

"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,

Can you believe it is the end of the school year already? This will be my last Newsletter for the current academic year and I have to honestly say I am rather saddened to think that I will not be writing one for the next couple of months. I have enjoyed using these Newsletters to keep everyone up-to-date on what has been going on around the campus and sharing with you some of the wonderful things going on in our classrooms. Where this is the last Newsletter for the year I have lots to say but I will try to keep it relatively short!

As you are all well aware, Singapore has had its first case of the Influenza A H1N1 virus and as a school we are taking precautions to prevent the spread of this flu within our school. We ask that all parents remember to take their child's temperature in the morning before school and record it inside of the Blue Communication Book (details of which have been sent home previously). We ask that you do your best to remember to do this in the morning so that we do not waste valuable class time sending students to the Nurse to be checked. We are continuing to employ additional cleaners to ensure a safe and healthy school environment for all.

The construction of our two new classrooms has begun and the next step of laying the concrete is just about complete. Part of the playing field has been blocked off so that the workers can move freely without having to have contact with the students, and so that small lorries can move in and out when they need to. We aim to have construction completed by the first week of August so that we can be sure to have the rooms ready for the new academic year. The two new classrooms will take up a portion of the current Kindergarten playground and the rest of the space will see some new pieces of play equipment with safety EPDM flooring (similar to what we put down for our Sand and Water play area).

With these two new classrooms, as mentioned previously, come two new classes of students. At present, our Year 4 group must move through to two Year 5 classes next year but our Year 5 class is still small enough to continue into one Year 6. In our Early Years however, our waitlists continue to grow so for the coming school year we will expand with an additional Kindergarten 2 (K2) class, making it three classes in that year group. It does mean some minor adjustments each year as that larger cohort moves through but it is something that has occurred in the past at our Orchard campus and it has always worked out quite well. We are pleased to be able to help the families who have been waiting to enroll their children into the East campus.

With all of the 'busy-ness' that comes with the end of a very productive school year, we have decided to postpone our School Fair we were planning in June until the next academic year. The CPSG have worked very hard getting things organized and we thank them for their efforts, but after meetings with the CPSG and our staff organizers, we feel postponement is the best idea. We will look forward to another Family Day early in the new academic school year in addition to a well-organized School Fair.

Speaking of the CPSG, on behalf of our entire school community I would like to say a very heartfelt 'Thank You' to all of the parents, both those able to attend each week and those who could only come a few times, who gave up their free time to assist us in making this an absolutely fantastic school year. I am not sure how things worked without your support before but I do know that with your support and presence in all that we accomplished this year, our school has been that much better for it. It has been a very successful first year for the CPSG and I am sure it will continue to grow and benefit the Chatsworth East Community.

As mentioned in my last Newsletter, we will be having some new staff join us at Chatsworth East in the coming academic year and I would like to briefly introduce them to you here. At Chatsworth East we are dedicated to hiring diverse, highly qualified and dedicated teaching professionals. I am pleased to announce that **Mr. Gordon Arndt** will be joining us at East as our new Vice Principal, effective August 2009. Mr. Arndt has been working at the Orchard campus for more than 7 years now and has filled a variety of roles. Where Mrs. Holland will remain on maternity in the coming academic year, Mr. Arndt will assume the role of teacher-librarian in addition to his administrative duties. Mr. Arndt also brings with him a very successful Golf CCA programme, which I am sure some of our students will take advantage of. Also in an administrative role will be **Ms Carolyn Acorn**, filling the role of PYP Coordinator. Ms Acorn is a PYP workshop leader, running staff training workshops dealing with the Arts (Drama and Music) and she will bring further strength to two of our developing subject areas. **Mr. Dan Larson** will be heading our ESL lessons. Mr. Larson holds a Masters in Linguistics and has over 10 years teaching experience overseas, 6 of which have been in ESL positions in PYP schools. Taking over Drama is **Mr. Justin Lee**. Mr. Lee has been in Singapore since the early 1990's and has worked with primary students at other international schools here in Singapore, Lasalle College of the Arts, Disney Channel Asia, Kid's Central, Nickelodeon and the Julia Gabriel Centre. We are pleased to have Mr. Lee join us and we look forward to further development in our Drama programme. In our Early Years we have **Ms Kelley Benjamin** joining us from the Bahamas. Ms Benjamin has been teaching in the early years in the Bahamas for the past 6 years and holds a Masters in Curriculum Development. Also joining us in the early years is Ms Rebecca Arnow from the USA. Ms Arnow will be on her first overseas teaching experience and I'm sure she will find Singapore a great place to work and live.

In Primary, we have **Ms Gracie Abadesco** joining us from the Philippines, bringing with her 4 years of PYP experience along with a wealth of knowledge in ICT integration in the curriculum, which is becoming more of a focus for us here at Chatsworth East. Also in Primary will be **Ms Karen Lloyd**. Ms Lloyd, an experienced teacher from the UK, has been teaching in a PYP school in Norway for the past 2 years and brings with her a wealth of enthusiasm. Finally, I am pleased to announce that **Ms Jennifer Smith** will be remaining with us as our PE teacher. I will introduce our new staff further on my Principal's Website, linked from the school website soon.

