



10 March 2023

Principal's Letter to Parents

Thanksgiving for Term 1, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Term 1 has come to an end. We are thankful for your support and partnership in making the schooling experience in PL(Sec) an enriching one for your daughters.

In this letter, please find some key information as we mark the end of Term 1 and prepare to move into Term 2.

1. Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the excellence achieved by our 2022 N- and O-Level PL-Lites, who have been blessed with excellent outcomes once again. We thank our parents/guardians for their unwavering support and the teachers who journeyed alongside the girls. Do refer to the school website for a breakdown of the N-Level and O-Level achievements. We continue to pray that our graduated girls will move on confidently to pursue their aspirations and make a positive difference with “a passion for life and learning”.

PL(Sec) 2022 N-Level results

URL: <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/accolades/national-examinations/gce-n-level-2022/>

PL(Sec) 2022 O-Level results

URL: <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/accolades/national-examinations/gce-o-level-2022/>

More significantly, Singapore went from DORSCON Yellow to Green and the Multi-Ministry Taskforce stepped down in mid-February – Praise the Lord! We thank God for his protection and provision to Singapore and PLMGS. With this easing, we can look forward to more exciting schooling experiences for our girls. We see the return of the National School Games in full-scale and the Singapore Youth Festival where our Performing Arts CCAs can showcase their talent and passion on major stage platforms. With a grateful heart, PLMGS (Sec) and (Pri) held our joint Sports Day (for Primary 5 and 6 PL-Lites only) on Friday, 10 March. Our last combined Sports Day was in 2019. Glory to God We Give and Pray!

2. Teaching and Learning Matters

- a. 2023 GCE O- and N-Level Examinations Time-Tables

The 2023 GCE O- and N-Level Examinations Time-Tables can be downloaded from the following websites:

2023 GCE N-Level (NA/NT) Exam Time-Table	https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/examination-timetable/2023gcnexamtimetable.pdf
2023 GCE O-Level Exam Time-Table	https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/examination-timetable/2023gceoexamtimetable.pdf

b. Joy of Learning

National Examinations are just one of the many learning experiences and outcomes of schooling. I would like to highlight that we have made significant changes to the education system in the past few years to nurture joy of learning in our students. This includes reducing school-based assessments and mid-year examinations, which free up more time for students to explore and develop their interest.

However, we cannot do this alone. We will require your support and understanding and wider society to truly shift mindsets. We must help our girls change their mindsets to focus and enjoy learning as a process rather than have fixed mindsets about attainment and achievement.

Assessment shifts at PL (Sec) include Timed Practices for Sec 4/5 and Weighted Assessments for Sec 1 to 3 over a few weeks in Term 2. Our girls are encouraged to use these shifts to adapt how they respond to assessment. We hope they will see each assessment as an opportunity for them to demonstrate what they have learnt (or not) and not be fearful of the outcome. My fear is when our girls see this change as “prolonged suffering” with little or no impact on alleviating academic stress.

In view of the assessment shifts, Results Slips will also be distributed later than usual. Term 1 Results Slips will be issued in Term 2 Week 2.

3. Student Services during 2023 March holidays

Please note the opening hours for the school’s General Office during the March School Holidays.

- Monday – Tuesday, 13 and 14 Mar (non-protected leave): 7.30am to 6.00pm
- Wednesday – Friday, 15 to 17 Mar (protected leave): 7.30am to 5.30pm

The drinks stall in our Canteen will continue to operate on 13 and 14 Mar 2023 from 8.00am to 2.00pm. Students who are returning to school for CCA practices and extra lessons may purchase drinks and fruits from the stall during their breaks. The snack-vending machine will also be restocked daily. Students can bring and consume their own snacks during their breaks.

The School Bookshop will be closed during the March school holidays.

The PL Book-tique will remain open as usual to allow girls to revise and address their learning gaps. Opening hours for the PL Book-tique (School Library) are:

- Monday – Thursday: 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
- Friday: 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

4. Safety Measures and Travel Advisory

To ensure that schools continue to be a healthy and safe environment for all, we require parents/guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward if she will be travelling for the holidays.

To make a travel declaration for your child/ward via Parents' Gateway (PG), go to [SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS]. Please declare your child/ward's travel plan(s), indicating both the country and city of travel, and any city of transit. Only one parent is required to make the declaration.

If your child/ward is not travelling during the holidays, no action is required.

When planning your travel, please refer to <https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart> for more information and updates. If there is a change in travel plan(s) after declaration, please submit a new travel declaration via PG if there is a change in travel destination or inform the school if the travel plan(s) are cancelled.

5. Highlights of Key School Events

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 2, 2023.

Monthly Themes	Dates	Key Events
Growing Through Perseverance	18 Mar, Sat	Fathers@PL 12 th Anniversary commemoration in partnership with Paya Lebar Kovan Youth Network in the <i>Kovan City of Sharing</i> project
	20 Mar, Mon	Term 2 starts
	20 – 24 Mar, Mon – Fri	Applied Learning Modules @ Polytechnics for Sec 4NA
	24 Mar, Fri	Homecoming 2023 (for Sec 4/5 cohorts of 2019 – 2022)
	25 Mar, Sat	Methodist Walk@ACS(I) (Sec 1 only)
	29 Mar, Wed	Sec 4/5 EL Oral Exams start
Loving At All Times	7 Apr, Fri	Good Friday International Friendship Day
	12 Apr, Wed	Home-Based Learning (Sec 2 – 5) On-site Issuance of Personal Learning Device (Sec 1)
	13 Apr, Thur	Tea with Year Heads
	19 Apr, Wed	Sec 3 EL Oral and Sec 4/5 MTL Oral Exams start GCE O-Level NFS Practical
	21 Apr, Fri	S4/5 last day for CCA (non-NSG and SYF)
	22 Apr, Sat	Hari Raya Puasa
	24 Apr, Mon	Hari Raya Puasa (off-in-lieu)
	28 Apr, Fri	Symphony of Praise
Being a Servant Leader	1 May, Mon	Labour Day
	4 May, Thur	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 5)
	5 May, Fri	Sec 2 Principal-Meets-Parents Engagement
	11 May, Thur	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 5)
	17 May, Wed	Combined Student Leaders' Dedication Service
	18 – 26 May	Sec 4/5 MTL Intensive Programme starts
	22 – 26 May, Mon – Fri	Mid-Year Pit Stop Programme Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Dialogue Sessions for Sec 1 – 3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Challenge Modules for Sec 1 – 3 • ECG Conference and PSEI Fair for Upper Sec • Book Sharing & Movie Screening for Lower Sec
	24 May, Wed	Sec 2 Performing Arts Based Learning Journey – Singapore Symphony Orchestra Performance
	25 May, Thur	Teacher-Meets-Parents (online)
	26 May, Fri	Official last day of Term 2 End-of-Term Assembly
	27 May, Sat	PL Open House
	29 May, Mon	Sec 2 National Education Learning Journey to National Museum
	29 May, Mon	GCE O-Level MTL Examinations
	30 May, Tue	GCE O-Level MTL (B) Examinations Singapore Mathematical Olympiad 2023
	29 May – 23 Jun	June School Holidays (Protected Leave: 5 – 16 Jun 2023)
	31 May – 1 Jun	Sec 4/5 Intensive Lessons/Consultations
	5 – 7 Jun, Mon – Wed	Mega Camp for selected student leaders
	19 – 21 June	Sec 4/5 Online Consultations (for students to register)
	26 Jun, Mon	Start of Term 3

Every Mon morning, 7.30am at SFE Room or 8am via Zoom (starts 9 Jan 2023)	<i>PrayingParents@PL</i> meets every Monday morning either in school (SFE Room) or via Zoom, for a time of prayer and fellowship. If you are interested to join in, please email Ms Irene Angullia at irene_angullia@moe.edu.sg
Once a term (likely a Wednesday)	<i>Fathers@School</i> holds its termly bonding session for fathers and their daughters, when possible. Parents will be informed via Parents Gateway (PG) closer to the date of the event. Please sign up for the sessions via PG then.

Please check the school website (<https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg>) for regular updates on the school programmes and other administrative matters. Do also follow us on our Facebook page for the happenings in and around the school (<https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS>).

6. Tips for parents – Managing Screen Time

Screen time is a concern among parents and caretakers. It is often a divisive topic among parents who struggle to determine how to best regulate children’s technology use in a media-saturated world. During the COVID-19 lockdown, many screen-time regulations dissipated when technology served as the main connection to the outside world. Now, parents and educators are all wondering, where do we go from here? What is the “new normal” when it comes to screen time?

The school has curated and prepared some bite-sized resources which I hope you will find useful

S/N	Key Message	Link
1	Recommendations to move from restriction-focused to a more integrated approach for screen use, for e.g. shift from ‘screen time’ toward ‘screen use’	https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/21/08/parents-time-rethink-your-child%E2%80%99s-relationship-screen-time

2	Parents of successful kids do not worry about screen time, expert says – they teach these 3 skills instead, for e.g. how to draw screen boundaries	https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/27/parents-of-successful-kids-dont-worry-about-screen-time-they-teach-these-skills-instead.html
3	Adapted from MOE Parent Kit – how to make screen time predictable, productive ad precious	https://go.gov.sg/managingscreentime

We pray and trust our parents/guardians will provide the best guidance and care for our PL-Lites, your daughters/wards. Take time to understand your daughter/ward and what goes on in her school life. Reinforce their good behaviours and set clear boundaries and expectations. We must also remind our PL-Lites that they must take responsibility for their learning and growth too.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support and for partnering us to care for your daughter/ward.

In His service,
Ms Amy Ng
Principal