



COMMZ@BTPS

Sept 2017

A School That Fuels the Hearts and Minds to be Future-Ready

Term 4

Dear Parents & Guardians

We ended Term 3 celebrating Teachers' Day. We wish to sincerely thank our Prefects and AVA Team who worked with the pupils to put up an outstanding show. We went 'Around The World' with our PSG who pampered the teachers with a sumptuous home-cooked buffet and even watched a Mexican dance performance! We also welcomed about 600 ex-students who visited our teachers after school. Seeing them so confident and joyful, it made us appreciate that sometimes the fruits of our labour can only be seen later on.

In this issue, we have added a letter from an ex-pupil who went on to study at School Of The Arts (SOTA) and is now on her journey to become a doctor. We hope that it will inspire our P6 students on their last lap of preparation for PSLE. Through her writing, you will see her character strengths of *humility, perseverance, love of learning and gratitude* that guide her in her growth.

Finally, as you know, the Presidential Elections is round the corner. If polling day falls on Saturday, 23 September 2017, it will be a public holiday. If that happens, please note that the following **Monday, 25 September 2017**, will be a school holiday for teachers and pupils.

We look forward to lots of learning and fun in our last term of the year!

School Leaders

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION (5 Oct)

Take part in '**Surprise YOUR Child**' by writing a special note for him or her. Last year, 268 parents wrote to their child/children and made Children's Day a day to remember. We encourage you to be creative and expressive. A good tip is to be very specific about what you appreciate in your child.

Please note the following:

1. Send your card via email to Ms Nithiavani at nithiavani_a@moe.edu.sg or deliver it to Mrs Evelyn Tan at our office.
2. All cards must be received by **3 Oct** to be delivered on 5 Oct to respective classes, so it is important to put the full name and class on your card.
3. Cards received before **24 Sep** will be put up in our Gratitude Corner.
4. Most creative cards will be shown on our TV monitors on 5 Oct.

Let us show our appreciation for the wonderful children in our life!

In this issue ...

- 1 School Leaders' Message
- 2 Building Resilience Part 2
- 3 For our P6 Pupils Letter from an ex-pupil
- 4 Announcements Calendar Term 4

Note: Pupils need not report to School on the following days.	
15 Sep	PSLE Listening Comprehension (for P6 pupils only)
25 Sep	Off-in-lieu (if Presidential Election is held on 23 Sep)
6 Oct	Children's Day
18 Oct	Deepavali
19 to 24 Oct	PSLE Marking Days
3 Nov	School Admin Day
16 Nov	Prize Giving Day
17 Nov	P1 Orientation 1

FOCUS AREA: BUILDING RESILIENCE 2

In the last issue of Commz@BTPS, we shared various ways to build resilience in our children. In this issue, we highlight the value of character strengths, how they can be used to overcome challenges for resilient individuals.

If we focus on using our children's character strengths, more than working on weaknesses, we can equip our children to lead a meaningful and fulfilling life. Help your children identify their character strengths and teach them how to use them daily and in challenging situations.

Continued use of character strengths and learning from experiences will build our children's confidence and resilience. Below are the 24 character strengths categorised broadly under 6 virtues, and tips for you to build character strengths in your child.

<p>Strengths of WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity • Curiosity • Judgment • Love of Learning • Perspective 	<p>Strengths of COURAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bravery • Perseverance • Enthusiasm • Honesty 	<p>Strengths of HUMANITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love • Kindness • Sociability
<p>Strengths of JUSTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairness • Leadership • Teamwork 	<p>Strengths of TEMPERANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgiveness • Humility • Prudence 	<p>Strengths of TRANSCENDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation • Gratitude • Hope • Humour

Tips for Building Character Strengths in Your Child

- 1 Encourage your child to know his/ her character strengths and to use them regularly.
- 2 Compliment your child for his/ her character strength that you have observed.
- 3 Guide your child to think about new ways of using his/ her character strengths.
E.g. "Other than using your leadership strength in school, how about using it at home too, like planning for a family gathering?"
- 4 Have conversations with your child from a strengths-perspective.
E.g. "Think about how you responded. What strengths did you show?"
- 5 Tap on your child's strengths, especially in coping with adversity and overcoming obstacles.
E.g. Tap on your child's sociability to find social support during challenging times.



