



CEDAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Vision: Every Cedarian a Lifelong Learner, a Person of Character

Mission: Nurturing Enthusiastic Learners and Responsible Citizens

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9 Jan 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

2017 TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

1. SCHOOL DIRECTIONS

Our school vision remains as *"Every Cedarian a Lifelong Learner, a Person of Character"*. The school aspires to groom every Cedarian into individuals with robust character, rooted in values. Every Cedarian also understands that learning never stops. Each of them loves learning and will pursue continuous learning throughout his/her life.

We have three strategic thrusts to develop the whole child:

- Nurturing Lifelong Learners
- Developing Cedarians of Character
- Pursuing Staff Excellence to build capacity and competency in Teaching, Administrative Efficiency and Customer Service

Our school mission and CEDAR Values remain the same.

Mission: *Nurturing Enthusiastic Learners and Responsible Citizens*

Values: *Courtesy, Care, Enthusiasm, Determination, Adaptability, Responsibility*

The school adopts four key approaches in providing a school environment that is hospitable for learning and growth:

- A positive school tone of care and discipline
- A vibrant and stimulating learning environment
- A green and health-promoting school
- A safe and secure environment

The school aspires to forge a school culture that is anchored by inclusiveness and affiliation (*For Cedar and Cedarians!*) and one that is propelled by learning and excellence (*From Good to Great!*).

We firmly believe that parents are the school's supportive and collaborative partners in growing our students and contributing to their success in learning. We aim to cultivate a home-school partnership that is enriched with mutual respect, trust and cooperation and that has a shared focus on the child.

2. Parents' Access to School Website

You can now download briefing slides on presentations done for you from our school website. To access the site for parents, you need to visit <http://www.cedarpri.moe.edu.sg/cdps/for-parents>. Alternatively, you can visit our school website and click on the **"For Parents"** link under **Useful Links**.

3. School Talent Management Form

As previously shared in 2016, we are collecting input from our **P1-P6 students** to identify the talents and interests of all Cedarians. This is to help us provide suitable platforms and opportunities to manage and grow our talented Cedarians. If your child has certain interests/talents or has achieved any **new level of achievement outside school**, we would like to hear about it.

Kindly fill up our **School Talent Management Form** at <http://tinyurl.com/2017TalentManagement> as and when your child/ward has achieved any new level of achievement outside school.

4. APPRECIATION AND WELCOME

The following members of the school community have left our school to pursue the next chapter of their careers. We express our deepest appreciation to them for their dedicated service and contributions to our school and Cedarians.

- Mrs Gesan, Contract Adjunct Teacher
- Miss Joanne Ho, AYH(K1)- Covering Duty
- Mrs Rahim, Teacher
- Mr Saiful, Senior Teacher
- Mrs Vivien Lim, LH/Math

We welcome the following new member to our Cedar family!

- Mr Harcharan Singh, Flexi-Adjunct Teacher
- Ms Jancy Tia, Flexi-Adjunct Teacher
- Ms Lai Jia Wen, Teacher
- Mr Quek Kim Chwee, Teacher
- Ms Vimala, Flexi-Adjunct Teacher
- Mr Aruumugam Samikkannu, Admin Manager

5. CEDAR Celebrates The Class of 2016!

Congratulations to our Class of 2016! We are very proud of the Class of 2016 for their fine performance and wish our Cedarians the best as they move on to secondary school and a new chapter of their lives!

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>National</i>
Pass Rate in English Language	98.2%	96.7%
Pass Rate in Mathematics	84.4%	85.2%
Pass Rate in Science	95.5%	90.6%
Pass Rate in Chinese Language	100%	96.6%
Pass Rate in Malay Language	100%	98.1%
Pass Rate in Tamil Language	100%	97.0%
Pass Rate in Higher Chinese	100%	97.9%
Pass Rate in Foundation English	100%	96.7%
Pass Rate in Foundation Mathematics	83.33%	97.5%
Pass Rate in Foundation Science	100%	91.4%
Pass Rate in Foundation Chinese	100%	96.2%
Pass Rate in Foundation Malay	100%	99.4%
Pass Rate in Foundation Tamil	100%	97.5%

Two Cedarians were successful in the Direct School Admission Exercise, charting their diverse pathways in the following schools: St. Gabriel's Secondary School and School of Science and Technology. Four Cedarians were accepted into the Integrated Programmes (IP) of Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) and Catholic High School. Well done, Cedarians!

