



3 July 2019

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Semester 2 2019

Dear parents/ guardians,

I hope that the June holidays have been a restful and enjoyable time for you and your family. As we enter the second half of 2019, our nation commemorates the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles. The centrepiece event of the Singapore Bicentennial Experience is the 700 year journey exhibition at Fort Canning Park that brings you back in time to discover key moments and watch defining events unfold in Singapore's transformation. Some of our students were fortunate to have had the immersive multimedia sensory experience, end of last term.

Our education system itself has been transforming to ensure that we better prepare our students to meet the ever changing needs. Recent announcements on providing greater student-learning support, the scrapping of mid-year examinations for Sec 1 and 3 and the emphasis on diversity and inclusion in the educational landscape is part of a concerted effort to create a society where all children can develop their individual talents as well as grow in their empathy.

1. Singapore Youth Festival (SYF)– Celebrations in the Community

As part of the SYF *Celebrations in the Community*, we are pleased to share that Riverside Secondary is the coordinating school for the *Dance Extravaganza @ Bukit Panjang Plaza*. It is therefore with great delight that I extend this invite to you to join us this weekend to support our dancers as well as the performers from more than 50 other schools for a celebration of youthful vitality!

Details of the performances are appended below:

SYF Dance Extravaganza @ Bukit Panjang Plaza		
Date/Time	6th July 12:30 – 6:00pm	7 th July 12:30 – 4:30pm
Venue	Bukit Panjang Plaza Level 2, Atrium 1 Jelebu Rd, Singapore 677743	

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2. Riversidians Overseas

During the June holidays, a number of our students had the privilege of being immersed in a myriad of cultures and school experience as they visited Beijing, China; Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; and Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. They had a taste of ancient history as they climbed the Great Wall of China, a sense of war history while navigating the narrow Chu Chi tunnel and a deeper appreciation of cultural history while learning the Jawi script. These internationalisation programmes are part of our collective belief that it is pivotal for our children not just to learn *about* and appreciate the diverse cultures of the world that they live in, but rather, to actively engage and learn *from* them.

3. School Windbreaker

Riverside Secondary school has been a distinctive institution of the Woodlands community for many years now. Our students are easily distinguishable in their light blue uniforms. Since the last week of the previous term, we have made a water-resistant, reversible, school windbreaker with a hood that we hope will keep our students warm and relatively dry during inclement weather. To ensure equity and cohesion, these windbreakers have been heavily subsidized by the School Advisory Committee and is being offered to our students for \$10.00. We hope to have our students only sporting our official windbreaker by end of term 3 of 2019.

4. Half-Uniform Wednesdays

After listening to our upper-secondary students feedback about the hot and humid afternoons they have to endure when they have their long days on Wednesdays, we have also decided that our students may dress in half-uniform to better combat the heat and humidity of long Wednesday afternoons.

The table below details the half-uniform for each gender:

Gentlemen	PE/RISE T-Shirt with School Pants (Upper Secondary) PE/RISE T- Shirt with School Shorts (Lower Secondary)
Ladies	PE/RISE T- Shirt & School Skirt (Lower and Upper Secondary)

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5. End-Of-Year Examinations (Sec 1-3)

This year, our secondary one and three students were the beneficiaries of the Ministry’s efforts to reduce the emphasis of academic examinations in our educational landscape. Yet, as we shift into the second half of the year, we also move closer to the exams that come with the end of the school year.

I know how anxious students and parents alike can become when examinations approach. My teachers will not only do their best in readying your child/ ward for their examinations, but will also work to ensure that their anxiety levels remain manageable. I would also like to seek your help in ensuring that your child takes the preparation for these examinations positively and healthily. With a concerted effort, I’m sure that we can create a positive assessment environment for your child/ ward.

One weighted assignment per subject per term for levels

Levels	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1	WA 15%	WA 15%	WA 20%	EOY 50%
Sec 2	WA 15%	MYE 20%	WA 15%	EOY 50%
Sec 3	WA 15%	WA 15%	WA 20%	EOY 50%

6. Language Elective Programme (LEP)

The LEP for Chinese, Malay and Tamil aims to nurture promising students to attain a high level of language proficiency in the 3 Mother Tongue Languages (MTL), and enhance their understanding of MTL literature. The programme also aims to develop these students to become effectively bilingual. The LEP will be introduced to 15 secondary schools for the first time in 2020, as part of an effort to deepen students' interest in languages.

I am pleased to inform you that LEP - Tamil will be offered at Riverside Secondary School from 2020. More information will be provided to the students in the coming months.

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7. General Repairs and Renovation

Through the months of January to June, the school underwent several infrastructural developments that includes the construction of a pedestrian pathway that connects the side gate to the main lobby of the school and an additional walkway in the carpark, all to better ensure the safety of our students as they enter the school. A new paint job has added vibrancy to the school!

8. Key School Events in Semester 2

Semester/ Week	Date	Activity
3/2	5 & 6/7	SYF Dance Extravaganza @ Bukit Panjang Plaza
3/2	8/7	School Holiday (Youth Day)
3/2-5	NA	Melaka Trip
3/3	19/7	Commemoration of Racial Harmony Day
3/6	8/8	National Day Celebrations in School
3/6	9/8	National Day Holiday
3/7	12/8	Hari Raya Haji
3/10	5/9	Teachers' Day Celebrations
4/2	27/9	Graduation Day
4/3	30/9	Start of End-of-Year Examinations (Sec 1-3)
4/6	25/10	Last day of school
4/7	28/10	Deepavali
4/8	9/11	Riverside Open House
4/10	18/11	Graduation Night
4/10	20/11	Rhapsody Night

You may also check the *Parents Gateway* portal, school website or follow us on our Facebook page for regular updates on the school. My staff and I are looking forward to an educationally rewarding school year with you and your child/ ward.

Thank you for your support and partnering us in the care for your child/ ward!

Warmest Regards,

Shanti Devi (Mdm)
Principal
Riverside Secondary School

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