

“What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child.”

George Bernard Shaw



Dear Chatsworth East Community,

Gong Xi Fa Cai! I hope everyone enjoyed their long weekend for the start of Chinese New Year celebrations and that you all continue to enjoy the festivities.

The start of February has brought with it the start of the second semester, which means we are already half way through the school year! It certainly is moving along quickly. The end of the first semester means Reports will be coming home this month and parents and guardians will be attending the Student Led Conferences. More information on these two important items will follow in this Newsletter

Please note an important adjustment to our calendar: approval for our in-service workshop from the IBO has come through and we will be having this workshop at school from the 13th to the 15th of March. Thus, **there will be no school for students on Friday, 13th of March.** This weekend workshop will involve Assessment in the PYP and help to further our understanding and delivery of the curriculum.

We have another new staff member joining us during the month of February. We are very fortunate to have Ms Varsha Kumar joining us in Kindergarten 1 with Ms Pinto. We again thank Ms Wendy Ho for continuing to assist us in this classroom until Ms Varsha joins us. Unfortunately, Ms Kalpana injured her back after being with us for only a few short days and she is no longer able to continue here at Chatsworth East.

The feedback that Mr. Hynes has received concerning Summer School has been very positive and we are now looking at a programme. This programme will be developed by the teaching staff and will cater to both the Early Years children as well as the Primary Years children, based on your feedback. More information regarding dates, the programme itself, as well as pricing will be sent home in due course.

Mr. Hynes' Coffee Mornings are going extremely well and we wish to thank all parents who have been able to attend some of these informative meetings. This past session, on the 3rd of February, dealt with Action in the PYP and I am sure that parents walked away from this session with a better understanding of a very important part of the PYP. Mr. Hynes' next PYP Coffee Morning will be held on Monday, March 23rd. He is looking forward to having another enjoyable conversation with parents regarding elements of the PYP and Mr. Hynes is also looking forward to seeing some new faces from our new members of the school community. All are welcome!

Student Led Conferences (SLCs) are coming up soon, on the 13th of February. Please note that there is **no school for students on this day**, though you will need to bring your child to school to attend the conference. Mr. Hynes has sent information home to parents through your child's teacher. Please do return these forms as soon as possible so that teachers can make their schedules. Where these have happened for the past couple of years, many families will be very familiar with them by now. However, where we have some new families who have joined us this year, as well as for a refresher, please do read the information that comes home carefully. The involvement that parents put into these conferences enhances their child's learning a great deal. As mentioned above, please do remember that your child will only be at school on this day whilst they are involved in the conference. Students arrive and leave the school with their parents on this day. For parents with more than one child at East and who have back-to-back SLCs, an area of the school will be set up for supervision of the sibling not involved in the current SLC. Details on this area will be sent home soon.

Reports go home on the 6th of February and may very well make it home before my Newsletter goes out. A letter will accompany the Report this year to help explain a couple of minor changes in the layout. As always, should you have any questions concerning the Report, please do contact your child's classroom teacher.

The next Chatsworth Parent Support Group (CPSG) meeting will be held on the 12th of February in Tembusu Hall at 9:15am. All are always welcome and the CPSG encourages new parents to the school to come out and get involved in any way they can. Please note that the information display board for the CPSG is located near the canteen and you can find more information here regarding the meetings and upcoming events. You can also place your coffee order from Starbucks.

Our very first Family Day will be held this month on the 28th of February (Saturday) from 9:30am-1:00pm. We have convinced most of the staff to give up their Saturday morning so we should be seeing a lot of you attending as well! Please do come out and show your support for our school community. There will be food, excitement, games and a whole lot of fun. A special 'Thank You' to the CPSG for organizing this for us. More information will come home soon.

Another first, we will be having our first Book Week here at Chatsworth East from the 23rd to the 27th of February. Mrs. Holland will be sending home more specific information but the week will consist of a visiting bookseller (Bookaburra), guest storytellers, a book swap, character dress-up day, creative writing competition for Primary and a drawing competition for Early Years.

A reminder to all parents that Mrs. Holland is in her last month with us here at Chatsworth East for this academic year, as she goes off to be a mom! We wish her all the best in this new role and we will certainly miss her a great deal. Filling in for Mrs. Holland in the Library through her maternity leave will be Mrs. Michelle Dunne. Mrs. Dunne has filled in for us a great deal when teachers are on leave for various reasons and the students and staff know her well. We are very pleased to have Mrs. Dunne with us.

Also leaving for maternity this month is Samantha Lim, our Teaching Assistant in Ms Potaka's classroom. We wish her all the best in her new role as a mom and we are hoping to see her return in August with Mrs. Holland.

Finally, though he is not giving birth himself, Mr. Hutchins in Year 4 is going to be a dad for the first time in March! His wife works at the Orchard campus as a primary PE teacher. Mr. Hutchins only receives 2 days of paternity from school so we will not miss him as much when he goes but we certainly wish he and his wife all the best!

Important Upcoming Events for your calendar:

February 2 nd	Start of Semester 2
February 3 rd	Mr. Hynes' PYP Coffee Morning in the Library
February 6 th	Semester 1 Reports Issued
February 13 th	Student Led Conferences (students only in school for conferences)
Feb. 16 th -20 th	School holiday – no students
Feb. 23 rd -27 th	Book Week
Feb. 28 th	Family Day (9:30-1:00)
March 13 th	PYP Training – no school for students
March 24 th	PYP Coffee Morning with Mr. Hynes
March 27 th	Second Session of CCAs finished

A more complete Calendar 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

School Calendar for 2009-2010

There have been a few requests for information on next year's academic calendar. Whilst this information came out later last year, we can certainly provide parents with a fair amount of information now, at this point in the year, so that you can make holiday arrangements (some of you are booking Christmas holiday flights already!). We will issue the finalized Calendar as soon as we have confirmation on the dates for Chinese New Year 2010 (currently it is looking like the 14th of February but we will wait for the official word from the proper Singapore authorities), as well as Vesak Day. The finalized calendar will also be released on the school website once available.

The following dates below are confirmed (except where noted) and are also being released at the Orchard campus:

August 31 st	First day of new school year
September 21 st	Hari Raya – campus closed
Oct. 19 th -23 rd	School Holiday
November 16 th	Deepavali – campus closed (TBC by Min. of Manpower)
November 27 th	Hari Raya – campus closed
Dec. 14 th -Jan. 1 st	Christmas Holidays
Feb. 15 th -19 th	School Holiday (CNY will most likely fall on the 14 th)
Apr. 2 nd -16 th	Easter Holiday
May 21 st -24 th	School Holiday
July 2 nd	Last day of academic year

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