6. MANAGEMENT OF TRAFFIC SITUATION

With the view to ensure the safety of the school community, the school continues to monitor the traffic conditions in the morning and at dismissal time. We would like to highlight the following road safety measures for all to note. We seek your fullest cooperation and kind support in the implementation.

Measures to Ease Traffic Conditions in the Morning

For parents/guardians who drive their child/ward to school in the morning, please take note of the following:

- Between 7am to 7.40am, parents/guardians can drive into our school premises and drop off their child/ward at the school porch.
- From 7.40am, all school gates will be closed and parents/guardians are to drop off their child/ward at the security post. (Please note that students who report to class after 7.40am are considered late for school.)
- For your child's safety, please ensure that he/she alights from the left side of your vehicle.

Measures to Ease Traffic Conditions at Dismissal Time

Please continue to comply with the following measures which serve to facilitate the safe dismissal of our students and ease the traffic conditions outside the school for both parents/guardians and residents in Sennett Estate.

- Parents who are driving are requested to stop their vehicles in a single file **on the left side of Cedar Avenue** while waiting for their children. Please avoid stopping on the right side of the Avenue or abreast to another vehicle as this will obstruct the flow of traffic. Alternatively, you may drive into the school **after 2.05pm on Mondays-Wednesdays and 1.35pm on Thursdays and Fridays after the school buses have left during wet weather.**
- Parents are also encouraged to stop their vehicles further down Cedar Avenue, next to the field and beyond.
- Parents who are walking their children home from school and heading towards the direction of Aljunied Road and Joo Seng Estate are encouraged to wait for their children at the pedestrian shelter outside the school, along the pavement.

7. PHOTO-TAKING FOR EZ-LINK CARD (FOR P1 AND P6 STUDENTS ONLY)

The photo-taking exercise for the EZ-Link Card will be conducted on ***Friday, 10 February 2017*** for **P1 and P6 students only**. We seek your support in reminding your child/ward to be neatly dressed in their ***school uniform*** for photo-taking. Jewellery and PE attire are not allowed for the photo-taking exercise.

Students **who are absent for photo-taking** are to submit a recent passport-sized photograph to the school office by ***Tuesday, 14 February 2017***. The student is to be in school uniform in the photograph which should be in colour and taken full-faced against a white backdrop. The following information should be written clearly on the reverse side of the photograph:

- Name of Student
- Student's Identity Number (Birth Certificate or Foreign Student Pass)
- Name of School
- Class

8. GEP Screening and Selection Exercises for P3 Students

Please be informed that the tentative schedule for the two stages of the GEP Identification Exercise 2017 is given below:

Dates	GEP Screening and Selection Exercises
23 August 2017	a) GEP Screening Exercise (English Language and Mathematics)

Dates	GEP Screening and Selection Exercises
(Wednesday)	Shortlisted students will be invited to participate in the Selection Exercise.
19, 20 October 2017 (Thursday, Friday)	b) GEP Selection Exercise (English Language, Mathematics and General Ability)

9. COMMITTEE MATTERS

English Committee Report by Ms Marianne Ha & Mdm Maimon

- **Achievements in 2016**

Our Cedarians did us proud at various English national competitions, specifically in the areas of Writing & Debating. Our P6 Debating Team placed top 4 nationally in the Wits & Words (Division 2) Tournament and our P5 Debating team also showed great promise, including one member being named 'Best Speaker' for several rounds. Congratulations again to our Cedarians for their good sportsmanship and performance!

- **Highlights in 2016**

2016 was rich with learning experiences through the formal curriculum and co-curricular programmes such as the Learning Fest, which was enhanced by the school's partnership with the National Library Board (NLB). Oral communication skills were honed and budding writers inspired through fun-filled learning activities such as storytelling sessions and book talks by NLB and author sessions with local writers such as Maranna Chan, who pens the **Triple Nine Sleuths** series. Our students also experienced Speech & Drama, Public Speaking and Debating programmes.

