



Queensway Secondary School

2A Margaret Drive Singapore 149295 Tel: 6474 1421 / 6476 6416 Fax: 6474 1302 Email: qss@moe.edu.sg

9 May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

April has been a busy month for our school and your child/ward. They would have been engaged in the National Schools Games, Singapore Youth Festival Presentations, our school's 62nd Speech Day together with their academic learning. They were also engaged in a number of learning opportunities, and I would like to highlight these so you can engage with your child/ward about their involvement in these activities or could encourage them to take a greater interest in developing themselves through the opportunities that are available in our school for their development.

Taking opportunities that come

Help your child/ward see that opportunities will come along in life, but it is really up to them to choose what they can make of the opportunities presented to make the best of it for themselves.

I would be a rich man, if I even get \$1 for every student I have engaged with to ask why don't you try, or take a chance, and their response is "I don't dare", or "I cannot" or "People will laugh at me" and the varied excuses for not making an attempt. I am just glad that there were also many students who said, "ok!" or "I will give it a try" and almost every time, I see their eyes light up and they realise there is something more they can do. It is this willingness to try that has produced Albert Einstein, Marie Curie and Steve Jobs of this world. Do encourage your child/ward to make an attempt rather than watch on the side-lines.

Learning Fiesta Week

Last week, your child/ward had a host of different learning experiences that will broaden their interests and curiosity. I hope it also challenges them to take a deeper interest in some of the activities they experienced to go further and develop passion for that area. For instance, our Sec 1 to 3 students went on different Humanities Learning Journeys when they returned last Tuesday. Our Sec 1 students went to Edible Gardens, and though they had to walk and it was a sunny day, many of them took the opportunity to learn about sustainability, and possibly self-sustainability in food production. They also learned the science and art of setting up such a facility and why the owner could have a thriving business. This would also serve as a connection for them as they would be involved in learning about sustainability as part of our Applied Learning Programme.

On Wednesday, our annual Science Fiesta was held, with the Sec 4 students creating exciting and interesting opportunities for their juniors to learn various science concepts through experimentation and interesting activities. Some of them also had the opportunity to visit the "Planetarium" in our library, The Lexicon or tried their hands at flying drones through an obstacle course. Again, while this was a lot of fun, the intent is for your child/ward to develop a healthy curiosity about things that happen around



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them and to take an interest to question how? And why? These things are, and if they do not have the explanation to want to find out the reason by researching through books or on the internet.

On Thursday, our Sec 3 students participated in the Student's Interest Day, where the opportunity was presented for them to share about the Self-Initiated Projects they have carried out over the past 2 over years. It was certainly an exciting buzz to see students showcasing how they learned a foreign language like Korean, their experimentations at baking and guiding their peers in doing it, or making mocktails. It was an experience for those trying out the various activities, just as I am sure that it was for those who were trying to teach their peers.

What we hope from all these experiences that our students go through is that they take away the spirit of curiosity and enthusiasm to want to discover things for themselves and see that there is rich learning, not just in studying and trying to pass their tests, as important as that is for their educational progression. When they are enthusiastic about learning, they will certainly do well in life.

You may access via the link https://youtu.be/BCjOw_FSxUY to have a glimpse of what the students went through during the Learning Fiesta Week.

Congratulations to our Performing Arts Groups,

I am also very proud to share with you the very good outcomes of all our Performing Arts groups at the recent Singapore Youth Festival Presentations. I am pleased to share with you that Chinese Dance and English Drama Club were both awarded the Certificate of Distinction, while our Choir, Concert Band and Modern Dance were awarded the Certificate of Accomplishment, these being the 2 highest level of awards presented. My VPs and I had the opportunity to be present at most of their presentations and we are very proud of our students' efforts. They spent much time in practising and ensuring the synchrony and harmony of their performances, and it was sheer joy watching them, keeping their composure to give of their best, yet with a smile on their faces.

It was also very heartening to see many parents making time and effort to be present to support their child/ward as they could, as I am sure the parents were very proud of their children. For those who could not get away from work, I am sure many viewed the performances via the "live" broadcast. Many thanks to the teachers and instructors who guided our students through this learning process.

Representing Singapore at the SEA Games

Like many Singaporeans, I am sure you are rooting for Team Singapore who are competing at the SEA Games in Cambodia. To draw this closer to home, I am pleased to share with you that a number of Queenswayans are currently there donning National colours and you may want to keep a look out for them. They are:



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| Name | Sport | Year Graduated |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Chua Chong Aik | Men's Basketball 3x3 | 2013 |
| Lee Pei Ying | Women's Volleyball | 2010 |
| Siti Aniwati | Women's Football | 2013 |
| Nur Izzati | Women's Football | 2015 |
| Putri Nur Syaliza | Women's Football | 2018 |

We can be justifiably proud of our former students who represent Singapore and can also look forward to the day where some of your children/wards will represent Singapore and make all of us proud. It is heartening to watch our sportsmen and ladies train and compete, giving their best in what they do. It is not just about winning but the building of their character and fortitude in what they are pursuing.

Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) – Friday, 26 May 2023

After Semester 1, we always have an occasion for parents who want a face-to-face engagement with your child's/ward's teachers to do so. There are also some parents that our teachers would like to engage with, thus we set aside time for this purpose.

A further letter with how you can book a slot with the teachers will be sent closer to the date. I am giving you notice of this so that you can plan to set aside time from 11 am to 5 pm to book a slot to meet your child's/ward's teachers. To ensure that all parents/guardians who want to meet with teachers will have the opportunity to do so, there will be a limit to the number of teachers each parent/guardian can meet. Also, bookings will be made on a first-come-first served basis and we would want your child/ward to be present for the session. As such, please do plan ahead.

Conclusion

I hope you have taken the time to nominate your child/ward for "Catch You Doing GREAT!" The focus this term is Responsibility, another of our school's values. Simply take a photograph of him/her and send it with a short write-up of your reason for this nomination.

A human tendency is to see the problems or weaknesses of others. How often do you feel like doing more when criticised? Isn't it more likely you will put in more effort to do something if you are affirmed or appreciated for it? While our teachers and students catch your child/ward being responsible, you can do so too. If you do not wish to submit an entry for her/him, please do affirm the effort in word or deed.

In this letter, I hope you see the many areas where teachers, students and even former students have taken responsibility to do things well. Showcasing their efforts is a form of recognition of what they have done. In the process, others learn, whether it is in going through the activity or learning from the efforts of those they engage with. We can all continue to make progress, some of us faster while some need more time. What is important is persevering and not giving up, which again underscores the

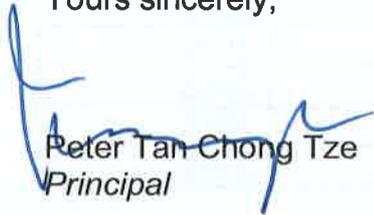


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meaningfulness of our school's motto, that the effort to be diligent is key and we can all find "Success through Diligence!"

Yours sincerely,


Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal