



# BLANGAH RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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20 March 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of the year! We hope you and your family had a good break.

As was announced by the Ministry of Education last year, this year we have completely removed all mid-year examinations. This is in line with efforts to shift away from an over-emphasis on examinations and nurture an intrinsic joy of learning. The move will allow teachers and students more time to explore, discover and collaborate to deepen the learning experience.

To thrive in such an environment however, students should learn and adopt self-management behaviours that can help them make good use of the opportunities presented. For example,

- You need to be an *active learner* to explore new ideas and information. That is because being engaged helps in understanding and retaining the information.
- You need to be an *avid learner* to discover and create new understanding. That is because you will inevitably come across challenges to overcome, and it is your enthusiasm to seek an answer that will help you overcome those challenges.
- You need to be an *affective learner* to learn with others and care about what you are learning. That is because all learning is social-emotional and what affects you personally (heart) and with others (hands), will also affect you cognitively (head) in a lasting way.

You will agree that to be an active, avid and affective learner takes time. That is why we need to provide the additional opportunities of time and space to nurture behaviours in our students for more effective and sustainable learning.

You can do your part with your child by encouraging him/her to be proactive in learning, providing opportunities to experience the adventure or excitement in learning something new, and guidance to see the value of what he/she is learning. In our upcoming BROADCAST newsletter for this semester, you can also learn more about our efforts in nurturing active, avid and affective learners.

## 1. Upcoming Events in Term 2

DATE	EVENT	REMARKS
20 March 10 April 6 May	Junior Reporters Programme	For selected students 2.30pm to 4pm
21 March	Commemoration of World Water Day	
21, 28 March 4, 11, 18, 25 April 2, 9 May	SwimSafer: 3 Topaz	During Curriculum Time
21, 23, 30 March	P3 Broadcast Journalism	2pm to 3.30pm
21, 28, 30 March	ALP Code for Fun – 5S	2.30pm to 5pm
22, 29 March 12, 26 April	APEX – EL: Debate	2pm to 3.30pm

DATE	EVENT	REMARKS
22, 29 March 12 April	APEX – EL: Scrabble	2pm to 3.30pm
21, 23 March	P6 Motivation Camp	2pm to 3.30 pm
23, 30 March 6, 13, 20, 27 April 4, 11 May	SwimSafer: 3 Sapphire	During Curriculum Time
22 March 12 April, 3 May	Delta House Practice	2pm to 4.30pm
24 and 31 March 14, 28 April 5 May	P4 Science Olympiad	2pm to 3.30pm
24 and 31 March 14, 28 April 5 May	P5 Math Olympiad	2pm to 3.30pm
24 March 14 April, 5 May	Gillman House Practice	2pm to 4.30pm
27 March	P4: Kreta Ayer Heritage Learning Journey	During Curriculum Time
27 March to 6 April	ALP: P4 ERLA during Science Lessons	
29 March 12, 26 April 3 May	APEX – EL: Writing	2pm to 3.30pm
24, 31 March 14, 21, 28 April 5, 12, 19 May	SwimSafer: 3 Opal	During Curriculum Time
1 April	22 <sup>nd</sup> Inter-School National Scrabble Championship 2023 (Individual)	8am to 1pm
29 March 26 April, 10 May	Keppel House Practice	2pm to 4.30pm
31 March, 28 April 12 May	Redhill House Practice	2pm to 4.30pm
4, 6, 11 April	P4 Broadcast Journalism	2pm to 3.30pm
4, 6, 11, 13 April	ALP Code for Fun – 5T	230pm to 5pm
5 April	Class Photo-Taking	During Curriculum Time
	APEX-EL: Wits & Words Debate Training / Quarterfinals	2pm to 3.30pm
7 April	<b>Public Holiday – Good Friday</b>	
10 – 21 April	ALP: P5 Robotics during Math Lessons	
17 – 28 April	ALP: P3 Robotics during Math Lessons	
18 April	Commemoration of Earth Day	
19 April	22 <sup>nd</sup> Inter-School National Scrabble Championship 2023 (Team)	12pm to 5pm
20 April	P1 Learning Journey: SEA Aquarium	During curriculum hours. Please refer to letter which will be given later via Parents Gateway.
22 April	<b>Public Holiday – Hari Raya Puasa</b>	
24 April	<b>School Holiday – Hari Raya Puasa</b>	
27 April and 4 May	P4 Discovery Camp	2 pm to 3.30 pm