- **Focus for 2017**

In 2017, the school will continue to provide opportunities for Cedarians to love and learn English through innovative pedagogies in the classroom and exciting co-curricular programmes and events. One of the key programmes will focus on cultivating in students a love for reading. We will, again, be partnering the National Library Board and conducting activities to bring about a more vibrant and pervasive reading culture to the school. We will also be focusing on developing our Cedarians into effective communicators through a specially-designed curriculum.

We seek your partnership in encouraging your child to use Standard English at all times and to help your child develop good reading habits.

Mother Tongue Committee Report by Ms Serene Tee

- **Achievements in 2016**

The Mother Tongue Department participated actively in various National Chinese Language, and Tamil Language Competitions and won many accolades for the school.

At the school level, there were also many Chinese Language competitions organised for P1-P6 students. We congratulate our Cedarians for their sterling performance.

- **Highlights in 2016**

Some of the programme highlights for the Mother Tongue Department included Cedar MTL Fortnight 2016, Cedar P4 Cultural & Language Camp 2016, P1 to P4 Theatrical Experience for CL, festive celebrations, as well as Learning Journeys for P1 to P6 students.

- **Focus for 2017**

The Mother Tongue Department has planned the following activities to enrich the students' understanding and appreciation of the Mother Tongue languages:

- Cedar MTL Fortnight 2017 (27 March to 7 April)
- Cedar P4 Cultural & Language Camp 2017 (one full day during MTL Fortnight)

- Holistic Assessment for P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5 students
- Oral Assessment using video for P3, P4, P5 and P6 students
- New P3 Curriculum

At the same time, we are looking to:

- Developing an ICT-enriched learning environment
- Embarking on purposeful learning journeys for P1 to P6 students
- Participating in school-based, national and international competitions.

We look forward to our Cedarians actively participating in the aforementioned.

Mathematics Committee Report by Mrs Elaine Loke

- **Achievements/Highlights in 2016**

The school garnered 1 High Distinction, 9 Distinctions, 26 Credits and 9 Merits for the International Competitions and Assessments in Mathematics. For the National Mathematical Olympiad of Singapore, 3 Bronzes and 1 Honourable Mention were attained.

- **Focus for 2017**

In 2017, the school continues to provide learning experiences to stimulate and cultivate creative problem-solving skills in our students. The Math activities conducted in and out of the classroom allow our students to discover the relevance of mathematics in everyday life and apply mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-life problems. Cedarians can look forward to the use of concrete manipulatives and electronic devices such as iPads in solving problems. In addition, our students will also be provided opportunities to access a variety of open-ended tasks.

The school aims to cultivate, enhance and sustain our students' interest in the learning of Mathematics and develop them into confident, self-directed and resilient life-long learners.

Science Committee Report by Ms Sandy Lim and Mdm Zulia Said

- **Achievements/Highlights in 2016**

Cedar Primary School achieved the 2016 Sustained Schools Green Audit Lotus Award. This is the pinnacle award by the Singapore Environmental Council and it affirms our efforts to promote social responsibility. We have also clinched the Certificate of Excellence for the Green Schools @ South East Award 2016.

The school will continue to adopt a holistic approach to environmental management and develop students to be active contributors. We are proud to announce the creation of the Green Corner to continue our efforts in educating Cedarians of global environmental issues.

The school has garnered many awards in support of our curriculum in developing creative thinkers. We achieved the Blue Ribbon award, a Merit award (WhizKid Category) and 3rd prize (ScizKid Category) in the prestigious 2016 Sony Creative Science Awards (National). For more information, you may refer to <http://www.science.edu.sg/events/Pages/scsawinners.aspx>.

We also achieved 6 Distinctions in the International Competition and Assessment for Schools.

- **Focus for 2017**

In 2017, our Cedar Science Curriculum seeks to strengthen our efforts in developing Cedarians to be Effective Communicators and Creative Thinkers.

Students will be identified and they will be given opportunities such as Learning Fest (in February) to present their ideas and propose solutions as Science inquirers, thereby enhancing their presentation skills.

