

Dear Parents,

The first few days of this half term have seen students and staff make a smooth transition back from their holiday break. It has been great to see the students back at school and they seem to have settled well into their routines and learning after the half term break. The break was very timely as it allowed our students to rest, relax become refreshed and to get over bugs and seasonal illnesses. We are now raring to go with an exciting programme of learning for the next 8 weeks. We have planned in many great events including special assemblies, charity talks, Santa Fun Day and the Christmas concerts.

### Project week Secondary students

Our Secondary students had their project week just before half term. They left Hong Kong to go in various locations across S.E. Asia and even as far as Fiji.

### New teachers

We are pleased to welcome three new teachers.

Ms. Noemi Laudit      SBS TA

Mr. Samuel Jones      Y3 TA

Mr. Luke Leader      ESL [Primary]/SENCO

We hope that they settle in quickly and enjoy working with the students at our school.

### Weather

We would like to remind all students to have a raincoat in their bags in case of sudden showers.

### John Dewey (1859-1952)

Last week marked the birthday of one of the most influential educators of all time. John Dewey (1859-1952)

John Dewey was a teacher, an American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer who argued for children to learn through experience rather than rote learning, to learn from their mistakes rather than hide them and that learning is social and interactive. He believed children should be active in their own learning and I would suggest he would be a strong advocate for children being present in meetings about their learning! In a lot of ways John Dewey set the scene for modern pedagogy and the UK NATIONAL CURRICULUM's learning and philosophy. It is important to understand one of the origins of our school's curriculum; we are so fortunate to be a continuation of such a progressive and innovative approach to schooling.

### Safeguarding and security

Moving forward

This year sees us entering our third year of operation under new management. The vision and road-map have been underway and we now look ahead to the next three year plan. Here are some of our new projects that we are working on:

- The new Engage system will be fully operational soon; this will help in many areas especially data handling.
- Many areas of school organisation and administration will be reviewed. We will look at the office structure and systems e.g. school fees / assessment fees / the deposit for a

school place / school reports / deposit refund system / notice period / assessments and reference package.

- Staff contracts / storage of student records / the system of paying student fees / campus safety and security issues.

Once a change has been decided e.g. last year the school fees were raised we had to get approval from the EDB. If we recommend an operational change we must inform you and we will also consult the EDB and seek their approval as needed; e.g. safety and security policy / complaints / and assessment fees polices. We will explore the idea of introducing Debentures or Capital Levy.

### School organization and administration

The organization of arrivals and dismissals under campus safety update.

#### **Arrival**

In the morning there are: two teachers, one guard and two prefects at the front gate and one teacher and two prefects at the back gate on duty. The prefects will stay on duty until 8:15am and will assist parents to leave their child at the gate.

\*Parents entering the campus to pay a bill at the canteen or pay their fees must register with the guard and collect a school badge.

#### **Dismissal**

In the afternoon there are: two teachers and one guard at the front gate and one guard at the back gate.

Arrival for PRIMARY: Students come in and go to the green area before 8:10 am. After this time they will go to their class. We are still witnessing too many parents wondering around the Green area and corridors. The school encourages a “drop off and go” policy at the gate so please follow this recommended morning routine as the EDB have advised us to make the campus more safe and secure for students with less adults present - so please help us to fulfil the EDB’s wishes.

Arrival for SECONDARY: Students are expected to be in their tutor group for 8:00 am. We have asked all Secondary staff to be in school for 7:45 am ready to go.

Departures for PRIMARY: Ms. Khoo has created a marvelous plan for the end of the day dismissal. Parents should stay behind the barrier. Students follow their line and meet at a set place on the barrier and are handed over to someone known to the teacher/student.

Departures for SECONDARY: Students are dismissed by their class teacher.

### Y6 and Springboard Camp

It was quite a mixed week, weather wise, for our Year 6 students who were on camp. They experienced a couple of showers but mostly had sunny days. I have received many good reports and the students enjoyed themselves.

The Springboard students had a great time in Lantau and enjoyed learning lots of new skills outside of the classroom.

### Parent Teacher Consultations

It is always a joy to welcome parents into our school. November 2<sup>nd</sup> is our Parent Teacher Consultations. This is the time to have a more formal meeting with the teachers about your child to receive a brief update on their progress. We realise that a 10 minute timeslot is short, so if you need more time, you are encouraged to make another appointment for a longer in-depth discussion at a time that suits both you and your child's teacher.

As the interviews are quite short it is important to remember that each interview keeps to time. Your understanding on this is much appreciated! Also a note to let you know that the specialist teachers are also available on a 'drop-in' basis on the same day.

