

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."  
Maya Angelou



Dear Chatsworth East Community,

February has passed us by in the wink of an eye and it ended in a fantastic week in celebration of literacy with our first Book Week here at East, as well as our very first Family Day. What a finish!

A big congratulations to Mrs. Holland and her husband Justin on welcoming their new daughter into the world during our week holiday in February. Both mom and daughter Grace are doing well and I am sure that Mrs. Holland will be in to say hello as soon as she can.

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 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Thus, **there will be no school for students on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> of March.** This weekend workshop will involve Assessment in the PYP and help to further our understanding and delivery of the curriculum.

Our first Family Day at Chatsworth East was a huge success and I want to thank everyone who was able to come out and support this very important day for our school community. It was a lovely morning and everyone enjoyed themselves around the campus. Thank you to the staff for sharing some of their weekend with us, to the CPSG for helping to organize this for us and to all of the parents and students who came out to make it happen. Hopefully we can make this an annual mid-year event.

Book Week was also a great success and we thank Mrs. Holland for organizing it for us. The students enjoyed Bookaburra, the Mystery Story Tellers, our writing and drawing competitions and the Book Trade. This will certainly become an annual affair and the Book Trade was such a nice idea that we might hold one again before the end of the year as well.

This month we have a new Librarian taking over for Mrs. Holland. Michelle Dunne has started work with us and you have most likely seen her around the campus over the last year or more as she has been in the classrooms as relief for teachers who have been away. Please do welcome her to our school community when you see her in the Library and I am sure she can use a bit of help with book covering and cataloguing as Mrs. Holland placed a few orders before she left. Michelle will be with us in the Library through to the end of the year.

Also new with us this month is Jennie Ee, as a teaching assistant in Year 1 Ms Potaka's class. Ms Samantha Lim, previously with Ms Potaka, is now on maternity leave and we wish her all the best in her new role as a 'mom'.

This month, as always, we have some professional development taking place, both here at school and abroad. As noted above, we have our in-school PYP workshop coming up from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. It will be a long couple of weeks for the staff as we work through that weekend but the benefits to our teaching and learning will be well worth it. Also this month we have Mr. Ashby, Mr. Hynes, Ms Potaka and Mrs. Taylor off to Hong Kong for PYP workshops on the written curriculum and the Year 6 Exhibition.

Mr. Hynes' Coffee Mornings continue to be very informative and we wish to thank all parents who have been able to attend some of these meetings. This past session, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 our curriculum. Mr. Hynes' next PYP Coffee Morning will be held on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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!

Our Swim Gala is coming up on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March and a letter has already been sent home to parents from Ms Smith outlining the day's events. It should be a fun competition for the students and we will keep our fingers crossed for sunny skies.

Though parents enrolling their children were informed some time ago, it has not been officially announced yet that with effect of the coming 2009-2010 school year, Chatsworth East will no longer be offering a half-day Kindergarten programme. With such a strong emphasis on collaborative planning within the PYP and trying to run a cohesive programme, this move will help us to create a stronger Kindergarten curriculum. I have spoken with a number of parents regarding this already and as is our current practice, we will continue to offer priority placement in Kindergarten 2 to siblings of students who are already with us here at East. Please speak with Ms Della Yusoff in the school office regarding this. Whilst we understand that a full day Kindergarten programme does not fit the needs of every child, it is the best choice for our curriculum and planning.

**Please note** that the road by the back gate of Chatsworth East will be closed to all vehicles from 16<sup>th</sup> March through to 5<sup>th</sup> April due to construction on the APSN building. This means that parents will unfortunately not be able to park on the road during drop-off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon. APSN apologizes for the inconvenience.

The next Chatsworth Parent Support Group (CPSG) meeting will be held on the Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 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 school photos will be held from Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March through to Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>. A letter is being sent home to parents and guardians outlining the schedule, as well as information regarding sibling and family photos. We will continue to use the same photographer as previous years as Mr. Seah and his assistants are wonderful with the children.

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

March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Swim Gala
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	PYP Training – no school for students
March 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	School photographs being taken
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	PYP Coffee Morning with Mr. Hynes
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Second Session of CCAs finished
April 6 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	School Holiday
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	CPSG Meeting

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 we cannot provide you with a complete calendar until the Singapore government confirms a few of the public holiday dates, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please note that since my last Newsletter, the date for Deepavali has been changed from November 16<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2009.

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

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

*Inspire Educate Enlighten*