

5 January 2018

Greetings

On behalf of the school staff, I wish you and your family members a fabulous start to the year 2018. I hope you and your child/ward had a good break, spending time with friends and family during the last November/December Holidays.

The pupils have already completed their first week in school and many including our Primary One pupils have settled in well. I would like to thank all our Primary One parents and the Parent Support Group Members for your support and help in ensuring that the Primary One Jieminites transited smoothly. Our pupils have learned to be more independent after their first week in school. In fact, encouraging our young to be independent can start with a simple chore like tying their own shoelaces. This is something we, as adults, often take for granted and yet, for our children, it's an opportune moment for them to be independent and also learn one of the important life skills.

In 2018, the school will continue to build in our pupils the passion for learning and provide numerous opportunities for our pupils to explore, create and be innovative. These are important traits that our pupils will need to learn so that they will thrive in the changing world out there. These skills are more important than just getting our pupils to progress to the next level with good grades. We need to keep alive our children's curiosity in learning so that they will be able to experience a greater sense of accomplishment. I have extracted an interesting article shared by Dr Wong Woon Kwong, the director of technology transfer, on **Staying Ahead in a Rapidly-Changing World** from <https://www.schoolbag.sg> for your reading pleasure.

This notification covers the following matters:

1. In Appreciation of the Former Staff
2. A Warm Welcome to the New Staff
3. School Vision, Mission and Values
4. Indoor Sports Hall (ISH) for all Schools to Further Promote Holistic Education
5. Examination Matters
6. Safety and Health Matters
7. Communication Channels
8. School Calendar for Term 1 2018



1. In Appreciation of Former Staff

The following staff members have joined other schools in the education fraternity at the start of 2018. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well in their future endeavours.

- Miss Kuganeswari – English Language and Mathematics Teacher
- Mr Brandon Chow – Chinese Language Teacher
- Mr Eric Ong – Physical Education Teacher

2. A Warm Welcome to the New Staff

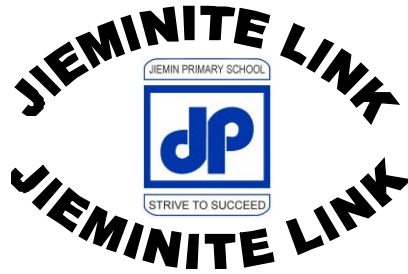
We extend a warm welcome to the following staff members who had joined our Jiemin family in January this year.

- Mr Desmond Seah Zhijia – Head Of Department for Aesthetics
- Mr Wee Chong Chuet – Head Of Department for Pupil Management
- Mdm Toh Chet Chee – Senior Teacher Chinese Language
- Mr Chai Guo Quan – Physical Education Teacher
- Mdm Suharni Binte Subarjo – Senior Allied Educator (Learning Behavioural Support)

3. School Vision, Mission and Values

School Vision : Global Learners, Discerning Citizens
Our Mission: Nurturing Hearts and Minds
Our Core Values : Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Care and Humility

The staff and pupils in the school are guided by the school vision, mission and values in all that we do and we work towards building a supportive, engaging and safe environment in Jiemin Primary School. The pupils have been reminded very often to live out the school values and we hope that you can support us by reinforcing these values at home or talking to them about these values whenever the opportunity arises.



4. Indoor Sports Hall (ISH) for all School to Further Promote Holistic Education

We are pleased to announce that our Indoor Sports Hall is ready to be used by the pupils. The building of the ISH is to further support schools' broad-based education by giving more pupils the opportunity to participate in sports and games. With the additional sports facilities, our pupils will be able to participate in mass sports and activities without the constraint of space. The new facilities provided in the Indoor Sports Hall include a Multi-Purpose Hall, Basketball Court, Band Room, Dance Room, Subject Based Banding Rooms, Journalism Room, Student Care Centre and other teaching facilities. The building will be officially opened on 9 March 2018.

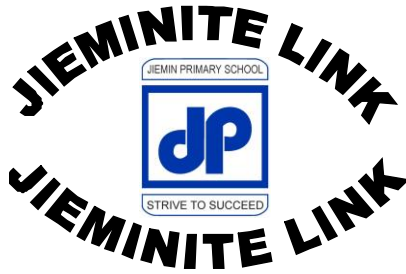
5. Examination Matters

In the letter issued on 14 October 2017, we announced that starting this year, we will be changing the weightage of our assessments so as to better align to the approach of Assessment for Learning and to give our pupils more time and space to explore their interests and passion in Semester 1. Thus, there will be **no formal assessment in Term 1 for Primary 1 to Primary 5 pupils**. We believe that this new approach will enhance our pupils' intrinsic motivation to do better and drive them forward to greater explore and discover their interests and passions. Hence, nurturing the joy of learning in our pupils.

