



HPPS Monthly Newsletter

Apr 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Principal's note

From this year, there will be no more mid-year exams for the whole school. The additional 2-3 weeks that are saved from not having these mid-year exams have enabled us to re-organise our curriculum and programmes to increase opportunities for the holistic development of our students. We have more time to go broader and deeper into the curricular as well as co-curricular areas. We have learning journeys and other forms of enrichment activities that can now be planned for our students within the term.

Last year I visited some schools in Finland as part of my sabbatical. Finland is known for its quality education. Finnish students only take their first national based matriculation exam at age 16. Before this age, each school designs and is accountable for its own curriculum and assessment plans based on the guidelines provided in the national core curriculum. The Finnish students have more time to pursue their own interests and discover the joy in learning. In my interactions with them, I found them to be curious, confident and independent learners.

If we want to nurture joy in learning in our children, we all need to have a shift in mindset and attitude and become less obsessed with formal assessment grades/scores. Instead, we can help children to discover their interests and abilities by getting them to try new things. Let us help them to see that there is more to life than just exams.

*Honesty in Performance
Pride in Service*

1 INOVAT Projects 2023

INOVAT is a customised model of innovation that helps us develop our mission of nurturing concerned citizens with integrity and a spirit of excellence by equipping them with the requisite skill sets, attitudes and values. Thinking routines are integrated into the projects to promote the development of the students' creativity and cognitive reasoning.

From 2019 to 2022, we have progressively rolled out our INOVAT projects to students at all levels, beginning with P6 students. This year, we are trying out a different approach for P1 to P3 where the students will be able to work on planning, preparation and sharing stages of their projects with greater focus and more fun-filled activities. Outstanding projects will be showcased on Makers Day 2023. We look forward to a fulfilling INOVAT journey with our students.

Level	INOVAT Project	Brief Description	Term
P5	digital Escape Room Design	d.ERD provides opportunities for students to design a cooperative play experience where a team of players solves a series of puzzles online in a set amount of time to win. Students choose their own theme, craft their own narrative and design different types of puzzles for their digital escape room via use of google form.	1
P3 & P4	Story Creations (We are in the midst of doing a switch for Cool Games to P4 in 2024.)	Story creations encourages students to cultivate their love for reading from print to visual to concrete. Based on their choice of favourite story book/series, they create story products through different mediums (e.g. clay, recycled paper and others). For instance, it could be the pumpkin carriage that intrigues them the most in Cinderella or the special word web in Charlotte's Web.	2
P1	mini-ME @ PLAY	mini-ME@Play provides opportunities for students to experience play in different types of playgrounds – outdoor and indoor playgrounds. Students tap on their creativity by using modelling clay to adapt and design playground equipment for their very own themed playground.	3
P2	mini-ME @ Work	mini-ME@Work enables students to design and put together an attire for their dream profession using recyclable materials. They will present and share their attire with their classmates via show-and-tell.	3
P6	Our Business Plan	Our Business Plan allows students to experience how the academic learning can be applied in authentic and real world context – in the form of a business setup. Students will acquire skills of innovation and entrepreneurship as well as develop sense of empathy and understanding of needs.	4

2 Character Value for Term 2 – Integrity

The character value for Term 2 is Integrity. Through the Assembly and the Form Teacher Guidance period (FTGP), the teachers will introduce to students, the importance of having integrity – both in words and in deeds.

Below is a brief outline of the student outcomes for the character value for Integrity:

P1/2 – Being truthful and sincere and keeping to promises made.

P3/4 – Doing what is right, leading by example and taking responsibility for one's own actions.

P5/6 – Showing characteristics of moral uprightness in various situations and displaying personal integrity by readily recognizing and admitting mistakes.

We hope that parents will lend their support and partner the school in our efforts to bring out the best in our students by reinforcing the above outcomes at home.