Ms Tanya Fink has been working very hard with different charities on behalf of Chatsworth East this year. One of the charities we have begun a new relationship with is New Hope for Cambodian Children (NHCC). Many of the single mothers and children at NHCC have HIV AIDS and through our efforts we can sponsor a child with food, accommodation and education for a year (we have already begun one sponsorship). To help support the children, some of the single mothers have been making quilts and we have some of these quilts on display in our school Library. Ms Fink has been holding a silent auction from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June and if parents are still interested in purchasing quilts after this date, they can contact Ms Fink.

Our Year 6 students have been working very hard lately on their end of year Exhibition and getting ready for Graduation! This year students are looking at children in conflict around the world and their Exhibition will be held in their classroom from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. The Exhibition is the culminating moment of the PYP, so to speak, and if you would like to see the students' work, please speak with Ms Heard or Mr. Hynes for further information.

I would like to remind parents and guardians 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 being left open far too often before and after school, putting the safety 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.

A reminder: Due to the limited availability of teaching staff over the summer break, our East Summer School will not be going ahead this year. The Orchard Campus is still running their programme however, and if you are interested you can view the information on the school website or give them a call. It can be a long break for families remaining in Singapore and the Summer School sessions are a nice way to break things up. The programme is designed to be fun and non-academic.

Another reminder: The school calendar, which has been attached at the end of the past few Newsletters, is now up on the school website. Please note that we are still waiting for confirmation of Chinese New Year and Vesak Day for 2010. Once we have those confirmed on the Ministry website, we will update the online calendar. I would also encourage parents to have a look at a more detailed, 'daily' calendar of school events, located on my Principal's Site (attached to the school website). Here you will find information on field trips and school events. I am 'having a go' at using my Google calendar for this so that I can update it immediately without having to go into my site. We'll be monitoring how effective this is over the next while.

Second Semester Reports will be sent home on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, along with the name of your child's new classroom teacher for the coming school year. I know that parents, as well as students, are curious as to who their child's teacher will be for the coming academic year but we will have to keep you in suspense until then.

The week of 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June is the last week for CCAs for this school year. There will be no CCAs held during Transdisciplinary Skills Week (TSW), which is the last week of the academic year. Classroom teachers will send information about TSW home soon. Please note that for the coming school year, Chatsworth East will no longer provide the French CCA as a 'teacher run' CCA but it will instead become a CCA run by an outside provider. Our French CCA teacher is in the process of looking at dates and costs and if the CCA does run, it will run similar to other CCAs run by outside providers and will include a cost per student.

As mentioned in a previous email, Mr. Gordon Arndt (our new VP for 2009-2010) will be holding an information session on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, at 4:00PM, in his classroom at the Orchard campus regarding the Golf Club CCA that he runs, as well as the possibility of linking with First Tee Singapore. I am very pleased that Mr. Arndt will be continuing his highly successful Golf Club here at East and I am sure that there will be a number of students interested. Mr. Arndt works with the students on swing mechanics and includes lessons at the campus, at nearby driving ranges and also includes trips to smaller courses such as the Royal Tanglin. It's a great way for students interested in golf to get involved without the large membership fees to local clubs. Please do drop into Mr. Arndt's classroom on the 8<sup>th</sup> for an informative session if you are at all interested.

We will be holding a Parent's Information Evening on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June at 5:30PM in the Hall. This will be an evening to highlight some of our many achievements throughout the school year and also to take a look ahead at where we are going. It will not be a long affair but I am looking forward to re-living some wonderful moments from the year with you and hopefully sharing a cup of coffee or tea. We had a huge turnout at the start of the year and I hope we can fit everyone again!

For those of you using Twitter on your mobile phones or computers, I now have a Chatsworth Twitter account and you can find 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.

**Please Note:** on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, our last day of school, we will have an early dismissal at 2:30PM. Buses will arrive at this time to take students home as usual and parents will need to be at school for pick-up during this time.

### **Important Upcoming Events for your calendar:**

June 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	NHCC Quilt Silent Auction in Library
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 students have Secondary Induction at Orchard
June 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Exhibition
June 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 overnight trip to Underwater World
June 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Overnight at School event
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Evening at 5:30PM in the Hall
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 Graduation for Year 6 students and families
June 24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Overnight in Singapore trip
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Reports sent home
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Transdisciplinary Skills Week (TSW) begins
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Final day of academic year – Early Dismissal at 2:30PM
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Final Assembly for Students (Primary and Early Years)
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	First day of new academic school year

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.

Thank you all for a wonderful year at Chatsworth East.

Sincerely,



Tyler Sherwood  
Principal