More creative thinking tools will be introduced into the Science curriculum so that students will learn to solve problems from scientific viewpoints. In addition, the P3 level will be engaged in Science learning using technology tools such as iPads. As such, the activity books for P3 Science are replaced by activities designed by the teachers.

With the exciting Science Programmes ahead, we seek your partnership in supporting your child in their journey of learning Science.

Aesthetics Committee Report by Ms Eileen Bay

- **Focus for 2017**

With the aim to nurture a life-long love and appreciation of the arts in our students, the school will continue to provide an enriching broad-based art experience for our students. The arts programmes are customised with the aim of equipping our students with the relevant experience and to ensure that they fully enjoy the learning process. Enrichment programmes are integrated into the music curriculum to promote creativity and innovation. Upper primary students will be given opportunity to use logical thinking skills for art expression through digital media. Students with talents in the Arts will be identified and given the relevant platforms to further develop their potential.

In an effort to deepen our students' social, cultural and historical awareness, we will continue to provide our students with opportunities to develop an appreciation of the local multi-cultural heritage and global culture. This year, we are pleased to inform you that the Art Outreach educators will be conducting two art Assembly programmes to share with our students on the Singapore Story and public artworks that reflect notions of identity, heritage and nation-building.

We will also be participating in The Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Art Exhibition organised by the Ministry of Education. This is a national platform that provides opportunities for our students to showcase their artistic talents and to promote art appreciation in our school.

Creative and Inventive Thinking Committee Report by Ms Ng Chun Hui

- **Achievements/Highlights in 2016**

The year 2016 was filled with many thought-provoking and fun-filled programmes that aim to broaden our students' perspectives and to encourage them to think out of the box. *Creativity Fest* has been introduced for students to share their ideas and prototypes with their peers. *Pay It Forward programme* has also been introduced to our graduating cohort with the aim of enabling them to understand and appreciate the purpose of contributing back to the society by tapping on their means and strengths. The students were all engaged and came up with interesting and feasible suggestions that benefit the school community.

The school is also proud to have clinched the Silver Award for "Innovation Award" competition organised by Chong Zheng Primary School.

- **Focus for 2017**

The **Creative & Inventive Thinking (CIT)** team will continue to drive CIT in 2017. All students can look forward to having a period of CIT every week where they will be encouraged to exhibit and develop their creative and inventive thinking skills individually and in teams. At the end of the CIT programme, our students would become curious learners who demonstrate flexibility and fluency in their thinking, able to tolerate ambiguity.

Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) Committee Report by Mdm Faridah & Ms Durrah

• Achievements/Highlights in 2016

Form & Co-form teachers conducted lessons that teach values and social-emotional competencies, with lessons covering the CEDAR Values, Social-Emotional Competencies, Civics and Moral Education and youth issues such as Cyber-wellness. At the end of each lesson, students are expected to 'Recap & Reflect' on the learning that they have gleaned.

The "Star of Cedar" awards were given out on a quarterly basis to recognise students who demonstrated the CEDAR Values very strongly and who showed great care and responsibility for their classes. In addition, the names of the "Stars of Cedar" were displayed along the stairways as a form of recognition.

National Education (NE)

The school's National Education (NE) seeks to nurture students to become concerned citizens who have an Awareness of history and heritage; have a sense of Affiliation to the community and nation; and take Action by contributing and serving the community.

Highlights of the NE plan are:

- the commemoration of Total Defence Day, International Friendship Day, Racial Harmony Day and National Day;
- NE-rich Learning Journeys for every grade level;
- the 'Four Houses, One Cedar' House System; and
- the explicit teaching of citizenship concepts through Social Studies. These concepts are further reinforced through all subjects.

PALS

At Cedar Primary School, we have a firm belief that parents are the school's supportive and collaborative partners in growing our students and contributing to their success in learning. We invite parents to form an even stronger partnership with the school by becoming a member of our parent support group, PALS. If you are interested in playing a part in this home-school partnership, please fill in the participation form that your child will be receiving. You can also view our events through our Facebook page 'Cedar Primary PALS'.

