



29 Aug 2024

Principal's Letter to Parents

Thanksgiving for Term 3, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are thankful that we have been safely kept through a very eventful and purposeful Term 3. It is apt that we end this Term with our inaugural Staff Appreciation Week, and culminating in our Teachers' Day celebrations today!

*... A school is not just a place,
children must attend for a long while.
teachers know that even after the most
stressful day,
they can always count on (at least one) a
child to make them smile.*

*A school is not just a place,
full of uniform children in uniform.
It's an atrium of aspirations full
of authors, artists, actors and many more.*

*Above all,
This school is not just a place
that runs itself.
It's every face, who wake up
and race to work.
Every teacher, every staff. ...*

*This school would not be the same
without the hard work of each name
and face that make
this school so much more
than just a place.*

Adapted from "A School is Not Just A Place" by Sower, C, Royal Society of Literature

I shared the above poem with the school at the end of our celebrations today. Thank you, parents, for your support and partnership with the school, our teachers and staff, to make PL much more than just a place. I also urged our girls to believe in themselves that they can and must play their part to achieve their aspirations and goals. It requires everyone's hard work to make PL so much more than just a place.

Our PL-Lites are encouraged to rest and recharge for the final term this school holiday, as well as reflect on their learning and learning gaps. Our girls have completed their preliminary examinations (for graduating cohort) and Term 3 Weighted Assessments (for S1-3 girls). The graduating girls will receive their HDP Result Slips with their Report Books on Friday, 20 Sep before the Baccalaureate Service followed by Graduation Ceremony, while the S1-3 girls will receive their Results Slips on Friday, Week 1 of Term 4. Beyond the marks and grades which the girls would be able to share with you today, challenge your child/ward to share what she knows about the subject and her revision plans for the upcoming end-of-year examinations, starting this school holiday. This conversation will be a good start for our girls to develop greater ownership of their learning, discipline and confidence.

We must assure our girls that assessments are aimed to help them learn and grow. Encourage the girls to give their best and not focus on every mark. If they can attest that they have given their best efforts (e.g. teachers' feedback of child's positive learning attitude, consistent efforts etc.), our girls

need not worry about promotion or perfection. Let us remind our girls to focus on learning (not performing to the test) as well as rest this September holidays. We are mindful that the girls will need the time to revise and catch up with their learning. There will be no school holiday home given.

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

1. 2025 Time-Table Structure – **NEW!**

Secondary school streaming has been removed and replaced with Full Subject-Based Banding in all secondary schools this year. In a few years' time, there will be no such thing as an Express or Normal stream student. With this major shift in our education system, schools, including PL (Sec), has had to re-align our curriculum hours across G1/G2/G3 subjects according to revised national guidelines. Our findings from this exercise, together with feedback and request for earlier dismissal timings and longer break-timings etc., gave the school the impetus to revise our time-table structure moving forward.

A team of Key Personnel and teachers simulated different possibilities and sought feedback from parents through our Parent-School Support Group, teachers and staff, and stakeholders (e.g. canteen vendors). We also engaged our students at our school assembly on Monday, 26 August.

From 2025, the school will run a different time-table structure i.e. 20-minute blocks with minimum 40-minute blocks per subject. This new time-table structure will lead to the following changes:

- Earlier dismissal timing for majority (lower secondary 1.50pm/2.10pm; upper secondary 2.30pm (for 6-7 subject combination) and 3.10pm (for 8 subject combination))
- Fixed 20-minute snack break across whole school
- Staggered 40-minute lunch break across different classes

We look forward to your support for this proposed improvement. If you have any query, you may email the school at plmgss@moe.edu.sg or contact Mr Tan Tiah Hui (HOD ICT & Data) at tan_tiah_hu@moe.edu.sg.

2. Thanksgiving: 2024 Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Results (June Sitting)

Praise the Lord for the positive GCE O-Level 2024 Mother Tongue Results (2024 June Sitting), released on 22 August 2024. The improvement in overall percentage of passes from previous years is testament of PL-Lites' and teachers' efforts. To God be the Glory!

3. Last Lap for our Graduating PL-Lites

- a. Our S4E/5N PL-Lites have just completed their preliminary examinations, while our S4N girls will be preparing for their first GCE N-level written examinations after the September school holidays.
- b. Holistic Development Profile (HDP) Preliminary Examination (tentative copy), or Result Slip, for S4N girls taking the GCE N-levels were distributed on Friday, 23 Aug, together with their assessment papers that have been reviewed with their teachers in the past 2 weeks. We will continue to work with our S4N girls over the following 2 time-periods:
 - i. Phase 1 Intensive Lessons, 2-3 Sep. Details of time-tabled lessons have been issued to students.

- ii. Phase 2 Intensive Lessons, 23-25 Sep. Details of sessions for second-wave of subjects to be examined will be shared with students through the girls' email.
- c. We will distribute the HDP with all our graduating PL-Lites' Reports Books on Friday, 20 Sep, which coincides with our Baccalaureate Service cum Graduation Ceremony. Our S4N girls will then also receive the more updated HDP Result Slip, reflecting their performance in subjects taken at a More Demanding Level.
- d. To support our graduating cohort, we will continue with our Night Study Programme in Term 4. Some of our graduating PL-Lites have requested for a more conducive study environment in school. Night Study will be from **11 to 19 September, from 5pm to 7pm daily**, unless less than 10 girls sign up for that day.

4. PLMGS 108th Founder's Day

Our 108th Founder's Day Thanksgiving Service will take place on Friday, 11 October 2024. S1-3 PL-Lites will report to school at their usual timing in their full school uniform. They will be dismissed by 11 a.m. The Guest-of-Honour is Rev Dr Chong Chin Chung, Bishop Emeritus of The Methodist Church in Singapore.

This will be followed by our 108th 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 108 years.

Important details of the 108th Founder's Day are as follow.

- Date:** Friday, 11 October 2024
- Time:** 7pm to 10pm
(Guests to be seated by 6.45pm. Registration from 6pm onwards.)
- Venue:** Orchard Hotel
- Cost:** \$120 for adults; \$55 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 108th Founder's Day Thanksgiving Dinner, please sign up via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/plmgs108fdd>

5. CCA Training during September, November and December Holidays

There is no CCA training this September school holidays, except Choir (whose parents had already been notified on the practice on Monday, 2 Sept for our 108th Founder's Day). CCA will stand down from Tuesday, 3 Sept for the end-of-year examinations. CCAs will resume on 14 October 2024 till 15 November. CCA will resume on 16 December for selected CCAs.

6. 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 (except on 5 & 6 September 2024, as the Librarian is away)

Opening hours for School Library:
 Monday – Thursday: 8.30am to 5.00pm
 Friday: 8.30am – 4.30pm

7. Highlights of Key School Events in Term 4

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Term 4, 2024.

| Monthly Themes | Dates | Key Events |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Be Focused On Our Purpose | 2 - 6 Sep (Mon - Fri) | 1-Week School Holiday |
| | 2 - 3 Sep (Mon - Tue) | S4N Phase 1 Intensive Lessons and Consultation |
| | 9 Sep (Mon) | 2024 Term 4 commences Principal's Welcome Address |
| | 9 - 19 Sep 30 Sep - 8 Oct | GCE N-Level Written Examinations https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/examination-timetable/gce-n-level-exam-timetable-for-publication-as-at-24-may.pdf?sfvrsn=9e38656_1 |
| | 20 Sep (Fri) | 2024 Baccalaureate Service & Graduation Ceremony for graduating students S4/5 last formal day of reporting in school S1-3 dismissed at 10.30 am |
| | 23 Sep (Mon) onwards | Phase 2 Intensive Lessons for S4N Small Group Consultation and Revision for S4/5 |
| | 23 Sep (Mon) - 4 Oct (Fri) | S1-3 End-Of-Year Examinations https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/secondary-1-3-eoy-timetable/ |
| Be Thankful! | 2 - 15 Oct | GCE O-Level Science Practical Examinations |
| | 7 - 8 Oct (Mon-Tue) | Marking Days |
| | 9 Oct (Wed) | Home-Based Learning (S1- 3) |
| | 11 Oct (Mon) | 108 th Founder's Day Celebrations |
| | 14 Oct (Mon) | 2025 S3 Subject Combination online resources for S2 students and parents (available on website) |
| | 16 Oct (Wed) | GCE O-Level EL Listening Comprehension <i>Early dismissal for S1-3 at 12.50pm in preparation for national examination.</i> |
| | 17 Oct (Thur) - 11 Nov (Mon) | GCE O-Level Written Examinations https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/examination-timetable/gce-o-level-exam-timetable-as-at-24-may-2024-for-publication.pdf?sfvrsn=da8fceeb_1 |
| | 18 Oct (Fri) | P6 Fun Day |
| | 18 - 25 Oct (Fri - Fri) | End-Of-Year WRAP UP Programme (S1-3) <i>*Details will be provided on a later date.</i> |
| | 25 Oct (Fri) | Term 4 Farewell Assembly |

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| | | End-Of-Year Prize Presentation Last Day of 2024 School Year |
| | 28 Oct (Mon) - 1 Nov (Fri) | S1 Bridging Lessons (selected students) S2 Bridging Lessons (selected students) S3 Head-Start Learning |
| | 31 Oct (Thur) | Deepavali Holiday |
| | 6 Nov (Wed) - 8 Nov (Fri) | PL Mega Camp for Student Leaders |
| | 13 Nov (Wed) | Cambridge Dinner for S4/5 |
| | 16 Nov (Sat) | PLMGS(Sec) Open House |
| | 16 or 17 Dec | Release of 2024 N-Level Results (tbc) |
| | 18, 19 or 20 Dec | Release of 2025 S1 Posting Results 2025 Sec 1 Registration Day (tbc) |
| | 1 Jan 2025 (Wed) | New Year's Day |
| 2025 Theme: A Friend of All | 2 Jan 2025 (Thur) | 2025 School Year starts Term 1 Welcome Assembly |

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| Every Mon morning, 7.30am at SFE Room or 8am via Zoom | <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 Josephine Oh at josephine.oh@yahoo.com.sg |
| Once a term | <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 any event. Please sign up for the sessions via PG then. |

Please check the school website (<http://plmgss.moe.edu.sg>) for regular updates on school programmes and other administrative matters. You can also follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/myplstory/>) for the happenings in and around the school.

8. Suggestions for Parents this September Holidays

The school holidays might be a change for rest and recharging, but it is also one of the few moments each year that all in the family can spend time together. I strongly urge parents to spend some time with your daughter, over a meal or just a short walk around the park. Encourage and assure our girls, that they are all unique and have so much to be grateful for. At the same time, I also trust that majority of our girls will start preparing for the end-of-year examinations this holiday. There will be some anxiety and stress. Parents can help your child prepare for the examination season and manage stress levels: <https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/exam-stress-busting-tips>

May God's protection and blessing be with you and your family this holiday. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Ms Amy Ng
Principal