

"If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that."

The Red Queen from *Lewis Carroll's Alice through the Looking Glass*



Dear Chatsworth East Community,

Welcome back to Chatsworth East to our returning families and, to our new families, a very warm welcome to our school community! We are entering our fifth year here at Chatsworth East and we have had another wonderful summer of development around the campus, both in terms of what you can immediately see, as well as what happens behind the scenes. Staff and students are back into full swing here on the campus and it is wonderful to have that 'buzz' in the air once again.

I hope that your summer holidays were safe and relaxing and that you are all happy to be back in Singapore (for those who traveled) and back to school. It is always strangely quiet around the campus in the summer and it is very nice to both see and hear the children at school once again. I missed my loud "Good Morning Mr. Sherwood!" from the children each day!

Attached to the back of this Newsletter you will find a calendar showing not only all of our school holidays (grey blocks) but also our school events for the year. We hope that parents will use this calendar to help schedule their time off from work so that they can attend as many of our school events as possible. We know that last academic year we were not able to give much notice for some events, so hopefully this will give everyone more time. If an event is likely to change, we will notify parents as far in advance as possible.

As always, there are a number of items I would like to draw your attention to at the start of this new school year.

The two new classrooms are up and we extended the fence for our Early Years play area so that the children have more space to move. Our new climbing equipment for the playground was ordered in June and should arrive the first week of October. We will have three climbing apparatus, two balance beams and the tunnel. Teachers will remove and add mobile equipment on a daily basis so that the children still have space to run. The new safety EPDM flooring in front of the two new classrooms was also a nice addition.

The playing field was dug up through the summer and we had drainage pipes laid just under the surface. This will help us to get rid of the unwanted puddles that tend to form on our field after a heavy rain. We have observed a few heavy downpours since the work was completed and I am pleased to say that the water drains very quickly. This will be a big help during our rainy season this year. Unfortunately, the field was out of action for a short time, as we had to ensure the grass had taken a firm hold before the children began running on it. The field has just recently reopened, however, and the children are enjoying the wide open space once again.

As you have seen from the new canteen menus that went home during the first week of school, there have been a few changes in items and how the canteen is run in general. The CPSG has been working very hard with Mr and Mr Kee to ensure our canteen food is healthy, and our new ordering system for the Early Years will make things more manageable. Please note that the school canteen will not be able to heat up meals that students bring from home as their heating equipment is needed for their own food. Please feel free to direct any comments regarding the school canteen to the CPSG.

You will note on our attached calendar that we have added another PTC (Parent Teacher Conference) this year. Feedback from both parents and staff last year was that they would prefer an additional PTC after the Student Led Conferences (SLC), some time in March. These new PTCs will be a good time for teachers and parents to discuss the portfolio, the first semester report, as well as student progress and goals for the second semester.

Our second Chatsworth East Family Day will be held on the 26th of September, from 9:00AM through to 1:00PM. This was a great event last year and we hope that all of our families will turn up again this year and show their support. Like last year, families are welcome to bring their own picnic and the children can enjoy some games on the field. We are planning on bringing back our bouncy castle again and all of our teachers will be present to have some fun with the children.

The school website is in a period of transition as it gets moved to our new ICT Coordinator, Mr. Gordon Arndt (Mr Arndt is also our VP and Librarian). He is working on editing the site and it should be updated very soon. I continue to edit my own section of the site and encourage parents to go online and view information, photographs and video as we move through the year. Updates on our new teachers will be posted to my section of the website very soon.

CCAs begin on the 14th of September and the information pack went home on the 4th with your child. As was the case last year, there will be three CCA sessions throughout the year and children can choose as many CCAs as they like, provided they maintain a balance. Please note that some do fill up quite quickly and it is a first come, first serve system. We have external providers as well as teacher run CCAs and some do cost money (particularly our outside providers). We had some recurring late pick-ups after CCAs last year and we ask parents to be on time when picking up their child after a CCA. After a warning letter for recurring late pick-ups students will no longer be permitted to remain in the CCA. We unfortunately had some pick ups as late as 6:00PM last year (1.5 hours late!), which is not fair for the children nor the teachers, so we will be firm on this policy this year.