Family Matters @ School

This is our fourth year running the Triple P programme in collaboration with Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). This programme aims to support the Primary 3 and 4 parents with parenting skills to better support their children. Parents are invited to attend seminars and one-to-one consultancy sessions with certified professionals engaged by MSF. We received much positive feedback from parents who have attended these sessions.

VIA

Our community involvement programme, Values in Action in 2016 was a success with support from our partners such as Thye Hua Kwan Senior Activity Centre and St John's Home for the Elderly. Here at Cedar Primary School, we will continue to seek opportunities for the children to practise what they have learnt in their CCE lessons.

• Focus for 2017

VIA

This year we will continue with our Canteen Clean Up programme which was initiated last year and inculcate a sense of responsibility in our Cedarians. In line with the MOE's initiatives, we will also

introduce Daily Clean-up which will take place at the last five minutes of the day. Students will be taught to take care of their classrooms in the Daily Clean-up.

Student Leadership & Management Committee Report by Miss Ng Ting Ting & Ms Noor Kamariah

- **Focus for 2017**

Student Management

We strive to maintain a positive tone of care and discipline in 2017, with the continuation of its discipline and safety programmes. Our Discipline Mistress, Ms Noor Kamariah, leads in the managing of whole-school discipline and also in the handling of disciplinary cases.

The approach taken for all disciplinary cases is the belief that all our Cedarians can learn and can grow to be the best that they can. Students will be issued a reflection form to complete as the first step towards self-improvement. We seek your partnership in instilling the concept of self-discipline and to reiterate the school rules and consequences to your child in order to make Cedar Primary School a safe, healthy and happy school for all Cedarians.

Student Leadership

In 2017, the student leadership structure will be aligned to the school Talent Management approach to provide more leadership opportunities for students. The class leadership structure has been modified to allow more students to play the role of a class leader. More opportunities will be given to students to display their leadership skills in the school's environmental projects as well as the Cyber-wellness initiatives. Our Student Councillors will be given more platforms and opportunities to play their leadership roles and they will be involved in leading the Student's Suggestion Scheme and teaching the CEDAR values to their schoolmates at the CCE assemblies. All student leaders will also be progressively trained in the MICEE Principles.

Sports & Health Committee Report by Mr Jabbar Jaafar

- **Achievements in 2016**

The year 2016 was filled with many exciting and fun-filled programmes that have had a positive impact on our students both in the health and fitness arena as well as in the character development aspect. Outdoor Education for P3, P4 and P5 were conducted to inculcate the spirit of resilience and CEDAR values in our students in a fun and non-threatening way. Students were given opportunities to experience new sports such as Dance Sports, Tag Archery and Bowling through the Sports Education Programme. Sport and Health Carnival and Games Fiesta provided a platform for students to showcase their talents in the sporting arena. The **Go for H3** (Hope, House and Health) programme provided a holistic platform in which students, staff and parents were able to participate in health and VIA-related activities together, building a sense of empathy, affiliation and camaraderie.

In the area of Physical and Health Education, most of our students scored Grade A and B in their assessment, reflecting the high level of competency in their acquisition of sports skills as well as their knowledge on health and fitness issues. 90.2% of our P2 to P6 students participated in CCAs and are involved in external competitions. Our obesity rate also dropped to 9.3%.

- **Focus for 2017**

In this coming year, the committee will strive to increase the school's participation rate in school-wide sporting activities through its Sports Education Programme. To achieve this, the committee will look at exposing students from P4 to P6 to sports that are not offered by the school.

The committee will look into managing our Talent Development Programme closely and ensuring that students with talents are given enough opportunities and platforms to further develop their

talents. We also hope that parents/wards will continue to surface their child/ward's interests and talents to us. This will definitely help us to better plan and manage the Talent Development Programme.

Information and Communications Technology Committee Report by Mr Ivan Foo

- **Achievements in 2016**

The year 2016 has seen ICT in Cedar Primary soaring to greater heights. Aside from integrating ICT-enabled lessons into the curriculum, there was a wide range of ICT/Cyber-wellness activities and programmes designed for and catering to the different needs of our students.

The school is also proud to have clinched the Gold Award in the annual National Coding Competition organised by MOE.