DATE	EVENT	REMARKS
1 May	<b>Public Holiday – Labour Day</b>	
2 – 5 May	P5 Young Photographers Programme	During curriculum hours. Please refer to letter which will be given later via Parents Gateway.
8, 10, 17, 18 May	P3 Young Photographers Programme	During curriculum hours. Please refer to letter which will be given later via Parents Gateway.
8 – 12 May	P6 Timed Practice	
11 and 16 May	P3 Discovery Camp	2pm to 3.30 pm
15 May	P4 Inter-House Games	7.30am to 9am
16 May	P3 and P5 Inter-House Games	8am to 9.30am
18 May	P6 Inter-House Games	11am to 12pm
17 May	P4 Mother Tongue Language Camp P6 Oral Timed Practice (EL)	During curriculum time 2pm to 3.30pm
18 May	P6 Oral Timed Practice (MTL)	2pm to 5pm
22 May	International Day for Biodiversity	
23 May	Home-Based Learning (P3-P6)**	
24 May	Parent-Teacher-Child-Conference**	

\*\* Details will be shared later

## 2. Assessment

### Removal of Mid-Year Examinations (MYE)

The removal of Mid-Year examinations for all levels starting from 2023 is MOE's Learn for Life movement to nurture students to be confident and resilient learners. It is another step towards inculcating a joy for learning in students as it moves away from an over-emphasis in academic grades so that students may focus on deepening learning.

This also gives teachers the opportunities to design lessons and activities to engage students in a variety of learning experiences as well as to develop their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies. In BRPS, these learning experiences include learning journeys, STEM activities, project work, broadcast journalism and photography programmes. Through these experiences, students develop their passion as they discover their interests and strengths.

In view of the change, there will be timed practices for Primary 6. For Primary 3 to Primary 5, there will be bite-sized weighted assessments. You may refer to the Assessment Plan in the level letter given in Term 1 2023. Teachers will check on students' understanding and mastery through weighted assessments, work assignments, quizzes and classroom interactions. These forms of assessment will provide useful and timely feedback for students to improve learning.

We believe these will strengthen our students' intrinsic motivation to learn and help them become more self-directed in their learning.

## 3. Inquiry-based Learning (IBL)

The removal of the MYE allows for more time and space for students to deepen their learning and thinking. IBL is a teaching and learning approach which aims to provide students with the opportunity to be active learners by posing questions, problems, or scenarios. Students will apply their learning across various subjects and levels. Some examples of IBL projects include, authoring mini books, presenting data, planning budgets, carrying out experiments with Science kits, designing learning spaces and more. Through these lessons and projects, students will

- adopt thinking routines and subject specific IBL processes to problem solve and reflect,

- use technology for self-directed and collaborative learning using the Student Learning Space (SLS),
- conduct research on current and relevant topics and problems,
- provide valuable feedback on their peers' works.

We would like to encourage parents to support your child in IBL by;

- providing access and supporting your child with access to technology at home,
- asking open questions to spark your child's curiosity and deepen thinking,
- support your child's use of the home kits that are provided or assembled,
- encouraging problem finding and problem solving at home.

We hope to work together with parents in IBL activities that will spark curiosity in our students, help them make new connections to their knowledge and understanding, and apply the learning to authentic situations.

#### **4. 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Home-Based Learning (HBL) – P3 to P6 students only**

The experience with the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 3 years has taught us the importance of being resilient and always being ready to continue learning even when there is a major disruption. Technology has been a powerful enabler for schools during the pandemic, and we would like our students to continue to be familiar with the processes of Home-based Learning (HBL). As such, we will incorporate HBL at least once a semester in our curriculum planning for the year. As P1-P2 students may require more time to prepare for HBL, they will be involved in HBL in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

In this semester, P3 to P6 students will be engaged in HBL via Student Learning Space (SLS) on **23 May 2023, Tuesday**. Subject teachers will be assigning online assignments and/or hardcopy assignments. More details will be provided at later time.

