

Dear Parents,

The school year is well underway and we felt that it is time to add perspective by sharing with you what has been happening behind the scenes.

I would like to say a big thank you to our parents who have shared their feedback. I really appreciated the spirit, richness and manner that it was shared; we have been able to use some of the dynamic ideas and put them into practice. Ultimately, this has helped us in continuing to develop our most important mutual goal – providing the best possible education for our students!

In striving for this, we also have many goals to work on both as a whole school and as the primary school that forms the basis of Our Way Forward. We are preparing for our PYP Authorization visit, which we are hoping to have in November 2010. We are also preparing for our WASC re-accreditation evaluation visit. In light of this, we have a number of working parties that combine primary and secondary staff to work together on tasks related to technology in the curriculum, the school mission statement, teaching and learning in lower secondary and internal professional development. Within the primary school and we also have coordinator roles that fall under pastoral and curriculum groups. Primary staff are working together on tasks such as writing scope & sequence documents for all curriculum areas, Mandarin in relation to PYP, Mathematics in the Junior Programme, community building and the planning of events. These goals are initiated by a combination of the requirements of authorization, the school leadership team, staff and parents. We warmly welcome your constructive involvement and will keep you informed as we progress.

The learning environment and the resourcing of it well is very important when trying to keep in line with educational goals. This school year we have begun to replace old student desks with larger tables that are more suitable to PYP needs. We have introduced an additional Year 1 – Year 6 literacy scheme which is very comprehensive, ties areas of English Language together and uses current best-practice methods. There have been a number of Technology initiatives including having Interactive Whiteboards installed in the remaining K2 classrooms. In Year 3, they are currently trialing an online portfolio for students. We have temporarily put an Apple iMac computer in Year 3 and Year 4 classrooms and have ordered them for Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms as well. This gives the students access to the rich educational applications available on iMacs in classrooms which are ideal for learning centres, helping to integrate the use of technology in all areas of the curriculum. We also now have a Primary Art Room! The students now have a wonderful aesthetic learning environment to work on their Art skills and creative processes; the impact on the visual arts is already evident in the phenomenal quality of students' work. This has been made possible by the Senior Leadership Team working closely together with a Whole School perspective.

Of course, all of these resources are fantastic but, our best resource by far is our Chatsworth Teachers! The teachers and teaching assistants constantly go above and beyond expectations in the classrooms to provide outstanding learning experiences for the students. To maintain high

standards staff attend a wide range of professional development ranging from online courses, network meetings with other PYP schools, PYP workshops in-school and regional, outsourced presenters, internal workshops and individual further education studies. We also spend a significant amount of time updating our skills and knowledge and learning how to use new and existing resources so that we can best apply them to enhance student learning.

Events around school

The Pastoral Group in Primary is working hard to reflect on and plan for the International Mindedness strands in the IB standards. Two of which we focused on during Assemblies since the start of the year: The school expects and promotes a commitment to international understanding and responsible citizenship on the part of the students and adults in the school community. The school values, and makes productive use of, the diversity of cultures and perspectives that exist in the school and in the local, national and global communities, to enhance learning.

With these standards in mind we have taken a fresh look at our celebrations throughout the year and are proud of the diverse outcome. Teachers and students have presented during assemblies outstanding perspectives of the following cultural celebrations in our community:

Hari Raya Celebrations: Led by Ms Hallion, Ms Haslinda, and Ms Sansom. Students acted out a play and a group teachers were taught a traditional dance to present on stage in costume for the students.

Deepavali Celebartions: Led by Ms Mulani, Ms Warriier, Ms Shukla and parent volunteers. Students acted out a play to explain the holiday's origin and Ms Urquhart's Year 6 class presented a Bollywood dance led by a parent volunteer.

United Nations Day: Our aim this United Nations day is to foster in our students critical thinking skills regarding how to take appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace and achieve international co-operation in solving problems. The national cultures that exist in the school have been made good use of for a diverse presentation throughout the day. Our local community of Singapore has also been accessed, in which we have invited several speakers and performers. Children will be speaking out throughout the day to address our global community and their commitment to cooperation and peaceful means and enhance their learning during United Nations Day.

House Captains: Our House Captains have been announced! We had one of the largest group of nominees this year for House Captains and we are proud of all students that took the risk to run for a House Captain position. A formal assembly to present the House Captains with their pins will be on Friday November 13th. House Captains are currently busy practicing their MC'ing skills to present the United Nations Day Programmes.

Through votes from Primary students the House Captains for the 2009/2010 school year are:

Changi: Rhett Lee and Conran Lee

Sentosa: Kyu Yeon Kwon and Jacob Whiteford

Raffles: Josh Knight Steward and Caitlin Clarke

Please refer to the school website for photos of these events and others of great success such as the School Fun run led by Ms Brennan.

Natasha Hutchins

With Rachel Curle and Greta Hazlett