

5 Aug 2022

Newsletter to Parents – The August/September Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

How are you? Things have been quite busy in school as we reintroduce much of the student activities that were put on hold due to COVID for the past 2 years. Starting with the first face-to-face Homecoming at the start of the term, “life” has been slowly returning to our students’ school experience! The next major celebration our staff and students are looking forward to is our nation’s 57th birthday, especially students from our Girls’ Brigade who are taking part in the National Day Parade (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CgYYJxQh8b7/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY%3D>).

Even as we prepare to celebrate National Day, I would like to take some moments to reflect on this year’s theme – “Stronger Together, Majulah!” – which is a call for all Singaporeans to forge ahead as a united and strong people towards a better future. How might we, as a community, make that happen? How do we know if we are on the right track? To answer these questions, let me share some observations of my staff and students, which gave me much hope.

Resilience

I was supporting our C-Division Volleyball girls’ and boys’ teams at their Zonal finals last week and was impressed by the spirit of resilience demonstrated by the two teams, especially the boys’ team. The boys came up against a formidable opponent, but never once did they lose the spirit to put up a good fight. They put in their 150% and fought back against their opponents’ volleys ferociously. The value of resilience really shone through in their performance at the match.

But such resilience is also present in our students’ everyday lives! Unlike the time when we were in Secondary school, our students today must manage multiple demands of their time. On the one hand, they have to balance between being leaders and active contributors of their CCAs, on the other, they also need to have a firm grasp of their academics. And kudos to our students’ resilience that most are able to prioritise and exercise good time management.

“Divine Discontent”

In his 2016 National Day Rally, PM Lee shared that he would like God to bless Singapore with “divine discontent” – “always not quite satisfied with what we have, always driven to do better”. Indeed, one of the key ingredients of ‘Singapore Spirit’ would need to be this “divine discontent”.

The student whom I thought exemplified this “divine discontent” is none other than Lauren Song from 108. Lauren won second place in the Lower Secondary category in the 5th National Text Recital Competition. I was blown away by Lauren’s performance and the high standards of performance of all the winners were also substantiated by the renowned panel of adjudicators from Singapore and abroad.

But what was really impressive about Lauren was her determination to do even better at the next round! And this, I would say, is “divine discontent” exemplified.

Seizing Opportunities

In Xinmin, we offer students with multiple opportunities for students to enrich their secondary school lives. Understanding that our students may have different interests and aspirations, we offer enrichment opportunities in the cognitive, aesthetics, psychomotor, community and leadership domains. Consequently, this manifests in a buffet of different experiences ranging from Olympiad trainings to opportunities for students to step up to organise school events.

But providing all the experiences will account for nothing if students do not seize these opportunities. This is why, my teachers and I are very pleased that we do have many students who step up to seize these opportunities to explore their interests, stretch themselves and work towards their aspirations. For example, this year, we opened up the opportunity for students to get involved in organising our school's National Day celebrations (via a recruitment drive) and were pleasantly surprised at the overwhelming response from students.

Indeed, there would be some inertia on the onset. Perhaps also some degree of fear and apprehension from trying something new. But with courage and effort to overcome the initial fears, our students often found that the experience would be well worth it!

Our students are the future of Singapore, and I see a great sense of hope for Singapore through how our students develop and grow in Xinmin. With this, I hope you will similarly be encouraged to continue to partner us to nurture your children to grow into confident contributors who make a positive impact on Singapore and the world beyond!

SCHOOL EVENTS

National Day Celebrations and School Holiday (8 Aug to 10 Aug)

The school will be having our National Day Celebrations on 8 Aug (Monday) and students will be dismissed at 11 am on that day.

The theme for this year's National Day Parade is "Stronger Together, Majulah!" It is a call for all Singaporeans to forge ahead as a united and strong people towards a better future. "Stronger Together" reminds Singaporeans that unity in our diversity is what makes us stronger. Communities, families and friends coming together form the bedrock of our nation's strength and resilience, and enable us to overcome challenges. "Majulah", which means "onward", encapsulates our hopes and spirit as a nation since our independence 57 years ago, and is a rallying call for Singaporeans to strive for a better future, and grow from strength to strength as we emerge from COVID-19.

The day will begin with a National Day Observance Ceremony led by student leaders of the various Uniformed Groups. Through a series of class-based activities planned for that day, students will reflect on how Singapore have grown stronger together through the trials of the past few years.

9 Aug (Tue) is a public holiday and 10 Aug (Wed) is a school holiday. Students will report back to school on 11 Aug (Thu).

Sec 3E Geographical Investigation (for Pure Geography students only) (22 Aug to 31 Aug)

Sec 3 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 as the students will get to apply their classroom learning to an authentic and dynamic environment. Please be assured that your child/ward will be briefed on the safety aspects in the field and safe management measures which will be adhered to strictly.

The dates, time and classes involved are shown below:

Date	Time	Classes Involved
23 Aug (Tue)	4.00 pm – 6.30 pm	302
26 Aug (Fri)	2.30 pm – 5.00 pm (tentative)	305

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.

Arts Week Programme (29 Aug to 1 Sep)

The inaugural Arts Week Programme celebrates the Artistic talents and interests of Xinmin students. Our students will be featured in live performances during the week. There will also be daily release of student performances videos on school's Facebook and Instagram page. Please follow us on our social media pages to give your support to our budding performers.

All Staff Day Celebrations (1 Sep)

In conjunction with Teachers' Day on 2 Sep (Fri), which is a school holiday, the school will be celebrating All Staff Day on 1 Sep (Thu). Please note that students would be dismissed at 11 am on 1 Sep.

The Student Council are planning a fun-filled programme to celebrate and appreciate Xinmin staff for their care, hard work and dedication in keeping students safe, healthy and happy. Please follow our Facebook and Instagram to see how we celebrated our staff on this special day.

Level 4 Student Leaders Training (5 Sep)

Student Leaders and CCA leaders will be participating in the Level 4 Student Leaders Training on 5 Sep 2022. Facilitated by the teachers from the Student Leadership Committee, this training provides a platform for students to push their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. A consent form containing details of the training will be sent to parents via Parents Gateway. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Harvinder Singh at Harvinder_Singh@schools.gov.sg for more details.

CCA Stand Down (10 Sep)

All CCA activities will cease from 10 Sep onwards, approximately 2 weeks prior to the start of the End-of-Year examinations. CCAs will resume after the examinations are over.

Graduation Ceremony for graduating students (23 Sep)

The last day of school for graduation students will be on 22 Sep and their graduation ceremony will be held on the following day on 23 Sep afternoon. The graduation ceremony is to mark the

completion of the graduating students' secondary school education at Xinmin. This occasion symbolises the culmination of the students' preparations for the national examinations and the students will be receiving well wishes from their teachers and their peers to motivate them to put in their best performance for the upcoming national examinations!

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Travel Declarations for Sep School Holidays

If your child is travelling out of Singapore during the Sep school holidays, kindly keep the school informed of his/ her travel plans. To ensure a healthy and safe school environment, please declare your child's travel plans, if any, for the Sep holidays via Parents Gateway (PG). Those who are not travelling need **not** submit a travel declaration.

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 clarifications. We can be reached via email at 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', is written over a horizontal line.

Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal