



ZHENGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL

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REF: ZSS/LTP/2017/ADMIN/0096

29 August 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We have quickly come to the end of Term 3. It was a very eventful and fruitful term for many of our students as seen from the long list of achievements and events in the rest of this letter. With the September school holidays starting this Thursday with Teachers' Day, do encourage your child to spend quality time in revising and consolidating his or her learning in preparation for the end-of-year examinations. I would also like to wish all our N and O level students all the very best as they prepare for the national exams.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN TERM 3

1 Congratulations to all Zhenghua students who continue to excel in the academics and the co-curriculum.

Students	Class	Achievement	Competition
ALICIA LEONG TIAN EN	2E1	Honorable Mention (Junior Section)	Singapore Mathematical Olympiad 2017
PHUA KAY SIM	2E4		
DAVID ANG	4E2	Honorable Mention (Senior Section)	
REN DEXIAN	4E3		
THUM WENG CHUEN	3E4		
NG BOON KIAT, JEFFREY	3E4	Bronze Award (Senior Section)	
PHOEBE CHEONG QIAN MING	4E2		
JARREL KOO JIALE	3E2	Selected for MOE's Talent Development Programme for History	MOE History Challenge

CCA	Achievement	Competition
Art Club Ang Yu Ling (3E1)	Merit Award	Ocean Conservation Art Competition
Art Elective Students Jolin Chow (3E1) Audia A'fini Nizar (3E1) Nur Insyirah Izzati Khairi (3E1)	2 nd Prize	Kanvas Mural Art Competition
Entrepreneur Club	Gold Award	National Youth Business Challenge
Netball (B and C Divisions)	Bronze Award	M1 Netball School Challenge
ODAC	Overall Champion	National Orienteering Competition
Scouts Ng Sheng Kiat (4E2) Au Jun Yi (4E3) Gordon Tan Au Aun (4E4) Lee You Huan (4E4)	Chief Commissioners Award	The Chief Commissioner's Award is conferred by the Scouts Association to the most outstanding and distinctive scouts in recognition of their excellent performance, dedication and services. The award is a pinnacle of achievement for the recipients

KEY EVENTS IN TERM 3

2 **Urban Challenge (28 July)**

The second edition of Urban Challenge was another adrenaline-charged event which saw our students and staff race through six challenging physical obstacles styled after the hugely popular Spartan Race. The unique terrain and obstacles certainly tested our students' strength, resilience and endurance. This year, more competitive categories were introduced where students were required to partner with another teacher or a senior from their CCA. There was also a category for Parent-Child team; three of our PSG fathers took part and completed the race with their child. It was an amazing sight to see our students in both the competitive and non-competitive groups pushing themselves with grit to complete all obstacles.

3 **Racial Harmony Day (21 July)**

The school celebrated Racial Harmony Day on 21 July, where once again we are reminded of the importance of preserving racial and religious harmony. The rich diversity of culture and heritage of Singapore was expressed through the traditional costumes donned by students and staff of Zhenghua and the variety of heritage foods specially sold by the canteen on this day. The day concluded with a Hari Raya concert organised by the Malay Language Unit of the Mother Tongue Language Department.

4 **Gratitude Week (24 – 28 July)**

Our inaugural Gratitude Week was a time when all students and staff were encouraged to reflect and express their gratitude in multiple ways, in the goal of strengthening bonds with one another. Students and staff took part in activities such as gratitude note-writing and sharing of stories during Form Teacher Interaction Time.

5 **National Day Celebrations (8 August)**

Riding on the NDP theme of "One Nation Together", our school included in the National Day celebrations, a special community of people who have been contributing to the maintenance of the school environment – our school contract cleaners. Mr Edwin Tan, Form Teacher of Sec 5N1 and his students played hosts to the school contract cleaners for breakfast, and they also joined the rest of the school to watch the National Day concert. The day ended with a whole-school sing-a-long session of National Day songs and an ice-cream treat for all students and staff.

6 **Visit by Director-General of Education, Mr Wong Siew Hoong (18 August)**

We were honoured to host Director-General of Education, Mr Wong Siew Hoong here for a visit on the afternoon of 18 August. Mr Wong interacted with both students and staff where he learned more about the Zhenghua schooling experience, and answered questions ranging from education policies to global trends.

ACADEMIC MATTERS IN TERM 4

7 **GCE N-Level Examinations, GCE O-Level Examinations, Sec 1-3 End of Year Examinations**

The dates for the National Exams can be found in the table of Key Events in Term 4. Please note that there will be no early dismissal for Sec 1-3 students on days when GCE N-Level Listening Comprehension exams are conducted, unlike in previous years. As the GCE N-Level examinations are conducted in two phases, parents of Sec 4NA and 4NT students are to refer to **Annex B** for the schedule of revision lessons for their child/ward. 4NA and 4NT students are expected to report to school as per normal from 21 – 28 September as revision lessons will be conducted for the remaining subjects that they will be examined in.

Please find the Sec 1-3 End-of-Year Examination time-table in **Annex A**. The syllabus coverage for the end-of-the year exams will also be distributed together with this letter through the Form Teachers.

8 Night Study Programme for Sec 4/5 Graduating Students

The Night Study Programme for Sec 4/5 graduating students will take place from Monday, 11 September to Thursday, 5 October, weekday evenings from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. The programme aims to cultivate discipline and good self-study habits in our graduating students during their last lap of revision. The Night Study Programme is conducted on a voluntary basis, and students who wish to take part are required to sign up for it through Year Head (Upper Sec) Mr Lim Cheng Yong. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Parent Support Group for funding and catering for some of the snacks and refreshments for our Night Study Programme.

KEY EVENTS IN TERM 4

Date	Event
11 – 21 Sept; 2 – 13 October	GCE N-Level Written Examinations
28 September	4NANT Graduation Ceremony (within curriculum time)
6 October	4Exp5NA Graduation Ceremony (within curriculum time)
29 September – 11 October	Sec 1 – 3 End-of-Year Examinations
12 October	GCE O-Level Science Practical Exams (for 4Exp/5NA/4NA students taking O-Level Combined Science as a subject)
12 October	Marking Day – Sec 1-3 students need not report to school on this day
13 October, 16-17 October	Checking scripts for Sec 1-3 students. Normal curriculum hours.
24 October	Promotion Day - Sec 1-3 students need not report to school on this day
18 October	Deepavali Holiday
19 – 26 October	Post-Exam Activities
23 October – 17 November	GCE O-Level Written Examinations
27 October	Last day of school for Sec 1-3 students. <i>Students will be dismissed at 10.20 am.</i> Parent-Teacher Meeting will be held from 11 am onwards
30 October – 3 November	Sec 3Exp Extended Curriculum <i>(Special time table will be released to students at a later date)</i>
10 November	Release of 2018 Sec 3 Subject Selection Exercise results
14 November	Last day for appeals for 2018 Subject Selection Exercise
20 November	Release of appeals results for 2018 Subject Selection Exercise
20 November	Graduation Night for Sec 4Exp/4NA/4NT/5NA students
25 November	School Open House
Tuesday 2 January 2018	First day of Term 1 2018

Yours sincerely,



Mr Eugene Lin
Principal

Failing doesn't make one a failure

Failing an exam is an ordeal which often makes students feel helpless and unmotivated, and can possibly dent their self-confidence. For Ms Neo Jie Qi, passing a Math test or exam in secondary school seemed like an unattainable dream.

“No matter how hard I tried, I always failed Mathematics badly! Once, I scored 12 out of 100 marks. I practiced harder, but I still failed. I started to loathe the subject and procrastinated when it came to doing my Math homework. I was also stressed by the expectations of parents, teachers and peers,” said Jie Qi.

Succumb or Surmount?

In the face of tough times, some bounce back stronger, while some buckle under the pressure. The difference between the two is **resilience**. It is an outlook that determines our response and helps us cope with change.

Jie Qi chose not to give up. She decided to track back and start all over again with the basics.

“I revisited the Lower Secondary Math topics and asked my classmates and teachers for help. I realised, the more I asked, the better I understood. I picked up the concepts relatively fast too. Hard work will always pay off. I finally did well for Math in Secondary Three! The achievement boosted my confidence and instead of fear, I started to love the subject,” said Jie Qi.

Resilience can be learned and developed along the way, as we calibrate our thoughts, actions and behaviour. Embrace challenges. Do not just focus on the easy tasks or questions. Overcoming challenges will strengthen you.

“In Secondary 3, I realised that mistakes were learning opportunities. As I attempted more challenging questions, I was motivated to do better and overcame the fear. I grew to love Math. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I could become a Math teacher!” said Jie Qi.

Process or Results?

Jie Qi shared about a Growth Mindset and explained that people who adopt it believe that their abilities can be developed through dedication, hard work and effort. Brains and talents are just the starting point. Having a growth mindset builds resilience and creates a love for learning that is necessary for success.

“To inculcate a growth mindset in child, we need to see beyond results. Recognise the effort they put in and praise them. Praise them even if they fail because they tried. Focus on the learning process. This will help our children see failure positively and not give up,” said Jie Qi.

With a fixed mindset, people tend to focus on the final result, so when we fail, we give up easily.

“Although the results did not show immediately, I realised that I was making small improvements when I understood one concept at a time. To me, that was already rewarding,” said Jie Qi.

“Developing a love for learning is crucial. To do well, the child has to love the subject first. Encourage our children to be inquisitive and provide them with a creative learning space,” said Jie Qi.

Making the learning process fun helps to inculcate curiosity in children. “Parents can try cooking with children and letting them practise Math concepts by measuring out the ingredients. When shopping for groceries at the supermarket, explore concepts of money and use the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as an example too,” suggested Jie Qi.

Stimulating your child's interest in a subject or activity is critical in helping them learn. Faulting them for their mistakes may kill their interest. When they face setbacks, pick them up and help them make a comeback. Certain life lessons can only be learned the hard way and parents play a vital role in the journey of their growth and development.

This article was first published on 8 March 2017 in Schoolbag- <https://www.schoolbag.sg>