3 Canteen Food Stalls

Our school canteen has been operating with two fewer food stalls since March 2023. One of our Halal food stall vendors was on maternity leave and is expected to return soon in April 2023. With one stall closed, the situation was still manageable as we still had 5 food stalls (excluding the drinks stall) operating. Unfortunately, our economy rice stall vendor suffered a slipped disc in early March. His post-surgery recovery is likely to take a while more. In order to mitigate the situation in the canteen especially during lunch times, students staying back for afternoon lessons/CCAs have been released 15 mins before dismissal time to allow them more time to buy and consume their food. We also informed the teachers to expect some students to be late due to the lunch crowd, especially on Tuesdays and Fridays. On these two days where we have more students staying back, the canteen snack stall has augmented by providing more assorted baked buns and we have also asked the other stalls to provide additional options for students. The canteen stalls are also taking pre-orders from students to help reduce queue time during lunch. Students can also choose to pack food for breaks during this period until the situation eases by April. We appreciate your understanding on this and we are actively looking for sustainable alternatives over the longer term.

4 International Friendship Day (IFD) 2023 – 3 April 2023

International Friendship Day is a good opportunity for our students to

- be acquainted with the diverse and colourful culture and traditions of the region and the lives of their peers in the other ASEAN countries
- nurture in our students the spirit of friendship and collaboration among different people in ASEAN and beyond
- keep an open mindset, and express an appreciation of the contributions of foreigners living, working and studying in Singapore

The school will be commemorating International Friendship Day on Monday, 3 April 2023. The theme is “Singapore in Asia”. We have a performance in the Hall during Assembly period. We have also booth activities planned for the students during recess time. Through these activities, the students will have a meaningful celebration and an enriching experience. The students are encouraged to wear costumes pertaining to any Asian country on Monday, 3 April 2023.

5 Celebrating Earth Day 2023: Invest in our Planet

Earth Day is commemorated on 22 April every year. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Invest in our Planet". We are all responsible for taking action against the climate crisis and lighting the spark to accelerate change towards a green, prosperous, and equitable future. We must join together in our fight for the green revolution, and for the health of future generations.

In Henry Park Primary, we believe that biodiversity is the key indicator of a healthy Earth! Because green future is a prosperous future. We hope to be instrumental in providing enriching and exciting experiences to make students appreciate and care for the environment around them.

For our Earth Day assembly programme on 17 April, the teachers will be sharing stories and songs with students to help them understand the significance of Earth Day and how each one of us can play our part.

To promote planet-saving practices, we will be switching off all non-essential lights and electronic devices for fifteen minutes to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is a symbolic act to show that we can all make a difference in the fight against climate change. The time is now to Invest in Our Planet. It is the only home we have. We need everyone, while there is still time.

6 Educational Visit by Olifant School

We are very glad to welcome a group of students and staff from Olifant School, Yogyakarta/Indonesia, on 3 May 2023. The visit will allow interaction and mutual exchange of experiences and information between the visiting students and ours. Selected P5 students serve as buddies to host the visitors – bringing them around the school and joining some classes for lessons. Our students and visitors will bond and build rapport during activities and recess time. We are confident that it will be an enriching learning experience for all.

7 Hari Raya Puasa Celebration

Hari Raya Puasa falls on Saturday, 22 April 2023 and the off-in-lieu day will be on Monday, 24 April 2023. As such, the school will be closed on both days. Students will come back to school on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

We will celebrate Hari Raya Puasa with our students on Thursday, 4 May 2023, from 7.30am to 8.00am. The school has organised a concert and students will attend the celebration in the hall. Students are encouraged to be in their ethnic costumes on that day. Apart from the concert, students can look forward to pre-event activities and informative displays about Hari Raya Puasa in the school library.

We would like to wish all our Muslim students and parents Selamat Hari Raya Puasa.

8 Parenting Article

Raising Grateful Children, Not Just Polite Ones

"Say thank you!"

Growing up, many of us hear this simple instruction uttered by our parents, and now, we echo the same to our children. But is teaching our children to say thanks enough? Does it make them truly grateful people, or are they merely polite? And why is gratitude all that important anyway?

You may read more from this [article](#).

Vision
Lead with Character, Serve with Talents

Mission
Nurturing concerned citizens with integrity and a spirit of excellence through holistic education

School Values
Respect, Integrity, Care, Excellence