### The Box of Hope

The Box of Hope is an annual charity project aimed at providing useful/educational gifts to underprivileged children in Hong Kong & Asia. Many Hong Kong schools donate things to help these children to bring a big smile on their faces. What you have to do is fill a shoe box with some **new not used** things and then wrap it with some colourful or nice paper.

Details of the items and how to pack the box can be found on a special label that the Events Team will give to each class. The drop off dates for the filled boxes is during November and the deadline will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November so make sure to remember!

When you bring your Box of Hope to school, please drop them off with your class teacher. Like they say, charity begins at home! If you have more questions, go to the Box Of Hope website or contact the school directly.

### Librarian's Message

Dear parents,

Our Senior Student Librarians have already explained and handed out the Junior student librarian application forms to Year 5's and 6's.

#### Senior Librarian

This school year, four students from Year 6 will be our Senior Librarians and 10 students in Year 5 and 6 will be chosen to serve as Junior Librarians.

The purpose of the programme is to familiarise students with the process of obtaining and keeping a job. The tasks should help develop a positive work ethic and attention to detail, while boosting the students' confidence.

#### Junior Librarian

You must be a Year 5 or 6 students. No experience is required as we will teach those students selected to be Junior Librarians how to shelve correctly. Each Junior Librarian is assigned a section of shelves that he or she will take "ownership" of. This includes keeping the shelves neat and clean, keeping books in order, and shelving books that are on the returned box. Occasionally there will be additional jobs you may be asked to help with. We ask that you commit to coming in three times a week (lunch time) to check on your shelves. If other students are in the library and need help, our librarians are welcome to assist them, as we know our librarians truly "know" their library!

- Since Junior Librarians will be coming in while there are other students using the library, good behavior is expected. Our Junior Librarians are models of behavior for the other students, and will be asked to be consistent, courteous, respectful, and helpful.

- Junior Librarians are allowed to check out five books instead of just three, they have the opportunity to see and check out the new library books first, and at the end of the year, we will have a fun year-end celebration.

- Junior Librarians must obtain parental permission before they begin their duties.

The Senior/Junior Librarian Programme is a fantastic way for kids to learn about serving, practice positive interaction with others, gain confidence, and have fun! It will be a fun year filled with more activities and surprises in the library!! Expect more reading activities to be organized by our Senior and Junior Librarians.

Best Regards,

Diana Chian / School Librarian

### Diwali Assemblies

We are organising two Diwali assemblies one for Primary on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and a secondary Diwali assembly on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 8:15 am in the school Gymnasium. It is going to be a free dress day and Indian / Traditional Attire is encouraged. If your child is dressed for the occasion, a donation (optional) of your choice would be much appreciated. There will also be samosas sold at school during recess break. The money collected will be handed out to the school charity committee and the beneficiary will be the below mentioned government organisation.

Government of Kerala: Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund

Stand With Kerala Flood Relief

<https://donation.cmdrf.kerala.gov.in/>

### Assemblies

We had some very interesting assemblies recently.

HK Shark Foundation – they gave a lively and interesting talk to our Primary students about the campaign to stop eating shark fin soup and protect the species.

The Mental Health Awareness talks were very informative, interesting and very age appropriate. The speakers addressed issues separately for both Primary and Secondary students. They explained that mental illness is just like illness of the body except it's in the mind where you can't see it.

### Halloween

The Primary assembly had a massive turnout from parents – thankful for coming along.

We had ghosts and goblins, demons and dogs, cats and kittens, fantasy and fairies a plenty. There were some striking costumes.

The Secondary students had a more involved set of Halloween happenings with football matches, bake sale and a fashion parade.

Next week we will have Diwali Assembly for all including parents and Movember charity event to raise funds for our library project.

### Calendar events

Wednesday, 31st October – Halloween happening Y4/5 Camp-31st October – 2nd November

Wednesday – Friday, 31st October – 2nd November – Y4/5 Camp

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Parent Teacher Conferences

#### **Week 10**

Monday – Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November – Photo Days for classes

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November – Diwali Assembly Secondary

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November – Diwali Assembly Primary

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November – Cambridge Learner Awards

#### **Week 11**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November – Elephant Foundation assembly

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November – Box of Hope collection

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November – School KRA Fair with some International Stalls

#### **Week 12**

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November – KOCHAM Network Day

#### **Week 13**

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November – University Presentation Evening Y9/10/11/12/13 and all Parents are welcome

#### **Week 14**

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December – Santa Fun Day

#### **Week 15**

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Concert

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Concert

#### **Week 16**

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December – Half Day School

So you can see the last few weeks of Term 1 are action packed!

So do come along and support and do give generously to all our charity responses and student planned events.

With kind regards,

C. Chadwick

Principal