#### **5. Learning for Life Programme (LLP)**

##### **Commemoration of World Water Day**

World Water Day is commemorated on 22 March every year. It is an annual United Nations Observance, started in 1993, that celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water. The theme for 2023, "Accelerating Change" is to raise our awareness about water and sanitation crisis. It also inspires and encourages each one of us to take action in our lives to change how we use, consume, and manage water.

This year, at BRPS, we commemorate Singapore World Water Day on 21 March through assembly talk and classroom activities during FTGP. Classroom activities include Form Teachers sharing the story of 'The Hummingbird' – how each of us can play our part to mitigate water crisis, our students writing pledge cards to show their commitment in conservation of water as well as creating toilet hygiene posters and water conservation postcards. To enhance learning, we will also infuse some of these activities in our Science and STEM lessons. These lessons include learning how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding through BLOCK techniques and Project Wolbachia, creating a water filtering system and visiting our Garden of Hope to learn more about the rain harvesting system.

Exhibits created by our parents from Parent Support Group (PSG) will also be displayed at the school's 'Community Space' to educate students on the importance of using water wisely and cherishing our water resources.

Water is important to everyone; not just for drinking, but also for personal hygiene and protecting public health, so we need everyone to act. The commemoration makes a good reminder for each of us to play our part to make every drop count.

##### **Commemoration of Earth Day**

Earth Day is an annual event commemorated on 22 April to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage people to take action to protect the planet. At BRPS, our

commemoration which will take place on 18 April, involves a variety of activities that aim to promote environmental education, conservation, and sustainability.

While recycling is one of the best ways to reduce environmental impact and repurpose old materials, upcycling is a way to creatively reuse and recycle waste. To raise the awareness of Earth Day this year, we are collaborating with Telok Blangah Youth Network from Telok Blangah Community Club in organizing 'Sustainable Youth Art Fiesta' event. There will be an educational talk for the staff and students followed by an upcycling workshop for the students where they learn to transform old T-shirts into functional tote bags with no sewing required.

The collaborative project is designed to raise students' awareness and sensitivity to environmental challenges. It provides an authentic platform for students to explore environmental issues and take action to improve the environment around them.

As we continue to inspire our students to take action to preserve the earth for future generations, we will also be participating in recycling drives organized by Sembwaste (Ezi Recycling) and Clean Up! @ Southwest.

### **Green Initiatives - Collaboration with National University of Singapore (NUS) – Zero Waste Testbed Initiative @ Southwest**

Earth Day is as a platform to launch new environmental initiatives, such as reducing waste, increasing recycling, or promoting energy efficiency. This term, BRPS will partner NUS in the aforementioned initiative. The partnership aims to educate our students and the neighbouring community the importance of recycling right from young. In this project, our student leaders will be mentored by both their teachers and mentors from NUS to design and implement behavioural educational initiatives to encourage people to recycle right from young. The areas of work include redesigning the classroom recycling corner, designing an action pack for community outreach and devising a plan to build a prototype net-zero classroom which showcase how renewable energy sources can power up classrooms. The team looks forward to sharing more with the community!

### **International Day for Biodiversity**

22 May marks the International Day for Biological Diversity. To celebrate Singapore's natural heritage and engage our students in learning about our flora and fauna, BRPS will be participating in a series of 'Biodiversity Week for Schools' activities organized by NParks. In conjunction with this event, the school will be launching our sequel for the publication, *'The Green Dragonflies and Their Swampy Friends'*. The sequel entitled, *'Friends of Berlayer Creek'* is produced by a team of teachers and students with a keen interest in raising environmental awareness, story writing and photography. Leveraging their passion through the story, they hope to instil the *'7 Habits of Highly Effective People'* for personal and interpersonal effectiveness. The story also aims to educate readers on making conscious choices by taking positive actions in caring for the environment.

In addition, the school is also launching our photobook, *'A Bowl of Nature'* which showcases our students' photographs gleaming the skills they have learnt through our distinctive programme, Young Photographers. These photographs reveal the biodiversity of Telok Blangah. Each photograph is accompanied by interesting writings or drawings contributed by our staff and budding writers and artists.

With a busy and exciting Term 2 ahead, we wish you and your family a very fruitful and meaningful time of learning.

Yours sincerely,



Francis Foo  
Principal