6. Safety and Health Matters

Visitors to School

To minimise the risk of strangers or intruders coming into the school, we will need all parents and members of the public to seek security clearance before entering the school. We seek your understanding if you are subjected to security checks at the school gates as the safety of our Jieminites is our top priority. Your cooperation is critical in helping us to provide a safe learning environment for all our pupils.



Individual Student Details Report

As part of our annual particulars verifications exercise, the school requires the parents/guardians to verify the Individual Student Details Report and complete the Pupil Survey Form, given out on 02 January 2018. To ensure compliance with the Government's Policy on Data Management and the Personal Data Protection Act, a new opt-out check box to the Individual Student Details Report has been introduced. The opt-out check box will enable you to indicate if you would not like to receive information from MOE-HQ. Kindly return this report to your child's /ward's Form Teacher through your child/ward by **23 January 2018** for collation. If you have further queries regarding this, do contact my Vice-Principal, Mrs Hee-Ho Jun-Lynn at 67586472.

7. Communication Channels

Each of our pupil owns a Pupil Handbook. The Pupil Handbook serves as a means of communication to inform parents of the school routines, procedures and expectations that every Jieminite must know and comply. I hope that you can take some time to go through the different sections in the handbook with your child or ward and impress upon him/her its importance. You may also wish to use it to communicate with your child's or ward's teachers on concerns or comments that you may have. Your child's/ward's Year Heads/Assistant Year Heads/Form Teachers will also be contacting you very soon either through letters or phone calls to introduce themselves and give you some important information about the level or class.

8. School Calendar

Please refer to Annex A for more information pertaining to school events and activities in Term 1.

We hope to work closely with you in this coming year and look forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Cheah Poh Lian
Principal



Staying ahead in a rapidly-changing world

01 Dec 2017

Today's youth are often stereotyped as a "strawberry generation" – entitled, overly-dependent and unable to stand up to challenges. Dr Wong Woon Kwong doesn't share these sentiments though.

The director of technology transfer at Singapore University of Technology and Design shares his take on how today's youth can prove their mettle and thrive in a rapidly-changing economy.

How do you work with students?

We have workshops and training courses to equip the students with the basic business model canvas and skill sets required in a start-up.

We also provide opportunities for overseas exposure, in places such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Italy, Portugal and Berlin. This gives the students an opportunity to broaden their mindset and understand the problems faced by different countries, and how innovation is used to tackle these problems.

For students exploring ventures, we meet up with them to develop their business model and refer them to relevant industry mentors who can guide them along their journey.

What are some of the business ideas which students have?

Our students tend to work on technology-based business ideas, ranging from design thinking and technology education curriculum for younger children, to mobility devices – such as a wheelchair attachment to enhance the daily mobility of wheelchair users.

What skills and mindsets should students have, to thrive in the working world?

A learning mindset is important. Have a global mindset, collaborative attitude, adaptability, creative problem-solving skills as well as resilience. They are likely to switch careers or industries many times in their lives, and these traits will serve them well.

If they want to be entrepreneurs, they need to be strong mentally, as there is a lot of uncertainty and frustration, and they have got to learn to be patient and work through the obstacles without giving up too early. Always listen and accept feedback and criticism, so that they can understand better on how to



create value to their products and services.

They need to be able to build a team with complementary strengths, so that the business can develop to its full capacity. They also need to be able to communicate well, not just with their customers, but also with potential investors, partners, suppliers, distributors, employees and government regulators.

Are students are lacking in these areas today?

I am a parent of three children, and as an administrator in a university who has some interaction with students, I am quite optimistic.

They have their ideals, and want to contribute to society. Most importantly, they are willing to learn. What is lacking though, and they should not be faulted for, is exposure to the real world. It does make them have unrealistic expectations. Hopefully, the process of maturity will temper their expectations.

But then again, we may want some of them to remain unreasonable, as to quote George Bernard Shaw: “The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.”

How can parents support their children to become future-ready?

Part of the effort would involve educating parents about the new realities, and what is needed for their children to respond to the new challenges and opportunities.

Parents should be encouraged to allow their children’s interests to develop and actively nurture and sustain these interests. Team-based competitions and community-based projects would be good ways to instil these traits.

Even as older students spend more time in school interacting with teachers and fellow students, parental guidance is of course critical.

Article extracted from <https://www.schoolbaq.sg>