



JURONGVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL

29 May 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

Bringing Term 2 to a close

1. We concluded the first semester of 2023 with a week of e'X'hilaration which saw our students being engaged in various activities including camps, learning journeys and an inter-generational learning programme.
2. For the first time since 2019, we saw the resumption of full stay-in camps for our Secondary One and Three students. By now, I hope that your child/ward would have regaled you with stories of their experiences in camp. Be it dragon boating at Seletar reservoir or taking a hike from Pasir Ris to Coney Island. When I spoke with some students, many told me that they had been looking forward to participating in such activities and a significant number shared with me that they were surprised how well they held up in the face of challenges.
3. Our youngest students offered us the biggest surprise with their level of grit, tenacity, and perseverance. This cohort of Secondary One students did not have an opportunity to experience time away from their families in primary school and this was their first camping experience. They adapted well to their environment and friends, especially over a sustained period in close proximity to one another.
4. Our Secondary Two students impressed with their ability to engage Senior Citizens over the course of two days where they shared what they have learned in our Applied Learning Programme – teaching seniors how to make an LED card, Light Message Board and even introducing drone flying to the Senior Citizens. Many of our students were naturally nervous, with some having doubts about their ability to communicate in their mother tongue. These worries however melted away when they met our guests – realising that sincerity, mutual respect and empathy have way more mileage.
5. The outdoor adventure camp is a milestone camp for our Secondary Three students. With many of them stepping up to leadership positions within the school, the camp was a time for many of them to reconnect with one another and to push themselves to both their physical and mental limits. I am sure that they have come to a better understanding of themselves and each other. If the energy of their campfire was anything to go by, I look forward to their contributions and impact as they take on the mantle of seniors in school.
6. Not to be outdone, the class of 2023, our graduating students were put through their paces as preparations for the National Examinations gather pace. Many of them were naturally envious of their juniors and the opportunities they had this year. They, however, must take heart that they have a unique and unparalleled experience in leading their juniors through the COVID-19 pandemic; that this experience of finding possibilities in extreme scarcity would put them in good stead for whatever their futures will hold.



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7. These programmes, as well as the myriad of learning experiences that our students experienced are only possible with the commitment, imagination, and tireless energy of my colleagues.

8. In my letter in Term 1, I mentioned that Term 2 was traditionally viewed as the toughest term with students needing to balance their academic load as well as their co-curricular responsibilities. The Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation has concluded; Some of our sports teams continue to compete in the National School Games. Not to be outdone, our Infocomm Club have achieved several awards in various competitions. I hope to be able to give you a full list of our students' achievements in my Term 3 letter.

9. The above shows just a sliver of experiences and opportunities that our students experience in two terms. I am confident that over the course of the time that our students are with us, we would be able to provide them sufficient breadth and depth of experiences to prepare them for lifelong learning and living meaningful lives.

Looking Ahead to Term 3

10. By now, most, if not all of you would have had the opportunity to speak with your child's/ward's teachers together with your child/ward. I hope that in that conversation, you observe the growth of your child/ward. Regardless of how well your child/ward has done academically, it is important to recognise that our students are still in their early teens and their development continues in numerous areas. I understand that some of you may be anxious about their academic performance, but we, as parents, must also encourage our children to grow in character, confidence, and values.

11. The June holidays is an opportunity for many things. Some may take a breather and others might see it as a last chance to one last push. However you see it, I hope you'd take some time to spend with your child/ward to understand their hopes and aspirations as well as help them with planning on how to achieve their year-end goals.

12. Parents of our Secondary Two and Graduating Cohort would be naturally more interested in your child's/ward's performance in the next semester. For the Secondary Two students, it will be the selection of subjects at the end of the year, and for the graduating students, their National Examinations. I understand your anxiety and must assure you that my colleagues and I are supporting each of our students. Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Counselling has also been made available to all our students to help them make sense of the choices that lay ahead. Should you have further queries, please reach out to your child's/ward's class mentor or Year Head.



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Partnership with Parents

13. A healthy home-school partnership plays a crucial role for our students' wellbeing and success in school. I thank you for your continued partnership and understanding.

14. If you can open positions for short internships for students during the year end school holidays, please contact Ms Karmila Binte Asari via karmila_asari@schools.gov.sg. We believe that these experiences are valuable to our students as they prepare for active and responsible citizenry.

15. As part of our efforts to increase the accessibility of our programmes, we are also opening Direct School Admissions in the areas of Chinese Orchestra, Modern Dance and English Drama Club. I would appreciate if you could share this information with your friends and family who may have children considering us as a choice for Secondary School this year.

16. I would like to encourage you to follow us on [Instagram](#), @jurongville.secondary, where you can get updates about the latest happenings in and around school.

17. I hope the June break offer some respite for a busy year. I look forward to welcoming your child/ward back on Monday, 26 June 2023.

Yours Sincerely,

Philibert Leow
Principal