



Queensway Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

How time has flown by! Since my last letter to all parents, we have met with parents/guardians whose child/ward are in Sec 1, 3, 4 and 5 levels. Early next term, we will be meeting with parents/guardians of Sec 2 students.

I am glad that teaching and learning continues at a steady pace in our school and our students have responded positively to all that has been happening in school. Despite the challenges of the Omicron strain of the COVID-19 virus, teaching and learning has not been interrupted, though adjustments had to be made in certain classes to break any chain of infection that may be happening with the class.

It is thus pertinent and important that we continue to stress good hygiene habits and observance of **Safe Management Measures (SMM)** to reduce the risk of exposure for your child/ward and also to avoid the virus being brought home to infect other members of your family.

I have informed students that I will take them to task if they do not wear their face masks properly, meaning having it **fully covering the nose and mouth, and wearing the masks throughout** the time they are in school, except when engaging in vigorous activities under the directions of their teachers. They have been reminded to wash hands regularly and wipe down after using the desk or canteen tables. I have also stressed that when they are eating or drinking, they should not be talking as their masks are removed and they also must not share food and drinks. Please reiterate these simple and good habits to reduce risks for your child/ward and your family.

Cancellation of X-Country and Track & Field Meet

As the situation is still uncertain with SMM for the public and schools, we have taken the decision to cancel both the above-mentioned school events. Students will attend **school as usual** on the days designated for these events.

Eat With Your Family Day

The Ministry of Education has designated the last Friday of each term as 'Eat with Your Family' Day. This is an effort to promote **strong family ties** for all families. As this Friday 11 Mar is a Home Based Learning Day too, may I encourage you to plan to have time for your family to eat together and strengthen family bonds. This effort to make time for each other at least once a term, reinforces the message of the importance of family togetherness and what better way than to do so enjoying a meal as a family. To also allow our staff to return home to have dinner with their families our usual administrative services will end by 5.30pm this Friday.

What have I learnt about myself since COVID-19 emerge?

Next week marks the March school holiday break. It is a short 1 week but an important marker for all students, staff and our families. As you plan to enjoy "Eat with Your Family Day", may I also suggest that you could get each member of the family to share



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about what they have learnt about themselves, and possibly life, since COVID-19 began in 2020?

All of us would have experienced the disruptions that this virus has caused. Gathering in groups has been markedly reduced and changes from time to time, responding to the challenges of the variants of the virus. Normal activities such as socializing with family and friends have been affected, and for many families, the usual school holiday break for a family vacation seems to be a distant past. Although "Vaccinated Travel Lanes" have been introduced for certain countries, the increased cost of travel and test requirements by the country of travel and Singapore, upon return, may deter many from making the trip. The list can go on.

However, we might want to challenge each one of you to look at the positive side of what we have learnt about ourselves, and possibly our family over these past 2 years. For me personally, **family has become closer**. The restricted numbers for gathering have made these gathering more intimate and special. Likewise, gatherings with friends allow for deeper conversations rather than the larger gatherings where conversations can be superficial, because so many people are present.

Another benefit for me is **better use of time**. While the use of Zoom or other virtual meeting platforms does take away the human contact, it has significantly reduced my travel time and costs getting to various meetings. In this way, I have managed to make better use of my time and schedule face-to-face meetings only if the need arises and where such engagements would be more impactful. Time saved allows me to devote time and energy to what is important and purposeful.

So, rather than looking at COVID-19 with frustration, may I encourage you to engage with your family and friends about the positives we can take away from this virus situation. You would have heard the question, "Is the glass half-empty or half-full?" We can choose to look at the negatives that COVID-19 has thrown at us, or look for the positives that we can take to **make our lives better for the future**.

Finally, should any of you be travelling with your child/ward, please ensure that you submit the '**Declaration for Overseas Travel**' that was sent to all parents/guardians last week via Parents Gateway. I wish all of you a pleasant and meaningful March school holidays. Hopefully, the COVID-19 situation will improve – let's not just get back to life as it was before COVID-19, however. Let's get into the new routines with the benefits we have gained from what we have learnt through this period.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal