



PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

培道中学

From the Principal's Desk

May 2015

Dear parents and students,

Punggol Secondary School is pleased to present our first newsletter for the year. As usual, Term 2 has been a busy term. We will share some highlights as well as announce some upcoming events for the rest of this term and during the June holidays.

Achievements

In Punggol Secondary, we have an exciting Aesthetic programme to expose our students to various arts forms, beyond the CCAs. For example, in 2015, we introduced Dance Sports for the Secondary 1 students and Percussion Programme for the Secondary 2 students.

In addition, we have expanded our Performing Arts CCAs to include a wider range of options, to cater to the varied interests and talents of our students. This is aligned to our school's philosophy that education is a journey of self-discovery where students discover their strengths, weaknesses, and talents, and form their moral compass.

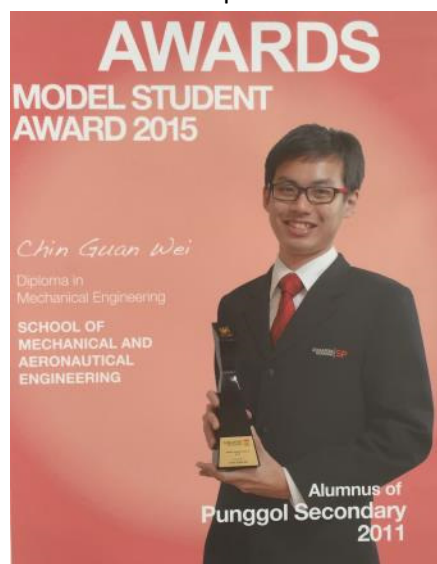
In 2015, we had a bumper number of Performing Arts participating in the SYF. We are pleased to announce their achievements, a result of the students' hard work, perseverance and team effort:

Choir	Distinction
Band	Accomplishment
Chinese Dance	Accomplishment
Fusion Dance	Accomplishment
ELLDS	Accomplishment
TLLDS	Accomplishment
Guzheng	Accomplishment
CLDDS	Commendation



Our School Choir

We are proud to announce that an ex student, Chin Guan Wei, won the Model Student Award 2015 from Singapore Polytechnic. He is also a recipient of the Lee Kuan Yew Award. Guan Wei has been accepted by NTU to read Mechanical Engineering after he completes his National Service.



To illustrate that the Punggol 君子 jun zi (gentleman/lady) is accomplished both academically and in sports, another ex-student, Kingsley Tay, is representing Singapore in Volleyball for the SEA Games. Kingsley is not only accomplished as a sports person, he also did very well in his O levels in 2011, achieving an L1B4 of 12 points; his PSLE score was 158. This proves what our Principal, Mr Keh, tells every cohort of Sec 1 students – that secondary school is a fresh start and an opportunity to perform, regardless of their PSLE score. As Mr Keh aptly says, “You are not your PSLE score”.

Highlights

In addition, our Punggol Secondary students and staff showed that they have compassion for the less fortunate in society. The school raised enough money to donate 200 over food packages for selected families in one-room rental flats in Bedok South. The donation from students and staff was on a purely voluntary basis.

Besides this initiative, our Red Cross students were also involved in raising money for victims of the recent Nepal earthquake. We raised a total of \$1215.16.

22 May was a special day for our 2015 Secondary One cohort. 22 May has been designated by the United Nations as International Day for Biological Diversity. As a City in a Garden, Singapore celebrates this day, together with many schools which contribute by planting trees in their schools on 22 May.

As part of PSS’ greening journey, which we refer to as “Project Green Wave”, we planted 4 trees in 2013, one tree to represent each level. Since 2014, a new tree is planted every year on 22 May by our Secondary 1 cohort to show their commitment to care for the environment and to ‘plant’ their roots in Punggol Secondary. This year, as usual, Secondary 1 representatives, together with their Year Heads, planted a tree, the Stone Bamboo (*Phyllostachys angusta*). They placed the tree in the ground, filled the surrounding area with soil, and watered the tree.



Sec 1 representatives with their cohort tree

We want each cohort of students to have a tree they can call their own, and which they can see growing while they are in school. We hope that in the future, when our students return to Punggol Secondary as proud PSS alumni, they will visit their cohort tree to see how tall it has grown, and to remember their schools days in Punggol Secondary.

Upcoming Events/Programmes

Our Post Exam Programme will take place from 25 to 28 May. We have a range of activities lined up for our students. Details will be provided to the students. Highlights are indicated below:

Secondary 1- Secondary 3

All Sec 1 to 3 students will take part in fitness tests. Sec 1 and 2 NA and NT students will attend lessons on Conversational Chinese or Malay (CCM) so that they can better interact with other races. All students will help to clean their classes on 28 May to instil in them responsibility for keeping the environment clean.

Selected students will receive Student Development awards which recognise most improved in character or academic performance. Punggol Secondary considers character and academic development to be twin blades of a scissor which are equally important. There are also awards for the most improved and best classes.

In early May, all students took part in a Punggol Conversation where they were invited to give feedback on a range of issues, including teaching and learning, CCA and school facilities. Selected students facilitated these conversations and will present the feedback and their suggestions to the Principal and Vice-Principals. There will be time during the post exam programme to revert to students on the outcome of this conversation.

Secondary 1

All students will participate in a Maths Game Day and in an SG 50 Giving Lesson. The latter will introduce students to IPCs (Institutes of Public Character), their functions, and the communities they serve. Students will select some IPCs that

they are interested in to research on, and then present which IPC they would like to support.

Secondary 2

Sec 2 NT students will have time dedicated to do Art Intensive lessons. The focus for Sec 2 is their Values in Action project (VIA) where they will spend the time to plan an educational trip to different locations for selected pre-schoolers, or to plan for their role as HDB Ambassadors. The latter is an annual programme that PSS implements, in partnership with HDB, where our students share with Punggol residents gracious and responsible heartland living tips.

Secondary 3

Sec 3 NA and NT students will participate in various elective programmes, ranging from 3D printing to hospitality to aeronautics, catering to a wide range of interests.

3 NT and Express students will learn about service learning, how they can contribute from their hearts and work towards a Silver for their NYAA (National Youth Achievement Award).

Sec 3 Express students will also participate in the SG 50 Giving Lesson and reflect on how they can harness their personal chromebooks/notebooks to enhance their learning in Semester 2.

Secondary 4

The Mother Tongue Intensive programme for students taking their O-Level examination in June commenced on 20 May and will continue till 29 May. Sec 4 NA and NT students will continue to have lessons. Oral Exams will start from 2 July.

Meet-the-Parents Session (MTPS)

There will be MTPS for the Secondary Two parents on 28 May. The evening will begin in the hall at 6 pm, with a briefing on the streaming process and the 1-1 computing implementation. Secondary Two parents are encouraged to attend so that they are aware of the Sec 2 streaming options and subject combinations for Secondary 3 in 2016. Four canteen stalls will be open from 1700 till 2030 to cater to parents who might need to purchase a meal or drink.

The Sec 1, 3, 4 NA and 4 T MTPS will be held on 29 May for selected parents. The parents concerned may book their preferred slots online. Details and an instruction guide will be provided through your child. On 29 May, the Sec 2 students will be implementing their VIA projects.

June Holiday

There will be remedial lessons in the first week of the June holiday for selected students. Details will be provided to the students concerned. For the graduating students, we encourage the Sec 4 and 5 students to plan their time during the rest of the June holiday so that it is spent productively on revision and preparation for the upcoming national examination. For the languages, students are encouraged to read at least one article a day and note down useful phrases that can assist them in their writing. Please note that the school is open during the school holiday if students wish to come back to study. The canteen is bright and there are sufficient fans for ventilation. There are also many study corners throughout the school.

Sample of planning:

Mon 15 June

0830 – Wake up at a reasonable time and not sleep in till too late

0830-0900 – Have breakfast

0900-1030 – Math assignment/practice

1030-1130 – Craft a mindmap for a chapter in Social Studies textbook

1130-1200- Read one English article, take down useful phrases; do one editing exercise & check answer

1200-1300 – Lunch

1300-1430 - Revise Science

1430-1630 – Do holiday homework assigned by teachers

1630-1730 - Jog/ play basketball etc. Time to relax or take a break before dinner

Etc. etc.