FOR OUR P6 STUDENTS

Letter from an ex-pupil

My Education in BTPS **by Audrey Lee Mei Ling**

I am a graduate of class 6 Grace 2009. People recognized me as the quiet and shy girl in class who rarely draws attention. As opposed to the fearless and vocal nature of some of my classmates, I was less noticed and sometimes people forgot the existence of students like me.

Inevitably, questions and mistakes were often left unsolved because of the lack of a little bit of courage. This was who I was when I first started primary school.

Growing up, I met people in Bukit Timah Primary School (BTPS) who taught me many things that changed my perception of learning and what schooling meant.

If I can give an example, teachers are like vessels that bring their students to far places, protecting them from harm while steering them to the best directions, despite strong winds and waves. It may sound dramatic, but visually this is what teachers are to me.

In BTPS, my teachers took me to places I never imagine going by myself and I discovered new interests that I developed in the years after. For me, the subject of Science (Biology) and Art tingled my mind. My teachers recognized these qualities in me and later, I was successfully admitted into *School of The Arts*, Singapore (SOTA).

In my P6 year, I discovered the power of words in literature. Vividly, I remembered experiencing sensations like sound and heat from an outdoor

lesson then translating them into words in my Science journal, SAM. We jotted down curious questions about energy, photosynthesis or anything that sparked our interest.

As an introverted girl who was terrified of asking questions, this BTPS way of learning helped me step out of my cycle of making mistakes. I could write to my teacher as openly as I wanted and learning was never as fun and useful since then.

Teachers also taught us powerful skills such as mind-mapping which made processing information much easier and learning less a burden, more a joy.

Learning was great because it was tailored for students with differences and it prepared me for more than just my PSLE. My interest in Art led me to specialize in ceramics as a hobby, while my interest in Biology has led me to study Medicine in university.

From this, I would say that my time in primary school has shaped my educational pathways more deeply than I expected.

I want to thank all my teachers and most importantly, I hope every student will understand that learning is all about the journey and never about the results at the end.

Audrey Lee Mei Ling
emailed BTPS on
14 February 2017



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCEEDS FROM MASS RECYCLING DRIVE AND CAR BOOT SALE

Our first Mass Recycling Drive to collect **old clothes, toys and books** was a huge success. Pupils, PSG, EPSON staff and the community donated their items generously. These were picked up by the staff from Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), for sale at their MINDS Shops around the island.

We are also very grateful to the numerous families who supported the Car Boot Sales jointly organised by the PSG to sell second-hand items. EPSON had a pre-sale of items at their own office the week before and together, we raised \$6798.25 for our adopted charity MINDS. The cheque was presented to MINDS on 26 August 2017.



LOWER PRIMARY SPORTS DAY - Thursday 5 Oct (P1-2)

As part of the school's Children's Day celebrations, we have planned an exciting Lower Primary Sports Day for P1 and P2 pupils on Thursday 5 Oct 2017 from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

We would like to invite all parents of P1 and P2 pupils to join us for this annual event which will see about 300 pupils taking part in 10 events. Parents will be seated in the hall viewing gallery on Level 3.

We recommend that you take the Downtown Line or Bus 173 as parking is very limited along Lorong Kismis. We urge all parents who drive to be mindful of our neighbours and to not park indiscriminately along Lorong Kismis. Thank you.

VALUES-IN-ACTION

P5 students embarked on self-initiated service learning projects at SASCO Senior Citizens' Home. Teams planned numerous activities before their visits.

The elderly were engaged in activities such as origami and colouring. Some groups played traditional games while others performed to entertain the elderly.

Our children not only showed enthusiasm through this Values-in-Action project, but also compassion and respect for others. Let us encourage them to live these values at home too.

B-DAZZLED GRAND FESTIVAL 2017

The BTPS Show Choir dazzled the audience at a sold-out event for B-Dazzled Grand Festival at Sentosa. We performed 2 songs from the popular Broadway musical, 'Waitress' and clinched two awards: Best Primary School Show Choir and the Diamond Award (top award for show choirs). It was heartening to see such amazing commitment from the children.

NATIONAL INTER-SCHOOL TEAM CHESS COMPETITION

We thank our parent volunteers who coordinated and accompanied our team to the National Team Chess competition. Our under-9 team of 4 students emerged the runner-up in the West Zone and achieved 5th position out of 41 teams. It is wonderful to see parents working together, taking the initiative to organise school teams for CCA that BTPS is not able to provide .