



QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

• Address: 2A Margaret Drive, Singapore 149295 • Office: 6474 1421 • Fax: 6479 1302 • Email: qss@moe.edu.sg

4 February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I trust that things are going well with you and your family as we in Singapore live with our “new normal” of practising Safe Management Measures (SMM). These include wearing of masks in public, keeping a distance of at least 1 m apart from others, being responsible to seek medical attention when we do not feel well such as having a fever or experience flu-like symptoms. All these, together with regular hand washing and not speaking loudly in enclosed spaces such as the bus or MRT, have helped in Singapore’s management of COVID-19 thus far.

With the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations, our Government has implemented additional safeguards such as a maximum of 8 visitors to a household per day and to avoid visiting more than 2 homes per day. These measures are sensible and protective of our loved ones, as well as a responsible act in caring for others. The intent is that we can continue with Phase 3 of the current management of a pandemic that has killed over 2 million people worldwide, along with lock-down in many cities and countries. That we can still travel relatively freely and live lives normally requires everyone’s cooperation.

I am glad our Queenswayans have been responsible to do their part, though we occasionally still have those who forget to bring their thermometers to school. Please help to stress the necessity of this implement, which is something they should not leave for school without.

School Celebrations on Chinese New Year Eve – Thursday, 11 February 2021

As I have articulated to our students, though we are managing COVID-19 with SMM, we must maintain our traditions. Thus, next Thursday, we will have a blended celebration of Chinese New Year in our school. Students will report to school at the usual time. They will have their 1st two periods of the day, followed by class activities and a Concert to celebrate Chinese New Year. Sec 1 and 3 students will be dismissed by 10.45 am while Sec 2, 4 & 5 students by 11.15 am. Special programmes have been planned and I know the teachers and students have been working hard to ensure a meaningful celebration. There will be no recess break that day and students are to bring packed snacks to class. They could also bring suitable items to share with their classmates.

Time-table Change on Wednesday, 17 February 2021

Please note that Monday, 15 February, is a school holiday. This year, as a number of holidays fall on Mondays, we will make adjustments to our time-table to ensure that curriculum time can be preserved. Thus, on Wednesday, 17 February, our students will follow Monday’s time-table but we will follow Wednesday’s remedial and CCA schedule. Please remind your child/ward about this.

Purchase of Personalized Learning Device (PLD)

I am grateful for the response from parents/guardians concerning the purchase of PLDs. The majority of you responded almost immediately. This has allowed us to put in the orders for the Chromebooks for all Sec 1 – 3 students whose parents/guardians have given consent to the purchase of the PLD. You will subsequently see this in your child’s/ward’s school bill for the deduction from his/her Edusave account, for Singaporean students. Parents of students who are PRs or IS, will have to make the necessary payments via the AXS machines after you receive your child’s/ward’s school bill. For your information, the PLD will now cost \$548.90 (after GST) as we have been advised



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that there is no need to purchase a screen protector for this model of the Chromebook. Also, we are expecting the delivery of the Chromebook to our students in April. Once confirmed, we will advise parents/guardians of the collection schedule so that you can plan to be with your child/ward when he/she collects the device. The warranty begins from when the parent/guardian and child/ward certifies that the device is received in good order.

The Role of the Father

Where space permits in my letters to you, I like to share parenting matters with you. Your child/ward is a teenager going through a most interesting period of his/her life. Over these 4 years, they will experience many growth changes, whether physically, intellectually or emotionally. They will want some independence but would appreciate your guidance and control. Research has shown that those who have parents/guardians who balance the child's/ward's freedom to choose with his/her sense of responsibility mature best. Parents/Guardians also have to be reasonable and make time to understand why your child/ward will make the request. This communication strengthens relationships, if done well, and builds trust for each other. I recently came across this article for fathers. This article helps us understand the important role that fathers play in a child's development. The protective factors in a growing child's relationship with peers, especially where sexual boundaries are concerned, is very much impacted by the father's relationship with their children, especially for daughters. The link is found here:

<https://www.fatherly.com/health-science/science-benefits-of-fatherhood-dads-father-effect/>

To close, let me share the following I received from a friend:

There are 20 strokes in 疫情, the Chinese characters for pandemic.

There are 20 strokes in 痛苦, the Chinese characters for pain/hardship.

There are 20 strokes in 疾病, the Chinese characters for illness/disease.

There are 20 strokes in 生死存亡, the Chinese characters for life and death, survival and demise.

2020 is gone. And so we hope that pandemic, hardships, diseases and death will also be gone.

On the other hand:

There are 21 strokes in 健康, the Chinese characters for health.

There are 21 strokes in 幸福, the Chinese characters for happiness.

There are 21 strokes in 富贵, the Chinese characters for wealth.

There are 21 strokes in 和睦, the Chinese characters for harmony.

There are 21 strokes in 勤奋, the Chinese characters for industry.

There are 21 strokes in 崛起, the Chinese characters for ascendancy.

And so it seems 2021 will be a year of health and happiness. I wish you and your family a very happy and blessed year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal



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