- **Focus for 2017**

In this coming year, the committee will continue to improve the quality of the ICT-enriched lessons. There will be a more structured approach in the introduction of Coding to our upper primary students and they can test out their coding skills during selected recess slots. We will also look to groom our young Cyber-wellness Ambassadors to lead in more programmes that aim to make the Internet a safer place for our students to navigate and learn. To encourage parent involvement in the education of Cyber-wellness, the committee also has plans to conduct at least one Cyber-wellness workshop/talk for parents in 2017.

We strive to provide a vibrant learning environment for our students and look forward to an enriching year with your children bolstered by your continued support of our efforts.

For Cedar and Cedarians!



Mrs Sara de Souza
Principal

2017 HOMEWORK POLICY: INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

VALUE OF HOMEWORK

Homework enables students to practise the skills taught and process the information learnt, resulting in better understanding and retention of learning. Through homework assignments, students have the opportunities to learn outside the classroom and nurture greater self-discipline, time management and a sense of independence. In the process, students cultivate good study habits and positive work ethics.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents play an important part in the children's education. Parents can consider doing the following to support their children in their learning.

- Check the child's Pupils' Handbook daily to view the homework assignments for the day.
- Spend time to go through your child's school work.
- Spend time to supervise your child in doing the homework assignments and learning through the homework assignments. However, do not do the work for your child.
- Remind your child to complete the school homework before doing the tuition work (if any).
- Guide your child to set aside a regular study time and establish good study habits.
- Consult teachers on your child's progress.

ROLE OF STUDENTS

In order to benefit maximally from the value of homework, students should do the following on a daily basis.

- Refer to the whiteboard in the classroom for the homework assignments.
- Record the homework assignments in the Pupils' Handbook.
- Make sure that they understand what needs to be done for all the given homework assignments.
- Do not be afraid to seek help from classmates, friends or teachers if they face any difficulty.
- Organize their textbooks, workbooks, worksheets and files systematically.
- Ensure that the homework assignments are brought home to be completed and not left in school.
- Have a home study timetable.
- Have a neat study area at home, which is away from distractions such as the television and the computer.

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON DAILY HOMEWORK

The school seeks to ensure students' wellness by not overloading students with homework assignments. It adopts the following guidelines to manage the workload of students.

1. The school and teachers have worked out an estimated amount of time that students would spend to complete their homework assignments on a typical school day. This is just an estimate and some students may require less or more time, depending on individual learning needs and styles.

Level	Estimated Time Spent on Homework Daily
P1	30 minutes to 1 hour
P2	30 minutes to 1 hour
P3	1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes
P4	1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes
P5	1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours
P6	1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours

2. In addition, students who are not able to finish the work set in class will also need to complete it at home.

3. Students may also be tasked to read some materials or write a journal at home. This should not be more than twice a week.
4. English and Mother Tongue Spelling will not be conducted on the same day. If there is a public or school holiday, spelling will be postponed to the next school day.
5. On CCA days (Tuesdays), no homework will be assigned for P3-P6 students.

OTHER GUIDELINES ON HOMEWORK

1. During the school holidays and the PSLE Marking Exercise, homework assignments will be issued. The school and teachers have worked out an estimated amount of time that students would spend on each subject during the duration.

Period	Estimated Time Spent on Homework for each Subject
March Holidays	1 hour 30 minutes per subject
June Holidays	2 hours per subject
September Holidays	1 hour 30 minutes per subject
PSLE Marking Exercise	1 hour 30 minutes per subject
Year-End Holidays	3 hours per subject

2. Homework assignments will not be given over festive periods during term time, e.g. Chinese New Year, Deepavali and Hari Raya Puasa. A spelling activity or a test will also not be conducted on the school day immediately after the festive period.
3. Teachers are mindful that students will not be overloaded with homework and practice papers in the week before Semestral Assessment (SA1 and SA2). Students are to use the time to revise for their subject examinations.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

The school believes in the value of homework to help students consolidate their knowledge and skills and cultivate lifelong habits of independent and self-directed learning. We seek the understanding, support and collaboration of parents as our partners in education to ensure that homework works for their children, our students.

