



PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中學

From the Principal's Desk

Jan 2016

To the Sec 1 parents,

Welcome to Punggol Secondary. We look forward to working with you as partners to nurture our students as they journey with us to discover their strengths, weaknesses and unique talents, and form their moral compass during their formative years. We also hope to see more of you join our Parent Support Group.

Highlights from Oct to November 2015

In October 2015, during the post exam programme, the school organised a learning journey for our Sec 3 T1 students to enable them to experience and better understand what is involved in providing customer service, a topic which is taught in their EBS curriculum. Students had an authentic hands-on experience setting up tables in a restaurant setting, seating customers and meeting their requests. This is aligned to our aim to make learning relevant.

The following were what students reflected they had learnt from the learning journey:

“How to deal with all kinds of customers” (Jacky Ng)



“..how to solve problems when the customer is not satisfied” (Neo Ming Lun)

“I learnt about the difference between being a staff and being a customer” (Husna Amatullah Bte Raymie)

In November 2015, our newly formed Chess club fielded 2 teams for the Inter-School National Chess [Team] Championship. Our chess players took on more experienced chess players from schools like ACS (I) and NUS High, and emerged as the North Zone Chess Champions.

Team A	Team B
Derrick Chia Zong Han Sec 3A	Goh Jun Hao Sec 1A
Lau Win Hang Sec 3A	Joel Cheong Yu Jin Sec 1A
Aimery Tay Radzi Sec 1A	Jonathan Chiu Zheng Hao Sec 3E
Brandon Goh Ding Han Sec 3C	Mohammed Luqmanul Hakim B Norhisham Sec 3N2
Andy Neo Wei Xun Sec 3N2	Siah Wei Heng Sec 2D

Classes in 2015

Team A emerged Champions whereas Team B came in 3rd. Besides winning the championship, one of our players (Andy Neo) was complimented for his good sportsmanship, evidence that our students excel both cognitively and in character.



“Chess conditions my brain so that I may solve problems in real-life situations better & more efficiently. I also feel that chess improves my discipline. It also helps me to be more persevering. Overall, it improves my mind.” Brandon Goh

In January 2016, our chess club invited International Master Giam Choo Kwee to play against 14 of our students. IM Giam was Singapore's representative in 4 Chess Olympiads & he is a national junior team trainer. One student, Goh Jun Hao from Sec 2A, managed to draw against Mr Giam, which is indeed an achievement. We would like to thank Mr Stephen Su and Ms Ng Hwee Siew for creating these opportunities for the students to challenge themselves.

At the end of 2015, our students participated in the I-Dream (Design in the Future) competition organised by IT College Central. Two of our students, Lim Pei Xuan (2016 4E) and Prudence Wong Yan Zhen (2016 4C) made it to the top 5, illustrating their creativity. Prudence's work in fact won 1st prize and will be displayed at ITE's Enterprise room. Pei Xuan's work won a commendable 3rd prize. A third piece of work submitted won consolation prize. We would like to thank Ms Khadijah, Ms Farhanah, and Ms Tia (who has since left us to teach in a primary school) for their guidance of the art club students.



Character and Citizenship Education

Internationalisation Programme

In 2015, we had a total of ten overseas trips, providing a range of experiences for our students, from participating in Values in Action (VIA) projects overseas, to staying with a host family in Japan, to learning more about the cultural, historical and agricultural aspects of Jogjakarta, Indonesia. Below are some of the students' reflections, which are available in our school's web site at the following URL:

<http://www.punggolsec.moe.edu.sg/punggol-experience/internationalisation-programme>

Gopeng Trip for student leaders

“For White Water Rafting, I learnt that it is important to work as a team. In order for the boat to move forward, every one on the boat has to row at the same time. Following the instructions given by the river guide is also important as it would help us a lot. I believe that I can overcome every fear that I have if I put in effort to do so. It is also important to put in your best in every activity to gain some learning points out of it.”

Nur Izzati Bte Johari, 2N2



Guzheng trip to Taiwan

“We sat in for a Guzheng lesson and also observed a Chinese Orchestra lesson. We could see that the students were very attentive during the lessons and they really tried very hard to play to the professor’s expectations. He took note of their mistakes and corrected them on the spot. The students did not feel awkward or embarrassed when they were critiqued by their professor. I felt it is important for us to have passion and discipline in order to succeed in whatever we do. We must also learn from our mistakes and try to improve ourselves.” Teng Chyi 3E, Zoey 3E

Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs)

CCAs are an important part of the students’ school life. Beyond studies, they provide students with a platform to discover their talents and strengths, which can fuel in the individual a life-long love for a particular activity. CCA also provides a platform for students to develop their leadership and management skills, and to build life-long friendships.



In week 1, our CCA student leaders and teachers created opportunities for our Sec 1 students to explore and experience the various CCAs.

Sec 1 Orientation

Besides orientating students to Punggol Secondary and secondary school life, our student leaders, together with our teachers in charge, designed various activities to build team work and class spirit. It is important for the students to bond and work as a class, to support one another during their journey in PSS. Sec 1 Orientation ended with a roaring camp fire, attended by a large number of supportive parents.



Breakfast with Sec 1 Parents

Part of PSS's tradition has been to organise a breakfast session with the Sec 1 parents in the month of January. This provides parents with the opportunity, in a casual setting, to meet up with the form teachers and subject teachers to ask how their children are adapting to secondary school life and to their



new class. At the same time, parents are asked to give feedback on the school. This year, 75 parents turned up for the breakfast session. Those who attended gave feedback that they found the session to be useful:

“Good to chat with form teacher & other parents to hear feedbacks from one another”

“Punggol Secondary has an excellent approach towards education which involves inculcating values and the teaching of knowledge. As a parent, I really appreciate all the effort, keep it up!”

Looking Ahead to February

First, we would like to wish all our Chinese parents and students a happy Chinese New Year in the year of the monkey.

In the second week of February, from 15 February, our school has invited the Internal Security Department (ISD) to put up an exhibition on the Battle for Merger in our school. This exhibition will provide an invaluable opportunity for students to learn about a key milestone in Singapore's history, and its impact on our growth as a nation.

On 19 February, we will be organising a briefing for Sec 2 parents, to explain the Sec 2 streaming process and rationale, as well as to introduce our 1-1 computing programme. We encourage all Sec 2 parents to attend this important briefing session.

Finally on 26 February, we will have our annual Cross Country at the Punggol Waterway Park. The park provides a beautiful setting for our students as they jog as a school to build their resilience and physical fitness. We invite parents to join our students in this jog along the park. Parents who are interested to participate may write in to punggol_ss@moe.edu.sg to indicate their interest. More details will be provided to the students at a later date.