Mr Arndt's Golf CCA will begin soon after the first session of CCAs is underway. He is currently in discussion with the provider and will have costs for the use of the Royal Tanglin Golf Course as well as transportation soon. Once information is ready it will be sent home so that we can get the CCA running. Mr. Arndt would like parents to note that the Golf CCA is open to students in Years 1-6 and that it will be run on Tuesdays after school. Students from both Chatsworth East as well as Chatsworth Orchard will be participating.

Our school garden is taking a little longer than expected to be completed. Our friends at APSN are assisting us with the removal of the top layer of soil and once that is completed then our contractors can get in to build our growing areas. Ms Fitch will be starting a Gardening CCA this year and all of the children will have opportunities to plant in their own year group areas. It will be a fun project as the students learn about what grows well in the local Singapore climate, and I am looking forward to hopefully sampling some fresh fruits and vegetables!

All of our teachers have now moved over to the Mac OSX platform at school. You will find that attachments coming to you via Email (such as weekly reminders) will be in PDF format rather than MS Word or Excel. Most computers have PDF readers installed on their operating systems already but if yours does not, you can download many free applications that will allow you to read these documents, the most popular being Adobe Acrobat Reader (<http://www.adobe.com/>). Moving to saving our school documents in the PDF format is a positive step forward as it keeps our documentation secure.

Our first Parent Evening of the year will be held on October 1st from 6:00PM. This will be an opportunity for me to share our progress and developments over the summer months with you, as well as outline our plans for the current school year. It will also be an opportunity for parents to meet our new Vice Principal, Mr Gordon Arndt, as well as our new PYP Coordinator, Ms Carolyn Acorn. Our Coordinators, Ms Tanya Fink and Mrs Caren Taylor will also be in attendance. As always we will have coffee, tea and some light snacks as we know many of our parents will be coming from work and will be a bit hungry. The initial presentation will be fairly short and parents will have time afterwards to have a tea and an informal chat.

I would like to remind parents and guardians again to please close the front wooden gate by the Library when they go through it, as well as the side wooden gate by the girls' toilet and parking lot. These gates are unfortunately being left open far too often before, during and after school, putting the safety of all of our children at risk. It would also be very much appreciated if you could inform your helpers of the same, as I know that some of them pick up and drop off the children. It only takes a moment to close the gates and it helps us to keep all of the students safe during busy traffic times of the day. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We have had our first case of H1N1 this academic year and we seem to have contained it quite well, thanks to our families keeping their children at home when they are not feeling well. We will keep all families up-to-date with any new developments and, as is the case with all illnesses, we ask that parents and guardians keep their child at home if they are unwell. I know this can often be inconvenient for some families but by sending children to school when they are ill we risk spreading a cold or flu when it could easily have been contained. Our school nurse, Nurse Siti, can always be reached via the school should parents have any questions or concerns about illnesses.

For those of you using Twitter on your mobile phones or computers, I would like to remind you that you can follow me at CEPrincipal. I will be using this for quick updates and reminders about what is going on around the campus. This will not replace any other form of communication from me; Twitter will be additional updates for those parents interested in updates on the move. You can also find my Twitter feed on my Principal's Website, attached to the school site.

Important Upcoming Events for your calendar:

14th September	CCA Session 1 Begins
21st September	Hari Raya Holiday - No School
26th September	Family Day at Chatsworth East - 9:00 through 1PM
13th-14th October	Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC) - info to follow
20th-24th October	Holiday - School Closed
30th October	UN Day - Parents Welcome to Attend (info to follow)
26th November	CCA Session 1 ends
27th November	Hari Raya Holiday - School Closed
8th December	Christmas Concert (morning - info to follow)
14th Dec - 1st Jan	Holidays - School Closed
11th January	CCA Session 2 begins
29th January	End of Semester 1
2nd February	Semester 2 begins
5th February	Reports sent home

A more complete Calendar for this year and next can be found on the school website.

As always, should you ever have any questions or concerns, please do stop by my office, find me on the field in the morning, or drop me an email. I value and encourage the opportunity for discussion.

Sincerely,



Tyler Sherwood
Principal