



25 Oct 2024

# Principal's Letter to Parents

## *Thanksgiving for 2024*

Dear Parents/Guardians

Our 2024 Year Theme is "Be True, Pure, Strong and Brave" takes reference from our Theme Verse:

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable  
– if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

The 2024 focus guided us in our work to nurture Confident PL-Lites, Passionate Leaders, Active Citizens and Inspiring Leaders this year. We started the year with gratitude and hope, like how Paul wrote the Book of Philippians to express his appreciation and affection for the people of Philippi. The 2024 Theme and Theme Verse also highlight what truly matters. By focusing on what is true and pure, and urging all to take courage to act with faith and humility, in harmony with one another, our girls will find true joy with purpose.

As I look back at this school year, I hope you can agree that we have so much to give thanks for. Our girls have grown in stature and character, stronger and braver. They have grown in confidence to share their thoughts, joys and worries. We see more smiles, and less tears. The biggest encouragement? Our girls can better self- and co-regulate their emotions. I see friendships and relationships growing, as they learn to support one another. There are still challenges and our teachers and counsellors will continue to support our girls in their socio-emotional struggles. But I am grateful for the improvement and how my colleagues are rallying behind each other to help our girls learn and grow. I urge parents to take the time and talk with your daughter about her 2024 in PL and acknowledge her growth. Help them give thanks for every experience, even the not-so-good ones. Those are the moments you can partner us to help our girls learn to see alternative perspectives, be positive, resilient and thankful.

I asked our girls at the start of Term 4 – *How would you like to feel at the end of 2024?* I wish them joy with purpose and hope for the future, at the end of 2024 and always. Our girls could articulate that their mindsets and attitudes are key for this desired feeling. At my Final Assembly Sharing today, I encouraged our girls to reflect and be truthful of their current mindsets and attitudes, and intentionally use the school holidays to nurture more positive mindsets and attitudes (e.g. use growth mindset language more, surround oneself with positive people, set realistic goals, learn something new, focus on health etc.) so as to better prepare themselves for an even more awesome 2025.

Indeed we end the year with joyful and grateful hearts. We thank God and look forward to 2025. Come 2025, I am most excited by our refined time-table so that school can end by 2pm for our lower secondary girls and earlier than 3.10pm for some of our upper secondary girls. We hope to start CCAs earlier at 3pm instead of 3.30pm so that CCAs can end by 6pm latest. We will share more information in the December 2024 letter to parents. I look forward to strengthening our school-parent partnership in 2025, and to journey together into our blessed 110<sup>th</sup> Year in 2026.

To God be the Glory!

The following are some things for you to take note of as the academic year draws to an end. More importantly, at this year-end, please take time to celebrate your daughter/ward's learning and growth.

### **1. S1-2 Bridging & Remedial Programme and Sec 3 Remedial Programme and Self-paced Learning (28 Oct to 8 Nov)**

The objectives of bridging and remedial is to help our girls address their learning gaps, and better prepare themselves for the next learning year. Selected Sec 1 to 3 girls have been informed by their subject teachers and were given a schedule for bridging and/or remediation lessons via email for (28 Oct to 1 Nov) the upcoming holidays. Please check with your child if she is required to attend.

In addition, we also encourage our Sec 3 students to continue their self-paced learning programme (28 Oct to 8 Nov) in the upcoming holidays, details have been assigned to them via their SLS and/or Google classroom groups. Completing this learning responsibly will provide our girls with a stronger foundation for their Sec 4 curriculum next year.

### **2. Year-End Holidays Essential Services**

#### **a. Bookshop Purchases**

The 2025 Booklist is available in the school website (<https://for.edu.sg/plbooklist2025>), please download the relevant booklist from the links provided.

#### Walk-In Purchases

Opening Dates and Timings of our School Bookshop are as follow:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
13-16, 27-29 Nov, 3-7 Dec	Self-Collection for Online, Walk-In Purchase for Sec 2 - 5
19-23 and 26 Dec	Self-Collection for Online for Sec 1 Only
27,30 Dec	Walk-in Purchase for ALL levels

**\*Weekdays 9.00am – 3pm; Saturdays 9am – 12pm; Sundays – closed\***

Please follow the dates and timings listed above for your level closely to avoid long wait time for yourself or others. Online ordering will be available on the vendor's website <https://www.pacificbookstores.com/> from 4 Nov 2024.

You may arrange for home delivery at a cost from \$14.90 (depending on the number of carts), or self-collect (FOC) at the School Bookshop on the specific dates given to you when your orders are ready.

## **b. School Uniform Purchases**

Considering the ongoing hot weather and to ensure the safety and well-being of students, the school will continue with our dress-down policy into 2025. From Monday to Friday, students may wear dress-down attire, including a school-based t-shirt with skirts or pinafore as a more comfortable option. However, full school uniform with the school tie will still be required on special occasions such as Founder's Day, Graduation Day, Class Photo taking, and other formal events.

We would also like to remind parents to review your child's current uniform needs. Some students have outgrown their uniforms and have been adjusting them during the school day by unbuttoning or unzipping due to discomfort. To ensure comfort and a presentable appearance, we encourage you to purchase any necessary new uniforms for your child/ward before the start of the new school year.

### Walk-In Purchases

2024 Sec 2 to 5 girls may purchase their new school uniform at the supplier's outlet before 13 Dec 2024. After this date, the supplier will focus on serving the Sec 1 girls.

### **School Uniform Supplier Shirley Season Wear**

Address: 7030 Ang Mo Kio Ave 5 #04-55 Northstar@AMK Singapore 569880

Tel: 6280 4917

#### Opening hours:

January to November

Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00pm to 6:00pm

(Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays)

December

Mondays to Sundays: 12:00pm to 6:00pm

(Open Daily)

### Online Purchases

Online purchase is available at the vendor's website <https://shirleyuni.com/>. You may arrange for home delivery at the cost of \$9.

## **c. School Canteen Opening Hours**

The school canteen will continue to operate during the O-Level examination period, up to 4 Nov. Stalls 1 and 2 (which offer drinks, snacks, bread and sandwiches) will be operating from 7.30am to 1pm from 28 Oct to 4 Nov to support students taking the O-Level examinations and to support students returning to school for CCAs, remedial and bridging. There are also vending machines which the students can purchase their drinks and snack from.

#### d. Library Opening Hours

During the year-end school holidays, the School Library will be opened every Mondays to Thursdays, 8am to 5pm and Fridays 8am to 4.30pm. During the lunch break from 12noon to 1pm, the library will be closed.

Due to our librarian's annual leave and training, the library will be closed on 27 Nov to 17 Dec.

#### e. General Office Opening Hours

During the year-end school holidays, please take note of the General Office's opening hours:

- 28 Oct – 15 Nov & 16 Dec – 31 Dec: 7.30am – 6pm
  - Except 14 Nov. The school will remain open with our security guards on that day. Only the General Office will be closed; you can still contact us via our office contact at 62816606 as all staff will be out for our Annual Staff Retreat.
- 18 Nov – 13 Dec: 8am – 5.30pm
  - Except 18 Nov: 7.30am – 12noon. The school will remain open with our security guards the entire day. The General Office will be closed after 12noon; you can still contact us via our office contact at 62816606 as office colleagues will be participating in an external learning journey.

### 3. 2025 School Terms and Holidays

Please refer to the following URL for 2025 School Terms and Holidays.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20240812-school-terms-and-holidays-for-2025>

Our school's protected holiday periods for staff and students in 2025 are:

- March holidays: 15 – 23 Mar (*Girls involved in the 2025 National School Games and Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation may be required to come to school for additional practices.*)
- June holidays: 31 May–29 Jun
- Sept holidays: 6 – 14 Sep
- Nov/Dec holidays: 22 Nov onwards (tentative)

### 4. Highlights of Key School Events in Nov/Dec 2024 and Jan 2025

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Nov/Dec 2024 and Jan 2025. I would like to highlight the PL(Sec) Open House scheduled on 16 Nov (Saturday), 9.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Besides learning about PL(Sec) through our CCA and Signature Programme booths, you are invited to attend the Open Classroom sessions conducted by our Lead and Senior Teachers. There will be a sharing session where you can interact with the school leaders and key personnel. A map will be provided for you to embark on a self-guided school tour to take a look at the school facilities.

Dates	Key Events
6 – 8 Nov (Wed – Fri)	Mega Camp – PL Student Leadership Development Camp for Relevant Student Leaders
13 Nov (Wed)	Cambridge Dinner (for Sec 4 and 5)

16 Nov (Sat)	PL(Sec) Open House
19 – 20 Nov (Tue – Thur)	(Tentative) Release of 2024 PSLE Results
16 or 17 Dec (Mon or Tue)	(Tentative) Release of GCE N-Level Results
18 – 20 Dec (Wed – Fri)	(Tentative) Release of 2025 Sec 1 Posting Results
Next working day after the release of posting results	Sec 1 2024 Registration (online only)  (More details will be released closer to this date. All purchases of school's supplies, briefing session etc. will be conducted online.)
<b>24 – 25 Dec (Tue – Wed)</b>	<b>Christmas Eve and Christmas Day</b>
27 and 30 Dec (Fri and Mon)	2025 Sec 1 iDiscover Camp preparations
<b>1 Jan 2025 (Wed)</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
2 Jan 2025 (Thur)	2025 New Academic Year begins  Principal's Welcome Assembly
2 – 8 Jan 2025 (Thur – Wed)	Start Right Programme for Sec 1 – 5  • 6 – 8 Jan: Sec 1 Orientation and iDiscover Camp (non- residential)
8 Jan 2025 (Wed)	2025 CCA Fair  Sec 1 Meet-The-Parents Session / Camp Finale Night (6 – 8pm)
10 – 14 Jan 2025 (Fri – Tues)	(Tentative) Release of GCE O-Level Results
10 – 13 Jan 2025 (Fri – Mon)	Exchange Programme and Visit by Kyung Hee Girls' High School (South Korea)
17 Jan 2025 (Fri)	Sec 3 and 4/5 Meet-The-Parents Session
22 Jan 2025 (Wed)	National School Games 2025 Opening Ceremony
23 Jan 2025 (Thur)	House Leaders' Training (3.30 – 5.30pm)
28 Jan 2025 (Tue)	Chinese New Year Concert & Celebrations

29 and 30 Jan 2025	Chinese New Year Day 1 and 2 Public Holidays
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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/>).

## 5. Advice for Parents on Holistic Well-Being and Safety

We would like to emphasize the importance of helping your child better navigate cyber space and practise safe use of computing devices during the holidays. You can find a suite of self-care tools and resources on MindSG webpage (<https://www.healthhub.sg/programmes/186/MindSG/Caring-For-Ourselves/Learning-About-Cyber-Wellness-Youths>), which you can use in your discussion with your child. In the same webpage, you will find the hotline or email address to access "Help123", a cyber wellness and digital parenting platform by TOUCH Community Services, supported by Singtel. It features content developed by experts from TOUCH Cyber Wellness, TOUCH Youth Intervention and TOUCH Parenting which are services under the TOUCH Integrated Family Group.

With the upcoming school holidays, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would also like to remind all students about the consequences of committing crimes and engaging in drug/inhalant abuse. It is essential to take preventive measures to avoid becoming victims of crime. In addition, the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and Health Promotion Board (HPB) would like to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of using imitation tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and e-vaporizers. We encourage all students to familiarize themselves with Singapore's laws and regulations on vaping, as well as the potential consequences for individuals, families, and society.

Please refer to **Annex** for the infographic and advisory, and kindly share this information with your daughter/ward.

Once again, thank you for your support and partnership to care for your daughter/ward, our PL-Lite. On behalf of the PL family, we wish you a blessed school holiday with your family and loved ones.

May the Lord bless you and protect you.  
May the Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Yours faithfully,  
Ms Amy Ng  
Principal