients, friends of Xinmin and recipients of Service to Education award, the recipients would be receiving their awards on 1 Apr. The ceremony would be broadcasted live via our school's Facebook page.

The following students are specially mentioned for their outstanding performance and contribution in the physical, aesthetics, social and leadership domains:

Award	Name of Student	Class of 2020
L.E.A.D. Award and Valedictorian	Ng Ying Hui	402
Chew Peng Leng Scholarship	Olivia Yong Kay Li	406
	Ong Kai Shun Jadric	409
Chew Peng Leng Award for Exemplary Service	Amanda Soon Qi-En	403
Yap Fun Hong Award for Sports and Outdoor Education	Koh Jin Jie Gerald	403
	Nicole Ng	404
Heng Chin Soo Award for Visual, Creative & Performing Arts	Nur Sophia Zahra Khan	401
Tung Sey Yew Award for Leadership in the Uniformed Groups	Jerald Yap Guang Cheng	402

International Friendship Day (8 Apr)

Xinmin will commemorate International Friendship Day (IFD) on 8 Apr (Tue) during Form Teacher Time. In line with safe management measures, our international students will be doing a presentation to the school via an online platform in school.

The theme this year is "Singapore in the World". The changing global landscapes and the complexities of the world highlight the importance of maintaining good relationships and the need for our students to recognise the importance of connectedness within and beyond ASEAN. Through learning more about the rich diversity of cultures, our students can develop the spirit of friendship and collaboration, and chart the way forward for Singapore to connect with different countries in the global community.

As a lead up to IFD, students will receive an IFD Special Edition of the Straits Times student newspaper IN on 25 Mar (Thu) on how COVID-19 has brought both challenges and opportunities

for Singapore, and reminded us on the importance of international collaboration and cooperation. In relating to this year's theme for IFD, Form Teachers will highlight to students how the region is working together to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19. We encourage you to reiterate to your child the importance of remaining vigilant in our nation's efforts in combating COVID-19 and preventing repeated surges in community cases.

Parent Engagement Talk for Sec 2 - Streaming Talk (9 Apr)

We will be sharing more on Upper Sec subject combination matters with Sec 2 parents on 9 Apr. The talk will enable parents to help your child select a suitable subject combination that will lead to his/her desired post-secondary pathway. The talk will be pre-recorded and the links will be sent through Parents Gateway closer to the date.

ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS

Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Counsellor

As part of the school's support in guiding your child's education and future career, our ECG Counsellor, Ms Catherine Ng, conducts one-to-one or small group ECG counselling, classroom sessions, talks and other activities to help students explore their strengths and interests in relation to their aspirations. She will also guide students and their parents in planning and making informed decisions for their education and career pathways, as well as work with teachers to create strategic ECG programmes and experiences for the students. If you wish to speak with Ms Ng, please contact her at ng_hui_fong_catherine@schools.gov.sg. To make the consultation session more beneficial, your child should be present with you.

Yours faithfully



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal