



30 Aug 2023

Principal's Letter to Parents

Thanksgiving for Term 3, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Many assessment changes have taken place this year, the most significant would be the removal of the mid-year examinations. How have our assessment beliefs and practices changed over this same period? As a society, we agree that less emphasis on academic grades is a good thing. We can broaden definitions of success and better recognise education as a lifelong journey. Have we or our girls placed less emphasis on results and value learning more than academic grades?

The purpose of assessment is to provide feedback to move learning forward and improve teaching practices. On this note, I would like to appeal for parents to help me deliver this same message to your child. With the upcoming end-of-year examinations looming, we must assure the girls the school and the assessments are aimed to help them learn and grow. Encourage the girls to give their best and not focus on every mark. If we can attest that they have given their best efforts (e.g. teachers' feedback of child's positive learning attitude, consistent efforts etc.), they need not and must not worry about promotion or perfection.

Let us remind our girls to be intentional to focus on learning (not performing to the test) as well as rest this September school holidays. The school is mindful that the girls will need the time to revise and catch up with their learning. In this regard, there will be no September school holiday homework given.

Once again, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all stakeholders – parents, teachers, staff and students – of this wonderful PL family. Tomorrow we will celebrate Teachers' Day and also take the opportunity to thank our coaches, instructors, school admin team, our cleaners and canteen vendors, etc. When a few canteen vendors were away in August, our PL Alumni and Parent-School Support Group stepped up and served food to our girls. We are truly grateful as it helped to ease the long canteen queues and food supply. I pray God will allow us to continue to run this great race together in unity. To God be the Glory!

Last, please find some information as we mark the end of Term 3 and prepare to move into Term 4.

1. Thanksgiving: 2023 Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Results (June Sitting)

Praise the Lord for the positive GCE O-Level 2023 Mother Tongue Results (2023 June Sitting), released on 17 August 2023. The improvement in quality outcomes from previous years is testament of PL-Lites' and teachers' efforts. To God be the Glory!

2. Teaching and Learning Matters

- a. Updated Arrangements for 2023 National Year-End Examinations. With the presidential elections on 1 September and shift of the Teachers' Day holiday to 11 September, there are

slight changes to the national examination time-tables. Please see www.seab.gov.sg or links in Item 7 for details.

During the September school holidays, some Sec 4N PL-Lites will also return to school for consultations with their teachers on 4 and/or 5 September. This is to prepare our girls for their first N-Level examinations at the start of Term 4. The school canteen will be closed and our Sec 4N PL-Lites can purchase food from our vending machines or bring light snacks if they wish.

To support our graduating cohort, we will re-introduce Night Study in Term 4. Some of our graduating PL-Lites have requested for a more conducive study environment in school. Night Study will be from 15 to 27 September, from 6pm to 8pm daily, unless less than 10 girls sign up for that day. More details will be shared in my next letter at the start of Term 4.

- b. Learning is key. Our Sec 4.7-4.9 PL-Lites received their Results Slips recently, and we have much to give thanks for. How do we respond to these outcomes? I trust our parents/guardians are not focusing on the marks and grades alone, but on the overall learning and learning experiences of our PL-Lites. During this September break, our PL-Lites are encouraged to *rest, reflect* and *reconcile*. They are encouraged to be mindful of what they have learnt and what they are unsure of. Thereafter, our girls must take action to “make things right” and be confident of their learning and level of competence. Sec 1-3 PL-Lites would receive their Results Slips in Term 4 week 1.

The Sec 1 to 3 End-of-Year (EOY) Examination Schedule is already available on our school website. Our PL-Lites have also received the topics to be assessed at the examinations via email. We urge parents/guardians to continue to support and encourage our girls. For a start, let us reassure them that we see their efforts and their individual strengths, and that excellence is a journey and not a mark or grade.

3. PLMGS 107th Founder’s Day

Our 107th Founder’s Day Thanksgiving Service will take place on Friday, 13 October 2023. Sec 1 to 3 PL-Lites will report to school at their usual timing. They will be dismissed by 11 a.m. The Guest-of-Honour is Rev Dr Gregory Goh Nai Lat, President of the Chinese Annual Conference of The Methodist Church in Singapore.

This will be followed by our 107th Founder’s Day Thanksgiving Dinner in the evening, organised by the PL Alumni. It will be a wonderful opportunity for parents and daughters to bond and connect as we share the joy of God’s abundant blessings over PLMGS in the last 107 years. On a related note, the PL Alumni have also set up an online store: <https://plmgsalumni.cococart.co/> where you can purchase the all-time favourite PL Bear and “Made to Shine” jute bag, to extend your ties and bonds with the rest of the PL family.

Important details of the 107th Founder’s Day are as follow.

- Date:** Friday, 13 October 2023
- Time:** 7pm to 10pm
(Guests to be seated by 6.45pm. Registration from 6pm onwards.)
- Venue:** Orchard Hotel

Cost: \$115 for adults; \$50 per student of PLMGS (sitting in the children's buffet section of the ballroom)

Dress Code: Shirt & tie (gentlemen) / Cocktail dress or equivalent (ladies)

If you would like to purchase tickets for the 107th Founder's Day Thanksgiving Dinner, please sign up via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/plmgs107>.

4. CCA Training during September Holidays

Please refer to the enclosed CCA training schedule for the September school holiday. CCA will stand down after 5 September for end-of-year examinations, with the exception of NPCC for selected Sec 3 cadets who have been invited to support Woodleigh NPC on 8 September morning. CCAs will resume on 16 October 2023.

5. Student Services during September Holidays

The school canteen, bookshop and printing services will be closed during the September school holidays.

The library will remain open as usual (except on 11 September, 2023 which is the Teachers' Day School Holiday) to allow girls to revise and address their learning gaps.

Opening hours for school library:
Monday – Thursday: 8.30am to 5.00pm
Friday: 8.30am – 4.30pm

6. Travel Declaration & Monitoring of Health after September Holidays

To ensure PL(Sec) continues to be a healthy and safe environment for all, we will require parents/guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward only if she intends to travel for this September holidays.

To make a travel declaration via Parents' Gateway (PG), go to [SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS]. For travel during the September holidays, please declare your child/ward's travel plan(s), indicating both the country and city of travel, and any city of transit, by end of 1 Sep 2023 (Fri). Only one parent is required to declare.

If your child/ward is not travelling during the holidays, no action is required on your side. When planning your travel, please refer to <https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart> for more information and updates on travel. If there is a change of travel plan(s) after declaration, please submit a new travel declaration for the updated travel destination via PG or inform the school for cancellation of travel plan(s).

7. Highlights of Key School Events in Term 4

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 4, 2023.

Monthly Themes	Dates	Key Events
Fixing Our Eyes On Our Purpose	4-8 Sep (Mon-Fri)	1-Week School Holiday
	4-5 Sep (Mon-Tue)	N-Level Intensive Revision and Consultation
	11 Sep (Mon)	Teachers' Day School Holiday
	12 Sep (Tue)	2023 Term 4 commences Principal's Welcome Address
	12-21 Sep 2-10 Oct	GCE N-Level Written Examinations https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/examination-timetable/2023qcenexamtimetable.pdf
	22 Sep (Fri)	2023 Baccalaureate Service & Graduation Ceremony for graduating students Sec 4/5 last formal day of reporting in school Sec 1-3 dismissed at 10.30 am
	25 Sep (Mon) onwards	Small Group Consultation and Revision for Sec 4/5
	25 Sep (Mon) – 6 Oct (Fri)	Sec 1 – 3 End-Of-Year Examinations https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/announcements/2023eoy-s1-3/
Overflowing With Thankfulness	4-17 Oct	GCE O-Level Science Practical Examinations
	9-10 Oct (Mon-Tue)	Marking Days
	11 Oct (Wed)	Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)
	12 Oct (Thur)	2024 Sec 3 Subject Combination online resources for Sec 2 students and parents (available on website)
	13 Oct (Fri)	107 th Founder's Day Celebrations
	18 Oct (Wed)	GCE O-Level EL Listening Comprehension
	19 Oct (Thur) – 10 Nov (Fri)	GCE O-Level Written Examinations https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/examination-timetable/2023qceoexamtimetable.pdf
	20-26 Oct (Fri-Thur)	Post-Examination Learning (e.g. PuLSE EOY Celebration and Showcase) <i>*Details will be provided on a later date.</i>
	25 Oct (Wed)	Fathers@School – last meeting of the year
	27 Oct (Fri)	Term 4 Farewell Assembly End-Of-Year Prize Presentation Last Day of 2023 School Year
	30 Oct (Mon) – 3 Nov (Fri)	Sec 1 Bridging Lessons (selected students) Sec 2 Bridging Lessons (selected students) Sec 3 Head-Start Learning
	13 Nov (Mon)	Deepavali Holiday-In-Lieu
	14 Nov (Tue)	Cambridge Dinner for Sec 4/5
	18 Nov (Sat)	PLMG(Sec) Open House and Principal's Engagement Session with primary school students and parents
	20-24 Nov (Mon-Fri)	Sec 3 MOE-OBS Challenge Programme
	18 or 19 Dec	Release of 2023 N-Level Results (tbc)
	20, 21 or 22 Dec	Release of 2024 Sec 1 Posting Results 2024 Sec 1 Registration Day (tbc)
	1 Jan 2024 (Mon)	New Year's Day

2024 Theme: Pray, Learn, Trust and Obey	2 Jan 2024 (Tue)	2024 School Year starts Term 1 Welcome Assembly
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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 (<http://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>).

8. Suggestion for Parents this September Holidays

PL Alumni’s step-challenge “Walking Together” is back! It is open to all students, staff and parents, and will take place from 4 to 17 September. This is one activity that your entire family can participate together. For details, please see <https://tinyurl.com/plwalkingtogether>.



Wishing you and your family a well-deserved break, and may God’s protection and blessing be with you and your family always.

Yours faithfully,
Ms Amy Ng
Principal