



# QUEENSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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29 February 2024

## AN OPEN LETTER MARCH 2024

Dear Parents / Guardians,

1. Greetings from Queenstown Primary School! How quickly time flies and we are fast approaching the end of Term 1.

### ***Upcoming Events...***

#### **Experiential Learning Week (4 to 8 March)**

2. Hands-on learning experiences are wonderful ways for our students to grow their knowledge, develop social-emotional competencies and 21st century skills. In line with our endeavour of developing our students to be Critical Thinkers and Caring Citizens, this year's *Experiential Learning Week* will expose our students to a wide range of activities. The activities are:

- Introduction to Computational Thinking (CT) programme to develop our students' ability to break down a complex problem into simpler steps, identify patterns that are relevant to solving the problem, and finally to design the logical steps and rules in order to achieve the desired outcome.
- Values in Action (VIA) are learning experiences that support students' development as socially responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to the community, through the learning and application of values, knowledge, and skills. VIA fosters student ownership over how they contribute to the community.
- Social Skills Through Art as a learning platform for students to make meaning and apply their social skills through various art-related activities.
- Math Trail to enable our students to see how Mathematics can be applied to our daily lives and develop their problem-solving skills.
- The Junior Achievement (JA) programme allows students to better appreciate real-world concepts and skills, and to understand the relevance of basic skills such as financial literacy.
- Environmental Project-Based Learning @ QtPS allows our students to explore and address environmental problems while building on skills like teamwork, communication, critical thinking and reflection.

3. The table below shows a brief overview of the programmes for the various levels:

Level / Programme	Environmental Project-Based Learning	Junior Achievement	Values in Action	Computational Thinking	Social Skills Through Art	Math Trail
P1	✓	✓		✓	✓	
P2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
P3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
P4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P5	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
P6	✓					

4. As *Experiential Learning Week* progresses, do support your child's/ward's learning by getting your child/ward to share with you what they have learnt and experienced. We look forward to an enriching *Experiential Learning Week* for all our Queenstowners. We would also like to extend a special 'thank-you' to all our Parent Volunteers for helping out in the *Experiential Learning Week* programmes.

#### **March School Holidays (9 to 17 March)**

5. The March School Holidays will be from Saturday, 9 March, to Sunday, 17 March. School will reopen for Term 2 on Monday, 18 March. We wish everyone in our Queenstown Family a restful term break!

#### ***General Information...***

#### **Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2024**

6. Nominations for the annual *Inspiring Teacher of English Award* are now open! This national award, presented by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times and with the support of MOE, acknowledges English Language teachers who:

- Exemplify the use of good spoken and written English.
- Promote learning-centred approaches during English lessons.
- Choose pedagogies appropriate to learners' readiness, interests, and learning profiles.

7. All Queenstowners, parents and teachers are invited to nominate their inspiring English Teachers. Nomination forms for the Teaching Award can be downloaded from <http://goodenglish.org.sg/inspiring-teacher-of-english-award/nomination-information>.



8. Do submit your nominations via email to Mrs Ong Lay See at [lim\\_lay\\_see@moe.edu.sg](mailto:lim_lay_see@moe.edu.sg) by **11 March 2024**.

#### **Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award 2024**

9. Nominations for the *Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award* are now open! Jointly organised by the Malay Language Council of Singapore, Malay Language Teachers Association, Berita Harian and the Malay Language Learning and Promotion Committee, this award recognises Malay Language teachers who:

- Instil knowledge, skills and interest in the learning of the Malay language, literature and culture, as well as their care and concern for the well-being of their students; and
- Demonstrate the values of Arif Budiman, a learned person who contributes to society through excellent and exemplary service as an educator.

10. All Queenstowners, parents and teachers are invited to nominate their inspiring Malay Language Teachers. Nominations can also be made online via <https://go.gov.sg/agab2024>.



11. Do submit your nominations by **1 April 2024**.

**Advisory on Vaping and E-vaporisers**

12. E-vaporisers are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components. Any person convicted of such offences is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or imprisonment of up to six months or both for the first offence, and a fine of up to \$20,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for the second or subsequent offence. All prohibited tobacco items will be seized and confiscated.

13. MOE takes a firm stand against vaping. Vaping is categorised as a serious offence. When students are caught using or in possession of e-vaporisers, the prohibited product will be confiscated and their parents will be informed. The schools will report the offender to HSA and also manage vaping-related offences through existing disciplinary frameworks. These include taking school-based disciplinary actions, such as suspension or caning (for boys). Students caught vaping will also be placed on cessation support programmes where counsellors will guide them through their cessation journey to effect long-term behavioural change.

14. Parents have an important part to play in their children’s education. There are resources and relevant information that parents can access on Parent Hub. Parents are encouraged to have a serious conversation with their children about vaping to prevent it from becoming a life-long habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at <https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping>.



**School’s Calendar of Events (COE)**

15. Our March calendar of events can be found on our school website, at <https://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/school-calendar/>



**Connect with us**

16. To be updated on what has been happening in our school, please visit us at:

<p><b><u>Our School’s Website Page</u></b>  <a href="http://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg">www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg</a></p>	
<p><b><u>Our School’s Facebook Page</u></b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/qtps.sg/">https://www.facebook.com/qtps.sg/</a></p>	 <small>QtPS Facebook Page</small>

### ***Concluding Remarks...***

17. Our School Value for Term 1 is Respect. In QtPS, we believe in cultivating respect in our students, so that they will possess the belief in their own self-worth and the worth of others. As our very important partners at home, do encourage your child/ward by reinforcing his/her positive self-image, and also by reinforcing this message of respect at home.

18. I would like to conclude the letter with this poem about respect.

#### *Respect Is*

*Respect is a consideration for others  
Remember we are all sisters and brothers.*

*Respect is putting others ahead of ourself  
Thinking less of me and myself.*

*Respect is being polite  
In our speaking and what we write.*

*Respect is showing manners that are good  
And loving others in our neighbourhood.*

*Respect is compassion for all  
Whether they are rich or poor, big or small.*

*Respect is kindness that is shown  
Doing it happily without a groan.*

*Respect is demonstrating dignity for those  
Even for those that might impose.*

*Respect is being courteous too  
It is how you live and what you do.*

- Catherine Pulsifer

Warmest regards,



Ms Pearly Ng  
Principal  
Pearly\_Ng@schools.gov.sg